

# Gadgetwise

## Getting Smart About Personal Technology

June 12, 2009, 9:21 AM

### Tivoli's Internet Radio Cuts a Bella Figura

By STEPHEN WILLIAMS



Music & Video



Internet radio is a fascinating world to explore, but in my house, the exploration began and ended in front of a computer screen.

Now there's a fashionable alternative — one that provides a richer sound than dinky PC speakers, a portable approach to where you listen, and another twist: Italian design.

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[Tivoli Audio's](#) Tom DeVesto is obsessed with simplicity in technology, and with making stuff that looks and sounds awfully good. Tivoli's NetWorks "Global Audio System" streams Web radio data from a wireless (or wired) network into a handsome rectangular box that sports a four-line LCD readout and 3.5-inch front-firing speaker.

DeVesto, who founded the now-defunct Cambridge SoundWorks, isn't the first to make a Net radio system that's independent of a computer. But he's the most inventive. Not only did he build a device, he built a [net portal](#) around it that locates stations worldwide, and helps you select what you like. Some of the radios have an FM tuner as well.

DeVesto's now living in Italy, and that's rubbed off on a new collection of the already-handsome radios. One's the "Cappellini Collection," done up with the help of the furniture designer Giulio Cappellini and made with high-gloss lacquered finishes in shades of blue, green and brown. DeVesto also ordered up a "textured" look, which I guess is very *au courant* in some high-tech circles. There's Zebra (my favorite) Chisel, Lines and V-Stripes.

NetWorks radios aren't inexpensive. The single-piece (mono) version is \$600, add a stereo speaker and that's \$100 more. And there's no iPod dock on the NetWorks system. Which speaks to the purist in me, and that's what Tivoli Audio is all about.