

CAMP News

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Capital Apple Mac
Performa User Group



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www.campug.org

Happy New Year!

We kick off 2012 with Sue Westlake discussing backup and preventive maintenance tools, tips for battery optimization, and general user hints. Come learn from a true Mac master! Join us at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 11 at Buker Community Center, 22 Armory Street, Augusta. We're in the Senior Room, tucked away for our own protection in the back of the building.

Product Review: Sony ICFCSI5IPBLK Clock Radio

Jeffrey Frankel

When the iPod-docking clock radio I had owned for several years was wearing out, I went on the hunt for a replacement. Thankfully, I found this Sony unit at the Augusta Best Buy. It positively runs rings around its predecessor!



This product is a winner on many fronts. It has excellent sound for a clock radio, including bass you can actually hear. Set-up is easy, thanks to the installed back-up battery. Sony went the extra mile by setting the correct time right at the factory, so you don't have to.

On most clock radios, setting alarms and choosing inputs is a kludge, if not plain bewildering. On this product, the controls are surprisingly intuitive. But if you don't like fiddling with little buttons, don't worry: you can download an app that lets you control almost all settings, including radio presets, directly from your iPod Touch or iPhone. The app also displays your choice of four clock faces on screen if you like. The re-

mote control is a treat and includes the capability of navigating iTunes menus.

But ah, the dock. Most docking stations perch your iPod/iPhone on top of the unit, where it's at risk of getting accidentally knocked off. This one nestles your iOS device on a base directly in front of the speaker panel, where it's far more protected.

The two docking stations I've owned prior to this one (including the aforementioned clock radio) both required the use of a proprietary adapter for a snug fit. If the unit didn't come with an adapter that fit your iPod/iPhone, too bad. This new Sony,

on the other hand, doesn't rely on the typical cradle-and-adapter system to hold your iOS device. Instead, you simply plug the dock connector of your iPod/iPhone onto a swiveling, spring-loaded plug (the silver item in the product illustration) that positions the iPod/iPhone gently but firmly onto a rear support rest. The swivel system easily accommodates iOS devices of different sizes and thicknesses, including my iPod Touch - in its silicone case - and my wife's tall-and-slim iPod Nano. (A stick-on support nub comes in the box for use with the smallest iPods.) So long as your case has a cutout for a dock connector, there is no need to remove the case before docking. The rear support rest allows me to tap on my iPod's screen without straining the dock connector in the slightest. Good thinking all around, Sony!

The MSRP for this product appears to be \$100. I lucked into a sale at Best Buy and paid \$80. If you search on line, be aware that there are two prior generations of this product that look very similar. ☺

