



FUTURE PROOFING

The Tivoli NetWorks, like many other products of its type, has upgradeable firmware. This means that as new music services or file formats are developed, the NetWorks should be able to download drivers or similar to support them. Tivoli has alluded that subscription download services such as Rhapsody might be available in the future, meaning you won't have to buy a new internet radio to take advantage of them.

Tivoli Audio

tone ★★★★★☆

NetWorks

Internet Table Radio

Single Speaker Unit \$999

Optional Second Speaker \$199

Ten seconds after plugging in Tivoli's new internet radio, I was listening to Kentucky bluegrass courtesy of the United States of America. There's nothing quite like the sound of inbred hillbillies breaking out their banjos...

Alongside being a complete alarm clock, this little unit certainly opens up a whole new world of listening possibilities. Tivoli CEO and chairman Tom DeVesto is said to have stated that he wanted the NetWorks to look like "a block of wood that played music". And that's exactly what this lovely piece of lumber is.

Capable of receiving any streamed radio station in the world, this woody delight connects easily to your Wi-Fi network, but may also be hooked up via an Ethernet cable (it's nice to have the flexibility of either option). As for finding stations, it's a doddle. You can choose based on location or genre and can even search for podcasts under headings such as 'Self-help'. Favourite stations can be saved and your top five programmed to preset buttons. Helpfully, the NetWorks also lists stations visited on a 'Last Listened' list, which is handy for quickly relocating obscure

channels you've tuned into.

I had a blast checking out Bollywood music in India and was pleasantly surprised by the clarity of stations with low bitrates. I even found one in Africa broadcasting at 20kbit/s. It wasn't pretty, but I could still clearly make out what they were saying. That's an extreme example, however, because most stations seem to stream at 64kbit/s or better. Closer to home the local FM reception was exceptional, although with this unit being a Tivoli, that was hardly surprising.

Tone's review sample consisted of a two-speaker set (the second speaker is sold separately), which was really nice because that allows you to achieve proper stereo separation and thus a room-filling sound.

The overall audio quality was very good, and I enjoyed the flexibility of being able to listen to such a wide variety of music from all around the world. Not only that, but the NetWorks has both mini jack and USB inputs, meaning you can plug in USB drives or MP3 players to play your own (legally) downloaded tunes.

Gripe-wise, there is very little to complain about. In keeping with the minimalist design, all controls except the volume dial are located on the back of the unit. This could make things awkward depending on how the unit is positioned. But in all fairness the controls are duplicated on the comprehensive remote. As for the price, it's expensive. But then, this is a Tivoli. You could get something cheaper but it is unlikely to be such a complete product. ■ JESKA INNES

TECH SPECS

- SPEAKERS:** 3.5-inch magnetically shielded full-range driver
- INPUTS:** USB, 3.5mm aux, mix, Ethernet
- OUTPUTS:** Record, subwoofer, right speaker, headphone
- FEATURES:**
- Ambient light sensor
 - Balance control
 - Built in AC power supply
 - Digital clock and date
 - Independent dual alarms with independent alarm volume
 - Credit card-sized remote control
 - Sleep timer
- SIZE:** 222 x 140 x 130mm (H/W/D)
- WEIGHT:** 1.8Kg
- FINISHES:** Cherry/gold, walnut/gold, wenge/gold

CONTACT

www.dencaudio.co.nz

PROS

- + Easy peasy to use
- + So much flexibility
- + Love the sound
- + Distinctive woody look

CONS

- ✖ Rear controls
- ✖ Many pennies

VERDICT

It ain't cheap but you get what you pay for – quality, in this case