



MEDIA STREAMER

Music master

Store all your audio in one place, in style

IT'S TIME TO get with the 21st century, put those CDs away and call up a playlist of your digital tunes using this classy Wi-Fi music server.

It features a built-in 160GB hard disk for storing your music. It's simple to get tracks onto the drive – just download them from a PC over a Wi-Fi network. The device appears as a shared folder that you can drag and drop files onto. Alternatively, you can rip tunes directly via the sexy slot-loading CD drive. Plus, there's an analogue input so you can record directly from a record or tape deck.

It plays a wide range of non-protected audio formats, and the audio quality is top-notch. Albums ripped using the machine sound impressive; a 128Kbps MP3 of Leftfield's *Leftism* is suitably aggressive with storming bass and treble.

Navigating the library of tunes is relatively easy, as it's split into the usual categories of artist, album and song title. You can skip through long lists by typing in letters SMS-style on the remote's keypad, but annoyingly, the letters aren't printed next to the keys. And while the display is nice and bright, the text in the menus isn't big enough to be read easily

from a sofa in a normal-sized room.

However, there are plenty of other features. The device acts as a Wi-Fi music server for other media receivers – as long as they're UPnP-compatible – so you can connect something like a Pinnacle ShowCenter to it and stream tracks from the unit's hard disk. The CD drive can also be used to burn compilations and download tracks to an iPod via USB, or you can listen to Internet radio.

This is an amazingly versatile system that's packed with an exceptional range of features, and it's one of the best music servers around at the moment. **NM**

HERMSTEDT HIFIDELIO PRO £800

www.hifi-wifi.co.uk

TECH 160GB hard disk. 400 x 160-pixel LCD. Wi-Fi. Stereo phono, optical, coaxial digital outs. Stereo phono in. Plays MP3, AIFF, WAV, OGG, FLAC, AAC. 435 x 85 x 290mm.

LOVE Good sound quality. Great range of features. Ease of use.

HATE Lack of letters on remote. Small display text. Doesn't play protected tracks.



WE SAY This is a brilliantly versatile music server that sounds great and is easy to use.



LAPTOP

Safe and sound

Fingered

The fingerprint scanner can be set up so you have to glide your finger down it to log onto Windows, and it neatly doubles as a scroll wheel.

EVERYONE'S GOT SOMETHING to hide, and if your secrets are stored on a hard disk, then you should check out this security-conscious laptop. Nestled between the two click buttons on the touch pad, you'll find a small fingerprint scanner that you can use to safeguard those important files.

Setting up the security software is a bit long-winded, but once it's up and running, you can configure it so you scan your finger to log onto Windows or to access encrypted files. The scanner works well, and we found that unlike other models, it doesn't need multiple attempts to recognise your fingerprint.

For such a small machine, there are a surprising number of ports on board, and the keyboard feels comfortable to type on. Performance is great and the battery life is impressive at just six hours of use from one charge.

In fact, there's an awful lot to like about this machine. It's small and stylish with multiple features and feels well put together. If you splash your cash, you won't be disappointed. **NM**



Accessorise

Hermstedt has a digital audio receiver with built-in speakers in the works. It's called the **HiFidelio ST-64**, and will connect to the main unit via Wi-Fi.

FUJITSU-SIEMENS LIFEBOOK P7120

£1,500

www.fujitsu-siemens.co.uk

TECH 1.2GHz Pentium M. 1GB RAM. 10.6-inch LCD. DVD+RW. 60GB hard disk. 271 x 209 x 28mm. 1.28kg.

LOVE Fingerprint reader. Small size and stylish design. Battery life.

HATE Set-up process for security software.



WE SAY This slick laptop impresses with its great range of features.