

Reviews

Accessories

It's a smart little unit, albeit with a plasticky feel

Just Mobile Docking Station

£44.99

More information:
www.morpethmobiles.co.uk

One of the arguments against replacing an iPod or other MP3 player with a PDA or smartphone comes from the lack of accessories that are available for them. The main use of an MP3 player may be with a pair of headphones in a mobile environment, but if you've got your entire record collection now stored in a digital format, you need to be able to access it elsewhere as well.

Fortunately, hardware manufacturers have cottoned on to this very fact and are slowly beginning to roll out the kind of products that have been freely available for iPods for years. One of the most vivid examples we've seen thus far is the Just Mobile Docking Station.

It's a very neat solution, largely due to the fact that it's designed for a specific handheld (ours was for the Qtek S200, XDA Mini, i-mate JAM and the like, but is also available for other devices) rather than being a generic one-size-fits-all affair, where one size invariably fits nothing.

As you will have noticed from the picture above, the name Docking Station is rather modest for what is a full sound system. It's small and fairly light, quite stylish, albeit with a plasticky feel – not quite becoming what you've expected from some of the more expensive iPod accessories. Most important, though, is the sound quality. Here it is fine. The bass inevitably is not going to rival your

dedicated hi-fi setup, but for casual use at home or in the office it's more than serviceable. In fact, the only real downside to the device is that it cannot be run off batteries, as this would have made it perfect to take on holiday. As it is a docking station, you will find it becomes the natural home for your PDA when you're not using it, meaning your handheld will always be fully charged and ready to go, and ensuring it never has the chance to sit and collect dust on the shelf. ●

Overall score

8



The Nimzy is small but quite heavy

Nimzy Vibro Blaster **£69.99**

More information:
www.widget.co.uk

Turn any flat surface into a speaker. That's the claim of the wonderfully named Nimzy Vibro Blaster. Of course you might wonder why you can't just carry a small set of speakers with you if you want music, especially when you can get them for a lot less than £70, but if it's gadgets you're after they don't come any gadgetier than this.

It is smaller than most speakers, to be fair, but is still quite heavy and also comes in a black version that looks a bit like a camera lens. It's also compatible with just about any device that can play audio, via the 3.5mm headphone jack.

Performance is what you'd expect. It works as advertised – stick it on a desk or window and it'll play music out loud. And with some clarity, too; we were expecting a far muddier sound than the one we got. What it won't do, however, is replace your existing setup. But as long as your expectations don't go overboard there won't be a problem. ●

Overall score

7