Creative Zen Touch
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With the Zen Touch we sail into entirely different waters, clutching an entirely different kettle of fish.

The Zen Touch's 20GB capacity makes typical MP3 players (128MB or 256MB) look like overpriced tiddlers. If you are considering an MP3 player, my advice is to fork out the extra $150 or so and go for a hard-drive-based unit like this. Then you can count your tracks by the thousand (10,000 WMA songs, or 5000 MP3s).

The advantage this player has over others in its class is the touch navigation system. Obviously, if you have thousands of tracks in your player, you're going to need a way of quickly zooming through to find the ones you want. Touch the central zone and the Zen Touch will scroll up or down normally, touch it on the outer zones and it will zoom along, almost like the super-rewind feature on archaic VCRs.

The Zen Touch is pretty well identical to other Zen jukeboxes and Apple iPods and sound quality depends on the headphones. I found the supplied ones comfortable but prone to distortion at any kind of ear-killing volume. Battery life is claimed at 32 hours of playback from a single charge of the internal lithium ion battery. The unit price includes the Nomad FM-wired remote, which works across the Nomad range and usually retails for $149.

SPECIFICATIONS
Price: $499
Weight: 200 grams
Memory: 20GB
Web: www.australia.creative.com <http://www.australia.creative.com>

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