

TECHSMART

LISTEN UP

THINK DIGITAL audio jukeboxes are too bulky or expensive? A new breed of mini-MP3 players may have you humming a different tune.

Sleek devices like Apple's iPod Mini and Digital Networks' Rio Nitrus pack anywhere from 1.5 to 4 GB of music—from 750 to 1000 songs—in a package smaller than a deck of cards. Unlike,



say, the Dell DJ20, these 3-ounce gizmos don't feel like a brick in your shirt pocket, and they won't lighten your wallet like Apple's bigger iPods.

Both come with software that makes it easy to record music from CDs, organize your tunes any way you like, and copy them to the player. They may not be able to hold your entire collection of Grateful Dead bootlegs, but they can stash enough songs to carry you from here to London and beyond. That's music to anyone's ears.

Check out rioaudio.com and apple.com/ipodmini on the Web for complete prices and technical specs.

—Dan Tynan

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