

AUDIOTRENDS

L E A R N I N G C E N T R E

Personal Audio and Compact Music Systems



Affordable, Compact Solutions for Music Lovers

Sometimes the perfect audio solution is an all-in-one music system — particularly when space is at a premium. In addition to their reasonable price tags, you'll find that a shelf system, micro system or even a good table radio are more than just practical space savers — they can also deliver great-sounding music — particularly the better ones!

Micro systems

As the name suggests, micro systems are both small and compact so easily fit comfortably on the average bookcase or shelf. They also fit well on the tops of dressers, cabinets and tables. They are not to be confused with 'ghetto-blaster' or low-grade shelf systems!

Micro systems are often the perfect solution for parents looking for an inexpensive system for their children or for the student living away from home who needs a system that's powerful, yet fairly easy to pack-up and move. Likewise, for the executive looking to liven up his or her office with music, or

for anyone trying to fit a stereo into a room that already seems too full, a micro system offers a great alternative. They also feature sleek, contemporary designs that blend seamlessly with modern décor.

The good news is that the compact size of these systems doesn't sacrifice music-playing flexibility. Typically, micro systems offer a single-disc CD player, an AM/FM tuner, an in-built amplifier and stereo speakers. Because of their especially compact size, they rarely feature the multi-CD changers and dual cassette decks that are the norm with the older-style and usually low quality shelf systems; however, some micro systems do offer a single cassette player as an optional extra.

Easy to set up and use

The all-in-one music systems described above are super-easy to set up; often all you have to do is plug in the wires leading to the speakers. They're also designed with ease of use in mind. Many models offer one-touch operation: Simply

press the Play button of the cassette deck or CD player and the entire system comes to life.

Clock / Table Radios

Smaller still than micro systems are clock and table radios – see our. Even if you've been turned off in the past by the thin, tinny sounds of cheap clock radios, we think you'll be pleasantly surprised at how good some of today's nicer models sound.

Some clock and table radios offer single-CD players, but all feature an AM/FM radio, an amplifier, and at least one built-in speaker. Many models add a second speaker, allowing you to enjoy the spaciousness of stereo music. Most clock radios also feature a battery backup, so you don't have to worry about oversleeping when there's a power failure.



DVD Surround Receivers

There are now a handful of good DVD Surround Receivers available that are proving to be a popular choice with those with very limited space.

They don't really offer much in the way of price savings, but do save on both space and extra wires! Some of the better units are very impressive and are super-easy to set-up and install.



Other features

Some complete music systems offer auxiliary inputs that let you add additional sources to your system. Common components that can be added in this manner include cassette decks, MiniDisc players, or the audio output of a TV or VCR. (Most people agree that TV programs and Video tapes sound better when played through their micro system than through TV speakers.)

Note: If you want to add a turntable and your music system doesn't offer a phono input — very few do these days — you'll need to also get a phono preamplifier or a turntable that has one in-built.

Another thing to keep in mind — waking to music isn't the exclusive domain of clock radios. If you plan to use a micro system in your bedroom, consider a model with a programmable timer. Instead of waking to an irritating alarm, you can rise in style to your favourite CD or radio station!

E & O E

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Hours: Mon - Thurs 10am to 5.30pm
Fri 10am to 7pm, Sat 10am to 4pm

