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PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

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real



14 Media players

for the desktop

ON DVD

Mozilla Firefox 3

The much awaited release that puts this browser way ahead of the competition!

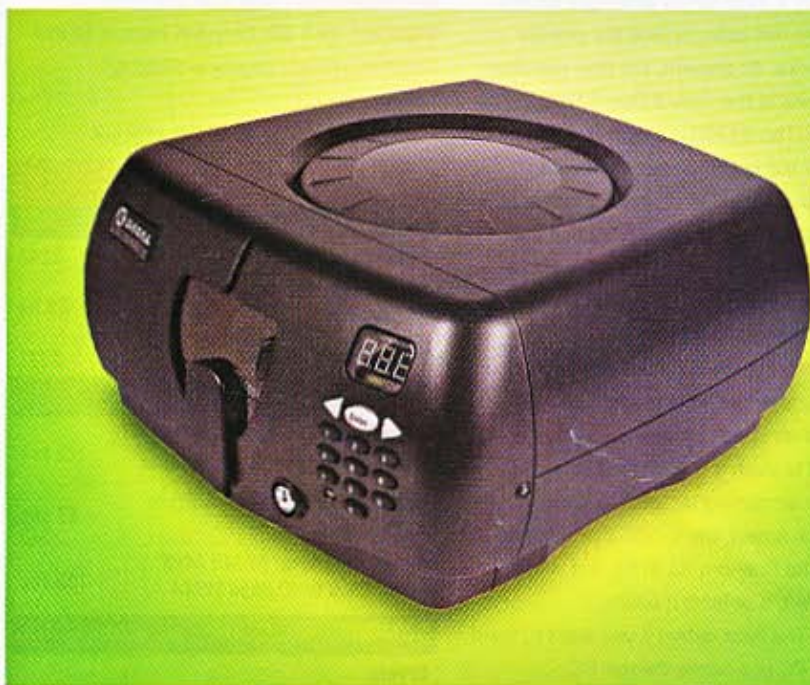
PLUS: Fedora 9, the latest Internet security suites, game demos.

CHIP goes to Computex!

We checked out all the latest technology and hundreds of cool new products on show at the world's biggest IT fair.



Dacal DC-300 LED



Specifications

Dimensions: (WxHxD) 385 x 185 x 380 mm;
Weight: 2.5Kg; Capacity: 150 CDs/DVDs;
Interface: 2 x USB; Operability: Automatic
(software) and manual (keypad).

Price	Rs 15,131
Contact	Beegees Computers Pvt Ltd
Phone	022-65060563
E-mail	admin@beegeesindia.com
Website	www.beegeesindia.com
Warranty	1 year

RATINGS

Build quality	██████████
Features	██████████
Overall Rating	██████████
Value for Money	██████████

DISC-O-THEQUE

No more hunting for CDs and searching through ten different discs to find one particular file or folder. Here's a gadget that integrates a comprehensive database of all digital content in your home/office with a CD/DVD dispenser. Type in the description of the file you need, and the CD containing it pops out. The Dacal DC-300 makes it happen seamlessly, so now you can store CDs like never before.

FEATURES: With space for 150 standard CDs or DVDs, the DC-300 can be controlled using the bundled software, or without a computer at all using the keypad on its front. The initial hardware installation takes merely a few minutes; simply connect the power adapter to a power source and the USB cable to your computer. The software—with its speedy installation and rich feature set—complements the DC-300. It helps you maintain a massive database of music, movies, software, games or any kind of digital content. It also allows categorization of different optical media formats such as CDs, DVDs etc.

To begin, insert a disc into the optical drive and click the 'Add new disc' button. A slot number is assigned to the disc

and the application scans the disc for its folder structure, and names, sizes and types of all files on it. Once completed, the machine lever drops to receive that particular disc. The best part is that the entire process for one disc takes only a couple of minutes.

To find a particular file, simply punch in one or more of the available search parameters, which include the disc title, file or directory name, personal remarks and such. Once the file is found, all discs containing that file are listed. Then, simply double click and the disc pops out of the unit almost instantly.

Using the DC-300 as a standalone storage device can be useful too, especially if you have a large collection of movies, music or games. Simply create a list containing the names of movies and corresponding slot numbers. Punch in the number of any disc to pull it out of storage. It's that simple.

Other features include a physical security lock and key that prevents theft. And with an extra USB port, you can also stack up multiple DC-300 units and daisy-chain them together to add CDs and DVDs to your collection, all with a common database of contents.

BUILD QUALITY: The DC-300 sports stylish looks and a sturdy build. The translucent top cover makes it look pretty cool when the blue lights start flashing. The intuitiveness of the device is quite impressive and ergonomically, it just doesn't get any simpler. As soon as it came into our Test Center, we opened the box, plugged it in and started using it within five minutes.

PERFORMANCE: Targeted towards niche audiences, the DC-300 offers speed, accuracy, ease-of-use, and solid utility.

VERDICT: This product is definitely useful for DJs, software professionals, music and movie buffs. Finding what you're looking for almost immediately and keeping your CDs and DVDs safe from the outside environment is great. The other major benefit is that it organizes your CDs also. However, convenience has a premium to be paid and so does the DC-300. If you don't mind spending a significant amount of money to keep your archives organized, go for it.

FOR: Quite fast and accurate. Very convenient for storing and accessing large libraries of CDs or DVDs.

AGAINST: Could have been more affordable.