



Music to my ears

The Bowers & Wilkin Zeppelin may be one of the most aptly named products Inspector Gadget has come across: there's a distinctly blimp-like shape to what is arguably the ultimate iPod speaker on the market. The functional difference is that where the original Zeppelin was an aerial transport vehicle, the Bowers & Wilkins version is an aural transport vehicle. If, like Inspector Gadget, you balk at treating your ears to anything that costs A\$999, you are likely to be much more interested in the Zeppelin Mini, which delivers a total of 36 watts of impressive sound through twin 3-inch drivers and a Flowport bass port. While the design isn't quite as arresting as that of its bigger brother, the Mini is still a beautifully crafted piece that you'd be happy to have on a bedside table or in the lounge. You attach your iPod to a swivelling arm which you can rotate through 90 degrees to allow you to view iPod videos, and there's a USB connection so you can hook up your PC to stream music, sync your iPod or download firmware to the dock. There's also an auxiliary port, and 3.5mm headphone jack. And compared to the Zeppelin's price tag, the A\$599 the Mini will set you back seems admirably restrained.

