

Stuff

GADGETS / APPS / GEAR

17 APPS THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE

- **Zombie yourself healthy**
 - **Be the next Blumenthal**
 - **Save £135 every month**
- ...and all for pennies*

#7



TESTED: WOW PS VITA

Twin touch panels. Four cores. GPS and AR. Yep, we'll keep this one



NEXT MONTH YOU'LL WANT THIS

How Windows 8 just made touch PCs tech essentials



SPRING FITNESS SPECIAL

Events and gear that make sweating fun (well, sort of)



ICS-READY ANDROID TABS

Sub-£330 slates you'll want to be seen with



www.stuff.tv March 2012 E4.3

TESTED
THE SHARPER RAZR
Scarily slim Android is Moto's best blower in seven years

DRIVEN
FUTURE CARS
Where we're going we will need roads – just not hands



CRANKED
DESK-O-TECH
Active speaker setups that'll turn your PC into a party

Otone Afineo

£90 | otoneaudio.co.uk

What's that noise?

Otone Audio is a new company, based in Manchester, which specialises in desktop and portable speakers. We're on home territory, then. These exotically-named speakers have a fairly familiar 'PC speaker' design and only do so much to belie their knockdown price. A stereo input is your connection, and a 3.5mm to stereo cable is helpfully provided.

How does it sound?

Sound isn't really the issue. More of a problem are the touch controls on the front: they're inaccurate and unresponsive, feeling clunky and poorly thought through. Otherwise it's good news, especially at this price. There's sufficient scale to fill a room and decent detail, even if it's a little rougher round the edges and loses composure at higher volumes.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Impressive sound and nice techie touches considering the price.

TECH ● 32W ● 3.5mm input
● 86x87x570mm ● 1.3kg

Focal XS Book

£300 | focal.com

Stuff
TEST
WINNER

What's that noise?

With the name and the design, we reckon these Focals are trying to channel some MacBook desirability. That's no bad thing. Certainly the design fits; they stand tall and look smart. There's a volume dial on top, plus 3.5mm and stereo audio inputs. And with Focal's audio heritage, we've got high hopes for the sound quality.

How does it sound?

It's an almost unanimous thumbs-up for the design – it's just a touch too easy to press power as you adjust the volume – but for sound it's a clean sweep. This is a desktop music system without compromise, delivering room-filling audio with boisterous dynamics and detail and a spot-on tonal balance, making them just as good whether you're listening to music, games or movies.

Stuff says ★★★★★

A new desktop champion, the Focals will have your PC singing in style.

TECH ● 40W ● 3.5mm input
● 114x200x281mm ● 5kg



Sneaky tactics
We'd normally avoid adjusting soundtracks that have already been perfectly engineered, but the ability to turn down the bass is handy for stealth gaming.

Big and curvy
The Focals' footprint is certainly within the boundaries of acceptability, but at nearly 30cm tall and 20cm deep they may not fit every desk.