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Also consider
 The **JBL OnTime**, which is reviewed on page 72, offers superior sound quality, better alarm clock options and a funky design for **\$399**.



Altech Lansing's iM7 is around **\$399** and although it has no alarm clock mode, it has unbelievable sound and can be carried anywhere.



IPOD DOCK

Groove time is over

Cygnett's iPod alarm clock won't let you sleep

THE IPOD ACCESSORY floodgates have been open for some time now, but it's only recently that iPod alarm clocks have entered the fray. The GrooveTime from Australian company Cygnett, along with the JBL OnTime (p72), are two of the first models to hit the market.

The GrooveTime has one dedicated advantage over all the other iPod speaker systems we've reviewed, and that's the fact that it comes with a remote control that allows you to navigate through your iPod's menu system, rather than just through tracks. That means you can remotely select a playlist, shuffle songs, or even select video and photos to view on the big screen using the composite video-out jack.

The unit itself looks quite stylish from the front, with navigation buttons at the bottom and a silver grill over the speakers. Unfortunately, what it doesn't show is the extendable aerial for tuning radio stations, a part of hi-fi we haven't seen since the late 1980s, and certainly haven't missed.

Audio quality isn't fantastic either. It struggles with lower frequencies, leaving tracks like Muse's *Down With Democracy* sounding tinny and hollow. The upside is

that the unit incorporates an output for a subwoofer, which does a good job of remedying the problem.

But perhaps the most glaring oversight for the GrooveTime is the alarm clock feature. The screen on the unit isn't backlit, meaning you can't actually see the time in the dark unless the unit is switched on. There's no sleep button either, so there's no extra 10 minutes snooze after the alarm goes off.

As a clock radio replacement, this is hard to recommend. As an iPod speaker it performs quite well, although soundwise it doesn't compare to the likes of the Altech Lansing iM7 (T3 62, 5/5). **NB**

CYGNETT GROOVETIME \$166
www.cygnett.com

TECH 2 x 15W speakers. Composite video out. Subwoofer out. USB connection. AM/FM radio. Remote control.

LOVE Budget price. Remote controls iPod menu system.

HATE Radio antenna. Average audio quality.

T3 ★★★★★

WE SAY The alarm clock function may not be great, but this is still a decent speaker for the price.

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