

# RioVolt SP150 User's Guide

## Welcome

Thanks for your purchase of the RioVolt SP150. The SP150 is a portable CD player that plays WMA and MP3 CDs, and regular [Red Book](#) audio CDs. The SP150 includes earphones, two AA-size 1.5 volt alkaline batteries, a lighted LCD display, and provides up to 160 seconds of [Electronic Shock Protection \(ESP\)](#) for Red Book audio CDs and 960 seconds for MP3/WMA CDs to guard against skipping during playback.

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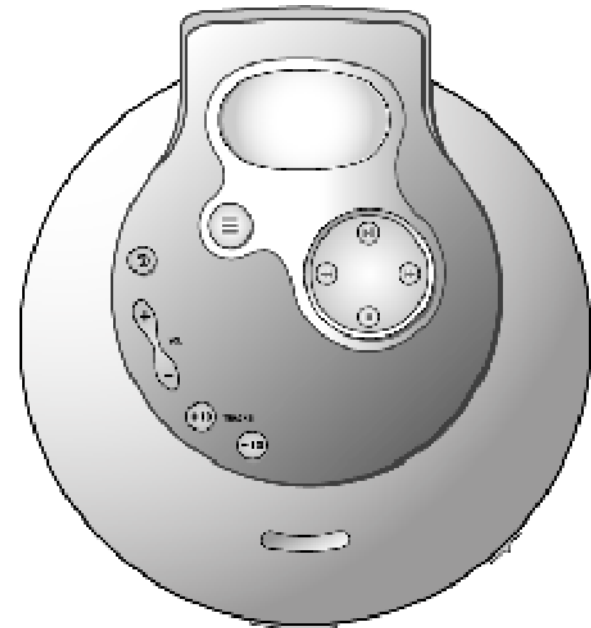
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To learn more:

- Refer to the Quick Start poster for the basics on how to set up and start using your RioVolt.
- Visit the SONICblue Web site at [www.sonicblue.com](http://www.sonicblue.com).



## Navigating the User's Guide

This User's Guide is in Adobe Acrobat (.PDF) file format.


**Important: We recommend that you use Adobe Acrobat Reader version 4.0 or higher to view and print the RioVolt User's Guide.**


Click blue, underlined text links to jump to another location in the document or to a location on the Internet.

Click the [Contents](#) link at the top of any page to go to the list of User's Guide contents.

Click the [Index](#) link at the top of any page to go to the alphabetical Index of topics. Click page numbers in the Index to jump to a topic.

## Using Acrobat

Click the navigation buttons  in the Acrobat toolbar to go to the first page, previous page, next page, or last page of the User's Guide.

Click the print button  in the Acrobat toolbar to print the User's Guide.

Click the show/hide navigation pane button  in the Acrobat toolbar to show a list of bookmarks.

Bookmarks are links to the contents of the User's Guide. Click any bookmark in the list to jump to the page in the User's Guide that contains the topic.

## Legal Notices



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First edition, June 2002

SP150 P/N 75510401-001



## Important Safety Information

### WARNING

TO REDUCE THE CHANCE OF SHOCK OR INJURY, DO NOT USE or OPERATE THIS DEVICE IN OR NEAR WATER OR WET LOCATIONS.

### CAUTION

RISK OF EXPLOSION, DAMAGE OR BATTERY LEAKAGE IS POSSIBLE IF BATTERY IS REPLACED INCORRECTLY OR BY AN INCORRECT TYPE. NEVER ATTEMPT TO CHARGE A NON-RECHARGEABLE ALKALINE BATTERY. DISPOSE OF USED BATTERIES ACCORDING TO INSTRUCTIONS OR LOCAL LAWS.

Use of headphones while operating a vehicle is not recommended and is unlawful in some states and areas. Be careful and attentive while driving. Stop operation of the player if you find it disruptive or distracting while operating any type of equipment.

Listening to music at full power over extended periods of time can be damaging to the hearing of the user.

### Class 1 Laser

Invisible laser radiation when open and interlocks defeated, avoid exposure to beam.

## Tour of the RioVolt

### TRACKS/MENU

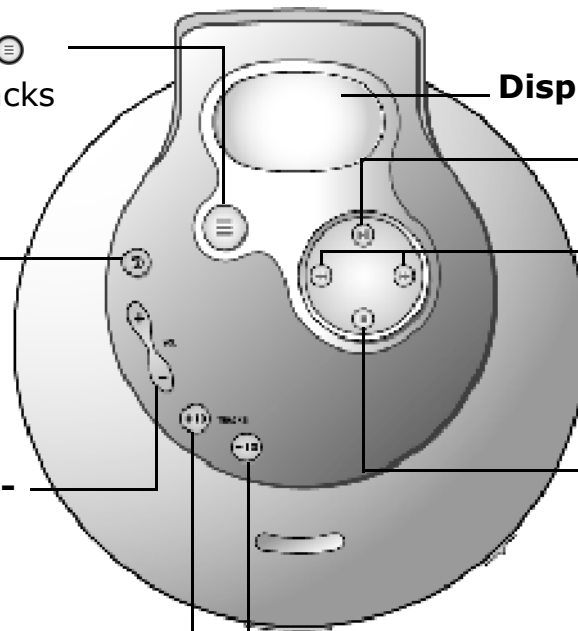
Press to enter Tracks Navigation Mode; Press and hold to enter Menu Mode

### MODE/EQ

Press to set repeat/shuffle; Press and hold to set equalizer

### VOLUME + and -

Press to adjust volume level



### Display (LCD)

**PLAY/PAUSE** Press to play or pause playback; Press to turn on player

**REVERSE** and **FORWARD** Press to skip to the previous or next track; Press and hold to scan forward or back through current track; If a track is playing, press REVERSE to skip to the beginning of the current track

**STOP** Press to stop playback; Press and hold to turn off player

### +10

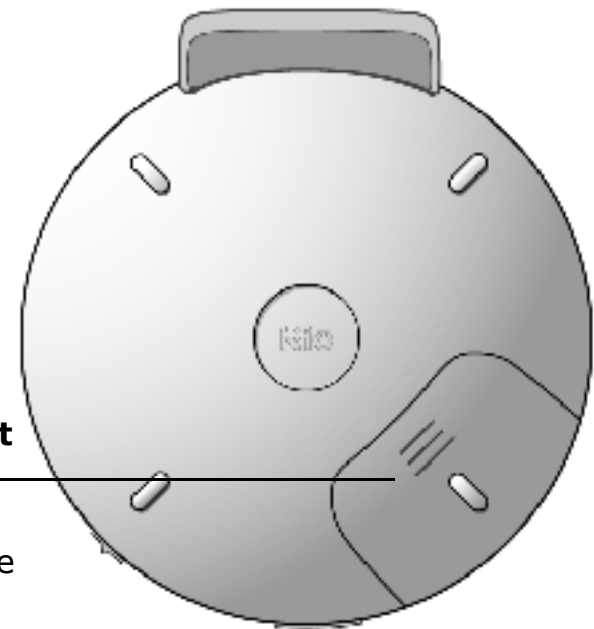
Press to skip forward 10 tracks; Press and hold to skip forward to the next directory

### -10

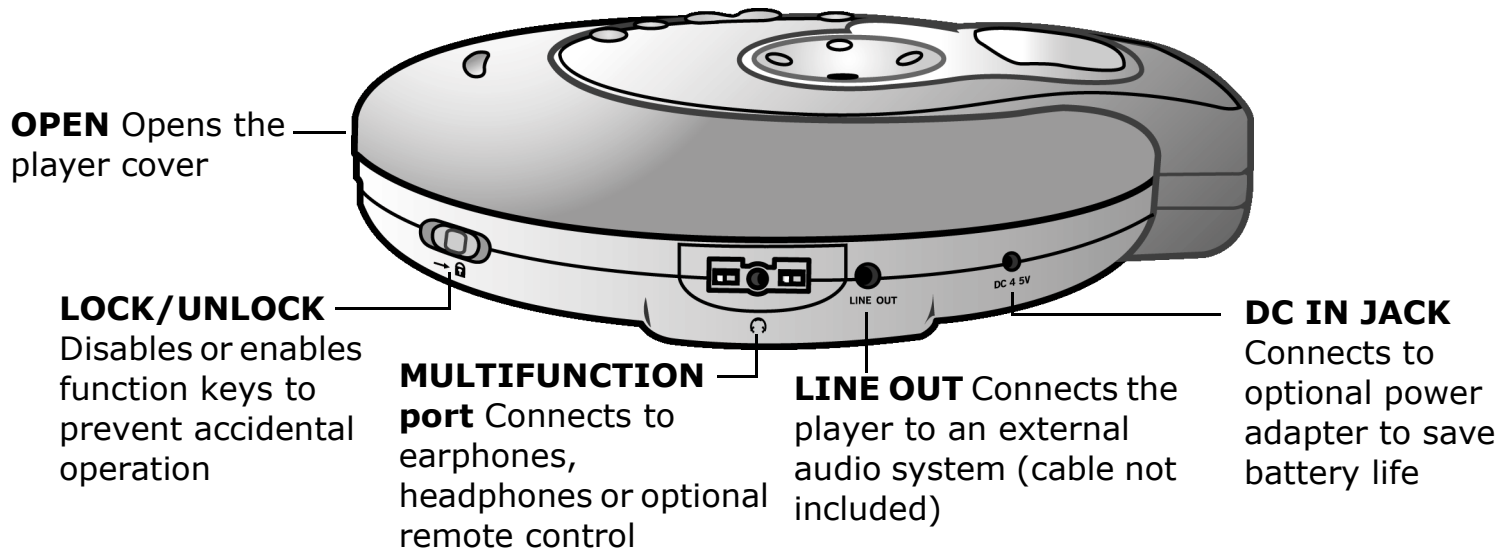
Press to skip back 10 tracks; Press and hold to skip back to the previous directory

### Battery Compartment Cover

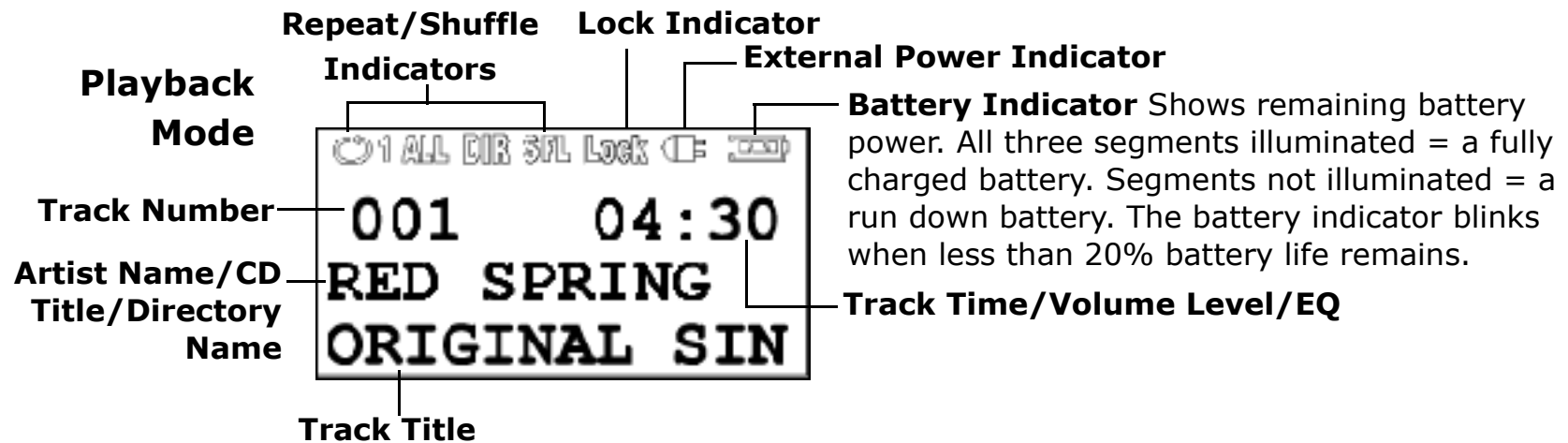
Slides out and lifts up; Insert 2 AA-size alkaline batteries here



## Tour of the RioVolt (continued)



## LCD



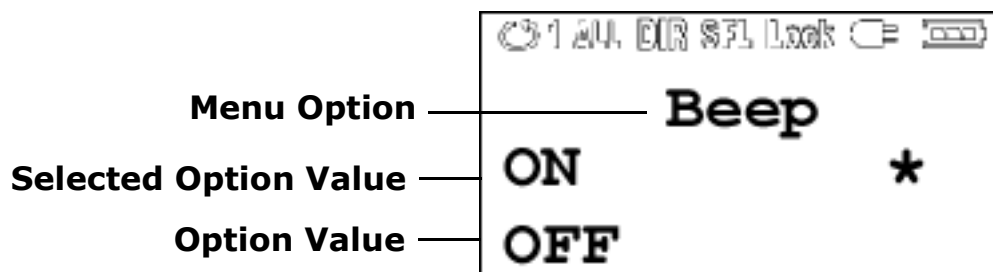
## LCD (continued)

## Tracks Navigation Mode



**Note:** The highlighted cursor indicates the Directory is the currently selected option. Pressing the FORWARD button would allow you to navigate that Directory.

## Menu Mode



## Getting Started

### 1 Unpack


Make sure your player includes the following accessories:

- Two AA 1.5 volt alkaline batteries
- Earphones
- Quick Start Poster

### 2 Insert Batteries

- 1 Slide open the battery compartment cover on the back of the RioVolt.
- 2 Insert the two supplied batteries. Ensure the batteries are inserted properly by matching the + and - symbols on the battery with the symbols on the RioVolt.
- 3 Replace the battery compartment cover.

### 3 Connect Earphones

Connect the supplied earphones to the MULTIFUNCTION  port on the side of the player.

**Tip: You can also use the LINE OUT jack to connect the player to an external audio system (cable not included) or optional car kit (not included).**

## Playing Music

### 1 Insert Disc

- 1 Slide the OPEN button to release the latch, and open the CD cover.
- 2 Remove the cardboard insert.
- 3 Insert an audio CD or MP3/WMA CD into the player, label side up.
- 4 Close the CD cover.



**Note: The RioVolt can play CDs with the following logos:**



### 2 Play Disc

- 1 Press the PLAY/PAUSE  button to turn on the player and begin playback.

**Note: There will be a short delay while the player loads your music tracks and track information.**

- 2 Press the STOP  button to stop playback. Press and hold STOP  to turn off the player.



## Advanced Functions

Available advanced functions include:

[Repeat/Shuffle](#)

[Track Navigation](#)

[Equalizer](#)

[Menu Options](#)

### Repeat/Shuffle

Press the MODE/EQ  button to set the player to one of the following Repeat/Shuffle modes:





- **SFL ALL** — Plays all tracks in random order once, then stops.
- **SFL DIR** — Plays all tracks in the current directory in random order once, then stops.
-  **DIR** — Plays all tracks in the current directory in the order they are on the CD, then repeats.
- **SFL  DIR** — Plays all tracks in the current directory in random order, then repeats.
-  **1** — Plays the selected track, then repeats.
- **SFL  ALL** — Plays all tracks on the CD in random order, then repeats.
-  **ALL** — Plays all tracks on the CD in the order they are on the CD, then repeats.
- **DIR** — Plays all tracks in the current directory in the order they are on the CD, then stops.




## Track Navigation

### Tracks Navigation Mode








In Tracks Navigation mode the display shows the directories and tracks on the CD. Directory names are enclosed in brackets ([ ]). Track names display as track titles using the [ID3 Tag](#) information. If no tag information exists, the file name displays. If the directory or track information contains more characters than the display, the text scrolls from side to side.

Use the navigation controls  to navigate within directories and to select tracks to play. When moving up and down through a list, each successive item is preceded by a cursor . In the Display example shown above, the Directory menu option has the highlighted cursor  to indicate that it is the currently selected option. Pressing the FORWARD  button allows you to navigate that directory.

- 1 Press the TRACKS/MENU  button to put the RioVolt into Tracks Navigation mode. The LCD shows directories and tracks.
- 2 Press STOP  to move down the list of directories.  
Press PLAY/PAUSE  to move up the list of directories.

### Tracks Navigation Mode



- 3 Press FORWARD  to select a directory to navigate. The contents of the directory display.
- 4 Press STOP  to move down the list of track titles.  
Press PLAY/PAUSE  to move up the list.
- 5 Press FORWARD  to select a track to play. The track begins playing.
- 6 Press the TRACKS/MENU  button to exit Tracks Navigation mode. If no button is pressed for 10 seconds, the RioVolt exits Tracks Navigation mode.

## Equalizer (EQ)

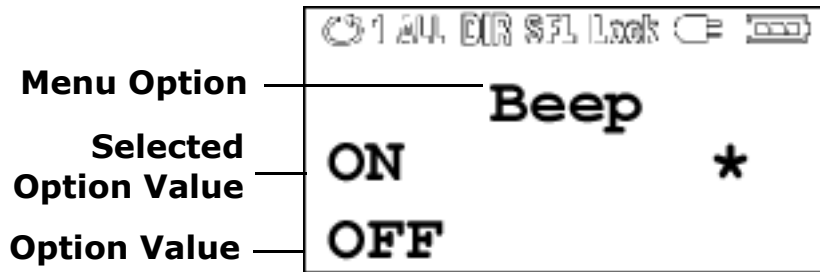
- 1 Press and hold the MODE/EQ button for approximately 1.5 seconds to display the EQ Presets menu. EQ settings include:

Mode	Bass Settings	Treble Settings
Normal	0	0
Classic	+2	+2
Pop	+3	+3
Jazz	+2	+3
Rock	+4	+3
Bass/Rap	+5	0
User	Set by Bass and Treble menu options	

- 2 Press the MODE/EQ button while the EQ Presets menu is active to cycle through and select the desired EQ preset. If no action is taken, the RioVolt reverts to the last selected preset.

## Menu Options

### Menu Mode



- 1 To set Menu options, press and hold the TRACKS/MENU button for approximately 1.5 seconds to enter Menu Mode.
- 2 Press PLAY/PAUSE or STOP to navigate up and down through the list of available Menu options.
- 3 Press FORWARD to select a Menu option.
- 4 Press PLAY/PAUSE or STOP to navigate between settings for the Menu option. The selected Menu option setting is indicated by an asterisk \*.
- 5 Press FORWARD to select a Menu option setting. Press REVERSE to return to the main Menu options list without changing the setting.
- 6 From the main Menu options list, press REVERSE to exit Menu mode.

### Resume

If Resume is ON, when the RiōVolt is powered on it resumes playing the last track it was playing when the RiōVolt was powered off. If Resume is OFF, when the RiōVolt is powered on it begins playing the first track on the CD. Resume options include:

- ON — Enables the resume function (default).
- OFF — Disables the resume function.

### Backlight

Backlight controls how long the backlight stays on after a button is pressed. Backlight options include:

- OFF
- 1 second (default)
- 5 second
- 10 seconds

### Scan Speed

Scan Speed adjusts the speed at which the RiōVolt scans forward or backward through a track as you hold down the REVERSE or FORWARD buttons. Scan Speed options include:

- 2x (default)
- 4x
- 8x

## Scroll Speed

Scroll Speed adjusts the speed at which the ID3 tag and file information scroll from side to side on the display. Scroll Speed options include:

- 1x (default)
- 2x
- 4x

## Beep

Beep controls whether or not an audible beep is heard when buttons are pressed. Beep options include:

- ON — Enables the beep capability (default).
- OFF — Disables the beep capability.

## ID3 Tag Display

ID3 controls whether or not the RioVolt displays ID3 tag information while a track is playing. ID3 options include:

- ON — Shows ID3 tag information on the display while a track is playing (default).
- OFF — Displays only the file name.

## CD ESP

The CD ESP (Electronic Shock Protection) feature controls how much music is buffered (stored in memory to prevent skipping) during CD playback.

	CD Audio	MP3/WMA
<b>LOW</b>	40 seconds	960 seconds
<b>HIGH</b>	160 seconds	

**NOTE: ESP is always active during MP3/WMA playback regardless of the CD ESP setting.**

## Treble

The Treble setting allows you to control the high frequency range of the sound spectrum from -7 (no treble) to +7 (maximum treble). The default value is 0. Press PLAY/PAUSE ►|| or STOP ■ to adjust the treble setting.

## Bass

The Bass setting allows you to control the low frequency range of the sound spectrum from -7 (no bass) to +7 (maximum bass). The default value is 0. Press PLAY/PAUSE ►|| or STOP ■ to adjust the bass setting.

## Defaults

The Defaults feature automatically resets all Menu options to their default settings. Default options include:

- Reset — Displays a confirmation screen (see below).
- Cancel — Leaves settings unchanged.

If Reset is selected, the Menu option displays "Confirm?" and a second set of confirmation options:

- Yes — Resets all Menu options to their default values.
- No — Leaves settings unchanged.

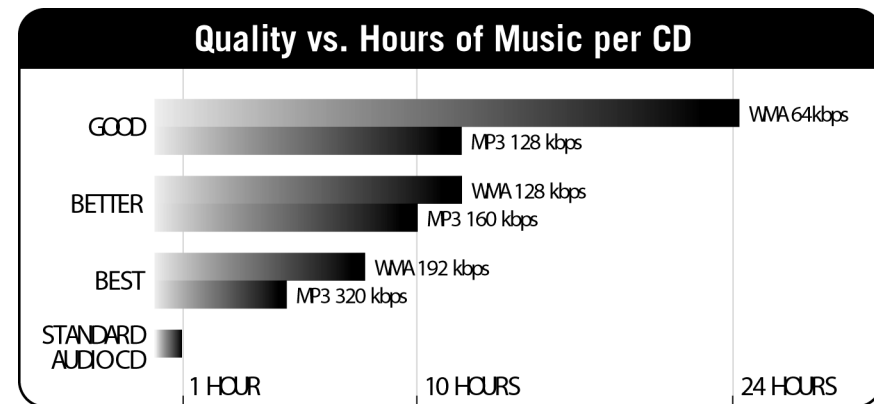
# Glossary of Digital Audio Terms

## Bass

Bass is the particular low-range area of the sound spectrum where low musical notes and sounds are located. Increasing the bass value will make the low vocals and drums more prominent in your music. Adjusting this level too high can cause distortion at high volumes in some music files.

## Bitrate

Bitrate denotes the number of bits per second used to represent a digital music file. The size and quality of a compressed digital audio file is determined by the bitrate used when encoding the file. The higher the bitrate used, the higher the sound quality, and the larger the file size. For example, with MP3, a bitrate of 128kbps (128,000 bits per second) is generally thought of as "CD quality", and takes up about 1 megabyte (MB) per minute of music. At a 64kbps bitrate, the sound quality is similar to that of an FM radio signal, but you can get approximately two minutes of music in that same 1MB of storage space. CD audio has a bitrate of 1.4Mbits per second (1,400,000 bits/second).



## Codec

Depending on the context and kind of technology involved, codec can be defined as a compressed digital audio file format (like MP3, WMA, and so on), a "coding/decoding" chip used to translate between digital and analog transmissions (used in modems), or a compression/decompression algorithm. Codecs compress audio data into a file, often for efficient transmission over a network, and then decode it for playback. While all the codecs perform similar compression of digital audio, there are differences in the technology.

The RioVOLT supports the following digital audio codecs:

- MP3
- WMA
- CD Audio ([Red Book](#))

**Encoding, or “ripping”**

Encoding, sometimes referred to as “ripping and encoding”, refers to extracting audio from a music CD (ripping), and converting it (encoding) into a compressed digital audio format like MP3 or WMA.

**ID3 Tag**

The ID3 tag is the part of the encoded MP3 file that contains information about the digital music file such as song title, artist, album title, encoding bitrate, track time duration, and so on.

**MP3**

MP3 is short for Moving Pictures Experts Group Audio Layer 3. MP3 is the most well known compressed digital audio file format. This format allows for near “CD quality” sound, but at a fraction of the size of normal audio files. MP3 conversion of an audio track from CD-ROM reduces the file size by approximately a 12:1 ratio with virtually no perceptible loss in quality. This digital sound encoding and compression process was developed by the Fraunhofer Institut fur Integrierte Schaltungen and Thomson Multimedia. MP3 compression removes the redundant and irrelevant parts of a sound signal that the human ear doesn't hear. The MP3 encoding process is well suited for the transfer of high quality audio files with small file size over the Internet.

**Red Book**

The specification for audio (CD-DA) compact discs.

**Treble**

Treble is the high notes of the sound spectrum. Increasing the treble value will raise the levels of the high sounds in your music files.

**VBR**

Variable Bitrate (VBR) encoding converts tracks at a variable rate, using higher bitrate encoding for complex portions and lower bitrate encoding for pauses in songs.

**WMA**

Windows Media Audio (WMA) is the compressed audio format created by Microsoft as an alternative to MP3. WMA offers greater file compression than MP3, enabling you to store more music on your PC or writable CDs.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### What type of CDs can I play with the RioVolt?

You can play CDs that have MP3 and/or WMA music files or you can play regular CD audio music discs.

### Can I mix CD Audio with MP3 and/or WMA files?

No. You can play either CD Audio discs or CDs with MP3 (and/or WMA) music content. They cannot be mixed together.

### Can I put both MP3 and WMA files on the same CD?

Yes. You can play a CD with both MP3 and WMA files and can choose tracks however you like.

### What are the differences between MP3 and WMA?

If you use the WMA format instead of the MP3 format, your files are at about one half the size. Since WMA offers a smaller file size than MP3, it enables you to store more music on your PC or on your writable CD. WMA files are exclusive to the PC.

### What is the maximum number of songs I can put on a single CD?

You can store up to 999 music tracks per CD depending on the size of the music tracks and the available space on your CD-R/RW.

### Will the RioVolt play Variable Bitrate (VBR) files?

There is no standard for VBR files, so we cannot guarantee that every encoding software package will properly function with the RioVolt. However, most VBR MP3 music files will play properly on your RioVolt.

### Where is the battery indicator on my RioVolt?

The battery indicator on the RioVolt is located in the top-right corner of the display. The segments in the battery icon show the remaining battery power. All three segments illuminated = a fully charged battery. Segments not illuminated = a run down battery. The battery indicator blinks when less than 20% battery life remains.

## What kind of skip protection is there on the RioVolt?

The RioVolt uses Electronic Shock Protection to help prevent skipping during playback. When playing MP3/WMA files, you get up to 960 seconds of skip protection. When playing Red Book Audio CDs, you have the option of up to 160 seconds of skip protection.

## How does skip protection work?

When the player first starts, a buffer is filled with the track data. The CD stops spinning, and the tracks continue to play out of memory, which helps conserve battery life. When about 30 seconds of time remains in the buffer, the CD will again spin up and refill the buffer. Note that during this time, if the RioVolt is jarred so that the buffer cannot be filled — for example, when jogging or riding a bicycle — then the player may begin to skip. You will need to let the buffer fill in order to have skip-free performance.

## How much playtime can I get from 2 AA batteries?

Playtime varies with battery type and music content. However, as a guideline the following applies: MP3/WMA CDs have up to 15 hours of music playtime. Audio CDs will have up to 9 hours of playtime with ESP on and 12 hours with ESP off.

## The CD seems to stop spinning during playback. Is this normal?

Yes, it is normal for the CD to stop spinning during playback. This is part of the skip protection and battery life protection. When the CD is stopped, the Riovolt plays songs from memory. This serves as absolute shock protection during this time, as the disc is not even spinning.



## Troubleshooting

<b>Problem</b>	<b>Solution</b>
<p>I am only able to fit 10-15 songs on a CD-R or CD-RW for my RioVolt.</p>	<p>If you are only able to fit 10-15 songs on a CD-R or CD-RW for use in your RioVolt, then it is likely you are creating the CD in audio or.wav format instead of data format. You should be able to fit hundreds of tracks onto one CD. Consult the documentation that came with your burning software for further assistance with this.</p>
<p>After creating a CD using DirectCD the RioVolt will not read it properly.</p>	<p>If the RioVolt is having trouble reading a CD created using DirectCD, make sure that the CD is formatted with compression OFF. If compression is ON, the RioVolt will not read the tracks properly. Check the documentation that came with your burning software for further assistance with this.</p>
<p>I am unable to power up the RioVolt. This happens when using new batteries or an AC power adapter (not included).</p>	<p>Be sure that the LOCK/UNLOCK switch on the RioVolt is set to UNLOCK. If the LOCK/UNLOCK switch is in the LOCK position, you will be unable to power up the unit. Place the LOCK/UNLOCK Switch to the UNLOCK position and press the PLAY/PAUSE button to power up the RioVolt.</p>
<p>The RioVolt is working with batteries, but when I plug in an AC adapter (not included) it does not work.</p>	<p>Be sure that the AC Adapter is plugged into the proper connection. You may be plugging the AC Adapter into the Line-out connector on the RioVolt. If you are still experiencing problems, be sure the LOCK/UNLOCK switch on RioVolt is set to UNLOCK.</p>

Problem	Solution
<p>My RioVOLT gives a "No Disk" error message when spinning up.</p>	<p>To resolve the "No Disk" error message, try the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure the CD is seated properly in the tray.</li> <li>• See if a standard audio CD functions properly.</li> <li>• Try a CD created with standard MP3/WMA files encoded at 128kbps, NOT variable bitrate (VBR) files.</li> <li>• Try burning to a different media or brand of media.</li> <li>• Try burning a CD from another CD burner.</li> <li>• See if burning at a slower rate (say 2x or slower) makes the files load properly.</li> <li>• Try closing the CD volume when you create the disc.</li> <li>• Try cleaning the lens with a cotton swab.</li> <li>• If you are using a Macintosh to burn your CDs, make sure the .mp3 extension is at the end of each file. Some versions of Mac software do not include this extension, and these files cannot be read by the RioVOLT.</li> </ul>
<p>I can't play my WMA files.</p>	<p>The RioVOLT does not read Secure WMA files. Secure WMA files are created to prevent theft and illegal copying of the files.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Windows Media Player, go to Tools &gt; Options.</li> <li>• On the CD Audio tab, un-check the "Enable Personal Rights Management" box.</li> <li>• Re-create the WMA files and burn them to CD. They should play fine on the RioVOLT.</li> </ul>

## Limited Warranty

### Our warranty to you

SONICblue Incorporated warrants that your product will be free from defects in materials and workmanship for a period of one year from the date of original retail purchase. SONICblue Incorporated warrants refurbished products, marked and sold as such, for ninety (90) days from the original purchase date. This warranty is extended to the original end user purchaser only and is not assignable or transferable to any other party.

### Product failures not covered by this warranty

This warranty does not cover damage caused by abuse, misuse, unauthorized attempts to open, modify, or repair the product, moisture, extreme heat or cold, corrosive environments, shipping, or high voltage surges from external sources such as power line, telephone line, or connected equipment. This warranty does not cover wear and tear on covers, housing or wiring. This warranty also does not apply to any product with an altered or defaced serial number.

### Remedies

If you discover a defect covered by this warranty, SONICblue Incorporated will repair or replace the product at our sole discretion using new or remanufactured product or components. SONICblue Incorporated's liability is limited solely to the repair or replacement of the defective product. If SONICblue Incorporated cannot reasonably repair or replace the defective product then SONICblue Incorporated may, at its sole discretion, refund the purchase price paid for the product. SONICblue Incorporated warrants any replaced or repaired product for a period of ninety (90) days from shipment, or through the end of the original warranty period, whichever is longer.

### How to obtain warranty service

To obtain service under this warranty, you must contact a SONICblue Incorporated Customer Care Center within the applicable warranty period to receive a warranty service authorization. You will be required to provide a dated original proof of purchase. Products shipped to SONICblue Incorporated must be shipped postage-paid and packaged appropriately for safe shipment. SONICblue Incorporated is not responsible for products received without a warranty service authorization and may be rejected. Repaired or replacement products will be shipped to you at SONICblue Incorporated's expense. All products or parts that are replaced become the property of SONICblue Incorporated.

### Limits of liability

SONICblue Incorporated's liability is limited to the repair or replacement of this product. In no event will SONICblue Incorporated be liable for any amount greater than the currently suggested retail price of this product. We will not be liable to you or anyone else for any damages that result from the failure of this product or from the breach of any express or implied warranties. These include damage to other equipment, lost data, lost profits, or any consequential, incidental, or punitive damages. This written warranty represents the entire warranty agreement between SONICblue Incorporated and you. This warranty is given in lieu of all other warranties, express or implied, including without limitation implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. This warranty is limited to the term specified above. No warranties, either express or implied, will apply after this period. This warranty may not be altered in any way other than in writing by an officer of SONICblue Incorporated. This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights, which vary, from state to state. Some states limit what warranties may be excluded as well as how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above limitation may not apply to you.

## Regulatory Information

### Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

- 1 This device may not cause harmful interference, and
- 2 This device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

NOTE: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

### Industry Canada

This Class B digital apparatus complies with Canadian ICES-003.

Cet appareil numérique de la classe B est conforme à la norme NMB-003 du Canada.

## Customer Care

<p><b>Web Site</b>  <a href="http://www.sonicblue.com/support">http://www.sonicblue.com/support</a></p>	
<p><b>E-mail</b>          customersupport@sonicblue.com</p>	
<p><b>Technical Support Telephone</b>          Call for answers to technical questions about your product.          (503) 453-1640</p>	<p><b>Customer Service Telephone</b>          Call for sales and general product information.          (800) 468-5846</p>
<p><b>Hours</b>          Please check the support Web site for the current hours of operation.</p>	

## Rio Product Support

**With every Rio product you receive the following support services:**

- Unlimited access to the Rio web-based technical information resources, available 24 hours a day every day at <http://www.sonicblue.com/support>. Here you will find FAQ files, product updates, and other useful information.
- Unlimited e-mail support for the duration of your Rio product hardware warranty period.
- Access to the latest software updates and enhancements for Rio products via our [Web site](#).



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