



RADIO HEAD

Stephen Fenech picks five digital radios that look good and sound great



1

OXX DIGITAL VANTAGE

OXX Digital, \$129.95
oxxdigital.com/au

★★★★

OXX Digital has found the sweet spot with its Vantage DAB+ digital radio. It's small enough to take to the beach or the park, but big enough for the home. The Vantage has a 2-watt mono, linear, magnetic, full-range speaker that can fill a large room with sound, as well as a stylish Scandinavian design with a soft-touch finish. It can be powered by an AC adaptor or with six C-size batteries. You can see station names on a two-line LCD screen or see song names and other info such as scrolling talkback phone numbers and competition lines.

2

GRUNDIG ROAM

Grundig, \$179
grundig.net.au

★★★

THIS appropriately named digital radio, the Roam, can be by your side wherever you travel. The radio is about the size of a deck of cards and has a built-in rechargeable battery that can provide up to eight hours of use. It has a joystick control that makes it easy to navigate menu options on its three-line LCD screen and select your favourite radio stations. It is possible to save 30 radio station presets on this gadget, with 15 set aside for DAB+ frequencies and 15 for FM signals. Listeners can use earphones or enjoy sound from the built-in 0.5W speaker.

3

SANGEAN DCR200+

Sangean, \$299
sangean.com.au

★★★★★

SANGEAN'S sleek DCR200+ stands out with a sleek form and a head-turning night light offering eight brightness settings. On the audio front, it delivers clear digital and FM transmission through a 2.5-inch, down-firing, full-range, omni-directional speaker that can fill a room with sound. It boasts a large LCD screen and features including the ability to leave voice messages. The Sangean DCR200+ is also handy in the kitchen as it comes with a built-in timer. You can connect iPods and MP3 players and it can take four C-size batteries.

4

BUSH DAB+ CD MICRO SYSTEM

Bush, \$199
bushaustralia.com.au

★★★★

THIS all-in-one unit offers plenty of listening options, including DAB+ digital radio, traditional FM radio and recorded music. Bush Australia's DAB+ CD Micro System has a two-line display that makes it easy to read scrolling text information from digital broadcasts, and it comes with a full-featured remote control to navigate its other additions including a top-loading CD player that can read CD-R, CD-RW and MP3 discs. iPod or iPhone users can dock their music player with this device.

5

PURE MARSHALL EVOKE 1-S

Pure, \$269
pure.com/au

★★★★

THIS digital radio looks and sounds great. The retro black vinyl wrap styling makes it look like an old-school amplifier, though it also has respectable audio credentials. It has an OLED auto-dimming, two-line display showing radio station and song titles. Users can save 30 station presets for DAB+ and FM stations, and all can be heard through the full-range 3-inch speaker or headphones. It also has a 3.5mm auxiliary input to connect an MP3 player or external speaker. The Evoke 1-S can also become portable by adding a Chargepak.