



[GARY STEEL]

GADGETS

Machines



CONRAN AUDIO SPEAKER DOCK

Designed by Sir Terence Conran, 79-year-old creator of Britain's interior design chain Habitat (and an award-winning restaurateur), this gorgeous iPod dock is blessed with stunning good looks. Check the wood-veneer feet and the thin band of luminescent light just above that wood panel. Or the cosy, 360-degree swivel fit for iPods and iPhones, allowing for easy viewing of visual material. Under the hood, however, the Conran does what other iPod docks can only dream of. Needless to say, hi-fi experts Q Acoustics have extracted exquisite sound from the tiny speakers, and there are six different EQ settings to select from, enabling the listener to modify to suit, making it just right for the type and size of room it's in. More tantalising still is its state-of-the-art Bluetooth technology, which allows wireless connectivity with the speaker from cellphone or computer and can take advantage of a new hi-res audio format called apt-X. Too cool.

\$699 FROM SELECTED APPLIANCE RETAILERS

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NESPRESSO PIXIE

As much as our moral compasses make us angry at the huge corporate megalith that is Nestlé, we can't resist the lure of a good, well-rounded cup of the hot frothy brown stuff. And while we're getting hot and bothered about what would appear to be a terrible waste of packaging in Nespresso's pod-for-each cup system, everyone else is just getting on and enjoying the results. The Nespresso Pixie, as the name denotes, is truly diminutive. It's virtually impossible to make a bad cup using the fully automatic set-up, and with the pods ensuring you get a "freshly roasted" hit of your favourite blend every time, the Pixie could be the ultimate morning "ahh!" for the small office or average household.

\$499 FROM LEADING ELECTRICAL SUPPLIERS



MOON 750D DAC/TRANSPORT

Perhaps the most jarring fact of modern life for discerning music lovers is the vastly different quality coming from various digital media. We're listening to music from computers, CDs, dedicated music servers, iPhones and MP3 players, and the sound from each medium has its own bugbears. The Moon 750D is a one-box solution, which has the gift of attaining the maximum sonic potential from all sources that go through its extraordinary digital-to-analogue conversion. Promoted as "the first true 32-bit fully asynchronous digital audio playback system" (meaning: a more detailed and accurate music signal), the Moon 750D also has its own CD player, along with the technology to eliminate that format's biggest problem, known as jitter. Cheap as.

\$20,000 FROM ORANGEROADAUDIO.COM



ALIENWARE M11X NETBOOK

When Netbooks first hit the market, the idea was cheap, low-powered computing for email and internet browsing. Seemingly a contradiction in terms, the M11X has been specifically created to satiate the hunger of gamers looking for both speed and portability. It makes sense: who wants to be stuck with a mainframe when they could be the star of the LAN party? One for the gaming geek in every family.

\$1799 FROM LEADING COMPUTER SUPPLIERS

