

SELECTION 1: Introducing the SP-2000 Personal CD Player

CDs. MP3s. And your favorite radio stations. All in one slender package.

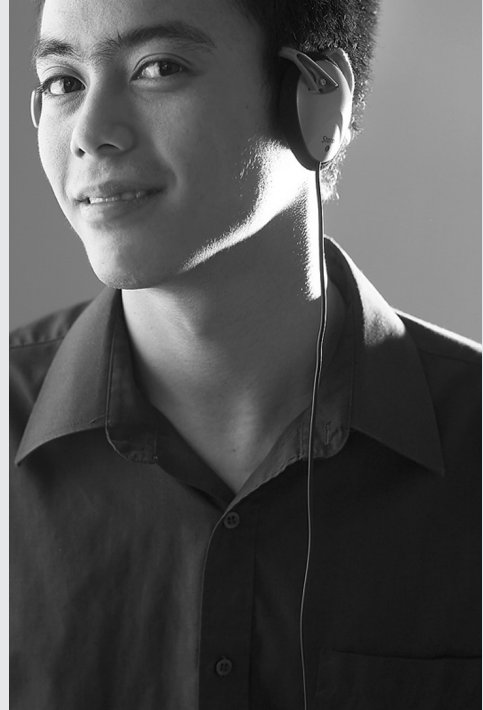
Music wherever you are, wherever you go. Only \$39.99!

Slim and compact, the **Empire SP-2000 Personal CD Player** lets you bring the music you love anywhere and everywhere you go. Our newest design, the SP-2000 plays regular audio CDs and MP3s recorded on CD-R/RWs. It also has a digital AM/FM tuner with drift-free tuning, an easy-access scanner, and 20 presets for your favorite stations. All this in a single sleek, attractive, and durable unit made to last a lifetime.

The SP-2000 works and plays as hard as you do. We've engineered the SP-2000 to resist the jolts and shocks created by every kind of movement. We've also created state-of-the-art anti-skipping technology that is activated within a fraction of a second of any vibration. No matter what you're doing—hanging out, walking, even jogging—you won't lose a single note.

And there's more! You can set the SP-2000 on **random** mode to turn your CDs into a DJ party. There's also a built-in equalizer that lets you customize your music, optimizing sound for pop, jazz, or rock. Push-button controls make it easy to control no matter what you're doing. And the SP-2000 can run for more than 50 hours on two AA batteries. You simply will not find a better Personal CD Player in this price range.

- Plays CDs & MP3 CD-R/RWs
- Digital AM/FM tuner with drift-free tuning, 20 presets
- Shock resistant, anti-skipping technology
- Runs for 50 hours or more on two AA batteries
- Built-in, three-setting equalizer
- Sleek, compact design



Empire Electronics. Quality you expect, at a price you can afford.

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SELECTION 2: Review of the Empire Electronics SP-2000 Personal CD Player*Personal Media Magazine*

Whenever we hear that Empire Electronics has a new product, we get excited. Empire has earned a reputation for making top-of-the-line electronic gadgets at rock-bottom prices. Needless to say, we had high hopes for the **SP-2000 Personal CD Player**. Sadly, we were disappointed. While it's not bad, the SP-2000 simply did not live up to our expectations.

We'll get to the shortcomings in a minute. First, though, let's review the basics. The SP-2000, like almost every CD player made in the last few years, personal or otherwise, will play both store-bought CDs and homemade CD-R/RWs. It can also play MP3s, if they are burned onto a CD-R/RW. MP3s are more and more popular these days, so this capability is a very nice touch. In addition, there's an AM/FM tuner, which is nicely designed for easy use and good reception.

The SP-2000 also has shock-resistance and anti-skipping technology. From Empire's ads, it's clear that the company is very proud of its new technology. But after testing the SP-2000, we couldn't figure out what all the excitement is about. Our CDs didn't skip as a result of vibration. But the "new" technology in the SP-2000 didn't seem to be any better than any other personal CD player. Despite Empire's advertising campaign, the SP-2000 has not revolutionized anything.

The real problem, though, is with the way the SP-2000 sounds. No matter what kind of music we listened to, it all sounded flat and lifeless. We tried adjusting the built-in three-setting equalizer. We even used a top-of-the-line headset instead of the perfectly decent headphones that Empire includes. But we couldn't get away from the simple fact that the SP-2000 just does not sound very good.

A \$39.99 personal CD player from Empire should have knocked our socks off—and knocked the competition out of the running. But the SP-2000 is no better than any other CD player in its price range. And that is a big disappointment.

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Use the passage to answer questions 17 – 24.

17. "All this in a single sleek, attractive, and **durable** unit made to last a lifetime."

In the sentence above from SELECTION 1, **durable** means

- A. tough.
 - B. versatile.
 - C. well-designed.
 - D. chic.
18. How does the writer of SELECTION 2 organize her review?
- A. She begins by discussing the basic features and then criticizes the problems.
 - B. She compares the SP-2000 with a competitor's CD player.
 - C. She runs through the features listed in the first passage point by point.
 - D. She describes the development of the SP-2000 in chronological order.

19. Who is the intended audience for SELECTION 1 and SELECTION 2?
- A. a writer who reviews new electronic products
 - B. parents who want to check the appropriateness of a product for their children
 - C. consumers who are trying to select a personal CD player
 - D. music professionals who need precision equipment
20. Which of the following is a feature of CD players that the writer of SELECTION 2 values highly?
- A. new technology
 - B. low prices
 - C. having an AM/FM tuner
 - D. sound quality
21. Empire Electronics' slogan is "Quality you expect, at a price you can afford" most likely because
- A. it says that their products are high quality, yet not too expensive.
 - B. it tells people that the company makes the world's best electronics.
 - C. it warns people not to expect too much from Empire's products.
 - D. it shows that the company makes the most affordable products.

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22. How does the bullet-point list at the end of SELECTION 1 help the reader?

- A. Readers can follow simple steps to operate the CD player.
- B. Readers can see what the headphones look like when worn.
- C. Readers can quickly see the features of the CD player.
- D. Readers can find out the price without reading the entire advertisement.

23. Using the photograph in SELECTION 1, briefly describe two messages you think the image is supposed to communicate to the consumer.

Write your answer in the **Answer Document**. (2 points)

24. Would the author of SELECTION 2 recommend that someone purchase the SP-2000? Why or why not? Support your answer with at least two details from the passage.

Write your answer in the **Answer Document**. (4 points)