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RADIO WAVES

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Ah, the pain of love! Owners of iPods and other digital players, which can be loaded up with radio programs, need good headphones -- especially when they're in a noisy environment (like, say, an airplane or a BART car). The answer could be Shure's in-ear E4c or noise-canceling phones, like Bose's QuietComfort, but they're \$299 a pair, and that's a lot of stuffing for any stocking (right now, Bose is including a portable CD player in the price, at bose.com/q4217). So: how about \$69 for the **ProTech Noisebuster**, which, like the Bose, reduces unwanted low-frequency background noise, and weighs only 5.1 ounce, to Bose's 6.9? How about \$50, which is the online price (noisebuster.net) through year's end? Radio Waves loves to save you money

For Top 40 history fans, there's the DVD of "Radio Revolution: The Rise and Fall of the Big 8," all about the "Boss Radio" station, CKLW in Windsor, Ontario, which dominated the Detroit radio scene in the '60s and '70s, and whose music director, Rosalie Trombley, became one of the most important hitmakers of her time. Fascinating stuff. More info at radiorevolutiondvd.com ... And compilation CDs make perfect stocking stuffers. Besides KKSF's 16th AIDS Relief Sampler and Alice@97.3's set of live recordings, "This Is Alice Music," there's KFOG's 12th edition of "Live From the Archives." The series is so popular that the latest issue is probably all over eBay already. Locally, it's available from Tower Records and via tower.com. Sales benefit the San Francisco Food Bank, and artists include Ray LaMontagne, the John Butler Trio, Amos Lee, Madeleine Peyroux and Jamie Cullum.