



# Product news

It looks amazing – but how good is Apple's new icon?

## Flaws will not stop iPhone's success

### NEWS FROM THE STATES

Apple's new iconic iPhone is not released in the UK until the end of the year, but we've managed to get a preview of this latest must-have gadget. More than 250,000 were sold in the US over its launch weekend in July and it's expected to be just as popular when it's introduced here. But can its performance live up to the hype?

First, its appearance is stunning. The front is a large, high-resolution touch-screen display, which you use to navigate your way around the device's features. It works really well and is resistant to scratches.

All major applications are accessible from this screen. There is a virtual set of buttons for dialling and an easy-to-learn virtual keypad to write text messages – although these are both very different from the number pads found on most smartphones.

Sound quality on calls is nothing special, and most comparable smart-

phones perform better. However, we were impressed by the battery, which gives eight hours of talk time.

One note of caution, though. As with the iPod, and unlike with most mobile phones, you can't replace the battery. Instead, you have to send the entire phone back to the manufacturer if you experience any problems. There's currently no information on how much this will cost in the UK, but in the US it's pretty expensive.

However, the iPhone is more than just a mobile: it's packed with additional features to keep you entertained. The best of these is the 4GB or 8GB music player, which is one of the best we've ever heard. Sound quality through the iPod-style headphones is also very good. There's a 2Mp camera and internet access, although the iPhone is not 3G compatible. This means it's much slower than many of its rivals at downloading and browsing data.



The iPhone – no price for the UK yet

**VERDICT** The iPhone looks amazing, is easy to use and has a great music player. There may be some flaws – sound on calls isn't brilliant and it isn't 3G compatible – but it's still likely to be a huge success. Much of this may depend on its price – still to be announced. Go to [www.which.co.uk/iphone](http://www.which.co.uk/iphone) for more information and to keep up to date on this. More mobile phones tested and rated – p57.

## Avoid the sockets and save the pounds

### FIRST LOOK

Panasonic's revamped LCD TV range continues to impress. Its new top-of-the-range 32-inch TX-32LXD700 is stunning and its sister, cheaper model is just as good.

Both high-definition (HD) and standard images are excellent, its bass-rich sound is a cut above most other brands and its electronic menus make it simple to use. It costs £1,000 from John Lewis but the

same-sized TX-32LXD, reviewed last month (p11), is £400 cheaper. The pricier model has additional sockets for HD equipment, a



Panasonic – still on top

surround-sound system and a PC, plus a memory card slot, allowing you to view photos, and software that improves moving images – but the difference is slight.

**VERDICT** Another winner from Panasonic. But save yourself some cash and opt for the entry-level model. We don't think the additional sockets and fancy-sounding features are worth the extra. They are both HD-ready with built-in digital Freeview.

## New Nikon rises above the average

### FIRST SNAP

Nikon's new D40x digital camera, the replacement for its D40, has taken the model to new heights. The original was Nikon's smallest and lightest ever digital SLR; it had some nice touches that were designed to help the novice user, such as clear advice on the LCD screen to help you take better pictures. But, tested with the 18-55mm kit lens, its total score was pretty average.

However, the D40x changes that. It's virtually identical to the D40 in terms of looks, size, weight and the advice, but inside there's an upgraded ten megapixel (Mp) sensor instead of the old 6Mp one. An increase in megapixels doesn't always mean better picture quality but, in this case, the D40x's images are better and, using manual white balance, good enough to make it a Best Buy.

This is a quick camera: focusing speed, start-up time and shot-to-shot time in both single-shot and burst modes all really impress. You can buy it body only or with the same 18-55mm lens as on the D40, giving you an optical zoom range of about 27-82.5mm when you fit it to the body. It will cost £445 with the lens, £397 without, from Jessops.

**VERDICT** A great package. However, to make the most of it you need more lenses. Nikon's AF-S and AF-I are the only ones that will work with the D40x's autofocus system.



The D40x – major improvements



**5 million**  
digital radios sold in  
the UK by June 2007  
DRDB

**59.4%**  
of British households  
have a cordless phone  
TGI

**13 million**  
iPods currently  
owned in Britain  
DRDB

Digital radio expands to match all lifestyles and budgets

# Easier listening for all

## FIRST LISTENS

**M**anufacturers are developing cheaper and smaller digital audio broadcast (DAB) radios as the market expands. Here we report on four models recently released.

We found Pure's latest DAB radio (4) to be a big disappointment when it comes to sound quality, but it might be worth considering if you're looking for a versatile model to use outdoors as well as at home.

It's not really designed as a personal DAB radio, although it has a headphone socket. It's small and light enough to carry with you at an outdoor sporting event, but also has a stand and external speakers so you can use it in a caravan or at the allotment.

Battery life was impressive for such a small product and it comes with an internal charging device so you don't have to pay extra for a full set of rechargeable batteries. It is also easy to use – important, as you're going to be moving it around a lot.

The sound quality from Tesco's own-brand digital radio, the Technika DAB-206 (3), was a little better, although it's a cheap basic model that our testers found difficult to use. But if you're on a tight budget, and don't want to spend more than £50, it's best to opt for the Pure One, a Which? Best Buy (November, 2006, p73).

The Roberts RD-78 (2) achieved a higher score than the cheaper Technika model, primarily because it was easier to use. It gained a middling total test score of 53 per cent, not great given its £110 price tag. See also 'Just out', right.

At the top end of the sound scale is the Vita Audio R1 (1). This stylish model is available in several finishes, including high gloss and real wood veneers. Sound quality is good and it isn't too difficult to use.

**VERDICT** The range of digital radios is bigger than ever – with something to suit every budget and lifestyle. See [www.which.co.uk/digitalradios](http://www.which.co.uk/digitalradios) for full results of these four and 45 others.

**Battery life was impressive for such a small device**



**Radios for all:**  
from top – the  
Vita Audio, the  
Roberts, the  
Technika and  
the Pure

RADIOS	SPEC	TEST PERFORMANCE		SCORE %
		SOUND QUALITY	EASE OF USE	
1 VITA AUDIO R1	159	★★★★	★★★	67
2 ROBERTS RD-78	110	★★★	★★★	53
3 TECHNIKA DAB-206	50	★★★	★★	43
4 PURE MOVE	90	★	★★★★	39

## Just out

### Sony Bravia DAV-IS10 £699

This home-cinema system has tiny speakers with a glossy black media centre. The 21cm-wide unit also has a built-in tuner and can be connected to iPods, Bluetooth music phones, Wi-Fi networks and Sony's Network Walkman MP3 players as well.



### Roberts iPod radio £49

Digital radio specialists Roberts Radio and Frontier Silicon have teamed up to produce what they claim is the first DAB/FM radio plug-in for iPods. It measures just 52.4x32x8.1mm and can also be used as a remote control to play, pause, fast forward or rewind stored music.

### Tefal ActiFry £150

This claims to fry up a kilo of chips using very little fat. Chip your spuds, add a spoonful of oil and then watch as they fry, circulating around the non-stick pan. It is also suitable for meat, fish and veg. It was launched in Lakeland stores in June but should be more widely available this month.



### Panasonic Globarange cordless phones £80-£120

This new range of cordless phones can be used for standard fixed-line chats, as well as voice over internet protocol (Voip) calls using your broadband connection. To take advantage of free Voip calls, you and the person you're calling will have to have Joip accounts. Sadly, the popular Voip service from Skype isn't supported.

