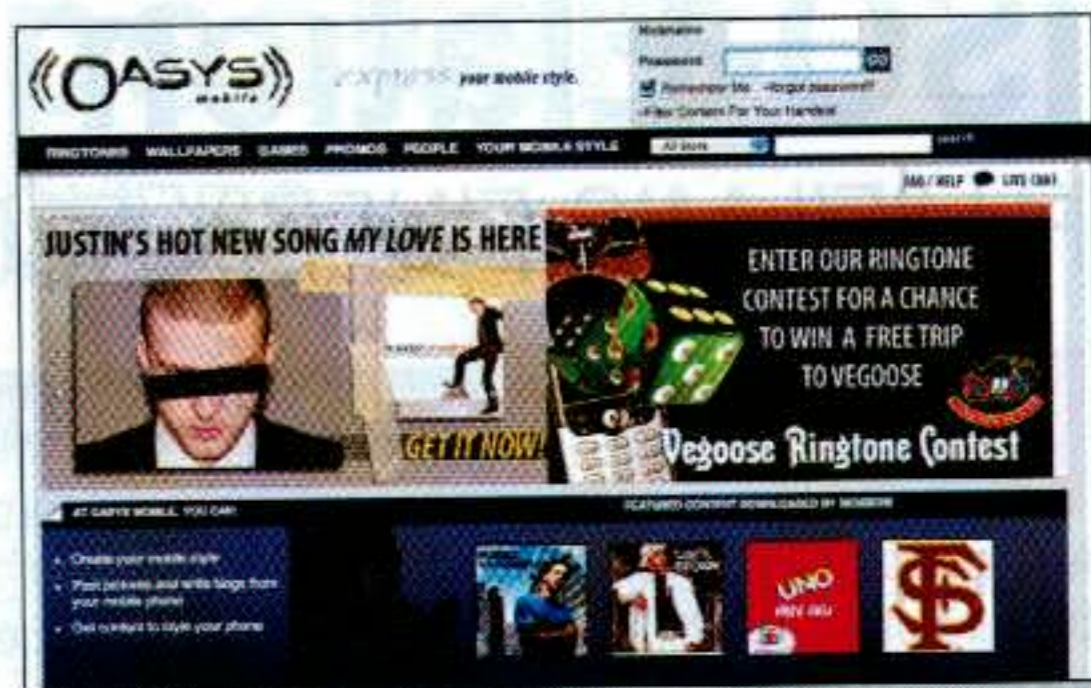


WEB

Oasys Mobile > \$2.99 for each true tone

Tell me this doesn't drive you nuts: You spend \$30 downloading ringtones to your cell phone, only to lose it, break it, have it stolen or simply buy a new phone, and you lose everything you paid for. Oasys Mobile feels that pain and offers a service to relieve it: a virtual locker where you store everything you buy—ringtones, wallpaper and games—so you can reupload it to a new phone when you get one. The cost is the same for the tones you buy from your wireless carrier: \$2.99 for true tones (actual songs), and \$.99 for polyphonic tones (keyboard versions of the songs). The system works simple enough. You buy credits using a credit card online, then scroll through the library and choose the files you want to get. When you buy the song, it is immediately sent, via SMS message, to your cell phone. After you play the message, save the song as a ringtone. The service isn't perfect. It asked me to upgrade and purchase additional credits a little too often for my taste and the preview link for listening to the tone before you download didn't work all the time on my office iMac (using both Safari and Firefox Web browsers). Fortunately, my home PC played the links just fine. After using the service, it's clear I'll never waste money buying ringtones from my wireless carrier again.—Brian Ploskina

www.oasysmobile.com



Nintendo DS

New Super Mario Bros. > \$34.99

One can only imagine how careful the designers of the New Super Mario Bros. were to protect the franchise. This wasn't just a Mario spin-off, like Mario Kart. The New SMB is essentially a remake of the original game, only it's been redesigned to incorporate new characters and new abilities for old characters. If you were a fan of the old game, you'll find yourself right at home on the new version for the handheld DS. Goombas and Koopa Troopas abound while you search for coins and of course the hopeless Princess Peach, who has been kidnapped, once again and taken to a castle in a far away world, waiting for Mario to rescue her. There are a lot more enemies than you faced before,



including Dry Bones, little skeletons who crumble when you jump on them but come back to life seconds later. Just like the original, there are a lot of secret places to find where you'll receive extra coinage and more lives to expend. The Wi-Fi capabilities of the DS allow you to play in competitive mode, where one player plays as Luigi. Be careful. This is an addictive game and, with all

the secret treasures, you could spend days searching through just one of the worlds in it.—BP

mario.nintendo.com

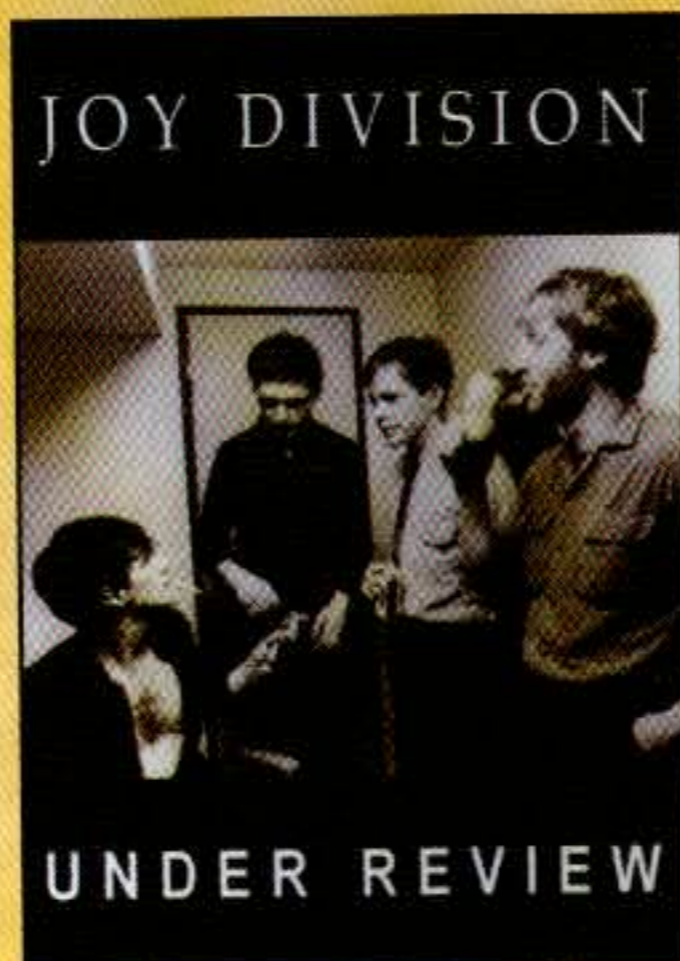
DVD Movie

Joy Division Under Review > \$19.95

Fans of punk, goth and emo music trends have all been affected by the vibes Joy Division, started back in the late 70s. This DVD isn't so much a profile of the Manchester-based band as it is an examination of what made them tick and why they had so much influence over later groups. Though they only existed a short time (Joy Division ended after the suicide of the group's singer), their impact can be heard today in popular groups like Interpol, The Killers and many others.

This 70-minute DVD is comprised of interviews with music journalists and pop culture commentators combined with old footage and band interviews. Much of the discussion focuses on singer Ian Curtis and his enigmatic presence as well as the demons that came in his arresting lyrics. The progression of the story relies heavily on video interviews with the authors of *Torn Apart: The Life of Ian Curtis*, which tends to make the DVD a bit too Curtis-heavy at the expense of the other band members. While contemporary interviews look good, some of the older footage is barely watchable, and looks several generations old. The soundtrack is stereo, though much of the old performance footage was probably recorded in mono.

Extras include an audio interview with Curtis and an interactive Joy Division quiz.



PC Software

Adobe Photoshop/Premiere Elements 5.0/3.0 Bundle > \$149

This package brings together two of the best home user applications for digital images and digital video today. For the past few years, the Elements versions of Adobe's imaging and video software have done a very effective job and giving average users pro-level results without the pro-level complications. This combination offers home movie makers and shutterbugs a great suite of tools. Using the two means you don't have to learn a whole new environment when you switch from still image editing to video editing.

New to Photoshop Elements 5.0 this year are a number of features to make your photo tasks go faster. The Photo Downloader speeds up transfer of images from your camera or card, and it now also is compatible with cell phone cameras. As you download, the Auto Grouping feature can automatically tag and group your photos, making them easier to find later on.

A few new fine tuning tools help to improve pictures. The lens distortion tool helps correct problems around an image's edges while the new sharpening tool does a fairly good job of salvaging blurry pictures taken in low light. There are also more printing and burning options for creating album pages, cards, DVDs etc.

On the video side, Premiere 3.0 has added a few new features and made existing ones more interesting by adding new transitions, titles editors and special effects. It also now supports high definition footage from the growing list for HDTV camcorders as well as low res video from a cell phone. There's a new Sceneline view for creating movies which lets you drag, drop and rearrange scenes easier. A new voice narration feature lets you give your home movies a cool documentary effect.

www.adobe.com

