



Altec Lansing VS2421
\$65

Do Altec Lansing ever tire of speakers? Do they ever yearn for a bit of piece and quiet? No, it appears not. These latest noise makers are designed for your PC, with a microphone and a thin yet powerful 5.25 inch subwoofer that fits under your desk.
www.alteclansing.com



Creative Zen Stone Plus with Speaker
\$72

Creative are constantly being, er, creative with their little Zen Stone, adding a screen here, upping the memory there and throwing the odd paintjob around. This time they've gone and added a weeny speaker to the backside so you can pump tuneage out to the assembled throng in your garden.
www.creative.com



earbud JACK
\$9

A bit of a neat freak, JACK cringes at the sight of tangled cords, so he carries your earbuds to keep them untangled and working well. Aside from this rather un-Charged tidiness, he's also a charity man, with 5% of his proceeds going to hearing health organisations.
www.whatifwidgets.com

Sound Advice

A-MUSE yourself at this year's Desert Rock. Jeez, that was bad. Almost as bad as...



The biggest news this month is without a doubt the death of Jeremy Beadle – apparently he had quite a small member, but on the other hand it was quite big. Just joking, of course. No, the biggest news this month is that Desert Rock is returning to Dubai for another two day celebration of thrash metal, 'merry' teenagers and sunburn. But while there is the usual array of ear-bleeding thrash metal types like Machine Head and Killswitch Engage – not to mention local noise-meisters Nervecell – at this year's festival, they have pulled a quite stunning signing out of the bag as Muse are headlining on Saturday March 8. Voted by Q Magazine as the best live band in the world for the past three years, they also sold out the first two dates at the gargantuan Wembley Stadium last year. Utterly bombastic, ridiculously over the top and possessing a lead singer who sings like a girl with particularly tight trousers on, they might sound faintly ludicrous on paper – especially when you factor in their lyrics which take in everything from alien abductions to global apocalypse – but rest assured, you'll be playing air guitar like a pro when they're playing. Speaking of guitars (spot the tenuous link time), Slash – the erstwhile guitarist with Guns N' Roses – brings his latest venture, Velvet Revolver – to Dubai and they're second on the bill for the Saturday night. And sticking with Desert Rock theme, dance fans are also catered for as 19 DJs and 2MCs get their own stage, well 1,000 capacity dance tent, to bosh the beats in and with guys like drum and bass dynamo Mach 4 and Audiotonic residents MrMr and Vas Floyd – not to mention a little known guy by the name of Andy Buchan – will all be playing.

Yes, we know it's still Mark's head up there, but it's Time Out's unphotogenic Andy Buchan with the wordage.