

iPOD RECEIVERS

Yamaha MCR 040

Super iPod docking system, plus tuner, plus, plus, plus...

The first thing that hit me with my review system, was just how orange it was. The fact of the matter is that there is a wide range of colours available for this system, so that you can match it to your lifestyle. But orange? Seriously?

With a sigh and a grunt I got to the heavy business of reviewing this little system. It took about 10 seconds to set up – everything is done for you and all you have to do is turn it on, pop the batteries into the remote and hook up the speakers (which are detachable by the way) and you're on your way.

I started off by plopping my tastefully black iPodlet into the docking bay of the MCR 040. The remote with the unit, which is what you are going to be driving the system with, could perhaps be accused of being a bit toy-like and might not stand up to the rigors of daily use for the next forty years. However, that said, what it does do is work at pretty much

any angle pretty much from anywhere in the room, which is really useful.

The big, friendly display scrolls automatically when necessary and picks up tune information from the iPod. You can change this of course if you like, but I didn't. I never got lost, and the navigation through the iPod menus is just as intuitive as well, an iPod!

So it is that with minimal – and I do mean minimal – effort you can have your music up and running.

I was pleasantly surprised by the quality of the sound, to be honest. I wasn't all that sure about the single, full range driver approach used by Yamaha when I first came across it, but you needn't worry about it. Yamaha have chosen a high quality drive unit here that performs remarkably well.

The depth of the speaker chassis permits quite a bit of bass extension, and if you place the speakers/system with just a modicum of

sensibility you will be handsomely rewarded with a deeper bass than I thought would be possible.

And you also need not worry about the upper frequency ranges. As a complete aside, my new iPhone tells me that at my ripe old age, I can still hear up to 18 kHz. Whilst I haven't yet had this confirmed formally with an ear test (I am sceptical to say the least!), I can say that there is nothing on the upper end of the spectrum missing.

The tonal range of the system is thus impressive. It is also remarkably easy to get it to image, and if you move the speakers away from the centre system, you can change the focal point of the speakers to just about any point in the room. Should you want to, that is.

CD playback is equally impressive with the CD player handling MP3 formats with ease as an added bonus. Normal old style audio CDs still deliver a better performance than



■ Vital Stats ■

compressed MP3, which means your old CD collection still has value!

I didn't spend too much time playing with directory structures on MP3 CD, but the memory stick via the USB input at the front of the unit proved no problem at all to navigate. Again, the remote is most useful here.

There is also a tuner in the unit – which works well and which sports RDS. Worth mentioning at this point is that there is also a

Power output 2 x 15 watt
THD 0.05% (1 kHz/1 W)
Drivers 10 cm full range driver
CD formats CD, CD-RW,
 Audio CD, MP3, WMA
Frequency response.... 40 Hz – 20 kHz
Weight 6.4 kg (system)

VERDICT

An all in one mini system that is child's play to use. Sounds good, too.

PRICE..... R4 440

SUPPLIED BY Balanced Audio
 011-314-0760

WEBSITE www.balancedaudio.co.za

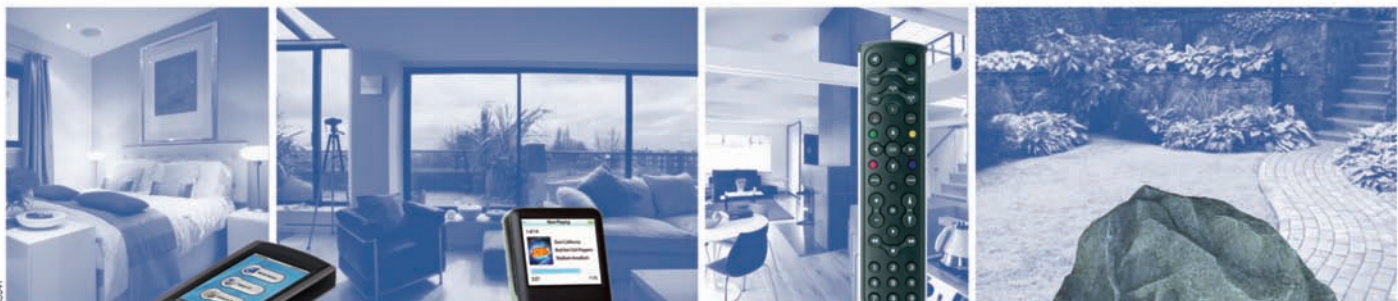
MCR 140 model, which features the option to add a wireless subwoofer, as well as running a wireless iPod dock as standard.

But I have to say that after a few weeks with this unit in daily use, I happen to now quite like the orange. Timing being what it is, my wife wanted some new shelves in the pantry and there are no prizes for guessing the colour!

William Kelly



All your home automation dreams under one roof!



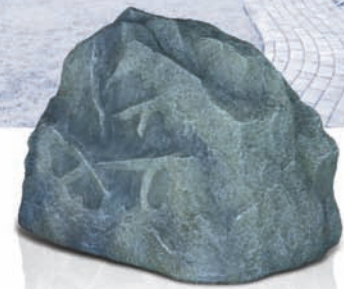
NevoS70
Universal remote



iPort FS-2 Series
Free-standing systems for the iPod



Systemline Modular LRN-7
Learning programmable remote control



Sonance RK63
Weather-resistant outdoor speaker



NEVO
New Evolution in Home Control



At Homemation, our Whole House Automation systems marry imagination with innovation – which makes those seemingly crazy and impossible ideas very possible – like having your favourite music playing in every room and the garden, with crystal clear digital sound. Homemation's best quality systems and components place the ultimate in comfort, luxury and convenience at your fingertips.

Call: 0861 102 505 | Web: www.homemation.co.za | Email: info@homemation.co.za

Homemation
New order in elegance

