

Pure's new radio star



Pure has unveiled its £250 Sensia radio, which sports a 5.7-inch touchscreen that allows you to control a host of extra features, including internet radio and social networking feeds such as Twitter.

We tried out one of the first models.

It can connect to the internet using Wi-Fi, and features DAB and FM tuners. We've seen internet radios before, but not with a screen of this size and quality – the interaction that you have with the radio through its large screen really lifts the Sensia, especially when listening to internet radio stations. We found that the bright screen displays menus and station information clearly. The touchscreen works quite well, and we had no trouble navigating menus and options.

Sensia's screen and interface mean that it can do more than play internet

radio. It comes packaged with several tools for keeping an eye on social networking sites such as Facebook, and getting news and weather updates. There's also the potential for more tools to be added in future.

It allows you to pause and rewind live radio, but not record. It can't play MP3 files or show digital photos direct from a USB or memory card connection, either.

The screen has an ambient light sensor, so it dims depending on the light in the room, and the screen can also be switched off to save power.

It's due to go on sale in late October and comes in red, yellow, black or white with a matching remote control.

VERDICT Great interface and a bright screen, but it can't play MP3 files from a memory source. Find out more about your radio options at www.which.co.uk/digitalradios.

Can Panasonic deliver another bridge Best Buy?

The follow up to Panasonic's Best Buy FZ28 and FZ18 bridge cameras, the £260 Lumix DMC-FZ38 has a rich pedigree. We got our hands on one at the IFA consumer electronics show in September – here's what we thought of it.

The FZ38 features the same 18x zoom factor as its predecessors and it has retained the 27-486mm zoom range seen on the FZ28. The sensor's resolution has been upped to 12.1Mp and Panasonic claims that the autofocus system on the FZ38 operates at twice the

speed of that on the FZ28. Another improvement comes with the introduction of an HD video mode.

It features both aperture and shutter speed priority modes, as well as a manual focus option, and comes with a new image stabilisation system – we hope it works better than the FZ28's disappointing image stabiliser.

The FZ38 is available now at Comet and Amazon.co.uk.

VERDICT Lots of manual control, and previous FZ series models have been fantastic, so we expect it to do well in our tests.



Dulux mini roller gives mixed results

Dulux has introduced a smaller sibling to its PaintPod Roller family. Both PaintPod versions release paint on to the roller at the press of a button, but the Compact is cheaper (£45 versus £70 RRP), smaller and lighter.

Is the Compact worth the extra expense over a traditional roller and tray, especially as it lacks a self-cleaning system?

We gave it a try, with mixed results. It worked very quickly once up and running and gave a very smooth finish, but it slopped paint if we left any on the roller and moved it suddenly.

Using the roller took a little getting used to, and it's much



heavier than a traditional roller. It's available from Homebase, B&Q, Focus and independents.

We also tried out the Dulux Perfect Edges paint brushes for the edging (from £3.69 at B&Q). These left a very smooth finish, and their non-drip claim was well-founded. But we didn't find the triangular brush helped when tackling awkward corners.

VERDICT The Compact makes rapid progress, leaving an excellent finish. But its roller is heavy and clogs too easily.

Affordable new netbook

The N130 is an affordable new netbook from Samsung, and is the latest in a range that includes the Best Buy NC10 and N120.

With a matt finish that resists fingerprints and gives an impression of quality, the N130, which costs £250 and is widely available, is solidly built with a well laid-out keyboard that is comfortable to type on.

The 10.1-inch screen has a non-gloss finish to minimise reflections, and should be fine for word processing on the move.

The N130 is powered by an Intel Atom processor, with a good-sized 160GB hard drive and 1GB of Ram. It comes with



Windows XP and a six-cell battery that should help ensure it has the excellent battery life we saw in the N120.

You'll also find a webcam, microphone, speakers and Wi-Fi, as well as a reader for SD and MMC cards, and three USB ports. It doesn't have Bluetooth connectivity, though, and, like other netbooks, it also lacks a DVD drive.

VERDICT Good quality and excellent claimed battery life, but very similar to predecessors.

BOSCH POWER IRON IMPRESSES

Bosch claims that the 2,750-watt TDA5620GB Sensixx Comfort Power II is 'the UK's most powerful iron'. As its predecessor, the TDA8337, is our highest-scoring Best Buy, we wanted to put this new model (priced at around £50-60) through its paces.

The Power II seems like an A-grade student. Put to the hottest cotton/linen setting, it was up to temperature within a startling 34 seconds. The ceramic soleplate ran smoothly over all the fabrics we tried.

Continuous steaming is controlled via an easy-moving thumb switch with 0, 1 and 2 settings, the latter giving a steady output of steam. Stand well back when using the steam shots – they border on the

vicious. The Power II can also steam vertically.

Eerily quiet and with a decently long flex, this seems a small but appealing advance on its excellent predecessor. It is widely available.

Bosch has also launched a less powerful (2,400W) version of this iron, which claims to cut energy use by 24% on high-steam settings. We're testing both irons soon – keep an eye on www.which.co.uk/irons for the results. **VERDICT** Seems to be a superb performer at a substantial but not exorbitant price.



Jamie gets two Best Buys

Jamie Oliver has racked up an impressive two Which? Best Buys following the testing of his newly launched kitchen appliances.

The Tefal by Jamie Oliver range arrived in June and we whisked the food processor, jug blender and health grill straight off to our labs to be fully tested.

The jug blender (£69) is one of the best we've tested, scoring 83% and making it a

clear Best Buy. It powers through a range of tasks – such as making smoothies, pureeing baby food and soup – with ease, plus it's easy to use and clean.

The health grill (£79) is also a Best Buy, scoring 74%. It's not the fastest machine we've tested but, even with removable plates that normally don't perform as well, the results of cooking chicken, salmon and vegetables are certainly worth waiting for.

Though the food processor (£100) is good, scoring a respectable 67%, and excelling at some tasks, it's only average at chopping, whisking and kneading. Our experts also found it noisier, trickier to assemble and harder to keep clean than our Best Buys.

All products are available from Argos.

VERDICT A stylish, well-built range that would be welcome in any kitchen.

