〈Digital audio player〉

Apacer's new Audio Steno AU581

An MP3 player with chic metallic look

Apacer Technology, a well known brand in USB flash storage and memory modules, announced the release of its Audio Steno AU581 MP3. The Steno AU581 will appeal fashion conscious users. Its unique dual color mirror coating and streamlined design adds luxury and fashion to you while letting you wear hundreds of songs. The glimmering chic metallic outlook of the AU581 twinkles and sparkles around you while its blue crystal finish tranquilizes attention directly to you. The elegant OLED display which is brighter and clearer than the normal LCM display, also enhances your modish, on-pitch appearance.

According to Apacer's Product Director, C.K. Chang, "The AU581 brings not just the joy of perfect music reproduction but also a token of fashion. It delivers the 'original sound' in an enjoyable and easy to use MP3 player. Its high-sensitivity lanyard earphones are equipped with large 15mm Neodymium Magnet Mylar units which deliver the heart of superior wide stereo sound, and the high definition treble and powerful bass." The AU581 features a 7-mode EQ hot key which perfectly delivers the "original sound" of Pop, Rock, Classical, Jazz, Bass, Treble, and Normal. The Direct Record button on the left side of this MP3 player captures what matters to you with on demand voice recording, and what you like with synchronous FM recording. The AU581 completes perfection with a high-performance FM radio storing up to 20 of your favorite channels, a high-sensitivity microphone for voice recording, a high-energy built-in rechargeable Lithium-Polymer battery for hours and hours of listening pleasure, and 12 language support. The built-in flash memory capacity for the AU581 is 2GB and 4GB. However, the pricing is yet not announced.

IN BRIEF...

Attackers feast on real player flaws

Online criminals are exploiting a new, unpatched vulnerability in the Real Player application.

Security firm Symantec said that fewer than 50 infections had been reported, and that the attack is currently limited to just a few websites.

〈Maps〉

Google expands its galaxy

Users of Google Earth can now take a tour of the universe.

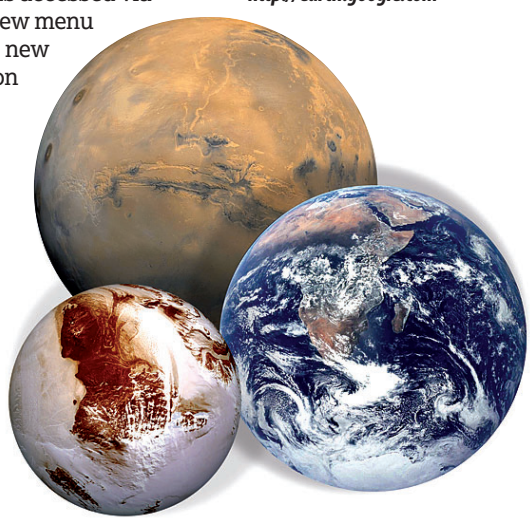
The new Sky feature allows users to zoom through more than 200 million galaxies and 100 million stars, and connect the points of constellations such as Orion and Cassiopeia.

The feature was developed using data from observatories, employing the same layering technique used to view the Earth.

The Backyard Astronomy layer allows users to access information on stars, galaxies and nebulae that are visible to the eye or with binoculars and small telescopes.

The Galaxies layer gives a virtual tour of several star systems, including the Milky Way, while the Planets layer can track celestial bodies and show their positions for up to two months ahead.

Users can see animations of lunar positions and phases with the Moon layer. The Life of a Star layer shows the stages of a heavenly body's existence.

Sky is accessed via the view menu in the new version of Google Earth, which is free to download.

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