


 Total
Guitar
BEST BUY

TYPE: All-in-one PA/acoustic amp/music player

POWER: 150w RMS (300w peak) Class D

SPEAKERS: 2x 1" HF horn; 1x 8" LF woofer

CONTROLS: Level, 2x FX Level, Main switch, BT/Aux switch

SOCKETS: 2x combi inputs, aux in, monitor out

ADDITIONAL FEATURES: 4x onboard effects (16 with app), 4x preset Main EQs, feedback destroyer

POWER: External mains power supply, eight D-cell batteries (optional lithium-ion battery)

CONTACT: Polar Audio Ltd
01444 259645 www.polaraudio.co.uk

MACKIE FREEPLAY PERSONAL PA £329

A portable PA the size of a boombox that's good for a lot more than just blasting out tunes

THE aptly named FreePlay is a small moulded plastic unit about the size of an old portable tape deck with 150w RMS (300w peak) of class D power, dual combi XLR/jacks for mic or line level inputs, a mini-jack – or Bluetooth – aux input, along with mains adapted (adaptor included) or battery power: a lithium-ion rechargeable battery pack (£82) is available, or it runs on eight D size batteries. It's an easy carry (5kg/11lb) and can sit on a chair or table or there's an optional kickstand/pole bracket accessory available at £29 and a carry bag for £66.

Onboard controls include a large rotary level control (for setting input levels, effects send levels and overall output level) an illuminated LED input/output segment meter and a monitor out if you wanted to plug into a larger system. We get four digital effects – Verb 1, Verb 2, Dly 1 and Dly 2 – which can be independently selected and the level set for each of the twin channels. The master

EQ section offers presets for Flat, DJ, Solo or Voice. There's a 'feedback destroyer' push switch, plus master output push switch and BT/Aux switch which allows you to pair with a Bluetooth device so via the free app (for iPhone and iPod touch) you can set input/output levels via the mixer page on the app, along with numerous additional features like three-band EQ for each channel and a choice of 16 effect programs.

It's a surprisingly spacious sound with enough power for those intimate gigs or can act as a mini mixer to hook up to a bigger system or simply a great music player with mains or battery power. Like we said, FreePlay is very well-named!

Dave Burrluck

SUMMARY	FEATURES	
	SOUND QUALITY	
	VALUE FOR MONEY	
	BUILD QUALITY	
	USABILITY	
OVERALL RATING		★★★★★

It's a surprisingly spacious sound with enough power for those intimate gigs



The FreePlay can also be hooked up to a bigger PA and act as a mixer



Hook up to your phone via Bluetooth to adjust various settings