

Digital radios

Four new hand-held models on test, plus table-top Best Buys

BEST BUYS

The main benefit of digital radio is increased choice: five extra BBC stations and more commercial stations, too. You also get on-screen information about what you're listening to.

Eighty-five per cent of the UK can receive digital radio. To see whether you can, go to www.digitalradionow.com and type in your postcode.

As well as table-top radios, we tested hand-held sets, for listening on the move. Our Best Buy table-top sets have better sound quality and are easier to use than the rest. Our Best Buy hand-held radio, the Philips, comes top because of its sound quality and because it's the only one with FM reception – useful if you want to listen on a remote beach.

TABLE TOP

The **Pure Evoke-2 (1)**, £130 from Currys and Dixons, has the best sound; it plays speech and music well, with good bass and clarity, and picks up FM.

The **Intempo PG-01 (2)** has the next best sound quality, says our expert panel. The FM reception is impressive, but there is a slight background whistle during some FM broadcasts. It's £90 in Currys, Dixons, John Lewis and Miller Brothers.

The **Pure Tempus-1 (3)** has more pre-set stations than the other Best Buys. Considering it has only one speaker, sound quality's good but it can distort at higher volumes. There's no FM reception. For stereo, you need an extra speaker, at £30. It's £100 at Argos, Currys, Dixons and John Lewis.

The **Pure Evoke-1XT (4)** is based on the earlier Evoke-1. Sound quality's good, though you can't turn it up very loud, and there's only one speaker. Again, there's no FM reception and you add stereo by buying an extra speaker for £30. In a choice of maple or cherry finish, it's £90 at Argos, Comet, Currys, Dixons and John Lewis.

HAND-HELD

The **Philips DAB Pocket Radio (5)**, £100 from Argos and John Lewis, is our only Best Buy. It has an FM tuner, but it is also the only model we tested that delivered decent sound with the headphones supplied. We're disappointed that reasonable-quality headphones aren't included with all models, given their cost. The Philips also includes rechargeable batteries, though battery life was just seven hours.

WHICH? EXTRA

For full details of these models, plus eight we reported on previously, go to www.which.co.uk/digitalradios

TABLE NOTES

Specification

FM tuner Whether the radio can receive FM.

Performance

Sound quality Results of our expert listening tests. For hand-held radios, this was assessed using their supplied headphones.

SCORE

TABLE TOP

This ignores price and is based on:

Sound quality	35%
Ease of use	25%
Features	20%
FM reception	20%

SCORE

HAND-HELD

This ignores price and is based on:

Sound quality	50%
Ease of use	20%
Features	20%
Battery life	10%

KEY

★	☆	○	●	●
Best				Worst
■ Best Buy				



Digital radios

TABLE TOP

	Price (£)	Size wxhxd (cm)	Weight (g)	FM tuner	Sound quality	Battery life (hr)	Ease of use	Score (%)
1 Pure Evoke-2	130	29x21.9x12.4	2,500	✓	☆	18	☆	69
2 Intempo PG-01	90	25.2x19.5x12	1,700	✓	○	n/a	☆	66
3 Pure Tempus-1	100	21x18x11.7	1,500		○	n/a	☆	61
4 Pure Evoke-1XT	90	21x17x11	1,500		○	n/a	☆	58

HAND-HELD

5 Philips DAB Pocket Radio DA 1000	100	6.2x11.2x2.3	142	✓	○	7	○	60
6 Roberts Sports DAB RD-4	120	6.7x11.8x2.4	140		●	>24	☆	51
7 Pure Pocket DAB 1000	120	6.5x11.1x2.4	176		●	19	☆	49
8 Bush DAB Tuner PSDAB2003	70	6.5x10.3x2.4	170		●	9	○	43