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march 10, 2008

## Shavings Account

### one blogger's relationship with razor blades

As I sit here writing this entry I am in need of a shave.



Not desperately in need of one, but it would be a [good idea](#). But, oh what's this? I'm out of razor blades, and I will readily admit that razor blades are among the things I most despise buying. The reasons are simple enough:

- they are so freaking expensive (at the LEAST, \$11 or so most of the time for the ones I buy). See attached pictures for an example of what can happen when I use lesser-quality blades (on New Year's Eve no less) and when I don't use any at all. Either way, not pretty.
- there's always that internal struggle of whether I should buy the 4-pack because it technically costs less or go for the better value of 8 (or however many are in the bigger pack). The 4-pack idea usually wins, even though I have to return to the guarded security compound (refer to bullet point #3) that is razor blade shopping more often if I buy the smaller pack. They just don't seem to [last long enough](#).
- you have to go on a treasure hunt to find them/find the cost of them. Am I the only one troubled by the fact that we keep these items behind alarm-rigged cases and behind/near the checkout for security purposes, while just about EVERYTHING ELSE in the store is out in the open? "Code Quattro! Code Quattro! We have a breach! Suspect is... well, hard to identify because he's wearing a hair mask!" Vain much, are we?
- there are single blades, triple blades, quadruple and quintuple blades ([where will it end?](#)), powered ones, different coloured lubricating strips (do I want the orange or the blue?), and who doesn't wanna be on the cusp of shaving revolution, right? (I currently use the Mach 3, and am pretty satisfied but I oh-so enjoy the word Fusion).

By my calculations, blades usually run me \$14 after tax for a 4-pack. Divide that by the four blades and each blade is about \$3.50. Considering I get 3-3.5 REALLY good shaves out of a blade (those among you who shave larger areas would get less), I wish I could somehow find a way to shave with Ionies. It would make the whole process more efficient, don't you agree?



### authors

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[george panayotou](#)
[henry gordon-smith](#)
[kate longmoore](#)
[nathan jenkins](#)
[nick simard](#)
[zachary pedersen](#)

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LOONbricating strips. Anyone? No?

by [nick](#) | in | [comments \(9\)](#) | [trackbacks \(0\)](#)

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### Comments (9)

I see those razors with 2683 million razors in them all the time and it amazes me. The most I ever tried was a 3 blade. And really, I did not find it worked any better than the 2 blade. It's all marketing and big company trying to make more money off gullible people. I will admit single blade is no good. And the moisturizing strips no doubt help with the razor burn.

They are just so ridiculously expensive.

I was a bit shocked you only get 3-4 uses out of one razor though. I use mine easily upwards of 20 times (and we are talking legs, arms, bikini and pits each time). Maybe you need to switch to lady razors?? \*just kidding\* ;)

Posted by [Michelle](#) on March 10, 2008 6:30 PM

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US \$385.

That's how much I paid last year for the Braun 8995 electric shaver... Second best purchase I've ever made. (LASEK surgery being the best). Granted that's a lot of money to pay up front, but you have no idea how GREAT it feels to never dish out a crazy amount of money every month or so on razors.

\*Funny how dishing out \$15 once a month on razors just eats at a man, but dishing out \$150 a month on alcohol is "taking it easy".

Posted by [Cory](#) on March 10, 2008 7:25 PM

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Michelle,

I can technically get more than that out of a razor blade, but it's funnier for the loonie joke if I get 3-4. Haha. Plus, after those 4 shaves they're just not as great. I have pretty sensitive skin on my face and I want to avoid something like the pic you see above. That was done by disposable razors because I procrastinated on New Year's Eve (The Price of Procrastination...I sense a blog coming on) and had to go to a convenience store (which conveniently did NOT offer actual razor blades). Oddly enough, female shaving cream/gel works better for me because a lot of it is for sensitive skin and offers moisturizing. Wow, did I just say that on live p2p?

Posted by [Nick Simard](#) on March 11, 2008 10:29 AM

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Cory,

Would you believe (and this is crazy in itself) that I'm still using the same Braun electric shaver that my mom bought me for Christmas when I was 13-14? That means it has lasted nearly half my life. I have often considered looking into a high-quality one such as the one you purchased, but as you mention they can be quite expensive. But considering that mine has lasted SO long, it's safe to assume yours will pay for itself within a few years. Does it give a close shave akin to razor blades?

And it's not just alcohol we have no problem spending tons of money on, all the while cursing at the

razor blade (and other little annoyances). We do it all the time with things like (these vary from person to person) fast food, coffee, movies, cab rides, etc.

Posted by [Nick Simard](#) on March 11, 2008 10:36 AM

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My shaver doesn't cut as close as a Mach 3 does, but it's pretty close. I still use my Mach 3 from time to time (job interview, first date, weddings, etc.), but the electric is fine for day to day use. Added bonus: I too have sensitive skin and my shaver doesn't irritate my skin as much as a normal blade.

Here's a great idea for a blog: Expensive products or services that end up paying for themselves. Since this blog is aimed at students, limit the cost to \$400-\$500 and let's say that the product has to pay for itself within 4-5 years (the average amount of time it takes to get a degree).

- 1) Electric Razor - Not a cheap one, they just don't work well enough.
- 2) Drivers' Education - Savings on insurance should offset the cost of the course, but I'm not sure.
- 3) ?

Posted by Cory on March 11, 2008 2:49 PM

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Nick, these pictures are slightly disturbing but ever since you posted this blog I haven't shaved in an attempt to boycott expensive shaver blades...unfortunately my friends now find me disgusting or at least more disgusting than before...

Posted by [Henry](#) on March 11, 2008 6:26 PM

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hey Cory:

That's a good idea. I'll see what I can do with that. It IS true that certain things pay for themselves. I don't think I would have thought of the Driver's Ed as an example. Thanks.

Henry: That's funny. I saw some of the pictures of you with facial hair. It's quite different from when I saw you. I dunno if I would have called it disgusting...but now that you mention it. Haha. Kidding. It'd be funny if we all grew beards...even Kate. Nothing a little testosterone injection couldn't help with.

Posted by [Nick Simard](#) on March 11, 2008 10:53 PM

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too true, too true. And i think it goes without saying: more blades=better shave=more money. What's with the Fusion - doesn't it have 5 or six blades (one of them is on the back, all by its lonesome...)

Posted by [nater](#) on March 12, 2008 4:43 PM

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Another tip is to use a preshave oil- a) you get a better, closer shave and b) it reduces wear and tear on blades and c) you can lubricate the blades with a drop of it after you shave for even better blade life. I have a friend who makes a specially designed, all natural pre-shave oil if anyone is interested.

Posted by Tim on April 8, 2008 2:36 PM

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