

COMPUTER Active 19th MAR 08

# TRIED & TESTED

MEDIA STREAMING | £90

## SOLWISE DMP-1120W

Media streaming on a real budget

You could listen to music, watch movies or browse digital photos on your PC, but the chances are that they'd look and sound better on a television screen. A media streaming device such as the DMP-1120w plugs in to the TV and connects to a home network (wired or wireless), so you can play music and video files stored on a computer.

The DMP-1120w looks good, its white casing and rounded corners giving the product a Mac Mini feel. Setup was easy, too, with **Scart**, **component** and **composite** video and analogue and digital audio connectors.

We powered it up and after a lengthy pause it located libraries of files on our two test PCs, connected wirelessly. The DMP-1120w also connects to media software such as TVersity or Twonkymedia, which

means you're not stuck with the supplied software, and can use it with a Mac or a Linux computer. The interface is limited and mostly text-based, so there's no album art when listening to music, for instance. A Media Player quirk meant our music collection was sorted in alphabetical order by song title, which made browsing rather less convenient than we'd hoped – most such devices allow you to search by artist name.

You will run into problems if music is saved in non-standard formats, too: the DMP-1120w only plays **MP3** and AAC. There are similar limitations on the video side: **DivX** and other common file formats played faultlessly in our tests, but there is no support for WMV films.

Still, the basics of the DMP-1120w work well, it connected to our



wireless network without problems, video playback was smooth, and there's a wired network connection if you need it. The memory card slots are a welcome bonus, too.

Mike Williams

### DETAILS

Vista: Yes

Contact: Solwise 0845 458 4558

Info: [www.solwise.co.uk](http://www.solwise.co.uk)

Retail Price: £84

Buy: [www.computeractive.co.uk/activeprices](http://www.computeractive.co.uk/activeprices)

**ALSO CONSIDER...**

Freecom Network Media Player: £90

One of the best media streamers. ★★★★★

[www.computeractive.co.uk/2201764](http://www.computeractive.co.uk/2201764)

## WE SAY

No-frills media streaming

**GOOD POINTS:** Supports different media servers; works with memory cards and some USB hard disks; reasonably easy to set up

**BAD POINTS:** Unappealing text menus; can't play WMA or WMV files; no HDMI port

**OVERALL:** ★★★★★