

top gear



↑ Sony MEX-5DI

In-car audio player

The MEX-5DI player lets you listen to digital audio CDs at the wheel of your car. Just download music to a Memory Stick, slot it into the player and you're away. Nothing revolutionary there, but you can also download pictures and animations to display on its TFT (thin film transistor) fascia. Why not go all the way and display the relevant album cover when you slip in a CD? Guaranteed to be perilously distracting as you drive along. Launch details for the UK are still under wraps.

■ Contact: www.sony.com ■ Price: TBA



➤ Nokia 3650

Multitalented phone

When is a mobile phone not a mobile phone? Well, we reckon the Nokia 3650 stretches the definition pretty thin. It not only lets you make calls, it also allows you to browse and download content, send multimedia messages and manage your personal information. In fact, Nokia is so proud of the 3650 it claims it will be the "first mobile phone to change how we communicate". It has a colour screen, Bluetooth support, a built-in camera and video player, and weighs 130g. Look out for it in your local mobile phone shop next year.

■ Contact: www.nokia.com ■ Price: TBC



← MChoroQ

Digital audio players

Japan's Takara has come up with some funky techno toys to keep the kids amused. The company specialises in toy cars that are even dinkier than the Matchbox models we have here, but to bring them into the 21st century it has added a music player. Just slot a Memory Stick Duo into the boot and tunes will pump out of the exhaust. For an even cuter take on the idea there's also a litter of musical puppies. Out in Japan in March 2003, you will have to take a trip over there to pick one up.

■ Contact: www.takaratoys.co.jp (be warned, it's all in Japanese)

■ Price: ¥19,800 (£102)

→ Philips iPronto

Digital dashboard

Move over Microsoft, Philips wants us to choose its version of a Tablet PC instead. The iPronto is the ultimate device for the couch potato – a 6.4in wireless display that lets you control all your audio visual devices using touch-screen controls, as well as offering access to broadband internet so you can download content and emails. If you can't even be bothered to use it to turn on your stereo it can play back digital audio via the built-in speakers. So far only US slackers can benefit, but there are plans to introduce it in Europe soon.

■ Contact: www.philips.com ■ Price: \$1,699 (£1,088)



↑ Panasonic DMR-HS2

Combo DVD/hard disk recorder

Panasonic has combined the flexibility of recording to a hard drive with the ability to write to DVD-RAM or DVD-R media. It can record up to 52 hours of video on the 40GB hard drive. The DMR-HS2 can also record images and footage from digital camcorders to DVD media thanks to the DV input and PC Card slot, which can be used for a memory card reader. Recording to a hard drive enables features like time-shifting, which allows you to pause live recordings.

■ Contact: www.panasonic.co.uk ■ Price: £999.99

← JVC prototype

Wireless video system

So you've invested in your plasma screen display, but find all those cables connecting it up to the video rather ugly. Fortunately JVC is working on that problem. It has unveiled a prototype high-speed optical wireless transmission system for the home. It can transmit data fast enough to feed uncompressed digital video to a plasma display panel without the need for any cables. It has a range of 10m and will automatically position itself to connect up to the display.

■ Contact: www.jvc.com ■ Price: TBA

