

**FIRST TESTS NAS DEVICE > CARTRIDGE > IPOD DOCK****Synology | DS211J | £160****Synology NAS device proves to be worth the effort**

Essentially an external hard disk that connects directly to your router, a NAS can store all of your music, movie and photo files, and make them available to every device on your network.

The Synology's main flaw is also one of its greatest strengths: it doesn't come pre-installed with any hard disks. The strength of this is that if you can buy hard disks of a capacity and price to suit you. The flaw is that you have to install them. Effort has gone into making this as painless as possible, but some people just won't like it.

**Set up can be a bit of a chore**

It's not a quick and simple device to set up once you've slotted in the disks, either. Again, effort has clearly been put in to making the instructions as simple as possible, but a couple of times things aren't explained carefully enough, and that will leave some users unsure of what to do next. You'll have to put a decent chunk of time aside, too: formatting hard disks and creating usable 'volumes' can take ages.

If you make that initial effort, though, you'll be rewarded with a device that runs fairly quietly and is compatible with every device we tried, including the oft-overlooked

Xbox 360 and (with the help of an added app) the Squeezebox range of music players.

If you install two hard disks, one will back the other up, and there are lots of neat features, such as a BitTorrent client to handle your downloading and a range of free apps that allow you to access your stored content from an iPhone or iPod Touch.

You can even plug a USB speaker system directly into the NAS to play music from it, and there's an optional remote that comes with a connector for integration into your hi-fi - two features we've never before seen from a device like this.

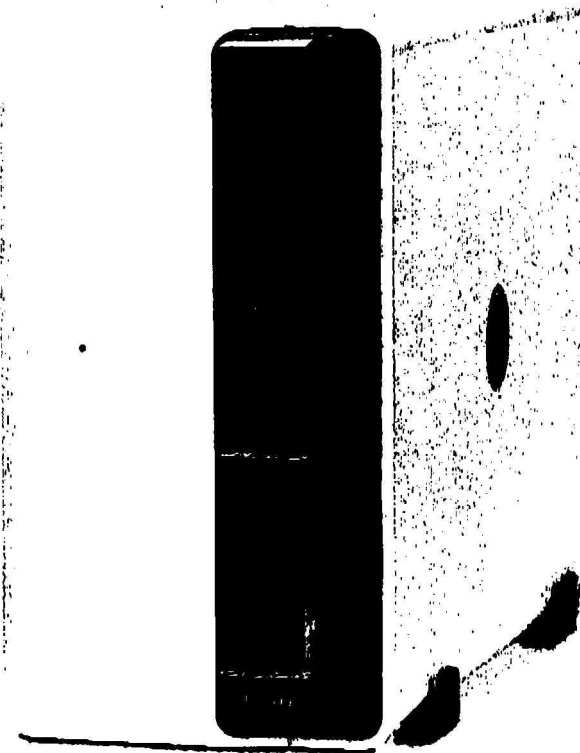
If you're prepared to put the time and effort in, you're going to end up with possibly the best media NAS on the market.

**Rating ★★★★★**

**FOR** Choose your own hard disks; great value; great range of media-friendly features, including excellent compatibility

**AGAINST** Need to install hard disks yourself; setup takes time and occasionally confuses

**VERDICT** Some people will be put off at the first step - but for others this could be the perfect media-friendly NAS device

**Roksan | Corus Silver | £400****Corus Silver: it's the new Black**

We've long been fans of Roksan's long-running Corus Black cartridge. For the best part of two decades, this moving-magnet design has remained a great-sounding, sensibly priced proposition.

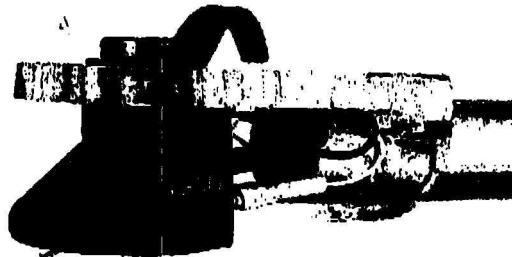
If you think the new Corus Silver looks like the Black, you'd be right. That graphic on the front is the sole external difference.

**A better match for most**

Internal changes are subtle, as the common appearance suggests, and amount to a revision of the stylus assembly, particularly the suspension system. The plan was to make the Corus Silver a better mechanical match for the company's entry-level tone arm, the unipivot Nima (as fitted to the Award-winning Radius 5.2 turntable). The results went well beyond that, surprising even Roksan, in a good way.

The Corus Silver digs up a terrific amount of detail, and has a fuller tonal balance without losing any of the precision or tautness of the original. The Silver is also less fussy about partnering arms, and so will work better than the Black in a wider range of set-ups.

It remains easy to fit thanks to a sensible shape, captive nuts and a reasonable tracking weight of 1.9g. Downsides? The price has gone up £75 over the Black. The new cartridge is undoubtedly superior, but at £400 it seems a bit pricey considering the quality of cheaper rivals like the Goldring 2500 (£225). That costs it a star.

**Rating ★★★★★**

**FOR** Digs up terrific detail; less fussy than its predecessor; easy to fit

**AGAINST** Price has gone up over Black; cheaper rivals do as good a job

**VERDICT** Roksan's Corus is better than ever, but hefty price rise takes the edge off an otherwise excellent cartridge

**iLuv | IMM289 | £40****Tiny dock's a bit of a star**

The iLuv IMM289 is an unassuming iPod speaker dock. It's small, lightweight and costs as much as a night out down your local discotheque. Sceptics might have already condemned it to a less than favourable rating, but this is a pint-sized surprise.

Park your iPod in the dock. If you fancy watching a movie or TV show stored on your iPod simply rotate the dock through 90 degrees and you can view (and listen) in landscape.

Sonically, the iLuv is seriously impressive for the money. There's no thinness or hardness in the treble; bass weight isn't exactly monumental, but you can't expect too much of a product of this type and size. Kanye West's *Street Lights* sounds rhythmic and entertaining enough. Rotating the dock alters the stereo imaging; voices come at you from the side rather than straight on, but it's a minor point. For a parent in need of a sound system for their child's iPod, this is ideal.

**Rating**

★★★★★

Considering its minuscule price tag, this iLuv dock fares surprisingly well. Decent stocking-filler fare

