

MP3 PLAYER

MANUFACTURER	AStone
PRICE	From \$99
DISTRIBUTOR	Achieva Technology Pte Ltd
TEL	6769 5832
IMAGE	www.astone.com.au/ rumba_1000.htm

TECHNICAL DATA

Storage	512MB/1GB built-in NAND Flash
Audio Format	MP3 (Audio Layer 3) WMA (Windows Multimedia Audio)
Connection	Type-A Connector, USB 2 Compliant
Power	1xAAA Size battery

+	Small, lightweight
+	Simple interface
+	Affordable
-	No LCD display



Astone Rumba 1000 Digital Music Drive

Tunes in Your Pocket, Anyone?

Get ready to 'Rumba', the affordable way!

■ The Rumba 1000 Digital Music Drive provides consumers an alternative for a compact, lightweight, yet affordable MP3 player. This newest 'little' kid on the block would naturally be compared to its counterpart, the iPod Shuffle, but does stand out in its own little way. The Rumba 1000 Digital Music Drive provides consumers an alternative for a compact, lightweight, yet affordable MP3 player. This newest 'little' kid on the block would naturally be compared to its counterpart, the iPod Shuffle, but does stand out in its own little way.

Its rudimentary functions are offset by a nice and simple interface (a little time with the manual and practice is all that's needed). The most operation involves

coupling buttons together to change the play mode, adjust volume, repeat a track, etc. The lack of an LCD display can slightly inconvenience the user, however (you have green and red LEDs instead). Microphone recording is always a fun feature.

I had some difficulty plugging in the thumbdrive device into my USB port, which just got in the way of the USB mouse and keyboard connectors. That was solved with the use of a USB extension cable (it should have been provided, though). The software provided serves basic functions (formatting, and to create personal 'domains' in which only

the user is able to access). Aside from these minor setbacks, it's nifty.

The sound quality afforded by my Rumba was reasonably good, and I did enjoy a decent fair of jazz, Celtic, orchestra instrumental, traditional Chinese percussions and blues.

Justin Fourn

CHIP'S CONCLUSION: It's small, lightweight and cheap. A good alternative for those who couldn't care less for 'state-of-the-art', or just want a cheaper way to groove to their favourite tunes anywhere and on the move.



CLICK ME: Simple interface.



PLASTIC COVER: Affords some protection.



THUMBDRIVE O-K: USB connection for managing your Rumba.