

# Grace Digital Mondo Radios

[Pete Matthews Jr](#) – <https://3nt.xyz> – © July 2, 2025

## Grace Digital Mondo Radio Features

Features apparently common to all models
Chromecast built-in™
100,000+ Internet Radio stations (but neither AM nor FM over the air)
Large color 3.5" display
Multi-Room Audio
Pandora now included
Works with Google Assistant-enabled device (Hey Google)
Aux in jack
One 5V USB port on rear panel <i>plays USB flash drives</i> , charges devices, or with opt. \$20 USB to RJ45 Ethernet adapter, connects to Ethernet
Custom EQ profile plus 6 presets
Clock: 12- or 24-hour with date, autosynched via internet
Alarms: 7; can be for daily, weekly, weekend, weekdays, or once; buzzer or music
Sleep timer: 30 sec to 23 hr
Backlight: 30 brightness settings
Control device: from front panel, included remote, or free iOS/Android app
Playlists: ASX, M3U, PLS
Streaming protocols: HLS HTTP, HTTPS, RTSP, WSMP, Shoutcast
Audio formats (11): AIFC, WAVE, CAF, NeXT, ADTS, MP3, AAC, AAC+, Ogg Vorbis, FLAC, WMA
Built-in media player streams audio from PC, MAC or NAS
WiFi bands: dual band 2.4/5 GHz 802.11a/b/g/n/ac
WiFi passwords: WPA Personal, WPA2-AES/TKIP, and 64/128-bit WEP encryption
Register to submit a new station to be added to the list of those available
Headphone jack
Power adapter & manual.

When buying a new radio, its intended location is important:

- Features for nightstand, by the bed – Elite Classic or Duo:
  - Wireless smartphone charging.
  - Small footprint.
  - Strong alarm clock.
  - Snooze button.
- Features for bedroom, not by the bed – Elite Alto:
  - Easily readable clock.
  - Strong alarm clock.
- Features for non-bedroom – Elite Duo:
  - Wireless smartphone charging.

Grace Digital Mondo Radio Differences	Elite	Elite Alto	Elite Classic	Elite Duo
Stereo Output		○		●
Opt. second speaker (Amazon)		\$50		
Stereo switch for second speaker		●		
Rear speaker connectors		●		
3.5mm line out		●		
RCA line out	●		●	●
Class D Digital amplifier (watts)	12	50	25	50
Speakers (inches)	3 + 1	4	4	4 + 4
10 watt Qi wireless charger			●	●
Bluetooth version	5	4.1	4.1	4.1
Opt. rechargeable Li-ion battery	\$25			
Width (in)	10	6.26	10.1	15.35
Depth (in)	4.25	5.59	4.25	5.59
Height (in)	6.1	10.12	6.1	6.14
External WiFi antennas			2	
Cabinet	plastic	wood	wood	wood
★ (ratings) on Amazon 1-Jul-2025	4.2 (747)	4.4 (47)	4.4 (269)	4.4 (81)
Price on Amazon 1-Jul-2025	\$190	\$180	\$230	N/A

Determine the Requirements

Intending to place the unit on my dresser, away from the bed, I'll be able to set the volume for proper listening anywhere in the room – without a rude awakening – and space is not at a great premium. I already have a wireless charger for my nightstand, because it does not stress the phone's USB connector. Your requirements will likely differ from mine, which follow.

Required features:

- Plays MP3 from USB drive.
- Solid sound; EQ (too much treble hurts my damaged ears).
- Strong alarm clock – readable, multiple alarms, USB/radio/tone, strong brightness control, easy to use.
- Strong, dual-band WiFi.
- Radio (FM or Internet).
- Remote control.

Optional, useful features:

- Random order of USB tracks (unknown for these devices).
- Plays other media formats (WAVE, FLAC, WMA, etc.)
- Internet radio.
- Stereo sound.
- CD player.

- Qi wireless charging.
- Smartphone app.

Features to be excluded:

- Microphone – no listening to me, please.

## Compromised Short-List Alternatives

Other than FM radio and possibly stereo or random playback, the Grace Digital Mondo systems above appear to meet or exceed the features of those below. All these models have Bluetooth, a remote control, and an alarm clock.

- Sangean WFR-32 Internet Radio: \$144 Amazon 3.6 ★, USB playback on one port, wired phone charging on other port, one radio band, no CD, stereo, two 3.5W speakers, dual alarms, headphone port, top buttons finicky, buttons lighted in standby mode, particle board cabinet (formerly real wood), sound not great, some unreasonably strong reviews. Single, low unit, 11 x 7.15 x 4.33 inches, 3.5 lb. (This height may support 3-inch speakers; 3.5W suggests 2-inch.)
- SoundBeast Stereo Shelf System: \$150 Amazon 3.9 ★, USB playback, FM (no Internet or AM), CD, stereo, two 25W speakers, no output ports, alarm clock, buttons finicky, mixed opinions of sound, 5-year warranty from USA-based small business. Single, low unit, about 15 x 9 x 5 inches, 9 lb. (This height may support 4-inch speakers.)
- Compact Home Stereo System: \$84 Amazon 3.8 ★, USB playback, FM (no Internet or AM), 5 EQ presets, CD, stereo, two 10W speakers, single/all/random play modes, dual alarms with snooze and dimmer button. Does not display time while playing (possibly a common complaint). Single, low unit, 12.2 x 7.3 x 4.2 inches. (This height may support 3-inch speakers.)

## Backstory

In 2008, I picked up an iHome iP97 clock radio, replete with rather tinny 2-inch stereo speakers and an unused iPhone/iPod mount on top. Other than those features, the device has since performed admirably, but I want better sound and USB playback. See my article, “An Open Letter to WUMB.” Watch for an update to this article.