

A tiny 20cm-high box, but one with an awful lot of ability

MEDIA PLAYER  
HDMEDIABOX  
MB100



£ 300

**FOR**

Excellent image quality; decent sound, too; easy to install and use; very affordable and flexible

**AGAINST**

Nothing notable

**VERDICT**

Cheap, clever and very capable, this is a great way to free your digital media. Add in a hard-disk for a fantastic portable High Def player



## HD your PC!

**HOW DO YOU** watch your films these days? We'd bet most of us are still using traditional video sources, like DVD, cable and satellite TV.

But there's a growing army of viewers for whom high-quality home entertainment begins and ends with the home computer – and if that's you, the HD Mediabox MB100 positively demands a look.

**“With an HDMI output and 1080p scaling, the picture quality is great”**

It's an audio/video turbocharger for your computer (either PC or Mac), a video-capable sibling of products like the Roku SoundBridge.

Link an MB100 into your home network using Ethernet, and you can both listen to your favourite MP3, WAV, WMA and AAC music files through your hi-fi, and view stored DVD movies and high-def video files on your TV. And, thanks to the potent Pixel Magic video scaling crammed into the tiny MB100 chassis – it even offers an HDMI output and 1080p scaling – the picture quality is just great. All you need do then is find the video content: we watched a few of our

DVDs (carefully backed up on to our computer, you understand), and downloaded some HD files from [www.apple.com/quicktime/guide/hd](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/guide/hd). The results are hugely impressive, especially at the price.

Oh, and one other cute feature you might want to know about: if you fancy a portable HD source, perhaps for your bedroom, you can squeeze a little hard-disk into the MB100, making it an entirely self-contained portable unit. A 200GB disk should cost you around £80, and fitting is easy. It's just another appealing facet of this terrific unit.

**ALSO CONSIDER ?**

**ROKU SOUNDBRIDGE M1000**

★★★★★

£180 January 2006

Stylish, easy-to-use and very effective, this neat PC/Mac compatible audio player sounds great, and is simple to install

**SLIM DEVICES SQUEEZEBOX 3**

★★★★★

£230 April 2006

A little more complex to set up, but offers Wi-Fi connectivity, so it can join a wireless network