



>> IPOD MIC ADD-ON

**XtremeMac  
MicroMemo**

£80 [www.xtrememac.com](http://www.xtrememac.com)

**01** MicroMemo turns your 4G iPod nano into a digital voice recorder. Using your iPod's dock connector, it encases the unit without adding too much bulk. It has its own built-in mic for recording and a speaker for playback. The mic itself has a flexible neck for positioning, and can be replaced with an external microphone or your earbuds.

The recordings are excellent quality, but the external speaker is very quiet. Earbuds are a better option, or send the file to your Mac. Beware: this version doesn't work on a 5G nano.

**Ian Osborne**

**VERDICT**

★★★★★

"A neat add-on for your nano. Great recording quality, but currently a little expensive."

>> HDMI ADAPTOR

**Kanex Mini  
DisplayPort**

£42 [www.kanexlive.com](http://www.kanexlive.com)

**02** For some reason, Apple refuses to embrace HDMI. Even the new Mac mini, the most media-centre-like Mac, is stuck with a Mini DisplayPort. If you want to connect such a Mac to an HDTV, this is a handy solution.

The USB cable is for power, the Mini DisplayPort connection is for video, and there's an optical connector for pure digital sound; at the other end of the box is a standard female HDMI port. It supports 5.1 sound and up to 1080p resolution, though it didn't match our TV's 1360x768 pixels. But the quality is terrific.

**Christopher Phin**

**VERDICT**

★★★★★

"A fine solution for a modern Mac mini or laptop, but costly. A UK supplier would help too."

>> BACKUP DEVICE

**Clickfree  
Transformer**

£37 [www.clickfree.com](http://www.clickfree.com)

**03** Like other Clickfree devices, the Transformer SE turns external USB drives into automatic backup solutions. Plug them in and its *Smart Viewer* software opens automatically and starts backing up your data. This new SE edition can also back up to the free space on your iPod or iPhone.

It doesn't back up your entire system, but 400 file types are supported. The most exciting feature here though is that it can also rip music from a connected iPod, preserving song titles, artist names and album art.

**Ian Osborne**

**VERDICT**

★★★★★

"A very capable and simple data backup system that's well worth the asking price."



>> USB SPEAKER

**Altec Lansing  
Orbit iM237**

£40 [www.alteclansing.co.uk](http://www.alteclansing.co.uk)

**04** This compact external notebook speaker from Altec Lansing connects through a USB port instead of the usual 3.5mm earphone jack, offering a digital rather than analogue connection. It draws its power directly from your computer, eschewing the battery-powered approach of its predecessor, the Altec Lansing Orbit iMT237. It also adds a folding stand.

The sound quality won't please hardcore audiophiles. While it's clear and detailed, it lacks shape and depth. But it scores highly for portability.

**Ian Osborne**

**VERDICT**

★★★★★

"A portable and capable method of improving upon your laptop's tinny speakers."