

Mobile Music

If there is anyone that knows less than I do about music, I would be completely astonished. Music is not my thing; it's background noise to me. I wouldn't know the difference between a course and a rhythm. My wife on the other hand is the complete opposite. She loves music, she loves listening to it, singing it, playing it, and buying it. So, when she wanted to start buying music online I had to learn something about music. Yes I did say buy, it is just too dangerous to use any of the music trading software available on the Internet. The possibility of getting a virus or getting loaded down with Spyware is just too great.

The first thing we decided to do was perform a search on the Internet to get a list of Internet sites that deal in downloadable music. We found a dozen or so sites that deal in downloadable music each with different prices and regulations. My wife decided to try a couple of the services to find out which one is best. She tried iTunes, Napster 2.0 and Music Match.

Napster was originally known as one of the first file swapping sites on the Internet and was quickly run out of business by the music industry. Napster 2.0 however is a completely legal site that offers both a monthly subscription service or a per song fee. Napster 2.0 offers over 700,000 downloadable songs. The licensing allows users to copy unlimited music to up to 3 computers for just \$10/per month for listening directly from your computer. The other option is to purchase each track for 99 cents, which will allow unlimited burning to CD. Unfortunately my wife found that Napster's 2.0 variety of music was limited.

The next service my wife tried was called Music Match. This service offers a very similar plan to Napster 2.0, however Music Match's selection didn't seem to be as good as Napster 2.0.

The last service my wife tried out was Apple iTunes. This site seemed to hit the mark with my wife. They offer per-song downloads for just 99 cents per song. According to my wife, their web site was easy to navigate and seemed to be faster than the other services she tried. Apple iTunes also seemed to offer the best selection of top 40 songs available on the Internet.

There are plenty of music download services available on the Internet; and like anything else in the world you get what you pay for. For example Wal-Mart is the low price leader at just 88 cents per song. However, they have much tighter restrictions on the number of times you can burn your music to CD. Like anything else, be sure to read and understand the fine print before you commit your song collection to one particular set of restrictions.

Don't let your high-speed Internet connection go to waste! Check out the diverse collection of music on the Internet. Make a compilation CD that will allow you to listen to any genre ranging from Rap to Christian. Your imagination's the limit. If you have any technology geared questions simply call Thomas, Roger, or Justin at Computer Depot, 947-0749.