NMT: The NMT's Clash File V3.5

Hi-Jack

2008

PoPCorn Hour A-110
www.popcornhour.com

HDX-1000 BLack & Silver
http://www.hdx1080.com

Kaifa EP6000 Different colors
www.kaifa.com.cn/eng

Kaiboer K100
www.kaiboerhd.com

Elektron EHP-606
www.elektron-china.com

eGreat EG-M31B
www.egreatworld.com/en

Dragontech ioBox 100HD
www.dragontechcorp.com

eGreat EG-M32B
www.egreatworld.com/en

iSTAR H5 HD
www.hdinlife.com

Suno SN-HD101
www.hk-amsgroup.com

Kaiboer K200
www.kaiboerhd.com

Icy Box IB-MP390HW-B
www.IcyBox.de

NMT's have pretty much become the most wanted media players out there today, not only because they do the job just fine for the average to medium advanced users, they have a great price / value balance. On top of that they are very well supported by all companies involved. By listening to customer feedback, the new generation has increased their value and so will it increase their popularity amongst media users. This is "the clash" between the TOP new NMT's considered "2nd Generation". You can recognize these by having "**both**" HDMI 1.3 **and** USB Slave.

INTRODUCTION

With many NMT's that are available running on the same system software from Syabas, one might think these are all the same except for aesthetics. While once this was true, one vendor started adding a VGA, one used Coaxial instead of Optical, another had a power button and then one added DTS down mix. Differences applied up to now between the players was mainly in hardware, but… these hardware differences can be an advantage in both features and convenience. Hence, we just try to clear up the mess NMT's create on the market using similar designs for older and newer models and offer almost the same features…

Today, we look at the "new generation" NMT's, built to please the customers more than ever, as most changes added are based upon customer feedback, the brands should be commended for adopting this approach which has allowed the players to become more mature in hardware.

We leave the firmware review out of scope for this article, but we would like to look at one aspect of it, AutoSMB browsing we will discuss it briefly.

AUTOSMB

AutoSMB is what we liked best for being so easy. You connect the player to the network and it will discover your devices all by itself without any setup being required or limitations applied in the amount of available shares. We have always liked having versatile options and now we finally have it within the new firmware about to be released at the time of writing.

AutoSMB has its flaws, it does not use usernames and passwords so for securing your environment it is not optimal, it uses the "guest access". So far the brands which are using AutoSMB are Rapsody, Ziova, MViX, and Conceptronic, or manual SMB where users have to create the mappings (TViX, NMT).

MPC has always requested brands to implement both so people can choose whichever way they want to use network, give the choice to consumers and not make the choice for them on how they must use their environment. Today, we register the first brand listening to that request: **Syabas** which in effect opens up

all NMT's. In the latest release it is possible to add your own manual mappings with username and password if you like the old fashion way, and you can use the AutoSMB browsing function newly integrated.

The best of both worlds is now available on all NMT's… and this kind of attitude is truly appreciated. It shows a brand which takes customer feedback seriously and returns the value to have freedom of choice back to the consumers unlike some of the competition, using the (often too easy) escape goat "**we design it for keeping things easy**" while actually it enforces limitations upon users and brings its own problems. Having both systems supported is the ultimate way. NMT's just got a lot more convenient for novice users and did not lose its more advanced alternative option along the way. Well done Syabas!

GETTING STARTED…

Without a doubt, the first NMT ever to be released today is still the most popular though opinions vary on whether it is also the "best" NMT to purchase. While only small differences apply to the hardware and aesthetics, the A-110 being the first 2nd generation NMT surely has helped achieve PopCorn Hour the title of "NMT Leader in sales". It did have competition from the other brands right away from brands using more quality in their designs.

The near future will bring HD Audio support so vendors preparing their new systems all need to support HDMI 1.3 to offer this option when available. All new models released so far have the required specs to do so. That's a good start already.

iSTAR is not included in this "new generation" article as it actually only changed to HDMI 1.3 on the original iSTAR Mini and not updated the hardware further like the new generations have done but they do have a H5 in the pipeline.

POPCORN HOUR A-110

PopCorn Hour has mainly concentrated around presentation and the main body of the unit. Improvements can be found in both aesthetics and packaging. **Most important changes are:**

- HDMI 1.3 fitted instead of HDMI 1.1
- Coaxial changed into Optical (preferred by us personally for common use over coaxial although some say coaxial sounds "warmer". There is no big difference though)
- USB Slave for PC connection
- 1 USB host in the rear against previously both in front
- **Update:** Latest production has power button in the rear

What does not show from the outside, is PoPCorn Hour A-110 now also supports 2.5" hard drives besides the usual SATA 3.5" versions. The design is fitted with options to use both.

Not only hardware wise did the PopCorn Hour A-110 improve. Software wise Syabas has decided to acquire a DTS license so it will have an advantage over the other NMT's unless they acquire a DTS license too. **Update:** DTS down mix is implemented now.

Sleep Mode: Wake up by remote but player remains pretty much running at the full 100% where the outputs are disabled but the internal hardware remains available for network access and NMT apps remain available.

Deep Sleep: Places hard drive in sleep mode and access to hard drive is no longer possible. Downside from deep sleep mode is the player cannot be woken up by remote and without a power button, which means, pulling the cable and reinserting it for the player to startup.

Overall a successful makeover and targeted at about $215 certainly decent value for a good H.264 player which has found a good balance between features and gadgets. It brings a lot of fun and the DTS support adds a little extra on the side. Add to it the fact it is silent (no fan) and you know it's a good deal!

EU price recommended €249 - €279 (MAX price!)

EGREAT EG-M31B

Against the earlier model, eGreat EG-M31A, several cosmetic changes have been applied. The cooler was tried in every corner of the player so far, only to end up at the right side on the new EG-M31B. The eGreat has double the memory of the other players (512MB) although it does seem like 256MB is enough as playback does not show any advantage.

Improvements vs. the earlier eGreat EG-M31A:

- HDMI 1.3
- ~~Bluetooth~~ (Cancelled)
- USB PC connection
- Dual eSATA in front
- Dual USB in the rear instead of the front
- A new remote control (better one)
- **One of the only NMT's to have power on / off by remote which is a convenience over the others! (Istar H5 also has this feature)**

The eGreat EG-M31B has a few advantages over PoPCorn Hour's A-110 these being the power button, ~~Bluetooth (whatever it is used for),~~ and double the memory, but it also has one problem.

eGreat is in the process of adding DTS down mix. Expected to be done in Q1 2009. While it looks "ok" it is fully plastic and feels cheap, even though it isn't. That fan (noise) and the plastic housing are two items where the eGreat can still improve; the rest is simply well done, just like the PopCorn Hour A-110 it offers an excellent price / feature balance.

Of course, the new firmware applies to all the NMT's so also the eGreat will be offering the Usenet options and network options which are enhanced.

EU price recommended €249 - €279 (MAX price!)

ELEKTRON EHP-606

In my humble opinion, the nicest in the batch of NMT's on the market. Talk about contrast. Elektron has replaced the remote initially with a better version based on our feedback.

Not plastic but firm duralumin materials are used and the finishing touch in the rear and front is well done. It has improved a lot in my opinion to impress over the earlier EHP-600 in quality.

Changes applied:

- HDMI 1.3
- USB PC connection

Since the Electron already had the two USB hosts on the right side and a power button, no more enhancements had been expected except for the remote.

For build quality, there is no doubt the Elektron fits the "best design" achieved by keeping the unit small and using firm materials where the eGreat is plastic and PopCorn Hour is simple but effective. But there's others to come that might steal the position of "best design".

Elektron has no cooling fan and cooling has been designed in such a way the cooling is carried out by transferring the heat onto to body of the unit which helps keeping it operate within reasonable temperatures. Finally, again, the latest NMT firmware enhancements apply to the Elektron as well... The VGA output could mean an advantage under certain conditions.

Elektron kept the Coaxial instead of going to Optical which is fine as the choice between both is a personal matter. We wait for when the players have both and it will come for sure... ☺

EU price recommended €249 - €279 (MAX price!)

HDX-1000

The new HDX-1000 arrived after the others and might have shaken up a thing or two in the line-up with offering both optical and coaxial output and adding a card reader to the front of the design. Crafted with refurbished aluminum it could have won the main prize in several categories although the size of the unit is costing points. It's not "too" big but would have been nicer being a bit smaller where now it measures 20cm square.

Small remark is the blue led in front) too sharp and will be addressed on the final batch so we can exclude it) which is under investigation for tuning by firmware (off when playing video for instance).

In the end, we conclude the HDX-1000 to be quite competitively in hardware differences. With an MCU (power on / off by remote) it would have been even better but unfortunately that is missing.

Changes applied:

- HDMI 1.3
- USB PC connection
- Optical + Coaxial
- Card Reader

Recommended Price: Same as other NMT's about €279…

KAIBOER K100

I consider the Kaiboer K100 a fill-in for what ISTAR failed to provide so far, an updated iSTAR MINI that fits the second generation gap for people that mainly want a player for streaming usage.

Kaiboer K100 is equally appealing by design and different enough from most other NMT's except iSTAR. Why it comes close in comparison with iSTAR is mainly the size of the unit and the fact as iSTAR, Kaiboer K100 uses an external SATA connector for hard drive use. This comes again with the remark that external attached hard drive that does not match the player design will lead to disruption of the Home AV setup.

Both a naked hard drive or external enclosure will often not look fine in combination with the player and it would be awesome to see a properly produced external storage created by Kaiboer that fits the player design. The design looks like "MAC" but comes in both Black and white editions.

Since the Kaiboer is a new entry and not an update we list the hardware that makes it stand out from the others.

- HDMI 1.3
- USB Slave
- Soft Plastic design

- Power button
  Placing unit in deep sleep requires pressing power toggle 2X on the player

With measuring only 16.5cm width, 13cm depth and 5cm height, the player depicts a similar size as the iSTAR with one difference; it's a second generation NMT compared to the iSTAR 1.1 and 1.3 version adding extra audio outputs and a USB slave for PC connection. The design is done well with soft materials all round given the player a "soft" feel while to top and bottom plates are plastic. Like most players (except iSTAR and eGreat) the unit is passively cooled.

KAIFA EP6000

Kaifa EP6000 is a fun little player and the first to come in a range of colors available. The design is appealing but not flawless. I managed to push out that little front thing I mistaken for a button just about immediately as I unpacked the unit. Pressing slightly too hard, that little cover plate gotten loose.

In the rear, we find a HDMI 1.3, Component, Composite (mini jack), Optical output, dual USB Host and 1 USB slave and finally the RJ45 connector. A power button is provided as well in the rear. We are not too fond of using mini-jack's as breakout for any video output but the cable is in the box making it a lesser problem.

It could run against electron for best design but the cooling is not as advanced inside. All the rest is superb considering the

Kaifa. A nice looking little jewel that could certainly become a top 5 seller amongst the NMT's if given proper spread to stores.

IOBOX 100HD

Now I see the ioBox delivering items I consider the PopCorn Hour A-110 should have. Crafted in full aluminum and with both coaxial and optical audio outputs it classifies as little step ahead. Also in branding quality the ioBox appeals. Downside is ioBox has not yet enabled DTS down mix which is in favor of Popcorn Hour A-110 but won't last forever. There's always the name which will remain a benefit of PopCorn Hour… Big community…

- HDMI 1.3
- USB Slave (FRONT)
- USB HOSTS (2 X Front)
- Optical and Coaxial
- Power button

The ioBox is tryly appealing and does things slightly different by placing both USB host and USB Slave in the front for easier access. The side panels are aluminum on this model which is a benefit as well concerning heat dissipation.

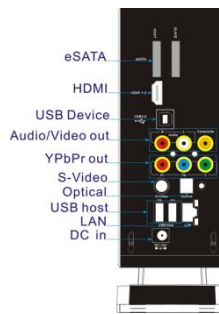## EGREAT EG-M32B: A DIFFERENT NMT

While eGreat is one of the most popular NMT's (3rd best selling NMT according to MPC figures), we are not totally convinced the new eGreat EG-M32B will share the same popularity or recommendation from us due to what we consider a mistake. First of all, the design is different and better even though the unit is still made from plastic materials. It has been given a refurbished look in hard plastic.

The new eGreat incorporates a DVD drive possibility but is sold as bare bone. This can lead to issues as inserting a drive for the "unknown" customer could lead to problems having the disk touch the internal board. The purpose is that the customer can purchase its own preferred DVD drive but do notice… not all drives fit as you require a "mini model" with Slot-In drive….

In the front a power button is provided but no eject so the removal of a disk can only be done by the remotes eject button. Remote control remains the same and specification is aligned with the second generation NMT being HDMI 1.3, USB PC slave.

The eGreat EG-M32B will suffer more from the fact the NMT supports only EXT3 (ext2 has been removed recently) as it makes portability less possible with Windows PC's. Unless installing drivers you cannot read the contents of the hard drive or need to fall back to NTFS which then becomes read only and you lose FTP / SMB / Torrent functions… A VFD is integrated into the unit to reflect time elapsed during playback amongst other info.

Hardware specs include a VFD, HDMI 1.3, Component (my colors are wrong by the way), Composite and S-Video for video outputs and Analog (Stereo RCA), Optical but no Coaxial for Audio. Add a couple USB 2.0 hosts, 2 eSATA ports in the rear, network and a PC slave completes the hardware picture. Both Wireless and the DVD drive are optional! The HDD can easily be added removed by a removable drive cage on top of the unit.

Now here comes the question… Will it play commercial DVD's? No! Only region free disks (like in China this is common) can be used or data DVD's as far as we know (without the drive we cannot test and eGreat has not send a complete unit). The separation of player and DVD is a benefit for custom charges but in the end a burden for the customer. We expect most resellers will provide the unit with and without DVD drive for customers to choose from and inform them of the unit not being able to play commercial DVD's.

I don't know if we need a DVD player without ability to play our DVD collection as external drives are already supported over USB delivering the same functionality and we no longer use DVD's to store media on them but use NAS and network shares. While both available in most households, I'm not sure we want the extra ability of a DVD drive that can't even handle its main purpose in what customers "within reasonably suspect" would expect from it: Play actual DVD's…

Recommended Drives eGreat:
Matsushita CW-8124-C
TEAC DW-224SL http://dspd.teac.de/index.php?id=1374&L=1

THE NEW ISTAR H5 HD

While the iSTAR mini had a refreshing look compared to other NMT's back in the days, the H5 HD makes a less impressive introduction at home. We are longing for some fresh designs as with all these NMT's, more than only firmware is the same. Players are "bulky", so is the H5 HD no exception. The size is too big (and looks empty inside) which is caused by most brands balancing the heat with unit size instead of finding an adequate solution.

The iSTAR H5 HD looks ok, just like most of the other NMT's but has used an off the shelf casing intended for something else. This is show by the two vent holes on each side unused and open to eat dust. The internal hard drive is a click mechanism using 4 thumbscrews on the hard drive, equally not designed for this purpose and the screws on top of the unit (visible) can be hidden by a couple covers inside the box. Not all fine hardware design I must say…

The positive is that iSTAR H5 can be powered on / off by remote. This is only the second NMT able to do this. It has a VGA in the rear instead of Component and adds HDMI 1.3 and Composite as video output options.

For audio, 5.1 analog outputs which also purpose L/R and optical are provided. While in the rear the 10/100 Ethernet and dual USB host complete the picture, in front of the unit we find an eSATA connector and a led free front bevel. (How do we tell the player is On or Off?)

The iSTAR H5 is a second generation NMT and as good as a choice as other NMT's. Just wished it had a bit better design and options actually created for the unit instead of finding existing pieces that fit the purpose as it does not do justice to the player.

Box contents is one of the most complete to find under NMT's including network cable, quality HDMI cable, USB Cable, remote, network cable (2meter) and power cable.

Good content, reasonable player, excellent price. It's another NMT… but it has not used the maximum of its potential in design or being different than the others…

SUNO SN-HD101

Although different to begin with, we do not call the SN-HD101 a new generation NMT but a "more complete" second generation thanks to it's added LCD display.

The design is attractive and well done althiough very few small issues with the fitting of all parts like the HDD cage which is slightly shifted from it's intended horizontal position. The SN-HD101 easily competes in quality with the others although it did not use alluminum or duralumin for the player.

The drive cage is is the same as the one from the Kaiboer K200 although here we do not need to pressure the lever as hard to get the drive out.

The usual NMT v2 specs apply beingHDMI 1.3, ISB Slave and 1 USB host only, component, composite, L:R audio and S-Video besides Optical and a network RJ-45 connection. Enough, but we would have wanted 2 USB host, 1 eSATA and bopth coaxial and optical.

The LCD is purely for purposes of playback (time) and not for browsing / playing without TV. Several leds are located in the front including power, USB activity and network. One is too bright but only is active during startup or standby. During playback and operation only the power on (green) is active. From the right side you get access to an easy drive cage for insterting and removing the hard drive.

Overal hardware is quite nice but limited given few options on this player are less than on competition and some are unused to make a difference that counts. You do get a LCD display and

easy accessible drive along with a quite fine designed unit. The display shows 2 lines which can hold up to 16 characters per line and scrolls if needed but is not used for the parts an LCD can truly make value being browse content, setup, play without TV attached etc... The LCD did not strike as balanced offering big characters, slow scrolling (about 1 sec per chartacter) and not fluent (on / off blinking when scrolling each character).

Other than that... I like it so with some tuning it might add more value with only few efforts... ☺ Maybe one remark... It's good we got an EU power plug provided but quality means tuning in detail so my unit should not have the Chinese language selected by default. I can help myself knowing the NMT very well but a normal first time user will not have a quick solution for it.

Yes, there's a power button in the rear to turn the unit completely off, no you cannot power on / off the player using the remote (no MCU). Few of these will reflect in our quote on hardware... Box contents: Player, remote, power adapter, USB cable and HDMI cable.

www.hk-amsgroup.com

KAIBOER K200

Kaiboer shows something extremely simple can be extremely attractive. Even so, Kaiboer did not bring a flawless unit but can now be considered amongst not only the most attractive NMT's but also the most convenience ones with the MCU in the picture. Yes, you can power on / off the unit by remote but that has a drawback, the player can no longer be put into stand by.

On the left hand side are 2 USB connectors which we condier too far away for easu access in cabinets for instance.

The size of the player, it's big. With a width of 27cm, height of 7cm and 21cm depth the size is almost the same as the usual devices (43cm width). Would it have been even better to choose

that size? That said... the HDD cage is not removable but made in such way a naked HDD fits in nicely. Other hardware specifications are HDMI 1.3, Component, Composite, 5.1 Analog audio, coaxial and optical, 2 X USB host and 1 USB slave. The usual 10/100 network RJ45 takes care of the network functions of the player.

Kaiboer K200... with only a minor few design flaws in my opinion, now one of the better NMT's... Well done unit, design is ok, options are provided to purchase the model that fits your needs and taste best offering both colors and DTS board as options to choose. Box includes HDMI and Optical cable, power cable and remote.

More news:
http://www.mpcclub.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=706

www.kaiboerhd.com

ICY BOX NMT IB-MP390HW-B

Finally. Icy Box brings an "Icy" product on the market and with that I mean a product that fully complies with the expectations I had even though it's not that difficult being an NMT. At least, as far as features is concerned.

Icy Box strong point is definitely design as all their products look kind of cool (hence the name "Icy") and so does little new jewel, the Icy Box NMT player. Now in my humble opinion this model installs itself on top of all available models due to its design. Another advantage could be the manufacturer is in Europe and not in China or Japan.

Although the player is unfortunately not passively cooled, all the rest about this player fits. Both optical and coaxial, USB slave, HDMI 1.3, network, usb ports, S-Video and Comosite, easy to

insert and remove hard drive and so on… All options are provided except for an eSATA port maybe.

The fan in the rear is audible but not that much. We learn from the past however over time it will become noisier due to usage. That will eventually start become annoying.

Box contents are limited to the absolute necessary being the remote, batteries, USB cable and power cable. No network or S-Video cable is included (explanation included why that is but it's hardly an excuse) but more importantly, no HDMI cable. Pretty poor. (Our sample did include Component and Composite cable).

Now the remote is fun, it's not the same as other NMT's although it can be compared to them, be it in miniature form. The remote is smaller but contains the same layout mostly.

Price: €259 makes the Icy Box the most affordable NMT player right now and it is one of the best looking ones. Besides the cooler and the noise that comes with it and the minimum box contents which can explain the lower price, this is a very good option for those seeking an NMT. It remains all very close together when comparing these units, but we feel the Icy Box has an extra edge… not sure why….

I like it, I guess ☺

www.icybox.de

OVERALL NMT COMMENT MPC

Have we not grown past the standard NMT's by now? When can we see something that actually opens our jaws by being surprised? Where is that NMT using a normal design 43cm width player with integrated LCD put to a good use? What about a flat device using 2.5" HDD that is only 2cm high for instance (a video bar ☺) or some other original approach that stands out from the batch of NMT players…

There's two problems where one goes shopping for off the shelf players that do not fit its purpose and the other is claiming to bring a cheap and affordable media players which is actually not based on a cheap player but on cheap hardware. Money is saved where the outcome leads to big bulky players that look awe-

some at first but eventually not fit anywhere in our setup due to its bulky size or none standard formats.

If you have to derive from standard measures, make it worth it. I'm talking to the hardware vendors now: "Challenge yourselves a bit more to stand out from the overall look and feel of NMT devices". And brings us something truly new and refreshing… The HDMI 1.3 and USB PC Host era making these NMT's a second generation should now be completed… Let's move on to the third generation now with Blu-ray, multiline displays, better interfaces with filtering by tags and so on…

TABLE	PCH A-110	eGreat EG-M31B	Elektron EHP-606	HDX-1000	Kaifa EP6000	Kaiboer K-100	ioBox 100HD	eGreat EG-M32B	iStar H5 HD	Suno SN-HD101	Kaiboer K200	Icy Box IB-MP390HW-B
HDMI	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Component	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Composite	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
VGA	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
S-Video	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
Stereo L/R	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5.1	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗
Optical	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Coaxial	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
USB PC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
USB Host	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
eSATA	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
SATA / IDE	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
2.5" HDD	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
DTS ***	✓	addon	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	addon	✗	✗	addon	✗
Power Button	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
Remote Power	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
HD Audio**	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Card Reader	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Rem. HDD	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
DVD Drive*	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	addon	✗	✗	✗	✗
LCD / VFD	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
HW Score	4	5	7	7	7	6	6	5	5	6	8	9
NMT Score	18	18	19	19	19	19	20	22	16.5	18.5	21	21

* To be purchased separately, does not include commercial DVD playback

** Work in progress to tune inside firmware for all NMT's

*** PoPCorn Hour A-110 supports DTS down mix. eGreat offers add-on board for this feature. All NMT's are looking into DTS license to add support for DTS down mix in December and Q1 2009

HDMI 1 point
Component 1 point
Composite 1 point
S-Video 1 point
VGA 1 point
Stereo L/R 1 point
5.1 Analog 1 Point
Optical 1 point
Coaxial 1 point
USB PC 1 point
USB Host 1 0.5 points and 2 or more 1 point
eSATA 1 0.5 points and 2 or more 1 point
SATA/IDE Sata 1 point, IDE 0 points
2.5" support 1 point
Power button 1 point
Remote power 1 point
HD Audio 1 point
Card Reader 1 point
Removeable HD 1 point (Must be screw less design or not considered removable)
DVD Drive 1 point for data abilities, 3 for DVD playback and 5 for Blu-ray
LCD / VFD 1 point for normal time use, 3 points for supported browsing, 5 points for added convenience + previous 2

HW Score: Based on design, quality and outputs, package contents.
DTS: Optional 1 point, default 2 points.