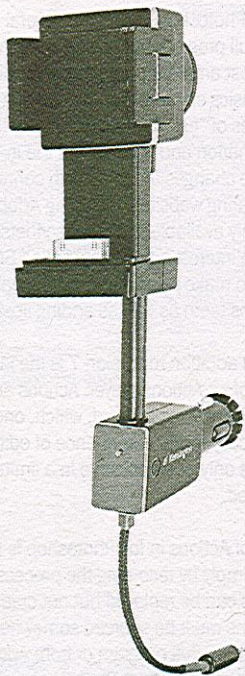


## LiquidAUX Deluxe iPod car kit



**\$120**  
au.kensington.com  
★★★★☆

Car stereo makers have been slow catching on to the popularity of iPods, given that only a few of the latest models have dedicated connections for the devices. The more common option in older stereos is an auxiliary input hooked up to the music player's audio output. In Kensington's new iPod car kit range, the LiquidAUX Deluxe uses this common auxiliary connection and adds functions such as a recharging dock and a wireless remote control. The cradle section of the kit is designed to safely hold most iPod models, including the new iPhone. Adjustable padded sides hug the device and a back-plate moves in and out to allow for variations in thickness. The cradle is attached to a flexible gooseneck, and the base of the unit plugs into a car's cigarette lighter, which supplies power. The rotating cradle and pliable gooseneck adjust to a variety of positions and angles, but not all cars' lighters are in suitable locations. Bigger iPods can also cause the base to twist in the lighter socket because of the extra weight and car movement, particularly if the base isn't positioned completely upright. One of the most useful features of the LiquidAUX Deluxe is the small wireless remote control designed to attach to a steering wheel. This has individual buttons for play/pause, skip forward/back and shuffle, which removes the potential distraction of fiddling with these controls on the iPod while driving. The remote sits in a rubber enclosure, which attaches to the wheel with Velcro and can be adjusted to suit right or left-hand operation.

The LiquidAUX Deluxe is a quality-made product and well-suited to smaller iPods. To make the most of it, though, it requires clear access to the car's cigarette lighter and a stereo system with an auxiliary input.

MIKE WILCOX

## Dell Studio Hybrid

**From \$999**  
dell.com.au  
★★★★☆

Apple's iMac turned home computers into objects of desire that didn't look out of place alongside the rest of your furniture. Many PCs have attempted to follow suit, with varying levels of success, but Dell's Studio Hybrid takes the concept to the next level.

It looks like something you'd see in a designer furniture store, especially if you order the system with a bamboo-skin shell rather than one of the six powdered metallic colours.

The starting price of \$999 is relatively expensive considering you don't get a monitor, keyboard or mouse. But you can add these (beginning with a 48-centimetre flat screen for \$199) and work your way through an extensive set of specifications to give the desktop more muscle and storage.

Wireless networking is standard — a rarity on desktop PCs — with a HDMI socket to connect to a high-definition TV.

