



Staten Island Advance

SanDisk offers real alternative to iPod

New line of MP3 players allows users to record from the radio and change the battery themselves

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By **RICHARD T. RYAN**

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Right now, it appears to be an iPod world; however, SanDisk is hoping to change a lot of people's minds about that. While there are plenty of other MP3 players out there, the new line of e200 MP3 players definitely warrants investigating.

Arriving in stores just in time for the holidays, the e200s not only play music and video but they also come with an FM tuner that allows you to record from the radio on the fly as well as a built-in microphone for "taping" conferences or simply leaving a memo to yourself.

Small -- measuring 3 1/2 -by-1 3/4-by- 1/2 inch -- lightweight (2.7 ounces) and attractive, the e200s feature a 1.8 inch TFT color screen and **a stylish Liquidmetal back casing** that's both durable and scratch resistant.

The interface features a scroll wheel that may look familiar and backlit controls for easy navigation. It also comes with a Lithium Ion battery that you charge from your computer's USB port and offers 20 hours of life before it needs to be recharged.

Best of all, you can replace the battery yourself without sending your player back to the factory.

There's also a microSD expansion slot that supports SanDisk, TrustedFlash and Gruvi content cards so you can add additional memory in the future.

The 2 GB offers 32 hours of music playback and can hold approximately 500 songs while the 8GB boasts a whopping 128 hours of music playback and can hold around 2,000 tunes.

Speaking of which, the SanDisk players support Microsoft's PlayForSure as well as Rhapsody to Go. The players also work seamlessly with both MP3 and both protected and unprotected WMA files.

The e200s come with a quick start CD guide, stereo ear buds, USB cable, travel pouch and lanyard and a one-year warranty.

Prices range from \$149 for the 2GB to \$250 for the 8GB. Having firmly established itself in the No. 2 position behind Apple, SanDisk is definitely trying harder.

For more information, visit [www. SanDisk.com](http://www.SanDisk.com).