

TABLE TUNERS

The possibilities offered by a table-top radio are better than ever. Internet, DAB and old-fashioned FM/AM are all on offer – check out our roundup of the top new tuners



Tangent Uno

★★★★★

£100

Old fashioned? Maybe. The Uno is an FM/AM tabletop radio. That's right – no internet, and no DAB. But boy, does it sound good. It's beautifully built with sturdy controls, and as that retro frequency dial on the left turns around, it locks on to stations with an admirable grip.

Once tuned in, the Uno does its real work with aplomb. In fact, provided you are in a good FM reception area, you might briefly wonder why you ever bothered going digital. Voices are rich, vibrant and detailed, while music is equally vivid and intricate, with a level of musicality and punch that definitely puts it on the top table of, er, tabletop radios. Don't be put off by the Uno's FM-only status: if sound quality is your biggest consideration, the Tangent Uno should definitely be on your shortlist.

Tangent Quattro MkII

★★★★★

£180

The Quattro MkII is one of the internet radios in this roundup – its first incarnation was a class-leader among the first generation of web-friendly tuners. As well as internet radio, it offers wireless streaming and an FM tuner, although there's no DAB.

The Quattro MkII also gives you access to Reciva, an online portal where you can organise podcasts and favourites. Build quality is also very fine, with a good fascia layout and a sturdy feel to the controls.

It's a good sonic performer, too. The Tangent spits out a punchy, lively and dynamic sound with lots of low-end heft. It lacks that coveted fifth star only because the Pure Evoke Flow (p62) offers a superior performance – and for less money – and that makes it a whole star better.

Pure Evoke Mio

★★★★★

£150

This stylish new offering from Pure is based on the form and function of the successful Evoke-1S. But it's a far more elaborate design, with its combination of coloured leather – in five optional colours – and cream suede. The five colours are: red, pink, green (above), brown and black.

It's a fine-sounding radio, too. It offers the kind of performance we've come to expect from the mono Pure radios – clean, punchy and reasonably detailed. It doesn't try (like some radios) to pull the sonic wool over your ears with overly emphatic treble or bass. Instead, you get a good, honest midrange performance that favours voices and is a great listen in the long term. The only shock is that the £150-£200 price band is so competitive right now, there are better sonic performers at the price.