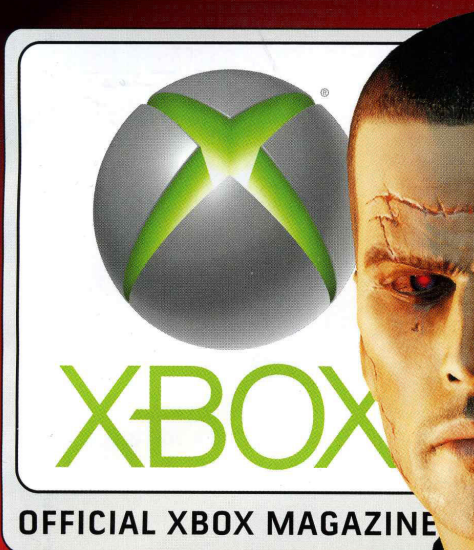




February 2010

Circ: 347,838

OXM'S GAME OF THE YEAR AWARDS INSIDE!



HALO NOW

XBOX 365 EVERYTHING HAPPENING IN THE WORLD OF XBOX 360, BROUGHT TO YOU IN LIVING COLOR

# The Bionic Gamer

Three products claim they'll make Xbox gamers better, faster, and stronger. But do they? We become guinea pigs so you don't have to.

By Chuck Osborn

### The Xtensor

\$39.95; www.thextensor.com

**Their Claim:** "Medically supported, the Xtensor fits on your hand and stimulates the muscles that open the hands through the use of specifically designed finger bands that generate resistance to enable a natural path of motion."

**Our Findings:** That's right — the Xtensor is a Bowflex for your fingers! Unlike most gaming contraptions, the Xtensor isn't supposed to be used while you're playing. Instead, you hook it up to your fingers and perform different exercises, doing multiple repetitions of each. In addition to making power gamers' fingers more nimble, it'll theoretically help with joint stiffness, tennis elbow, carpal tunnel, and osteoarthritis.

**Downsides:** Like most exercise equipment, the Xtensor works only if you actually use it. And unlike a home gym, it's too small to hang your laundry on it when it's not in use. The unit also comes with several tiny individual finger bands, which are tempting bait for thieving housecats and vacuum cleaners. It doesn't come with a case, either, so you should buy it only if you're motivated and organized.

**Increases Gaming Performance?:** Maybe

**Cheap Alternative:** Rubber bands



Finger bands are individually sized for each finger. The instructions recommend you hold open your hand for 5 to 30 seconds per repetition.

The Xtensor works by strengthening the extensor muscles that open the hands, maximizing blood flow and improving overall health and stability.



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