

Rio MP3 players were one of the first portables on the market

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By Syd Johnson

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Rio mp3 players were trendsetters long before anyone even know about iPods and 40Gig hard drives. Rio mp3 players are very small, about the size of a deck of cards, only prettier and much more valuable to any music lover. Basic models come with about 32MB of memory, so you will have more than enough space for your songs, but you can't carry your entire music catalog with you.

On the newer models, you can get as much as 256MB of start up memory and then you can purchase additional memory sticks to increase your space to about 1 Gig.

The sport line of Rio MP3 players also includes things like digital timer, stop watch and easy menu controls. No one expects you to go through five layers of selections to start up your favorite track while running on your stairmaster. If you get sick of maybe listening to your own songs, some of the newer models also include an FM Tuner. Just click and pick up a few local radio stations.

It is important to note however that the size of the player was posing some problems when you people tried to pick up FM frequencies outside of the big cities and suburbs.

So, Rio went back to the board and did an upgrade on their system. Now, the tuner output is louder, clearer and significantly less scratchy.

Most of the Rio mp3 players are small enough to fit into your pockets, purse or a small compartment in your car. Each package comes with a set of basic accessories like headphones, batteries and of course the Rio operating software.

If you plan on using one of these players to store your mp3 files, focus on the higher end models. You will get a lot more storage space, better sound, better reception from the radio, and a more durable unit.

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How do you buy cheap mp3 players online?

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You can find cheap mp3 players all over the web. You can get models that were discarded by people who no longer need them, but you can also get newer models that were designed specifically for people looking to spend less than \$400 on an mp3 player. The big factors that go into selecting cheap mp3 players are space, design and of course price.

When you are looking for cheap mp3 players all of the important factors usually come down to one issue, space. The less space you need for your music, the less you will have to pay for your player. The type of space that you need is also important. MP3 players that use the durable, but smaller flash memory system are usually cheaper than their hard drive counterparts with enormous amounts of space such as 5gigs, 10gigs and even 40gigs.

So, if you look for a 1Gig or even 5Gig model, for example, you could load up around fifteen to twenty complete music albums to your player. That will give you anywhere from seventeen to twenty three hours of music.

So, unless you really need to convert a large music catalog where you will store thousands of songs, start looking at cheap mp3 players that give you less space, but don't skimp on the quality in their other features.

Another thing to look at is design.

What are you looking for?

How functional is your mp3 player?

Once you convert all of songs, you will need to setup and manage your playlist so that you can get easy access to your songs later on. When you look at an mp3 player, look the menu buttons and the design to see if it is intuitive and user friendly.

Is there anything that you can easily touch that could potentially wipe out your playlists?

The whole point of getting the mp3 players is convenience and portability. If you must constantly update your playlist, then the convenience factor starts dropping dramatically.

Also check out the battery life. One of the most constant complains about all the different types of mp3 players is that they have a pretty short battery life. Of course in this industry, this basically mean after six to eight hours of continuous play.

That last factor you want to consider after you have your features is price.

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Since you are looking for cheap mp3 players, it is obvious that price is as concern. However, you want

to try and hold off on considering how you can pay until you see what you can get. You'd be surprised to see the amount of hard drive space, for example, you can get by spending the same amount of money on different brand names.

So, as you're looking, don't get hung up on a particular brand, or type of mp3 player. Just look around until you find one with the features and functionality to fit your budget.

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