



Trendy Audio Steno!

ON TEST Apacer Audio Steno AB320

BY Renuga Rajoo

Apacer's latest trendy musical gadget based on the company's "Ocean Series" theme, the Audio Steno AB320 carries a fresh look, with its sophisticated shell appearance that will remind you of relaxing on the beach and enjoying your favorite music. While the AB320 features a natural, organic design, it is a powerful digital device that comes with some outstanding features like comprehensive FM broadcast frequency support, USB 2.0 interface for fast file transfers; lyrics display capability and more than a 12-hour playback time rating. The unit feels comfortable in the hand and its stylish design will certainly appeal to users who demand a tasteful design apart from great MP3 functionality.

Users who hate to spend hours reading manuals will love the AB320's easy to use functions and dedicated buttons. With a very flat learning curve, this Audio Steno is also designed to be truly "plug and play". It is instantly recognized in a Windows environment as an external drive once you plug it in. With 128MB of memory onboard, we managed to stuff many of our test tunes into the review unit. It's simple drag and drop function allows you to load files with ease. You can also sort your songs in folders that can be created effortlessly on this player. This eliminates the hassle of scrolling through all the different tracks just to find your favorite song. Listening to a broad range of musical genres, we found the AB 320 capable of good audio. We were also happy with the sound quality of the bundled earphones as well. This audio player comes with a few playback mode

including Random, Random Repeat, Repeat One, Repeat All and Normal while the built-in preset equalizer options available are Normal, Classic, Rock, Jazz, Bass and Pop.

The Apacer AB320 also packs FM capabilities with the ability to record your favorite FM broadcast as well. You can store up to 20 preset stations and the dedicated FM button enables you switch to your favorite station in just a matter of seconds. Though we were able to obtain clear reception from most of the stations we tuned in to, FM recordings sounded just above average. For those who would like to memorize a few songs, the player also offers an A-B repeat function as well.

Another highlight on the AB320 is its voice recording function. The player does reliable voice recordings with three recording options, ranging from low to high quality. We tried using both near and distant sound sources and were impressed with its recording quality. In case you want to do some voice recordings with a fully loaded player, the flexible "Delete" function helps you to conveniently free-up some onboard memory in an instant. The function allows you to delete a particular track, folder, or even everything at one time in just a few simple steps.

Our only quibble is that Apacer has not included a line-in encoding function on the AB320 as it has become a common feature in today's MP3 players. Still, the Apacer Audio Steno AB320 has a lot going for it - good looks, ample features and great audio qualities.

SPECIFICATIONS

| GSM | Camera | Memory | Price |
|------|--------|--------|--------|
| Quad | 1.3M | 128MB | RMXXXX |

USB Interface : USB 2.0
Display resolution / Backlight : 128 _ 64 pixels / Blue LED
Lyrics Display : Yes
Digital FM Tuner : Supports 76MHz~108MHz FM broadcast frequencies
Audio Output : 3.5mm earphone jack
Power Source : 1x AAA battery
Weight : 29g without battery
Dimensions (L x W x H) : 62.5 x 44.3 x 23 mm
OS Support : Windows 98SE/ME/2000/XP/Mac OS 10
Warranty : x-year
Contact : Datapool Systems Sdn Bhd / M-Link system (M) Sdn Bhd
Telephone : (03) 4041 1442 / (03) 7728 9003
URL : www.apacer.com

HWM's Rating

Physique: **8.0**
 Features: **7.5**
 User-friendliness: **8.5**
 Sound Quality: **8.0**
 Value: **8.0**



An inexpensive audio player that's loaded with features and has trendy looks

8.0

Overall Score Out of 10