

## IT'S PLAYBACK TIME FOR DIGITAL BOOKS

BY MARK PRIGG TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

Digital audiobooks will go on sale in Britain for the first time today.

The cigarette pack-sized players contain the spoken text of a single book - up to 40 hours long. Listeners can alter the playback speed and the gadgets automatically remember where you have read up to.

Christopher Celeste of inventors Findaway said they will be perfect for commuters: 'It's for people who aren't ready to make the leap to an iPod, but who don't want to pick up a book.'

Around 70 titles will be available online, including the works of Shakespeare. Flagship titles are expected to sell for around £19. The **books** have been a huge success in America. There is also a scheme to return the player and have a new book loaded at half-price.