

technofile gift ideas

Edifier iF200

\$50 Edifier calls this its tick-tock dock. It's a retro-styled alarm clock (below right) that docks with an iPod or iPhone and it has a memory so that iPods and iPhones will automatically switch to alarm-clock mode each time they're docked. There's a decent speaker that goes loud enough to wake anything alive, volume control and a nine-minute snooze button. It comes in black, white and pink. See edifier-international.com.

Uniden Pico laser projector

\$599 It's the size of an iPod but this light (122 grams) and simple plug-and-play device (below) can project moving images at a size from 15 centimetres to 2½ metres. It accepts signals from iPods, computers, digital cameras, DVD players and games consoles and the rechargeable battery is good for a couple of hours. See uniden.com.au.

Loewe Media Centre

From \$5999 to \$7999 German television maker Loewe has launched a media centre (right) styled to complement its flat-panel televisions and it can handle most devices, including CDs, DVDs and music stored on USB drives, as well as having an integrated hard drive for music storage. There's internet radio when it's plugged into a home network and a swing-out dock for an iPod/iPhone. There are both HDMI and analog inputs and it has the capability to stream different music to different rooms. See www.audioproducts.com.au.



Pro-Ject Essential turntable

\$399 Pro-Ject, the dominant force in audiophile turntables, has unveiled an entry-level model for \$399 (left). It comes complete with arm and an Ortofon cartridge and has a resonance-free MDF platter with a felt mat. The motor is smooth and there's a two-step pulley on the drive belt to give the turntable both 33rpm and 45rpm speed capability. A version with an integrated moving magnet phono pre-amplifier, including analog-to-digital converter and USB output, is \$549. See internationaldynamics.com.au.

Bush DAB+ Micro System

\$199 The prices of digital radio systems are dropping relentlessly and Bush has announced a micro system incorporating a digital radio tuner as well as a CD player, iPod dock, sleep timer and a remote control (below). The company has also released a high-definition digital set-top box with an integrated digital radio tuner for \$249. See www.bushaustralia.com.au.



Metz Caleo 47 LED television

\$5499 Premium German television maker Metz has got into LED backlighting with its new, ultra-slim Caleo 119-cm television (above). It has an integrated video recorder with a 500-gigabyte hard drive and HDMI and USB connectivity. And it looks the goods with a brushed aluminium frame less than 10 centimetres deep. See internationaldynamics.com.au.

Tivoli Audio Model 10+ clock radio

\$399 (\$599 with a digital tuner) Tivoli would have liked to make its 10-year anniversary editions – analog and digital clock radios, appropriately called the Model 10+ (right) – with aluminium, the traditional material of the occasion in the US, but it would have compromised reception so the metal finish is faux. If you don't like that, there are six other finishes to choose from. It has dual alarms, an auxiliary input for a CD player or iPod, an optional additional speaker for stereo and a headphone plug. See tivoliaudio.com.au.

Sennheiser HD 598 headphones

\$440 If you're paying top dollar for headphones they may as well look the part. Sennheiser's new 500 series builds on the company's history in this field, with acoustic baffles inside the shells to guide the sound directly into the ears and the materials all having low-vibration characteristics to give the purest signal possible. The 598s (left) are the most expensive in the three-model range, which starts at \$230. See sennheiser.com.au.

Pure Siesta Mi

\$79 Pure, one of the leading brands in digital radio, has released a new bedside model at a very tempting price. The Siesta Mi (above) has two alarms and a generous display that's easy to read. It also picks up conventional FM radio stations. See pure.com.



ARCAM Digital Music Improvement Zone

ARCAM have released three products that substantially improve the audio reproduction of music stored on iPods / iPhones and computers.

The **irDock** uses audiophile grade components and design techniques to deliver the best possible sound quality. It allows full Infra Red remote control of all iPods and iPhones.

The **rDac** incorporates the latest state-of-the-art digital conversion. Offering coaxial, optical or USB digital inputs, the **rDac** renders music with stunning accuracy and delivers a performance of thrilling musicality. Wireless version available.

The **rCube** is a listening revolution, delivering high-fidelity sound from a portable iPod speaker system. It's powerful enough for a party, but engineered to deliver exceptional clarity even at low volume. It has wireless streaming.

NORDOST have just released a USB cable, setting new performance standards. It is ideal for use with the **rDac**.



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