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Freefone: It's all in the headphones

By Tom Rose/ Bostonherald.com

Wednesday, June 14, 2006 - Updated: 08:03 AM EST

Xtatix Freefone

Xtatix LLC

Rating: ★★★★★

Joggers who want to listen to tunes without the tangle of headphone wires or an iPod strapped to their bodies have an affordable alternative: Xtatix's Freefone.



Xtatix's Freefone is ideal for people who like to listen to music while exercising.

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[Freefone](#) — available in 1 GB and 512 MB versions (\$159 and \$119) — are headphones with a built in mp3 player and FM receiver. The four-ounce unit fits snugly to the head in the 'street' styling common to most wireless headphones. While the earpieces are tight enough to keep them from slipping off the ears during strenuous exercise, the headphones are not uncomfortable.

Buttons on both earpieces allow users to switch between music and radio modes. All the buttons perform double functions, depending on the length of time they are pressed.

The sound from the headphones is average and does not change much when preset equalizer options are in play.

Compatible with both Windows and Mac platforms, the unit features the basic plug and play system for transferring music files from a computer to the player. The USB connection also doubles as the charger for the computer, so users must be near a computer to keep the tunes going once the internal Li-ion battery runs down. During testing, a 512 MB Freefone lasted 7.5 hours per charge.

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Tunes can be played either in a shuffle mode or in the order they are uploaded. There is no screen and the player is not set up to handle subfolders — so Freefone may not be the right choice for those who are particular about playlists.

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