

Dictating machines/recorder

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■ **MiniDisc Devices**

The MZ-B100

- **Data documented on:**
14.09.2006
- **Supplier:**
Sony as well as online shops for entertainment electronics

Quite well operated MD equipment for blind users is the MZ-B100. The automatic threading button of the equipment sinks in the housing, if it is operated. If no more storage location is present on the MD or the batteries are empty, the key jumps out of the countersink with quite loud cracks. So the user has a good control of his recordings. At present the equipment is available for approx. 249 Euro. However, it is a discontinued model. Unfortunately, there are no references on a successor.

■ **Devices with flash storage**

Sony ICD-MX 20

- **Data documented on:**
14.09.2006
- **Supplier:**
Sony as well as online shops for entertainment electronics

Sony ICD-MX 20 is a dictating machine with a 32 MB large, internal Flash memory. A Sony own memory stick, which does not belong to the scope of supply, can be put in additionally. The equipment measure is 36.6 x 101.2 x 23.5 mm and the weight is 96 g. It has an inserted stereo microphone. For operation two batteries (micro cells type AAA) are needed. With the ICD-MX 20 both recordings in mono and in Stereo can be taken. Receipt tones facilitate the operation for blind and vision impaired users. For example another clay/tone is to be heard at the start of an admission than at the finishing of a record.

To the scope of supply also an USB cable for PC connection belongs to the equipment as well as software, which makes it possible to change the equipment settings via PC. At least in the basic functions the program can be operated also by screen reader users. Furthermore the tone recordings can be copied and edited on PC. Unfortunately the recordings occur in a private Sony format and not in the wide-spread MP3 format. Also the device is not able to play MP3 files.

A detailed test report of Michael Lang about Sony the ICD-MX 20 you find as audio file in german language on the internet page of Interessengemeinschaft sehgeschädigter Computerbenutzer ISCB

Audio test report of the ISCB for the ICD-MX 20

■ Especially for the blind and visually impaired

The Milestone 311

- **Data documented on:**

14.09.2006

- **Supplier:**

Landeshilfsmittelzentrum (LHZ) Dresden, Verein zur Förderung der Blindenbildung (VzFB), Gaudio-Braille

The Milestone 311 primarily is a notetaker with flash memory. It was produced by Swiss company Bones especially for blind users.

The Milestone 311 is as largely as a cheque card and is operated by six keys. All entered instructions are accompanied by a well understandable speech output or by audio signals. The integrated 32 MB memory stores records up to 2 ½ hours. In addition the Milestone possesses a slot for a memory card (SD/MMC), which has a storage capacity up to 2 GB. However, it is not only note equipment; also MP3 files and DAISY books can be heard with the Milestone.

The Milestone 311 possesses an inserted microphone and a loudspeaker. In addition external devices can be attached at the front- such as microphone with preamplifier, headphone or CD-Player and/or tape decks. For data exchange the Milestone can be connected to a PC via USB. With the provided battery charger at the back of the Milestone the accu can be loaded in within three to four hours.

The Milestone 311 costs approx. 320 Euro by the offerers named above.

The DAISY recorder PTR2

- **Data documented on:**

14.09.2006

- **Supplier:**

Marland, Ludwig Becker, BAUM Retec AG, AUDIODATA GmbH, Handy Tech

A flash recorder, which hardly might leave open desires for blind and visually impaired users, is the Plectalk PTR2 of the company Plector. At present it has the highest performance coming on the German market. It does not only offer all today well-known possibilities for reading and providing from DAISY books. Also the production of own music CDs is possible. The Rekorder can take up both on normal CD-ROM and/or re-writable CDRWs and on compact flash cards. It has an inserted loudspeaker as well as an inserted microphone, which is suitable by its somewhat metallic sound rather for the recording of notes. The operating time amounts to approx. five hours. With the measures 205 x 167 x 50 and a weight of 940 g. it does not belong to the flexible small note devices, however, by provided shoulder bag it is good to transport and fast at hand. Besides DAISY version 2.02 and 2.0 it can play almost all usual audio formats such as WAV, MP3 and OGG Vorbis. The recording formats are DAISY 2.02 and 2.0 as well as the audio formats WAV and MP3 in different quality classes. As auxiliary functions the PTR2 offers an appointment calendar with note functions, a pocket calculator and a bell. Compared with its predecessor model, the PTR1, a stereo microphone can be attached and an automatic record rejection can be connected.

Blind and visually impaired are able to control the remaining accu running, the available storage location left as well as the record rejection by the inserted acoustic output.

The Plectalk PTR2 is available for approx. 845 Euro by the offerers named above.