

iPOD DOCKING STATIONS
YAMAHA PDX-50

iPod maximised

iPods are great for personal music. But personal music is exactly that, personal. It's a pity that the versatility and ease of use of the iPod phenomenon can't be easily applied to the family music system – but the PDX-50 is a step in the right direction.

The way it works is brilliant. You connect your iPod to a mobile wireless connector device that basically converts your iPod into a wireless transmitter, which syncs with a base station, which plays back the music being beamed back to it from the iPod.

The wireless connector also has an entirely separate small base station that acts as an iPod charger. It's a really clever way of keeping your iPod charged, but allowing you the freedom to pick it up and drive your music from anywhere basically within sight of the base station. So you can have the iPod with you in the arm chair, and your base station can be located more conveniently anywhere else in the room. And you now have finger tip control of your music.

You can of course keep the satellite charger close to you – it is completely independent of

Vital Stats

Frequency Response	60 Hz – 20 kHz
Signal to Noise Ratio	iPod dependant
Memory	iPod dependant
Power Handling	15 watt + 15 watt into 6 ohm
Drive Units	8 cm full range cone, bass reflex port
Dimensions (WxHxD)	350 x 127 x 125 mm
Weight	1.7 kg
PRICE	R2 995

VERDICT

An uber cool iPod docking station that wirelessly connects your iPod to the base station. Fully compatible for use with the iPhone as well!

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the larger base station and comes complete with its own power cable. This way you need never get up.

I did find that the normally long lasting iPod Nano does drain its charge much faster when coupled to the PDX-50 system. But the convenience of being able to a) play music for everyone to hear and b) control it from my finger tips, more than compensated for the shortened playing time when the unit was not slotted into its charging station. I have to add that popping the iPod onto charge was so easy it sets the standard for every charging device from here on out. All you do is vaguely align the iPod at the charger, and the attached wireless transmitter guides itself into the charging slots. Simple but amazingly effective.

The PDX-50 sounds great given that it's a fairly simple affair comprising of a single 8 cm



full range driver with a small bass reflex port. It gives a great accounting of itself when all is said and done, with a more than generous spread and fill of music. Of course the iPod format is not one suited, yet, to high-end sonic reproduction, but I for one am very keen to see a high-end unit built along similar lines to

make its appearance. Of course the compact dimensions of the PDX-50 greatly add to its "position-ability" almost anywhere. It's not designed to compete with the hi-fi, it's designed to extend your iPod listening experience.

The PDX-50 is one of those units that is absolutely an iPod accessory and it rates as a 'must have'. It allows you to share your music. It allows you to listen in your own living space without headphones and it makes the transition from listening on the go to listening in the home. I loved the versatility and the PDX-50 was used probably more than most components in the typical review period. It's a unit that brings the iPod out of your pocket and approaches the realm of more traditional hi-fi music that can be enjoyed by everyone (heck even just yourself!).

William Kelly

