

BJ's number one pet peeve: Loud Noises!

by BJ Wanlund
Contributor

I know everyone has a pet peeve, that one thing that makes them so mad they wish to scream. I happen to have such a thing, and it makes me mad. My pet peeve happens to be a huge noise pollutant, and it also happens to be the reason I don't like the vast majority of rap music.

My pet peeve is when some of you (and you know who you are) decide that EVERYONE will appreciate THEIR music, and blast it (excessive bass and all) while they drive down the road. It's especially bad at the stoplights, when you have just such a person sitting right next to you.

Blasting your stereo has several negative benefits. First, it destroys your hearing (just ask Pete Townshend of The Who). Second, it annoys the crap out of people sitting in cars next to yours. And third, it may destroy any appreciation anyone else has of the music you blast (especially if it is extraordinarily bass-heavy), like most rap music.

Honestly, most pet peeves have

a common underlying reason: People being inconsiderate. And



in the case of this pet peeve, I think one excuse people use for making

their cars into rolling boomboxes (literally) is because it makes you seem "cool". Okay, who is "cool" enough to make everybody around them unhappy and miserable?

Honestly, the blame for this phenomenon should also lie with electronics retailers like Best Buy and Circuit City, who basically sell car audio systems in such a way that any inconsiderate rube with a bunch of money to burn buys it and takes that sales pitch to the road (no pun intended). Anyone who doesn't like it doesn't buy it, but anyone who likes it, buys it.

To wrap up: Don't buy things that make you seem "cool" or something. Buy things that will be useful to the world at large.

Appliance Review: New iPod Nano

by BJ Wanlund
Contributor

I wasn't impressed by half the colors Apple was offering for their new iPod nanos, but there were a few colors I liked, like blue and Product(RED). In the end, I chose the blue iPod Nano 16GB model. So far, it has been absolutely a wonderful product.

What's good about the new nanos? The new nanos are vertical in orientation. Also, the new nanos have a sweet curved aluminum design that makes them seem even thinner than other iPod nanos; there's even curved glass!

The industrial design team at Apple really did a number on most of the colors (even if they had to do Clemson orange and Barney purple). Finally, watching videos on the iPod nano is actually not half bad. There's also an accelerometer built-in!

What's bad about the new nanos? Well, if you watch video on the iPod in an extremely well-lit place, there WILL be reflection issues.

The battery life for video is a lie. Apple says that they get about 4 hours out of the battery for video, but that's probably a conservative

estimate.

Another downside is that the "shake to shuffle" option is totally tacked-on. Also, the accelerometer gets activated a little too easily if you don't have the hold switch set to on.

As far as the final recommendation, I'd wholeheartedly recommend the iPod Nano 4G.



Comic by Dabney Farmer

