



Ridgey Dig-ital

With every passing month, technology is released with new features to surprise and delight. Whether in the home or out and about, digital living is clearly a reality courtesy of some of the products featured this month. Now it's up to you to create your own digital lifestyle... and score your own digital home run!

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DIGITAL MUSIC

A stunningly simple multi-room audio music system

WHAT'S HAPPENING? Since the invention of the Walkman, we've been able to listen to our personal selection of music wherever we go. However, getting the same or different music to play in different rooms of your home is difficult and expensive.

HOT PRODUCT: While MP3-based wireless music systems have appeared in the past few years, none are as wonderfully simple as the Sonos Digital Music System. The first thing you notice is the iPod-like controller. A huge 3.5" colour screen lets you see songs, playlists, album art and other information; a very familiar scroll wheel is for navigation; and buttons control what you do with the system and music. This unit wirelessly talks to the wireless amplifiers, which are placed into different rooms and are connected to your existing speakers. If you already have speakers connected to an amplifier, a lower cost wireless

receiver without the built-in amplifier is also available.

The system wirelessly connects to your PC to access your music library or a hard drive that is connected to your network. The PC or hard drive is where music is stored, and it supports play lists created in popular programs like WinAmp, iTunes, Windows Media Player and others. One caveat - while Sonos supports a large range of digital music files, such as MP3, AAC, WMA and more, it only supports files without "DRM" or digital rights management. This means music purchased through iTunes won't play through the Sonos, but files converted from your CDs will. When DRM support becomes available, Sonos will support it.

Setting up the wireless amplifiers in different rooms can be done in minutes, without fiddly passwords - each amplifier is instantly detected, and within minutes you can have the same music

playing in different rooms, or different music playing in different rooms simultaneously - all controlled through the Sonos controller. Add up to 32 wireless amplifiers so you can get every room - and even the backyard - filled with music.

WHAT DOES IT COST? The Sonos Controller CR100 is \$799, the Sonos ZonePlayer ZP100 wireless amplifiers cost \$999 each, and the Sonos ZonePlayer ZP80 wireless pre-amps are approximately \$700 each. A bundle that includes the CR100 and two ZP100s is available at a price-saving \$2399.

EMPIRE SAYS: If you love the way the iPod works, but wish you could use it to control music throughout your home, the Sonos is the answer. It's like an iPod for your house, and looks and feels like what Apple could have designed for the home space if they had done this instead of Sonos. But why wait for Apple? The Sonos is here, and it's brilliant.