AUDIO PLAYER | **£130** from Amazon www.snipca.com/48853

Majority Oakington

A selection of sources

Computer active RECOMMENDED ★★★★

Moving from one musical format to another can be something of a wrench. If you still have a stack of CDs you enjoy listening to, you may not be ready to consign them to your attic or a charity shop in favour of a streaming service such as Spotify. The Majority Oakington can smooth the transition. It can stream music via Bluetooth from your phone or tablet, broadcast DAB and FM radio, and play your favourite CDs.

The Oakington is certainly an attractive device, wrapped in a mostly wooden case available in two shades – oak (pictured) or a darker walnut. The front of the device offers two speakers, a small LED screen, eight buttons and a CD slot.

On the top there's a dial that can be rotated to change the volume or pressed as a 'select' button. Around the back there's the power socket, USB ports, and headphone and audio-in jacks, along with an aerial that can be folded away when not in use. The USB ports carry power, so can charge any device that's plugged into them.

It doesn't take up much space, measuring just 130x400x200mm (HxWxD), but it is mains powered-only and weighs a chunky 3.9kg. It comes with a remote control that offers a few more functions than the buttons on the front panel, though it's not a great design and feels like an afterthought.

Sound quality is good overall, though it does obviously depend on the quality of the input. Its relatively small size limits the depth of bass it can pump out and we found it frustrating that the volume level can vary quite noticeably when you switch between two inputs. For example, shifting from Bluetooth to DAB radio lifted the loudness levels significantly.

There's an alarm function that's perfect for people who like to wake up to the radio. You can also use the headphone port if you don't want to disturb others, but be aware it doesn't work with headsets with a built-in microphone.

One feature missing from the Oakington is any kind of voice assistant. If you want Alexa or Google to queue your next song, you're going to have to opt for a smart speaker instead.

SPECIFICATIONS

Plays CDs • FM and DAB radio • Bluetooth • 3.5mm audio-in jack • 3.5mm headphone jack • Supports MP3, WMA, WAV, FLAC, AAC+ audio formats • 130x400x200mm (HxWxD) • 3.9kg • Three-year warranty www.snipca.com/48853

VERDICT A high-quality all-in-one device for listening to CDs, radio and streaming services

★★★★★

ALTERNATIVE Roberts Stream 94L £191 Can't play CDs but if you're happy to just stream music and radio, this portable device is well worth considering

DO I REALLY NEED...

An ultra-light laptop-tablet?

What is it?

LG has announced the LG Gram Pro 2 in 1 (pictured), which it claims is the lightest 16in laptop-tablet yet.

What does it do?

Despite its 16in OLED touchscreen, which can be pushed all the way back to use in tablet mode, the device is incredibly thin, measuring just 12.4mm at its thickest. However, at only 1.399kg, LG hopes its gossamer-like weight will be its biggest selling point.

What's the catch?

LG has only pre-released information about the laptop and is formerly announcing it at CES in Las Vegas, which started on 9 January, meaning we didn't have the final pricing and regional availability details at the time of writing. It's almost certainly going to be a top-of-the-range model, though, so expect a high price.

So can I do without it?

Yes. It'd be nice to have the lightest laptop-tablet in the world, but accepting a few more grams at a much lower price will be more appealing to most.

NEXT ISSUE

On Sale Weds 31 Jan

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