

Hamilton Sound

Recommended USB Memory Stick Players and where to get them

Introduction

Hamilton Sound audio productions distributed by post are now only supplied on USB Memory Sticks. To play back these a USB Memory Stick Player is required.

Some currently available domestic audio equipment is equipped with this capability as are devices supplied by the various organisations supplying audio formats (talking newspapers, books and magazines such as RNIB, National Talking Magazines, Calibre Talking Books Service etc.).

Also available are dedicated USB Memory Stick Playback devices in a variety of styles, sizes and functionality. Few of these stand-alone devices have controls that are easy for blind and partially sighted people to use. However, there is currently one range of devices which have been specifically designed with the needs of visually impaired people in mind. These are the Sovereign, Sonic and Solo USB Memory Stick Players designed and manufactured by Kings Access Technology Ltd..

Hamilton Sound are happy to recommend these devices but we also point out that other suitable devices may also be available.

The three types of device we recommend are described below and suppliers of these are listed.

Purchasers are strongly recommended to 'shop around' as prices and availability can vary.

The Devices

1. Sovereign 2 – Portable USB Memory Stick Player

The Sovereign 2 USB memory stick music player for visually impaired has the capacity to bookmark multiple USB memory sticks, so if you have a talking book, talking newspaper or a magazine all on the go at the same time, the Sovereign player can bookmark each stick, and it does this automatically, allowing you to go back at any time and listen from where you last left off.



It includes Cue and Review, so that by holding down the Rewind button the listener can wind back within the track to replay, say, a telephone number or other useful information. Holding down the Forward button will allow the listener to 'fast forward' within the track. It takes a standard Lithium Ion battery (Nokia Style) which clips in easily.

Product Highlights

- Best ever sound quality from the two 3" speakers
- Dimensions: 320*140*140mm
- Large, high visibility control buttons
- Low Battery warning sound
- Plays MP3 and WAV files
- Navigate between multiple folders, or books at the touch of a button
- Rechargeable and easily replaceable lithium battery
- Tactile markers for easy control identification
- Large rotary volume dial with built-in on/off function

- Automatic, Pinpoint, multiple 'Bookmark' memory - remembers last track position, mid-track, even when speaker is switched off or stick is removed
- Headphone Socket easily accessible
- Very economical battery use - long playback on battery power - between 4-6 hours

2. Sonic 2 – Portable USB Memory Stick Player

The SONIC 2 USB memory stick player is a portable version of the Sovereign 2 USB Memory Stick Player

It is the ideal player for people who want to take their MP3 books or newspapers on their travels, or simply need a lightweight USB player in order to easily move from room to room without compromising on sound quality.



The Sonic 2 is the ideal USB player for visually impaired users wanting to listen to Talking Newspapers and Talking Books. The listener can easily navigate between multiple publications on one stick at the tap of a button.

Product Highlights

- Best ever sound quality
- Dimensions: 160*52*61mm
- Large, high visibility control buttons
- Low Battery warning sound
- Plays MP3 and WAV files
- Navigate between multiple folders, or books at the touch of a button
- Rechargeable and easily replaceable lithium battery
- Tactile markers for easy control identification
- Large rotary volume dial with built-in on/off function
- Automatic, Pinpoint, multiple 'Bookmark' memory - remembers last track position, mid-track, even when speaker is switched off or stick is removed
- Headphone Socket easily accessible
- Very economical battery use - long playback on battery power - between 4-6 hours

3. Solo USB Personal Audio MP3 Player / DAP with Bluetooth 4.2

The Solo is the perfect, easy to use MP3 player, accessible music and audiobook player for those wanting high-quality playback.

It includes all the great features of our very popular Sonic 2 and Sovereign 2 players and benefits greatly from the extensive research and development that went into making our other models.

- Audio playback of MP3 and WAV formatted audio files
- Automatic bookmarking of USB sticks
- Navigation of files and folders
- Bluetooth Transmitter (TX) able to drive Bluetooth headphones and speakers
- Built-in Li-ion battery with 3-8 hours playback per full charge (3-4.5 hours on Bluetooth and 3-8 on wired headphones)
- Charging via USB C socket



- Automatic playback resumption when powering on
- Intelligent and simplified Bluetooth pairing and switching
- Bluetooth 4.2 chipset
- Haptic feedback (vibration) for Bluetooth connection status

Product Highlights

- High-quality USB audio on wired or Bluetooth headphones
- Ultra-portable, pocket sized player (86*55*18mm)
- Kings famous book-marking function. The player will always resume from the last playback point
- Ideal for audio books & talking newspapers
- Raised, shaped, tactile controls, including 'click' on/off wheel
- Keypad lock to avoid accidental button presses
- Weighs just 60 grams

Suppliers

The following list of suppliers and prices is not exhaustive but represents the main suppliers offering the devices at the time of writing this article. Prices are likely to vary from supplier to supplier and from time to time so a careful check is encouraged before committing to purchase.

The device is eligible for supply free of VAT to persons registered Blind or Partially sighted. You will be required to confirm you are registered Blind or partially sighted or you are buying on behalf of someone that is at the checkout. Please note that not all suppliers will be prepared to supply free of VAT.

Supplier	Sovereign 2	Sonic 2	Solo
Kings Access Technology 15 Oxford Road, Pen Mill Trading Estate, Yeovil, Somerset, BA21 5HR 01935 411 322 kingsaccesstechnology.com	£49.95 (ex VAT) + £8.50 delivery	£49.95 (ex VAT) + £8.50 delivery	£66.65 (ex VAT) + £8.50 delivery
BWBF Direct 10 Albion Place, Maidstone Kent, ME14 5DZ United Kingdom 01622 754757 blind.org.uk	£49.95 (ex VAT) + delivery	£49.95 (ex VAT) + delivery	£66.65 (ex VAT) + delivery
Amazon.co.uk	£59.94 (inc VAT) + free Prime delivery	Not available	£79.99 (inc VAT) + free Prime delivery
RNIB 0303 123 9999 rnib.org.uk	£49.95 (ex VAT) + delivery	£49.95 (ex VAT)	£66.65 (ex VAT) + delivery