
Subject: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [Carrierll](#) on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 13:02:38 GMT
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My trusty (six? year old) Creative Zen-Vision:M is dying, the random crashes that have plagued it (previously brought on by cold weather, but now just by the player moving when I move) have increased in frequency and it's getting harder to use.

The trouble is, I do a lot of work and things outside, and therefore my requirements are a little... odd. My Zen, being a large, well constructed brick, has survived:

6 drops down my stairs (OK, this is more my clumsiness...),
A drop into the bath (accidental) whilst operating,
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and exposure to farm environments (lots of rain, shit and animals trying to eat it, or tread on it etc).

Before I start: Apple iPods are too flimsy, and I dislike I-Tunes, and I want to be able to assemble WMD with my media player if I so choose... etc - No Apple products please.

- 1) Durability, my new player needs to be tough. Recheck the list of what my Zen has survived, size and weight aren't really concerns, I'm used to my Zen.
- 2) Stability, if it's HDD based, then it needs to be able to tolerate operating shocks, my car has no suspension, I'll be riding horses soon etc
- 3) Battery life.
- 4) Capacity, I only need ~8 GB, so this doesn't have to be huge.

Does anyone have any suggestions. Please note I live in the UK. I'm not too bothered about brand, but I will reiterate my personal issue with Apple.

Any suggestions?

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [Goztow](#) on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 13:41:30 GMT
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I'd say buy a 2nd hand zen, like the one u had .

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [Carrierll](#) on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 14:35:15 GMT
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Goztow wrote on Sun, 11 October 2009 14:41 I'd say buy a 2nd hand zen, like the one u had .

The trouble is with 2nd hand, is that you can't get any form of garuntee on the life time, and I would like to make an investment (like the Zen was).

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [archerman](#) on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 15:55:45 GMT
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CarrierII wrote on Sun, 11 October 2009 16:02

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Any suggestions?
<http://tinyurl.com/yg872fn>

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [nope.avi](#) on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 16:13:53 GMT

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [dr3w2](#) on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 16:35:50 GMT
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When i saw my "zen vision m is dieing" I thought to myself impossible.

I've had my 30gb zen vision:m for 7 years now and the thing has taken a beating from over usage, cement floors, extreme heat and extreme cold.

As mentioned, I would even recommend getting a used one (fucking creative not continueing the larger sized mp3 models >_< ... disapointing). I agree completely with you about the ipods

Although if you wanted something of equivalence, I was considering getting a zune 120gb IF my creative were to ever die.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [jnz](#) on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 16:36:01 GMT
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My phone, Sony Ericsson W810 supports cards up to 4Gb. That has been dropped down stairs, kicked around, dropped in a cup of hot coffee and it's still going strong. I'm sure you can get an 8Gb version of the same sort of phone. It will even play movies, I can get about 10 full movies on mine.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [dr3w2](#) on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 16:37:34 GMT
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jnz does yours allow any standard headphones? I have a k850i ericcson and absolutely love it and like you have the 4gb flash.. BUT you need the "ericsson" headphones meaning can't use any third party or different styled headphones.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [GEORGE ZIMMER](#) on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 16:38:11 GMT
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LOL OMG IPOD AND ZUNE R ONLY CHOICES AND ZUNE R SUXX!!1
IPODS R SOOOO GOOD AND HIP!

serious: Just get the same as what you had but a bit better. Usually, they'll use the same model, just more storage.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [nikki6ixx](#) on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 17:18:52 GMT
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I'd recommend a Zune which has flash memory, but battery life isn't that great, and since you're in the UK, you won't be able to use any Zune Marketplace functions.

Have you checked out anything by Sandisk? Usually they're pretty good, and the battery life is often impressive.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [Carrierll](#) on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 17:41:49 GMT
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archerman wrote on Sun, 11 October 2009 16:55Carrierll wrote on Sun, 11 October 2009 16:02

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I'd let you off of that if it PRODUCED FUCKING USEFUL RESULTS. You're on thin ice.

On topic:
I was simply wondering whether anyone had any testimonials, that's all.

I'll check out Sandisk.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [JohnDoe](#) on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 17:44:34 GMT
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only testicles, sorry

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [archerman](#) on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 17:46:30 GMT
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CarrierII wrote on Sun, 11 October 2009 20:41archerman wrote on Sun, 11 October 2009 16:55CarrierII wrote on Sun, 11 October 2009 16:02

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I'll check out Sandisk.

what is wrong with that reply?

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice

Posted by [nikki6ixx](#) on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 18:09:52 GMT

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CarrierII wrote on Sun, 11 October 2009 12:41

I'll check out Sandisk.

I forgot to mention too, that the Sandisk doesn't use proprietary software, so you can just use WMP11/12 to sync. The only thing is that the audio quality will likely not be as good as a Creative or Zune competitor, but that's of little concern for most people.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice

Posted by [Hex](#) on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 18:20:15 GMT

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Look for a older model Creative Zen Touch, you can get the 20 GB ones for about £60 new on eBay, they are like bricks but all so worth it.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice

Posted by [Chuck Norris](#) on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 18:31:24 GMT

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archerman wrote on Sun, 11 October 2009 13:46CarrierII wrote on Sun, 11 October 2009

20:41archerman wrote on Sun, 11 October 2009 16:55CarrierII wrote on Sun, 11 October 2009

16:02

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what is wrong with that reply?
Can you not read his first statement to you? Did you even check the results for the search that did? None on the first page are even useful. Most on the first page aren't even related to his situation or what you typed for the search.

I also find it funny when someone posts one of those links. Obviously, if someone is asking for advice here (or anywhere), they don't give a crap for Google results.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [CarrierII](#) on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 18:31:28 GMT
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Hmm, I found this topic on www.anythingbutipod.com:
<http://www.anythingbutipod.com/forum/showthread.php?t=42560>

Looks like I'm not the only one. I wonder how advisable repair attempts are...

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [nikki6ixx](#) on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 18:39:17 GMT
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CarrierII wrote on Sun, 11 October 2009 13:31: Hmm, I found this topic on
www.anythingbutipod.com: <http://www.anythingbutipod.com/forum/showthread.php?t=42560>

Looks like I'm not the only one. I wonder how advisable repair attempts are...

It's already an old player, so you don't have much to lose. If I were in the same situation, I'd be trying to fix the thing I like, as opposed to plunking down money on something new.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [CarrierII](#) on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 19:10:17 GMT
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As it was a simple thing to do, I disassembled the player, reconnected the battery and HDD and reassembled it. It boots fine, but I'll test it over the next week for cutting out etc. I'll post again. In the meantime, this thread can be about how awesome Zen-Vision:M's are.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [slosha](#) on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 19:16:48 GMT
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I would get a Zune then. If you want to pay for your music, they only charge a monthly fee of like \$15 or something for unlimited music downloads.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [cmatt42](#) on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 19:22:47 GMT

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Oh man, mine has gone through so much abuse.

When I first got it, I thought that using the pouch it comes with would protect the screen from scratches. Hah, hahaha. (hint: it did the opposite)

It doesn't bother me though. It still works beautifully. It's a stable storage device that has never let me down. Ever. Beat that, flash memory sticks. I want to put rockbox on this thing to play FLAC files, but I'm absolutely satisfied with it just playing V0 mp3s as of now.

I don't usually watch videos on it, but it's great to have for long, boring road trips and you happen to have Monty Python episodes you can throw on there.

I wish this thing were a bit thinner, but if that means switching to any Apple products, you can count me out.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [jnz](#) on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 19:26:48 GMT
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andr3w282 wrote on Sun, 11 October 2009 17:37jnz does yours allow any standard headphones? I have a k850i ericsson and absolutely love it and like you have the 4gb flash.. BUT you need the "ericsson" headphones meaning can't use any third party or different styled headphones.

You can have any headphones with a standard jack but you need an adapter thing that plugs into the bottom, for hands-free.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [Lone0001](#) on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 20:27:05 GMT
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nikki6ixx wrote on Sun, 11 October 2009 13:18I'd recommend a Zune which has flash memory, but battery life isn't that great, and since you're in the UK, you won't be able to use any Zune Marketplace functions.

Have you checked out anything by Sandisk? Usually they're pretty good, and the battery life is often impressive.

Anything but the Sansa View, Worst Firmware Ever.
The hardware itself is pretty strong, I'll admit to that.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [Dover](#) on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 20:56:24 GMT

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Glock~ wrote on Sun, 11 October 2009 12:16l would get a Zune then. If you want to pay for your music, they only charge a monthly fee of like \$15 or something for unlimited music downloads.

>Implying he would be paying for music with any other Mp3 player.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [JohnDoe](#) on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 20:57:27 GMT
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Go for an iPod Shuffle because it talks to you!!!

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [luv2pb](#) on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 22:00:30 GMT
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Sony's new walkman is supposed to be pretty solid.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [Goztow](#) on Mon, 12 Oct 2009 06:43:40 GMT
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Do Sony still use their own fucked up sound format? If so, then stay away from it by miles! I had one Sony mp3 player: NEVER again.

Oh and Johndoe, put a sock in it, will ya?

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [JohnDoe](#) on Mon, 12 Oct 2009 08:03:02 GMT
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In my iPod Shuffle? No way, it just talked to me and said I couldn't even fit a silk sock in there...another reason to buy it!!!

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [cmatt42](#) on Mon, 12 Oct 2009 16:59:22 GMT
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What kind of lousy player doesn't have sock storage

big plus in my book!

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [Carrierll](#) on Sun, 25 Oct 2009 20:19:40 GMT
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Bump because some simple surgery (disassembly and the dis/reconnecting the HDD and battery) did the trick, not one issue, roll on the Zen!

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [nikki6ixx](#) on Sun, 25 Oct 2009 20:48:04 GMT
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Sweet deal! It's always nice to hang onto old things instead of buying more new crap.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [JohnDoe](#) on Sun, 25 Oct 2009 21:27:21 GMT
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No, you have to buy a new iPod every year because the updates are so exciting.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [Carrierll](#) on Sat, 13 Feb 2010 22:22:29 GMT
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BUMP.

My Zen Vision M died.

I've been looking around, and have been unable to find anywhere selling a second hand Zen V:M at a reasonable price, and simply wondered whether anyone had any further suggestions or recommendations?

(PS: No, I can't repair it, the battery connector has broken off)

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [Caveman](#) on Sat, 13 Feb 2010 23:07:31 GMT
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I pick/pack alot of these while at work. Can't say I have any experience with them but they seem to be as popular as ipods. Not too expensive either.

Edit:

For the same price you can have the same as you had before but the 30GB model here

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [Carrierll](#) on Sun, 14 Feb 2010 20:00:47 GMT
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They're out of stock,

I will contact them and see if they could still get one in, they just don't make them like they used to. (That makes me sound old)

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [Caveman](#) on Sun, 14 Feb 2010 21:14:24 GMT
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The original one no good for you?

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [Carrierll](#) on Sun, 14 Feb 2010 22:13:47 GMT
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I had a 30GB model, it's just that they are out of stock of both the 30 and 60GB models.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [EvilWhiteDragon](#) on Mon, 15 Feb 2010 12:31:31 GMT
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Can't you just solder on the battery connector again? Sounds like an easy fix tbh.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [Carrierll](#) on Mon, 15 Feb 2010 13:32:44 GMT
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EvilWhiteDragon wrote on Mon, 15 February 2010 12:31Can't you just solder on the battery connector again? Sounds like an easy fix tbh.

Connections are too close to each other, there's no way my soldering iron wouldn't solder all three of them to each other.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [EvilWhiteDragon](#) on Mon, 15 Feb 2010 13:43:24 GMT
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CarrierII wrote on Mon, 15 February 2010 14:32EvilWhiteDragon wrote on Mon, 15 February 2010 12:31Can't you just solder on the battery connector again? Sounds like an easy fix tbh.

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You could try it anyway? It's not like it's working now right?

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [CarrierII](#) on Mon, 15 Feb 2010 15:07:19 GMT
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I will try it (and try using masking tape to stop me soldering them together) but the connections are <1MM apart.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [Caveman](#) on Mon, 15 Feb 2010 15:47:40 GMT
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CarrierII wrote on Sun, 14 February 2010 22:13I had a 30GB model, it's just that they are out of stock of both the 30 and 60GB models.

I meant the original one I posted, the one from Amazon.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [CarrierII](#) on Mon, 15 Feb 2010 16:59:53 GMT
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Fixed it! I was suprised there wasn't a short circuit on account of how close those connections were but the masking tape did the trick!

"good as new" Zen - £198.

Soldering iron - £0, as already own one.

Zens simply cannot die.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [The Party](#) on Wed, 17 Feb 2010 20:21:07 GMT
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Buy an iTouch!

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [jonwil](#) on Thu, 18 Feb 2010 01:33:13 GMT
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Don't get a Zune, they are worse than iPods.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [nikki6ixx](#) on Thu, 18 Feb 2010 01:34:50 GMT
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jonwil wrote on Wed, 17 February 2010 19:33Don't get a Zune, they are worse than iPods.

My experience has been the complete opposite.

Anyhow, good to see you've still managed to keep the Zen ticking!

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [The Party](#) on Thu, 18 Feb 2010 16:03:54 GMT
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Whos need to listean to music anyway, its overrated.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [Carrierll](#) on Thu, 18 Feb 2010 17:30:42 GMT
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Do you want a formal warning? Post if it's useful please!

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [danpaul88](#) on Thu, 18 Feb 2010 18:17:43 GMT
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I used to have a Sony MP3 CD player... ran on rechargeable AA batteries and got about 20 hours worth of playback from each recharge. Sure, a CD doesn't hold 8GB worth of music, but I just used a CD-RW and re-wrote it every few weeks with a different selection of albums. Used to get between 350 and 400 tracks on a disk.

Sure, it's somewhat huge compared to an ipod, but you did say you were not too concerned with size. I regularly used to drop mine down the stairs and it barely even got scratched. The shock resistance mechanism was pretty damn good too, never missed a beat even if you held it and shook it as hard as you could.

Anyway, just thought I would throw it out there. Not sure if Sony still make decent MP3 CD players as this one was from about 2003 in the days before HDD and flash based portable music devices became popular. I used it for years, laughing at all the fools paying £100+ for fancy HDD / flash MP3 players when my £30 CD one was just as good... if somewhat bulky.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [The Party](#) on Wed, 24 Feb 2010 20:15:08 GMT
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Well I really also like the SanDisk Fuze 8GB because it is rugged and lasts a long time.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [dr3w2](#) on Thu, 25 Feb 2010 03:02:22 GMT
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CarrierII wrote on Mon, 15 February 2010 10:59 Fixed it! I was suprised there wasn't a short circuit on account of how close those connections were but the masking tape did the trick!

"good as new" Zen - £198.

Soldering iron - £0, as already own one.

Zens simply cannot die.

I thought the same:(
After 7 years I dropped my zen for the last time Everything is functional but the HDD is definately done. I'm quite disapointed and even tried finding a used one locally with no luck. New 80GB zune is in the mail and should be arriving tomorrow!

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [nikki6ixx](#) on Mon, 01 Mar 2010 02:43:14 GMT
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andr3w282 wrote on Wed, 24 February 2010 21:02New 80GB zune is in the mail and should be arriving tomorrow!

Aw, no luck with the Zune HD on Craigslist?

Hope you enjoy your Zune as much as I do mine!

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [dr3w2](#) on Tue, 02 Mar 2010 02:55:39 GMT
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nikki6ixx wrote on Sun, 28 February 2010 20:43andr3w282 wrote on Wed, 24 February 2010 21:02New 80GB zune is in the mail and should be arriving tomorrow!

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So it's been 5 days.

ABSOLUTELY love it. It's fucking amazing The UI, the handling - everything. As well all 50gb of my music synced on it and plenty of room to spare

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [nikki6ixx](#) on Tue, 02 Mar 2010 03:14:26 GMT
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andr3w282 wrote on Mon, 01 March 2010 20:55nikki6ixx wrote on Sun, 28 February 2010 20:43andr3w282 wrote on Wed, 24 February 2010 21:02New 80GB zune is in the mail and should be arriving tomorrow!

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Glad to hear it. Did you turn off the wireless connectivity? It sucks down the battery life.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [dr3w2](#) on Wed, 03 Mar 2010 02:09:31 GMT
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nikki6ixx wrote on Mon, 01 March 2010 21:14andr3w282 wrote on Mon, 01 March 2010 20:55nikki6ixx wrote on Sun, 28 February 2010 20:43andr3w282 wrote on Wed, 24 February 2010 21:02New 80GB zune is in the mail and should be arriving tomorrow!

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Hope you enjoy your Zune as much as I do mine!
So it's been 5 days.

ABSOLUTELY love it. It's fucking amazing The UI, the handling - everything. As well all 50gb of my music synced on it and plenty of room to spare

Glad to hear it. Did you turn off the wireless connectivity? It sucks down the battery life.
yup. if they had a browser built in it would be kind of neat - but besides that not worth it.

Subject: Re: MP3 Player buying advice
Posted by [nikki6ixx](#) on Thu, 11 Mar 2010 00:35:43 GMT
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The deal with the WiFi was so you could 'share' your music and profile with other Zune users; but since Zune users are scarcer than jobs in New Jersey, it didn't really work too well.

One thing I'd suggest is to get in the habit of using the 'touch' feature for the touchpad. I didn't, and sometimes the pad won't press or depress properly, just from a couple years of use.
