

And you can take them with you...

Pictures: Eric Watson

Cassette machines. Radios. Hi-fi's. TV's. There are masses of them on the market — all shapes, sizes and prices. You can even get all four in one system. And best of all, they're portable. We asked eleven music people, never known to step outdoors without some kind of musical accompaniment, to test drive some of the latest technology on the market.



Laughing in the face of traffic, middle-of-the-road group **Bananarama** are toting a range of light but hardy hi-tech. Siobhan (left) handles a JVC stereo cassette recorder with a detachable centre that converts into a portable for headphones. "I like the colour, it's beautiful." She'd "like this model very much" for all her compilation tapes made up of dance records. Better than the battered £30 Walkman she's got at the moment.

Keren (centre) has a Panasonic stereo cassette with two pairs of headphones. "Perfect. Me and Sarah have got one that we plug into and groove down the road together. It's really like being in a film with a soundtrack."

And Sarah's got a Panasonic cassette player radio with a Panasonic mini centre that, like Siobhan's, clicks out of its loudspeaker base. "Great to carry around with you" for, in her case, the playing of "heavy dub reggae".

What more blessed relief from the tedium of Arctic life than a Sharp Play-Disc Stereo system? Such an item has fallen into the hands of **Lee Dury** of **Eraserhead** who reckons it's "a bit heavy but it would be handy to have indoors and move from room to room".

It plays 7" and 12" discs, gauges them automatically, and includes a stereo radio. What records would he use to raise the temperature a little? "Our stuff — **Eraserhead**. And early rock 'n' roll and **The Ramones** and a group I really like called **Spyder**."

