

TouchTone Audio System and Magic Touch monitor add-on

• Price: \$US24.95 (TT), \$US153 (MT) • Distributor: Riptide Innovations, EnableMart • Product URL: www.mp3touchscreens.com

If you've ever wanted to transform your PC into a media jukebox, this is the product for you. Whether it is purchased with a touch screen monitor add-on or not, when it is coupled with Winamp 2.8 or 2.9 (this is a requirement), Riptide's TouchTone software is able to generate a playlist from the folder/s you specify automatically categorising each MP3/OGG/WMA file according to the artist's name. Navigation is further simplified by alphabetically listing each artist with subsections for artists with more than one track. Genius.

While the TouchTone application can easily be manipulated using a mouse, you can attach the Magic Touch touch screen and use a finger or the included stylus to select tracks and navigate through the various menus at your leisure.

The TouchTone interface is a full screen layout and each button and scroll bar is large enough to be pressed without frustration.

Furthermore, Riptide has also included a handy search utility with a built-in keyboard for those with extensive music collections, as well as the ability to create multiple playlists to suit the occasion. Rounding out the software's vast feature set is a Party Play mode, which allows you to disable some functions, or all functions except Play to avoid unwanted editing of your configuration. While we spent hours trying to fault TouchTone, we had to conclude that the programmers at Riptide Innovations haven't missed a thing as far as functionality is concerned. There is even a log feature that allows you to keep track of what users have been playing, an option to display album cover images and an alarm clock to start/stop playing

music at certain times. As for the touch screen itself, the only issue we had was the glass had to be cleaned regularly of fingerprints.

The Touch Screen kit comes in various sizes to suit a variety of monitors, and, although installation is quite tricky at first, the provided documentation eases you through it without issue. The whole package comes in at \$US177: Magic Touch retails for \$US153 and the TouchTone application sets you

back \$US24.95 (although there is a free trial version on Riptide's website). While the touch screen itself can be used with any mouse-driven application, gamers will most likely retain the mouse as touch screen controls can end up feeling awkward. That said, if you are looking to spice things up a bit for your guests, the MP3 Touch Screen kit is an affordable and feature-rich accessory.

Asher Moses

SPECIFICATIONS

- Touch screen comes in various sizes to suit your monitor. Think of the TouchTone software as an enlarged version of Winamp



PCPP Score

While being of little use to gamers, if you're looking for something to entertain your guests, you'll be hard pressed to find a better solution than this.

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