

JUST OUT

POD IS IN THE DETAILS

For years, we've been using bean bags as a pinch substitute for tripods. But they don't work very well with super-slim compacts (go ahead, try to make a 0.8-inch-thick camera stand up straight). Introducing THE pod (trademarked capitalization): a bean bag with a tripod screw. Just like a traditional bean bag, this one molds to fit on irregular surfaces, offers ample support in most conditions, and fits in a jacket pocket. But this little guy also packs a 1/4-inch universal screw and a Velcro tab to fully secure your camera. THE pod is available with either a center or off-center tripod socket, ranges in price from \$13.50 to \$15 (street), and, according to the web site, doesn't require batteries or technical support. (THE pod; www.bogenimaging.us; 416-593-0256)



PHOTO BY ROSARIO ZARGARO

BEHIND THE SCENES

Maybe your Phish-loving sister wants the background for the family portrait to match her tie-dyed wardrobe—or maybe you just want a splash of color to spice up your pictures. Adorama provides the perfect music background for any setting with the new Belle Drapes series, which comes in 16 solid colors and a variety of vibrant patterns. Sized at 10x12 or 10x24 feet, each drape has a 4-inch hemmed loop at the top, which makes it quick and easy to set up. And with prices ranging from \$40 to \$160 (street), you don't have to break the bank to have backgrounds from wild to mild on hand. (Adorama, www.adorama.com; 800-223-2500)

