

DETAILS



CONTACT

www.internationaldynamics.co.nz

SPECIFICATIONS

- FM/AM radio
- SPEAKER:**
1 x 3-inch full-range driver
- SYSTEM OUTPUT:**
5w RMS-channel
- INPUTS/OUTPUTS (3.5MM):**
Speaker output
Subwoofer output
Record output
Auxiliary input
Headphone jack
- DIMENSIONS:**
190 x 130 x 140mm (W/D/H)
- WEIGHT:** 2.4kg incl power supply

PROS

- + Interesting appearance
- + Solidly built
- + Good quality sound

CONS

- ✗ Chrome bling distracting
- ✗ Oh for some pre-set buttons

VERDICT

Hooray, another decent bedside radio



Now Hear This

TANGENT UNO BEDSIDE RADIO \$299

You might have noticed that, for some time, a number of companies have been clearing out the audio slums that are bedside radios. Overlooked and generally bypassed in consumer electronics since the advent of the transistor, these usually dreadful devices have snapped, crackled and popped the day long before you sit down for breakfast.

There were exceptions, but by and large members of the genre were about as appealing to anyone interested in good quality sound as snot on a schoolboy's shirtsleeve.

In New Zealand, one of the companies best known for the bedside audio revival was Tivoli, which cleverly matched good, clean sound with retro styling and became an international success. Tangent's Uno follows a similar path, its styling recalling the Columbus, La Gloria and PYE radios some of us are just old enough to remember.

Uno was designed and developed in Denmark by Eltax, a company that's been going for almost 50 years and is well known in Europe, especially for loudspeakers.

The test unit's cabinet was finished in white – other colours are available – while the fascia had a silver-alloy appearance that's standard across the colour range. A three-inch speaker sits under a somewhat larger domed grille on the top and, were it mine, I'd forever be worrying about spilling orange juice or coffee onto it. (Oh you careless, careless man! - Ed)

The fascia has small knobs for volume and mode selection: AM, FM and auxiliary for connecting, say, an MP3 player. A much bigger knob does the tuning while a needle on a large dial indicates the selection. The bright chrome needle and surround looked blingy to me, but others may like it.

Although I understand that such dials are fashionably retro, I wonder how much they appeal to those of the pre-set generation who have become used to selecting a favourite station with the stab of a finger, rather than having to turn a knob to the right position? Although old enough to remember

using dials, I would have liked to be able to more easily toggle between a couple of stations for my morning music/news fix.

On the back are connections for an auxiliary speaker, headphones, a subwoofer, auxiliary in and a Rec Out to connect to a recorder or let the radio be used as a tuner for a separate amplifier.

I didn't much like the chromed telescoping antenna that sticks out from the back, but it can be unscrewed and replaced with either a 75 ohm coaxial cable or outdoor aerial, and we're told that the aerial is seldom needed in any case.

Let's be clear that neither the Uno nor any of its direct rivals are what you'd truly call hi-fi, but they transcend bedside radio audio expectations by a considerable margin. You can actually enjoy waking up to the Uno, whose speaker does a nice job at either end of the sonic spectrum, with surprisingly good bass and a treble that's sharp but not shrill. The company's credentials as a speaker-maker shine through.

I used to think that the \$300 mark was a lot for a bedside radio, but products like the Uno have forced me to grudgingly revise that point of view. It lets me save my snap, crackle and pop for the cereal, thank you. ■ PHIL HANSON

Aesthetics	90%
Performance	90%
Features	85%
Functionality	88%
Price value	75%
Overall	

