

I finally got a decent portable music mplayer!

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From: Kyler Laird (Kyler_at_news.Lairds.org)

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I first converted my CD collection to MPEG files about a decade ago and I've been waiting for a worthwhile portable player ever since. I tried an early HD-based player that sucked batteries and in general.

<http://www.genica.com/MP3products/Mp3-roopaq.htm>

I really wanted a CompactFlash version and did get one but it was amazingly bad.

<http://groups.google.com/groups?selm=hr4cl-nc1.ln1%40news.lairds.org>

I've only used it a couple times.

So...I've been reluctant to get another one but yesterday I was blowing a chunk of Discover CashBack at Sharper Image and decided to give the NHJ Limited V@MP iIOPS-F325 a try. I took my computer with me and when I plugged it into my machine (with its built-in standard USB plug) it appeared as a standard USB storage device! I could easily mount its FAT16 filesystem. I also loved that it has a lithium battery that charges from the USB interface. Even though it doesn't use CompactFlash, it was too cool to pass.

Once I got it home, I became even more enamored with this cute little device. It's small but has a great display and easily-used interface. The FM tuner works well. The built-in microphone does a great job and recordings are saved as MP3 files. The manual mentions Linux compatibility! But the kicker...it plays OGG files! Woo hoo!

The only problem I have with this device is that its 256MB of memory is minimally useful. I can barely squeeze four CDs on there. Today I'm going to be flying with my wife for over three hours. That's almost enough music to cover the flights; it certainly doesn't give me much selection. I'll probably end up trying the FM tuner to get some variety.

My plan is to set up a USB jack on my computer rack so that I can simply plug the V@MP into it whenever I want a new batch of music. As soon as the device is inserted, all of the recordings will be downloaded, and new music will be uploaded. Because it also charges the battery, this should work well. If it does, my

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wife will get one too.

The real solution however is to get more storage space. It looks like that's coming.

http://www.gizmodo.com/archives/iopsf300_1_gb_flash_music_player.php
1GB should do the job for awhile. I'll probably want another way of charging it though. I might need to rig a 12VDC to USB adapter. It seems like I've seen such a thing already.

It's nice to not be whining about music players for a change...

--kyler