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Saturday, January 15, 2005

### DMC Xclef 500

I got my DMC Xclef 500 yesterday and, after a little bit of Googling, figured out how to set it up. Since no one appears to have anything on the net relating specifically to setting this up (I inferred from other documents), I thought I'd just mention the few easy steps I took on my Debian Linux box.

The options I needed in my kernel were to enable SCSI devices in general and SCSI hard drives in particular, USB mass-storage devices, and the DOS FAT filesystem. Once I had those ready to go, I simply mount `-t vfat /dev/sda1 /media/xclef`, though obviously your mount point will differ. I'm sure I could futz for a while and figure out how to mount it so that I don't have to be root to copy files onto the player, but I don't really care that much.

One note about potential buyers: it's really huge. If you're expecting an iPod or something, don't get this player. I love it already, without even having heard it yet, but it's large and not particularly light, mostly, I'd guess, because of the brilliant idea to make the thing with a standard laptop hard drive, thus making the swapping out of drives an easy, do-it-yourself proposition in case you want more space or a drive fries or something.

Posted by jason in Computer, Personal at 11:12

Hold down that stop button for ten seconds for an override function that'll shut down the player no matter what.

More info relevant on the player on these sites. Latest firmware updates, other Xclef owners, etc.

<http://openjukebox.free.fr/index.php>

<http://www.advancedmp3players.co.uk/forum/index.php?showforum=8>

Anonymous on Feb 17 2005, 02:30

I picked up my Xclef in November, and I really enjoy it. I shopped around extensively and talked to a lot of iPod and Zen people before choosing the Xclef--I like the ability of the Xclef to act not only as an mp3 player, but as a data storage device. I like that it will encode directly from a CD player, and that I can do voice recording. But perhaps the most compelling reasons to buy it was the fact that it uses standard laptop drives and thus can be upgraded easily. I also like the look--its not cutsy like the iPods, its nerdy--it reminds me of the hand-held arcade games I played with when I was a kid in the 80's.

The only drawback is that it froze on me every once in a while and I had to let the battery run down and re-charge before I could get it to do anything. And with the battery life of this gadget, that took a looong time :) I've since downloaded the patches to the firmware from the maker's website, and have been pleased as punch.

Anonymous on Feb 9 2005, 04:07

Thanks for the links, X!

Anonymous on Feb 17 2005, 08:53

Do you know if the Xclef 500 will recognize the track (ID3) tags in .WAV files? All my songs have been ripped from CDs into .WAVs. People think .WAVs can't contain ID3 tags, but they do. My Dell DJ recognizes them and displays them, but only if I use MusicMatch Jukebox to send the songs to it. Unfortunately, my Dell DJ is only 30 gig, and I've got enough songs to fill the 100-gig DMC Xclef 500. I'm gonna buy it regardless if it recognizes the song information. Thanks for your help.

Anonymous on Aug 14 2005, 09:04

On Tuesday August 1, 2006, Digital Mind Corporation removed the Xclef 500 and 800 (all capacities) from their catalogue of products.

I own 2 100-gig Xclef 500s, the oldest is about 10 months old. They both work fine. I've dropped the first one I bought a couple of times and it still works. Don't let me hold your newborn baby!

I'm sad DMC has given up the Xclef line.

The advice X gave here about pressing the Stop button helped me huge! I read his entry before I got my first player and I've never had a problem shutting the player down.

The ONLY time the Xclef has ever frozen up on me is when I press a button while the hard disk is being accessed to load a song (or more of the same song) into memory. Since the player has an icon that appears when the hard disk is being accessed, I now make sure that the icon isn't showing before I touch the buttons. However, sometimes you'll press a button and the icon will suddenly appear coincidentally and THAT'S when it will freeze.

By the way, forget playlists with the Xclef 500. Song filenames are truncated after so many (I never counted) letters and any playlist you use must contain the truncated filenames. This is stupid because a LOT of songs have long titles (especially in classical) or long

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artist names.

Anonymous on Aug 2 2006, 03:21