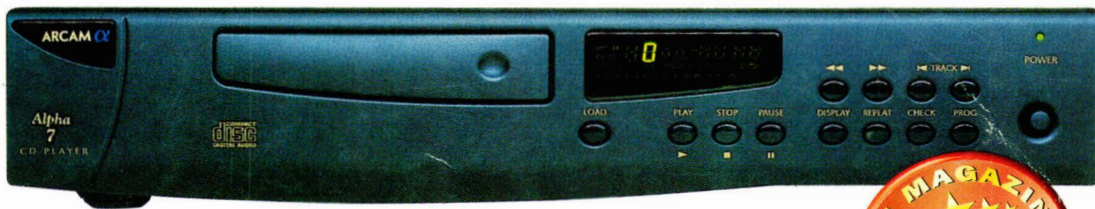


HI-FI CHOICE

WIN!
Sanyo and Sharp
Prizes worth £3,000!

THE FINEST HI-FI MAGAZINE IN THE WORLD



ULTIMATE CD PLAYERS

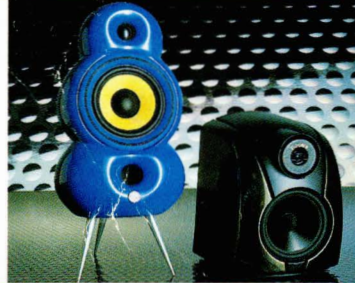
We pick Britain's best sounding CD players from £140 to £3,290!



PLUS: MORE KIT INSIDE!



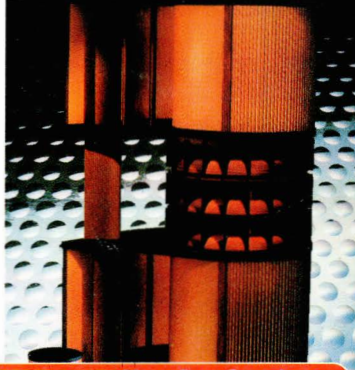
RATED Best Buy Super Systems



STUNNING Must-Hear Speakers



ESSENTIAL Phones With Style!



REVEALED! New Age Speakers

Buyer's Guide

Our experts name the best hi-fi 3,000 Products ● 400 Star Buys

9 770955 111014 02 >

FEBRUARY 1997 £2.99

Concert



**The Jamo Concert Series.
HEAR...SEE...RELAX & ENJOY...**

Advanced technology, innovative design and refined workmanship is not always the perfect recipe for success, we believe a little more is required.

The Concert series has enabled Jamo to produce a range of loudspeakers which will reproduce music that is clean and neutral. The dynamic range transparency and sound stage are all raised to a higher dimension.

The successes attained by the Jamo development team is the result of efforts to design high-quality loudspeaker components which are critically matched to one another.

It is an honour for us to introduce this new generation of loudspeakers to you...

... **Jamo Concert 11, Jamo Concert 8 and Jamo Concert Center.**

THE SOUND OF EXCELLENCE - Made in Denmark.

Jamo® "THE
SOUND
OF
EXCEL-
LENCE"

JAMO UK Ltd, 5 Faraday Close, Drayton Fields, Daventry, Northants NN11 5RD Phone: 01327 / 301 300, Fax: 01327 / 300 511
International enquiries: JAMO A/S, P.O. Box 220, DK-7870 Glyngøere, Denmark, Phone: +45 99 76 76 76, Fax: +45 97 73 20 75
Web page: <http://www.jamospeakers.com> E-mail: speakers@jamo.dk

Editor's Notebook

Stan Vincent gets all hot under the collar about hi-fi poseurs, and sings the praises of the airwaves.



The last few years have witnessed a trend of spiralling excesses. Not long ago, gratuitous displays of wealth were frowned upon, but this was no less a fashion fad than the current vogue for flaunting it. In America, naturally, they have already coined a term for this backlash against asceticism: 'pleasure revenging'. No surprise, then, that in so many ways the wave of excess visible in Britain today stems directly from our dollar-crazed cousins.

Naturally there is a hi-fi angle on all this. From where does most stratospherically-priced 'high-end' equipment originate? Why, the good ol' US of A. *Stereophile*, the American magazine which is the high-end's stamping ground, is awash with the stuff; *AV Interiors*, the *Hello!* magazine of the US home-cinema world, likewise groans under the weight of THX, home automation and leather settees galore. In a strange way this audio-visual excess seems appropriate to the States, in the same way that stretch-limos blend perfectly with the Yanks' streets and sidewalks. The problem, however, with hi-fi as much as cars, occurs when you transplant exotic foreign species and expect them to take root on more austere British soil. Like the worst kind of expatriate visitors, foreign artefacts live up to all the worst stereotypes assumed of them in their country of emigration.

It's all about attitude. In America people buy big cars and big hi-fis simply because that's what they were put on God's earth to do. (Although there seems to be a healthy US underground movement trumpeting the virtues of stripped-down British hi-fi over and above the more extravagant local variety.) In the UK, our inferiority complex starts with US-saturated TV programmes

and filters down into our buying decisions. In an ideal world, as I have suggested in this column previously,

one selects the best tool to do the job, and in musical terms that means good-quality hi-fi equipment. But one shouldn't take a sledgehammer to crack a nut, and I deplore those who invest in hi-fi for its macho appeal — as a sop to their egos, not a soother to their sounds — as much as I despise those who never buy hi-fi in the first place.

Get your priorities right!

What set me off on this tack was the result of our gigantic CD player test this month, which you'll find reported from page 50 onwards. There, as you'll see, we've listened to 20 players priced from the sublime to the ridiculous, under blind conditions, in an attempt to answer the eternal question "...but is hi-fi really worth that much money?" Regrettably, the answer is "it may be", but our findings indicate that a high price is no guarantee of sound quality. All you can be sure of is something that looks big, metallic and macho...

The question of hi-fi profligacy leads inevitably to the amount of electrical energy needed to operate a system. Again, this is an area where posturing outweighs pragmatism. When there is growing evidence by the day that we are burning up our future by sucking too much juice out of the wall, don't you agree that your system should be as energy efficient as possible? And do you really need to leave everything on 24 hours a day, seven days a week? I well remember my physics teacher intoning that heat was the most useless form of energy, and you should give that maxim some thought if your Class A amp is cooking idly in the corner.

However, even if we're not prepared to compromise on power requirements, there may be a conscience-salve in sight. Solar power is being taken increasingly seriously as an alternative to fossil-fuelled electricity. More importantly it might improve sound at the same time! I say this without a shred of technical evidence, merely a hunch that since so many evils are attributed to mains-borne interference, surely one's own solar farm would be a boon for pristine sound. The technology's available and affordable right now. The environmental organisation Greenpeace recently toured the country

demonstrating a kitchen chock-full of electrical gadgetry, which operated happily from solar panels generating two kW of power. If any hi-fi enthusiasts have actually experimented with alternative energy sources such as this, I'd be interested to hear from them.

The art of procrastination

The pre-Christmas health-guilt complex has bitten with a vengeance, so to improve my sorry state of fitness I resolved to start walking in to work. I would need two tools for this job: a pair of stout walking shoes, and a radio to keep me company. Regrettably it will take some time before I acquire the shoes, but I have managed to secure a radio from my friends at Aiwa: their dinky little CR-DS15 model (£42.99), which offers AM/FM reception, enough presets to store my favourite stations, and a speaker for use without headphones. Regrettably, because I just haven't managed to acquire those shoes yet, I have been reduced to testing the radio on the bus. Being a headphone pedant I'm using a pair of Grado SR80 headphones in place of the flimsy little in-ear jobs supplied, and the £110 Grados have revealed surprisingly full-bodied, detailed sound from the radio itself. Inevitably, walking around London incurs numerous glitches of distortion and noise to mar reception, but I would rather listen to the radio than some mangy old cassette tape any day.

I mention this only because a radio is the ideal way to wind down after hard days in the office, which is what we've been enduring to ensure you get your copy of *Hi-Fi Choice* on time. I only hope you enjoy reading it! Listen to some great music this month, and please accept the very best wishes for 1997 from all of us here.

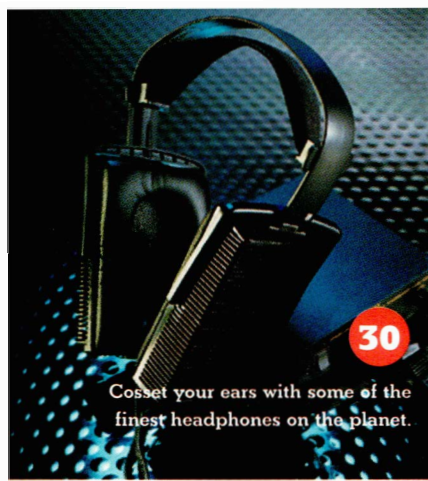
Stan Vincent



We were honoured to be voted Hi-Fi Magazine Of The Year at the CETI Industry Awards, Harrogate, May 1996.

Hi-Fi Choice is the UK hi-fi magazine representative of the European Imaging & Sound Association (EISA). Every year EISA awards the finest hi-fi and home cinema products throughout Europe.



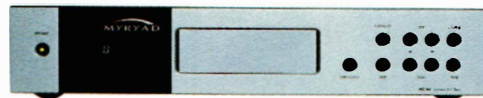


30

Cosset your ears with some of the finest headphones on the planet.



50 Just three of the 20 — count 'em! — CD players reviewed this month!



8

Not all systems are equal, but we have two synergistic combos in this month's Instant Systems!

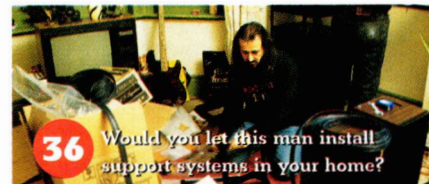
CONTENTS



Rogers DB101s do battle with a batch of designer desirables in our stylish speaker review!

40

FEBRUARY 1997 ISSUE 163



36

Would you let this man install support systems in your home?

REGULARS

6 Update

Our rabid news-hounds are foaming at the mouth to bring you the latest tales from the forest of hi-fi.

8 Instant Systems

Richard Black delves into the complexities of system synergy and comes up with a pair of very entertaining set-ups.

19 Write On!

Your chance to become the William Shakespeare of hi-fi. Send your audio sonnets in iambic pentameter, please.

20 Statements

Jason Kennedy gets bass-ic and moves plenty of air with the vast subwoofer for the astounding Living Voice *Airscout* horns.

22 Help!

Armed with spanner, soldering iron and hot-to-trot keyboard, we discover the cures to all your hi-fi related ills.

36 Inspirations

We follow one of our lucky competition winners as he gets a brand-new system installed by Mana Acoustics. At the same time, Jason Kennedy sits around and drinks tea.

WIN!WIN!WIN!

Sharp MiniDisc systems, personals and portables!

OPINION**3 From the Editor's Notebook**

Our beloved leader Stan Vincent talks about all things hi-fi — and then, like all good leaders, annexes the Sudetenland.

13 The Jimmy Hughes Experience

Jimmy goes straight to the motherlode of all listening — the ear. Find out how to audiologically improve your listening pleasure.

15 Paul Miller's Oasis of Sanity

This month, Paul Miller takes a break from measurement to talk about the trials and tribulations of blind listening tests, the heart of *Hi-Fi Choice's* reviews.

17 Personal Messages

Paul Messenger speaks the truth about loudspeakers large and small, thick and thin.

138 Ultra Vivian Scene

David Vivian has discovered that hi-fi has reached Kent at last — well, at least there's a new shop in Maidstone.

REVIEWS**30 High-end Headphones**

With his specially-shaped head and ears, Alvin Gold is curiously well-adapted for headphone listening. Gasp as he throws down the jam on the latest top-class cans.

40 Designer Speakers

David Vivian gets stylish with the latest designer loudspeakers from manufacturers far and wide. Do they sound as cool as they look?

50 CD Players

Paul Miller guides the blind listening panel through the world of digital audio, with no less than 20 exciting new CD players, ranging from under £150 to over £3,000.

READER SERVICES**26 Subscriptions**

Subscribe to *Hi-Fi Choice* and discover the answers to many secrets, including the location of the lost city of Atlantis — perhaps.

103 Readers' Classified

Buy, sell or trade a bargain today in our portfolio of well-loved, pre-owned hi-fi products.

128 Factsback

The ultra-quick way to access classic *Hi-Fi Choice* articles and reviews.

137 Next Month & Who's Who

Find out what's going on in March's *Hi-Fi Choice*, and find out who's to blame for this one.

THE BUYER'S GUIDE**104 How To Buy**

Daunted by the prospect of buying a system? Fear not: expert advice is at hand to help you make the right decisions.

105 The Price Guide/Directory

A complete listing of all new hi-fi products on the market, and an easy-to-use almanac of every component we have reviewed.

WIN!WIN!WIN!

£2,000 worth of Sanyo AV equipment must be won this month!

**PRODUCTS FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE**

Arcam Alpha 7.....	52
Arcam Alpha 8.....	53
Audiolab 8000CDM.....	56
Audio Research CD1.....	57
Aura CA200.....	10
Aura PA100.....	10
B&W DM305.....	8
Blue Room Minipods.....	41
Cambridge Audio CD4SE.....	61
Copland CDA-288.....	63
Denon DCD-3000.....	65
Grado SR 225.....	31
Harman-Kardon HK620.....	8
Jamo Deco Art.....	44
Kenwood DP-7090.....	67
Living Voice Airscout.....	20
Living Voice RW24.....	20
Marantz CD17 KI Signature.....	10
Meridian 508.....	69
Mission dAD3.....	71
Musical Fidelity FCD.....	73
Myryad MC-100.....	75
Naim CD2.....	77
Philips CD721.....	8
Pioneer PD-S705.....	79
Precide Ergo Model 2.....	33
Quad 77.....	81
Rogers db101.....	44
Roksan DP3P.....	83
Rotel RCD-970BX.....	85
Sennheiser HE60/HEV70.....	34
Sherwood CD1.....	87
Solid Classic Monitor.....	43
Sony CDP-XE300.....	89
Sony MDR CD-1700.....	34
Sound/Bass/Power Bites.....	45
Stax Lambda Nova Basic.....	35
Tannoy D100.....	10
TEAC VRDS-25.....	91

Update

KEEP YOUR EYES GLUED TO THE SCREEN AS THIS FACT-PACKED BULLETIN BRINGS YOU THE LATEST HI-FI HAPPENINGS

In brief

The 'Mana Effect' has begun to spread to the recording industry. The recent *Broken China* CD by Pink Floyd's keyboard player Rick Wright has been produced using Mana's professional equipment tables. These support key items in the recording chain and have made a Mana convert of top record producer, James Guthrie. ☎ (0181) 429 0118

Silvernote has a new series of interconnect cables called *Coppernote*. Prices range from £29 to £69 and there are three models. Silvernote is also sponsoring a new quarterly magazine called *Ultra High Fidelity* aimed at the DIY and vintage audio enthusiast. ☎ (01992) 620905

North London hi-fi dealer Grahams Hi-Fi has just announced later evening demonstrations. Traditionally Grahams Hi-Fi has opened until 6pm from Tuesday to Saturday. This has been extended to 7pm on Thursday evenings. ☎ (0171) 226 5500

Origin Live has three new loudspeakers. The *Resolution* at £732 is a bookshelf monitor, the *Sovereign* at £975 is a floor-stander and the *Conqueror* at £1,650 is a three-way floor-stander. All three employ large radius-curved edges and are available in cherry and mahogany. Another common feature is a tuning system for integration into a variety of placements and rooms. ☎ (01703) 442183



JVC has launched its 'home-cinema audio' line with the £350 AX-V8BK Dolby Pro-Logic

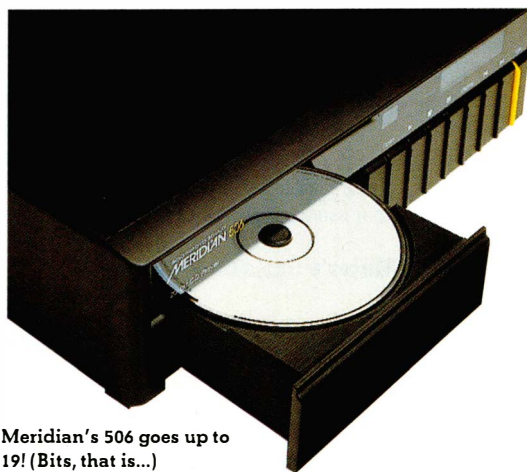
A fistful of bits

Technology king Meridian Audio, in a burst of pre-Christmas activity, has launched a 20-bit version of the 506 CD player, and a new monoblok amp, the 505.

The 506 has been honed to take advantage of discs with an effective dynamic range of 19 bits, which are being produced with the company's own 618 professional mastering processor. The new £1,100 506 uses the same Crystal DAC as the 508, but without the re-clocking or stabilised master oscillator. Within its case you'll find a carbon-and-glass-fibre anti-vibration disc clamp, and a high-speed three-beam laser pick-up.

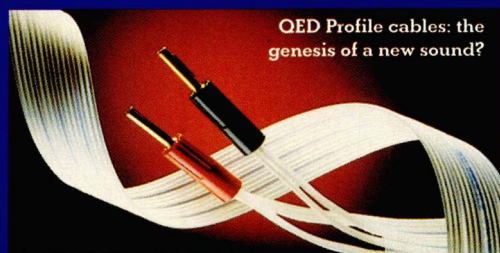
The 506 also incorporates a proprietary processing system that de-jitters the data being abstracted from the disc before it is decoded.

The £795 505 power amp is a 160 Watt monoblok device that's designed to partner Meridian's 501, 502, 541 or 562A preamps. The company claims it will deliver in excess of 30 amps, meaning that few if any loudspeaker loads should cause it discomfort. It provides both balanced and regular inputs. ☎ (01480) 434334



Meridian's 506 goes up to 19! (Bits, that is...)

Selling cable by the pound



Cable and accessory specialist QED has launched the *Profile* series of loudspeaker cables. Produced to combine the qualities of thin solid core and thick multi-strand topologies, the *Profile* series is the result of QED's *Genesis* report. This is not, it would seem, an investigation into the activities of Messrs Collins, Rutherford and Banks, but a comprehensive study of the effects of cables on hi-fi systems.

The resulting *Profile* range bears a passing resemblance to the high-priced Nordost cables, and comprises small bundles of multi-strand conductors arranged in a flat array. There are two *Profile* models: the *4x4* (at £9/m) features four copper conductors for signal and return, while *Silver 12* (at £15/m) benefits from silver-plated OFHPC (oxygen-free high purity copper) in its six cores per conductor. ☎ 01276) 451166

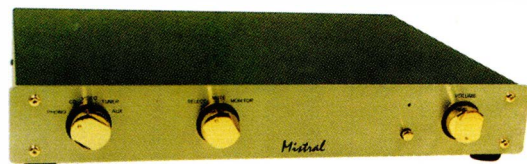
Down by the sea

Just blown in from Clacton is a new range of entry-level amplifiers from LFD Audio. The *Mistral* range includes integrated, power, pre and phono amps with prices well below £500. Derived from the company's *Zero* range, the *Mistral*'s notable points are an aluminium and stainless-steel construction, with specially-designed components within.

The *Mistral Integrated* (£449) is a 50 Watt MOSFET affair, with point-to-point wiring, a "meticulously-laid-out" circuit board, star earthing, and separate power supplies for input and output stages. This feature, combined with a high-current-output capability, means that few speakers will cause this amp any concern. The *Phonostage* (£299) accepts moving-magnet and high-output moving-coil cartridges, and is claimed to offer a dynamic but smooth sound by virtue of its multiple hybrid active/passive power supplies.

The *Mistral Line* and *Powerstage* pre/power amps cost £449 apiece, with the *Linestage* featuring dual-mono construction, and the *Powerstage* offering an ultra-low impedance output by virtue of its multiple-capacitor PSU. ☎ (01255) 422533

LFD Mistral range blows in from the coast.



Yorkshire's finest decamps to Huntingdon

Modus Mid-Field Monitors, new from Wharfedale.



Yorkshire's best-loved loudspeaker company has just moved its head office — to Cambridgeshire! Wharfedale speakers will continue to be produced in the land of black pudding and Geoff Boycott, but Verity-owned Wharfedale's new office is at 30 St. Peters Road, Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 7DG, the former premises of Verity-acquired company Quad.

Wharfedale's latest product line is the *Modus Mid-Field Monitor* series. These new models are designed to appeal to the more traditional hi-fi enthusiast. There are four models in the range: the two-way stand-mounted *mfm1* at £249.95, the £349.95 two-way floorstanding *mfm3*, the £449.95 *mfm5* that adds a passive radiator to the *mfm3* package, and the £649.95 *mfm7*, which is a three-way floorstander with a passive radiator. Each speaker uses the same horn-loaded silk-fabric dome tweeter, mineral-loaded homopolymer bass driver, and proprietary 'Audio Stealth' mouldings throughout. ☎ (01480) 431737

Tannoy's big box bonanza

Tannoy is the latest member of the 'will-you-look-at-the-size-of-that-speaker-and-how-little-it-costs' club. The Tannoy *Mercury M2* offers 380x203x270mm of box for the paltry sum of £140, thanks to Hungarian manufacture. This makes it a larger and £9 cheaper proposition than Tannoy's current budget baby, the *631*. *M2* is wood-built throughout and packs a hefty six-and-a-half inch paper-cone main driver plus one-inch soft-dome tweeter.

Front baffle finishes are cherry or grey birds' eye maple; sensitivity is 88dB at eight Ohms. ☎ (01236) 420199

Akai trumpets DVD début

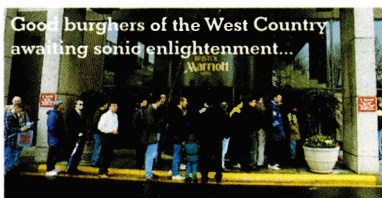


Wow! A DVD player! All we need is software...

Akai will be launching its DVD player, the *DV-P1000*, at the end of January in Japan, and to the rest of the world in April. The first non-DVD consortium company to launch a player for this new audio/video format, Akai's is only the fourth player to be announced.

Due to retail for 80,000 ¥en (approx £500) the *DV-P1000* incorporates MPEG 2/Dolby AC-3 surround processing and a multi-angle function that allows viewpoint switching within the image. This is alongside the standard DVD features such as multi-language and captioning, not to mention compatibility with conventional CDs and PC data formats. ☎ (0181) 897 6388

Goin' down to Bristol



Good burghers of the West Country awaiting sonic enlightenment...

More than 100 hi-fi brands are forecast to appear at the Sound & Vision Bristol hi-fi show, due to be held at the Bristol Marriott Hotel, Lower Castle Street, from 21st-23rd February 1997.

At this 10th anniversary event, organised by dealers Audio Excellence and Audio T, key manufacturers present will include Arcam, Audiolab, B&W, Denon, KEF, Linn, Marantz, Mission-Cyrus, NAD, Pioneer, Teac and Yamaha.

There will be numerous new product launches, among which a preview of Meridian's prototype DVD player, the *586*, is sure to be a major draw.

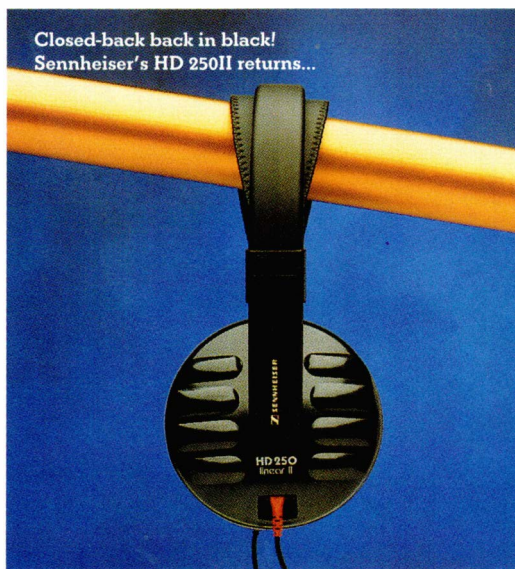
The show will be open from 11.00am-6.00pm the first day, 10.00am-6.00pm the second, and 10.00am-5.00pm the third. For further details call ☎ (01222) 398201 or ☎ (01865) 742194.

THE BRISTOL SHOW

Closed back attack

Due to unprecedented demand Sennheiser has reintroduced the *HD 250II* closed-back headphones. Retailing at £149.95, the *HD 250II* features neodymium iron magnets, triple-wound CCAW voice coils and 99.99 per cent pure OFC leads with Kevlar strengthening strands.

The *HD 250II* returns to Sennheiser's product roster after a two-year sabbatical. ☎ (01628) 850811



Closed-back back in black!
Sennheiser's HD 250II returns...

In brief

amplifier which incorporates DAP (digital acoustics processor). This is a variation on the digital soundfield processing theme instigated by Yamaha. The JVC amp accepts four video and four audio inputs (including phono) and is remote controlled. ☎ (0181) 450 3282

Sovtek has produced its own version of the legendary *300B* triode valve. Claimed to outperform all current brands as well as the legendary *Western Electric* model, Sovtek's version will retail for £73. ☎ (01273) 220511



Tubistor is a 'revolutionary' new audio amplification device said to combine the sonic strengths of valves and transistors. Created by the American Tomorrows Research Today company, the *Tubistor* is claimed to sound like a tube but with the practicality and economy of solid-state devices. It's also claimed suitable for substitution into existing solid state circuits. ☎ (00 1 619) 724 8999

Kudos has a new budget speaker stand called the *Arrow*. A three-column design, this £50 stand can be sand filled and is supplied with floor spikes and optional top plates, with and without spikes. ☎ (01903) 750750

RockBase v2 for Windows is a 'comprehensive' database of 337,000 records (ie CDs, LPs, cassettes etc) from over 43,000 artists. This £34 CD rom has information on recordings and artists going back to 1952, with search facilities to locate information by artist, album or single track. ☎ (01895) 444603

Linn Products has a new mono amplifier called the *LK240*. Priced at £750, this DC-coupled design can accommodate active crossover modules and pumps out 125 Watts into 8 Ohms. Its name derives from the 240 Watt output it will deliver into Linn-style four Ohm speakers. ☎ (0141) 307 7777

"Affordable" Classé

Classé Audio has introduced two new products retailing at £1,895.

The *CAP-100* is a 100 Watt, line-only design with balanced inputs, four regular inputs, divisible pre/power amps. and an aluminium remote control. £200 buys a plug-in phono stage.

CDP.5 is a cut-down Classé *CDP-1*, incorporating *Burr-Brown* 20-bit DACs and an *HDCD* decoding facility. Digital output is via an *AES/EBU* balanced socket; analogue via balanced and single-ended outputs. ☎ (0181) 947 5047

Mixing 'n' Matching

Richard Black spends quality time with two more separates systems getting the review treatment. Which components are really compatible?

For the second instalment of *Instant Systems*, two very different systems come under scrutiny. In the budget one, the amp and CD player together cost about the same as the speakers, the whole lot coming in at £730. The more expensive system, at just under £3,400, features speakers costing only one fifth of the whole, fed from a £1,300 CD player; not such a common way to distribute the budget, perhaps, but it proved exceptionally interesting. If nothing else, this exercise showed that Rule Number One in system building is that there is no Rule Number One — sometimes the results of quite improbable pairings can be quite remarkable.

It's always worth mentioning just why system matching is such an important part of hi-fi selection. In fact I believe that it can be overdone, and there is a sense in which a component is either good or bad, full stop. But if one remembers that the 'best' hi-fi is really the 'least bad', or perhaps more kindly 'least compromised', it does follow sensibly enough that matching a set of compromises to obtain a palatable whole is not a bad idea. And don't forget the personal factor either: apart from the unknown surroundings of your listening room, which will never be quite the same as any reviewer's or retailer's, there is the question of what sort of music you play and what sorts of flaws really bug you.

At *Hi-Fi Choice* we're here to give you as much help as possible, and selecting compatible systems is a part of that. At the very least, we hope this and similar reviews will give you a good place to start with your own system building.

SYSTEM A

Philips CD721	£129.99
Harman/Kardon HK620	£249.99
B&W DM305	£349.95
Total (excl. cables, stands, etc.)	£729.93

The components

In Issue 159, Philips' CD721 got an 'obvious Best Buy' recommendation, and at its very modest price (which includes a remote control) it seems as good a place as any to start with CD. Purists will throw up their hands in horror at the captive, no-quality output cable, but worse things happen; I've found more wire of similar quality inside



some very expensive audio. The CD721's biggest single virtue is that it demonstrably doesn't sound cheap in the way some £100-odd CD players do, with their nasty, spitty treble and coarse midrange. High end it ain't, but it's never less than well-behaved.

Harman/Kardon's HK620 was selected from amplifiers reviewed in issue 162, where it too was awarded a Best Buy. H/K seems to have had quite a good line in cheap and not-so-cheap amplifiers in recent years, and I still sometimes haul out my HK3500 (£370 in about 1989) as a handy reference when I forget what a mid-price amp should sound like. The '620 features six line-level inputs, two tape outputs, a headphone output and tone controls. I have mixed feelings about tone controls — they can be handy in moderation but can also be a right bind when, as on this sample, they aren't quite perfectly centred and have to be tweaked for flat response.

Finally, the B&W DM305 is a new, floor-standing speaker using B&W's 'Prism' technology to help reduce internal standing waves and, therefore, cabinet coloration. Economically built but smartly finished, this model has a rear-facing port and is intended for away-from-wall positioning. It features the usual two drivers and claims quite a high

sensitivity, although I found it is not quite the easiest load in the world to drive.

Ancillary bits? Interconnects clearly aren't an issue; I used some Furukawa speaker cable which was to hand but I'm sure basic 79-strand would be great for starters. The DM305s come with spikes, which I duly tried, but I've never really believed in spikes and used sorbothane feet instead. Spikes just make your floor sing along, while soft or springy feet isolate the floor, and I couldn't care less that the speaker is a bit wobbly at about 1Hz, which hardly has any bearing on the audio band. The most important thing is to get the speakers sensibly positioned in the room, which we'll come to in a minute.

Sound quality

There is a school of thought which says that a good hi-fi should major on the 'party factor': instant excitement, great impact, lots of up-front energy and blow the hangover afterwards. If that's you, you may not care for this system. If, on the other hand, you value naturalness of tone, good detail, plenty of treble and bass extension and a perfect willingness to pump up the volume and have a good time now and then, you could spend £730 in far worse ways. This

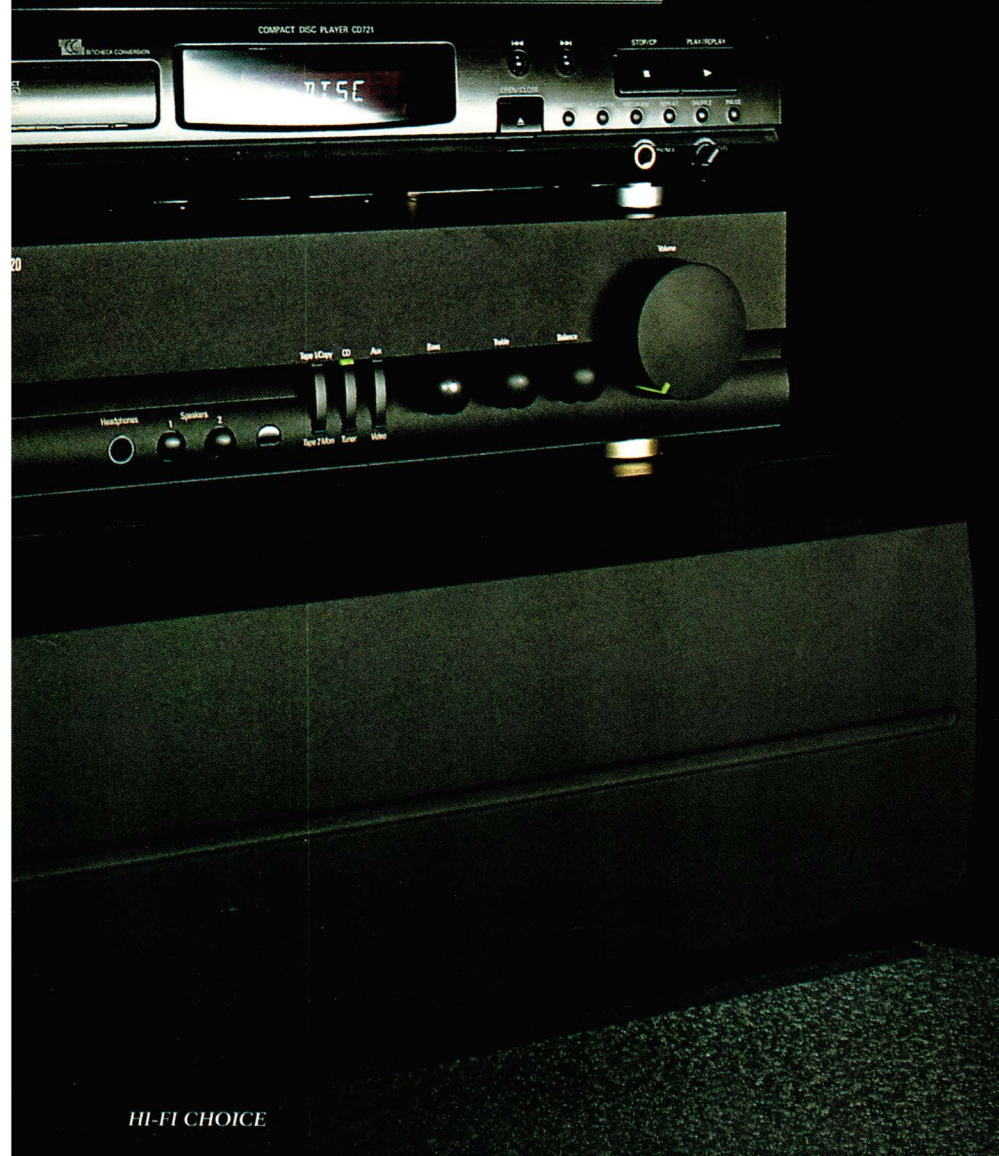
system is not about giving a taste of the high end in some area at the expense of others, but about giving a pleasant, easy-going and above all unflagging blend of virtues across the board.

Of course there are things to criticise. There is a certain amount of coloration in evidence and on some programme material the treble can develop a bit of a 'sheen' which can be a little intrusive, for instance with orchestral strings playing high up. This seems to be largely a function of the speakers but is also related to the amp/speaker interaction as was shown by swapping the H/K for a Musical Fidelity A2 (floating around as a result of moving goalposts on the expensive system review). I hasten to add that perfect treble is really very much the domain of far pricier gear, but this experiment did serve to show what might later be improved in this system by upgrading.

Even so, the extent to which it is possible to hear 'through' the DM305s is really very good and certainly most creditable at the price. I was particularly struck, for instance, by the aplomb with which the system handled full orchestral material, cheerfully rendering the massed attack of brass and percussion without squashing the more subtle tones of woodwind. Piano recordings also came out pretty well, perhaps just a shade hollow and brittle but certainly a lot more like a piano than many systems I have heard.

Moving from classical material to something a little more dance-beat oriented, I was at first nonplussed by over-the-top bass coming out. Having set the system up with a handful of classical albums which I know well, I had ended up with the speakers only about six inches from the back wall, not so much because they sounded best there but because they didn't seem to sound any better further forward and I like a few more square inches spare! However, a driving pop drum kit got the room booming along horribly, and I soon appreciated the wisdom of B&W's recommendation for 20 inches behind the speakers. Thus adjusted, I was treated to some gratifyingly strong and well-defined bass; again, perhaps not the full high-end monty but still nicely believable. And on reflection, classical music did perhaps seem a bit clearer in the bass. Meanwhile, electric guitar had a good 'twang' and vocals were suitably expressive. In my 200 sq ft room, it played loud enough for all but true headbangers without strain.

Two experiments with amplifiers are worth mentioning: Denon's PMA350SE was tried but seemed much less happy with the speakers, having a little more initial impact but decidedly less refinement and detail; on the other hand, the £500 Musical Fidelity A2 justified its higher price with a great improvement in authority, showing just where the limits of the H/K occur in terms of bass control and depth (although the MF has less bass output), and upper midrange clarity. Clearly, there is a beneficial upgrade path for this fine starter system. ▶▶



SYSTEM B

Marantz CD-17 KI SIG£1,299.90
 Aura CA200/PA100 ..£699.95/£699.95
 Tannoy D100£689.90
 Total (exc. cables, stands, etc.)..£3,389.70

The components

This system definitely hails from the 'what if?' school of system building. There probably aren't many systems sold where the CD player costs twice as much as the speakers. It is generally accepted that CD players reach a pretty decent level around the £300 mark (give or take), while loudspeakers benefit more obviously from increased expenditure. However, the exact kinds of distortion introduced by CD players and speakers differ profoundly, and perhaps, we reasoned, there are listeners who are more bothered by the former than the latter and would gladly gain some CD player refinement at the expense of speaker sophistication.

The CD-17 in its basic form was well received in issue 155, but the 'KI' is a specially tweaked-up version specified by Ken Ishiwata, Marantz's top electronics bod. One of the more expensive single-box CD players around, it looks and feels every inch a high-end machine, with a very heavy and beautifully-finished chassis and a particularly smart gold remote control.

Aura's CA200 preamp and PA100 power amp seem to offer a lot for the money. The former has one phono and no less than seven line inputs, all relay switched, plus balanced and unbalanced outputs, a monster dedicated headphone amp (very good, by the way) and remote control, while the latter offers a nominal 100 Watts (in practice about 120 Watts) output and the option of bridging for 250 Watt mono operation. Both amps are very well-built internally and smartly finished (chrome, as reviewed, actually costs £50 per unit extra).

Finally, the D100 is a recent addition to Tannoy's 'Definition' range. It's a diminutive

speaker sporting a dual concentric drive unit and a rear-facing port. Again, finish is excellent although at first sight few would guess the price; it's visually rather understated. I used the D100s on stands about 15 inches high, resting on high-density foam rubber, and about four inches from the rear wall (that might be a bit close in some rooms, however).

Sound quality

Well, sometimes being a bit radical pays off. This unlikely partnership produced some exceptionally pleasing results on a very wide range of musical material. Perhaps I can best pay tribute by citing an experiment a friend and I carried out at a recording session. We made a series of test recordings of a very fine Bösendorfer Imperial piano, using four different types of microphone (all among the best in the world) through two high-quality A/D converters, to CD-R. At the session, with £10,000-worth of monitoring gear, we could certainly hear differences



between microphones, though not so clearly between converters. Through this system (admittedly in a better environment) differences became immediately obvious. Actually, the principal conclusion is that trying to make good recordings is a mug's game and I'm taking up stamp collecting instead. Well, how would you feel on discovering proof of your nasty feeling that the 'best' microphone is the unacceptably noisy one? However, the ease with which one could hear what was going on in the various recordings was quite remarkable and showed immediately that this system is something a bit special.

I turned next to a recording of a string orchestra; not the greatest recording ever but one I love (Alan Bush's *English Suite*). Here, massed string tone was reproduced almost faultlessly, with a real feeling that there were indeed a couple of dozen individual violins playing, rather than a chorused synthesizer or something, while pizzicati on the double basses had real weight and impact. Similarly, a full symphony orchestra had the real presence of 70 players, while chamber music was suitably intimate and precisely imaged.

At this point you're probably thinking, as I was, 'Ah, a classical-music-only system'. How wrong! A favourite CD by Donald Fagen revealed new layers of information and even

more grit on his voice, without losing an iota of rhythmic drive or precision. And John Pizzarelli's *Blue Heaven* album on Chesky, featuring hi-hat which through most hi-fi systems can strip paint, was as well-behaved as I have ever heard it. Even a bit of heavy synthy-bass from some ghastly fusion track had impressive impact; okay, not quite the weight of some 100-litre megalith speaker, but very, very good for something this small.

Limitations? As mentioned, ultimate bass weight, and absolute loudness likewise, but not by much. Obviously the *D100s* like to be driven hard, and the Aura *PA100* seems completely unflustered at high power. Ergonomics on amps and CD player are good, the preamp can drive enormously-long cables if required, all three brands are well-respected and generally very reliable — what more could one want? Evidently a marriage made in heaven, this system will take some beating at its price.

Conclusion

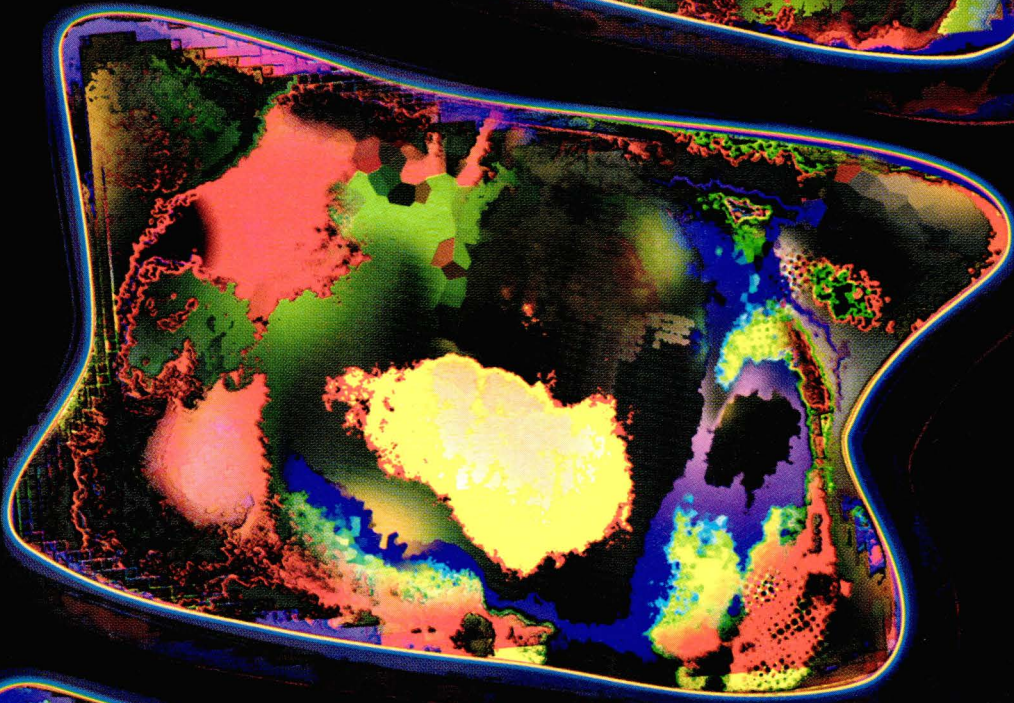
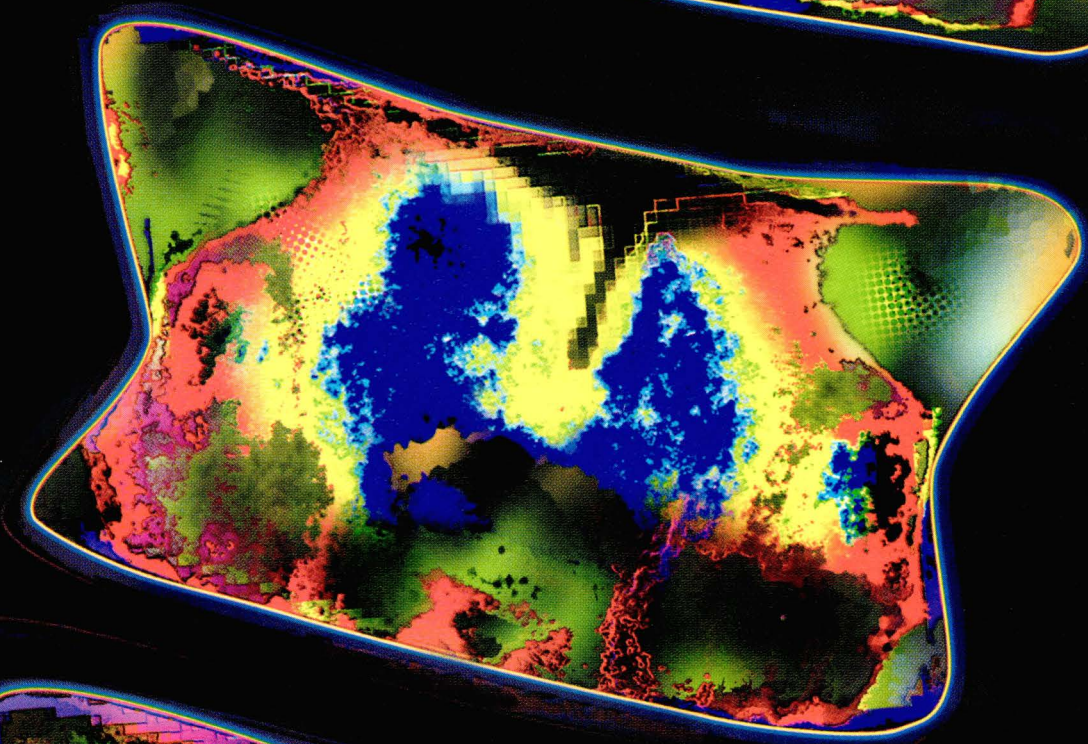
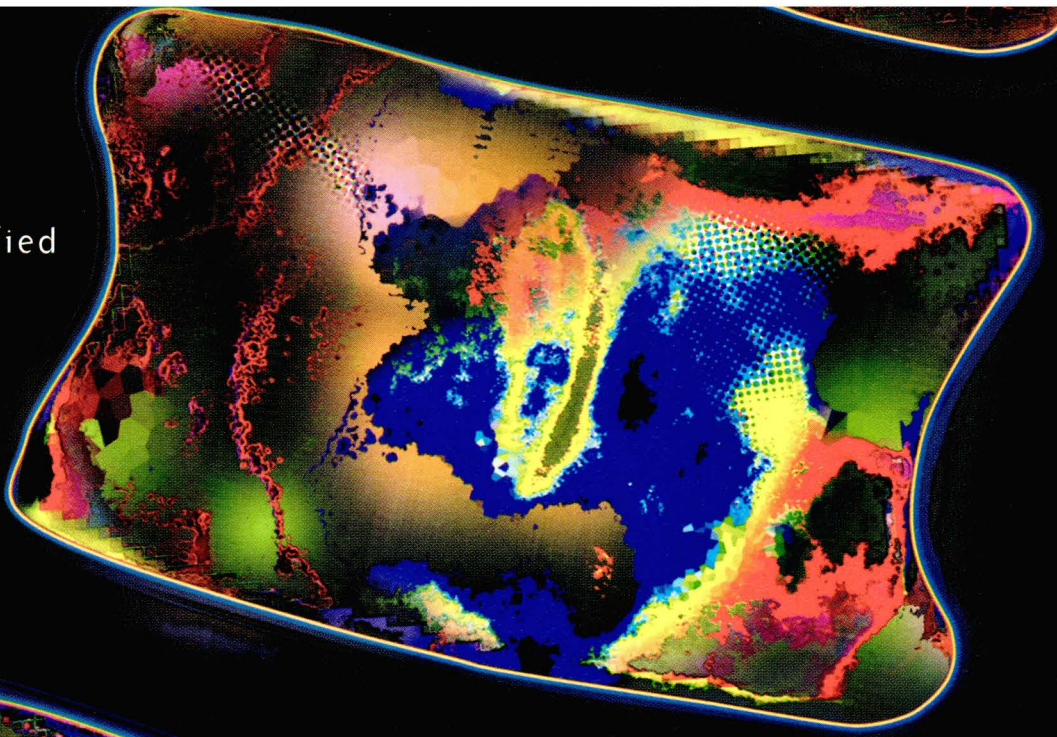
Two very happy systems here; one showing the way from humble beginnings, the other a good way towards true high-end refinement. The former is by its nature more open to variation than the latter and although I felt the Philips, H/K and B&Ws worked very well together I would be interested, for instance, to see what might occur with a few extra pennies spared for the CD player. The more expensive system, however, I would be most reluctant to tamper with. A truly serendipitous find.

Manufacturer Contacts

Aura	(01903) 750750
B&W	(01903) 750750
Harman/Kardon	(01908) 317707
Marantz	(01753) 680868
Philips	(0181) 689 2166
Tannoy	(01236) 420199



A shiver down
the backbone, amplified
by Technics.



Technics
For Music Lovers.

The Jimmy Hughes Experience

Jimmy Hughes waxes lyrical on the subject of ears, and reminds us it takes experience to interpret what you hear!

Deafness is something that afflicts hi-fi scribes in much the same way blindness affects football referees. Because hearing (like sight) often deteriorates through life, as age extends towards 70 there will be losses of sensitivity and high-frequency response.

Much depends on the kind of punishment your ears receive on a day to day basis. Someone who lives in a quiet rural environment should maintain their hearing better than another forced to put up with the noise of a big city. Constant use of personal hi-fi played loudly is also very damaging.

I was 17 years old when I first had my hearing tested, and my high note response extended to about 18kHz. I could never hear above that, yet was crucially aware of the 19kHz pilot tone from stereo FM tuners because it created an unpleasant feeling of pressure on my ears.

I am now 45, and my treble response is tailing a bit; perhaps surprisingly I can still hear 16kHz, though 18kHz is sadly inaudible. Actually I say 'sadly', but I'm not sure it isn't beneficial to have a slightly less extended HF response. It allows one to play certain flawed recordings without discomfort.

For example, I could never enjoy the Rikki Lee Jones track *Chuck E's In Love* on wide-range speakers because of a high-pitched whistle that comes and goes throughout the track. Now I can listen and not be disturbed. If you can't detect the whistle in real time, play the LP and when the vocal starts, switch the turntable motor off so the speed winds down — you'll hear it then.

It was much the same with Deutsche Grammophon's recording of Beethoven's third piano concerto with Maurizio Pollini. A film was made of this performance, and perhaps the use of extra cables and lighting created some interference. A very high-pitched whistle comes and goes, especially when Pollini plays, and it used to drive me nuts though no one else could hear it. Now I no longer hear the whistle — bliss at last.

The question is: does curtailment of the upper frequencies make one less discerning and thus a less critical judge of sound quality? Years ago I remember a reader in his 60s writing to a hi-fi mag and asking whether he should take his young nephew when choosing a system, on the basis that the lad's hearing would be so much better than his!

Naturally the wider your ear's response, the more aware you'll be of faults at frequency extremes, but bandwidth isn't everything.

In much the same way that having good

noticed — perhaps a defender who's read each situation so well that any danger was immediately nipped in the bud. To my superficial eye the guy's done nothing special, but a fellow pro appreciates the skill and vision needed to be in the right place at the right time.

Perhaps ironically, once such things are pointed out they're often very obvious. Hi-fi is similar. A recent visitor to my place was impressed by a CD of flamenco singing and the way the system recreated the scale and dynamics of the music. I also admired the sheer presence and attack of the sound.

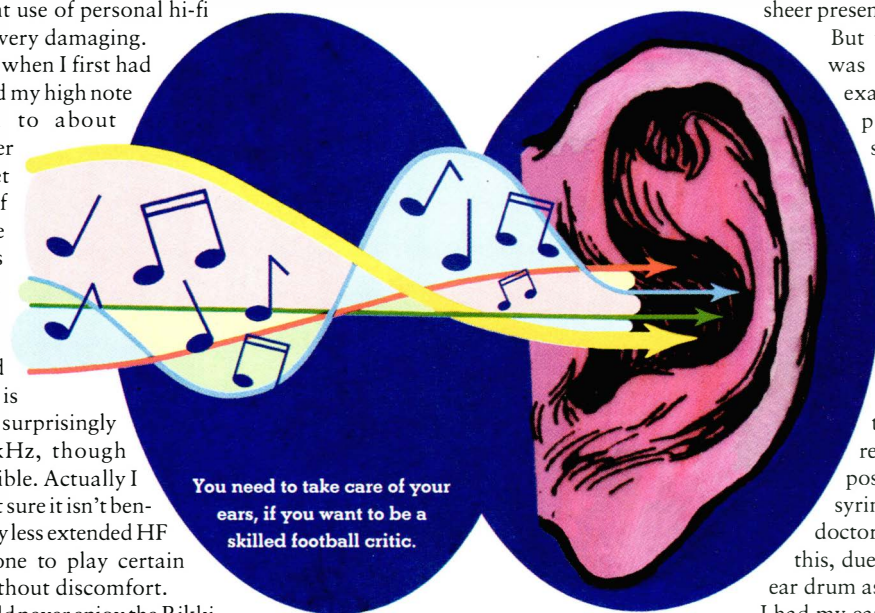
But what impressed me more was still being able to hear exactly what the guitar was playing, even when the singer was bawling his head off and stamping hard on a wooden stage. Most systems can play loudly, but encompassing extremes of loud and soft simultaneously is far more difficult — and valuable.

Going back to ears, a build-up of wax may lead to loss of sensitivity and reduced high frequencies. It's possible to have this cleared by syringing, but for some years doctors have been unwilling to do this, due to possible damage to the ear drum as water is squirted onto it.

I had my ears syringed in 1989, and it made a big difference to my hearing. However, the change was almost too much; I found the sound of a heavy lorry going past, or a power drill, almost painfully noisy because my ears were now so sensitive.

I'm not sure I'll ever have my ears syringed again, but do find a little maintenance necessary from time to time. Otex ear drops seem effective at dealing with the build-up of wax, but without flooding your ears and making you partly deaf — something that used to happen with ear drops in the '60s and '70s.

However, take care as the ear is very sensitive and easily infected; never poke it with a sharp point as you may perforate your ear drum. If you do suffer persistent trouble with blocked ears or infection, seek proper medical advice — or become a hi-fi reviewer... ▲



You need to take care of your ears, if you want to be a skilled football critic.

eyesight won't make you observant, acute hearing doesn't necessarily turn you into a good listener — at least not in the sense of being able to hear what's right with something as opposed to what's wrong with it.

It takes experience and intelligence to interpret what you hear, and that is only gained with practice. Dogs have a very extended high-frequency hearing response, but they're not good judges of hi-fi or music.

I like football, but don't have the depth of knowledge and experience of someone like *Match of the Day's* Alan Hansen. We can view the same match, but what he 'sees' is very different because his understanding of tactics is far more profound than mine.

I've watched games where Man of the Match has been given to someone I've barely

Paul Miller's Oasis of Sanity

Paul Miller explains the subtle art of managing a successful blind-listening test.

Since I assumed the rôle of *Hi-Fi Choice's* Technical Editor, my responsibilities have broadened into 'technical support' for all product categories. As a result, we now have a very consistent method of evaluation, not only for CD players and amplifiers, but also for loudspeakers, tape decks, tuners and so on.

This is an important feature of *Choice's* review approach, as is our continued use of blind listening tests. Which brings me onto my core topic, prompted by one of the rare occasions where I had the luxury of organising a complete test from beginning to end (this month's festival of CD players, which commences on p.50 – Ed).

It is easy, and popular among the chattering classes, to knock the ideals of 'blind listening', particularly when detractors have no experience of the technique. It's far simpler to assess a product under arbitrary conditions, at leisure in one's own time — to hell with consistency, objectivity and accountability.

So what are the advantages afforded by a well-run blind listening test? Arguably, the most important benefit of listening 'blind' is the freedom it grants from the baggage of preconceptions. Our listeners may know that they are listening to CD players, for example, but they have absolutely no idea of each model's name and price until the session is over.

It is all well and good being confident in your ability to subjectively assess a product's performance, but this assessment is inevitably coloured by expectations. The subjective opinion of even stalwart listeners will always be influenced by factors other than the product's sound quality — it is human nature to be fallible.

Want some proof? Let me relate a specific tale of human frailty, albeit one that has been repeated before and since and with a wide variety of products. A couple of years ago we were knee-deep in a week-long blind listening sequence of 20-odd CD players, auditioning and repeating various combinations of the players in a random order, day after day and with a broad selection of panelists. During this week, one particular player proved uniformly out of favour, specifically for its weak and light-sounding bass. But this

was the very same player that had been expressly praised for possessing a strong, deep and rugged-sounding bass, according to some subjective reviews published a month or two earlier.

By way of experiment, I revealed the player to our panel on the final day, allowing them to appreciate its massive construction. "Beefy, macho aesthetics" was the panel's general consensus — they were oblivious to the fact it had already been auditioned, and derided, at every session in the past week. They seemed very keen to hear a player that had already received favourable press coverage, so we ran through the same sequence of music software used during the blind tests. Yes, you've guessed it: the machine now sounded "deep, powerful and

and error, for example, we now know specific listeners who work well together on a panel. These are participants who will consider the opinions of others, but will not be railroaded into a bland consensus they cannot condone.

What makes a good listener?

Consistency of opinion is vital. Whether the panelist is a Linn/Naim die-hard, prefers valves to transistors, LPs to CDs, or chooses to use 25-year-old Quad electrostatics is not the issue, so long as the person is individually consistent in outlook. If CD player 'number two' in the morning is repeated as CD player 'number six' in the afternoon, 90 per cent of listeners will respond to it differently, demonstrating either that they are easily distracted or that they do not have a clear idea of what they seek from a musical performance.

Over the years I've weeded out lesser listeners, leaving us with panel members who offer reliable and very specific descriptions of a product's sound quality. There may be some variety between each listener's description of a product, but this simply reflects the diverse tastes that must surely inform *Hi-Fi Choice* readers.

The most important part of the test is the group discussion that follows the auditioning of each product. Without such a discourse, the listening notes would have to be collated at a later date. What, then, if one listener has written "sounds cold, dry and harsh" while another has suggested it sounds "warm and soft"? It's this sort of discrepancy that is quickly dispelled once each listener has the opportunity to clearly and verbally articulate a description of the sound. We capture the essence of a product's sound there and then, committing a description to computer: that the entire panel feels content to endorse.

This wealth of experience is concentrated in our group test of CD players this month, resulting in a combination of objectivity, repeatability and accountability that has earned *Hi-Fi Choice's* tests the reputation they enjoy today. ▲

Do you have a subject for the Oasis? Please contact Paul Miller via e-mail on 100576.3021@compuserve.com



Consistent opinions mark out the best listeners.

underpinned by a strong bass".

Same player, same system, same panel of listeners, same selection of music and even the same listening level, but an entirely different verdict due to the listeners' bewitchment by the unit's price, reputation and intimidating appearance.

Getting the right balance

Returning to the present day and this month's mammoth CD player test, as our panel began warming to the task ahead, I was reminded that the by-now-familiar listening procedure did not evolve overnight, but gradually over at least seven years.

Clearly, some 'blind listening' tests are greater than others. Choosing the right panel is half the battle. Through a process of trial

*Who'd
like to
have our
new Mini
separates?
We think our
competitors
would.*

Why? Simply because our new *Reference 500* mini separates sound every bit as stunning as they look.

These are real separates boasting outstanding performance which, when combined, are quite remarkable.

Individually powered, the TEAC *Reference 500* components are engineered to exacting standards of precision. Right down to their gold terminals.

But it doesn't end here. This range will grow and grow. We already have plans for a CD player featuring TEAC's unique VRDS mechanism as well as a Pro Logic surround-sound amplifier and an all new mini-disc recorder.

The new *Reference 500* mini separates from TEAC. Stand alone units which together set new industry standards.



Reference 500 by

TEAC[®]

TEAC UK Limited, 5 Marlin House,
The Croxley Centre, Watford, Herts WD1 8YA
Tel: 01923 819630

Personal **Paul Messenger** ponders Mission's revolutionary 'nxt' speaker system, and the penny drops . . .

Messages

The *nxt* panel speaker technology, developed by Mission siblings V-Labs and reported in issue 160, is still the talk of the industry. An *nxt* panel acts as a diffuse or 'distributed' sound source, whereas conventional speakers are more like a coherent, point source. True enough, but oversimplified: in practice, sound from 'normal' speakers is a mixture of coherent and diffuse, and the ratio between them fundamentally affects the end result.

Sound travelling directly to the listener's ears from a speaker drive unit will be more or less coherent, while sound reflected from an adjoining surface is at least partly diffuse. Our total sonic experience inevitably comprises a mixture of direct and reflected sound, given that the reflected/diffuse waveform always arrives a little later than its directly radiated sibling, having travelled further.

If you want to know what your speakers really sound like, build an anechoic chamber — or adopt the cheap alternative and put them in the garden. Either way you'll hear the coherent, direct bit without the diffuse, reverberant contribution from the surroundings.

Speaker designers like to use anechoic chambers, since they are useful for indicating what a speaker is doing in isolation. Regrettably, they do not provide a real-world representation. A single speaker in non-reverberant surroundings sounds very different from two speakers in a room, which is why room measurements continue to feature in our speaker reviews.

The engineer can design the speaker, but has no control over where it's used. This 'room factor' is one of the Great Imponderables. Many theories are propounded, but only the very conceited would claim to possess true mastery. However, 'room factor' does provide a real, if rarely utilised opportunity for manufacturers and enthusiasts to indulge in some real sonic creativity, by manipulating the all-important direct/diffuse sound ratio.

Face the wall

Regular *Choice* contributor Jimmy Hughes points his speakers away from the listening zone (*Hi-Fi*

Choice Jan '97, page 25). Much of the sound, especially higher frequencies, is heard after reflection from the wall, turning a coherent source into a semi-diffuse one.

Jimmy's is a rather special case, as his Impulse horn loudspeakers are more directional than average. The intention is to turn a 'spotlight' into a 'floodlight' experience, which in his experience provides more natural perspectives and hides contributions from the drive units. Jimmy's rig has other refinements, including a small 'centrefill' driver to improve central focus, but most importantly he knows what he's trying to achieve with his system, and is prepared to work hard at the refinement process.

Commercial speakers show numerous approaches. Platinum Audio's monstrous *Air Pulse*, pictured below, costs \$100,000 and weighs 700lbs. It features 360-degree omnidirectional horns, to maintain the power response throughout the room and add diffusion. The equally clear direct-radiating Wilson Audio *Grand SLAMM X-1* incorporates a rear-facing tweeter.

In my December '96 column I highlighted the spacious qualities of the two semi-omni

designs in that issue's group test — the Castle *Harlech* and Canon *S-75*. A major factor in their favour was probably greater than average ratios of diffuse to direct sound. (Canon-style lens-reflectorers are inherently diffusive.)

The classic Bose *901* omni-directional design — one driver facing forwards, eight back — is one of the oldest in current production. It's no audiophile favourite, since a lack of stereo precision is an inevitable consequence of the high diffuse/direct ratio. Nonetheless, as this is probably the most commercially successful hi-fi design of all time, it would appear that non-enthusiast listeners prefer the more diffuse approach.


Generally speaking, imaging limitations have meant our stereophonic age has not favoured the diffuse sound source, simply because some loss of image precision is inevitable. Things were quite the reverse back in the days of mono, however, when adding a bit more space and scale to a point source was one thing designers set out to achieve.

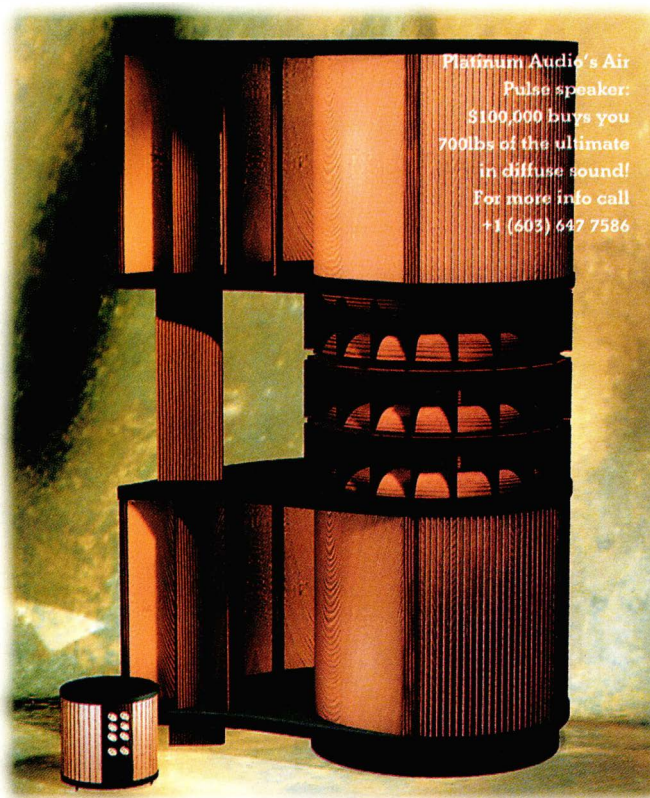
Single-driver designs like James Worden's *Panasonar* corner horn/diffuser, and Wharfedale's *Column Eight* upward-facing, cone-deflected concrete column, used diffusion

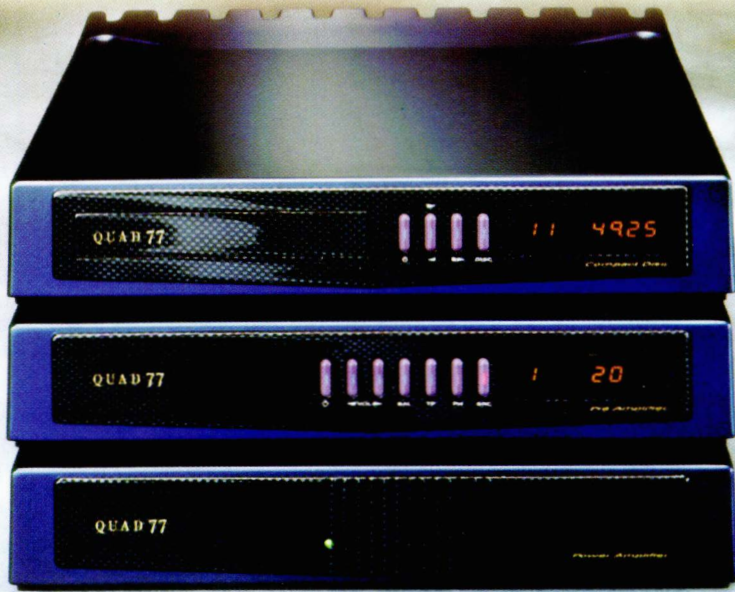
partly to enlarge the sound source, and partly to de-focus the vicious high-frequency break-up modes of full-range paper-cone drivers.

So there are plenty of examples demonstrating the long history of diffuse sound in hi-fi, even though most of them have been deployed in combination with an element of 'driver-direct' sound. All listeners, except those outdoors, get some diffuse sound as a matter of course; but how much will depend on the installation.

Is there an ideal diffuse/direct ratio? Probably not; personal preferences prevail. A direct-rich balance gives precise stereo, but many find treble somewhat artificial, and greater diffusion more relaxing and natural.

Last month I suggested *nxt* panels would be better suited to home cinema applications than hi-fi stereo. Now I'm wondering whether a combination of conventional driver and diffuse panel might be an exciting audiophile prospect... 





Trade in any of your old Quad products for the new 1996 'Award Winning' 77 range and receive up to 50% of your original purchase price as trade-in.

(offer is irrespective of product age but subject to condition)

77 Carbon



NEW
for OLD

Telephone:

01480 433777

for your nearest participating dealer.



Quad FM3 and 33 Control Unit

★★★★★
What Hi-Fi



1936
QUAD
7996

Write on!

THIS MONTH READERS HAVE GONE DIY CRAZY, SO DIG OUT THE TOOL KIT AND GET YOUR SYSTEM SORTED!

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Grab a nice slab for sound that's fab

Like a lot of houses, the floors in mine are constructed with somewhat uneven wooden floorboards. I recently decided to conduct an experiment to see if my floor-standing Ruark *Paladin* speakers would sound better on a more solid base.

I popped down to my local DIY Superstore and purchased two 400x400mm paving slabs for 89p each. I laid them on the floor, levelled them up and placed my speakers on them (with the spikes left on). Somewhat sceptical about the outcome I turned on my Naim system and... Wow! What an amazing surprise! It was like a new lease of life for my speakers. Almost everything was improved, especially clarity and stereo separation, and all for £1.78. This has to be the best value for money upgrade I can imagine! I have now promised my wife that I shall replace the paving slabs with marble ones to suit the living room.

Roger Hooton, Swindon, Wilts

The taming of the screw

I've been thinking about some of the things that have been written about equipment tables over the years. And I found something in a magazine of a few years ago, about using cross-headed screws under spikes. I tried this simple and inexpensive experiment myself.

Fortunately all the news is good. Simply lift out your table and place a screw in the hole in the carpet (dead easy with a power screwdriver). Then return the table to the screws and level the table up — very straight-forward as the spikes now locate positively. I've used them under my two Sound Org' tables and Linn *Keilidhs*, in addition to the MDF spiked bases I use under PSUs.

The improvement in sound is not subtle. I reckon I would need to spend at least £1,000 in amplification to match this improvement — really quite awesome. Everything about the sound has tightened up — the music seems more

natural, as if the components are working more efficiently.

I simply dig out a favourite piece of music, sit back and tune in. I have just had a most rewarding 40 minutes in the studio with George Winston as he recorded his *December* album back in 1982! Uncanny. Even a filthy pressing cannot mask such euphoric playing. I

Fancy a home-made upgrade?



can't say this would work for everyone's system nor everyone's room, but for my Linn/Exposure system in a room with a heavily sprung floor it has been most beneficial. And the best news of all? The screws cost me just 99p!

Simon Chambers, Doncaster.

Rattles on the cage

How about subjecting the 'Mana phenomenon' to some unbiased scrutiny?

I can't think of any other hi-fi manufacturer which not only has its products regularly endorsed as a panacea but also has a magazine using them as the basis (literally) for most of its listening tests. The implications of this erroneous 'everything sounds better with Mana' axiom are far-reaching and potentially undermine the credibility of your reviews.

To have blithely assumed that because something suits most of your equipment/musical tastes/hi-fi aspirations it will miraculously benefit all and sundry is folly. Then to have incorporated it as a standardised feature of your test environment is methodological madness — in reality you've merely

been testing how compatible (or otherwise) products are with Mana's supports.

I hope that the 'Mana Mafia' which appears to dominate your magazine will be open-minded enough to address this issue, though I fear that their ideological commitment to the 'path of ultimate revelation' (and the small fortune spent in the process) may impair their objectivity. I know it's going to be hard for them to

come clean, Mana being (allegedly) "more addictive than crack cocaine". Or maybe a spot of rehab in the inestimable Dr Miller's *Oasis of Sanity* might help?

Mick Sissine, address withheld

The support systems that reviewers use are, like everything else in their systems, selected on the basis of sound quality. And given that reviewed products have to be supported on something, it would seem sensible to use the best that's available. That so many of our contributors use Mana seems to indicate Mana is one of the better options for a variety of equipment.

A blind-listening test of equipment supports would be interesting, and we welcome all comments from those who've experienced the Mana effect, whatever the findings. — AS

Gadzooks!



This is our stylish *Hi-Fi Choice* garment, which will be awarded to the writer of the most interesting letter every month. Available only in capacious, flattering, XL size.

OUR ADDRESS

The Editor-in-Chief, *Hi-Fi Choice*,
19 Bolsover Street, LONDON W1P
7HJ • Fax: 0171-917 5512 • e-mail:
100433.1130@compuserve.com.
"We reserve the right to edit all letters that we publish."

Scouting success

Jason Kennedy experiences Living Voice's new domestic subwoofer and transforms his perspective on a record collection.

Some people will not leave well alone — they always want more. This affliction is unusually prevalent in the audio community but even here there are those who will not let it lie long after everyone else has gone home. One such character is Kevin Scott of Living Voice; in 1992 he got together with Vitavox and produced the *Air Partner* loudspeaker, a magnificent horn design that wowed everyone who heard it. This was followed by the *Airscout*, a pared down version of the *Partner* with the same mid- and high-frequency drivers but a smaller bass horn. This design Kevin preferred in many ways, not least because it could be transported with relative ease, weighing a mere 85kg. The *'Scout*, however, does have lim-

ited bass extension, a factor of its horn mouth area, and it was clear that some form of subwoofer would be very useful. Somewhat inevitably none of the conventional designs of actively driven cubes with big drivers inside could blend in with the dynamic qualities of the *'Scouts*. So he built what is probably the only domestic horn subwoofer in commercial production, the Living Voice *RW24*. The combination has proved very effective indeed.

The *Airscout* retails for £14,750 and measures a manageable if not diminutive 115x62.5x57cm. It contains a Vitavox 12-inch bass driver which faces forward under the grill, its rear radiation being horn-loaded through the mouth at the bottom. The midrange is created by a Vitavox pressure driver behind the cast aluminium dispersive horn; treble, meanwhile, is provided by the JBL slot tweeter on the 'outside' panel. Its crossover has stepped attenuators for adjusting the output of midrange and bass drivers, and the components include hand-wound, air-core chokes. The plywood carcass is veneered in birds' eye maple and khaya.

The similarly-finished *RW24*, so-called because it is a re-entrant (bi-furcated) 'W' horn containing two 12-inch drive units, retails for £9,500 and comes in two parts — one unit sitting atop the other. In these two horns the Vitavox drive unit faces forward and fires into the visible part of the horn through slots between the khaya and maple veneered facets. The *RW24* measures 84x146x59cm and is surprisingly innocuous — visitors didn't realise it was a speaker at all, possibly because the *Airscouts* are

bigger than any domestic speaker they'd seen before.

The system can be driven in a number of ways. The *RW24*, for instance, can be connected in parallel for mono operation or hooked up to either channel for stereo. You can use one or two stereo amplifiers to do the job but efficiency is so high, a claimed 108dB broad-band for the combination, that a single (preferably valve) amp is quite capable of extreme volume levels.

Method behind the madness

What we're talking about here is professional PA technology that's been refined and tailored for domestic use. The reason for putting a horn in front of a loudspeaker is to provide more efficient coupling to the air, which is why horns are always so dynamically strong. Because of this efficiency cones need very little travel and can therefore respond extremely quickly to changes in the signal; pressure drivers such as used here have one-and-a-half-inch aluminium domes, albeit with massive magnets, yet they can produce undistorted SPLs beyond the reach of virtually all conventional direct-radiating speakers. The traditional bugbear of horns has been tonal colouration, in PA you can EQ this out but in domestic circumstances more sophisticated solutions are required. One of these is compact disc, a source with a flat response, which makes it a lot easier to build horns that will suit a variety of systems. Another is having level controls on the individual drive units so that the speaker's response can be adjusted to suit the room it's in. But most significant is the

The *Airscout* combines a 12-inch bass driver (behind the grille) with a cast aluminium midrange horn and slot tweeter.





design of the horn itself, and this is the area where Living Voice and Vitavox have concentrated their energies to good effect. When the *Airscout/RW24* combo is used with tonally balanced amplification, it sounds very even, a factor borne out by the wide variation in, but constant intelligibility of, material played through it.

Listening to a legend

Even though the temptation was to go for the best and apparently most appropriate amplification I could lay my hands on, I tried a variety of options with these speakers. The starting point was of the Art Audio persuasion, and consisted of a *VPL SE* preamp with valve-regulated PSU and a pair of *Diavolo* single-ended stereo power amps. The finishing point was a lone triode-connected, *Quintet* push-pull with an external Border Patrol HT supply. In between were the *Quintet* with an Audio Innovations *Series 700*, a Densen *DM20/30* pre/power and the nimble little Pioneer *A-300R* Precision.

Frankly I was surprised at how much better the push-pull (PP) amp sounded than the single-ended one, possibly because of the amps concerned but equally likely due to the way that these topologies interact with the speakers. Either way I think a lot more of PPs, especially those employing triodes. Sources were Wadia *16* and Trichord *Revelation* CD players;

cables were Living Voice and Hitachi.

Listening to all my favourite discs through the *Airscouts* and *RW24* via the above was a voyage of discovery that will tarnish my opinion of regular hi-fi for years to come. A month later I'm playing discs that I've not revisited since, wondering what's wrong with the very accomplished system I currently have in action. What really strikes you about these speakers is their effortless dynamics — regular speakers can't even begin to create this sort of power and scale without resorting to excessive levels or aggressiveness under duress. You can listen at the sort of sound pressure levels that John Watson and Malcolm Steward enjoy (eg extreme), without thinking that the neighbours are plotting your demise or that your ears are in danger.

But it's not all about level, in fact it's about energy. I heard The Who's *Live At Leeds* for the first time the other day. That band had energy, and it wasn't because I played loud, it was because they put so much into the performance — even today Pete Townsend can get more power out of an acoustic guitar than most can get out of an electric one. With these speakers you get that type of inherent strength out of the music, whatever level you listen at. It comes down to extraordinary resolution right across the band. Everything is there: full timbral colour, perfect timing, trans-

parency without brightness and coherence like you wouldn't believe.

The *RW24* is itself quite extraordinary. When you're listening to it you quickly become accustomed to its openness and dynamics, and only on substituting a box speaker do you realise how clean, uncompressed and natural it sounds. It turns what previously seemed an amorphous blob of bass into double bass with all the body, colour and timbre that comes with the real thing. The difference it made to an old Terry Callier recording was so great that I'll think twice before ever criticising a record's bass again. Kevin Scott estimates that the *RW24* will go down to 40Hz before roll-off sets in with a vengeance; what I want to hear is a brace of the things! The thought of bass this good down to 30Hz is alarming and appealing in almost equal measure.

What is most alluring about these speakers is that they bring out so much in your music collection. Nearly every disc or LP is far better recorded than you could imagine and great music becomes fantastic, addictive and totally engrossing. In many respects the loudspeaker is the weakest link in most systems, but in this instance that is so far from the case as to be irrelevant. Try alternatives for everything else but don't expect to find a better speaker system. ▲

They may look pretty civilised but the Living Voice *Airscouts* and *RW24* subwoofer (above) have the firepower to take on all comers.

Living Voice ☎ (0115) 981 3562

HELP!

Alvin Gold has the elixir that'll make your system sound better.

Send your hi-fi queries to 'Help!' at the usual address (page 137) or 100433.1130@compuserve.com. We regret that we cannot answer individual queries on a personal basis.

Query of the month

Back-to-back

I have a £2,000 budget to spend on a hi-fi system, basically a CD player, amp, speakers, cables and so-on. I am inclined towards either Naim (CD3, NAIT3 and Royd Doublets) or Mission-Cyrus (dAD7, III amp and 752 or 753s), but my dilemma is that in Norfolk I am limited to what I can hear demonstrated, especially in 'back-to-back' comparisons. The above represents the best that I have listened to, but not back-to-back. I am willing to travel to hear stuff. Can you suggest anywhere, near-ish to Norfolk?

I like the clear, spacey sound of the Naim but I wonder whether I can cope with listening to such a crisp, clear sound every day. I prefer the facilities of the Cyrus but I am not convinced about the PSX-R thing and the performance of the machine on the end of the 753s. It refuses to rock at any volume (I suspect this is due to the four smaller bass units). If it did rock then I guess I'd like the more mellow sound.

My dilemma is that I have a very limited knowledge of hi-fi and the different brands available at the higher-end of the market. Any pointers will be gratefully received. I listen mainly to pop and indie music; from Pulp, Oasis, Blur and Paul Weller to Bon Jovi and Pearl Jam. Any thoughts?

Spencer Flugge, Norfolk

I have always thought that the secret of good system building is forming a relationship with the right dealer. In your case, there is an excellent dealer just outside Norwich, namely Basically Sound. A dealer like this should be able to tailor a system to your tastes and guide you through the hi-fi maze.

The two systems you have outlined above are so different in temperament that it is almost meaningless to talk of which is the better of the two. Oversimplifying like crazy, choose the Naim/Royd solution if you like your music rough and physical (in the very best sense), and Mission for transparency and detail. Forget about facilities: neither lacks anything important, and don't worry about the multiplicity of drive units in the 753, which is one of its strengths for reasons there isn't room to go into here.

Royd Doublets: part of a Naim system in Norfolk?



The Marantz CD63mkII K I Signature

Drastic solutions

My system consists of a Technics SU-A900D amplifier, the original Marantz CD52, Jamo 507 speakers and cable, and Monster interconnects. My next planned purchase is a CD player upgrade, possibly the CD63mkII/K I Sig, or a separate player and DAC such as the TEAC VRDS-T1 with the Cambridge DACMagic. Or should I try a DAC to improve my CD52? Budget – the Australian equivalent of £2,500.

Nigel Wadsworth, Australia

Don't spend it all on a CD player. You should be able to reap all the improvements you're looking for from the Ken Ishiwata player. The reality is that the rest of your system is unlikely to benefit significantly from any more drastic solution, and adding a DAC to your existing player will probably result in less than optimal results, as it will be limited by the performance of the existing player as a transport. By all means test this advice if you can at hi-fi dealer, and if you agree, why not use some of the extra money to add to your collection of CDs?

Sub-standard

My system (Rega Planar 3, Marantz CD63, Arcam Alpha 6 amp, Castle Isis) is absolutely perfect for 90 per cent of the stuff I listen to, but lacks the bass extension for dance music, which I occasionally listen to. As a result, I'm thinking of buying a sub-woofer. Now, as I know precisely nothing about them, could you please (a) recommend a suitable model (I prefer sweetness to volume and cannot spend more than £250) and (b) tell me how they attach to the amp? Mainstream brands are preferred.

Joe Partridge, via the internet

I regret to say that I know of no subwoofer at or near £250 that won't severely compromise the performance of the system. In my judgement the REL Q-Bass 50, at £375, represents the entry level for models suitable for systems like yours. My advice: defer the purchase until you can afford it. Wiring involves connecting the subwoofer input in parallel with the main speakers. The Q-Bass has a high input impedance and no material effect on the main speakers.

If you really can't wait, Kenwood makes a cute little AV subwoofer called the SW-500 (£250), which will do a reasonable job.

No jazz or opera

My system consists of an Arcam *Alpha 5* CD player, Audioquest *Quartz* interconnect, Naim *Nait 2* (a definite improvement on my old *Aura VA100 Evolution II*), with Audioquest *Indigo* cable bi-wired to Ruark *Sabre II* speakers on Alphason *Titan* stands. This system is refined and pleasant with good dynamics, but lacks deep bass, punch and an open soundstage. Am I right in thinking that the CD, cables and amplifier are capable of these characteristics and that my speakers are the weak link? I would consider spending up to £600 on an upgrade and my shortlist (needing sensitive speakers to partner the Naim) includes the ProAc *Tablette 50*, B&W *CDM1*, Naim *Intro* and Mission *752 Freedom* floorstanders. I listen to well-produced pop, rock, acoustic blues and orchestral works but no jazz or (ugh) opera.

Mike Lowndes, via the internet

I agree that the Ruark Sabre is probably the weak link. It is not one of the best from this generally excellent marque, especially in respect of dynamics and control. Choose the right speakers and who knows, jazz and (ugh) opera may suddenly become palatable. Stranger things have happened.

You've named a talented bunch of possibilities, and it is difficult to know what I can contribute. For what it's worth, however, I heard the Naim Intro on a recent trip abroad and was very impressed. It is quite likely to suit you amplifier better than the others, all of which need considerably more power than the Naim Nait is designed to deliver.



Separate stages

The main part of my system is a Rega *Planar 3* with Linn *K9* record player, JVC *AX-A472* amp, Mission *760i* speakers and Cable *Talk 3* speaker wire, plus a CD player, tape deck and tuner. After reading your review of the JVC *AX-A662* amp, in which you suggested the phono stage wasn't all it could be, I wondered if you think it's worth my while buying a separate phono equaliser. Up until now I've been happy enough with the sound from my amp but if spending money on something like the Rotel *RQ-970* phono equaliser is going to make a significant difference, then I will definitely consider it. My budget would be around £250. Your thoughts, please.

James Houston, Glasgow

Measured against the probable benefits, it's a close-run thing, but on balance I think that you may well benefit to a degree from the use of a separate phono stage such as the Rotel one, though I have not auditioned it personally. Even so, I'm not totally convinced that you'll achieve really worthwhile gains given the nature of your system as a whole – but by all means seek a demonstration from a stockist. Of course the case for an outboard phono step-up is strengthened significantly if you decide to upgrade to a higher quality line-only amplifier in the foreseeable future.

The JVC AX-A472 — would it benefit from a separate phono equaliser?



Synergistic necessity

My system includes a Marantz *CD63* used as a transport, Cambridge Audio *DACMagic 2* DAC and Status *XL-120* floorstanding speakers. I intend to replace my JVC *RX808VBK* AV amp with a strictly audiophile design, and have two in mind: the Copland *CSA14* integrated or the Naim *NAC92/NAP 90* pre/power combination. Can you advise which of the two I should choose to achieve the most detailed possible sound? I listen to pop and slow music. I have listened to both amps many times, but I can't decide which one to select.

Teo Chee Leong, via the internet

Here we have two excellent amplifiers which happen to be modelled on two different ideals of amplifier behaviour, and if I say that I prefer the Copland approach, I have to admit that this is more a matter of personal taste than of musical judgement, and that the preference may even be overturned in a system lacking the necessary synergy. I have no idea what the Status loudspeakers are like; it is not a model that I have heard of, or that sells in this country as far as I can ascertain, and therefore I can't make a meaningful judgement of system synergy in this case. I can only hand the question of which one to buy straight back to you, with the advice that you endeavour to listen to the two amplifiers using your own speakers, which are likely to be the most obviously characterful part of your system.

◀ Mini upgrade

I have a Denon D-C30 complete system with standard SC-M3 speakers on Atacama SE24 stands using QED Qudos cable. These are the only changes I have made to the basic Denon system and although the sound quality is good, I am wondering if I can get more from it. Any advice?

Andrew Couchman, Ayrshire.

For the dedicated audiophile not afraid to get his hands dirty, there is no end to what can be done. In this case you could consider major steps like a cable upgrade (though Qudos probably strike more or less the right balance in your system), or the most basic chores like cleaning plugs and sockets. There are all kinds of accessories, gadget incantations and potions you can use to help you. I'm not sure that many of them offer value for money in the context of your particular system, but plug-cleaning is free and often effective, and careful positioning and orientation of the speakers should also be attended to. Although the Denon speakers are nominally boundary designs, they do improve in projection and image scale when they are pulled a little away from the back wall, though you might want to compensate for the resulting loss of low frequencies with a touch of right-hand-down on the bass control. And you could do worse than getting a dedicated support, either a wall shelf or stand; see the Directory for recommendations.

Beyond this, I'm afraid you're into wholesale changes to your system components, which could mean a speaker transplant (the KEF Coda 7 is ideally suited to this kind of application). The next step beyond this is a complete system upgrade.

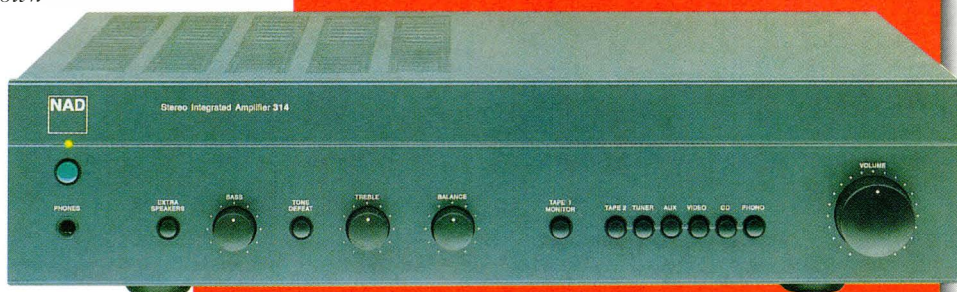
Good listening

I currently own a six-year-old Yamaha CDX530 CD player and a 10-year-old Marantz TT220 turntable. I want to buy a new amplifier and a new pair of loudspeakers. What is your opinion of the NAD 314 amp and KEF Coda 8 loudspeakers?

R. Ozeg, Croatia

Sounds fine to me. The KEF Coda 8 is a well-liked and well-priced mid-size speaker which sounds lively and open, and the NAD has similar virtues. Both could be described as a little coloured, but at moderate levels you should find them engaging and musical. Both have also been formally Recommended in these pages. What little I remember of the Yamaha and the Marantz suggests they will live very happily in the same company, so what more can I say — except to wish you good listening.

A NAD 314 should sit happily alongside a Yamaha CDX530.



A traditional request

I currently own a Naim Nait 3, a Quad CD 67 and have just inherited a Linn Sondek LP12 Valhalla with an Ittok arm. As this equipment has a certain tradition I want speakers with the same kind of style. My budget is around £500. While we are at it, could you also recommend an MC cartridge for the turntable, please? Thank you!

Teck Leong, Malaysia

My first idea was the Linn Sara, which appears to meet your requirements and should be available secondhand within your budget, though the Nait is not really powerful or good enough to make the best of it. If you intend moving further up the Naim hierarchy then this would be a practical suggestion. In the meantime, consider the Epos ES14 — you might be able to get a second-hand pair that fits your budget.

Forget moving coils. The Nait lacks a moving coil input, a decision the designers made because the amp was intended as an entry-level product, and it was thought

that it would not benefit significantly from the rather subtle advantages that a moving coil might provide. Think in terms of the Linn K9 (£150), the Grado Prestige Gold (also £150) or the Rega Elys (£74).



Epos ES14: ideal partners for the Naim Nait 3?

Big factors

My current system comprises Audiolab 8000C/8000P amps, Meridian 206 CD player with Wharfedale 730.2 (I think?) and Linn Tukan speakers, which reside in a nine foot by eight foot room. My musical tastes are varied, but centre on new-wave/rock and classical with a bit of easy listening thrown in.

Firstly, I would like your recommendation on interconnects and speaker cables as I made up my current sets some time ago and now feel that they are not giving of their best.

Future acquisitions will include a turntable, DAC, speaker stands, rack, and speakers to replace the Wharfedales. Please advise on a few worthy selections for each category including items that will take advantage of my current amplification. Budget is not a big factor. Stewart Mala, Chigwell, Essex

What is your reason for using two pairs of speakers? Are they in the same room and used together, or in separate rooms? Given

that the Audiolab 8000P power amp lacks switching for two pairs of speakers, I assume the former is the case, yet I can think of no good reason for using them together since these speakers' characters are at odds.

Recently I had the opportunity to reacquaint myself with the Tukan after a long period, and was impressed by its tidy, controlled and articulate nature. It is certainly the better speaker by any criterion I can think of. If the idea of using two speakers is to add a degree of fullness to the sound, why not use a subwoofer? Carefully set up, a REL Q-Bass 100 might be the answer.

The REL comes with cable, and take your pick of speaker leads. Ortofon SPK300 at £8/metre is a good bet, but cables as cheap as Audioquest F-14 at £1.95/metre should also do the job. Speaker stands are difficult to be categorical about as performance is often related to price. For the Tukan, why not start with the ones Linn make (£85); alternatively seek out the Kudos S50 (£100).



Realism

I am a student with varied musical tastes from Depeche Mode and U2 to classical and new-age. My overriding musical requirement is realism. My budget for a single-source CD system is approximately £600 including stands and cables. Please advise.

Xerxes J Medora, Canterbury

Central to the success of any good system is an amplifier that has sufficient authority and control, and at the time of writing, the Harman/Kardon HK620 (£250) is about as good as they come within your budget, though it is not hugely powerful, and could be overwhelmed in spacious surroundings — unlikely in a student's digs. Another possibility is the Denon PMA-350SE (£200). Good, inexpensive CD players include no less than three Best Buys: the Philips CD-721 (£130), the Sony CDP-XE500 (£160) and the Kenwood DP-3080 (£170). There is no shortage of decent inexpensive speakers either, including the B&W DM302 and Mission 731 (both £130); the former being brighter and more demonstrative. My money would go on the harman/kardon, Sony and Mission, which leaves £60 for cables and stands.

'Better' product ahoy

I would like to make a system from the following separates, and I would be interested in your comments and suggestions. I have a Sony CDP-561 CD player which I want to connect to an Audio Innovations Alto amp with Sonus Faber Concertino speakers and a REL Q-Bass subwoofer. In my country it is impossible to audition complete systems because they come from different dealers and every one of them has 'better' product on offer, so I would be very grateful if you can help me with this.

D'amir Wanz'guard, North Yemen

Stop! You're well on the way to a fundamentally unbalanced system. The objections are not to the use of a subwoofer per se, but to its use with an amplifier driving the main speakers that will not come close to being able to track the dynamics in the bass. In any case, the Alto is not really man enough for the Sonus Faber Concertinos, which really need something a little grander — I'd suggest the Copland CSA-14 (£1,095) or the Musical Fidelity A1000 (£1,399). If necessary postpone the REL purchase to a later date. If you really can't stretch to these ideal choices, may I suggest the Densen Beat at £599.

The £120 CD challenge

I have a pair of Magneplanar Tympani 1D speakers, Project 6 turntable, Linn Klyde pickup, Denon PRA-S10 preamp and NAD 218 THX power amp. I'm very satisfied with the sound of the speakers but my big problem is finding a matching CD player under £120; I prefer multi-bit players. But first of all I would like to know your views on my existing gear, since I have the possibility to trade my NAD for a Carver Sunfire. Should I do that?

Rodrigo Concha, via the internet

If you're talking about a part-exchange, how about using some of that money to increase the budget available for the CD player? It is true that the cost/performance curve for CD players follows a fairly erratic path, but £120 really is below the level that makes sense. By all means trawl the listings at the back of this magazine and try and arrange a demonstration of one of the better ranked models in your own system — dealers will often allow a home loan against a cash deposit of the purchase price — but your system deserves something like the Trichord Revelation (£800) or the Meridian 506 (£995). Maybe you could compromise somewhere between the two. How about the Orelle CD-100SE at £549, which is a remarkably grown-up player at the price?



The Musical Fidelity A1000: a grander partner for Concertinos

HI-FI CHOICE

"How to claim your FREE gift and achieve perfect sound every time you play"



FREE

Discover the secrets of exceptional hi-fi

A subscription to *Hi-Fi Choice* is your guarantee of a great sounding system. Every issue is packed with reviews, tests and tips to show you how to totally transform your listening experience.

Then finely tune your system with the Densen DeMagic CD

Your FREE gift, the Densen DeMagic CD, uses the very latest technology to de-magnetise your CD player's signal, ensuring crystal clear sound every time you play.

"The excellent DeMagic disc: play it for just three minutes and your hi-fi sounds cleaner, clearer, and strikingly alive"

Alan Sircom, Reviews Editor, Hi-Fi Choice

SUBSCRIBE TO HI-FI CHOICE

- Claim your FREE Densen DeMagic CD worth £10
- Save over £5 on the cover price
- Subscribe for as little as £14.97
- FREE delivery of every issue direct to your door
- Full Money-Back Guarantee

Get the best from your system - get a subscription to Hi-Fi Choice

- YES! I want Hi-Fi Choice sent direct to my door each month. I understand I can write to cancel my subscription at any time, for any reason, and receive a full refund - no questions asked.
- Please start my subscription from the next available issue and send me my FREE Densen DeMagic CD **or**
- I am already a subscriber, please extend my subscription and send me my FREE Densen DeMagic CD

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

Direct Debit payment

£14.97 every six months (UK only) **Best Deal**

Cheque or Credit/Debit card payment

1 year UK £29.97 Europe £43.99 World £56.99

YOUR DETAILS

Name	
Address	
Postcode	Daytime phone

Please indicate here if you do not wish to receive details of further special offers or new products. All gifts subject to availability. Dennis Publishing reserves the right to substitute a gift offered with a similar product with equal or greater value. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

Please return this coupon to: Hi-Fi Choice, Subscriptions Department, FREEPOST WD7, Bristol BS12 OBR (No stamp required)

Overseas readers, please post to: Hi-Fi Choice Subscriptions Department, Bradley Pavilions, Bradley Stoke North, Bristol BS12 OBQ, UK

YOUR CHOICE OF PAYMENT

Complete section 1 Direct Debit 2 Cheque or 3 Credit/Debit card

1 I would like to subscribe by Direct Debit for just £14.97 every six months

Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit

To the manager: Bank name	
Address	
Postcode	
Name of account holder(s)	
Bank sort code	Account number
Originator's identification number 7 2 4 6 8 0	
Please pay Dennis Publishing Ltd. Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee.	
Signature(s)	Date
Banks and building societies may not accept direct debit instructions for some types of account	

2 I enclose a cheque made payable to: *Dennis Publishing Limited*

3 Please charge my:

Visa Access/Mastercard AMEX Switch (Issue No. | | | | | | | |)

Card Number | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Expiry date | | | | | |

Signed Today's date

IN A HURRY? CALL THE CREDIT CARD HOTLINE NOW ON: 01454 620070 (8.30 AM-6.00 PM)



Sitting closer

Yamaha AX-490: powerful budget amplification

My system consists of a NAD 502 CD player, a NAD 602 cassette deck and an old Akai amplifier (45W) which powers a pair of Tannoy PBM5 II speakers. I get quite a good sound but sometimes I feel that I would do much better if I replaced my amplifier. I need one which is accurate and has a stable clear image, even at high volumes sustained for long periods of time. Tone controls are a must, and the budget is about £300. I was thinking about the NAD 312 or 314, or the Kenwood KA-3020S. I should also mention that the speakers are not far apart due to lack of room, so stereo image is compromised.

Name & address supplied

If you want lots of power and tone controls, you should investigate the Yamaha AX-490 (£250), which is considerably more powerful than the other two named at 85 Watts per channel, and in the same class sonically as your shortlisted models. You will inevitably lose something compared to the best tone control-less models at this price — but it's your choice. You can widen the apparent size of the soundstage either by sitting closer to the speakers, or by pointing the speakers down the room instead of toeing them in towards each other.

Aesthetic appeal

I purchased a Denon DRM800A two or three years ago to replace my original but terminally-ill cassette deck. Since then, I have also bought a Denon TU425RD tuner to replace a Yamaha CT810 and a Denon DCD 825 CD player. I hope I haven't blundered too much already, but I'm happy with it so far.

Unfortunately, I'm still in possession of an ageing Optonica SA5100 integrated amplifier and a couple of prehistoric Goodmans Magnum Ks and Wharfedale Denton 2s (used in different rooms of the house).

Having had a warning about aesthetic appeal, I am considering the purchase of a Denon PMA 450SE amplifier to replace the SA5100. What speakers would you recommend for use with this system, on a £400 budget?
Mike Hall, Warwick

It might be more productive to pool the budgets you have allocated to the amplifier and the loudspeakers, and divide them on merit rather than according to inevitably meaningless formula. This way you can shortlist loudspeakers like the B&W DM602, Castle Durham 900 or perhaps the Rega EL8, all of which cost around £300, with a Harman/Kardon HK1400 (£400) or Pioneer A-300R Precision amplifier, which should result in a better balanced system thanks to the superiority of the higher-priced amplifiers.

The PMA-450 is a decent amplifier, but approaching its sell-by date. Cheaper models in the range have already been superseded by SE variants, which sound considerably better (see the Denon PMA350SE review in the January issue), and have a much cleaned-up appearance to match. If you are willing to wait a few months, the PMA-450SE will be another option to consider.



Pioneer A-300R Precision: helps give a balanced system

HINTS AND TIPS

Monastic midrange

Jimmy Hughes relates the benefit to be had from fashioning cowls for speakers!

A wide, even dispersion of sound over a broad range of frequencies is the goal of many speaker designers, and to this end they design enclosures with smooth, rounded contours so that the sound waves are not impeded. The result is greater tonal openness and reduced coloration, yet I wonder if this isn't yet another area where a battle or two lost can win the war.

I have a fairly unusual split-level living room, and the two chairs from where I do most of my listening are placed in the middle of the floor. Recently, I noticed music actually sounded more integrated and coherent if I sat behind these seats on the floor, an arrangement which blocks my view of the speakers.

Of course this is hardly an ideal listening position, and it doesn't do much for soundstaging or stereo imagery. But disregarding all that, from a musical standpoint the sound is far more cohesive and easier to follow. Given that I sit about 15ft back from speakers placed in reverse, my sound is already remarkably smooth and integrated. Yet, getting even further out of the firing line improves cohesion and homogeneity yet more.

Getting that same sound from my main listening chair was the next goal. In the end I came up with some cowls put on the top and sides of the loudspeaker to narrow the dispersion of the middle and high frequencies. I simply got some pieces of thick card and made an 'n' shape to cover the upper half of the enclosure. I then moved it back and forth to see what sort of effect it had on the sound.

I can't honestly say it was quite the same as listening with the two speakers hidden from aural view, but the effect was similar. Instruments and voices were better separated, yet overall, things were more integrated. The sound had far greater depth and space and it was easier to follow individual strands.

There was some loss of openness, but much depended on how deep the cowl was; a couple of inches hardly made any difference, but if increased to (say) six inches the tonal balance hardened noticeably. I also felt the bass driver was more adversely affected by being 'blinkered' in the way described; the low bass could get a touch heavy and boomy.

There's no doubt that diffraction has a big effect on the perceived sound of a speaker, and readers may recall ideas aired some years back which suggested rounded

beading on the side of the enclosure improved results. The idea was to eliminate the abrupt edge between the front and top/bottom/sides of a typical enclosure.

My idea is similar but not quite the same. I'm aiming for a much better integration between the drive units so things sound more seamless and cohesive. By narrowing dispersion at high frequencies you can obtain some worthwhile benefits. Try it and see!

"It's a rare combination of superb sound, and terrific value"

WHAT HI-FI?

and only available from these authorised dealers...

- ABERDEEN**
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
01224 587070
- ACCRINGTON**
Cryers
01254 391440
- ALDERLEY EDGE**
Aston Audio
01625 582704
- AYLESBURY**
Northwood Audio II
01296 28790
- BANBURY**
Blinkhorns
01295 259859
- BANGOR**
I & H Griffiths
01248 370655
- BARKING**
Hyper-Fi
0181 591 6961
- BARNSTAPLE**
J & A Video Centre
01271 24384
- BARROW-IN-FURNESS**
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
01293 838757
- BASINGSTOKE**
Audio T
01256 24311
- BATH**
Moss of Bath
01225 465085
- BIRMINGHAM**
Paul Green Hi-Fi
01225 316197
- BECKENHAM**
Musical Images
0181 663 3777
- BEDFORD**
Richard's A.V.
01234 365165
- BELFAST**
Audio Times
01232 249117
- BIRMINGHAM**
Richer Sounds
01232 321332
- BIDEFORD**
J & A Cameras
01237 421791
- BIRMINGHAM**
Music Matters
0121 429 2811
- BIRMINGHAM**
Music Matters
0121 742 0254
- BIRMINGHAM**
Norman H. Field
0121 622 2323
- BIRMINGHAM**
Richer Sounds
0121 643 1516
- BIRMINGHAM**
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
0121 233 2977
- BIRMINGHAM**
Superfi
0121 631 2875
- BISHOP'S STORTFORD**
Chew & Osborne
01279 656401
- BIRMINGHAM**
The Audio File
01279 506576
- BLACKBURN**
Cryers
01245 51842
- BLACKBURN**
Practical Hi-Fi
01254 691104
- ROMERS HILL**
01254 887799
- BLACKPOOL**
Practical Hi-Fi
01253 300599
- BLOXWICH**
Sound Academy
01922 473499
- BOLTON**
Practical Hi-Fi
01204 395789
- BOURNEMOUTH**
Movement Audio
01202 529968
- BRISTOL**
Suttons
01202 555512
- BRACKNELL**
B&B Hi-Fi
01344 424556
- BRENTWOOD**
Hi-Spek Electronics
01277 226303
- BRIGHTON**
Richer Sounds
01273 673333
- BROWNE**
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
01273 775978
- BRISTOL**
Audio Excellence
0117 926 4975
- BATH**
Richer Sounds
0117 973 4397
- BROMBROUGH**
CROSS
Peter's Hi-Fi
0151 344 1874
- BROMSGROVE**
Spains
01527 872460
- BURTON UPON TRENT**
Grange Hi-Fi
01283 533655
- BURY ST. EDMUNDS**
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
01284 753738
- CAMBORNE**
E.T.S.
01209 712344
- CAMBRIDGE**
Campkins Hi-Fi
01223 312240
- CANTERBURY**
O Audio
01227 462787
- CARDIFF**
Audio Excellence
0122 228565
- STORTFORD**
Richer Sounds
01382 229588
- CARLISLE**
Practical Hi-Fi
01228 44792
- CASTLEFORD**
Eric Wiley Hi-Fi
01977 566774
- CHATHAM**
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
01634 846859
- CHELMSFORD**
Rhythms (Colvill Hi-Fi)
01245 325125
- EDINBURGH**
Bill Hutchinson
0131 220 0909
- CHILTENHAM**
Audio T
01242 583960
- SEVENOAKS HI-FI**
01242 241171
- CHESTER**
Audio Excellence
01244 345576
- Peter's Hi-Fi**
01241 319392
- CHIPPENHAM**
JD Stereo Center
01249 654357
- CHORLEY**
Monitor Sound
01257 271935
- CONGLETON**
The Hi-Fi Showrooms
01260 280017
- COVENTRY**
Frank Harvey Hi-Fi
01203 525200
- Superfi**
01203 223254
- CROYDON**
Audio Tech
0181 680 1177
- GLASGOW**
Richer Sounds
0181 667 1100
- SEVENOAKS HI-FI**
0116 555 1203
- SPALDINGS HI-FI**
0116 554 1231
- Zebra**
0181 688 2093
- DARLINGTON**
Hi-Fi Experience
01325 481418
- DERBY**
Superfi
01332 360303
- DEZVES**
Ruthers Hi-Fi
01880 722268
- DOUGLAS**
Island C.D.
01624 674505
- DUBLIN 2**
Hi-Fi Corner
00 353 1 671 4343
- DUBLIN 4**
The Sony Centre
00 353 1 667 0990
- DUNDEE**
J.D. Brown
01382 226591
- W.M. Coupar**
01382 229588
- CARLISLE**
Technosound
01582 663297
- EASTBOURNE**
Smyth & Barre
01323 729192
- EAST GRINSTEAD**
Audio Designs
01342 314569
- EDGWARE**
Musical Images
0181 952 5535
- EDINBURGH**
Bill Hutchinson
0131 220 0909
- Richer Sounds**
0131 667 2877
- Richer Sounds**
0131 226 3544
- ENFIELD**
Audio T
0181 367 3132
- SEVENOAKS HI-FI**
0181 342 1973
- EPING**
Chew & Osborne
01992 574242
- EXETER**
Audio Excellence
01392 491194
- EXMOUTH**
Exe Video
01395 278 558
- FALKIRK**
Hi-Fi Corner
01324 629011
- FOLKESTONE**
Halksworth Wheeler
01303 255688
- V.J. Hi-Fi**
01303 258860
- GATESHEAD**
Linton Audio
0191 460 0999
- Linton Audio**
0113 242 7777
- Richer Sounds**
0191 477 4167
- GLASGOW**
Bill Hutchinson
0141 248 2857
- Richer Sounds**
0141 226 5551
- The Music Room**
0141 332 5012
- GLoucester**
Audio Excellence
01452 300046
- GODSTONE**
Surrey Hi-Fi
01883 744755
- GUILDFORD**
Rogers Hi-Fi
01483 61049
- SEVENOAKS HI-FI**
01483 366666
- HALIFAX**
Huddersfield Hi-Fi
01422 366832
- HARROW**
Harrow Audio
0181 863 0938
- HASTINGS**
Adams & Jarrett
01424 437165
- HEREFORD**
English Audio
01432 355081
- HIGH WYCOMBE**
B&B Hi-Fi
01494 535910
- The Sound Gallery**
01494 531682
- HOUNSLOW**
Musical Images
0181 569 5802
- Huddersfield Hi-Fi**
01484 544668
- HULL**
Superfi
01482 324051
- Zen Audio**
01482 587397
- ILFORD**
Audio T
0181 518 0915
- PRC Hi-Fi & Video**
0181 514 7448
- IPSWICH**
Eastern Audio
0171 837 8911
- Hi-Fi Confidential**
0171 233 7225
- Hi-Fi Surplus Store**
0131 323 6712
- Hi-Spek Electronics**
0181 349 1166
- Kamla Electronics**
0171 323 2747
- KJ West One**
0171 486 8262
- Kerco Electronics**
0181 743 3698
- Martin-Kleiser**
0181 742 3444
- M. O'Brien Hi-Fi**
0181 946 1528
- Musical Images**
0171 497 1346
- Myers Audio**
0181 520 7277
- Oranges & Lemons**
0191 230 3600
- PRC Hi-Fi & Video**
0181 470 3499
- Richer Sounds**
0171 352 8496
- Richer Sounds**
0171 403 1201
- Richer Sounds**
0171 722 3359
- Richer Sounds**
0171 831 2888
- Richer Sounds**
0171 626 8006
- Sevenoaks Hi-Fi**
0171 352 9466
- Sevenoaks Hi-Fi**
0181 855 8016
- Sevenoaks Hi-Fi**
01376 501733
- Shasonic**
0171 323 0333
- Spatial Audio**
0171 637 8702
- Superfi**
0171 388 1300
- The Hi-End**
0181 876 3355
- The Sound Organisation**
0171 403 2255
- LOSSIEMOUTH**
John Munro
01343 812340
- LUTON**
B&B Hi-Fi
01582 459915
- MAIDENHEAD**
B&B Hi-Fi
01628 73420
- LONDON**
Brans Hi-Fi
0171 631 1109
- Chelsea A.V.**
0171 352 2596
- Cornflake Shop**
0171 631 0472
- Francis of Streatham**
0181 769 0466
- Grahams Hi-Fi**
0171 226 5500
- Hi-Fi Care**
0171 637 7879
- Hi-Fi Care**
0171 637 8911
- Hi-Fi Confidential**
0161 832 0888
- MARGATE**
V.J. Hi-Fi
01843 226977
- MIDDLESBOROUGH**
Gilson Audio
01642 248793
- MSV**
01642 223366
- MILTON KEYNES**
Technosound
01908 604949
- NEW MALDEN**
Grandix
0181 336 0012
- NEWBURY**
B&B Hi-Fi
01635 32474
- NEWCASTLE**
Bill Hutchinson
0191 230 3600
- Richer Sounds**
0191 230 1392
- NEWPORT**
Hi-Fi Western
01633 262790
- NEWQUAY**
Quartetdeck Music
01637 851441
- NEWTOWNARDS**
Moore's Hi-Fi
01247 812417
- NORTHAMPTON**
Listen Inn
01604 37871
- NORWICH**
Basically Sound
01508 570829
- Martins Hi-Fi**
01603 627010
- Sevenoaks Hi-Fi**
01706 216305
- Cryers**
01789 415333
- ROTHAMPTON**
Forum Hi-Fi
0115 962 2657
- Richer Sounds**
0115 924 1551
- Superfi**
0115 941 2137
- OBAN**
Frank Walton Hi-Fi
01631 62917
- OLDHAM**
Audio Counsel
0161 633 2602
- OTLEY**
Aston Audio
01943 467689
- OXFORD**
Audio T
01865 65961
- Oxford Audio**
01865 241773
- Consultants**
01865 790879
- Sevenoaks Hi-Fi**
0161 832 1600
- Central Radio**
0161 834 6700
- Practical Hi-Fi**
0161 839 8869
- Superfi**
0161 835 1156
- The Hi-Fi Room**
0161 832 0888
- MARGATE**
V.J. Hi-Fi
01843 226977
- MIDDLESBOROUGH**
Gilson Audio
01642 248793
- MSV**
01642 223366
- MILTON KEYNES**
Technosound
01908 604949
- NEW MALDEN**
Grandix
0181 336 0012
- NEWBURY**
B&B Hi-Fi
01635 32474
- NEWCASTLE**
Bill Hutchinson
0191 230 3600
- Richer Sounds**
0191 230 1392
- NEWPORT**
Hi-Fi Western
01633 262790
- NEWQUAY**
Quartetdeck Music
01637 851441
- NEWTOWNARDS**
Moore's Hi-Fi
01247 812417
- NORTHAMPTON**
Listen Inn
01604 37871
- NORWICH**
Basically Sound
01508 570829
- Martins Hi-Fi**
01603 627010
- Sevenoaks Hi-Fi**
01706 216305
- Cryers**
01789 415333
- ROTHAMPTON**
Forum Hi-Fi
0115 962 2657
- Richer Sounds**
0115 924 1551
- Superfi**
0115 941 2137
- OBAN**
Frank Walton Hi-Fi
01631 62917
- OLDHAM**
Audio Counsel
0161 633 2602
- OTLEY**
Aston Audio
01943 467689
- OXFORD**
Audio T
01865 65961
- Oxford Audio**
01865 241773
- Consultants**
01865 790879
- Sevenoaks Hi-Fi**
0161 832 1600
- Central Radio**
0161 834 6700
- Practical Hi-Fi**
0161 839 8869
- Superfi**
0161 835 1156
- The Hi-Fi Room**
0161 832 0888
- MARGATE**
V.J. Hi-Fi
01843 226977
- MIDDLESBOROUGH**
Gilson Audio
01642 248793
- MSV**
01642 223366
- MILTON KEYNES**
Technosound
01908 604949
- NEW MALDEN**
Grandix
0181 336 0012
- NEWBURY**
B&B Hi-Fi
01635 32474
- NEWCASTLE**
Bill Hutchinson
0191 230 3600
- Richer Sounds**
0191 230 1392
- NEWPORT**
Hi-Fi Western
01633 262790
- NEWQUAY**
Quartetdeck Music
01637 851441
- NEWTOWNARDS**
Moore's Hi-Fi
01247 812417
- NORTHAMPTON**
Listen Inn
01604 37871
- NORWICH**
Basically Sound
01508 570829
- Martins Hi-Fi**
01603 627010
- Sevenoaks Hi-Fi**
01706 216305
- Cryers**
01789 415333
- ROTHAMPTON**
Forum Hi-Fi
0115 962 2657
- Richer Sounds**
0115 924 1551
- Superfi**
0115 941 2137
- OBAN**
Frank Walton Hi-Fi
01631 62917
- OLDHAM**
Audio Counsel
0161 633 2602
- OTLEY**
Aston Audio
01943 467689
- OXFORD**
Audio T
01865 65961
- Oxford Audio**
01865 241773
- Consultants**
01865 790879
- Sevenoaks Hi-Fi**
0161 832 1600
- Central Radio**
0161 834 6700
- Practical Hi-Fi**
0161 839 8869
- Superfi**
0161 835 1156
- The Hi-Fi Room**
0161 832 0888
- MARGATE**
V.J. Hi-Fi
01843 226977
- MIDDLESBOROUGH**
Gilson Audio
01642 248793
- MSV**
01642 223366
- MILTON KEYNES**
Technosound
01908 604949
- NEW MALDEN**
Grandix
0181 336 0012
- NEWBURY**
B&B Hi-Fi
01635 32474
- NEWCASTLE**
Bill Hutchinson
0191 230 3600
- Richer Sounds**
0191 230 1392
- NEWPORT**
Hi-Fi Western
01633 262790
- NEWQUAY**
Quartetdeck Music
01637 851441
- NEWTOWNARDS**
Moore's Hi-Fi
01247 812417
- NORTHAMPTON**
Listen Inn
01604 37871
- NORWICH**
Basically Sound
01508 570829
- Martins Hi-Fi**
01603 627010
- Sevenoaks Hi-Fi**
01706 216305
- Cryers**
01789 415333
- ROTHAMPTON**
Forum Hi-Fi
0115 962 2657
- Richer Sounds**
0115 924 1551
- Superfi**
0115 941 2137
- OBAN**
Frank Walton Hi-Fi
01631 62917
- OLDHAM**
Audio Counsel
0161 633 2602
- OTLEY**
Aston Audio
01943 467689
- OXFORD**
Audio T
01865 65961
- Oxford Audio**
01865 241773
- Consultants**
01865 790879
- Sevenoaks Hi-Fi**
0161 832 1600
- Central Radio**
0161 834 6700
- Practical Hi-Fi**
0161 839 8869
- Superfi**
0161 835 1156
- The Hi-Fi Room**
0161 832 0888
- MARGATE**
V.J. Hi-Fi
01843 226977
- MIDDLESBOROUGH**
Gilson Audio
01642 248793
- MSV**
01642 223366
- MILTON KEYNES**
Technosound
01908 604949
- NEW MALDEN**
Grandix
0181 336 0012
- NEWBURY**
B&B Hi-Fi
01635 32474
- NEWCASTLE**
Bill Hutchinson
0191 230 3600
- Richer Sounds**
0191 230 1392
- NEWPORT**
Hi-Fi Western
01633 262790
- NEWQUAY**
Quartetdeck Music
01637 851441
- NEWTOWNARDS**
Moore's Hi-Fi
01247 812417
- NORTHAMPTON**
Listen Inn
01604 37871
- NORWICH**
Basically Sound
01508 570829
- Martins Hi-Fi**
01603 627010
- Sevenoaks Hi-Fi**
01706 216305
- Cryers**
01789 415333
- ROTHAMPTON**
Forum Hi-Fi
0115 962 2657
- Richer Sounds**
0115 924 1551
- Superfi**
0115 941 2137
- OBAN**
Frank Walton Hi-Fi
01631 62917
- OLDHAM**
Audio Counsel
0161 633 2602
- OTLEY**
Aston Audio
01943 467689
- OXFORD**
Audio T
01865 65961
- Oxford Audio**
01865 241773
- Consultants**
01865 790879
- Sevenoaks Hi-Fi**
0161 832 1600
- Central Radio**
0161 834 6700
- Practical Hi-Fi**
0161 839 8869
- Superfi**
0161 835 1156
- The Hi-Fi Room**
0161 832 0888
- MARGATE**
V.J. Hi-Fi
01843 226977
- MIDDLESBOROUGH**
Gilson Audio
01642 248793
- MSV**
01642 223366
- MILTON KEYNES**
Technosound
01908 604949
- NEW MALDEN**
Grandix
0181 336 0012
- NEWBURY**
B&B Hi-Fi
01635 32474
- NEWCASTLE**
Bill Hutchinson
0191 230 3600
- Richer Sounds**
0191 230 1392
- NEWPORT**
Hi-Fi Western
01633 262790
- NEWQUAY**
Quartetdeck Music
01637 851441
- NEWTOWNARDS**
Moore's Hi-Fi
01247 812417
- NORTHAMPTON**
Listen Inn
01604 37871
- NORWICH**
Basically Sound
01508 570829
- Martins Hi-Fi**
01603 627010
- Sevenoaks Hi-Fi**
01706 216305
- Cryers**
01789 415333
- ROTHAMPTON**
Forum Hi-Fi
0115 962 2657
- Richer Sounds**
0115 924 1551
- Superfi**
0115 941 2137
- OBAN**
Frank Walton Hi-Fi
01631 62917
- OLDHAM**
Audio Counsel
0161 633 2602
- OTLEY**
Aston Audio
01943 467689
- OXFORD**
Audio T
01865 65961
- Oxford Audio**
01865 241773
- Consultants**
01865 790879
- Sevenoaks Hi-Fi**
0161 832 1600
- Central Radio**
0161 834 6700
- Practical Hi-Fi**
0161 839 8869
- Superfi**
0161 835 1156
- The Hi-Fi Room**
0161 832 0888
- MARGATE**
V.J. Hi-Fi
01843 226977
- MIDDLESBOROUGH**
Gilson Audio
01642 248793
- MSV**
01642 223366
- MILTON KEYNES**
Technosound
01908 604949
- NEW MALDEN**
Grandix
0181 336 0012
- NEWBURY**
B&B Hi-Fi
01635 32474
- NEWCASTLE**
Bill Hutchinson
0191 230 3600
- Richer Sounds**
0191 230 1392
- NEWPORT**
Hi-Fi Western
01633 262790
- NEWQUAY**
Quartetdeck Music
01637 851441
- NEWTOWNARDS**
Moore's Hi-Fi
01247 812417
- NORTHAMPTON**
Listen Inn
01604 37871
- NORWICH**
Basically Sound
01508 570829
- Martins Hi-Fi**
01603 627010
- Sevenoaks Hi-Fi**
01706 216305
- Cryers**
01789 415333
- ROTHAMPTON**
Forum Hi-Fi
0115 962 2657
- Richer Sounds**
0115 924 1551
- Superfi**
0115 941 2137
- OBAN**
Frank Walton Hi-Fi
01631 62917
- OLDHAM**
Audio Counsel
0161 633 2602
- OTLEY**
Aston Audio
01943 467689
- OXFORD**
Audio T
01865 65961
- Oxford Audio**
01865 241773
- Consultants**
01865 790879
- Sevenoaks Hi-Fi**
0161 832 1600
- Central Radio**
0161 834 6700
- Practical Hi-Fi**
0161 839 8869
- Superfi**
0161 835 1156
- The Hi-Fi Room**
0161 832 0888
- MARGATE**
V.J. Hi-Fi
01843 226977
- MIDDLESBOROUGH**
Gilson Audio
01642 248793
- MSV**
01642 223366
- MILTON KEYNES**
Technosound
01908 604949
- NEW MALDEN**
Grandix
0181 336 0012
- NEWBURY**
B&B Hi-Fi
01635 32474
- NEWCASTLE**
Bill Hutchinson
0191 230 3600
- Richer Sounds**
0191 230 1392
- NEWPORT**
Hi-Fi Western
01633 262790
- NEWQUAY**
Quartetdeck Music
01637 851441
- NEWTOWNARDS**
Moore's Hi-Fi
01247 812417
- NORTHAMPTON**
Listen Inn
01604 37871
- NORWICH**
Basically Sound
01508 570829
- Martins Hi-Fi**
01603 627010
- Sevenoaks Hi-Fi**
01706 216305
- Cryers**
01789 415333
- ROTHAMPTON**
Forum Hi-Fi
0115 962 2657
- Richer Sounds**
0115 924 1551
- Superfi**
0115 941 2137
- OBAN**
Frank Walton Hi-Fi
01631 62917
- OLDHAM**
Audio Counsel
0161 633 2602
- OTLEY**
Aston Audio
01943 467689
- OXFORD**
Audio T
01865 65961
- Oxford Audio**
01865 241773
- Consultants**
01865 790879
- Sevenoaks Hi-Fi**
0161 832 1600
- Central**

Cable Talk scooped the
top honours for Best Cables
in the **WHAT HI-FI?** Awards 1996

Interconnects: Monitor 2

Speaker Cables: Talk 3.1

*Doesn't your system
deserve the best?*



e Talk

& Speaker Cables

For further information please write to:
Cable Talk, Unit 12, Farnborough
Business Centre, Eelmoor Road,
Farnborough, Hants, GU14 7XA.
Tel: 01252 373434 Fax: 01252 371818

Please quote HFC 02/97

Head masters

Alvin Gold invites you into the intimate world of top-quality headphones, gathering five premier models around his highly tuned ears.

Listening through headphones can be rather like peering through a goldfish bowl. All sense of perspective disappears, and stereo imaging becomes a caricature, with left, centre and right strung out like a beads on a string. Detail is magnified unmercifully as the larger picture is pushed aside. This is very much the worst-case scenario that our exotic group of tested headphones are designed to improve upon. And on the whole, they do.

I've been a regular headphone user for as long as I can remember, partly because I work hours of the day when loudspeaker listening would be anti-social, but mainly because I like 'cans'. Given the prices of the models tested (none of which is less than £140) there is the implicit promise of something extraordinary and well worth hearing.

When a loudspeaker is shrunk to the size of something you can wear on your head, and maximum sound pressure levels are scaled down to match, many problems facing loudspeaker designers are swept away, but others rear their heads.

When a transducer is positioned close to the eardrum, every tiny little design flaw becomes magnified. After all, headphone design is an infinitely subtle art, and as you may have found out, there are few very good models around.

THE CAST LIST

Grado SR225	£225.00
Precide Ergo Model 2	£139.00
Sennheiser HE-60 & HEV70UK	£998.00
Sony MDR-CD1700	£199.99
Stax Lambda Nova Basic	£449.95

This test addresses what is euphemistically described as 'the high end', which is headphones from the top (or near the top) of manufacturers' ranges. All are designed specifically for excellent sound.

Headphones are seen largely as convenience products, but those on test here place convenience well down the priority

list. Some of the models could, in theory, partner personal stereos; a pair of Grados or Jecklins might make good sense with a personal CD player but most folk would think twice about walking down the street with such enormous cans wrapped around their skulls.

Two of the candidates can't even be connected to a standard headphone socket!

These headphones are primarily intended for use in a fixed location, partnered with normal hi-fi equipment, and this is the yardstick against which they've been measured.

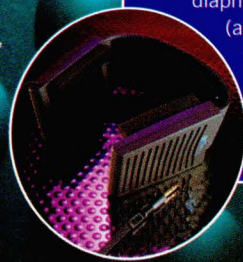
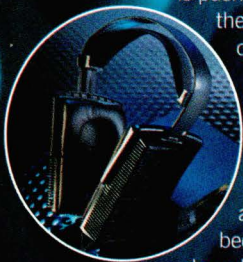
Upstream from the headphones, equipment used for this test included (but was not limited to) Krell KAV-300i and Denon PMA-450SE integrated amplifiers, and a Wadia 23 CD player.

ELECTROSTATIC VS. MOVING-COIL HEADPHONES

Most headphones are based on variants of the **moving-coil** drive unit, like the treble unit in a loudspeaker. The advantages are design simplicity, and the fact that a headphone can be connected directly to a low-voltage amplifier output. The disadvantage is the weight incurred by the

diaphragm's need for strength, which compromises its ability to follow the musical action at high rates of acceleration. At high frequencies such drive units reach a point where they fail to respond homogeneously, compromising sound quality.

Electrostatic drive is another well established technology, but involves greater complication and, ergo, higher selling prices. It uses a flat, high-resistance conductive membrane, suspended between fixed electrodes which take the form of perforated plates. The diaphragm is driven evenly over its entire surface and therefore doesn't need to be rigid. Electrostatics require a high polarising voltage which is applied to the diaphragm, usually supplied by an external transformer or special drive circuitry. The models tested here have their own amplifiers and accept line-level signals from existing systems. Advantages? The diaphragm can be extremely light (allowing it to respond more quickly and accurately) and physically large (which helps produce a more even sound-field around the ear).





GRADO SR225

Joe Grado has for a long time been one of the great iconoclasts of this industry, though his non-conformism has previously been expressed best through cartridges, which shared with Decca needles a peculiar and slightly unrefined immediacy, and certain physical oddities, too. Grado's headphones are ostensibly less idiosyncratic, and in some ways appear to hark back to the earliest lightweight Koss models.

Uncle Joe's latest and greatest (though it is not his most expensive) is a suspiciously modest-looking affair, with compact capsules attached to simple swivelling yokes which in turn are attached to the single hoop headband via steel rods. The capsules can be freely rotated (allowing the headphones to be packed flat, potentially useful in portable applications), and extended to allow proper positioning over the ears. The ear cushions, which are readily removable for cleaning, are made from a stiff reticulated foam with no supplementary covering, which gives a direct sound path, but which like all reticulated foam tends to be poor at conducting heat away from the ears. In this case it also has a slightly rough feel.

There are two metres of cable, which are

tipped with a fixed 6.3mm jack plug.

If rather unsophisticated build-quality is a prologue, the SR225's highly distinctive voice is the story. It sounds rather good on the whole, with a powerful and authoritative bass, and a warm, lucid midband. It is also obviously coloured, especially in the upper midrange area where the sound changes in character and becomes shut-in; and at the frequency extremes, both of which sound cloudy and lacking in fine detail.

Tonal colours are darker than usual. Strings lose their cutting edge, and although there is nothing overtly aggressive or nasty about string tone or other musical content, there is some muted evidence for a resonance in the treble, which is indicated, for example, by the tinny, coloured sound of close-miked percussion.

On the whole, though, the Grado's sins are largely those of omission. Music flows through this headphone organically and believably, with irrepressible dynamics and bounce. The treble resonance described above is not particularly aggressive, partly because the output is muted in this region. What's left is that rather distinctive tonal quality and some opacity, which doesn't prevent music sounding musical. In fact

sometimes it even helps massage the evidence in a positive way. Change, let's say, to the Sony *MDR-CD1700* (page 34) and it soon becomes apparent what's missing. The Grado leaves much, much more to the imagination. But it gives good expression to the dynamics and the 'shape' of the music, much as some valve amplifiers do when compared to their more literal solid-state transistor cousins.

The Grado would not be an effective monitoring tool in a recording environment where a warts'n'all presentation is required. For the simple communication of fine music, however, the Grado makes more sense, though the romanticised veneer it imposes on music is not always appropriate.

GRADO SR225 - VERDICT

SOUND ★★☆☆☆
VALUE ★★☆☆☆
PRICE £225

- ▲ Interesting, if flawed musical presentation often serves the music well.
- ▼ Not especially comfortable (despite being light in weight); lacks clarity and has a dark tonal quality.
- ✉ Goldring Products Ltd, 8 Greyfriars Rd, Moreton Hall Industrial Estate, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP32 7DX
- ☎ (01284) 701101

Finewoods



Hand crafted sweeping curves of real wood veneer combine with precision engineered steel columns to form a distinctive and stylish piece of audio furniture. Finewoods are available in a selection of beautiful finishes which have been introduced to match your existing furniture. The choice is yours.

* All the wood used in Finewoods products is from a known sustainable managed source

THE NATURAL CHOICE FOR HI-FI

PLEASE SEND ME YOUR NEW COLOUR BROCHURE

Name

Address

Telephone



SOUNDSTYLE

Finewoods

Soundstyle, 8 Greyfriars Rd, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP32 7DX
Tel:(01284) 701101 Fax:(01284) 750040



◀ PRECIDE ERGO MODEL 2

Hands up those of you who've heard of the Jecklin *Float*. I see. For the rest of you, and it looks like the majority, Jecklin is another personality in the Joe Grado mould, but of Swiss rather than American extraction, who made his name with the *Float* headphones.

So who or what is Precide? Precide is the Swiss company that has made Jecklin *Floats* since Day One, and has now branched out with its own in-house designs, loosely modelled on the *Float*, all of which it must be said strongly resemble a Darth Vader skull protector.

The physical construction of the *Float* was simplicity itself: a flat sheet of what appeared to be mineral-loaded plastics was moulded into a shape that fitted around the head, and the drive-unit capsules were mounted into cut-outs near each ear. The *Ergo* has the additional complication of some structure to enclose the inner workings and allow for head-size adjustment. With early *Float* models the capsules were held well away from the ears themselves, being only loosely restrained from swivelling or falling off altogether when the user moved.

The *Ergo* range, which runs in parallel with the *Float* series (the model under test is closely related to the *Model 2 Float*), has a new neodymium magnet system which increases sensitivity to the point where the system will make good use of the limited output from personal stereos, though the 2.7 metre ribbon lead counts against portable use, as does the fixed 6.3mm plug. Not to mention questions of fashion!

The original concept for the *Float* was 'the ultimate open headphone', in which a couple of loudspeakers were suspended near each ear (without the colorations inevitable from a shell-like structure on the outside, or earpads and other clutter between the headphone and the ear) and with the minimum of acoustic loading.

The *Ergo Model 2* follows the same pattern, but has been reined in a little. The 'phones fit rather more snugly around the ears, and there is no longer that inescapable suspicion that the headphones are about to fall off the head at every turn. At the same time, they don't sound quite as open and detached as their progenitors, partly no doubt because of the tighter physical build,

but partly also because the balance of the *Ergo Model 2* is brighter and more forward than the *Float*, and because the Model 2 suppresses some of the subtle information that informs the ear and brain about space.

The makers claim these new models sound more dynamic in a side by side comparison, and I have no doubt this is the case, but the new rare-earth magnet models are coarser in texture. Strings have a shiny, edgy tone, as though burnished with metal polish, and there is evidence of a sharp resonant peak, probably around the 6-8kHz range, which leaves vocal timbre badly affected.

PRECIDE ERGO MODEL 2 - VERDICT

SOUND ★★☆☆☆
VALUE ★★☆☆☆
PRICE £139.00

▲ Dynamic and open sound, though not as open as Jecklin *Float*; strong tuneful bass; sensitive enough for portable applications; improved fit on head.

▼ Raw, metallic colorations spoil subtlety of sound and mar the quality of vocals and many instruments.

✉ May Audio Marketing (UK) Ltd., Aireside Mills, Cononley, Keighley, West Yorkshire BD20 8LW.
 ☎ (01535) 632700

◀ **SENNHEISER HE60 & HEV70/UK**

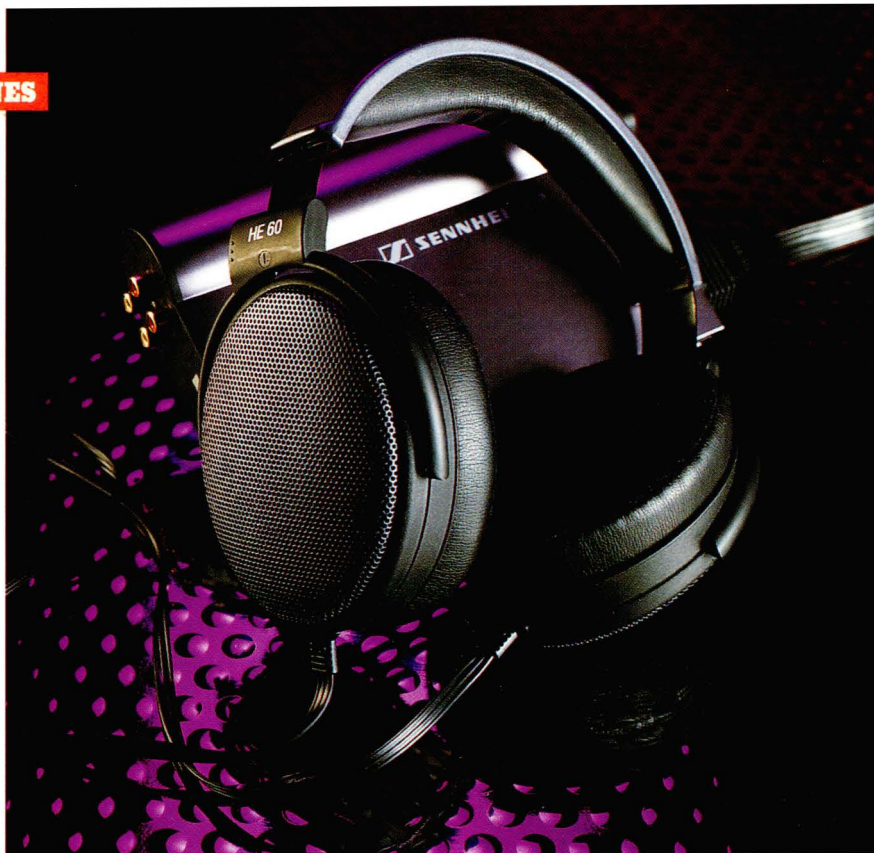
The *HE60* and *HEV70/UK* combination — the former a headphone, the latter a mains-powered energiser — is derived directly from Sennheiser's £9,600 *Orpheus*, but is simpler and more affordable. The headphone is still electrostatic, but its electronics are of the solid-state rather than vacuum-tube variety, though they run in Class A.

The *HEV70/UK* preamp is fed by a line-level input from your system amplifier's tape output (or similar), and is equipped with a friction-coupled dual-concentric volume control from ALPS. The only controls are a signal overload/power telltale and an on/off switch. To preserve existing tape loops there are both line in and output sockets.

The *HE60*'s large electrostatic diaphragm is protected by a steel mesh cover internally, matched to an open-back enclosure fitted with firm oval circumaural earpads. A comfortable felted material covers the latter keeping one's head reasonably cool. The headband is a simple padded hoop, which is comfortable but no match for those of the Sony and Stax models. Cable length is 2.9 metres.

The *HE60* and *HEV70/UK* combination is almost twice the price of any other model in this test, and by comparison with them it was disappointing. The open, pure-sounding midband is not bettered by any of the others in this group, and the frequency balance, very similar to the Sony *MDR-CD1700*, is light, open and agile, with a suggestion of treble lift. The bass is excellent, though lacks the authority and weight of the much more expensive *Orpheus*.

It's the treble that betrays this Sennheiser, being less refined than that of Sony and Stax rivals in this comparison. There's clear evidence of a very-high-fre-



quency in-band resonance revealed as vocal sibilance with some performances, and as a phasey edge that can be detected with many recordings — rapid phase shifts are associated with high-Q resonances, and the audible effect can be a comb-filter type of phasing. The effect lent an uncomfortable edge to Jennifer Warnes's voice, and a squeaky, slightly metallic overlay to orchestral strings. Percussion suffered most, sounding coloured and coarse.

The good news is that the resonance identified was limited strictly to the treble. There was no audible consequence in the midband, which seemed completely free from coloration of any kind. In the main, the

Sennheiser sounded precise and articulate, with excellent imaging like the Sony *MDR-CD1700* but with a much greater feeling of overall depth and spaciousness.

SENNHEISER HE60 & HEV70 -VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★
VALUE ★★★★★
PRICE £998.00

▲ Superb bass and midband; excellent soundstaging and state-of-the-art resolving power.

▼ Marred by what appears to be an audible treble resonance, which means sibilance on some voices and messy percussion.

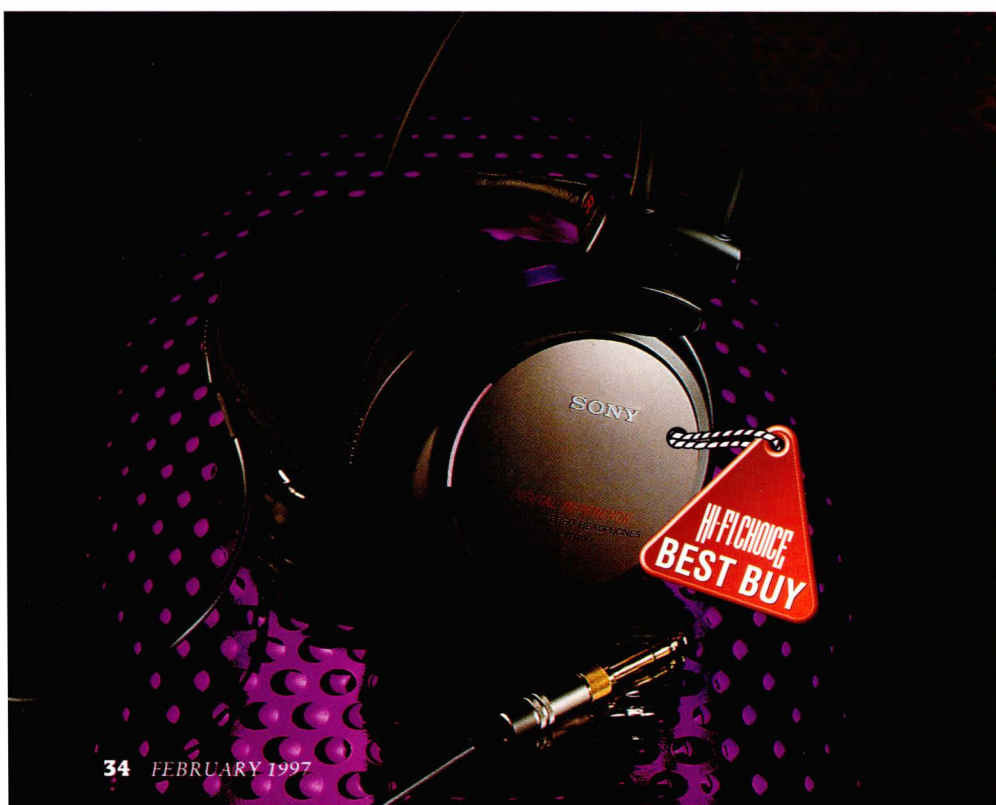
✉ Sennheiser UK Ltd, 3 Century Point, Halifax Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 3SL

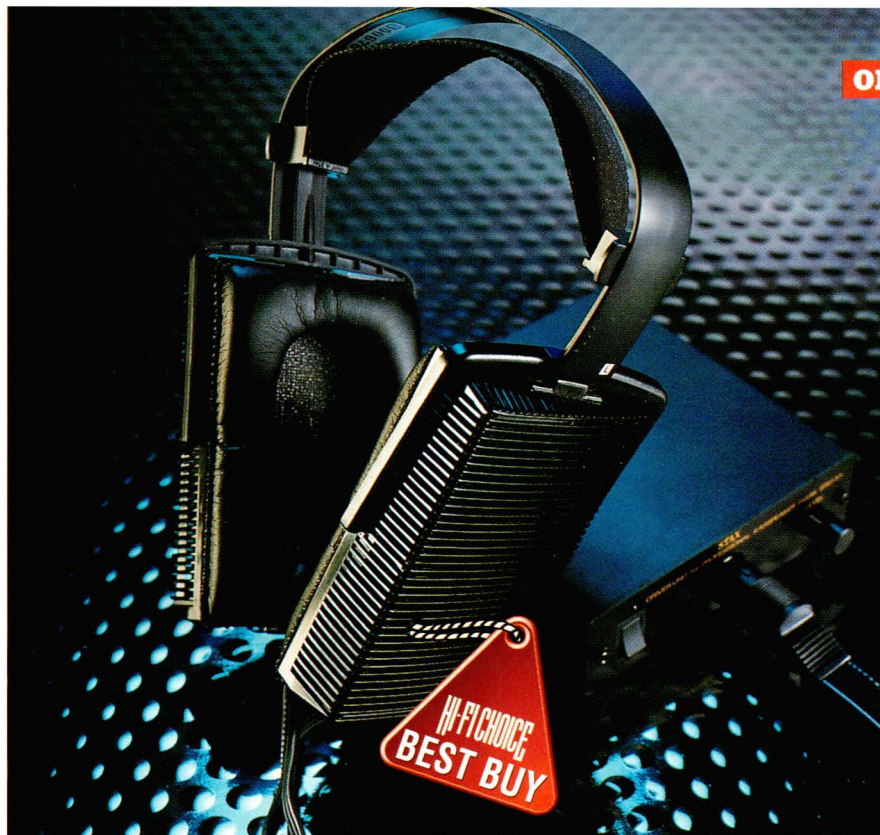
☎ (01494) 551551

SONY MDR-CD1700

Few printed details accompanied this headphone, which is a very recent introduction. I was told however, that the *MDR-CD1700* is derived from the flagship *MDR-R10 King*, which had large, sealed capsule surrounds hand-carved from an exotic wood, fitted internally with a bio-cellulose diaphragm 'hand-made' by acetic bacteria. Despite their enormous cost (£2,500), these were a moving-coil headphone, as the *MDR-CD1700* is. It echoes its predecessor's shape and reprises the 'R10's' biocellulose and 'Vectran' diaphragms.

At first sight the 'CD1700 looks dubious. It is bulky and has a sealed-back construction, often shorthand for coloration and compressed dynamics. But this time Sony has bucked stereotypes, as the headphone's structure is very light and comfortable, thanks to an outer steel hoop and a pliable, spring-loaded inner band that automatically adjusts to head size. Extra pampering comes from large circumaural earpads covered in soft felt. Thanks to low weight the 'CD1700 exerts low inward pressure on the listener's



**STAX LAMBDA NOVA BASIC - VERDICT**

SOUND ★★★★★
VALUE ★★★★★
PRICE £449.95

▲ Simply the most accurate and best overall musical performer in this group, with Rolls-Royce standards of comfort to match. All of Stax's competitors ought to own a pair to see how its done!

▼ No tape-loop line-level output from supply unit means it hogs one amplifier tape circuit.

✉ Path Premier, Unit 2, Desborough Industrial Park,
 High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 3BG.
 ☎ (01494) 441736

that's very similar to the result of loudspeaker listening, but with the understated precision and fine detail that are special properties of good electrostatic headphones.

This headphone is quite simply one of the best at any price. It rivals the Sony for resolution and control, but is more evenly balanced, and has a solidity, weight and presence all its own. The effect is electric, making it the only headphone in the test that doesn't sound like a headphone, and almost justifying Stax's claim that the *Lambda* is an 'earspeaker'.

The first movement of Mahler's *9th* (Karajan) blazed with ferocity and physical stature that eluded all competitors here, and the almost vanishingly-quiet bars of the finale remained starkly audible against the ambient backdrop without any help from the volume knob. Any headphone doing justice to this masterwork is something special. ▲

HEADPHONE SAFETY

There is a hidden danger in headphones that doesn't exist with loudspeakers. Loudspeakers are placed two meters or more from the listener. Headphone drive units are suspended a few centimetres from the eardrum, which means that their spectral content tends to favour the upper midband and treble, which has no chance to dissipate as it does from a loudspeaker's treble unit. It is these penetrating mid and higher frequencies that can damage the hearing, but it's an insidious process as headphones can scale a vast range of loudnesses with a freedom from compression and distortion that loudspeakers can only dream of.

The result? It's all too easy to end up with volume settings that are much higher than they seem. Full marks to Sennheiser for fitting an indicator to show when the level is too high.

TAKE CARE OF THE FOLLOWING POINTS AND TAKE CARE OF YOUR EARS.

- Start with the volume low, and increase it slowly until the listening level is comfortable.
- Avoid audible distortion, which can inject high frequency harmonics directly into the ear.
- The ear quickly acclimatises to new volume settings. Having established an appropriate level, don't increase it unduly. Remember that the lack of visceral bass from most headphones means volume levels often seem lower than they really are.
- Never turn up the volume so high that external sounds are completely drowned out.
- Never use headphones when driving a motor vehicle, or when hearing is important to your personal safety.
- Children also need to be educated about how to use headphones safely.
- Finally, remember that hearing damage is only detectable when it is already too late!

ears without sacrificing any stability. The price paid is minimal attenuation of external sound. The 3.4m-long cable is fixed to one earpiece.

For a dynamic headphone, sound quality is startlingly good. It has the kind of exquisite clarity and delicacy that are normally the province of top-class electrostatics like the Sennheiser and Stax models in this test. Bass is tuneful and well extended, but still immaculately controlled though lacking the last word in weight. Treble is balanced on the bright side of neutral, lending music a lively, detailed feel. The only trade-off is imagery constrained in scope compared, say, with the Stax. Image scale tends to suffer as a result, though there appears to be no loss of fine detail, which is reproduced by the bucket-load.

Lest I split any more hairs, even though the *CD1700's* balance is a little bright, it sings the cleanest, sweetest and most articulate treble of any dynamic headphone I've heard. Cymbal crashes have only the metallic quality that belongs, while drum brush strokes have a wholly tactile quality with no suggestion of distortion at reasonable volume levels or well above. Vocal quality is superb: a perfect miniature model of the real thing. The absence of coloration, usually perceived in open-back headphones alone, is quite startling and very difficult to explain.

SONY MDR-CD1700 - VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★
VALUE ★★★★★
PRICE £199.99

▲ A triumph: spine-tingling electrostatic sound quality right through the audio frequency band from a package with moving-coil simplicity and pricing.

▼ Inelegant; rather bright; engenders a loss of image depth and scale.

✉ Sony UK Ltd, The Heights, Brooklands, Weybridge,
 Surrey KT13 0XW
 ☎ (0181) 784 1144

STAX LAMBDA NOVA BASIC

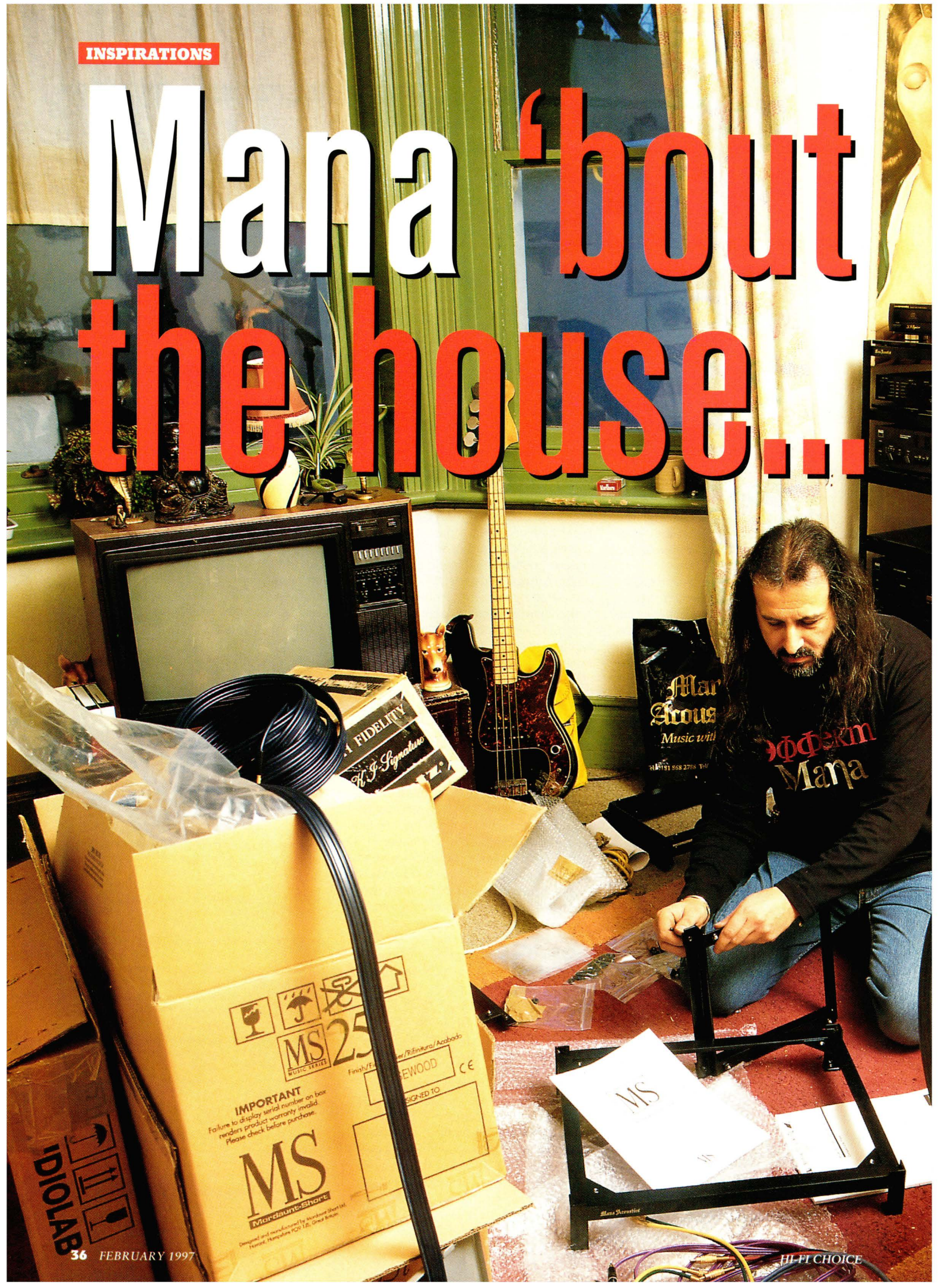
There has long been a preconception that Japanese hi-fi producers are predominantly massive multinationals, and that the specialist, cottage-industry end of the trade is dominated by Western companies. Anyone in the know will soon disabuse you of that notion, as Japan possesses its own crop of highly-distinguished specialists, many of which are unknown off their home turf.

Here is an exception. Stax is by common consent the premier name in electrostatic headphones world-wide. Their products have long lifetimes, and are universally costly or very costly, which keeps them away from the mainstream. The *Lambda Nova Basic* is no exception.

The *Nova* makes even the plush Sony feel knobbly. It is quite simply ravishingly comfortable, both in the short and the long term, courtesy of attention to fine detail in the shaping of the large rectangular leatherette-covered-foam ear cushions; and thanks also to the two-part headband, which works much like Sony's except that it adjusts manually. Stax makes a variety of power supplies at different quality levels and prices: the one supplied in this package is a simple solid-state design with an on/off switch and volume control (better quality comes in the *Nova Classic* package at £795). Say goodbye to your tape loop, all those whose amps have only one: here there is no duplicated line output on Stax's dedicated energiser. The headphone lead, 2.3m long, has a custom plug to fit Stax's energiser unit.

The *Lambda* body style conceals an outsize electrostatic diaphragm standing a little proud of the ears. It's rotated slightly to the front to encourage a wide image forward of the head. The ploy works, though the *Lambda's* strong resolving power and lack of coloration are equally responsible. In any case the sound has a bold, physical quality

Manabout the house...



IDIOLAB

In October '96 we teamed up with Mana Acoustics to offer a mega prize. **Jason Kennedy** joined the Mana men to see the giveaway gear installed.

Some guys have all the luck. One of them is Glenn Hurst, winner of our 'all-the-Mana-support-equipment-your-floor-can-take-plus-complete-system' competition featured in issue 158 of *Hi-Fi Choice*. It's not the first *Choice* competition Glenn has entered — more like the 25th — so it was about time fate smiled on him. And how!

The prize that Glenn has grabbed consists primarily of enough Mana kit to support his existing hi-fi gear and the system he has won, which itself comprises a Marantz *CD-63mkII KI Signature* CD player, an Audiolab 8000S integrated amplifier, Mordaunt-Short *MS25i* speakers, Cable Talk *Professional 2* interconnect and *Talk 3.1 Bi-wire* speaker cables.

Before Mana and *Hi-Fi Choice* invaded his space, Glenn was listening to Stranglers and Pink Floyd vinyl on a Micro-Seiki *MB-10* turntable, and his Leonard Cohen CDs on an Arcam *Alpha Plus* CD player, with amplification provided by a NAD *7240PE* receiver and final transduction undertaken by a pair of Mission 700 speakers. Aiwa and NAD cassette decks play what appear to be the complete works of Philip Glass.

By the time we left, the turntable was on a Mana *Reference* wall shelf, the electronics racked up on a six-tier stand atop three *Soundstages*, and the new speakers were putting the boot in with the aid of two pairs of *Soundbases*. The whole stand and support array, together with the all-important spirit level, would have cost Glenn £2,000, and should be more than equal to any future upgrades he might consider.

This system was demonstrated by Mana in one of their rooms at the Ramada show back in September '96, when it made an impression on all who heard it. Listening to the same equipment in action at Glenn's



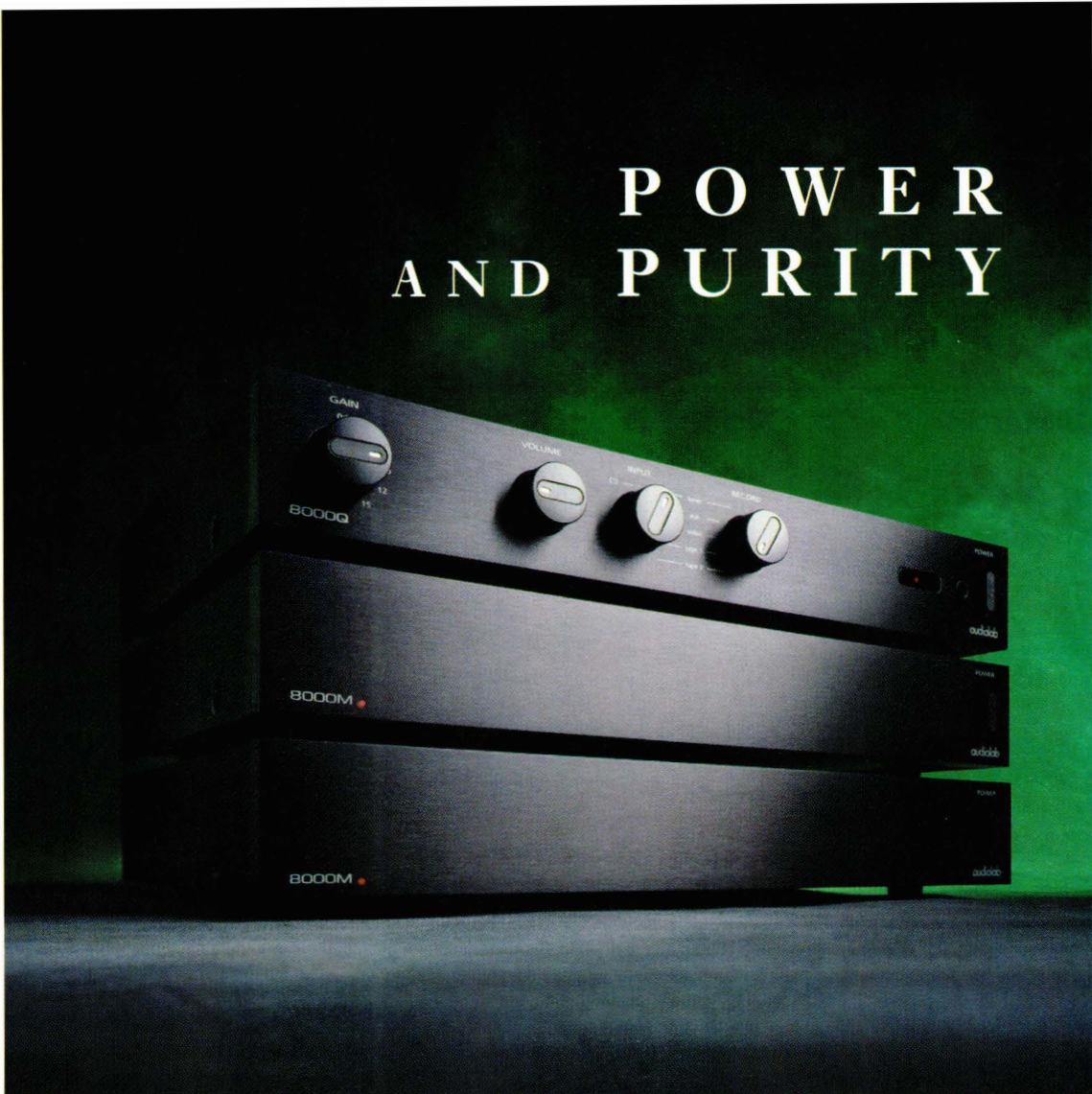
Who Are These Men?

The Lone Ranger and Tonto — aka John Watson (kneeling) and Damian McNamara of Mana Acoustics — install the ironwork in Glenn Hurst's living room. The spoils of a bonanza competition lie around them: Mordaunt-Short *MS25i* loudspeakers on the right, with Cable Talk *Talk 3.1* bi-wire on one; and the tools of the support installation trade on the other. The six-tier rack in the corner is ready for action with the new Audiolab 8000S amp and Marantz *CD63mkII KI Signature* CD player adjoining the pre-existing hi-fi kit.

POWER AND PURITY



Audiolab 8000DAC
Audiolab 8000CDM
Audiolab 8000C
Audiolab 8000P
Audiolab 8000S
Audiolab 8000T



Audiolab 8000Q
Audiolab 8000M
Audiolab 8000T



Audiolab 8000S

By combining advanced design and innovative engineering we created pure direct coupled circuitry for the Audiolab 8000Q Pre-amplifier. We call it Audiolab Z⁹ TECHNOLOGY. Combine the 8000Q with two or four Audiolab 8000M Monobloc Power Amplifiers and you have a formidable amplification system.

If your requirements are more modest, Audiolab manufactures a range of seven amplifiers beginning with the internationally acclaimed Audiolab 8000A Integrated Amplifier.

For more information and details of your Audiolab dealer call or write.

*Cambridge Systems Technology Ltd
Spitfire Close, Ermine Business Park
Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 6XY*

*Telephone 01480 415600
Fax 01480 52159*

AUDIOLAB



Above: the prize system fully installed, complete with cat, bass axe, bananas, and some of Glenn's records. Inset: the lucky winner himself.

place it wasn't hard to understand why. I still can't begin to fathom how so much grunt can emanate from such diminutive and essentially inexpensive speakers. Okay, they had a decent CD player, amplifier and cabling behind them, but nonetheless I'm lucky if I can get that sort of bass out of speakers costing twice as much. Those little *Soundbase* supports are clearly very effective; Mr Editor-in-Chief, I feel a stand review coming on!

As well as being a big music fan Glenn is also a musician, playing bass in a Pink Floyd cover band called Sheep, which he claims, modestly, can perform vintage Floyd more authentically than Messrs Mason, Gilmour, Wright et al. Come January 20th, Sheep will play the complete *Dark Side Of The Moon* set at the Brighton Dome, in a 25th anniversary celebration of the première, which the original Floyd played at the same venue.

As you may have noticed, Glenn's musi-

cal tastes are more eclectic than average. An inherited classical collection sits alongside Brian Eno, Arvo Pärt, Planxty, and contemporary classical composer John Adams — not to mention the Stranglers. Glenn's partner Jo, whose paintings hang in the room, has slightly more popular tastes but it's clear both are avid music fans. This prize is clearly going to be appreciated.

John and Damian, Mana's dynamic duo, spent a couple of hours setting up the system, bolting the turntable bracket to the wall, underpinning the speakers and fine-tuning the glass platforms. As Glenn had dismantled the existing system before we arrived it wasn't possible to make any comparisons, but both Glenn and Jo's reaction to the new set-up suggested a less-than-subtle change had taken place. Given my limited knowledge of Glenn's original gear I'd say that was an understatement: John and Damian's preferred volume levels made a

big change for everyone in the building!

I called up Glenn a week after the 'invasion' to see how he was getting on with the system. I found he'd been experimenting with connections between the NAD receiver (now serving as a phono stage/tuner) and the Audiolab amp, and had found that the NAD's preamp output was yielding much better results than the tape output we'd started with. Overall he was enjoying 'the Mana effect', with the speakers coming in for particular praise. He was very surprised at how good his record player sounded on the *Reference* wall shelf; not bad when said platter-spinner cost £3 at a car-boot fair. Possibly the ultimate accolade was Glenn's first complaint from the neighbours, which arrived the evening after we'd been round. A Cure record was on the wheels of steel, presumably to test the set-up to its limit!

We leave Glenn stunned but happy, and offer our thanks to Audiolab, Cable Talk, Marantz and Mordaunt-Short, but above all to John and Damian at Mana for suggesting the competition and making it happen. ▲



FOR LIFE

David Vivian experiences the latest in designer speakers, and debates whether they are a viable alternative to 'real' hi-fi.

Small speakers divide loosely into three types: the purely functional, like-it-or-lump-it box; the transducer that tries to hide by blending seamlessly with its surroundings; and its alter-ego — the full-on style statement.

Your eyes are wondering across the page already. But that's fine because style statements are meant to be talked about and looked at as much as they are listened to. They are to hi-fi what Swatches are to horology, the Ford *Ka* is to the city jandscape and Cameron Diaz is to short skirts. Their dynamics are social as well as sonic, as aspirational as a Psion *Series 3c* pocket computer. They can even sound good. But there's little question you pay extra for aesthetic attitude, and value can suffer as a result.

If extracting maximum sonic performance from minimum outlay is not your chief priority, read on. I had a humble pair of B&W *DM601s* lying around; at £200, they cost the same as the cheapest contender here. Truth to tell, they took the most expensive (the £400 Rogers *dB101s* and the Blue Room *Mini Pods*) to the cleaners and paid for their taxi ride home.

But then the '601s are biggish, black and brick-like. The *dB101s* — styled by freelance car designer Peter Stevens of McLaren *F1* fame — look like streamlined classic steel toasters up-ended, and instantly confer on anyone who owns them the native good taste of Terence Conran, David Hockney and Stephen Bayley rolled into one. The *Mini Pods*, conversely, have oodles of teddy-bear factor. Their bulbous, three-segment shape is open to almost infinite interpretation — nudged towards deeply strange *X-Files* imaginings by the 'Blue Room' nomenclature — but the truth is you just want to cuddle them. They're more akin to *ET* than *Alien*.

Perhaps the neatest design solution of all is provided by the KLH Europe *Soundbites* ensemble, with satellite speakers that look like IKEA spot-lamps, powered by a tiny, dome-shaped 15+15 Watt amplifier over which you can cup your hand like a computer mouse, and an active 45 Watt subwoofer slim enough to slide into those nooks and crannies denied more con-

THE CAST LIST	
Blue Room <i>Mini Pod</i>	£399.95
Rock Solid <i>Classic Monitor</i>	£199.95
Jamo <i>Deco Art</i>	£299.99
Rogers <i>dB101</i>	£399.00
<i>Soundbites</i>	£59.90/£129.90/£85.90

ventionally bulky bass boxes. The deal with the *Soundbites* is pure mid-'90s lifestyle. Hook them up to your multi-media PC for added grunt and zap, or plug them into a personal CD for an instant hi-fi system. There are no rules. Do what you like.

The literally-named Jamo *Deco Art* is a rectangular and shallow affair, like a bulky picture frame. And that's pretty much the desired illusion. You can hang them on your walls, prop them up on a sideboard or even on the floor by means of a little bent metal stand that folds out from the back. The 'art' bit refers to the baffle cover which comes in a variety of colours and styles: neutral to match your room's décor, or flamboyant to clash with it. Ours combined a black enclosure with a riot of abstract swirling colour (predominantly reds and yellows).

More lurid still was the pale green and white finish of the Rock Solid *Classic Monitors* — one of six colour options that can be supplied. The Solids' inclusion here requires no justification. In many ways it was the original affordable, all-purpose designer speaker; in its first year on the market (1990) it became the fastest growing new speaker brand in the USA. Apart from its innate cuteness, the Solid is small, versatile, tough, weather-proof and can soak up oodles of power.

To give all the speakers a fighting chance, they were hooked up to a Pioneer *PD-S904* CD player and Pioneer *A-300R Precision* amp, via Audioquest cables and interconnects. Stands weren't used since most of the products come with their own, and these are essentially non-audiophile products. A deep window-ledge seems much more fitting. We listened to all types of music but concentrated on classic Oscar Peterson from the early '70s, funky saxophonist George Howard's latest outing on GRP and the brilliant Steve Lipson remix of Sting's *I Was Brought To My Senses*.



DESIGNER





BLUE ROOM MINI PODS

These are touchy-feely speakers. Not only do their Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) cabinets look extraordinary, they feel wonderful: glossy and cool. Their resemblance to some other-worldly lifeform is further enhanced by an obvious backbone that runs in a gentle curve from top to bottom. Face-on, the three bulging segments each have their own orifice: 25mm aluminium dome tweeter at the top, Kevlar mid/bass driver in the middle, reflex port at the bottom. The scientific reason for them looking like this is all to do with the elimination of cabinet coloration and the reduction of high-frequency diffraction. The real reason is that aliens have crash-landed and they look exactly like this. Then there are the creature's 'legs' — three aluminium spikes screwed into the base of each cabinet. Blue is the obvious colour, but they also come in red, yellow and white.

The *Pods* sound more obviously 'hi-fi' than the other speakers in the group, and this isn't meant pejoratively. They have the

cleanest, most extended treble, an open and articulate mid-range and a consistency of performance that puts the Rogers *db101s* to shame. It could simply be, of course, that the *db 101s* are altogether less forgiving of indifferent recordings.

Perhaps 'refined' is the best way to describe the *Pods*. Tonally faithful, careful not to offend, just so. In some ways, this works to their advantage. Oscar's dazzling keyboard runs positively sparkled through these speakers, and the other members of his band seemed more believably placed around him. This doesn't mean the *Pods* are polite or laid back, just open, controlled and even-handed.

Where they come unstuck is in that bass. Be it the double bass of the Peterson trio, the heavy-funk electric bass of Howard's band or the subterranean synth bass on the Sting production, the blue ones struggle. It isn't that they can't pump it out, just that they squash it so the bass sounds forced and congested; low frequencies take on a pecu-

liar tubby character that draws attention to itself, never more so than when the second George Howard track gets the reflex port audibly huffing and chuffing.

This is a shame because the rest of the audio spectrum is handled with great openness and subtlety. Still, none of these speakers are close to being perfect and the bits the *Mini Pods* do get right are really very impressive. If you like your bass taut, tuneful and fast you'll be better off with the *db101s*. If mid and treble accuracy are your thing, though, the *Mini Pods* suddenly look like a more compelling proposition.

BLUE ROOM MINI PODS - VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★
VALUE ★★★★★
PRICE £399.95

▲ Hi-fi with humour; great mid-range.
 ▼ Tubby, congested bass.

✉ B&W Loudspeakers (UK Sales) Ltd, Marlborough Road,
 Churchill Industrial Est, Lancing, W Sussex BN15 8TR.
 ☎ (01903) 750750

You walk in to the Hi-Fi shop.

Across a crowded showroom, a Hi-Fi system catches your eye, then seduces your ear.

Infatuated, you pay your money.

Unfortunately, you also take your chances.

On the other hand, once the ear is wooed by the sumptuous sound quality unique to Arcam, a life-long love affair usually ensues.

Year after year, our dedication to sonic excellence is rewarded with top industry awards and, believe us, luck has nothing to do with it.

All of our Hi-Fi is produced at our Cambridge HQ, where it must pass the most rigorous set of tests, checks and double checks. Then, just when another quality Arcam product thinks it's safe to go into the loving arms of a new customer, we check it again.

We work hard to produce Hi-Fi separates of the highest quality, keeping construction simple and building in long service and reliability at every stage of production. So, if you're about to invest in Hi-Fi, invest in an Arcam. After all, we don't leave anything to chance.

Should you?

ARCAM

Return the coupon below to: Arcam, Pembroke Ave.
Waterbeach, Cambridge CB5 9PB, England.
Or telephone: (01223) 203203 (24 hours)
e-mail: custserv@arcam.co.uk

Please send me information on: (Please tick)

- Arcam amplifiers** **Arcam CD players**
Arcam tuners **Arcam home cinema**
Arcam DACs **all Arcam products**

and the name of my nearest authorised dealer.

First Name(s).....

Surname.....

Address.....

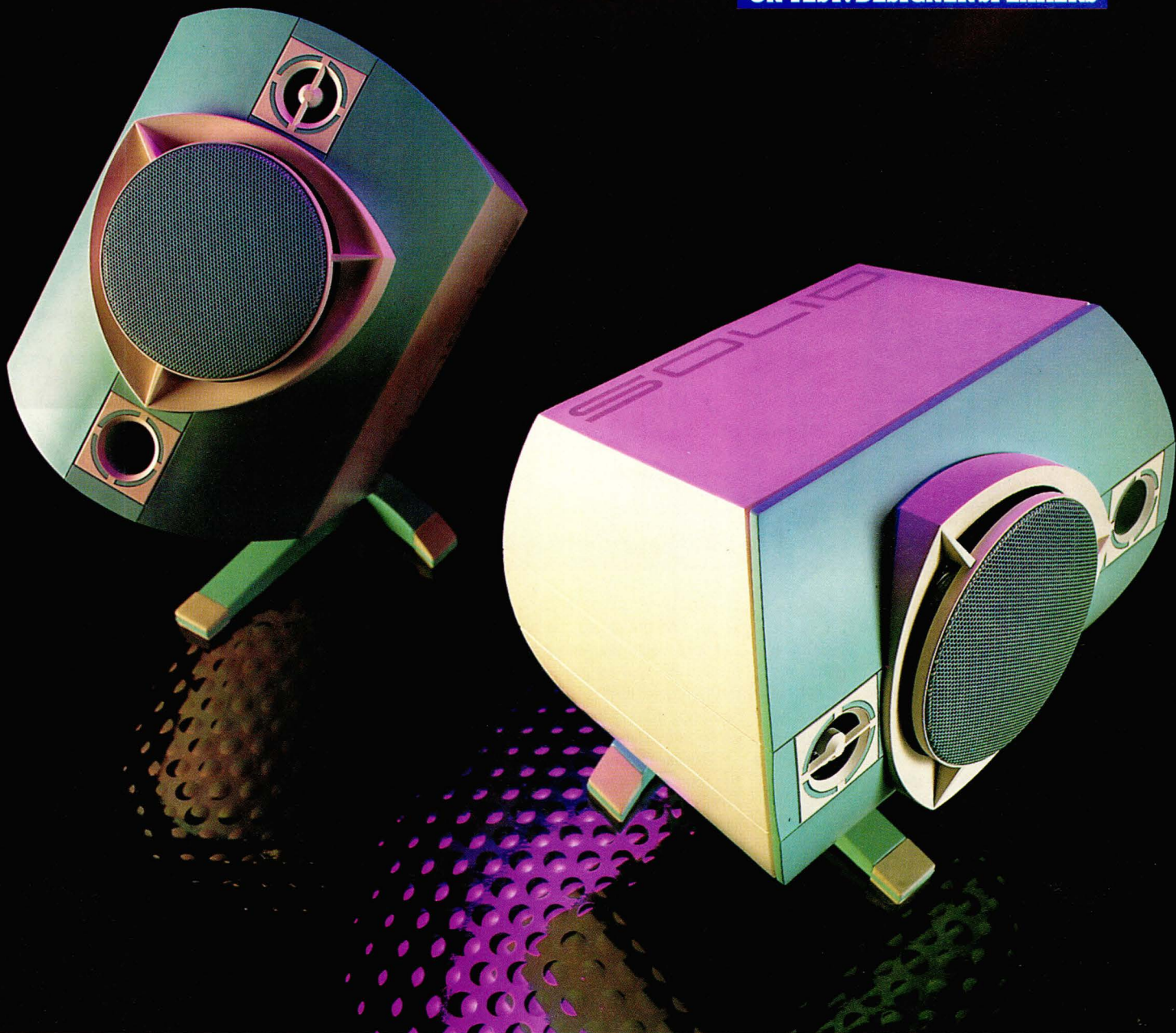
.....

Postcode.....

HFC 02/97

Or invest in an Arcam

In Australia: Stolmack Audio Pty. Ltd., P.O. Box 162, 16 Wolsley Road, Lindfield, N.S.W., 2070. Tel: (2) 9416 4799.
In Canada: Emerald Audio Resources, P.O. Box 286, Station P, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2S8. Tel: (416) 596 7657.
In New Zealand: Avalon Audio, 587 Mount Eden Rd., Mount Eden, Auckland. Tel: (649) 638 9000.
In South Africa: Hi-Fi Specialists, Durban Road 155, Bellville. 7530. Tel: (21) 946 1441.
In USA: Audiophile Systems Ltd, 8709 Castle Park Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46256. Tel (317) 841 4107.



◀◀ **ROCK SOLID CLASSIC MONITOR**

Familiarity hasn't dimmed the Solids' visual clout. Bright colours help, of course, but the rounded ends, symmetry and dinky, three-toed uni-ball stand still cut the mustard — even though the *db101s* look far sexier and the *Mini Pods* even cuter. But then they are twice as expensive. 'Plasticky' is a word that might have been invented for the Solids — it's what both the diminutive vented enclosures and drive units are made from. Some even say they sound 'plasticky' but there's no denying that with 160 Watts peak power handling and 91dB sensitivity, they can go remarkably loud for their size.

In a good system, they're explicit little speakers with a distinctively dry balance, but musical and rhythmically coherent nonetheless. Imaging is not a strong point. The sound is by no means box-bound, but the images are small-scale and the soundstage never develops much width or depth. So, like the Jamos, not ultimately a triumph of hi-fi, but the way they successfully cap-

tured the infectious joy of Oscar's playing was very appealing. They can swing, and what bass that exists is tuneful and easy to follow. Technically, the upper-mid-range has a tendency to glare and made Oscar's piano sound a bit clanky on forcefully played passages. The treble can sound a little coarse, too.

With Sting, the Solids sounded immediate, imperturbable and exciting. Ultimate realism is compromised by a mild cardboard coloration, but musically they hang together remarkably well. Sting's voice was more powerful than with the *db101s* but a bit closed in, without as much ambient detail or 'atmosphere'.

George Howard's slick but soulful jazz-funk suited the Solids, which again proved surprisingly full-bodied and convincing with this track. They had the knack of cutting straight to the core of the music, which survives largely intact despite the rather closed-in imaging and occasionally restricted colorations. The point is, they boogie well

enough for you not to worry unduly about the hi-fi shortcomings.

On the second Howard piece, these boxes displayed amazing punch for their size, yet didn't exaggerate the material. They sounded bouncy, funky and fun — just as the track dictated. Also appreciated was an excellent sense of flow and integration with fine timing. They lapped it up.

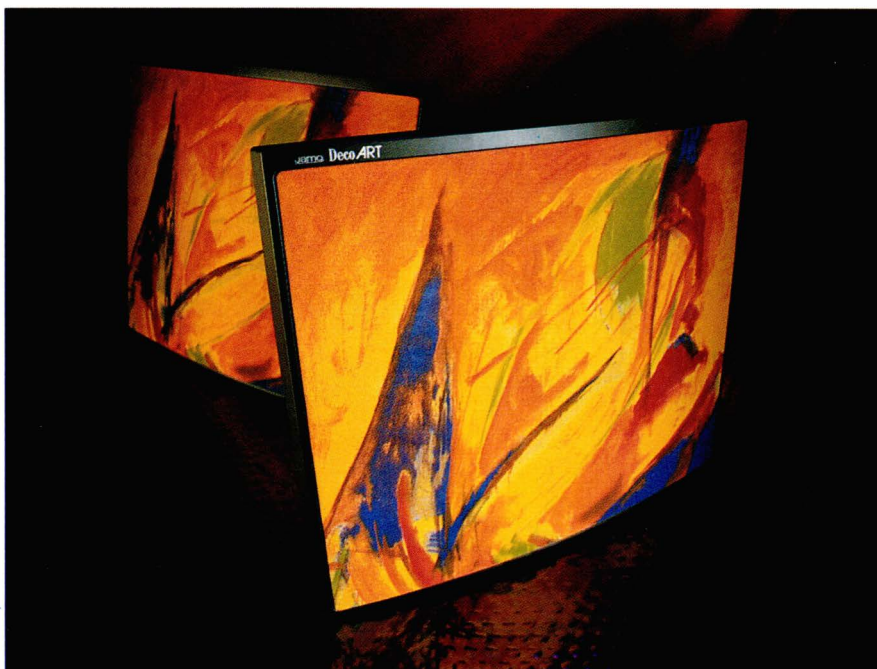
There was no great hurry to switch from these *Classic Monitors* to the next pair of speakers, which was a good sign. For their numerous shortcomings, these are essentially honest, musical speakers.

ROCK SOLID CLASSIC MONITOR - VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★☆
VALUE ★★★★★★
PRICE £199.95

▲ Versatile; tough; musical; a bargain.
 ◆ No longer a cutting-edge design.

✉ B&W Loudspeakers (UK Sales) Ltd, Marlborough Road,
 Churchill Industrial Est, Lancing, W Sussex BN15 8TR.
 ☎ (01903) 750750



◀ **JAMO DECO ART**

Make sure your walls are up to it if you're tempted to hang these Jamos. Their bass reflex enclosures, a mere 90mm deep, are made out of metal and each weighs 4.8kg. There are two drive units: a 130mm woofer and 25mm dome tweeter. They'll handle a continuous 60 Watts but need an amp with most of that to generate decent sound levels because sensitivity is low at 88dB.

Peterson's acoustic trio probably contributed to the Jamos' easy-going, unforced

sound. They're slightly dark tonally, not as bright and breezy as the best in the group, but very well integrated and coherent in and around the mid-range. Some softness at the frequency extremes is obvious but the presentation hangs together so well it doesn't seem to matter.

The Jamos confidently project music into the room, but depth and dynamics are both compressed. They won't appeal immediately to those after an overtly 'hi-fi' presentation. Others might find their slightly cosy

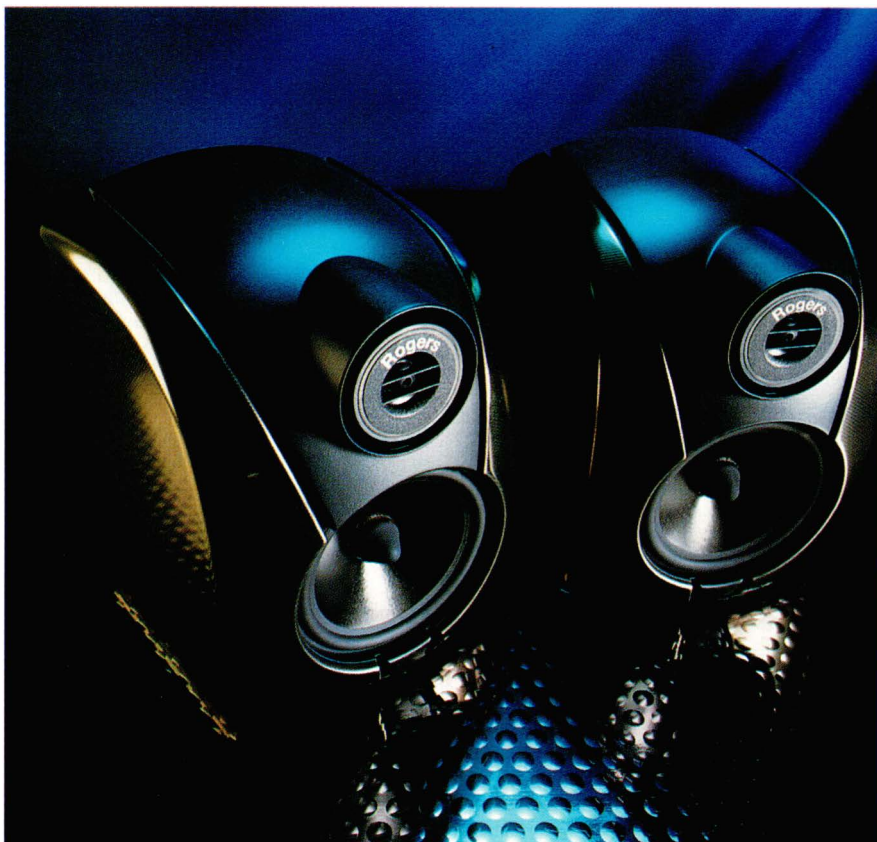
style of music-making naturally inviting. Bass is full with reasonable shape, but limited extension. Oscar's piano had plenty of attack but didn't sound at all weedy — the lower octaves had a rich, woody resonance. Rhythmically, though, these speakers tended to gloss over the subtler stuff.

With the slow but majestically powerful Sting track, the Jamos painted a bigger picture than the other speakers, again with a likeable naturalness and impressive weight but not much air. It was as if Sting was singing in a vacuum, his voice slightly thickened and constricted.

George Howard's sax sounded warm yet crisp, although the heavy bass line carried a slight bloom. Good mid-range presence was partially compromised by a mildly leaden quality which tended to suck out some emotion. But they packed a wallop with the funky track and you could never accuse these speakers of sounding thin. At least they have a good stab at trying to capture the scale of a big recording.

The Jamos can plod sometimes, but are remarkably consistent with most types of music and, sonically at least, hard to dislike.

JAMO DECO ART - VERDICT	
SOUND	★★★★☆
VALUE	★★★★☆
PRICE	£299.99
▲	Warm, inviting, weighty; available in plain finishes.
▼	Too heavy, screen print may be an acquired taste.
✉	Jamo UK Ltd, Jamo House, 5 Faraday Close, Drayton Fields, Daventry, Northants NN11 5RD.
☎	(01327) 301300



ROGERS DB 101

No question about it, the *db101s* look gorgeous. If you don't want to be considered a sci-fi wacko they're a far more compelling choice than the *Mini Pods* — no offence to *X-Files* fans intended. The precise effect you create depends on your choice of finish, and there are lots to choose from. Ours had lacquered aluminium cheeks finished in a weave-pattern. A swept back cranium with a floating tweeter set into it like a miner's helmet lamp, and exposed 110mm aerogel bass driver, are other defining design elements. Easier to resist are the nasty spring-clip connectors at the back. Apparently an audiophile version of the *db101* is on the way with two sets of binding posts for bi-wiring and completely different voicing. Yeah, but £400 speakers don't have spring clips.

Besides, these *db101s* have a serious audiophile reputation to uphold and, from the opening bars of Oscar's inspired ivory tickling, it's obvious Rogers hasn't taken too many liberties. While not as smooth as the *Mini Pods*, as warm as the Jamos nor as immediately catchy as the Solids, with an acoustic jazz trio at least they sound more poised and glamorous than any of them. In the best Rogers tradition they play tunes well with drive, dynamics and pace. Despite a very slight lower-mid range honk, they actually sound

jazzy, an impression helped along by their good bass weight, speed and tonality.

Sting wasn't handled so sympathetically. His voice sounded both nasal and shouty with little sense of flow. Everything seemed taut to the point of tenseness, as if the amp was being overdriven. The effect was too forceful for comfort and not especially enjoyable.

With the dynamic and immaculately-recorded George Howard tracks, though, the *db101s* showed what they were really capable of, and comfortably trashed the opposition. Howard's soprano sax was lucid and lyrical with superbly-resolved sounds and ambience. Bass wasn't just strong, but smooth and surprisingly extended. And here

the forward balance and determination to dig up bags of subtle detail worked to great effect. Now the *db101s* came over more like the expensive speakers they are.

Given all of this, we were expecting great things with the second, harder-hitting Howard track, but the *db101s* decided to throttle back. Sax was nicely rendered again and ambience well portrayed, but the anticipated punch didn't materialise. Deep bass and percussion carried less weight than with the Solids or the Jamos. Not that this killed the enjoyment of the track, just that the *db101s* seemed a little too laid-back and even-handed for their own good. And strangely so given their earlier exuberance.

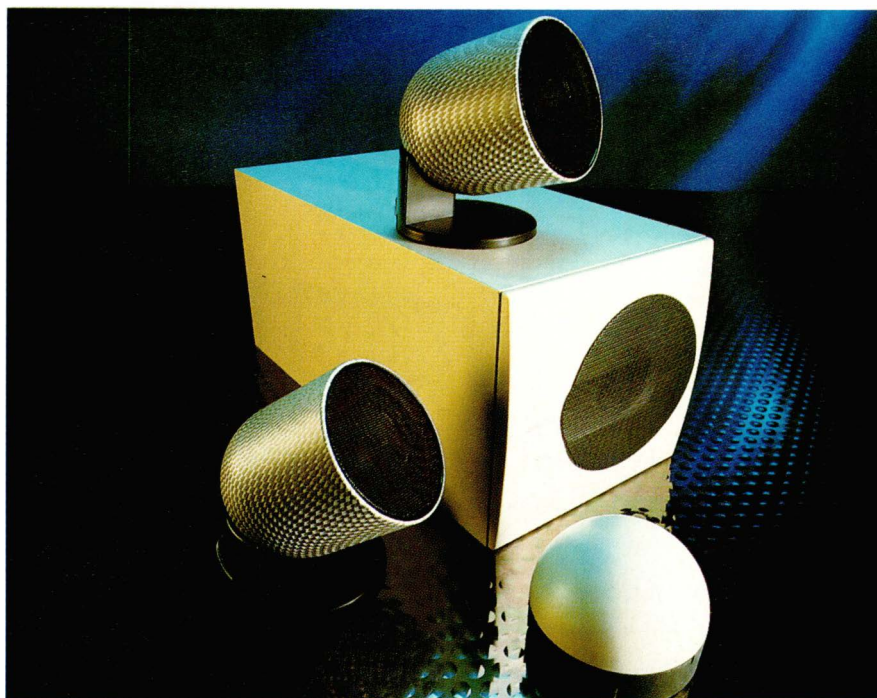
The *db101s* gave the least consistent results of the group. With well-recorded material, they (nearly) always sound great, but fed a more assorted commercial diet their mood tends to swing like that of a manic depressive.

ROGERS db101 - VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★☆
VALUE ★★★★★☆
PRICE £399.00

▲ Gorgeous looks; classy sound.
 ▼ Spring clip terminals; sound can be erratic.

✉ Rogers International Ltd, Unit 13, Beddington Trading Park West, Bath House Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 4TD.
 ☎ (0181) 683 2101



KLH EUROPE SOUNDBITES

There's nothing new about speaker systems that combine an active sub-woofer with put-anywhere satellite speakers, but *Soundbites* have honed and simplified the concept to the point where it's being sold as the solution to any number of domestic audio problems. We settled for a couple of *Soundbites* (full-range drivers magnetically shielded with low 86dB sensitivity in spotlight-style cups with a neat swivel base for desktop,

wall or ceiling mounting), a *Powerbite* amp and a *Bassbite* subwoofer.

You connect your source to the *Bassbite*, which feeds the *Powerbite* mini amp, which in turn hooks up to the *Soundbite* cables via spring clips located on the amp's belly. This has two controls: the dome top swivels on its base for 'on' and volume, and a little thumb-wheel on the side controls the bass and treble. The *Bassbite* has its own 45 Watt amp and a volume control that increases the

thump, but not the frequency at which it cuts in, which is set at 180Hz. The claimed bottom-end cut-off-point is 50Hz.

Simple it is. And nicely unobtrusive, even if you order your *Soundbites* in one of the more exotic finishes. Ours came in an albino carbon-fibre effect but you can have pseudo-walnut plastic if you want a less hi-tech feel.

Regrettably, it all looks better than it sounds. Even fed from the Pioneer combo the results were dull, flat and lifeless. True, the subwoofer provided a solid foundation and, used with some of the other speakers in the test, enhanced bass weight and extension. It worked particularly well with the Solids, adding not only lower-register benefits but an extraordinary three-dimensionality to the soundstage as well. Costing from £129.90, this contender makes a reasonable sub-bass addition to any system, but it can't save the sub-fi efforts of the little *Soundbites* and *Powerbite* amp.

Why labour the point with a blow-by-blow account of how Oscar, George and Sting fared? *Soundbites* are a fab design solution, but sonically they do not compare with hi-fi as she is traditionally perceived.

KLH EUROPE SOUNDBITES - VERDICT

SOUND ★☆☆☆☆☆
VALUE ★★☆☆☆☆
PRICE £59.90/£129.90/£85.90

▲ Imaginative design concept; good subwoofer.
 ▼ Cannot claim to provide hi-fi sound.

✉ KLH Europe Ltd, 4D Broomvale Business Park, Little Blakenham, Suffolk IP8 4JU.
 ☎ (01473) 833228

OVERALL VERDICT

It would be great to say that the only thing you stand to lose by investing in designer speakers is your friends' perception of you as a hi-fi buff. Sadly, this isn't the case. Buy the **KLH Europe Soundbites** as your sole means of listening to music and you'll go off the whole idea of hi-fi, period. Lovely idea, lamentable sound, even at the price.

The **Jamo Deco Arts** sound better than all right but, to my eyes at least, look just too European for British tastes. Maybe they're better in white. Still, why fret about that when there are speakers like the **Blue Room Mini Pods** around? It's hard to know exactly what sort of wallpaper goes with these, but then *Pods* will be bought by people who stopped caring about wallpaper a long time ago. They'll still be interested in quality sound reproduction, though, because, bass notwith-

standing, the *Pods* are delightfully open, informative and enjoyable.

In the end, though, we'd make our selection from the **Rock Solid Classic Monitors** and the **Rogers db101s**. If looks really matter, the *db101s* are must-have items. This side of hard-carved Italian exotica, they're the sexiest small speakers on the planet and, even at £399, they can be considered fair value. Sonically, they offer plenty of bangs for your buck, too, though the forthcoming audiophile versions should provide more consistent performance.

The real star has to be the **Solids**. They may not have the sensual appeal of the *db101s* or the sonic finesse of the *Mini Pods* but they remain remarkably honest, musical and coherent little speakers that can do virtually anything you ask. As designer speakers go, they're a steal. ▲

WIN!

COMPETITION

SUPERB SANYO GEAR



2ND PRIZE

Look What You Could Win!

1st Prize Package

28 XP1 Pro-Logic TV	worth £750
VHR 796E Four-Head Nicam VCR	£350

2nd Prize

DC MS6 Three-CD Micro System	£250
------------------------------	------

3rd Prize

MCD Z96 Remote Control CD Radio Cassette	£200
--	------

Runners'-Up Prizes

Three CDP 550 CD Personals	£150 each
----------------------------	-----------



RUNNERS UP PRIZES



1ST PRIZE

MUST
BE WON!

WIN A PRO-LOGIC TV, NICAM VCR, MICRO SYSTEM OR CD PORTABLE!

Sanyo has built an enviable reputation for top-quality home entertainment equipment in today's fast-moving market. Whether it's Pro-Logic TVs, VCRs, CD-toting systems or portable audio, Sanyo has it covered. And now you can be part of the Sanyo story, in this super-generous giveaway competition. It couldn't be simpler – just follow the instructions in the box opposite and send in your entry today!

THE FIRST PRIZE PACKAGE

Sanyo's *28 XP1* Pro-Logic TV, worth £750, has a 40W (RMS) sound system and a Black Matrix FST picture tube. Viewers benefit from 28Watts of power supplied to front and centre speakers, and 12Watts to the rear, plus the low-end ministrations of a 'BassXpander'. Other features include twin Scart connectors, auto set-up and Fastext with ten-page memory.

To complement this big screen there's the bonus of Sanyo's *VHR 796E*, worth £350, which offers Nicam stereo TV sound, four long-life pick-up heads, NTSC playback, VideoPlus programming with Programme Delivery Control (PDC), auto set-up, and a satellite channel recording control. There are phono outputs so you can hook up to your hi-fi, plus twin Scarts and front AV connector for camcorders.

The *VHR 796E*'s key feature is 'QuickReview', which enables fast scanning at up to nine times normal speed, or picture pause, while audio playback continues.

THE SECOND PRIZE

Sanyo's *DC MS6* packs a lot of features and power into its 260mm-high casework. Its principal feature is a three-CD autochanger, with a 24-track programmable memory. Complementing this is a logic-controlled, auto-reverse cassette deck, which offers the novel facility of dubbing CDs at twice normal speed. There's power output of 20Watts per channel, feeding two-way speakers via a four-preset EQ system and BassXpander. Last but not least there's a clock timer, 40-preset three-band tuner and full remote control.

THE THIRD PRIZE

Sanyo's *MCD Z96* blends the features of fixed systems with the convenience of portability. Within its sculpted bodywork lurk a programmable draw-loading CD player, twin auto-reverse tape decks, 20-preset two-band tuner, three-mode BassXpander and clock timer. Best of all, it has an infra-red remote control!

RUNNERS'-UP PRIZES

To those who send the last three correct postcards drawn from the hat, we will award a Sanyo *CDP 550* personal CD player worth £150. This unit was deemed a Best Buy when reviewed in the July/August 1996 edition of *Hi-Fi Choice*, thanks largely to its superb sound, ten-second anti-shock buffer, 22-track programmable memory, rechargeable batteries and wired remote control.



3RD
PRIZE

Authorised Cyrus Centres

Midlands, North & Scotland

Aberdeen

Holburn Hi Fi 01224 585713

Alderley Edge

Aston Audio 01625 582704

Barrow

Sevenoaks Hi Fi 01229 838757

Belfast

Lyric Hi Fi 01232 381296

Bury St Edmunds

Sevenoaks Hi Fi 01229 838757

Cambridge

The Audiofile 01223 68305

University Audio 01223 354237

Carlisle

Practical Hi Fi 01228 44792

Coventry

Frank Harvey Hi Fi 01203 525200

Darlington

Hi Fi Experience 01325 481418

Edgbaston

Music Matters 0121 429 2811

Edinburgh

Hi Fi Corner 0131 2201535

Falkirk

Hi Fi Corner 01324 629011

Gateshead

Lintone Audio 0191 4774167

Metro Ctr. Lintone Audio 0191 4600999

Glasgow

Glasgow Audio 0141 3324707

Hi Fi Corner 0141 2482840

Guildford

PJ Hi Fi 01483 504801

Halifax

Halifax Hi Fi 01422 366832

Huddersfield

Huddersfield Hi Fi 01484 544668

Kings Lynn

Martins Hi Fi 01553 761683

Kilmarnock

Laser Audio 01563 540292

Leeds

Image Hi Fi 0113 2789374

Leicester

Leicester Hi Fi 0116 2539753

Manchester

The Hi Fi Room 0161 8351366

Norwich

Martins Hi Fi 01603 627010

Nottingham

Nottingham Hi Fi 0115 9786919

Peterborough

The Hi Fi Company 01733 341755

Preston

Audio Excellence 01772 253957

01772 253957

Rishton

Romers of Rishton 01254 887799

Rotherham

Moorgate Acoustics 01709 370666

Sheffield

Moorgate Acoustics 0114 2756048

Shrewsbury

Creative Audio 01743 241924

Solihull

Music Matters 0121 7420254

Stourbridge

Music Matters 01384 444184

Stratford

Stratford Hi Fi 01789 414533

Wakefield

Image Hi Fi 01924 200272

Warrington

Practical Hi Fi 01925 632179

Worcester

Sevenoaks Hi Fi 01905 612929

York

Vickers Hi Fi 01904 629659

York

Vickers Hi Fi 01904 629659

CYRUS

Mission Group Huntingdon, PE18 6ED England

Tel: +44 (0)1480 451777

Fax: +44 (0)1480 432777

email: info@mission-cyrus.com

<http://www.mission-cyrus.com>

WIN!

COMPETITION

SHARP MINIDISC OUTFIT



SYSTEM AND PORTABLE PLAYER MUST BE WON!

Sharp Electronics has teamed up with *Hi-Fi Choice* to offer a complete 'home and away' MiniDisc outfit, offering advanced recording, editing and playback facilities.

Sharp's snazzy mini system, the *MD-X3*, includes a fully-specified MD recorder that will play back prerecorded discs or make its own recordings. The *MD-X3*'s CD autochanger even allows you to record selections from three discs at once. The remote-controlled *MD-X3* backs its MD abilities with a full-featured tape deck and radio tuner.

Once you've committed your favourite songs to disc, you can head out for the hills with Sharp's new *MD-S50E* MD player, which is currently the smallest and lightest (150g) MD unit in the world. It has an in-lead remote control with LCD read-out for easy operation, plus a three-stage bass-boost circuit, up to ten seconds of shock-proof 'buffer' memory, and a maximum battery life of 4.5 hours.

DON'T MISS THIS MONTH'S SUPPLEMENT: THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO MINIDISC, PUBLISHED IN ASSOCIATION WITH SHARP!
• FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SHARP CALL ☎ (0800) 262958 •

MUST BE WON

SHARP MD-S50E PORTABLE MINIDISC PLAYER WORTH £300

PRIZES WORTH £1000



SHARP MD-X3 MINIDISC MINI SYSTEM WORTH £700

HOW TO ENTER

Answer the question below by circling the correct answer, then fill in your name, address and day-time telephone number in the spaces given below. Please remember to tell us whether you are over 18 years of age.

Post this entry form to:

Hi-Fi Choice Competition (CHFC702B)
Bradley Pavilions,
Bradley Stoke North,
Bristol BS12 0BQ

All entries must arrive by first post, Friday 21st February 1997.

THE QUESTION

Which of the following statements about Sharp's MD-S50E MiniDisc player is true?

- a) It weighs only 150 grams.
- b) It was carried by the hero in one of Terry Pratchett's *Discworld* books.
- c) It is powered by plutonium batteries.
- d) It is a cult item among Mini Cooper drivers.

YOUR DETAILS

Name I DESROY

Address (inc. postcode) 30 WEST STREET
BEDDINGTON N14 1BD

Day-time Telephone Number 01933 371402

Please tick here if you are over 18

Please tick here if you do not wish to receive any further information about other products or services

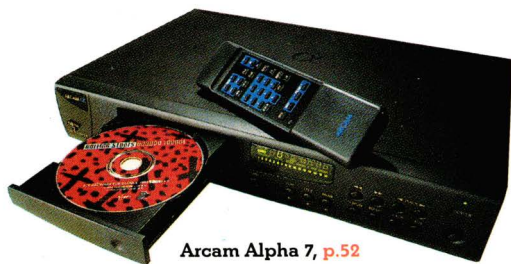
COMPETITION RULES

- The Closing Date for this competition is Friday 21st February 1997.
- Winners of the Sharp Competition will be judged from all correct entries submitted, and drawn at random after the Closing Date.
- All winners will be notified by post.
- The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- The Sharp Competition is not open to employees of Dennis Publishing Ltd., Sharp Electronics (U.K.) Ltd., nor their suppliers, agents or associates.
- We regret this competition is open to UK residents only.
- No cash alternative will be offered.
- By entering the competition all entrants agree to be bound by the rules.
- For a list of winners of the Sharp Competition, write, enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope, to: *Hi-Fi Choice* Winners, Dept 163/2, 19 Bolsover Street, LONDON W1P 7HJ.
- All entries must be on this official entry coupon. If you do not wish to cut your magazine, you may send a photocopy of the page instead. Please note: only one entry form per household.

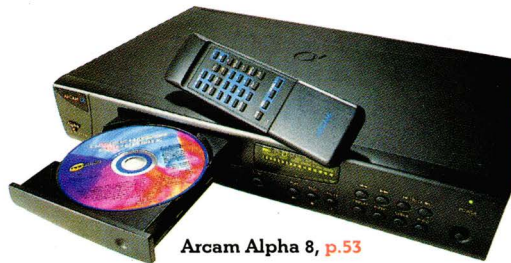
CHFC 702B

Spinning The Disc

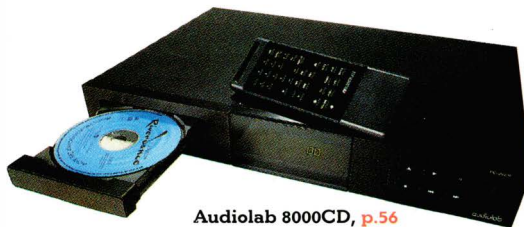
Paul Miller compares 20 CD players from the budget sector to true high end, in hope of answering that eternal question: how much for great sound?



Arcam Alpha 7, p.52



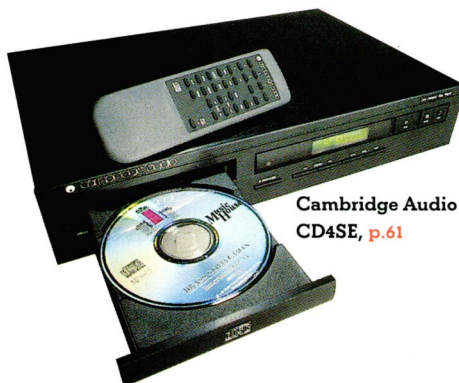
Arcam Alpha 8, p.53



Audiolab 8000CD, p.56



Audio Research CD1, p.57



Cambridge Audio CD4SE, p.61



Copland CDA-288, p.63

This is the big one. The test that pitches the digital plankton against the basking sharks of the CD realm. Will the £1,000+ behemoths devour our favourite budget players with merely a burp by way of recognition? Or will the £150-£200 shrimps give our high-end champions more than a mild stomach-ache? After all, many of the players in our sub-£400 category use precisely the same digital technology as the more costly models to be found in our £400-£1,000 and £1,000+ camps.

Comparing players by features alone is meaningless. Regardless of price, you should expect full remote control, direct track access, plus various programming and repeat modes. The vast majority of players will also provide intro-scan, peak search, CD/tape editing options, random play, and perhaps even index search, up/down fade and auto-cueing facilities.

Digital outputs will facilitate future upgrades while the option of both fixed and variable analogue outputs allow the player to be connected directly to a power amplifier instead of an intermediate preamp or all-in-one integrated amp. This cuts down on the superfluous boxes and unnecessary circuitry which, in many instances, simply get in the way of the music. If a player is equipped with a digital volume control, however, do check it has not defaulted to maximum output before loading a CD.

Paying more for a CD player should reward you with enhanced build and component qual-

THE CAST LIST	
Arcam Alpha 7	£319.90
Arcam Alpha 8	£519.90
Audiolab 8000CD	£999.90
Audio Research CD1	£3,290.00
Cambridge CD4SE	£199.95
Copland CDA-288	£2,199.00
Denon DCD-3000	£999.99
Kenwood DP-7090	£399.95
Meridian 508 (20-bit)	£1,685.00
Mission dAD3	£598.00
Musical Fidelity FCD	£1,499.99
Myryad Systems MC-100	£699.95
Naim CD2	£1,997.50
Pioneer PD-S705	£299.95
QUAD 77	£900.00
Roksan Attessa DP3P	£1,595.00
Rotel RCD-970BX	£349.95
Sherwood CD-1	£1,099.95
Sony CDP-XE300	£139.99
Teac VRDS-25	£1,299.95

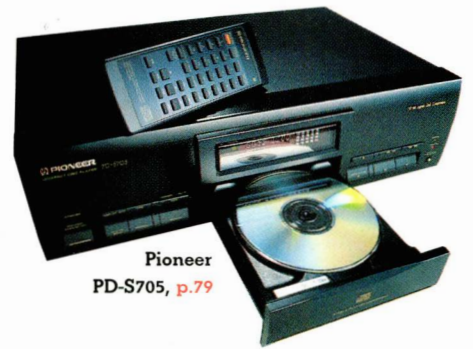
ity, although it's unlikely to speed up track access or improve the handling of grubby discs dramatically. As I've already mentioned, most players use very similar combinations of digital circuitry and much the same is true of the CD mechanisms themselves. Philips' transports are widely used (Audiolab, Cambridge, Meridian, Naim, Rotel etc) as are mechanisms from Sony (Myryad, Sony and Arcam). Proprietary mechanisms range from Pioneer's 'Stable Platter' design to the very esoteric VRDS (Vibration-free Rigid Disc-clamping System) from Teac.



Roksan Attessa DP3P, p.83



Quad 77, p.81



Pioneer PD-S705, p.79

THE LISTENING DAYS

Each CD player was auditioned over a period of two days under strict, blind conditions at a precisely-matched listening level. This way the excessive 3.4V output of the Cambridge CD4SE could not secure it any advantage over the lower 2V of Kenwood's DP-7090 and Naim's CD2, or the unusually low 1.4V of Roksan's Attessa DP3P.

This represents a maximum variation of 7.7dB between the 'loudest' and 'quietest' players in this broad survey, which would make a mockery of the test if it were not for the precise, electrical level-matching techniques employed on this occasion. The use of level-matched listening tests remain unique to Hi-Fi Choice group reviews.

Each player was left spinning on 'all repeat' for at least 48 hours to ensure every contender was fully 'cooked' prior to listening. The CDs listed below were auditioned and panelists' comments entered directly into a computer. Sound, value and swing-tag ratings were all awarded prior to the CD players' identities being revealed.

The partnering system included DPA 100S pre and power amps with Audio Note AN-E (main) and REL Stentor (sub) loudspeakers. My thanks to John Bamford (Pioneer), Roger Batchelor (Denon), Mark Hockey (Trio/Kenwood), Mike Martindell (Arcam), and Alan Sircom (Hi-Fi Choice) — this month's blind but golden-eared panelists.

WHAT MUSIC DID WE USE?

Rebecca Pidgeon: *Friday Night Crowd* from *A New York Girl's Club* on Chesky.

Rachmaninov: *Symphony No. 3/Symphonic Dances* — David Zinman/Baltimore Symphony Orchestra on Telarc.

Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan: *The Face Of Love* — duet with Eddie Vedder from *Dead Man Walking Original Soundtrack* on Columbia.

Julian "Cannonball" Adderley: *Autumn Leaves* from *Something Else* on Blue Note.



Rotel RCD-970BX, p.85



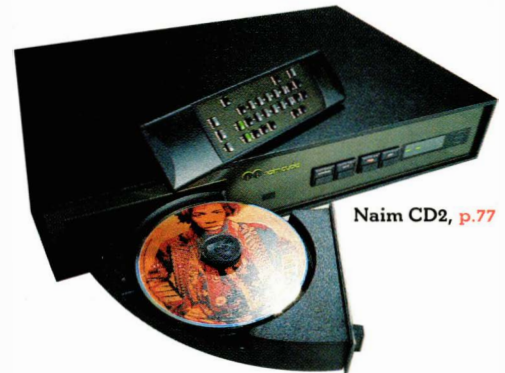
Sherwood CD1, p.87



Sony CDP-XE300, p.89



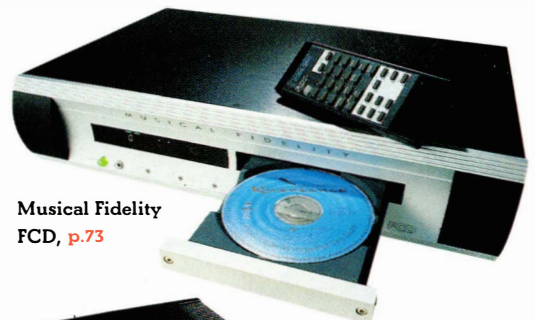
Teac VRDS-25, p.91



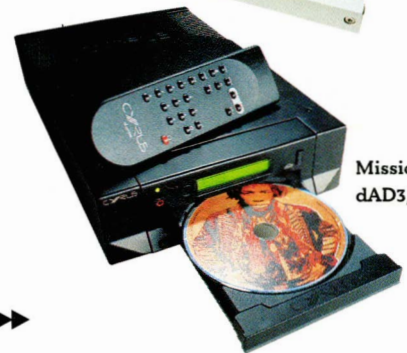
Naim CD2, p.77



Myryad MC100, p.75



Musical Fidelity FCD, p.73



Mission-Cyrus dAD3, p.71

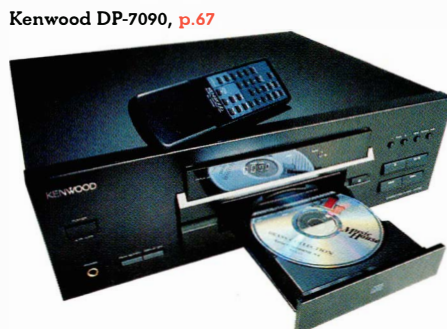
So why pay more than a few hundred pounds? Because it is not just the basic digital ingredients; their *implementation* holds the key to the final sound quality realised by the player. Even the highest-quality ICs, power supplies and analogue stages will deliver sub-standard sound if misused. By contrast, models like Audio Research's CD1 show us that

even the humblest of digital components can be made to sing if engineered by masters.

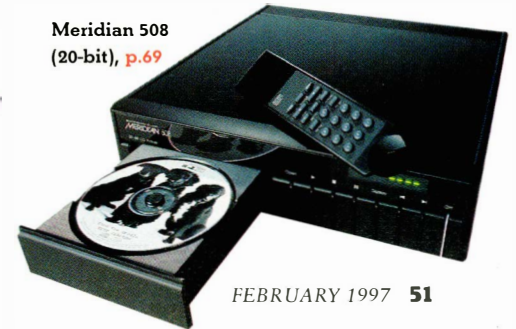
Make no mistake: it's the sympathetic application of science and not nefarious mumbo-jumbo that ultimately distinguish the performance of one CD player from another. The precise degree of sympathy will be revealed over the next 20 pages.



Denon DCD-3000, p.65



Kenwood DP-7090, p.67



Meridian 508 (20-bit), p.69

Arcam Alpha 7

For its latest series of Alpha CD players, Arcam is taking the added value route deployed to such good effect by Micromega for example. Upgradability is the issue here since, like Micromega's *Stage* series, the *Alpha 7*, 8 and forthcoming 9 all feature interchangeable motherboards to avoid the built-in obsolescence that befalls the 'average' CD player. So, if your bank balance will only stretch as far as the £319.90 *Alpha 7* for the time being, at least the option to upgrade to an 8 or 9 remains well and truly open in the future.

Although only the 7 and 8 are available at present, all three models will share the same dark grey and thoroughly curvy livery that, at long last, marks a welcome break from Arcam's customary conservatism. Incidentally, the little gold 'Alpha' badge can be replaced at the time of an upgrade to reflect new-found status.

A good range of features are provided, including an attractive yellow/green fluorescent display which can be switched off when not required. Arcam uses the same handset



across the range and though the volume and mute facilities will not operate with the Alpha 7, the direct track access, intro scan and shuffle (random) play modes are enabled and join the skip/search, repeat and program play options provided on the player itself. Incidentally, the function buttons look and feel just like a row of M&Ms!

Sound quality

Described as a "dynamic and confident performer", Arcam's latest baby is also significantly more refined than the earlier Alpha One, upon which parts of it at least are based. Rachmaninov's *3rd Symphony* opened up into a very coherent and composed performance, the sound of strings, brass and woodwind appearing very active without ever sounding aggressive or, indeed, hyper-active. The *Alpha 7* does not run away with itself, even though it can keep pace with the most quicksilver recordings. As separate auditioning with a mass-market amplifier proved less agreeable, however (see lab report).

Back in our test system, the muted trumpet from Cannonball Adderley's *Autumn*

Leaves sounded especially solid and convincing on this occasion, standing proud from the pitter-patter of percussion even if, as one listener put it, "this also reflects the slight loss of body and richness that is a characteristic of the player". Much the same was heard, and felt,

with Rebecca Pidgeon's *Friday Night Crowd*, her voice sounding particularly clear, clean and articulate but still lacking a hint of the warmth and vibrancy we know to be possible. A great and thoroughly involving performance, nonetheless.

Conclusion

Rather like Audio Research's *CD1*, Arcam's *Alpha 7* is another player that succeeds almost despite itself. Nevertheless, unlike the *CD1*, the *Alpha 7* will demonstrate a degree of unpredictability in its performance with different amplifiers and, to some degree, loudspeakers (see lab report).

In our test system, which is fundamentally insensitive to the 7's pattern of noise, it fared astonishingly well, rewarding us with considerably more detail than that typically offered by a budget player, aided and abetted by a slick and free sense of dynamics. But as I cannot guarantee this will always be the case, Arcam will have to settle for Recommendation rather than the Best Buy it might otherwise have entertained.

VERDICT

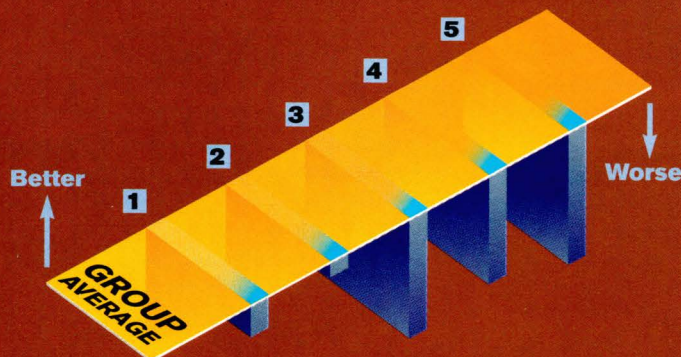
SOUND ★★★★★☆
VALUE ★★★★★☆
PRICE £319.90

▲ Good dynamics, highly articulate and enjoyable.
 ▼ Lacks some weight; sounds hard and aggressive with some amps.

✉ Arcam, A&R Cambridge Ltd, Denny Industrial Centre, Waterbeach, Cambridge CB5 9PB
 ☎ (01223) 861550

HOW IT COMPARES

1	SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES	-12%
2	JITTER	-5%
3	PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE	-50%
4	HARMONIC DISTORTION VS LEVEL	-45%
5	LINEARITY	-55%



THE LAB REPORT

This player was the subject of my *Oasis* column back in issue 159 where its ultrasonic requantisation noise was used to explain the player's unpredictable performance with different amplifiers. This inaudible noise is linked to the DAC (Burr-Brown's PCM1710) whose on-board eight-times oversampling filter and fourth-order noise-shaper truncates incoming data from 16- to approximately 2.3-bits which, latterly, is handled by a five-level PWM output stage.

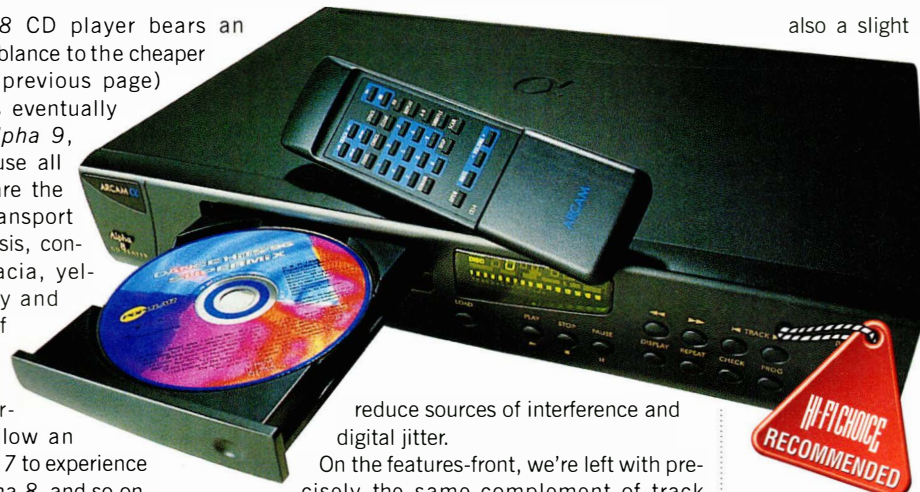
This 'bit chopping' causes a quantisation error that manifests as the noise in question and, though it lies outside of the audioband, is sufficiently high (-43dBV from 24.1kHz-100kHz) to cause audible IM distortion from some amplifiers. So if the *Alpha 7* sounds gritty, hard, harsh or otherwise uncomfortable in your system then this will be the likely cause.

This one technical foible is of potentially greater significance than, say, its widely varying harmonic distortion (0.004-0.6% at -30dB), poor 91dB S/N ratio and spurious idle pattern tones that wander between 712Hz to 1.3kHz, depending on signal conditions. The *Alpha 7* could sound great or grotty, so a home demo is vital.

Arcam Alpha 8

If this *Alpha 8* CD player bears an uncanny resemblance to the cheaper *Alpha 7* (see previous page) and, when it's eventually launched, the *Alpha 9*, then that's because all three players share the same CDM14 transport mechanism, chassis, contoured plastic fascia, yellow/green display and complement of function buttons. Inside, the motherboard is interchangeable to allow an owner of an *Alpha 7* to experience the joys of an *Alpha 8*, and so on.

Technically, the *Alpha 8* is a very different kettle of chips, substantially removed from the *Alpha 7* and only loosely based upon its predecessor, the *Alpha 6* (see HFC issue 155). In this instance, Arcam has retained the NPC SM5864 bitstream DAC used in the *Alpha 6* but has married it to the superior SM5843 eight-times oversampling filter. A new discrete oscillator is used with its own regulated power supply which, together with screening around the board and a partitioned ground plane, all help



reduce sources of interference and digital jitter.

On the features-front, we're left with precisely the same complement of track access, search, random, repeat and program play modes seen on the '7. Round the back, however, the '8 is fitted with a parallel pair of line-level outputs in addition to its coaxial digital output. Once again, none of these is influenced by the 'mute' or 'volume' buttons on Arcam's remote control.

Sound quality

With extra cash to spend on the design of a CD player, there is always the temptation to over-engineer the product, resulting in an 'over-refinement' of its performance. It's a tricky line to tread, particularly when like Arcam, you have a succession of ostensibly similar-looking players on your books. In the event, the *Alpha 8* is not merely an *Alpha 7* drained of its life and exuberance. Sure enough, our panel did liken its very neutral and sober sound to the likes of Myryad's *MC-100*, rather than the more casual dynamics of the *Alpha 7*.

And yet there are parallels. There was

also a slight loss to the richness and body of Rachmaninov's *3rd Symphony*, which remained both intricately detailed and beautifully composed but just a little cautious in scale, limiting the freedom and fresh expression of strings, for example. In similar fashion, Cannonball's sax sounded perfectly civil on occasions where the *Alpha 7* might have let slip the odd, but perfectly realistic, brassy rasp. The *Alpha 8*'s rendition was deeper, darker and more intriguing, peeling away layers of detail that might have been lost through the distraction of a more exuberant performance. Despite appearances then, the *Alpha 7* and *8* sound very different.

Conclusion

Both our blind listening tests and my lab exercise have left the *Alpha 8* with a cleaner bill of health than the older *Alpha 6*, which sounded rather less even-handed. The new *Alpha 8* is even slightly cheaper at £519.90, while its reduced output of ultrasonic noise makes it more compatible than the budget *Alpha 7*.

Whether the less 'colourful' but more mature disposition of the '8 is a worthwhile upgrade, is very much a matter of personal taste. Quite where the soon-to-be-launched *Alpha 9* will take us is anyone's guess, but the team at *Hi-Fi Choice* is certainly excited at the prospect.

VERDICT

SOUND ★★☆☆☆
VALUE ★★☆☆☆
PRICE £519.90

- ▲ Very smooth, neutral and transparent performance.
- ◆ Not quite as dramatic-sounding as the *Alpha 7*.
- ☒ Arcam, A&R Cambridge Ltd, Denny Industrial Centre, Waterbeach, Cambridge CB5 9PB
- ☎ (01223) 861550

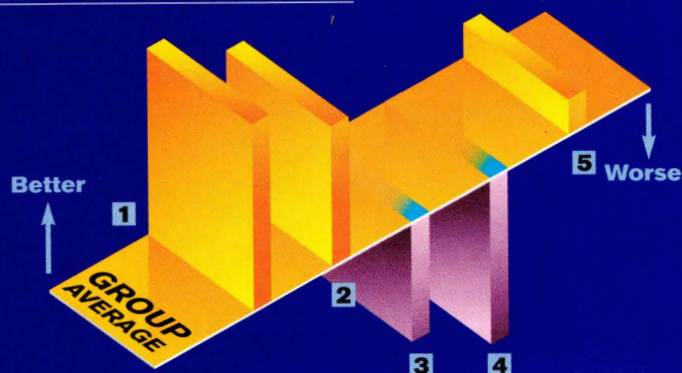
THE LAB REPORT

In virtually every respect, the technical performance of this *Alpha 8* is superior to the *Alpha 6* (issue 155) with jitter being reduced from 993psec to 228psec, distortion from 1.8 per cent to one per cent at -60dB (still too high) and errors in low-level linearity improved by an astonishing 97 per cent to just +/-0.4dB over a full 100dB dynamic range. Talking of which, though the *Alpha 8*'s S/N ratio has lifted from the *6*'s 89dB to some 95dB, this figure is still compromised by a spurious idle pattern tone that drifts from 865Hz-1253Hz (-97dB re. peak output). The 'real' A-weighted S/N is probably around 102dB.

As we saw on page 52, Arcam's *Alpha 7* also suffers from a similar idle pattern even though it employs an entirely different PCM1710 converter. Otherwise, the *Alpha 8*'s improved handling of ultrasonic noise (from the SM5864's noise-shapers) makes it slightly more amplifier-friendly than the *Alpha 7*, but do remember to take into account its high 2.6V output level if the '8 is not to sound 'louder' and, by inference, 'better' during quick A/B demonstrations at a dealer.

HOW IT COMPARES

1	SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES	80%
2	JITTER	60%
3	PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE	-50%
4	HARMONIC DISTORTION VS LEVEL	-70%
5	LINEARITY	15%



SIMPLY THE

"Simply The Best!" - Are established, independent Hi-Fi Shops where the Manager is usually the Guv'nor and Reliable Advice with Sound Experience are always included.

BARNSELY
Barnsley Hi-Fi Centre
40 Sheffield Road
Tel: 01226 205549

BATH
Paul Green Hi-Fi
Kensington Showrooms, London Rd
Tel: 01225 316197

BISHOPS STORTFORD
The Audio File
27 Hockerill Street
Tel: 01279 506576

BLACKBURN
Romers Hi-Fi
94 High Street, Rishton
Tel: 01254 887799

BOURNEMOUTH
Suttons Hi-Fi
18 Westover Road
Tel: 01202 555512

CAMBRIDGE
The Audio File
41 Victoria Road
Tel: 01223 68305

CANTERBURY
Q Audio
20a Lower Bridge Street
Tel: 01227 462787

CHELTENHAM
Hutchinsons
297-299 High Street
Tel: 01242 573012

GODSTONE
Surrey Hi-Fi
45 High Street
Tel: 01883 744755

GRIMSBY
Manders Hi-Fi
2/4 Edward Street
Tel: 01472 351391

GUILDFORD
Rogers Hi-Fi
13 Bridge Street
Tel: 01483 561049

HARPENDEN
Studio 82
82 The High Street
Tel: 01582 764246

HARROW
Harrow Audio
27 Springfield Road
Tel: 0181 930 9933

HASTINGS
Adams & Jarratt
6-18 Norman Road, St Leonards
Tel: 01424 437165

HEREFORD
English Audio
37 Whitecross Road
Tel: 01432 355081

IPSWICH
Eastern Audio
41 Bramford Road
Tel: 01473 217217

* except on these brands

- Arcam • Aura • Audiolab • B&W •
- Celestion • Cyrus • Denon • KEF •
- Marantz • Mission • Monitor Audio •
- Musical Technology • Myryad • Nad •
- Proac • Project • Quad • REL • Rotel •
- Sennheiser • Soundstyle • Target •
- Tannoy • TDL • Thorens • Yamaha •

WHERE YOU CAN'T BUY BETTER!

SPEAKERS

B & W	DM302 New	129
	DM305 New	349
	DM601	199
	DM602	299
	CDM2 New	399
	CDM1 New	599
	P4	675
Celestion	Impact 10	129
	Impact 15	199
	Impact 20	279
	Impact 23	299
KEF	Coda 7	129
	Coda 8	189
	Coda 9	299
	Q15 New	199
	Q35 New	349
	Q55 New	499
	Reference 1	1099
Mission	73	99
	731i	129
	731 LE	149
	732	199
	733	329
	734	499
	751f RW or Oak add £50	348
	752f RW or Oak add £70	578
	753f RW or Oak add £100	798
	754f RW or Oak add £200	1298
Mon. Audio	Monitor One	249
	Monitor Two	299
	Monitor Three	399
	Studio 12	999
Musical Technology	Hobby - New	250
	Kestrel	265
	Kestrel SE	315
	Harrier	399
Proac	Tablette 50	599
	Studio 100	699
	Response One SC	1199
Tannoy	M2 New	139
	Profile Plus 631	149
	Profile Plus 631SE*****	169
	Profile Plus 632	199
	Profile Plus 633	299
	Profile Plus 635	449
TDL	NFM 1	119
	RTL 2 improved	279
	RTL 3 improved	399
	T-Line 2	549
	T-Line 3	699
	Studio .75M	749
	Studio 1M	899

TURNTABLES

Michell	Micro + RB300 arm	577
NAD	533 + Goldring Elektra	219
Pro-Ject	.5 + Ort OMS-10	159
	1 + Ort 510	199
	2 + Ort MC-1	299
	6 + Ort MC-1S	449
Thorens	TD180 78rpm inc AT91	189
	TD180 78rpm inc Stanton	219
	TD280-IV inc AT95	209
	TD166/Rega arm	399

MINI & MICRO SYSTEMS

Mission	MM7 incl 731i spks	699
Teac	H500 Champagne Finish	799
Denon	D-C1 Micro 6CD inc Spkrs	379
	DM-03 New inc Spkrs	499
	D-C30 Mini inc Spkrs	499
	D77 - 3 Box 30wpc	649
	D77W - Twin Cas	699
	DF-07 New Champagne Finish	649
	D99W New Twin Cas	899
	AVC-77 Add-On Dolby AV	399
	F-10 Separates System	999
Denon	F10 Amp	*289
Separate	F10 CD	*249
Mini	F10 CD 3 Disc	399
Units	F10 Cas. Deck	*279
	F10 Tuner	*239
	F10 Receiver	379
Yamaha	CL-10 Separates System New	949
	AX-10 Amp	299
Separate	CDX-10 CD	249
Mini	KX-10 Cas. Deck	299
Units	TX-10 Tuner	179

COMPACT DISC

Arcam	Alpha 7 New	319
	Alpha 8 New	519
Audiolab	8000CD New 1 box	999
Aura	CD100	399
Cyrus	dAD3 - New	598
	dAD3-Q - New	898
Denon	DCD425	149
	DCD625	199
	DCD715 With PITCH Control	234
	DCD825	239
	DCM260 - 5 disc	299
	DCD1015	349
Marantz	CD57 New	229
	CD67 New	269
	CD67 Special Edition	349
	CD63 Signature	499
	CD17	799
	CD17 Signature*****	1299
Myryad	MC100 New	699
NAD	510	199
	512	249
Quad	77 Bus Powered	699
	77 240v Powered	899
Rotel	RCD930AX	179
	RCD950AX	249
	RCD970BX	349
Technics	SL-PG580	159
	SL-PS670	199
Yamaha	CDX-390	129
	CDX-490	169
	CDX-590	229
Densen	DeMagic Demagnetiser Disc	10.95

MARKS & SPENCER
Gift Vouchers
FREE!



Customers quoting this Magazine can claim a **£5 M&S Voucher** for every **£60** spent when buying selected Hi-Fi Equipment* In Store at recommended prices. Check for our Mail Order Offers.

WIRE & INTERCONNECTS

PHONO - PHONO 1 metre	
Audioquest	Jade 29.95
	Turquoise 2 39.95
	Ruby 2 79.95
	Quartz 3 119.95
	Video Two (foe Digital) 59.95
Cable Talk	Improved 2 25.95
	Advanced 2 34.95
	Monitor 2 (1/2m) 39.95
	Monitor 2 49.95
	Studio 2 64.95
	Professional 2 84.95
Chord Company	Siren Interconnect 64.95
Transparent Audio	Musichord 49.95
	Musiclink 119.95

SPEAKER WIRE - Per Metre	
Audioquest	F14 solid 4 core flat 1.95
	F18 solid 8 core flat 3.60
	Type 4 4 spiral 4 core 4.95
Cable Talk	Talk 3i 2.25
	Bi-Wire 3i 4.50
	Talk 4i 4.25
	Bi-Wire 4i 8.50
QED	Qudos OFC/PTFE 2.25
	Qudos Bi-Wire New 4.50
	Profile 4 x 4 9.00
	Profile Silver 12 Bi-wire 15.00
	Profile 8 - Flat 5.00
Mission	Quartet Bi-Wire 3.90

CD DACs & TRANSPORTS

Audio Alchemy	Dac-Man	149
	Dac-in-a-box	229
Arcam	Delta Box 50	479
	Delta Box 500	749
	Delta 250 Transport	799
Audiolab	8000 DAC	899
	8000 CDM Transport	1399

RECEIVERS

Denon	DRA275 RDS - 40wpc	199
	DRA385 RDS - 45wpc	279
	RCD100 CD-Tuner-Amp	499
Yamaha	RX-395 RDS - 40wpc	249

TABLES & STANDS

SOUNDSTYLE TABLES	
In 4 Colours - Red - Black - Blue - Grey	
X050 / X053 3 leg 4 shelf	210.00
X058 3 leg 5 shelf	240.00
X100 4 leg 4 shelf	220.00
X105 4 leg 5 shelf	250.00
X310 extra long for TV & A/V	250.00
"Select" Range available 'phone for details	
TARGET HI-FI TABLES	
ER5 5 shelf Welded	139.00
GR5 5 shelf Welded	160.00
TT5sa 5 shelf - Flat Pack	139.00
Beta 5 5 shelf - Heavy Round Posts	185.00
AER 5 shelf - Rigid & Stylish	205.00

TARGET SPEAKER STANDS	
MX40 / 50 / 60	55.00
TR30 / 40 / 50 / 60 / 70	67.00
HS20 / 30 / 40	77.00
HS50 / 60 / 70	79.00
HM40 / 50 / 60	82.50
HJ10-3 / HJ15-3	135.00
HJ16-2 / HJ20-2	125.00
K40 / 50 / 60 / 70	150.00
S7 or S8 Wall Brackets	39.00

The Small Print... Details correct at copy date 28 days prior to publication and prices include 17 1/2% VAT. Some Brands are exclusive, please check with your local Dealer. ♦ Individual offers cannot be mixed with other promotions. E & OE
Mail Order Most major items are available with 48 hour FREE UK delivery on cleared payments. Goods insured against loss or damage. Payments by Visa, Switch, Mastercard or Cheque.

BEST!

You Can't Buy Better

We stock the products you want to buy! All shops hold "most of the Agencies for most of the Brands" listed. All this plus 2 Year Guarantees and Good Old Fashioned Service.

AMPLIFIERS

Arcam	Alpha 7 New	249
	Alpha 8 New	349
	Alpha 9 New	499
	Alpha 8P 50wpc Pwr-Amp	249
	Alpha 9P 70wpc Pwr-Amp	399
Audiolab	8000A	499
	8000S	699
	8000C Pre.	549
	8000P Pwr.	749
	8000Q Pre.	1099
	8000M Mono Pair	1599
Aura	VA80SE-X	249
	VA100 MkII	349
Cyrus	SL straight line audiophile III-i	398
	PSX-R power supply	598
	XPA 50wpc multi-amp	328
	Cyrus Pre	298
	Cyrus Power	648
	MR3 Multi-room system	498
Denon	PMA250se	159
	PMA350se	199
	PMA425 New Remote	229
Krell	KAV300i New 150w integrated	2490
Marantz	PM47 New	149
	PM57 Remote New	199
	PM66se Remote New	229
Myryad	M1 - 120	529
	MA - 120 Power Amp	449
NAD	310	99
	312	199
	314	259
Quad	77 Integrated (inc Remote Control Console)	849
	77 Pre-amp & Remote	849
	77 Power-amp	599
	707 Power-amp	799
Rotel	RA930AX I I	149
	RA930BX	199
	RC970-11 Pre-amp	175
	RB970-11 Power-amp	225
Technics	SU-A600 I I I	199
	SU-A700 I I I	249
	SU-A900D Pre-pwr	499
Yamaha	AX-390	169
	AX-490	249
	AX-590 100wpc	299

CASSETTE DECKS

Denon	DRM550	159
	DRS640 Drawer Load	199
	DRV580 New Double	199
	DRM650S - New Dolby-S	229
	DRM740 3-Head	269
	DRS810 3-Hd Drawer Load	309
	SD555 Double New	199
Marantz	SD555 Double New	199
NAD	613	229
Nakamichi	DR3 *Stock still available*	449

End of an Era!
NAKAMICHI
Cassette Decks
Brand New Boxed Model DR3

Rotel	RD960BX	249
Technics	RST-R474 Twin	219
Yamaha	KX390	149
	KX490	199
	KX580 Dolby-S	249
	KX690 3-Hd Dolby-S	399
	KX-W392 Double	179
	KX-W592 Double	279
	KX-W952 Double	599

TUNERS

Arcam	Alpha 7 New	229
	Alpha 8 + Remote New	279
Audiolab	8000T	799
Aura	TU80	349
Cyrus	FM7	398
Denon	TU260	119
	TU215-RD	149
	TU425-RD RDS	199
Marantz	ST57 RDS	149
	ST65 RDS	199
NAD	412	189
Quad	FM77	499
Rotel	RT935AX	159
Yamaha	TX-480L	119
	TX-590 RDS	179

A-V SYSTEMS



Pioneer	CLD-D515 Laser Disc Player	549
Denon	LA2300A - AC3 ready	579
5 CHANNEL AMPS		
Arcam	Xeta One	999
Denon	AVR600 New Recvr	299
	AVC1800	549
	AVC2800	799
Marantz	SR66 New Starter PM711	299
Yamaha	RX-V390 RDS 5 Ch. Recvr	299
	RX-V590 RDS 5/7 Ch. Recvr	449
	DSP-A590 5/7 Ch.	349
	DSP-A780	599
	DSP-A990 7 Ch.	899
	DSP-A2070 7 Ch.	1099
	DSP-A3090 7 Ch. with AC-3	1699
ADD-ON AV AMPS		
Arcam	Xeta 2 50wpc front & rear	649
	Xeta 290P 75wpc pwr amp	399
Cyrus	AV Master	698
Denon	AVC-77 3 Ch. Mini	399
Yamaha	DSP-E390 3 Ch.	249
	DSP-E580 5 Ch.	449
	DSP-E1000 5 Ch.	699

AV LOUDSPEAKERS

KEF	80C Centre	129
	60S Satellite - Rear	199
Mission	73S Satellite - Rear	99
	73C Centre	149
	73PS Subwoofer - per pair	179
	75C Centre	249
	73DP True Di-pole	299
	AV-2 Pack (73li + 73c + 73s)	349
Tannoy	621 Centre	99
	622 Profile Centre	179
	628 Rear Wall Mount-White	149
TDL	CCS Centre	149
	SBR Sub Woofer	199
Yamaha	NS-C60 Centre	60
	NS-C105 Centre	80
	NS-E60 Rear	80
	NS-E105 Rear Effect	109
	NS-C10MM Shielded Monitor	119

ACTIVE SUB WOOFERS

KEF	20B	349
	30B	499
Mission	75AS RW or Oak add £50	549
REL	Q 50	375
	Q 100	475
	Strata MkII	545
	Storm	695
Yamaha	YST-SW40	139
	YST-SW80	179
	YST-SW150	279

CARTRIDGES & PHONO

PRE-AMPS

Just a sample of the popular ranges held in store

Goldring	Elan	19.00
Ortofon	Super OM10	29.00
Stanton	DJ Pro 500 II	34.00
Goldring	1006	59.00
Denon	DL-304 MC Cart.	209.90
QED	Discsaver RIAA Preamp	34.95
Rotel	RQ970BX	129.90
Michell	ISO MC or MM Preamp	420.00
Audiolab	8000PPA	899.00

HEADPHONES

SENNHEISER

HD 435	29.95
HD 445	44.95
HD 455	54.95
HD 465	64.95
HD 475	79.95
HD 25SP	89.95
HD 535	104.95
HD 545	124.95
HD 565	149.95
HD 265 Closed Back	149.95
HD 580	199.95
HD 600	249.95
IS 360 Infra Red	69.95
IS 450 Infra Red	119.95
IS 550 Infra Red	179.95
HE60 / HEV70 Electrostatic	998.00

KETERING

Classic Hi-Fi
School Lane
Tel: 01536 310855

LEICESTER

Leicester Hi-Fi Company
6 Silver Walk, St Martins Sq
Tel: 0116 2539753

LIVERPOOL

Beaver Hi-Fi
20-22 Whitechapel
Tel: 0151 7099898

NOTTINGHAM

Nottingham Hi-Fi
120 Alfreton Road
Tel: 0115 9786919

OXFORD

Westwood & Mason
46 George Street
Tel: 01865 247783

PLYMOUTH

Hi-Fi Attic
58 New George Street
Tel: 01752 669511

RUGBY

Sounds Expensive
12 Regent Street
Tel: 01788 540772

SEVENOAKS

Performance Hi-Fi
Riverhead 5 London Road
Tel: 01732 740425

SHREWSBURY

Shropshire Hi-Fi
St. Michael's Street
Tel: 01743 232317

SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton Hi-Fi Centre
37 Bedford Place
Tel: 01703 228434

STAMFORD

Stamford Hi-Fi
9 Red Lion Square
Tel: 01780 62128

STRATFORD-on-AVON

Stratford Hi-Fi
10a Chapel Street
Tel: 01789 414533

TORQUAY

Chelston Hi-Fi
38 Walnut Road, Chelston
Tel: 01803 606863

WILMSLOW

Swift Hi-Fi of Wilmslow
St. Ann's Parade (on A34)
Tel: 01625 526213

WREXHAM

Acton Gate Audio
Ruabon Road
Tel: 01978 364500



Our Winter '96 - '97 Brochure

is out now.
Full listings plus hints and tips on Hi-Fi.

INTEREST FREE CREDIT

0% apr

On selected items, terms tailored to suit you. Minimum Deposit 25% over 6 - 9 - 12 months on advertised prices minimum balance £250.00 ♦(excludes M&S offer)

Check your local dealer for 48 Hour Delivery. Send or Fax your order to:- Harrow Audio, 27 Springfield Road, HARROW HA1 4QF. Tel:- 0181 930 9933 Fax:- 0181 863 2443

Please Supply: _____
Name: _____ Address: _____
Post Code: _____ Tel No: _____
Method of Payment :- Cheque Enclosed / Credit Card. Expiry Date :- _____ HFC 02
Card No :- _____

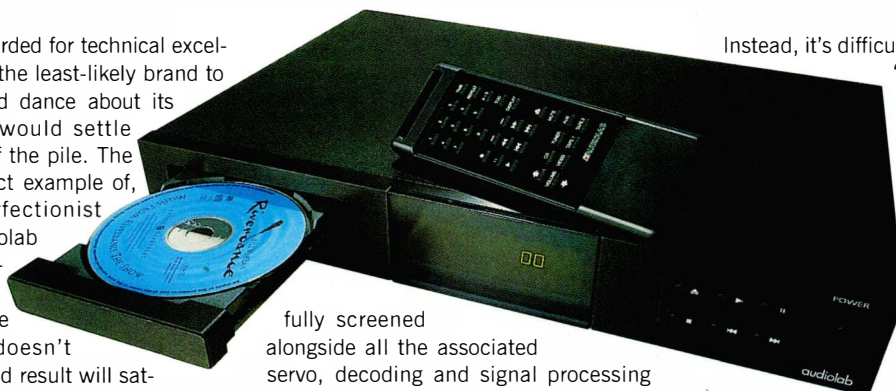
CARRIAGE FREE Hi-Fi TO YOUR UK ADDRESS

Audiolab 8000 CD

If points were awarded for technical excellence, Audiolab (the least-likely brand to make a song and dance about its achievements) would settle very near the top of the pile. The 8000CD is a perfect example of, well, the perfectionist approach that Audiolab brings to its engineering, of both digital and analogue audio. Now this doesn't always mean the end result will satisfy the musical demands of every listener out there in couchland, but it does reflect very positively indeed on the standards of build, of consistency and long-term reliability, of the product at hand.

So let's peel the layers away from Audiolab's first fully integrated CD player. The solid alloy slab that is the 8000CD's fascia is clearly taken from the existing 8000CDM transport, as are the standard controls and, for that matter, the remote handset with its direct track access, index skip, repeat and rather convoluted program-play options. The up/down volume and mute facilities are disabled here, incidentally.

For reasons of performance and expediency, Audiolab has retained Philips' CDM12.4 CD mechanism, which is care-



fully screened alongside all the associated servo, decoding and signal processing ICs to prevent the egress of RF interference from compromising the sensitive DAC and analogue stages. Audiolab has employed a back-lit LC display, rather than a 'noisy' fluorescent panel, for much the same reason.

And the DAC? Well, this is Crystal's new CS4329, a bitstream converter with 128 times oversampling and fourth-order noise-shaping, with a differential output to squeeze one extra three to four dB of extra dynamic range. It's the next-generation on from the CS4328 still used by the Roksan and Quad players in this test.

Sound quality

In the words of one disingenuous listener, Audiolab's 8000CD is "not so much laid back as laid out". A reference, I was led to believe, to its highly neutral but overly smooth and somewhat fettered sound that mopped the typically fevered brow of Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan to produce an atypically restrained and undramatic performance. Instead of bursting onto the musical scene, the introduction to this track merely 'arrived', it was suggested.

Heaven forbid that the 8000CD should stumble over any musical challenge.

Instead, it's difficult to avoid the sensation of 'sedate confidence', a mature balance that's ideally placed for listening at 3am with a large bourbon (the whisky, not the biscuit). There's no excess bass to prove troublesome nor an aggressive treble to bring on fatigue, while the midband sounds moody and sweet — as such, the 8000CD seems more favourably disposed to some styles of music than others.

More often than not, it manages to sound atmospheric without being terribly expressive, possibly a result of the far treble being a little defocused. So Rachmaninov's *3rd Symphony* might have accented the mid-band warmth of the player, elevating the violas and woodwind very nicely indeed, but the 'cellos and all below sounded a little soggy, tugging at the heels of the performance as a whole.

Conclusion

The fact that Audiolab has achieved such a consistent performance with digital players employing diverse technologies, suggests a common link in the 'sound' of its Signetics-based analogue stages. This sound, in common with earlier reviews, prompted the suggestion that the 8000CD was "developed according to the Green Cross Code of digital audio". It's an elegantly constructed player that proffers an equally elegant but very safe and undemanding view of its music. It will never offend but neither is it likely to inspire a climactic musical experience.

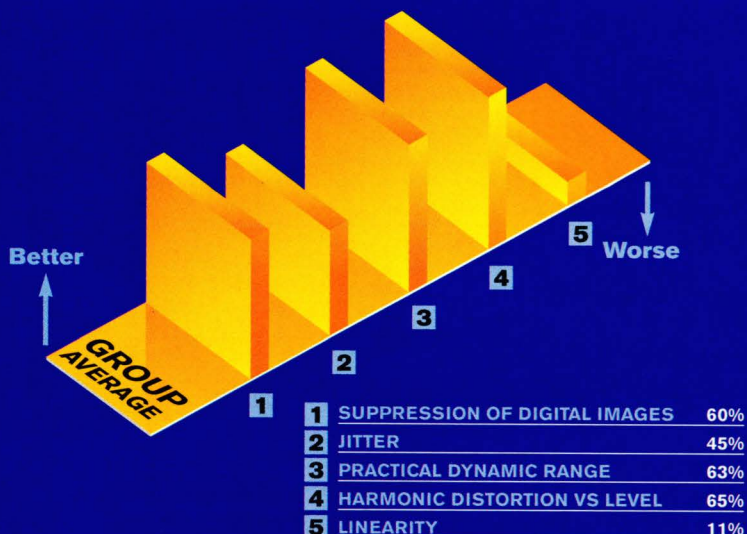
VERDICT

SOUND ★★☆☆☆
VALUE ★★☆☆☆
PRICE £999.90

▲ Warm, comfortable and furry-sounding.
 ▼ Will never stir the blood.

✉ Cambridge Systems Technology Ltd, Spitfire Close,
 Ermine Business Park, Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 6XY
 (01480) 415600

HOW IT COMPARES



THE LAB REPORT

Crystal may claim a 20-bit resolution for its new CS4329 converter, though Audiolab, in common with Meridian which also uses the CS4329 in its 508 player, only succeeds in achieving a 104dB S/N ratio once the dubious 'digital kill' circuit is disabled. Nevertheless, with a noise modulation of +6dB, the practical dynamic range available to the 8000CD still exceeds the 16-bit code stamped onto every conventional music CD. Errors in low-level resolution amount to just -0.6dB over 100dB.

I must report a slight mistracking problem with CD-R discs that were ably handled by every other player in this test, causing the 8000CD to report an 'error' before re-searching and locating the appropriate track. Otherwise, the 8000CD has a clean bill of health from its low 260psec of (admittedly) high-rate jitter patterns to the low 0.0018-0.02 per cent distortion at the important -30dB level — far better than that achieved by Meridian's 508. The response shows Audiolab's (essentially inaudible) but characteristic -0.5dB drop at 20kHz while the solid 108 Ohm output impedance and accurate 2V peak level remain true to the digital textbook.

Audio Research CD1

Few but the daffiest hi-fi enthusiasts appreciate that an element, at least, of so-called 'high end audio' is pure hokum. After all, in years of strict, blind listening tests conducted for *Hi-Fi Choice*, the players that emerge as real humdingers, the players that truly set new standards are typically budget models. Sony's £250 *CDP-715E*, for example, has remained something of a reference point from as far back as issue 137. And what about the new *CD4 SE* from Cambridge? It's another utterly incredible player that costs but a fraction of the high-end imports.

Then we heard Audio Research's *CD1*. This CD player costs an arm and a leg. Well, £3,290 to be precise. Its styling is very typical of the breed, with a functional alloy fascia (complete with grab-handles), bold fluorescent display and a long row of function buttons catering for skip, search, intro scan, repeat and random play. Direct track access and program play modes come courtesy of its remote control.

Round the back is a profusion of AES/EBU, AT&T optical and standard digital outputs plus both balanced and unbalanced (phono) analogue outputs. Inside, however, the CDM12 mechanism and fully integrated SAA7341 'CD-player-on-a-chip' are, perhaps, more commonly at home in a player at



least a tenth (if not a twentieth) of the price.

We've seen examples of this chip over several years in budget players from both Philips and Rotel. In this instance, however, Audio Research's implementation, and especially its DEC technology, has succeeded in spinning a silk purse from a veritable sow's ear.

Sound quality

"Not unlike listening to a classic Roberts Radio" it was suggested: "this player makes everything sound lovely". In particular, Rebecca Pidgeon's vocals were projected well above the accompanying instruments without sounding either bright or sibilant, simply very wholesome and believable. However, our listeners did suggest that the *CD1* imparts something of a 'beautification filter', sounding a little too delightful and agreeable for its own good — if the idea that anything can sound "too good" can be countenanced

"Where's the sharp snap and abrupt leading edges?" queried one listener by way of explanation. Adderley's sax undoubtedly lacked the full brassy rasp we had come to expect but this instrument, the mute trum-

pet, double bass and the percussion still sounded so incredibly vibrant, colourful and alive that all the music remained entirely plausible and utterly irresistible. The sense of space and layering conveyed by the *CD1* is equally magnificent without, our panel suggested, "sounding airy-fairy". The sheer depth of sound that accompanied Rachmaninov's *3rd Symphony* was unmatched by any player in this test as instruments, and reflections of instruments, plunged back and back into a seemingly limitless void of sound.

Conclusion

Like a compelling novel, not only is the *CD1* almost impossible to put down but it has the uncanny knack of suspending disbelief in the face of a musical performance that's frighteningly 'real' and yet obviously coloured. The fact that Audio Research has achieved such a preposterous level of performance from the same building blocks used in Philips' sub-£150 *CD920* and *CD732* (issues 119 and 128) only serves to fuel my incredulity.

As a consequence, the *CD1* can only be described as a rare, if not entirely unique proposition among CD players — an uncommonly attractive machine available at a suitably uncommon price. Ah, but we can always dream...

VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★
VALUE ★★★★★☆
PRICE £3,290.00

▲ Hugely listenable.

▼ Hugely unaffordable.

✉ Absolute Sounds, 58 Durham Road, London SW20 ODE
☎ (0181) 947 5047

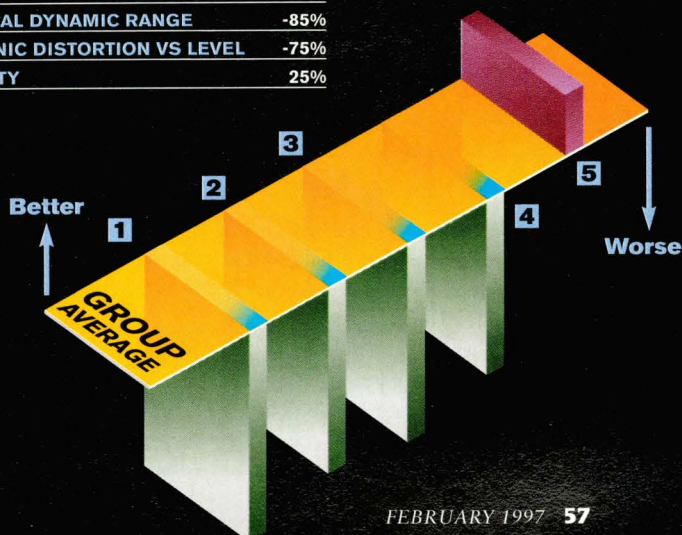
THE LAB REPORT

I've clearly got some explaining to do here. After all, the plummeting bar-chart hardly looks like the stuff of recommendation. Basically, attempting to squeeze the entire digital chain of a CD player (i.e. the decoder, 256 times oversampling, noise-shaping and Bit Stream conversion) onto a single chip is economic but technically inadvisable. The digital filter, for example, still leaves behind very obvious 'images' beyond the 20kHz cut-off frequency (just -16dB down, in fact) and this may influence the sound of the *CD1*, with, for example, valve or low-feedback transistor amps that are less linear at these very high frequencies. Our 'test amplifier' is exceptionally tolerant of these artefacts, I might add.

Any 'roughness' is ameliorated by a sweet-sounding treble that's one dB down at 20kHz, is populated by moderate levels of low-order distortion (typically 0.03 per cent), leaving any digital 'nasties' submerged beneath a convenient carpet of noise. So the *CD1* has a sub-16 bit 92dB S/N ratio, but if the dynamic range were any wider, the player would sound proportionally coarser. This really is a case of 'what you don't hear won't hurt the sound'.

HOW IT COMPARES

1	SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES	-90%
2	JITTER	-80%
3	PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE	-85%
4	HARMONIC DISTORTION VS LEVEL	-75%
5	LINEARITY	25%



Five Stars

Does the best price always mean the best deal?

“I thought I had this buying hi-fi business sorted out. I bought all the hi-fi magazines and read them thoroughly, because I reckoned their experts knew exactly what they were talking about - at least a lot more than I did! It was reassuring to see the same product names cropping up regularly and I figured the writers’ experience and guidance would steer me straight to the system of my dreams. The trouble is I’ve ended up more confused than when I started.



One reviewer said a product I fancied was absolutely brilliant but another said it was nothing special at all. How can that be? Surely one CD player is pretty much the same as another? And how can a loudspeaker that’s one magazine’s top recommendation not get so much as a mention in any of the others? I don’t mind admitting it, I’m completely lost.”

Plan B — I’m going for a deal

“So, I’ve decided to adopt plan B. I’m sure there can’t be any really dramatic differences between all this gear and it’s all bound to work together properly, so I’m going to check the price lists and the adverts and shop around for the best deal. I know getting the right hi-fi is important — hey, I’m as mad about music as anyone — but if I can get close to the mark and save a few quid, I’m sure I’ll end up with a good system and be happy. I know there are specialist shops out there that do demonstrations and reckon they’ve got all the solutions but, to be honest, I’m a bit scared of going to one. I’d really welcome some advice and guidance but I don’t know all the technical jargon and I’d feel daft sitting there trying to “hear the differences” if I couldn’t. Anyway, a friend told me that these shops only sell the really expensive gear and that they’re not interested if you don’t have loads of money to spend.”

And so another hi-fi buyer starts his journey down the road to dissatisfaction, endless upgrades and a permanent overdraft.

There is only one way to buy a hi-fi system that will prove satisfying, reliable and deliver true value for money, and that’s through a specialist hi-fi dealer. Let’s face it, you wouldn’t think about buying a car if you couldn’t take it for a test drive. You wouldn’t buy a house solely on the strength of seeing the estate agent’s details and a photograph. Even if you’re spending far less, say buying a jacket or a pair of shoes, you want to try them on to make sure they fit you.

Buying a hi-fi system is no different. It doesn’t matter what the specifications say or what the “experts” think: if it doesn’t measure up to what you want from a system, then it’s not the right choice. Knowing that you’ve bought a room full of five-star favourites or best-buys is no consolation when you can’t bear to listen to them for more than five minutes. Even that ten per cent discount on the price won’t make them sound any better.

Buying or being sold to?

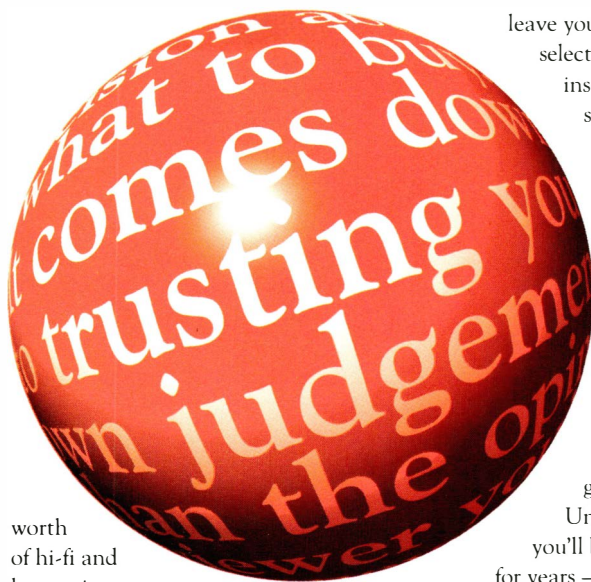
Mind you, most of us are easily suckered when it comes to buying hi-fi. Given the choice of venturing into the unknown territory of a specialist dealer’s shop and exerting some influence over what we buy, or taking what looks like the easy route — having adverts and magazine reviews push us along a path sweetened with discounts and special offers — we opt for the latter. We don’t buy a system, we allow ourselves to be sold one. We side-line our own ideas about quality and personal satisfaction and buy someone else’s opinion of what’s good for us and good value for our money.

Take control!

Now there’s a group of long-established, independent specialist dealers who are totally committed to putting the customer back in the driving seat. They’re encouraging the buyer to take control ... with a little help and guidance provided where required. They know how difficult it can be to establish the true quality and

For Value

Ask the UK's top twenty specialist hi-fi dealers.



worth of hi-fi and home cinema systems. They know that without experiencing the performance of the systems they offer, you can't possibly assess the value of them. That's why their idea of "selling" is to play the systems for you and allow you to be the judge.

Listening to your choice of music in a peaceful, well organised demonstration room, you may be surprised and, almost certainly, relieved to discover how easy it is to hear the differences between components and between systems. With the dealer's help and advice you will be able to make a clear and informed decision about what to buy. It comes down to trusting your own judgement rather than the opinion of a reviewer you've never met ... and who won't refund your money if you're not satisfied or be at the end of a phone to sort out any problems you might encounter.

The story doesn't end there. These shops won't abandon you once you've put your hand into your pocket. They won't

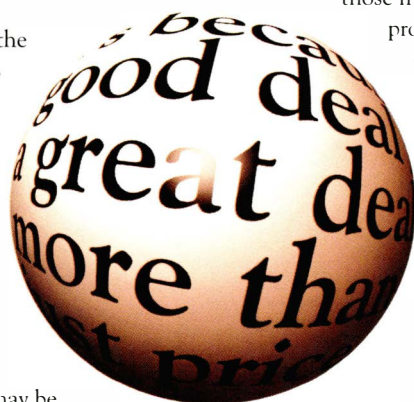
leave you to set up the system you've selected as best you can. They'll install it in your home, make sure it sounds great, and make sure that you're entirely happy with the way it works.

Why bother?

There is, of course, one question that hasn't been answered: why should you and these dealers go to all this trouble? Well, from your point of view maybe it's because a good deal is about a great deal more than just price. Unless you've got money to burn, you'll be living with your new system for years — years during which most of those five star products will probably stop shining quite so brightly.

As far as the dealers are concerned, maybe they believe that taking care of their customers properly is a nicer way of doing business than just handing over boxes.

Listed on the right of this page are the best hi-fi shops in the country. They all have lots of stars. You'll find them on the shop floor: they're the people waiting to guide customers towards hi-fi that will give them years of musical enjoyment and total satisfaction.



STAR QUALITIES

value for money
service
facilities
verdict



20 OF THE BEST HI-FI DEALERS IN THE UK

LONDON N1

Grahams Hi-Fi
190a New North Road
0171 226 5500

SW11

Oranges & Lemons
61/63 Webbs Road
Battersea
0171 924 2040

W4

Martin-Kleiser Ltd
108 Chiswick High
Road
0181 400 5555

SOUTH

Ashford, Kent
Soundcraft Hi-Fi
40 High Street
01233 624441

Chelmsford

Rayleigh Hi-Fi
216 Moulsham Street
01245 265245

East Grinstead

Audio Designs
26 High Street
01342 314569

Kingston-upon-Thames

Infidelity
9 High Street
Hampton Wick
0181 943 3530

Rayleigh, Essex

Rayleigh Hi-Fi
44a High Street
01268 779762

Southend-on-Sea

Rayleigh Hi-Fi
132/4 London Road
01702 435255

Uxbridge

Uxbridge Audio
278 High Street
01895 465444

MIDLANDS Banbury

Overture
3 Church Lane
01295 272158

Birmingham

Sound Academy
152a High Street
Bloxwich
01922 493499

Leicester

Cymbiosis
(Formerly known as
Listen Inn)
6 Hotel Street
0116 262 3754

Northampton

Listen Inn
32 Gold Street
01604 37871

Shrewsbury

Creative Audio
9 Dogpole
01743 241924

NORTH

Cheadle (Stockport)

Audio Counsel
14 Stockport Road
0161 428 7887

Oldham

Audio Counsel
12/14 Shaw Road
0161 633 2602

Sheffield

Moorgate Acoustics
184 Fitzwilliam St
0114 275 6048

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh

Russ Andrews Hi-Fi
34 Northumberland
Street
0131 557 1672

Glasgow

Stereo Stereo
260 St. Vincent Street
0141 248 4079

NAIM NEVER PULL THE WOOL
OVER YOUR EARS

Naim believe that music is for playing. That's why when you're listening to the finest sounding audio equipment in the world you know it. Naim always stands out for the quality of its sound reproduction, whatever the price point, because the same engineering skills and exacting manufacturing standards always apply. Once you've auditioned them yourself we think you'll agree, for the very best hi-fi equipment there's only one name to ask for.



naim

FOR THE VERY BEST IN HI-FI THERE'S ONLY ONE NAIM

FOR YOUR PERSONAL AUDITION AT YOUR NAIM CENTRE CALL 01722 332266

Web Site: <http://www.naim-audio.com>

Cambridge Audio CD4SE

When is a Special Edition not a Special Edition? When it's a completely different machine. Enter Cambridge's *CD4 SE* which, despite appearances, bears absolutely no resemblance whatsoever to the original *CD4* reviewed so favourably in issue 147. I'm obliged to say, however, that by the time you read this missive, Cambridge is likely to have 'tarted-up' its standard and rather dour front panel with a few extra grooves, curves and blue paint. So at least the *CD4 SE* will look a little different from the matt-black *CD4*. We live in hope.

Widgets like direct track access, intro search, repeat, random and program play are all retained. But why is the *CD4 SE* one of the few players not to accept direct track selection with the drawer still open? A silly oversight in my view.

Inside, of course, it's all change. Gone is the Sanyo-based mechanism with its sluggish track access, replaced by the altogether crisper CDM12 transport from Philips. Cambridge has even re-laid all the supplied servo-electronics on a new board, for ease of manufacture, while improving the supply regulation to boost performance. Gone too is Philips' TDA1305 DAC to be replaced by the very different and very new CS4327 from



Crystal. This is a high oversampling/Bitstream-style converter claimed to offer something close to 20-bit performance.

Not only is Cambridge the first manufacturer to use this chip but it's actually employed *two* in a differential arrangement, hoping to lift the player's dynamic range while simultaneously reducing odd-order distortions. The final analogue stage is similar, in fact, to the *CD4*, though — in characteristically extravagant fashion — the final wiring is accomplished using lengths of Cambridge's banana-yellow *Pacific* audio interconnect!

Sound quality

"There's more than a hint of valve amp in this player" remarked one imaginative listener in response to the warm, rich and colourful sound of the *CD4 SE*. The player certainly places some emphasis on midrange detail

and 'lushness' ahead of extreme treble 'airiness' and yet, despite this merest hint of darkness, Cannonball Adderley's mute trumpet and sax still possessed a realistic sense of attack and bite.

Importantly, the emotive strength of Rachmaninov's *3rd Symphony* also remained quite undiluted. This piece proved a real challenge for the majority of players in our 20-way test where only a very few — the *CD4 SE* included — succeeded in flowing from theme to theme in a seamless and genuinely captivating fashion. There is absolutely no sense of 'going through the motions' with this player, just good, honest vibrant-sounding music.

There's always plenty of body and richness to its performance, but the likes of Rebecca Pidgeon did expose what was described as the player's "shaved treble", its one, albeit minor, Achilles' heel. But this could never undermine the performance of the player as a whole which sounds remarkably natural, and very close in temperament to the gloriously expensive *CD1* from Audio Research.

Conclusion

Aesthetic and ergonomic quibbles aside, this latest offering from Cambridge ranks among the very best players we have ever encountered, and is certainly as good as you are ever likely to trip over at this price. Gone is the exuberant 'rough diamond' that was the original *CD4* to be replaced by a doppelgänger that's altogether more refined, mature and musically convincing. Possibly the greatest surprise of this test earns itself the heartiest of Best Buys.

VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★
VALUE ★★★★★
PRICE £199.95

- ▲ Superbly natural, musical-sounding player.
- ▼ Poor aesthetic design, silly control logic.
- ✉ The Audio Partnership, Richer House, Hankey Place, London SE1 4BB
- ☎ (0171) 357 9090

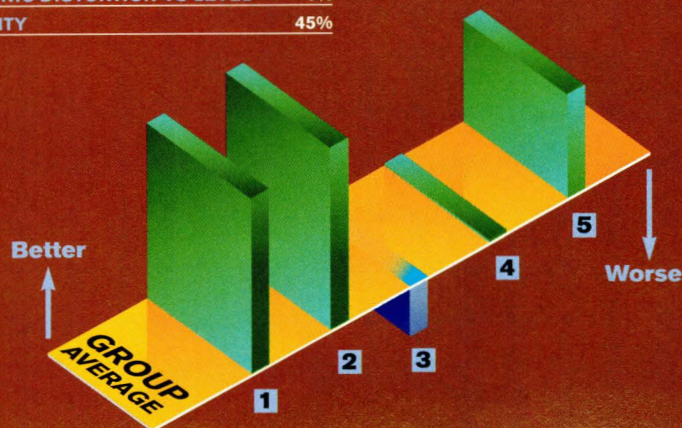
THE LAB REPORT

Not only is the *CD4 SE* fundamentally different from the *CD4* (issue 147), but neither, at this time, is there any direct comparison with any other manufacturer's player. Key features include the exceptionally low 0.0005-0.01 per cent distortion at peak output and the superb low-level linearity which holds true to within +0.2/-0.3dB over a full 100dB dynamic range. Excellent on-chip digital filtering suppresses any digital images to below -100dB while the low 261psec of jitter is primarily power supply- and data-induced and is free of the high-rate/very low-rate patterns that populate the Audiolab *8000CD* and Meridian *508* respectively. These players use the costlier CS4329 bitstream DAC.

In typical Cambridge fashion, the analogue stage is based around Analog Devices' op-amps and features an amp/cable tolerant <10hm output impedance. The output level, however, is set at an outrageous 3.4V +4.7dB over the notional 2V standard. All things being equal, this ensures the *CD4 SE* will sound louder than any other likely competitor, giving it an unfair advantage in quick A/B demonstrations. Frankly, the player is more than good enough to stand its ground without such trickery.

HOW IT COMPARES

1	SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES	75%
2	JITTER	78%
3	PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE	-20%
4	HARMONIC DISTORTION VS LEVEL	1%
5	LINEARITY	45%



Wall to Wall Magic!



The Widest Choice of THX in the UK!

Nothing will prepare you for the
sound of THX Kamla style.

Experience each soundtrack as the director intended
through the JBL Synthesis II system and two other
superlative THX Home Audio loudspeaker systems.

Amplification by JBL, harman/kardon, Proceed and McIntosh.

Processing by harman/kardon and Proceed.

Also featured, the UK's first AC-3
demonstration through EAD TheaterMaster.



JBL



KAMLA

251 Tottenham Court Road, London W1. Tel: 0171 323 2747. Fax: 0171 637 2690.

JBL, HARMAN/KARDON, JAMO, BOSTON, B&W, KENWOOD, PIONEER, PROCEED, REL, ROTEL, G.E., SHARP, DALITE, RUNCO.

0% finance available subject to status.

Copland CDA-288

Of the eight £1,000+ players in our 'top-end' category, Copland's distinguished-looking CDA-288 is the only model to offer built-in compatibility with Pacific Microsonics HDCD (High Definition Compatible Digital) CD software. This comes courtesy of the PMD-100 eight-times oversampling filter, chosen for reasons of sound quality by Copland, but also featuring a 'built-in' HDCD decoder by way of a bonus. However, judging by the debate currently raging over the true value of HDCD, this facility is unlikely to represent a significant purchasing decision.

More likely to impress, I would suspect, is the typically bold but minimalist styling of this Scandinavian beast, which features a clear, centralised display window and a slider of a CD drawer that loads into one of Teac's marvellous VRDS mechanisms. Either side are two spring-loaded rotary controls for power on/off and, on the right, a single turned-alloy dial to prompt play, track skip (either direction) and pause. It's unusual but wonderfully tactile in operation.

Copland has re-styled its remote control, which now looks a little, well, less 'Teac-like' but still offers direct track access, program and single/all repeat play modes, plus a useful index skip facility. Under the bonnet we find two 20-bit DACs which are offset from

one another by one-half of the eight-times oversample time period. Averaging (or interpolating) the output of both DACs confers some of the benefits of a true 16-times oversampled system but without the reduction in distortion and noise we would normally expect. It's all part of Copland's desire to engineer a more favourable complement of distortion than is typical from modern CD players.

Sound quality

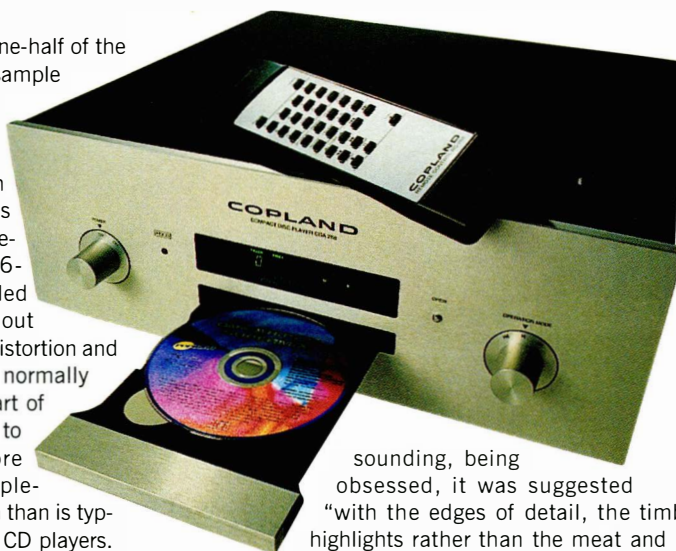
Sparking obvious comparison with a well-known Harry Enfield character, this player was described by our panel of listeners as 'nice but dim', a player that boasts a pleasantly large 'ball of sound' that rolls agreeably enough from the speakers but simply lacks the bite and conviction we know to be possible. There was more than a suggestion of vagueness and insipidity throughout Rebecca Pidgeon's *Friday Night Crowd* though the music, as a whole, never appeared annoying or aggressive.

In similar fashion, Ali Khan's powerful vocals lacked some sense of direction while Cannonball Adderley's *Autumn Leaves* was likened to "fey dinner jazz". There's nothing wrong with this of course, provided you are looking for a very undemanding and unchallenging view of musical life. Otherwise, the CDA-288 is somewhat picky and precise-

sounding, being obsessed, it was suggested "with the edges of detail, the timbral highlights rather than the meat and two veg of the performance". Our Rachmaninov disc, that had come alive with the Kenwood and Cambridge players, now remained slightly impassive — perfectly proportioned, granted, but lacking the thrill of strings and 'quack' of woodwind that might otherwise have generated the tension to hold the interest of our panel.

Conclusion

Make no mistake, and despite the slight disappointment of our panel, Copland's CDA-288 still has a very individual role to play in the haute couture of high-end audio. Never forget that its unusual, but highly effective aesthetic design is complemented by some equally thought-provoking digital engineering. The end result, however, is a gentle giant of a player that errs in favour of pastel shades rather than bold daubs of colour. So don't be fooled by appearances, for the CDA-288 is really something of a softie at heart. ▶▶



VERDICT

SOUND ★★☆☆☆
VALUE ★★☆☆☆
PRICE £2,199.00

▲ Even-handed and thoroughly inoffensive; beautifully constructed.

▼ Accentuates any blandness inherent in the music.

✉ Absolute Sounds, 58 Durham Road, London SW20 0DE
 ☎ (0181) 947 5047

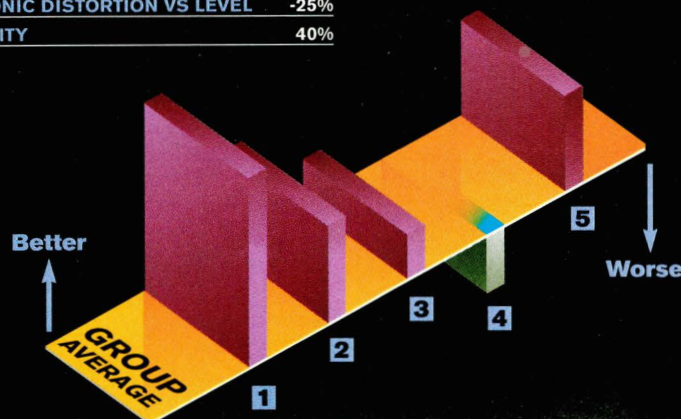
THE LAB REPORT

Subject to a full re-test, Copland's CDA-288 has evidently witnessed some revisions since it last graced my lab bench just under a year ago. Nevertheless, the key features of the CDA-288 remain. Specifically, distortion is 'manipulated' to a level of some 0.13-0.71 per cent across the audioband at peak output but actually falls to some 0.014-0.06 per cent across the same band at -30dB (more appropriate for a 20-bit technology), the level at which much of the musical action takes place. This unusual variation in distortion is reflected in the bargraph, but its true complexity is not adequately shown.

Furthermore, Burr-Brown's PCM63P DACs would normally realise a S/N ratio in excess of 110dB, with a dynamic range to match, but Copland's use of the HDCD filter tends to impair noise performance, reducing the S/N to 103.6dB. Fortunately, the residual +5.5dB noise modulation is less violent than the +12dB or so normally anticipated. Output level is high at 2.5V, so do watch out for misleading A/B demonstrations where there is no level-matching between players, and between HDCD and non-HDCD software.

HOW IT COMPARES

1	SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES	80%
2	JITTER	41%
3	PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE	18%
4	HARMONIC DISTORTION VS LEVEL	-25%
5	LINEARITY	40%



Denon DCD-3000

Both the Pioneer and Kenwood players in our sub-£400 category employ manipulative forms of DSP (Digital Signal Processing) as part of the business of digital filtering. They call this Hi-bit and DRIVE respectively. In point of fact, however, Denon had already pipped both these manufacturers to the post with its Alpha processing facility, first seen on the *DCD-1015* (issue 141) and now featured in the £1,000 *DCD-3000* battle-ship among others.

Features like direct track access, program, random and repeat play, index skip, fader, volume and tape-edit options are not unexpected on a player of this price. But how many CD players also have the facility to accept a digital *output* from another CD transport? In this guise the *DCD-3000* becomes an 'outboard DAC' with both optical and coaxial digital inputs, a phase invert function and variable analogue outputs.

Denon's 'digital engine' is equally high-octane stuff. The fun begins with its proprietary Alpha processing which reconstructs the original 16-bit data into 20-bit form according to the direction and rate of change of successive bits. This type of processing is interpretative, responding to impulsive



(transient) signals rather like Pioneer's Legato Link where it imposes a 'dulling' treble roll-off. Under other musical conditions, Alpha behaves like Kenwood's DRIVE. The extra cost of the *DCD-3000*, however, is more than adequately reflected in the sheer bulk of its engineering.

Sound quality

If the efficacy of Denon's Alpha processing continues to prove technically erratic, at least the subjective impression of our listeners was that of an entirely graceful, composed and, largely, very consistent performance. The balance is essentially neutral and refined, a description also levelled at Audiolab's *8000CD* and Sherwood's *CD1*, and yet the *DCD-3000* is somehow deeper-sounding, richer, darker and more accommodating. There's no sense of strain, no underlying greyness to tax the listener over a period of time yet neither does the player seem tempted to throw musical caution to the wind and really let its hair down.

The sheer scale and tension of

Rachmaninov's *3rd Symphony* built impressively with this player at the helm, the soundstage swelling to encompass the introduction of the horns and woodwind after the violins had finished swirling about the ears of our panel. "It's not as thrilling as we've heard" commented one member, "but it's impossible not to admire how it comfortably strides such a bold recording".

So the *DCD-3000* manages to impart a feeling of unflappability in the face of the most arduous material, sounding smooth, subtly-detailed when required but also massively powerful on occasion. What you don't hear is all the fire and passion that's possible — the player never sounds compressed for it enjoys an excellent dynamic contrast, but the sharp crack of percussion or, in this instance, the raw edge of Adderley's solo saxophone did lack some bite and hard-edged determination.

Conclusion

This substantial player surely sings, but does so with the temperament of a huge orchestra under the baton of a slightly timid conductor. Better this, our panel was forced to concede, than an unruly group of musicians allowed to run riot with your favourite CD. No nasty shocks then, just a tour-de-force of substantial engineering and an unusual quota of facilities and an exceptionally agreeable sound. Recommended for those who appreciate the finer things in life. ➔

VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★☆
 VALUE ★★★★★☆
 PRICE £999.99

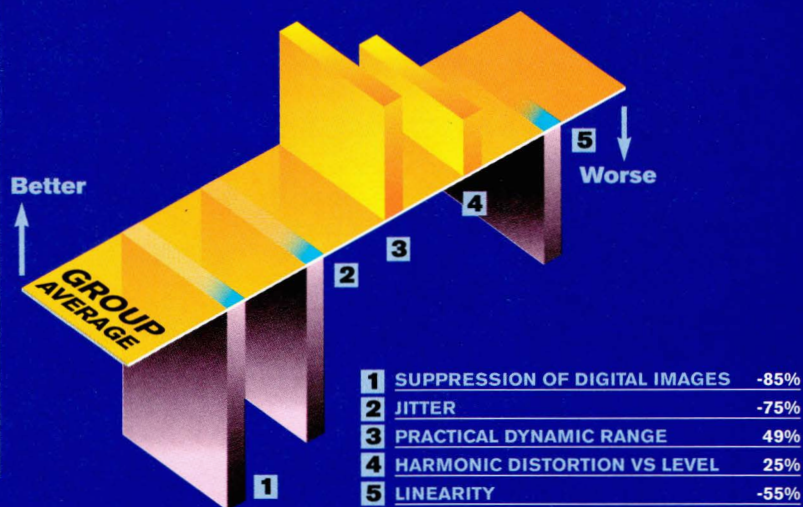
- ▲ Large, accommodating soundstage; effortless performance.
 - ▼ Lacks some pizzazz and immediacy on occasions.
- Hayden Laboratories Ltd, Chiltern Hill, Chalfont St Peter, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 9UG
 (01753) 888447

THE LAB REPORT

As I've already suggested, not only are there technical parallels between the *DCD-3000* and the *DCD-1015*, but also between the '3000, Pioneer's *PD-S705* and Kenwood's *DP-7090*. It's possible to 'force' a Legato-like response from the player which drops to -6dB at 20kHz using digital impulses, while, under other conditions, its response is as flat as the Kenwood or, indeed, any previous Denon player using the SM5841 oversampling filter. Now, the *DCD-3000* uses NPC's SM5845 digital filter, but its characteristics are otherwise identical, including its release of stopband images at a (comparably high) -54dB.

Like Kenwood, Denon is also using complementary 20-bit DACs from Burr-Brown, earning it a massive 117dB A-weighted S/N ratio. This use of multi-bit technology ensures that any ultrasonic noise is greatly reduced, enhancing the player's compatibility. On the other hand it does prompt a vast +19dB noise modulation that inevitably eats into its dynamic range under 'real life' conditions. Jitter is also a little high at 585psec, and it's data-induced too, which is a known cause of audible 'reticence'. An interesting player then, but not entirely straightforward in execution!

HOW IT COMPARES



THE BEST SALE EVER!

FOR ANY MAKE/MODEL OF HI-FI, TV, VIDEO, CAMCORDER BUY DIRECT AND SAVE £££'s OFF HIGH STREET PRICES!!!



Freefone 0800 454980

Our highly trained direct sales operators are always ready to take your calls

TOTAL COMMITMENT TOTAL SERVICE

A few QUOTES from some of our direct sales customers!

"Seldom am I so surprised by the level of service provided that I need to take the trouble to write and thank those involved. The operator was excellent, it was clear that he showed that the satisfaction of the customer was vital. Prices were competitive and delivery prompt."
RAC - Cheshire

"Excellent service, a big round of thanks once again"
TER - Leicester

"We are very impressed with the service you offer, would have no hesitation in recommending you."
DA - Peterborough

"When one orders goods from mail order, it is always with a certain amount of trepidation. I would like to say that your outstanding commitment to your customers has left me in no doubt where I will place any orders for equipment in the future."
CW - Tavistock, Devon

Further to my conversation today, first of all may I say how pleased I am with the service provided. On Wednesday it was arranged that my camcorder be delivered in time for Christmas and true to your word it arrived this morning.
LBJ - Truro, Cornwall

LINE'S OPEN Monday to Friday 9am - 8pm
Saturday 9am - 6pm Sunday 10am - 4pm **SALE SALE**

BRITISH HI-FI AWARDS 1996

BEST CD Player under £250 DENON DCD-825	BEST A/V Amplifier under £350 DENON AVR-900	BEST Subwoofer REL Storm	BEST Complete HI-FI Systems above £1000 QUAD 77
BEST Tuner under £250 ARCAM Alpha 5 Plus	BEST A/V Amplifier above £350 ARCAM Xeta One	BEST HI-FI Speakers under £200 KEF Coda 7	Editors Award for Outstanding HI-FI Product of the Year PIONEER PDR-05 CD Recorder
BEST Cassette Deck under £250 DENON DR5-640	BEST A/V Speakers under £750 Celestion Style	BEST HI-FI Speakers £200 - £500 MISSION 75	BEST Complete HI-FI Systems under £1000 AKAI TX 700
BEST Cassette Deck above £250 PIONEER D-05	BEST A/V Speakers above £750 KEF 605, KEF 80C, KEF 30B		

**FOR ALL THE AWARD WINNERS
Freefone
0800 454980**

SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE

NOBODY ELSE CAN OFFER YOU ALL THIS

- ▶ UK'S LEADING DIRECT SALES/MAIL ORDER SPECIALISTS
- ▶ UK'S LARGEST RANGE OF ELECTRICAL GOODS
- ▶ FREE NATIONWIDE 48 HOUR DELIVERY SERVICE
- ▶ FREE NATIONWIDE IN-HOME AFTER SALES SERVICE
- ▶ UK'S LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEE
- ▶ A DEDICATED DIRECT SALES DEPARTMENT
- ▶ OPTIONAL NATIONWIDE INSTALLATION SERVICE
- ▶ SIMPLE ORDERING PROCEDURE - MASSIVE STOCKS
- ▶ MEMBERS OF RETRA - YOUR GUARANTEE OF A FAIR DEAL
- ▶ EXCLUSIVE MEMBERSHIP TO OUR DIRECT SALES CLUB

ETVS ETVS ETVS ETVS ETVS ETVS ETVS ETVS ETVS ETVS

AMPLIFIERS	CASSETTE DECKS	TUNERS	SPEAKERS	NICAM VCR'S	HI-FI SYSTEMS
DENON PMA 250 SE.....freephone	YAMAHA KX580.....freephone	DENON TU260L.....freephone	CASTLE SEVERN.....freephone	AKAI VS-G 745.....freephone	AIWA - full range.....freephone
HARMAN KARDON HK1200.....freephone	SONY TCKA65.....freephone	DENON TU390RDS.....freephone	KEF - full range.....freephone	FERGUSON FV98HVX.....freephone	AKAI - full range.....freephone
KENWOOD KA-3020SE.....freephone		SONY ST5261.....freephone	KEF CODA 7.....freephone	JVC HR-S7000.....freephone	DENON - full range.....freephone
MARANTZ PM-66SE.....freephone		SONY STSE700.....freephone	KEF CODA 8.....freephone	PANASONIC NV-HD 605B.....freephone	JVC - full range.....freephone
NAD 312.....freephone			KEF CODA 9.....freephone	PANASONIC NV-HD 610B.....freephone	KENWOOD - full range.....freephone
ROTEL RA-930AX.....freephone			MISSION 731.....freephone	PANASONIC NV-HD 660B.....freephone	SONY - full range.....freephone
ROTEL RA-970BX.....freephone			MISSION 735.....freephone	PHILIPS VR757.....freephone	TECHNICS - full range.....freephone
ROTEL RB-970BX II.....freephone			MORDAUNT SHORT - full range.....freephone	SONY SLVE 710.....freephone	
ROTEL RC-970BX II.....freephone			MORDAUNT SHORT MS05I.....freephone		
SONY TA-F246.....freephone			MORDAUNT SHORT MS10I.....freephone		
SONY TA-F448.....freephone			MORDAUNT SHORT MS25I.....freephone		
TECHNICS SU-A900 II.....freephone			SONY SS176E.....freephone		
TECHNICS SU-A900 D.....freephone			TANNOY 6315E.....freephone		
HOME CINEMA	CD PLAYERS	LASER DISC PLAYERS	CASSETTE DECKS		
DENON AVC 1800.....freephone	DENON DCD 825.....freephone	PIONEER CLD 5315.....freephone	DENON DCD 825.....freephone		
DENON AVC 2800.....freephone	DENON DCD 1015.....freephone	PIONEER CLD D925/AC3.....freephone	DENON DCD 1015.....freephone		
HARMON/KARDON AVI 100.....freephone	MARANTZ CD635E.....freephone	SONY MDP 850D.....freephone	MARANTZ CD635E.....freephone		
KENWOOD KRX 1000.....freephone	MARANTZ CD6311 Ki-Signature.....freephone		MARANTZ CD 67.....freephone		
PIONEER VSX 804RDS.....freephone	ROTEL RCD 965 BX.....freephone		ROTEL RCD 965 BX.....freephone		
YAMAHA DSPA 390.....freephone	SONY CD761E.....freephone		TECHNICS SLPG 480A.....freephone		
YAMAHA DSPA 590.....freephone	TECHNICS SLPG 480A.....freephone		TECHNICS SLPG 570A.....freephone		
YAMAHA DSPA 1000.....freephone	TECHNICS SLPG 570A.....freephone		TECHNICS SLPG 580A.....freephone		
YAMAHA DSPA 2070.....freephone	TECHNICS SLPS 770A.....freephone		TECHNICS SLPS 770A.....freephone		

SALE S Save £££'s! Call 0800 454980 NOW!!!

ANY MAKE · ANY MODEL · ANY WHERE · ANY MAKE · ANY MODEL · ANY WHERE



retra
The sign of a fair deal

Empire Direct UK, Direct Sales Dept, The Clock Buildings, Roundhay Road, Leeds, LS8 2SH.

Tel: 0800 454980 Fax: 0113 235 1771

All offers subject to availability. Not all stores may carry all products, check before travelling.

- AUTHORISED DEALER
- AIWA
- AKAI
- ALPINE
- ARCAM
- B & W
- BANG & OLUFSEN
- BOSE
- CANON
- CASTLE
- CELESTION
- DAEWOO
- DENON
- DUAL
- FERGUSON
- GOLDSTAR
- GRUNDIG
- HARMON/KARDON
- HITACHI
- INFINITY
- JAMO
- JBL
- JVC
- KEF
- KENWOOD
- MARANTZ
- MERIDIAN
- MICROMEGA
- MISSION
- MITSUBISHI
- MORDAUNT SHORT
- NAD
- NOKIA
- PACE
- PANASONIC
- PHILIPS
- PIONEER
- QUAD
- REL
- REVOLVER
- ROTEL HI-FI
- SAMSUNG
- SANYO
- SHARP
- SOLID
- SONY
- TANNOY
- TDL
- TECHNICS
- TOSHIBA
- WHARFEDALE
- YAMAHA
- QUALITY ASSURED FIRM

SALE NOW ON IN SUPERSTORES

BIRMINGHAM
Empire Superstore, 21/23 Stephenson Street, (Behind New St. Op. Pallasades Car Park), City Centre.

BOLTON
Cleartone Superstore, Blackburn Road.

BRADFORD
Empire Megastore, Ingleby Road, Girington
THE NORTH'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL MEGASTORE
Cleartone HiFi, Rawson Square, City Centre

LEEDS
Empire Superstore, Roundhay Road, Harehills.

WAKEFIELD
Empire Limited, 94 Kirkgate, City Centre.

THE BEST DEALS EVER!

Kenwood DP-7090

From an aesthetic viewpoint, the funwieldy and frankly unnecessary bulk of Kenwood's new DP-7090 CD player rather flies in the face of today's cosmetic wisdom. Fortunately, our blind listeners are completely unaware of the product's name or price and so 'saw through' its clumsy apparel to the beauty of the performance lying within. Yep, the DP-7090 is a cracking player, so long as you don't dismiss it on the grounds of tasteless styling.

Its comprehensive features include index and track selection, peak search, program and repeat play plus a digital volume control that services both its (parallel) line-level outputs. But it's the internal technology that is the DP-7090's most startling feature. Not only has Kenwood crafted a sealed and 'tuned' transport mechanism to afford a deal of isolation, but the associated digital electronics (called DRIVE or Dynamic Resolution Intensive Vector Enhancement) would not be out of place in a sophisticated £2,000 player.

Here we find no less than four of Burr-Brown's top PCM1702 20-bit DACs per channel, each fed from the same eight-times



oversampling filter also used to great effect in

Arcam's *Alpha 8* CD player. In this case, however, each DAC is offset by 1/32 of the sampling rate and the analogue signal summed after conversion. This confers the benefits of 'true' 32-times oversampling with a potential resolution of some 22-bits which, in a roundabout sort of way, is what Kenwood has claimed for its DRIVE innovation. Interesting idea, but daft name nonetheless.

Sound quality

Auditioned immediately after Musical Fidelity's costlier *FCD*, this player, though more distant-sounding, struck our panel as more even-handed and fundamentally more coherent in its disposition. For a change, the complex vocal intonation of Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan now captured our attention through its emotive strength, rather than tonal forwardness. "It whisks you off to a land of sticky coffee and minarets" remarked one listener, who also had half a mind on lunch.

Cannonball Adderley's *Autumn Leaves* also possessed this same 'cuddly' quality which was described as "neither adding to nor getting in the way of the essence of this original '50's recording". The sound of sax and mute trumpet appeared very natural indeed, a version of reality that captured the solidity and potency of the instruments without making them sound oppressive. In a similar vein, the sound of the double bass also took on a more purposeful 'feel' — once again, it sounded delightfully 'real'.

All in all, this proved to be a very enjoyable player, not euphonic, though, in the fashion of the Cambridge or Audio Research players. Neither grey nor clinical, it was admirably natural and unmanipulative in disposition. It just plays great music, pure and simple.

Conclusion

Having already tested an early production sample of Kenwood's DP-7090, thoroughly re-testing a fresh sample for this mammoth review has demonstrated a worthwhile gain in performance. Evidently, the intervening period has allowed Kenwood an opportunity to iron out what few bugs remained, allowing a more lively and compelling performance than had previously been anticipated. The technology within the DP-7090 has never been available at such a low price, yielding an involving player; a Best Buy and a gentleman among digital ruffians.

VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★
VALUE ★★★★★
PRICE £399.95

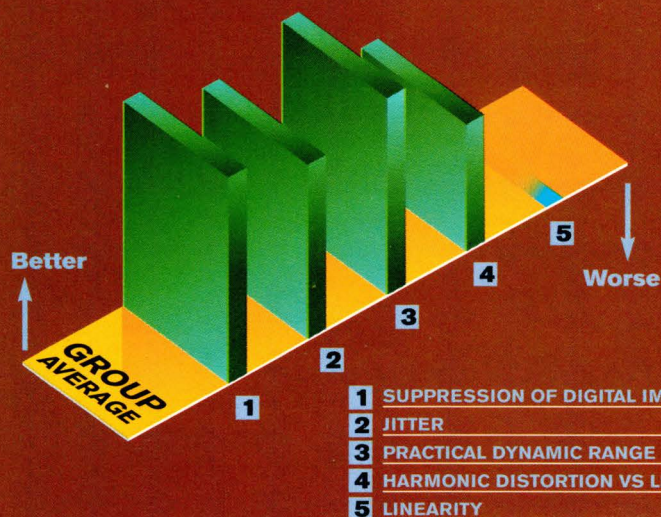
- ▲ Very honest-sounding player that captures and maintains your interest.
- ▼ A little distant and lacking "bass thwack". Ugly brute.
- ✉ Trio-Kenwood UK Ltd, Kenwood House, Dwight Road, Watford, Herts WD1 8EB
- ☎ (01923) 816444

THE LAB REPORT

Just look at that bar chart: a testament to Kenwood's digital technology, and no mistake. Stopband images, for example, are squashed by more than 105dB by the combination of NPC's SM5843 digital filter and Kenwood's own four-times interpolation stage while digital jitter, at just 265psec, keeps the DP-7090 out of trouble. Even the practical dynamic range of the player is top of this particular heap when, in practice, the odds were stacked against it. You see, Kenwood may have achieved a near 20-bit performance with its 119dB S/N ratio but, because modulation noise is also 'summed' between the four 20-bit DACs, this puts a +16dB hole in the aforementioned figure.

Furthermore, Kenwood's use of a multi-bit technology and high oversampling ensures the DP-7090 produces just about the lowest spurious ultrasonic noise of any CD player on the planet, promising a very consistent performance with different amplifiers and systems. Distortion is also exceedingly low at just 0.0045-0.011 per cent at -30dB but, because of finite differences between each of the four DACs, the player's low-level linearity is just a little poorer than expected.

HOW IT COMPARES



The essential accessory

Shirt Ralph Lauren £125
 Trousers Calvin Klein £179
 Necklace Tiffany £40
 Boots Pied à Terre £159
 Headphones Sennheiser £9 - £9652



Quality never goes out of fashion.
 Sennheiser headphones – all
 supermodels in their own right –
 have been worn by discerning
 listeners for over thirty years. From
 figure-hugging comfort to daring
 sonic transparency, Sennheiser
 designs lead the field.
 Looking good and sounding great.

SENNHEISER

Sennheiser UK Ltd, **FREEPOST**, High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 3BR.
 Telephone: 01494 551551. Fax: 01494 551550.

Audiofreaks

FOR the LOVE
 of music



Arcici
Benz-Micro
Cabasse
Cardas Audio
Clearaudio
Conrad-Jobson

Expressive Technologies
Golden Tube Audio
Hales Design Group
Kuzma
Muse Electronics

Paragon Acoustics
Power Wedge
Resolution Audio
Shun Mook Audio
Sonographe

Sound Lab
VPI Industries

Wheaton Triplanar

Quad ESL dedicated stands
 Moving coil cartridges
 Dynamic loudspeaker systems
 Cables, analogue recordings
 Moving coil and moving magnet cartridges
 Valve & FET pre-amplifiers, power
 amplifiers and digital components
 Step up transformers and cables
 Valve pre and power amplifiers
 Dynamic loudspeaker systems
 Tonearms & turntables
 Solid-state electronics, active subwoofers
 and D/A converter
 Dynamic loudspeaker systems
 Power line conditioners and mains filters
 CD transport, d/a converters
 Resonance control tuning devices
 Affordable conrad-jobson FET pre-
 amplifier and power amplifiers
 Electrostatic and hybrid loudspeakers
 Turntables, tonearm and record
 cleaning machines
 Tonearms

AUDIOFREAKS
 Distributors of Fine Audio & Home Theatre Equipment

15, Link Way, Ham, Surrey TW10 7QT. Tel: 0181. 948 4153 Fax: 0181. 948 4250.

Mission Quite Possible Welcome Agent Audiophile

Your mission, should you choose to accept it,
 is to contact *Audio Masters* and order
 the following item:-

Musical Fidelity X10D

This is a vital piece of any audiophile's hi-fi system.

It is also the very latest technology from one of
 the UK's most innovative hi-fi manufacturer.

Connected between your CD player and amplifier,
 the X10D gives you that warm but detailed sound
 associated with a high end valve CD player. How?

I hear you say.

It's quite simple - the unbelievably cheap X10D
 contains the very latest in valve technology!

**Priced at only £99.99 + £2.50 P&P this is a
 true bargain.**

For more information or an *Audio Masters* price list
 please give us a call or drop us a line.

THIS ADVERT WILL SELF DESTRUCT IN 5 SECONDS

Tel: 01608 644954

1 Dunthorp Farm Cot, Heythrop, Chipping Norton, Oxon, OX7 5TJ

Meridian 508 (20-bit)

Take Meridian's acclaimed 500/566 transport/DAC combination and squeeze the crucial technology into one case and, broadly speaking, you've got yourself what Meridian describes as its '20-bit 508'. The allusion to 20-bit performance actually stems from its use, along with Audiolab, of the new Crystal CS4329 bitstream converter. Crystal itself refers to the CS4329 as offering '20-bit resolution' as a consequence of its 128-times oversampling, fourth-order noise shaping and delta-sigma (bitstream) DAC technology.

So Meridian is clearly off to a good start. Otherwise, the 508 uses a Philips CDM12.4 mechanism mounted inside what it describes as its familiar 'brick loader' CD tray. The discrete little display and fine, vertical function keys are right out of Meridian folklore. The 508 is also suitably eccentric. For example, just because you've loaded a CD this does not mean the 508 has read its TOC (table of contents). In practice, the disc is only 'loaded' once you've closed the drawer and pressed 'play'.

Other Meridian tricks of the trade include



its continued use of Philips' old SAA7310 decoder, which actually offers a better standard of error correction than the more recent generations of chips. Meridian also employs what it describes as an 'analogue de-jittering' circuit to stabilise the RF eye-pattern (the signal coming from the laser pick-up). The same analogue stage as the 566 DAC is used, complete with four-layer board, a Class A output driver and high-quality passive components including Nichicon electrolytics and polypropylene supply decoupling capacitors. All tried and tested stuff from one of the masters of the digital art.

Sound quality

Meridian's flagship player is characteristically delicate and refined in tone. Strings sound almost ethereal though a bass guitar, and particularly that from Rebecca Pidgeon's *Friday Night Crowd*, can sound a little thick or plummy by comparison. The player's delicate quality allowed us to hear through and into the mix of layered recordings like Ali Khan's *Face of Love*, revealing

the varied texture of the harmonium and fret noises from the guitar and sitar to marvellous effect, even though this was very slightly encumbered by the leaden quality of the player's bass.

Cannonball Adderley's *Autumn Leaves* prompted two slightly contrasting points of view. On one hand the sound of trumpet and percussion proved to be very clear and vibrant while sound-staging, as a whole, was described as "dry and non-invasive". Turning this interpretation on

its head, another listener suggested this same sound was "distinctly hi-fi with a Technicolor spotlighting of the individual performers".

Evidently, your point of view will depend very much on whether you take a fancy to the 508, bearing in mind that small systems are likely to work in its favour. A middle line is more likely, for the player flows with a clean, open and clear sound, is slightly dry and raw in its delivery, and includes a bass that, on occasions, refuses to stay put.

Conclusion

Meridian is a long-standing exponent of the digital art, but its creative faculties are being applied to so many varied products (it's there with the best of them in the race to launch DVD), the digital bullseye cannot be struck true on each and every occasion. So the 508 combines a delicate-sounding mid and treble with a rich and opulent-sounding bass. If the idea appeals, and you want to avoid some excess of bass, partner the 508 with a system of modest bandwidth. ▶▶

VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★
VALUE ★★★★★
PRICE £1,685.00

▲ Stylish with a fluid but powerful and dynamic sound
 ▼ Larger than life with a wandering bass.
 ☒ Meridian Audio Ltd., Stonehill, Stukeley Meadows,
 Huntingdon PE18 6ED
 ☎ (01480) 434334

THE LAB REPORT

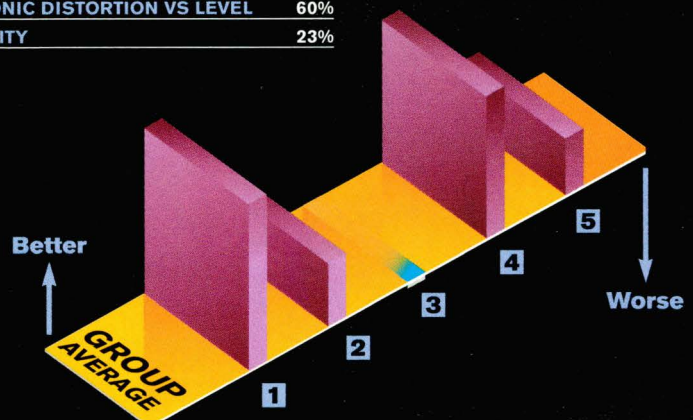
Whatever else Crystal, or Meridian, might claim, one thing you can be sure of with the CS4329 (like the CS4328 before it) is very, very low levels of digital jitter. 220psec worth in this case, though the 508's spectrum also reveals a broad, low-rate noise-like jitter that is difficult to quantify and possibly greater in significance than the discrete patterns I've already mentioned. Incidentally, the 566 also suffers from the same phenomenon though Audiolab's 8000CD (which uses the same DAC) does not.

The 508 (and 566) also emit a far higher level of ultrasonic requantisation noise than the 8000CD, suggesting a lower Master Clock rate. This noise not only pushes THD + noise beyond 100 per cent with HF signal levels lower than -70dB but also places greater stress on the analogue stage(s) and partnering amplifier/loudspeaker combination. As a result, and rather like Arcam's *Alpha 7*, the 508 and 566 could sound very different from one system to another.

Otherwise, the small errors in resolution (+0.0/-0.6dB over a 100dB range), the low midband distortion (just 0.009 per cent at -30dB), wide separation (>100dB) and very flat response all suggest that Meridian has done its homework.

HOW IT COMPARES

1	SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES	70%
2	JITTER	27%
3	PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE	-2%
4	HARMONIC DISTORTION VS LEVEL	60%
5	LINEARITY	23%





MAIN AUTHORISED DEALERS FOR:

- ACOUSTIC ENERGY
- AIWA
- AKAI
- ALCHEMIST
- ALPHASON
- APOLLO
- ARCAM
- ATACAMA
- ATC
- AUDIO ALCHEMY
- AUDIOQUEST
- AURA
- AVI
- B&W
- BARCO PROJECTORS
- BEYER DYNAMIC
- BOSE
- BOSTON
- CABLETALK
- CANON
- CARVER
- CASTLE
- CELESTION
- CERWIN VEGA
- CHORD
- CITATION
- CYRUS
- DALI
- DEFINITIVE
- DENON
- DPA
- EPOS
- EXPOSURE
- GLL
- GOLDRING
- GRUNDIG
- HARBETH
- HARMAN KARDON
- HEYBROOK
- INFINITY
- JAMO
- JBL
- JVC
- KEF
- KENWOOD
- LEXICON
- LINN
- LOEWE
- M&K
- MARANTZ
- MERIDIAN
- MICHELL
- MICROMEGA
- MISSION
- MIT
- mitsubishi
- MONITOR AUDIO
- MORDAUNT-SHORT
- MUSICAL FIDELITY
- NAD
- NAKAMICHI
- NAIM
- NHT
- ONKYO
- ORTOFON
- ORELLE
- PANASONIC
- PHILIPS
- PINK TRIANGLE
- PIONEER
- POLK
- PROAC
- PROJECT TURNTABLES
- QED
- QUAD
- QUADRASPIRE
- RCF PROJECTORS
- REL
- ROGERS
- ROKSAN
- ROTEL
- ROYD
- RUARK
- SAMSUNG
- SELECO PROJECTORS
- SENNHEISER
- SHARP
- SHURE
- SME
- SONY
- SOUNDSTYLE
- SPENDOR
- STANDS UNIQUE
- SUMO
- SYSTEMDEK
- TANNOY PRESTIGE
- TARGET
- TDL
- TEAC
- TECHNICS
- THORENS
- TOSHIBA
- TRICHORD
- TUBE TECHNOLOGY
- VAN DEN HUL
- WADIA
- WHARFEDALE
- XLO
- XTC
- YAMAHA
- AND MANY MORE

WINTER CLEARANCE

UP TO
50% OFF*

MASSES OF
OFFERS
IN STORE

MUSICAL IMAGES
CLUB MEMBERS
CAN BUY FROM
JANUARY 3RD

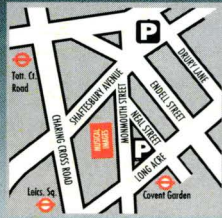
JAN **10th** to
FEB **16th**
1997

Musical Images
HOME
ENTERTAINMENT
"SONY"
A/V DEALER
OF THE YEAR

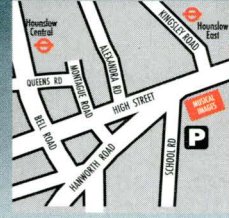
This is your opportunity to buy the best Hi-Fi and Home Cinema equipment at the lowest possible prices, so don't miss it!



173 Station Road,
Edgware,
Middlesex HA8 7JX
Tel: 0181 952 5535
Fax: 0181 951 5864



18 Monmouth Street,
Covent Garden,
London WC2H 9HB
Tel: 0171 497 1346
Fax: 0171 497 9205



45 High Street,
Hounslow,
Middlesex TW3 1RH
Tel: 0181 569 5802
Fax: 0181 569 6353



126 High Street,
Beckenham,
Kent BR3 1ED
Tel: 0181 663 3777
Fax: 0181 663 3555



OPEN SUNDAYS

*on selected items only. All products fully guaranteed by manufacturers. Please visit or call our showrooms for further details. Not valid with any other offers. E&OE.

Mission-Cyrus dAD3

Small but perfectly formed, the latest addition to the Cyrus brand has clearly been conceived to blend in with the growing clan of tuner, amp and AV separates. All these components are shoe-horned into a very distinctive mini-sized case that's somewhat deeper than it's wide, and equipped with fluted heatsinking (superfluous in this instance) and a very attractive back-lit liquid-crystal display.

The *dAD3* looks superficially similar to Cyrus's earlier, and costlier, *dAD7* though this was a top-loader and based on a very different 18-bit technology. In point of fact, the *dAD3* has a sleeker display to accommodate a new front-loading CD assembly based on Philips' popular CDM12 mechanism. Otherwise, the row of function buttons, including track-skip, search, repeat and program play, looks pretty similar, as does the familiar Cyrus handset with its extra direct access, display and master off controls.

Furthermore, and in common with the likes of Arcam and Micromega, Cyrus is also adopting a more modular design approach. For example, it's possible to upgrade the *dAD3* with an outboard *PSX-R* power supply, a high-current reservoir that also reduces any supply-induced jitter currently suffered by the player. There's also a retro-

fittable 'Q-module' that supplants the *dAD3*'s existing TDA1305 DAC for a new stage featuring the same 18-bit Analog Devices converters used very successfully in the earlier *dAD7*. Once fitted, preferably by your dealer, the upgrade is acknowledged by a little 'Q' legend in the corner of the *dAD3*'s display. A neat touch for a very neat little player.

Sound quality

Many players in the recent past have done rather well with Philips' hybrid converter, Cambridge and Rotel among them, and this Cyrus *dAD3* is not about to buck such a favourable trend. Nevertheless, the Cyrus implementation does yield a slightly softer, less pointed style of delivery, convincing our listeners with guile and subtlety rather than orchestral ordnance.

In line with more expensive playback experience, Rachmaninov's *3rd Symphony* unfolded with a fluid seamlessness, one theme developing smoothly into another and drawing us deeper into an undemanding pool of sound. The flourish of the violins was not as confident as possible but then neither did the raw quality of Adderley's sax tear our ears off — and yet each instrument, or group of instruments, still seemed blessed with a wealth of colourful detail.

Like Rotel's player, the *dAD3* also relishes a strong bass line. This was as evident from the confident roll of timpani as the resurgence in weight and sheer presence of the low strings from our classical selection. Meanwhile, the sudden appearance of a very, very low drum from Ali Khan's *Face of Love*, slipping unexpectedly from the depths

of the subwoofer, which caused at least one listener to sit up in pleasant surprise!

Conclusion

Though this mid-priced *dAD3* is not exactly replacing the older *dAD7*, the latter is in the process of being phased-out. And at least you can stack other units on top of the *dAD3* without blocking access to the CD loading bay! Meanwhile, not unlike Kenwood's *DP-7090*, the *dAD3* is settling very nicely into production with one or two earlier technical issues having been resolved by updates to the PCB. As such, and bearing in mind the 'open-ended' nature of the product with its *PSX-R* power supply and *Q-module* upgrade options, the *dAD3* looks to be a most effective successor. Like the rest of the range, it's a stylish player, clearly oriented towards a complete Cyrus system and, as such, comes confidently recommended.



VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★
VALUE ★★★★★
PRICE £598.00

▲ Unassuming but very charming sound; upgrade potential.

▼ Could sound too distant; lacks commitment.

✉ Centraforce Ltd, Stonehill, Stukeley Meadows, Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 6ED
 ☎ (01480) 451777

THE LAB REPORT

Although both this *dAD3*, Cambridge's original *CD4* (issue 147) and Rotel's *RCD-970BX* all employ a single TDA1305 BCC (Bitstream/Continuous Calibration) oversampling filter and DAC, the players are not a carbon copy of one another. If nothing else, a miniature 5532 op-amp and proprietary fourth-order analogue filtering ensure the *dAD3* retains a character all of its own. In terms of distortion, all three players hover around 0.001-0.003 per cent at peak output (2.1V from 55 Ohms in this instance) but at -30dB the *dAD3* suffers a good 10dB less treble distortion than its fellows.

On the debit side, the *dAD3* falls a few dB short of the *CD4* and *RCD-970BX* with its 103dB S/N ratio (109dB and 107dB respectively), compromising its dynamic range very slightly. But at least the lower 10-11dB noise modulation should result in less audible 'roughness'. Otherwise, the bulk of the *dAD3*'s slightly warm and self-effacing sound may well be linked to the pattern of hum and PSU-induced jitter, avoided by the preferential layout of both Rotel and Cambridge players. Fortunately, this is one area witnessing improvement as the *dAD3* begins full scale production.

HOW IT COMPARES

1	SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES	-60%
2	JITTER	-85%
3	PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE	-79%
4	HARMONIC DISTORTION VS LEVEL	2%
5	LINEARITY	29%



MISSION MISSION MISSION MISSION



The Cyrus dAD3 is available at the following authorized dealers....

Bill Hutchinson
 Hi-Fi • CD • Audio Visual Centre
 THE PROFESSIONALS

THE POLICY Our Product Guarantee and Pricing Policy ensure you obtain an excellent deal. My staff and I look forward to being of service to you. <i>Bill</i>	43 HOPE STREET, GLASGOW G2 6AE 0141-248 2857
THE PLEDGE Should you find any local dealer offering a better price for goods currently in stock at Bill Hutchinson and the alternative quoting retailer, we will better that deal.	40A QUEENSFERRY STREET, EDINBURGH. 0131-220 0909
WE WILL NOT BE BEATEN ON VALUE • SERVICE • CHOICE	26-28 WOODHOUSE LANE, LEEDS. 0113-242 7777
	87A CLAYTON STREET, NEWCASTLE. 0191-230 3600
	50-52 DEANSGATE, MANCHESTER. 0161-832 1600

Premier Stockists of
 MISSION **Mission Cyrus** CYRUS
Cyrus Hi-Fi Specialists

*Cyrus AV Master
 Expert friendly service:
 Listening room*

**4 Greyfriars, Bedford,
 Bedfordshire MK40 1HP**
 Tel: 01234 365165



Richard's Audio Visual

just like any other
 good hi-fi shop
 only better

THE
powerplant



66-67 Upper North Street, Brighton, BN1 3FL.
 tele: 01273 775978 Fax: 01273 748419 email@powerplant.co.uk

Mission, Cyrus, B&O, Rega, Audiolab, Arcam, Exposure, ATC, B&W, Proceed, Mark Levinson, Stax, Micromega and other fine equipment.

THE LEAMINGTON HI-FI COMPANY
 23a Regent Street
 Leamington Spa
 Warwickshire CV32 5EJ

Phone: 01926 888644
 Fax: 01926 887486
 E-mail:k.brown@bbcnc.org.uk

THE LEADING HI-FI SPECIALIST
 ARCAM AUDIOLAB QUAD MERIDIAN MARANTZ DENON PIONEER
 YAMAHA NAD MICROMEGA MISSION KEF ACOUSTIC ENERGY
 CELESTION ATACAMA TECHNICS TRICHORD TDL RELEXOS

Single speaker dem room. We do not use any comparators.
 We also have full demonstration of projection tv with laserdisc and full prologic systems.
 Part exchange welcome please phone or e-mail for prices.
 We have in stock over 200 laserdiscs call for our latest catalogue.

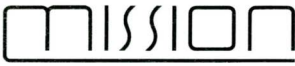
THOMAS HEINITZ



**35 Moscow Road, Bayswater,
 London W2 4AH**
Tel: 0171 229 2077 Fax: 0171 727 9348
 Stockists of: Mission, KEF, Naim, Cyrus, B+O,
 Rega, Denon, Micromega
 Open 10.30am - 6.00pm Tuesday - Saturday

MUSIC MATTERS

Present the ultimate Home Cinema experience



M-Time. Seven five series
 Seven three series
 Cyrus

Choose from the best

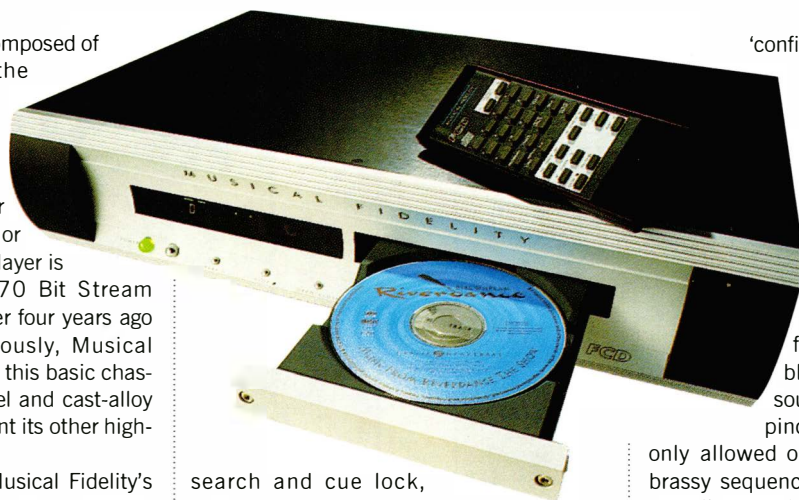
INTEREST FREE APR 0%. Written details on request. Licensed Credit Broker.	363 HAGLEY ROAD, EDGBASTON, BIRMINGHAM B17 8DL. TEL: 0121-429 2811 FAX: 0121-434 3298	93-95 HOBBSMOAT ROAD, SOLIHULL, WEST MIDLANDS B92 8JL. TEL: 0121-742 0254 FAX: 0121-742 3471	156/7 Lower High Street, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 1TS TEL: 01384 444184 FAX: 01384 444968	OPENING TIMES Tues-Thurs 10.30-6.00 Friday 10.30-8.00 Saturday 10.30-5.00
---	--	---	--	---

Musical Fidelity FCD

The moon may not be composed of green cheese, but the substance of Musical Fidelity's *FCD* is equally unlikely. Any guesses? And no, you won't find the answer in any other hi-fi magazine. Believe it or not, the player 'inside' the player is Teac's *CD-P3500*, a £170 Bit Stream model that we reviewed over four years ago in issue 112! Quite obviously, Musical Fidelity has gone to town on this basic chassis, incarcerating it in a steel and cast-alloy shell designed to complement its other high-end *F-series* separates.

I'm bound to say that Musical Fidelity's attention in the UK is most keenly focused on its burgeoning *X-series* products (kicked off by the *X10-D*, reviewed in issue 159), so costly models like the *FCD* are mainly produced for the Far Eastern market to accompany MF's *F25/F16/F19* pre/power amplifiers. Nevertheless, there's still plenty here to tickle the fancy of enthusiasts who desire something, well, something removed from the mainstream.

Facilities include a decent fluorescent display, basic transport functions on the beast itself, and a full complement of direct track access, 20-track program, repeat, fast



search and cue lock, index skipping and volume adjustment presented on the remote handset. Comprehensive stuff, but then this is a 'Teac CD player'...

Musical Fidelity's 'magic dust' includes the addition of a triode-based output buffer (not a million miles removed from the latter-day *X10-D*) which is added onto the original (solid state) analogue filter of the Teac player. Some will say this can only add distortion, while others, no doubt, will bathe in the warmth that only a valve stage can offer. Long-term readers of *Hi-Fi Choice* will know that my views are with the former camp.

Sound quality

This a big and not 'inexpensive-sounding' but slightly dry and unforgiving player, albeit one that certainly sounded gracious enough with the articulate outpouring of Rebecca Pidgeon's *Friday Night Crowd*. In this instance, the player's tendency to sound up-front actually helped to project the voice in a very confident manner. However, this same

'confidence' can quickly be construed as a brash immaturity, as it did with the harder and colder sound of Cannonball's sax.

"Charging ahead without really thinking about it" proposed one panellist, who considered the overall performance to be a little too spicy, thanks to the fruity bass and parched treble. Adderley's mute trumpet sounded a little too 'muted' or pinched, with a coldness that

only allowed our ears to relax after each brassy sequence ended, leaving the piano sounding very big, open and easy-going. It's an unusual contrast of the sweet and sour, but such tension rarely encourages fatigue-free listening in the longer term.

We concluded by auditioning the large and expansive recording of Rachmaninov's *3rd Symphony* which proved more effusive in character because, as one listener put it, "there's no central character for the player to latch onto". Good in parts then, but neither sufficiently integrated, or smooth to inspire the confidence of our hard-nosed panel.

Conclusion

This unusual player really does seem to exist at the mercy of different software. Its forward disposition is ideally suited to the Fender Telecaster, among other instruments of lore and, as a direct consequence, The Clash, Bruce Springsteen and Keith Richards en route. The *FCD* is highly unlikely, it was suggested, to appeal to classical tastes. But I wonder what it would sound like with an *X10-D* on its tail? ➔

VERDICT

SOUND ★★☆☆☆
VALUE ★★☆☆☆
PRICE £1,499.99

- ▲ Big, firm sound.
- ▼ Not the most natural-sounding player around.
- ✉ Musical Fidelity, 15/16 Olympic Trading Estate, Filton Road, Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 0TF
- ☎ (0181) 900 2866

THE LAB REPORT

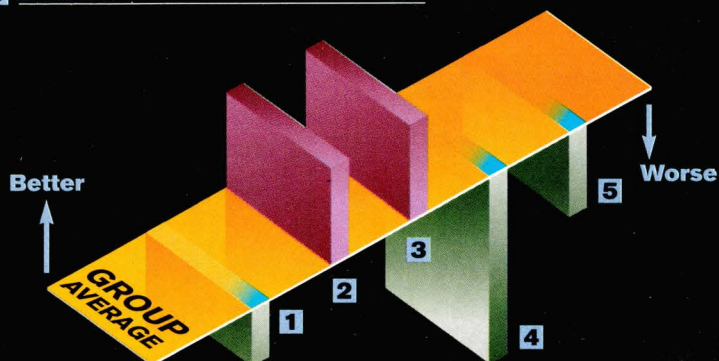
First the good news. MF has maintained a slightly wider S/N ratio than Teac's original *CD-P3500* (103.3dB vs. 101.6dB) while jitter, at just 201psec, is all low-rate and possibly linked to the CD transport mechanism. The mild but compressive linearity trend (boosting low-level detail by up to +3dB) was present in the *CD-P3500* as was the poor-ish clock selection (+167ppm adrift).

Now for the unusual news. MF's triode-based output buffer stamps a thumbprint of its own on proceedings with a high 2.8V output (beware A/B demo's) and a significant increase in (audio) IM distortion caused by its interaction with digital sampling images outside of the audioband. Contrary to practice, distortion actually *increases* from 0.015 per cent midband at -30dB to 0.05 per cent at -10dB and 0.3 per cent at peak output, due to the compromised overload margins of the valve stage.

Basically, the higher the analogue output, the higher the distortion and the more extended the harmonics. The optimum setting appears to be around the -5dB point on MF's display (1.55V output level) where 2nd/3rd harmonic distortion is just 0.08 per cent.

HOW IT COMPARES

1	SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES	-25%
2	JITTER	40%
3	PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE	40%
4	HARMONIC DISTORTION VS LEVEL	-80%
5	LINEARITY	-35%



▼

Grahams Hi-Fi

provides
The Complete Solution

**“One of the five
best hi-fi shops
in the world”**

• IDENTIFY •

We help you identify what you want

• DEMONSTRATE •

Listen to the differences!

• DESIGN •

Custom install software/full schematics & wiring diagrams

• PLAN •

Long term solutions for the home of the future

• INTEGRATION •

Work with architects, designers, builders, on-site contractors. Link with TV/satellite/phones/security/complete home automation

• HOME CINEMA •

Linn, Naim, Meridian, Yamaha

• EXPERIENCE •

70 years trading; fully trained, expert staff

• ENGINEERING •

In-house & contract fabrication

• INSTALLATION •

Specially trained installation team

• PROJECTION TV •

Front/rear CRT, LCD, motorised screens

• CUSTOMERS •

80% existing customers and by recommendation

Quality ★ Performance ★ Value

▲

GRAHAMS HI-FI

▲

Canonbury Yard, 190a New North Road, London N1 7BS

☎ 0171 226 5500 Fax: 0171 359 7620

E-Mail: enq@grahams.co.uk <http://www.grahams.co.uk>

Infidelity

indecently good hi-fi



Buying hi-fi should be fun, we make it so. Listen to a well chosen selection of quality hi-fi equipment in our comfortable and relaxed listening room. Bring along your own records or CDs, we'll provide the coffee, and hear the difference we can make to your enjoyment of music.

ARCAM, DENSEN, EPOS, LINN, MICROMEGA, NAIM, NAKAMICHI, NEAT, REGA, ROKSAN, ROTEL, ROYD, SHANINIAN and more

9 High Street, Hampton Wick, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 4DA

Telephone: 0181-943 3530

Open: Tues - Fri 10.30am - 7pm, Saturday 10am - 6pm.



Mana Acoustics

Music with Life

This is what Hi-Fi Choice said about us at The Hi-Fi Show '96...

“Interesting dems included Mana Acoustics’ wall of sound and light, its new ATC active speakers adding considerably to an already well-stocked arsenal of audio firepower. In another room Mana had the superb system offered as a prize in our October issue, and to prove how much of a difference their stands make, they kept levels cranked up throughout the show. Nothing less than 11 is loud enough for those boys.”

Come and hear it for yourself at the HIGH FIDELITY SHOW
Room 115,
Crowne Plaza,
Manchester.
1st & 2nd
February '97

Mana Acoustics

59 Jubilee Close, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 3TB
Tel: 0181 868 2788 Tel/Fax: 0181 429 0118

Myryad MC100

NAD's loss is evidently Myryad's gain, as the former's erstwhile Director of Technology is now beginning to make a real impact with his own brand. That man is Chris Evans and the latest addition to his armoury is the *MC-100* CD player, logical partner, in every respect, to the *MI-120* integrated amplifier reviewed in issue 154. Regular readers will recognise Myryad's 'house style', reflected here in the solid, brushed-alloy fascia of the *MC-100*, with its blue-filtered fluorescent display and inset push-buttons for track skip and search, random play and display mode options.

The accompanying remote, which is a dead ringer for Mission's Cyrus handset, adds extra features including direct track access, a display dimmer, program and repeat play. Round the back, you'll find a digital output and a bus connection, called My-Link, which allows some of the *MC-100*'s functions to be synchronised with its partnering *MI-120* amplifier.

Not only does the *MC-100* look very distinctive, but behind the dominating facade of its centrally-mounted mechanism, it has an equally individual selection of digital electronics. Not for Myryad the customary choice of either a Philips, NPC or Crystal-

based DAC circuit. Instead, like Arcam, Myryad has plumped for a Sony CDM14 CD transport but with extra attention paid to the control circuitry and regulation of its power supplies. The converter, too, is a PLM bitstream device also sourced from Sony — the very same DAC, in fact, that drove Sony's *CDP-312* to a recommendation back in issue 139.

Sound quality

Judging by the initial murmuring of our listening panel, the *MC-100* is most certainly not the sort of player to blow your socks off with bursts of audio dynamite. Instead, the sheer refinement and gentle elegance of its sound bears comparison with both the Arcam *Alpha 8* and, to a lesser degree, the *8000CD* from Audiolab. It does not labour over much on the thrills and spills, the 'electricity' of the music at hand, but gradually won over our panel with a grace and subtlety lacking from the 'rough diamonds' of CD. Interestingly, it took the determination of Adderley's sax to really rouse the *MC-100* from its occasional bouts of 'stuffiness', even though the brush of percussion — however delicately portrayed — still lacked a certain alertness.

Rebecca Pidgeon's *Friday Night Crowd* sounded "more like the morning after" it was suggested, thanks a certain loss of airiness and atmosphere, a dulling of what would

typically be a more sparkling performance. Not that her voice suffered. Quite

the contrary, as our panel continued by applauding the lack of sibilance and abundance of "rich characterisation" in her vocals. In much the same way, the chants that populate Ali Khan's *Face of Love* sounded positively haunting, sweeping out from the speakers before the steady rattle of the tabla.

Conclusion

In a rare moment of candour, Myryad's designer admitted to me that his choice of transport and digital componentry for the *MC-100* was derived from a study of CD player lab tests from several years-worth of *Hi-Fi Choice* back issues! I would not normally endorse this approach as automatically guaranteeing a 'fully-rounded product' but, in this case at least, Myryad's homework has evidently reaped some musical reward. A little extra get-up-and-go would not go amiss and yet, like many other players in this price band, the sheer maturity, composure and all-round compatibility of the *MC-100* ensures its Recommendation. ▶▶



VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★
VALUE ★★★★★
PRICE £699.95

▲ An example of technical craftsmanship with a musical poise to match.

▼ Can lack a sense of drive and drama. Laid-back systems beware!

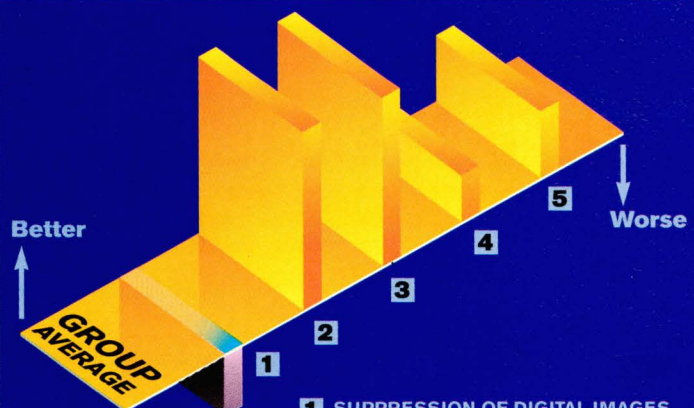
✉ Myryad Systems Ltd, 2 Pipers Wood, Waterberry Drive, Waterlooville, Hampshire, PO7 7XU
 ☎ (01705) 265508

THE LAB REPORT

Although the digital building blocks of the *MC-100* were derived from players like the Sony *CDP-312*, Myryad's implementation ensures a technically superior performance. Specifically, Myryad's application of an off-board clock with its own low-noise, regulated power supply, has reduced jitter down to 191psec. This is one of the lowest values recorded for a CD player of any description. The response is as flat as a pancake while operational features, like the two second track access, perform with slick efficiency.

Combining the CXD-2565 oversampling filter/DAC with a proprietary Class A analogue output stage and six-pole analogue filter has reduced high frequency distortion from 0.035 per cent (Sony *CDP-312*) to just 0.004 per cent at peak level while filtering away any ultrasonic noise in a manner not unlike NAD's *512* and *502* (issues 159 and 119 respectively). Low-level resolution has also improved ten-fold with errors of just +0.2/-0.3dB over a full 100dB dynamic range. This range is capitalised upon for, though the overall S/N might seem unexceptional at 103dB, the level of noise modulation is kept equally low at +4.5dB — another boon for a smooth-sounding CD player.

HOW IT COMPARES



1	SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES	-25%
2	JITTER	77%
3	PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE	72%
4	HARMONIC DISTORTION VS LEVEL	20%
5	LINEARITY	29%



WE WISH YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR
 We carry the finest range of Hi-Fi in London, you can also be sure that any of the products you see advertised here are on display and available for audition. Our helpful experienced staff are always on hand to help explore the possibilities open to you. This month, BIG savings on featured systems and we have the fabulous new Beosound 9000 six play CD and Avant wide screen TV on dem - must be seen and heard. You can also pick up a great bargain in our winter sale, don't miss out call now

THE PRODUCTS

<http://www.billyvee.demon.co.uk/products.htm>

ARCAM

AVI Products

B & O

B & W

DENON

EPOS

KEF

LINN

AV 51 & Knekt

MARANTZ

MORDAUNT SHORT

MISSION

MYRYAD

NAIM AUDIO

N.A.D

PIONEER

ProAC

REGA

ROTEL

TANNOY

TARGET

YAMAHA

Billy Vee
SOUND SYSTEMS

248 LEE HIGH RD, LONDON, SE13 5PL
0181-318 5755/852 1321 FAX- 318 0909
 email : sales@billyvee.demon.co.uk
OPEN: 10AM - 6.30PM MON - SAT (CLOSED THURS)

SOUND VALUE SYSTEMS

<http://www.billyvee.demon.co.uk/systems.htm>

Call now, system offers available until February 20th Only

Buy both and save over £65
MARANTZ CD 67 PLAYER
K.E.F CODA 7 SPEAKERS
 Add any amp over £99 and claim your siren interconnect (RRP£65)
£339
 for Free. - while stocks last.

FREE 24hr nationwide delivery for most items? - YES!

MARANTZ CD 67 PLAYER
ROTEL RA 930AX AMP
MISSION 731i SPEAKERS
 or K.E.F. Coda 7 or B&W DM 302
£449
 Save over £98 on this system

Instant Interest Free Available for current stock? - YES!

MARANTZ CD 63se/2 CD
MARANTZ PM66se AMP
MORD-SHORT MS10i SPK
 or B&W DM601 or Mission 732
£669
 sizzling savings on this system

Can I put my own system together in a listening room? - YES!

NEW ARRIVALS & FIRM FAVOURITES

- complete - SYSTEMS*
 Denon DC1 Micro inc Spks £379.00
 Denon D-F07 System £649.00
 Denon F10CD/TunerAmp/Cass. £899.00
- source - COMPONENTS*
 Arcam Alpha 7 CD (NEW!) £319.00
 Arcam Alpha 8 CD (NEW!) £519.00
 Marantz CD63se Signature £499.00
 Naim CD 3 Player £977.00
 Rega Planet CD Player (NEW!) .. £399.00
 Rega Planar 3 inc arm £274.00
- selected - AMPLIFIERS*
 Arcam Alpha 8 (NEW!) £349.00
 AVI S2000MI (line) Amp £799.00
 Denon 350se Amplifier (NEW!) .. £199.00
 Linn Majik (line level) £650.00
 Marantz PM66se amplifier £229.00
 MYRYAD M120 (Rem) £529.00
 Naim Nait 3 Amplifier £549.00
 Pioneer A300R Precision (NEW!) £399.00
 Rotel RA 930x Amplifier £149.00
- am/fm - TUNERS*
 Arcam Alpha 7 Tuner £229.00
 N.A.D. 412 Tuner £189.00
 Naim NAT 03 FM Tuner £566.00
- selected - RECORDERS*
 Denon DRM 550 Cassette £159.00
 Pioneer CT-830S Cassette £499.00
 Pioneer PDR-05 CD Recorder .. £1299.00
 Nakamichi DR3 Cassette £449.00
 Yamaha KX390 Cassette £149.00
 Yamaha KX580 Cassette £249.00
- loud - SPEAKERS*
 B&W DM 302 £129.00
 B&W DM 601 £199.00
 B&W AS6 Active Subwoofer £499.00
 Epos ES12 (NEW!) £499.00
 Linn Tukan Mini Monitor £550.00
 Linn Keilidh Monitors £750.00
 Mission 751 Freedom (NEW!) ... £348.00
 Mission 752 Freedom (NEW!) ... £578.00
 Mordaunt Short MS0.5 (NEW!) ... £99.00
 Mordaunt Short MS10i £139.00
 Naim INTRO (NEW!) £596.00
 Rega Kyte speakers £198.00
- audio - VISUAL*
 Pioneer CLD515-1 Laser (NEW!) £549.00
 Arcam Xeta2 processor £649.00
 Yamaha DSP-E390 processor £245.00
 KEF AV System (C9/90/70s) ... £849.00
 KEF 30B SubWoofer £499.00
- ALL PRICES CORRECT AT PRESS E&OE

CHECK OUT OUR WINTER CLEARANCE AND SAVE UP TO 50%

ON EX DEM & END OF LINE SOME AS NEW WITH FULL WARRANTY. 24HR DEL ONLY £5. CHECK AVAILABILITY BEFORE ORDERING

Arcam Alpha 6 CD Player (New)	(599.00)	£399.00	Naim NAP140 Power Amp	(722.00)	£539.00
B&W Solids/Active Bass Woofer	(469.00)	£369.00	Naim NAP180 Power Amp (boxed)	(1016.00)	£759.00
K.E.F. Coda 9 Speakers (boxed)	(299.00)	£209.00	Naim NAP250 Power Amp (Boxed)	(1576.00)	£1100.00
Linn Kaber Active Spkrs (Blk - Marked)	(1398.00)	£795.00	Naim NAP135 Power Amp (mono)	(1576.00)	£950.00
Linn Keilidh Spkrs/Stands (Cherry mrkd) ...	(835.00)	£659.00	Naim NAT03 Tuner (boxed)	(566.00)	£419.00
Linn Kremlin Tuner (boxed)	(2600.00)	£1595.00	Quad 77 Amplifier (boxed)	(650.00)	£495.00
Linn Tukan Speakers	(500.00)	£400.00	Quad 77 CD Player - mains (boxed)	(850.00)	£639.00
Marantz CD 63se Player (New)	(349.00)	£249.00	Quad 77 System remote control	(299.00)	£219.00
Mission 751 Speakers (New)	(299.00)	£199.00	Quad 66 Preamp	(875.00)	£495.00
Mission 753 Speakers	(699.00)	£499.00	Quad ESL 63 Speakers (boxed)	(2974.00)	£1990.00
Musical Technology Kestral (R/Wood)	(399.00)	£259.00	Rega Elex Amplifier (Boxed)	(398.00)	£298.00
Naim NAC52 Head Unit	(3190.00)	£1995.00	Yamaha DSP A970 AV Amp	(799.00)	£469.00

Naim CD2

In many respects, Naim's latest player is akin to a fully integrated version of its older, two-box *CDS*, which split the player proper from the bulk and potential interference of its multifarious power supplies. The *CD2* employs trimmed-down, on-board power supplies alongside the same complement of four-times oversampling filter and 16-bit DAC, though the transport mechanism is a CDM9 instead of the CDM4 used before. All these components, originally sourced from Philips, are now effectively obsolete; but Naim maintains a healthy stockpile to fuel production in the years ahead.

Many designers feel that the older swing-arm mechanisms like the CDM9 (mounted here in a retractable tray) represented a high point in Philips' career, and I am tempted to agree. It's also interesting to note that other manufacturers with their eye on the digital ball, Meridian included, also use Philips' revered SAA7310 decoder chip (now several generations old) because of its superior error-correction.

Otherwise, Naim's *CD2* also 'borrows' the four-point suspension idea from its *CDS*, isolating both the mechanism *and* motherboard from the worst effects of external vibration. Feature-wise, you are limited to



repeat and program play, track skip, fast search and either time or track display modes. The remote volume and direct access keypad of the remote control are inoperative, while in keeping with Naim's philosophy, there is no digital output.

Sound quality

"This player really has a lot going for it" remarked one listener as the evenly-paced but conspicuously ripe sound of Rebecca Pidgeon's *Friday Night Crowd* flowed easily from the speakers, the rolling 'thrum' of bass guitar perfectly complementing the solid and articulate sound of her voice. Rather like Teac's *VRDS-25*, the *CD2* produces plenty of bass but somewhat better controlled, encouraging an equally big but more 'natural and correct' sound.

One listener did refer to some emphasis of leading-edge detail — the tabla from Nusrat's *Face of Love* in particular — but

was bowled-over by the live feel of the track which remained full of beans without tripping over itself. "The wailing chant of Nusrat Fateh

Ali Khan and Eddie Vedder

sounded more like music and less like the sounds of labour (small 'l')", it was suggested by one listener.

By contrast, Cannonball Adderley's *Autumn Leaves* sounded very much more measured, with each instrument remarkably well separated. The bold sound of the saxophone was even described as "alarmingly natural" though there was a question mark over the integration or wholesomeness of the piece in its entirety.

This is the sort of player you might discover in a recording studio, providing bags of detail with a very solid stereo focus, but perhaps not all the 'romanticism' we know to be possible.

Conclusion

The ergonomics of the *CD2* are something of an acquired taste. Disc ejection is manual, for example, while a lightweight magnetic puck has to be positioned over the centre of the CD before loading. Features are minimal, while many owners will require a five-pin-DIN-to-phono adapter before enjoying the *CD2*'s dulcet tones.

But in this regard alone, the relative 'inconvenience' of Naim's *CD2* seems a small burden to bear, for this player is a true reference in respect of its detailing, sound-staging and uncompromising solidity achieved, perhaps, at the expense of some passion and fireworks. ▶

VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★
VALUE ★★★★★
PRICE £1,997.50

▲ Neutral, accurate and well-measured performance.
 ▼ A bit of a 'Mr Spock' among CD players.
 ✉ Naim, Dolphin Trading Estate, Southampton Road, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 2LN
 ☎ (01722) 332266

THE LAB REPORT

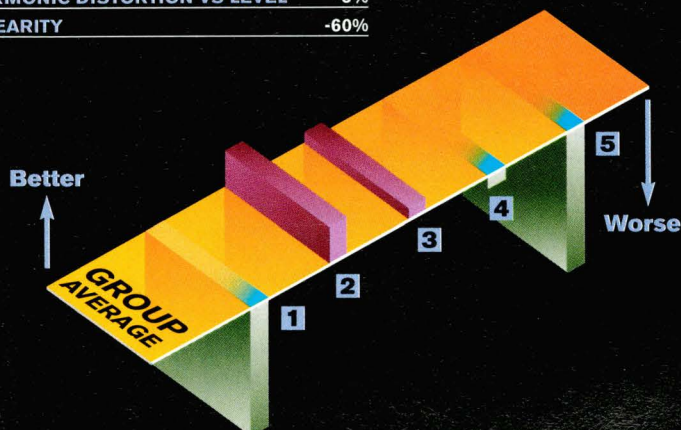
There was a time when virtually every self-respecting CD player used this combination of Philips' SAA7220 four-times oversampling filter and TDA1541A 16-bit DAC, a duo that gives rise to a familiar technical performance. The (relatively) poor 41dB stopband rejection, the lightly rippled frequency response, the -5dB 'notch' in linearity at -90dB and the multi-bit lurch in distortion from 0.0009-0.04 per cent over the first 30dB of its dynamic range are all very predictable sights.

Naturally, with Naim being Naim, it has introduced a few novel twists of its own. The proprietary seven-pole analogue filter certainly makes its mark, obliterating any digital 'images' beyond 30kHz or so, and this, along with a fabulously low output impedance, ensures the *CD2* will sound very consistent from system to system.

Jitter is also very low with just 236psec-worth of data-induced and spurious (high-rate) sidebands. The only remaining 'bug' concerns some leakage of the 7.35kHz frame tone signal (and its harmonics), compromising the 109dB S/N ratio with offset signals by about 3dB. This tone also shows up on my 3D plot, but was not directly audible to our listeners.

HOW IT COMPARES

1	SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES	-55%
2	JITTER	15%
3	PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE	5%
4	HARMONIC DISTORTION VS LEVEL	-5%
5	LINEARITY	-60%





CHOOSING A HI-FI IS EASY ISN'T IT?

IF YOU THINK BUYING GOOD HI-FI IS SIMPLY A MATTER OF PICKING 'FIVE STAR' PRODUCTS FROM MAGAZINES, THEN THINK AGAIN. AT BEST, REVIEWS CAN ONLY EVER OFFER A ROUGH SKETCH OF THE MARKETPLACE - FOR THE FULL PICTURE IT PAYS TO VISIT A SPECIALIST DEALER. WITH 15 YEARS EXPERIENCE UNDER OUR BELTS, WE KNOW THAT EACH CUSTOMER HAS A

UNIQUE SET OF REQUIREMENTS - THERE IS SIMPLY NO SUCH THING AS A BLANKET "BEST BUY" SYSTEM. IT TAKES TIME AND SKILL TO PUT TOGETHER A HI-FI WHICH WILL THRILL YOU FOR YEARS - BUT THAT'S OUR SPECIALITY!

SO BEFORE YOU TAKE THE PLUNGE, WHY NOT GIVE US A CALL - WE MIGHT JUST SAVE YOUR LIFE.

Creative Audio



HI-FI SPECIALISTS

9 DOGPOLE · SHREWSBURY · SHROPSHIRE · TEL 01743 241924

AUTHORISED RETAILER FOR:

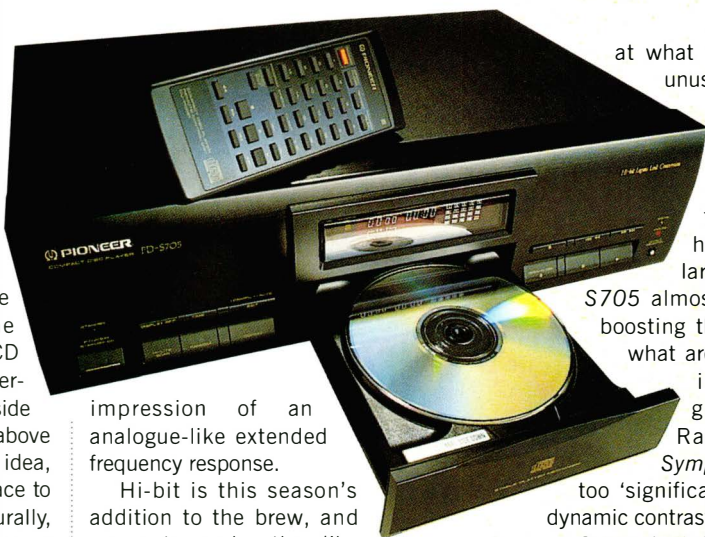
ARCAM · AUDIO ALCHEMY · AUDIOLAB · CELESTION · CYRUS · DENON · EPOS · KEF · LYRA · MERIDIAN · M&K · MISSION · NAD · NAIM · QUAD · REGA · ROKSAN · SOUNDSTYLE · STANDS UNIQUE · TRIPODS

Pioneer PD-S705

Bringing its CD players to market with innovations such as the 'Stable Platter Mechanism' and 'Legato Link Conversion' (LLC) has allowed Pioneer to carve itself a very distinctive niche. But with the new £300 PD-S705 and its 'Hi-bit LLC' processing, this position looks to have become even more specialised.

For a first-hand view of the Stable Platter Mechanism, just press the open/close button and watch the CD transport slide into view. This rubber-coated platter supports the disc label-side down, but is driven and read from above once the tray is loaded. It's a very neat idea, supporting the CD over its entire surface to prevent it 'flapping' as it spins. Naturally, this transport also offers the customary array of direct track access, index skip, fast search, intro scan, tape edit, repeat, random and program play options. A comprehensive widget-fest, and no mistake.

LLC refers to Pioneer's digital filter (see issue 113) which deliberately permits the mirror-image of the audio-range (from 44.1kHz back to 20kHz) to rise-up and merge with the 'real' audio signals themselves (from 20Hz to 20kHz). By retaining the very digital images ordinarily removed by digital filtering, this gives the (false)



impression of an analogue-like extended frequency response.

Hi-bit is this season's addition to the brew, and seems to work rather like Denon's Alpha processing (see DCD-3000 review). It's an attempt to improve low-level resolution via a new DSP chip that responds to the level and rate of change of successive bits within the datastream. According to the music signal, Hi-bit restructures the data from 16- to 24-bit accuracy, though this must be truncated back to 20bits before being accepted by the Legato Link filter and bitstream DAC. Phew, what a palaver!

Sound quality

In perfect accord with our previous experience of Pioneer's Legato Link players (issue 137, for example), this new model prompted a characteristically mixed response from our panel. On the one hand, various members applauded its excellent use of stereo space, its robust and highly articulate rendition of vocals, and good sense of musical integration.

Others, however, were more concerned

at what they described as "some unusual background DSP" (I kid you not), referring to a hint of additional reverberation that seems to accompany Rebecca Pidgeon, tending to make her, and her accompaniment, sound larger than life. So the PD-S705 almost sounds *too* impressive, boosting the relative importance of what are typically subtle-sounding instruments. The background percussion from Rachmaninov's mighty *3rd Symphony* certainly appeared too 'significant', altering the sense of dynamic contrast in this busy recording.

Cannonball Adderley's *Autumn Leaves* would have benefited from a little extra weight, but here Pioneer's explosion of spaciousness went a little too far, throwing the percussion and mute trumpet to the extremes of the soundstage, and leaving the centre stage somewhat exposed and empty of detail.

Conclusion

Pioneer's PD-S705 is a highly evolved machine and one packed with what might best be described as 'manipulative signal processing' that attempts to mimic extra detail at the extremes of both frequency and signal level. The player operates like a dream and is generously equipped but its sound is highly 'interpretative' and bound to polarise opinion. As a result, and though too unusual for a formal recommendation, the PD-S705 is certainly not a player to dismiss out of hand, but one to explore on your own territory and in your own time.

VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★

VALUE ★★★★★

PRICE £299.95

▲ Lots of depth, space and strong-sounding vocals
 ▼ Loss of dynamic contrast and mildly manipulative.

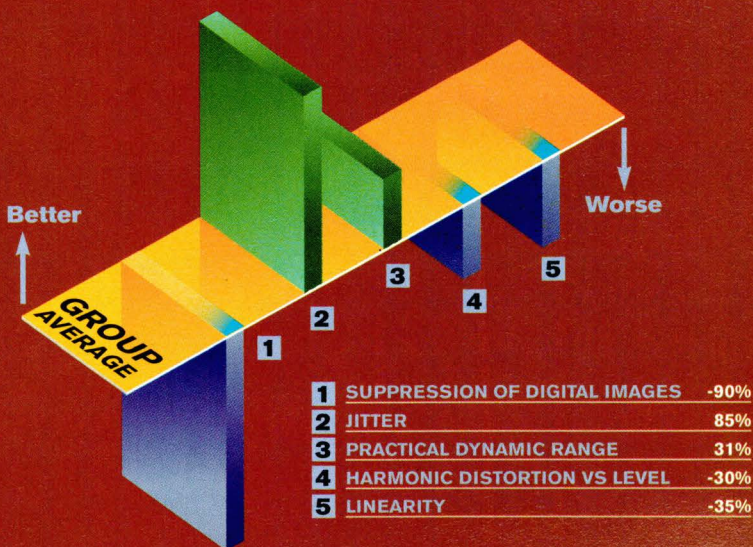
✉ Pioneer High Fidelity (GB) Ltd, Pioneer House, Hollybush Hill, Stoke Poges, Slough SL2 4QP
 ☎ (01753) 789500

THE LAB REPORT

So how, exactly, has the PD-S705 evolved from its direct descendants like the PD-S703 (issue 137)? On the face of it, Pioneer's Legato Link digital filter still dominates the proceedings with its deliberate use of stopband images to simulate the 'energy' of musical detail that might otherwise have existed beyond CD's 20kHz cut-off frequency. The filter still results in a droopy high-frequency response, amounting to -4dB in the far treble, though its gentler slope promises a reduction in the group (phase) delay normally associated with conventional 'brickwall' filters.

Jitter is low at 217psec but is dominated by three main high-rate components, specific to Pioneer's technology. The real S/N ratio works out as 104.2dB which is some two dB better than that recorded for Pioneer's PD-S703 even if it's a far cry from the 119.4dB and 116.8dB achieved by Kenwood and Denon, who also employ a similar form of 'resolution enhancement'. Then again, with a lower +4dB noise modulation, Pioneer's dynamic range is just as good! Distortion, while a very low 0.003-0.025 per cent (at -30dB), remains comparable with the older, non-Hi-bit PD-S703.

HOW IT COMPARES



BILL HUTCHINSON'S

JANUARY SALE NOW ON... JANUARY SALE NOW ON...

WE DON'T

- USE CHEAP MARKETING TRICKS AND GIMMICKS TO FALSIFY THE VALUE OF GOODS AND SERVICES WE OFFER.
- KNOWINGLY CREATE EXCESS DEMAND BY COMPETITIVELY PRICING GOODS NOT FREELY AVAILABLE FROM THE MANUFACTURER.
- EXAGGERATE CLAIMS OF VALUE AND SAVINGS ON GOODS NOT FREELY AVAILABLE FROM OUR COMPETITORS.
- TREAT CUSTOMERS AS IF THEY WERE NAIVE.



WE DO

- REPRESENT THE GOODS AND SERVICES WE OFFER IN A TRUE MANNER.
- OFFER COMPETITIVE PRICES ON GOODS WHICH ARE FREELY AVAILABLE FROM THE MANUFACTURER AND US.
- OFFER REAL VALUE AND SAVINGS ON GOODS FREELY AVAILABLE FROM OUR COMPETITORS AND US.
- TREAT OUR CUSTOMERS WITH THE RESPECT THEY DESERVE.

THE LARGEST SELECTION OF QUALITY HI-FI AND AUDIO VISUAL SYSTEMS

EDINBURGH

40A QUEENSFERRY STREET
0131-220 0909

SUNDAY - 11.00AM - 5.00PM
MON - SAT - 10.00AM - 6.00PM

GLASGOW

43 HOPE STREET
0141-248 2857

SUNDAY - 11.00AM - 5.00PM
MON - SAT - 9.30AM - 6.00PM

LEEDS

26-28 WOODHOUSE LANE
0113-242 7777

SUNDAY - 11.00AM - 5.00PM
MON - SAT - 9.30AM - 6.00PM

MANCHESTER

50-52 DEANSGATE
0161-832 1600

SUNDAY - 11.00AM - 5.00PM
MON - SAT - 9.30AM - 6.00PM

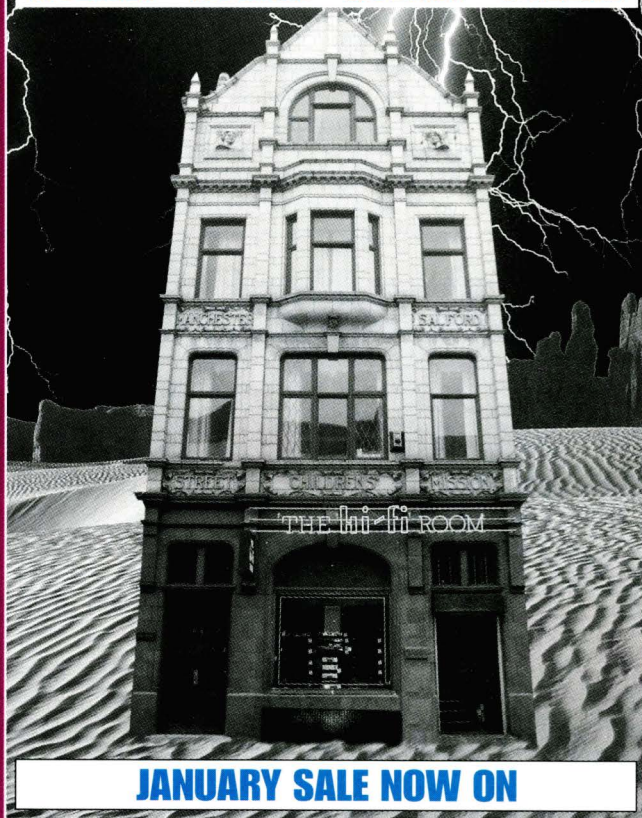
NEWCASTLE

87A CLAYTON STREET
0191-230 3600

SUNDAY - 11.00AM - 5.00PM
MON - SAT - 9.30AM - 5.30PM

TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT, CALL FIRST TO CONFIRM THE OPENING HOURS

SALE SALE SALE SALE



JANUARY SALE NOW ON

THE hi-fi ROOM

EXCLUSIVE HI-FI AND
AUDIO VISUAL SYSTEMS FOR
THE CONNOISSEUR AND
THE NOVICE

An Oasis of Sound

**50 BRIDGE STREET,
MANCHESTER
TEL: 0161 832 0888**

EXPORT ENQUIRIES WELCOME
FAX: 0161 832 0888

GLASGOW
NEWCASTLE

**0141 248 2857
0191 230 3600**

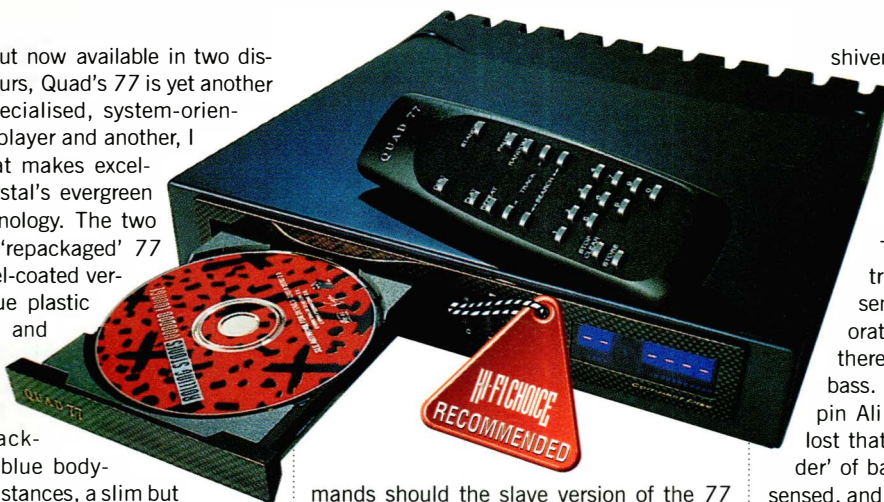
EDINBURGH
LEEDS

**0131 220 0909
0113 242 7777**

Quad 77

Not new, but now available in two distinct flavours, Quad's 77 is yet another highly specialised, system-oriented CD player and another, I might add, that makes excellent use of Crystal's evergreen bitstream technology. The two guises of this 'repackaged' 77 include a Nextel-coated version with a blue plastic moulded fascia; and a second with glossy carbon-fibre (Kevlar) fascia, and black-with-a-hint-of-blue bodywork. In both instances, a slim but very sturdy alloy case forms the backbone of the player, housing Philips' equally svelte CDM12 mechanism.

I have already alluded to the 77's role as the digital front-end to Quad's midi-sized '77 system'. This includes either the 77 integrated amplifier or 77/77SA pre/power combination, all of which are conjoined by a proprietary Quad-link comms bus where, among other things, the audio signal is transmitted in differential mode to reduce distortion and interference. The 'other things' include power and control com-



mands should the slave version of the 77 (the so-called 7714 with no on-board power supply) be employed instead.

Ordinarily, the 77 comes complete with a little remote control, expanding the simple track skip, play and pause facilities on the player itself to include direct track access, repeat, program and random play. Fanatics might also consider investing another £300 in the talk-back *System Console* commander, with its intuitive menus. In this case, full time and track information is relayed back from the 77 player onto the local display of the remote Console. Handy, huh?

Sound quality

This, according to one particularly erudite member of the listening panel, "is one classy-sounding player". In many respects it paralleled the Myriad and the Arcam *Alpha 8* in its even-handedness while, more importantly, taking that extra step with a fresher, cleaner and generally more sprightly sense of occasion. There is musical emotion in abundance with the '77, emotion that sent a

shiver down the collective spine of the panel as Adderley took his first breath through the mute trumpet while effortlessly manipulating our spirits through the twists and turns of Rachmaninov's *3rd Symphony*. The beauty of this sound is in its transparent honesty. There's no sense of coercion, of obvious coloration or straining for effect though there is some shortfall in the deepest bass. The unusual drums that underpin Ali Khan's *Face of Love* certainly lost that hint of resonance, that 'shudder' of bass that is part-heard and part-sensed, and yet the feeling of proportion and of harmony between the musicians themselves held this piece of music firmly together. For many listeners, ours included, a properly extended treble that captures the sparkle of percussion and provides a real feeling of freshness and 'air' will be more important than that last Hz of bass.

Conclusion

An unexpected result? Perhaps not, especially if we look back a couple of years to the time when Quad's 67 earned itself a Best Buy. The 77 is a refined version of the latter, certainly in respect of its aesthetic quality and implementation of Crystal's bitstream DAC. The replacement of Philips' swing-arm CDM9 mechanism for the more recent CDM12 and an increase in price of over £100 are regrettable, however.

And yet the 77 remains a true thoroughbred, combining a penetrating insight into the minutiae of its music with a poise rarely entertained by its rivals. Recommended, in or out of Quad's family home.

VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★
VALUE ★★★★★
PRICE £900.00

◆ Edge-of-the-seat excitement with grace and subtlety. Could sound a little too subtle for hard rock fans.

✉ Quad Electroacoustics Ltd, Stonehill, Stukeley Meadows, Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 6ED
 ☎ (01480) 433777

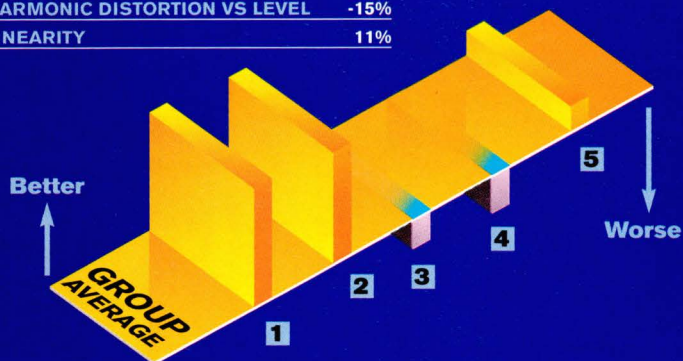
THE LAB REPORT

For the '77, like the '67 before it (issue 124), Quad prides itself in squeezing the maximum performance from Crystal's CS4328 DAC. For example, this converter probably has the lowest inherent jitter level of any on the market and yet, by feeding the clock signal from the decoder onwards in differential form (to reduce common-mode noise) the overall level is pushed down still further to 250psec. These countermeasures also help the 77 comply with the full rigours of our EMC requirements — and less (RF) noise all round is never bad for sound quality.

Distortion is a very, very low 0.0007-0.008 per cent across the audioband at peak output (1.96V) which is lower than that achieved for the '67 and significantly so compared with Roksan's *Atessa*, which uses the same converter. Typically, however, the presence of requantisation noise from the CS4328's noise-shapers tends to mask any harmonics at lower signal levels. This same noise is probably responsible for the player's limited 97dB S/N ratio, a dB within the 16-bit specification, but just fine for a player that maintains a +0.8/-0.1dB resolution over a full 100dB range.

HOW IT COMPARES

1	SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES	51%
2	JITTER	47%
3	PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE	-12%
4	HARMONIC DISTORTION VS LEVEL	-15%
5	LINEARITY	11%





BEST BUY
HI-FI CHOICE
MAGAZINE
RECOMMENDED PRODUCT

EQUIPMENT SUPPORT
*Mana
Equipment
Tables*

- Superb upgrade for any hi-fi system; like changing every component and buying a new music collection into the bargain.
- Dust-trap par excellence; more addictive than crack cocaine.

"Now, I can only say that until I had the Mana equipment table fitted, my hi-fi system was at best half-cocked."
Alan Sircom
Hi-Fi Choice March 1995

Photo: Paul Hanley Studios

"Mana Tables are not cheap. But they are essential if you want to unlock your system's true potential." **BEST BUY**
Malcolm Steward, Hi-Fi Choice February 1996

For information on MANA products please contact:

Mana Acoustics
59 Jubilee Close, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 3TB
Tel/fax: 0181 429 0118 Tel: 0181 868 2788





A S A
**KEEPING
TABS
ON ADS**

THE ADVERTISING STANDARDS AUTHORITY 2 TORRINGTON PLACE LONDON WC1E 7HW



It costs the same to get it right as it does to get it wrong.

At the Listening Rooms, we pride ourselves on matching your needs with exactly the right equipment, whatever your budget, and because we only stock the best, that's what you'll get.

What you'll also get is sound professional advice and a chance to relax and listen to some of the world's finest Hi-Fi equipment.

35 years combined experience.
Two Fully equipped listening rooms.
Home installation service.
Multi-room design and installation.
2 years Parts and Labour guarantee.
Home cinema surround-sound.
Export and Credit facilities.



• ACOUSTIC ENERGY • ARCAM • AUDIO RESEARCH • AUDIOLAB • AURA • BOSE • CELESTION • COPLAND • CYRUS • DENON • EPOS • HARMAN KARDON • JBL • KEF • KRELL • LINN • MARANTZ • MARTIN LOGAN • MERIDIAN • MICHELL • MICROMEGA • MISSION • MONITOR AUDIO • NAKAMICHI • NEAT PETITE • PINK TRIANGLE • PIONEER • QUAD • REL • ROGERS • SME • SONUS FABER • STAX • SYSTEMDEK • TANNOY • THETA • WILSON AUDIO • YAMAHA •

 **THE** listening rooms

161 Old Brompton Rd. London SW5 0LJ. Tel: 0171- 244 7750/59. Fax: 0171-370 0192.
Monday - Saturday 10am - 6pm. Nearest Tube: South Kensington or Gloucester Road.

Roksan DP3P

Last month's *Hi-Fi Choice* featured the *Attessa DP3.P's* alter ego — the *DP3.P* with Roksan's *ATT-DA2* DAC and *ATT-DS5* PSU. As a result, all the features and foibles that were described by Richard Black for the *Attessa* transport also hold true for the *Attessa* CD player, including the over-long end-of-side track access. For those who were not paying attention first time around, however, here's a brief refresher course.

This is a top-loader that's only accessible once the player is fully powered-up. Once the lid is open you must negotiate the frightfully compliant suspension upon which the (Far Eastern) linear-tracking mechanism is isolated. Tap it, and this transport will wobble for a week. Great for resilience against external vibration but something of a fiddle when you have to pull Roksan's magnetic puck free from the centre spindle to release your CD. It's fiddlier still if, like me, you find the part-plastic/part-ceramic puck falls apart in your fingers. Still, a touch of glue and the *Attessa* is back in business.

Standard transport controls are provided on the angled frontispiece of this unusual player while the full roll-call of direct access, program, repeat and random play options are relegated to the handy remote. Further under the bonnet we find the analogue section of the *Attessa* CD player is rather like a

stripped-down version of the *ATT-DA2*, complete with the same Crystal CS4328 bitstream DAC, a modified output stage and simplified (on-board) power supplies.

Sound quality

This is a very open and also a very slightly 'loud'-sounding player that pushed its detail forward ever-so-slightly but without ever incurring the wrath of our assembled listeners. In such instances, an increase in the perceived loudness of the music is a direct result of the player's balance or presentation, because every model is precisely level-matched before it is auditioned.

On this occasion, Eddie Vedder's voice (from Ali Khan's *Face of Love*) was projected firmly to the front of the soundstage, retaining an exceptional solidity that gripped both the performance and the panel an intensity of emotion achieved without obvious aggression. Dramatic, demanding and only occasionally strident, Cannonball Adderley's *Autumn Leaves* sounded big, bold and brassy. The layering of brushwork, sax and mute trumpet was especially realistic, creating a genuinely deep and believable acoustic populated with performers who were obviously enjoying their trade. It was a little



sharp at times, to be sure, but the sheer animation of its performance clearly had our panel enthralled.

Rachmaninov's *3rd Symphony* had proved a trial for many players in this test, often sounding grey and matter-of-fact. With the *Attessa*, however, much like both the Cambridge and Audio Research, the music swept gracefully along, bursting climactically or spiralling into silence when required. Dramatic and compelling.

Conclusion

It is possible of course, but designers have to try pretty damn hard to make a mess of Crystal's CS4328. Others, and Roksan in particular, have evidently surpassed themselves, preparing a CD player that's so full of musical beans that our panel declared "classical listeners should be ready to 'air conduct' when auditioning this player". A complement, of sorts, for one of the more pleasant surprises in our 20-way test, the *Attessa* earns itself a Recommendation. ▶▶

VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★
VALUE ★★★★★☆
PRICE £1,595.00

▲ Exciting, believable and forthright.
 ▼ Tendency to be a little OTT at times.

✉ Roksan Ltd, Stonehill, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE18 6ED
 ☎ (01480) 451777

THE LAB REPORT

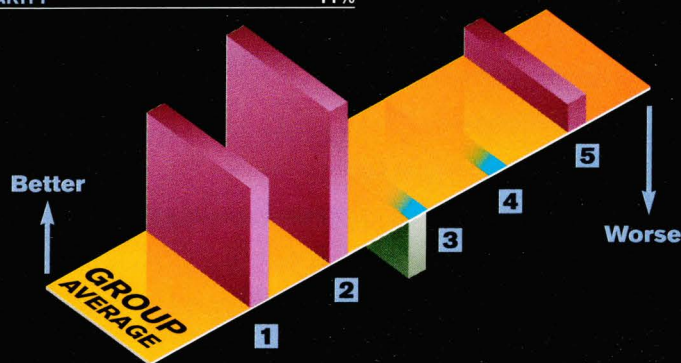
Comparisons between the *Attessa* CD player and *ATT-DA2* converter prove interesting because, on the whole, they reflect the advantage of the latter's outboard DC power supplies. For example, the pattern of distortion is broadly what you would expect for the CS4328 DAC (around 0.003 per cent midband/peak level) but the *ATT-DA2* is almost uniformly 10dB lower at very low frequencies where it compares favourably with Quad's 77 (see page 81).

The smattering of data-induced sidebands from the *Attessa's* jitter spectrum also look remarkably like those from Quad's 77, but at a very low 169psec. The *Attessa's* low-level resolution is slightly more deviant than the *ATT-DA2* with errors of +0.0/-0.8dB over a full 100dB range, while its high frequency performance, particularly in respect of distortion, also shows signs of peak-level compression. This was avoided in Quad's 77.

For the same reason, odd-order IM distortion increases to around 0.1 per cent at peak level while noise, rather than harmonics, tends to dominate at lower signal levels. Finally, the sub-one Ohm output impedance of the *Attessa* should make it very tolerant of wacky interconnect cables and/or difficult amplifier loads.

HOW IT COMPARES

1	SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES	50%
2	JITTER	65%
3	PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE	-25%
4	HARMONIC DISTORTION VS LEVEL	0%
5	LINEARITY	11%



**NEW YEAR
SALE ENDS
JAN 18th
DON'T MISS
IT!**

ACOUSTIC ENERGY

ARCAM

AUDIOLAB

AUDIOQUEST

B&W

CABLE TALK

CASTLE

CHORD

DENON

DUAL

DYNAVECTOR

EPOS

KEF

LEXICON

LINN

LOEWE TV

MARANTZ

MERIDIAN

MICROMEGA

MILLER & KREISEL

MISSION

MYRYAD

NAD

NAIM

PANASONIC

PIONEER

QUAD

REL

ROTEL

SENNHEISER

SHAHINIAT

AMAHA

*The
experience
is out there...*

Whatever your tastes in musical and visual entertainment; whatever your budget - our experience will help you to enjoy your experience to maximum effect.

Our experience is based upon the thousands of satisfied customers we have served since our formation in 1981. This is reinforced by the fact that our staff are all enthusiasts, not just commission based salespeople.

We select the best products, support customers with the best advice and excellent demonstration facilities, all at affordable prices. Try the Audio Excellence experience for yourself - rely on us to give you the levels of service you demand. We are not just another dealer!

- ◆ Systems and separates
- ◆ Home delivery and installation
- ◆ Home cinema surround sound
- ◆ Comfortable demonstration rooms
- ◆ Multi room systems
- ◆ Repair service
- ◆ Friendly expert advice
- ◆ Interest free credit on selected products
- ◆ Part exchange welcome
- ◆ Free 3 year warranties on Hi-Fi separates

HI-FI AND HOME CINEMA CENTRES:

PRESTON

131 Friargate, PR1 2EE. Tel: 01772 253057

CHESTER

88/90 Boughton, CH3 5AQ. Tel: 01244 345576

SWANSEA

9 High Street, SA1 1LE. Tel: 01792 474608

CARDIFF

134/136 Crwys Road, CF2 4NR. Tel: 01222 228565

GLOUCESTER

58 Bristol Road, GL1 5SD. Tel: 01452 300046

BRISTOL

65 Park Street, BS1 5PB. Tel: 0117 926 4975

EXETER

156 Sidwell Street, EX4 6RT. Tel: 01392 491194

Open Tuesday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.30pm
Closed Monday

audio eXcellence

WHERE THE MUSIC MATTERS

Email us on CompuServe 100631,167 or visit our website at <http://www.audio-excellence.co.uk/> for more details and our latest offers.

BRITISH AUDIO DEALERS ASSOCIATION



Rotel RCD-970BX

Anyone who was put off Rotel's £450 *RCD-975* by its disappointing showing in issue 155 might also dismiss its cheaper sibling, the £350 *RCD-970BX*. After all, they look almost identical, don't they? This, however, would be a very, very big mistake. Sure enough, both players are built into the same slim but rugged chassis, feature the same fluorescent display and even the same CDM9 transport mechanism from Philips.

An important issue this, for the CDM9 is rarely employed these days (having been superseded by the linear-tracking CDM12) despite offering almost unparalleled handling of less-than-perfect CDs — especially, I might add, when it's used with the equally 'old' SAA7310 decoder — also a favourite of switched-on companies like Meridian and Naim. Anyway, the *RCD-970BX* is only otherwise distinguished by the loss of its on-board edit, scan and A/B repeat facilities, widgets that are already duplicated on the matching handset. No loss here then, plus you get the advantage of direct track access, random and program play modes.

Where the *RCD-970BX* really scores is in the relative simplicity of its internal circuitry. Gone are the additional analogue filter boards, the pair of dual-differential



TDA1305 DACs

and troublesome shift-registers that infested the *RCD-975* which, quite frankly, is too complicated for its own good. Instead, the pared-down *RCD-970BX* uses a single TDA1305 converter (not unlike Mission's *dAD3*) in a very thoughtful and elegant configuration. Throwing less money but more thought at a problem so often reaps major dividends...

Sound quality

The very deliberate and structurally solid sound of Rotel's *RCD-970BX* comes as a real contrast to the somewhat colder, harsher and coarser performance of its bigger brother. In this instance, the young pretender strides boldly through the likes of Rachmaninov's *3rd Symphony*, overlooking a little of the texture and quiet subtlety of strings and woodwind, perhaps, but certainly capturing the spirit, the gusto and

majesty of the performance as the orchestra winds up to one of the many climaxes.

Where the music itself is a little less ostentatious, the *RCD-970BX* can end up sounding a touch unsympathetic. Rebecca Pidgeon's *Friday Night Crowd*, for example, proved less communicative or emotive — "its not simply going through the motions" commented one panellist, "but I've less empathy with her voice than usual". So the *RCD-970BX* can sound articulate and even forthright where a touch more humility and softness might have served it better.

Otherwise, our panel found much to admire in this rough diamond as it put its full enthusiasm behind Adderley's sax and mute trumpet, projecting both clearly into the room while retaining the rich, resonant weight of the double bass. More often than not, it seems the *RCD-970BX* will hit the musical mark.

Conclusion

Time was when new CD players from Rotel were like money in the bank: sure-fire winners in each and every price category, regardless of the technology they adopted. Nowadays, if the competition is tougher and Rotel seems less sure of its direction, at least cracking players like the *RCD-970BX* demonstrate there's life yet in a Far Eastern specialist that once ruled the budget roost.

The *RCD-970BX*'s flair is occasionally stilted, but its combination of solid build, useful facilities and an attention-grabbing sound make Recommendation a must. ►►

VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★☆
VALUE ★★★★★☆
PRICE £349.95

- ▲ Bags of enthusiasm and bags of thoroughly musical character.
- ▼ Sometimes overlooks subtlety in favour of effect.
- ✉ Gamepath Ltd, 25 Heathfield, Stacey Bushes, Milton Keynes, MK12 6HR.
- ☎ (01908) 317707

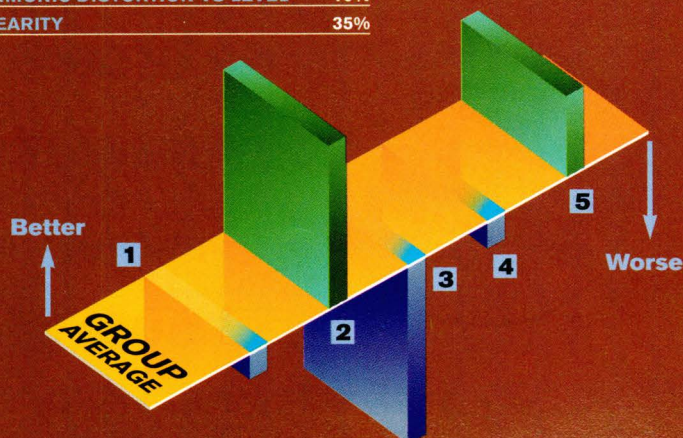
THE LAB REPORT

The single TDA1305 adopted by Rotel is one of a series of combined Bitstream/Continuous Calibration digital filter/DACs from Philips. It's a mixed-technology device that employs a second-order noise shaper to truncate incoming data (from the decoder) from 16 to five-bits. This five-bit bitstream is converted by two pairs of high-speed four-bit converters: four bits + four bits yielding an equivalent resolution of five-bits per channel. In practice, Rotel achieves a wide 107dB S/N ratio (only three dB short of what is usually obtained with two DACs in dual-differential mode) though, thanks to the 'multi-bit' part of the DAC's architecture, the huge +14dB noise modulation inevitably restricts the practical dynamic range.

Low-level linearity is held to within very tight +/-0.7dB limits while, more importantly, and by avoiding the use of multiple shift-registers, jitter is reduced from 647psec (*RCD-975*) to just 289psec. This smattering of low-level data-induced sidebands (4) is fundamental to the '970BX's triumph. Distortion, meanwhile, at typically <0.035 per cent still compares very favourably with the *RCD-975*'s <0.025 per cent (both re -30dB), even if it does tend to increase at higher frequencies and lower levels.

HOW IT COMPARES

1	SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES	-10%
2	JITTER	70%
3	PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE	-75%
4	HARMONIC DISTORTION VS LEVEL	-10%
5	LINEARITY	35%



Do you want to choose your hifi in a comfortable and relaxing environment . . . ?

Do you want friendly and helpful advice (and a cup of tea) . . . ?

Do you want to buy your system based on what you hear (and not what somebody tells you) . . . ?

Do you live in GUILDFORD . . . ?

. . . or Addlestone, Aldershot, Ashford (Middx), Ashstead, Bagshot, Basingstoke, Bracknell, Camberley, Chertsey, Crowthorne, Cranleigh, Dorking, Epsom, Esher, Farnborough, Farnham, Fleet, Frimley, Godalming, Hartley Wintney, Haslemere, Hook, Horsham, Kingston, Liphook, Leatherhead, Molesey (East & West), New Malden, Odiham, Petersfield, Reading, Reigate, Redhill, Richmond, Shepperton, Virginia Water, Walton-on-Thames, West Byfleet, Weybridge, Windsor, Woking, Wokingham, Yateley?

Nobody else in these areas stocks all the following major brands: Acoustic Energy, Arcam, Audiolab, Aura, B&W, Cyrus, Epos, DPA, Harman Kardon, Heybrook, Infinity, JPW, KEF (Reference), Linn Products (including records), Marantz, Meridian, Mission, Musical Fidelity, NAD, Nakamichi, Onix, Pioneer, PROAC, QED (Systemline), Quad, Rega, Revox, Rogers, Rotel, Sony, Sound Org, Target, T.D.L., Yamaha (including Home Cinema Systems) & Top Tape.

Visit us first and you won't need to go anywhere else, we have superb demonstration rooms where you can decide in comfort, and we will deliver and install free of charge (and part exchange is possible).

Complete service – We are the only outlet in the area to offer the complete service. As well as stocking selected items from the above manufacturers we are able to service and/or repair on the premises all the above brands (and others also).

PJ HIFI

Guildford's only REAL Hi-Fi shop

NEW ARRIVALS!
MISSION
751/752/753/754
FREEDOM IN STOCK.
REGA PLANET C.D.
PLAYER + PIONEER
PRECISION RANGE
AVAILABLE

We are at:
3 BRIDGE STREET, GUILDFORD
*(by the traffic lights –
next door to Alfred Marks)*

NEW!
LINN
AV51 SYSTEM
MERIDIAN
DIGITAL THEATRE
&
YAMAHA
DSP
all on permanent
demonstration

01483 504801 • 01483 304756

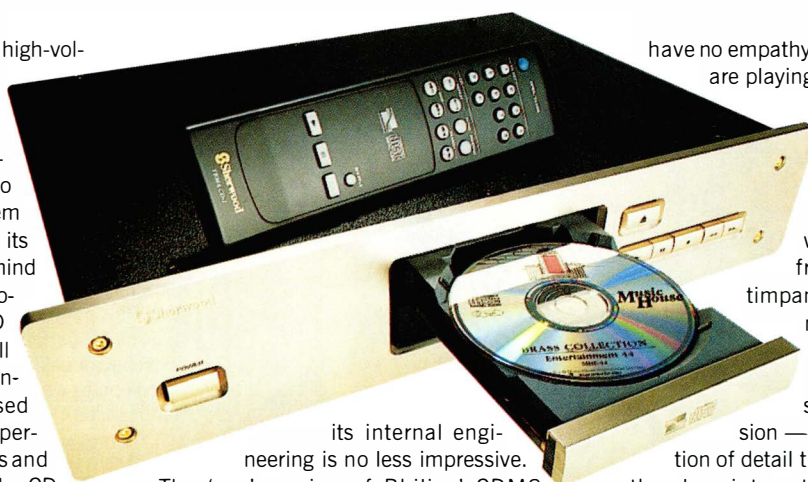
Access • Visa • Switch Open Monday – Saturday 9am – 6pm (later by appointment)

Sherwood CD1

Think Sherwood and a vision of high-volume, budget separates springs to mind, many of which have done rather well in previous *Hi-Fi Choice* blind listening tests. But there's more to Sherwood than a low-brow stack 'em high, sell 'em cheap mentality, as its high-end TEMA range serves to remind us. The *CD-1* is the source component for the TEMA brand of CD players and pre/power amplifiers, all featuring a glorious standard of construction with silver-gold anodised milled-alloy facias, gold and copper-galvanised bolts, and die-cast knobs and buttons. Even the frontispiece for the CD loading tray and transport controls are die-cast items. As a result, the *CD-1* is a lot heavier than it looks.

By comparison, the long, plastic remote control seems a trifle shabby, though its wide range of direct track access, program, repeat and random play options are all welcome accessories. As, I might add, are the choice of balanced analogue outputs and proprietary 'Digi-Link' control terminals which allow the *CD-1* to be fully integrated into a TEMA system.

The *CD-1* is not just a cosmetic exercise:



its internal engineering is no less impressive.

The 'pro'-version of Philips' CDM9 mechanism is deployed (complete with glass-lensed laser) instead of the ubiquitous CDM12, while D/A conversion is accomplished with a combination of Philips' SAA7350 and TDA1547 — the so-called 'DAC7' chipset once used by Meridian, Audiolab and even Teac in days gone by. Sherwood's choice of NPC's 'high-end' eight times oversampling filter is a further indication of its intent, all achieved, I might add, without pushing the price sky-high.

Sound quality

Sherwood's *CD-1* is a player whose very neutral, even-handed and 'flat' sound tells a tale of engineers trying desperately hard to scrub any hint of coloration or character from its being. However, instead of affording an entirely transparent view of the music at hand it actually succeeds in suppressing the colour, the passion and vivacity that is a natural and vital part of the recorded event. "This all sounds very professional" mentioned one panelist, "but the performers

have no empathy with the music they are playing".

This was certainly the case with Rachmaninov's *3rd Symphony*, which possessed a wealth of detail, from the rumble of timpani, the woody resonance of oboe through to the rush and strings and sparkle of percussion — an emotive description of detail that was, in practice, rather less interesting. There was no harshness, no sibilance to roughen a vocalist or coldness to taint Cannonball's saxophone. Dynamic contrasts are handled with the same proficiency, but spine-tingling passion remains firmly off the musical agenda.

Conclusion

It is tricky to generalise, however the *CD-1* looks, performs and sounds rather like a player that's received *too much* attention, to the point where the music itself has been engineered out of the system. It's not the first time we've encountered such a player and, no doubt, it won't be the last. Nevertheless, this result remains frustrating when so much care and good intent has obviously been lavished by Sherwood on a product destined to serve as its flagship. Interestingly, there is another intermediate range of separates called *LF-7* whose appearance is clearly modelled on the TEMA superstars but whose innards may not be quite so over-engineered. A subject for a reprise test, methinks.

VERDICT

SOUND ★★☆☆☆
VALUE ★★☆☆☆
PRICE £1,099.95

▲ Highly detailed, neutral-sounding and ruggedly built.

▼ Fails to tackle or truly convey the passion of the music at hand

✉ Hi-Fi Direct, Richer House, Hankey Place, London, SE1 4BB

☎ (0171) 586 5977

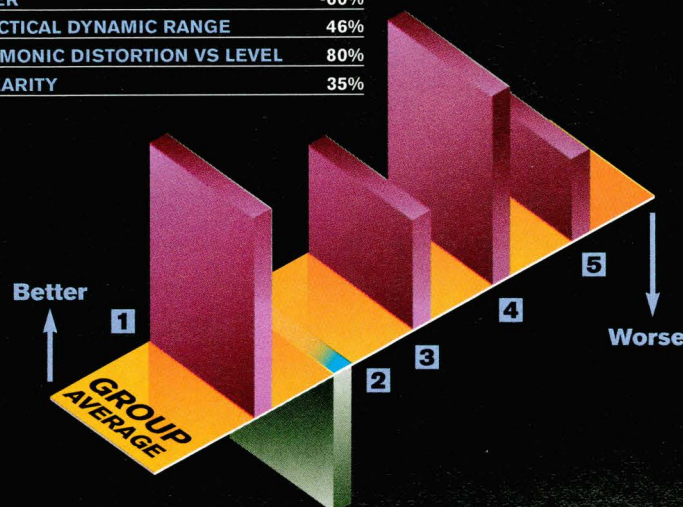
THE LAB REPORT

The most obvious discrepancy in an otherwise very positive-looking bar chart is caused by the *CD-1*'s 400psec of jitter. This is only twice as high as other models in this group but, because it's almost entirely composed of data-induced patterns, could explain the slightly lacklustre 'feel' of its music. The significance of this one foible could be magnified by the 'wide open window' effect of its huge 106dB S/N ratio (state-of-the-art for a single TDA1547) and lack of 'camouflage' provided by the exceptionally low 0.0005 per cent (0dB) and 0.009 per cent (-30dB) distortion.

The high quality SM5813 eight-times oversampling filter also ensures a ripple-free response (the analogue filter includes a -0.6dB roll-off at 20kHz). However, implementing the SAA7350 as a third-order noise-shaper is notoriously difficult and, as Teac, Kenwood and Audiolab have discovered to their cost in the past, it can (and has) resulted in a comprehensive 'spray' of high-order sampling images (digitally-derived distortions). This effect, combined with the swell of ultrasonic noise (also from the SAA7350) is also likely to contribute to the slightly cool or grey sound of the *CD-1*.

HOW IT COMPARES

1	SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES	85%
2	JITTER	-60%
3	PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE	46%
4	HARMONIC DISTORTION VS LEVEL	80%
5	LINEARITY	35%



The New Collection from The Chord Company

What are your speakers wearing?



CHORD LEGEND (Patent pending)

This is something really special.

A unique flat cable specially designed to optimise the performance of bi-wireable speakers. Constructed from four runs of oxygen free round copper conductors (two x seven strands for the bass and two x four strands for the treble).

The larger conductors used for the bass and the smaller conductors used for the treble are spaced in a way that produces ideal inductance and capacitance figures for perfect bass and treble reproduction. It is extremely unusual to find this in speaker cable. Bass needs more current than treble, therefore Legend provides more current carrying capacity.

Chord Legend will give you all the openness and detail that a good bi-wire cable produces, together with a wonderful degree of coherence and musicality.

For information on the finest handmade a/v leads, interconnects, speaker cables and loudspeakers, please return the coupon. Tel: 01722 331674 Fax: 01722 411388

Interconnects Speaker Cables Loudspeakers AV Leads
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
POST CODE _____

The Chord Company, 30a Sarum Business Park, Portway, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EA.

pear audio

presents

Shahinian DYNAVECTOR Well Tempered

Stockists and Information from:

Pear Audio Ltd. 7 Prospect Place, Alnmouth, Northumberland, NE66 2RL
Telephone: 01665 830862 Fax: 01665 830051



Just pure music

The **PRISMA**
Phono Amplifier

The **VISTA**
Line Amplifier

The **LECTERN**
Power Amplifier

The **ECA A.2**
True Ribbon Speakers



ECA DISTRIBUTION
BOX 3023 London NW2 7RW
Tel/Fax: 0181 998 1086

"speakers disappear completely"
CHOICE SESSIONS
July/August Issue 1996

BEST BUY AWARD
Issue 145 - 1995
Hi-Fi CHOICE

BEST BUY AWARD
Issue 145 - 1995
Hi-Fi CHOICE

THE LECTERN H.D.
AUDIO CHOICE 1996
GRAMOPHONE

The Naturally Neutral Chain

Sony CDP-XE300

Take one Best Buy *CDP-XE500*, rip out its optical digital output and partner it with a trimmed-down remote control, lacking peak search, time edit/fade and music scan facilities. The result? A saving of £20 and an ostensibly 'new' CD player called the *CDP-XE300*.

Crucially, however, nearly everything that makes the *CDP-XE500* great (issue 159) is retained by the baby *CDP-XE300*. Same chassis, same detailed fluorescent display, same CD transport assembly and even the same circuit board inside. There are one or two components missing which would otherwise have serviced the digital output, but the *CDP-XE300*, '500 (and *CDP-XE200* for that matter) are all struck from a common mould.

Sony's jog dial control, originally used for track access on its MiniDisc recorders, is also retained on the slimline *CDP-XE300*. This is a detented rotary encoder — you just spin it in either direction to rapidly scroll through the track list displayed on the 20-position music calendar, press enter or play, and the on-board digital servo ensures super-slick track access.



The same jog dial control is used during the program edit and program play modes which will accommodate up to 24 track selections. This jog dial is effectively duplicated by a more conventional direct track-access keypad located on the remote control, which also adds a digital fader and up/down digital volume control to the crew of widgets. A canny blend of high value with genuine high fidelity.

Sound quality

Just like its bigger brother, the *CDP-XE300* promotes itself as a fresh, light and breezy-sounding player that's not afraid to get stuck into the trickier musical selections gracing its in-tray. It certainly tried desperately hard to push the sweeping sound of violins from Rachmaninov's *3rd Symphony* to the fore, supplying all the gusto and drive it could muster, if not quite the body or weight to fully back it up.

Dissension was limited, though there was some criticism of Ali Khan's principal vocals which, ordinarily, have a very tightly

defined sense of space. On this occasion they sounded as if they were "viewed through lightly misted windows", being perfectly intelligible but making it tricky to pin down the exact position of each performer.

At this budget price, however, the loss of a deep 3D image is perhaps not surprising even if the sheer lack of nasties and maturity of its presentation is equally unexpected. The sheer fact that this player was auditioned after one costing 30 times the price without being shouted down as either "crass" or "appalling" speaks volumes in its favour. Sure enough, its sound is a little light, a little monochrome and has a habit of shifting the tonal balance of vocals (tilting Rebecca Pidgeon's voice towards the like of Joni Mitchell, for example). And yet the overall picture remains very clear, articulate and informative with little in the way of fatiguing colorations.

Conclusion

In the parlance beloved of marketing departments, the 'cost/performance ratio' of Sony's *CDP-XE300* seems little short of remarkable, ensuring that the giant-killing reputation earned by the *CDP-XE500* is at least broadly maintained by this ultra-budget *CDP-XE300*. Clearly there's nothing to touch it at the price, though I'm bound to say that spending the cost of a few extra CDs will realise even greater musical gains, if only from the comprehensive hierarchy of Sony's own stable.

VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★
VALUE ★★★★★
PRICE £139.99

▲ Remarkable combination of a respectable sound for the price of a few CDs.

▼ Slightly two-dimensional and colourless.

✉ Sony United Kingdom Ltd, The Heights, Brooklands, Weybridge KT13 0XW
(0181) 784 1184

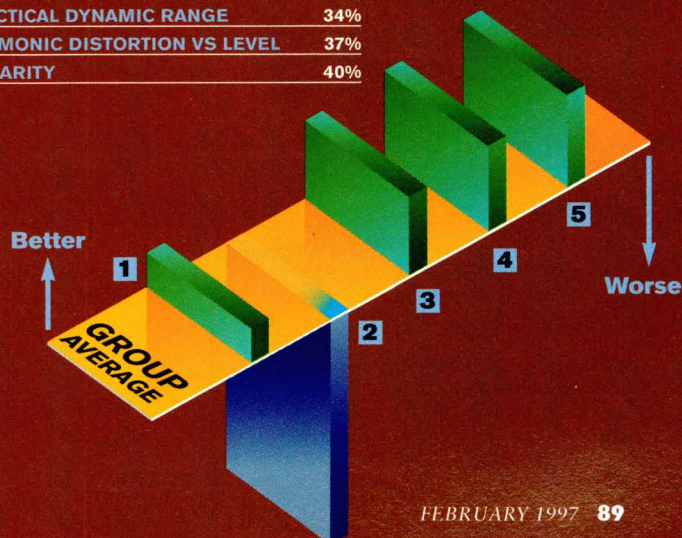
THE LAB REPORT

As we've already discussed, the *CDP-XE300*'s closest relative is the *CDP-XE500* and this is reflected both in lab performance and the final barchart values, despite the results being averaged across a different group of budget CD players. Once again, the noise-shaping and digital filtering of Sony's CXD8567 H-Pulse DAC is not as effective as the classier chips found in the *CDP-XE900E*, for example, so its treble distortion (rising to 0.025 per cent) is largely accounted for by spurious noise. This, in turn, could lead to a slightly rougher sound when partnered with amplifiers that are susceptible to such out-of-band signals.

Otherwise, the *CDP-XE300* also enjoys a higher-than-average dynamic range and impressive low-level linearity, a very flat response, good crystal clock selection and a huge >100dB separation between L and R stereo channels. The common PCB layout and power supply means that, once again, the *CDP-XE300* is awash with (relatively innocuous) hum and PSU-related phenomena which, for a ha'porth of tar, could easily have been redressed by Sony. This contributes to the 1768psec of jitter and to the loss of bass definition and vague imagery reported by our listeners.

HOW IT COMPARES

1	SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES	15%
2	JITTER	-95%
3	PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE	34%
4	HARMONIC DISTORTION VS LEVEL	37%
5	LINEARITY	40%



*“Fine build quality,
a sweet sound
and super styling.”*

WHAT HI-FI? on QUAD, November 1995



audio T

Great Value Sound & Vision

- ▶ **30 Years Old** - Audio T is one of the oldest and most respected hi-fi retailers in the world.
- ▶ **We're Authorised Dealers** for all the products we stock and have factory trained staff who know what they're talking about.
- ▶ **Demonstrations** - All our shops have single speaker dem rooms and all but two have a separate Home Cinema studio.
- ▶ **PX** - We're happy to take your old, working, equipment off your hands if you don't want to sell it yourself (although you'll do better if you do).
- ▶ **Exchanges & Upgrades** - You can change goods within 7 days if they are in perfect condition. You can also upgrade to more expensive products within 30 days at no charge.
- ▶ **Interest Free Credit** is available on selected items.
- ▶ **E. Mail & the Web** - We are contactable on "hifi@audio-t.co.uk" and on the web at "http://www.audio-t.co.uk" where you'll find our full sale list regularly updated.
- ▶ **Guarantees** - a full 3 year guarantee on all new hi-fi separates. Mini Systems, Video & TV are 2 years.
- ▶ **We're friendly** and un-intimidating, we can arrange home dems and home loans (subject to status) and we install equipment for if required.

“See our monthly special offers list on our Web pages or in What Hi-Fi every month”

HOME CINEMA SPECIALIST

BRITISH AUDIO DEALERS ASSOCIATION
BADA
THE ULTIMATE IN SOUND ADVICE

Main Brands: Acoustic Energy, Arcam, Atacama, Audiolab, B&W, Cable Talk, Celestion, Cyrus, Denon, Dynaudio, KEF, Kenwood, Linn, Marantz, Meridian, Micromega, Mission, Monitor Audio, Mordaunt-Short, NAD, Naim, Pioneer, Quad, Rega, REL, Rotel, Royd, Sennheiser, Tannoy, Technics, Trichord, Yamaha.
Not all products are stocked by every shop.

PRICE PROMISE

- We know you won't find better service.
 - We know you won't find a better sound.
 - But if you find a better price, let us know and as long as we can verify it we'll be happy to match it. Plus you will still get our 3 YEAR Guarantee*.
- * 2 Year on TV/Video/Mini Systems • 1 Year on Portables

BASINGSTOKE



4 Feathers Lane
Tel: (01256) 24311

Alan & Simon
Tues-Sat 9-5.30
Easy parking near

CHELTENHAM



40/42 Albion Street
Tel: (01242) 583960

Jon & Andy
Tues-Fri 9.30-6 Sat 9.30-5.30
Easy parking near

W. HAMPSTEAD



190 West End Lane,
London NW6
Tel: 0171-794 7848

Felix, John & Graham
Tues-Sat 10-6
Thurs eve open late until 8

OXFORD



19 Old High St.,
Headington
Tel: (01865) 65961

Jon, Dominic & Paul
Tues-Fri 10-6 Sat 9.30-6
Thurs eve open late until 8
Easy parking at rear

ENFIELD



159a Chase Side,
Enfield, Middx
Tel: 0181-367 3132

David, Maggie & Jason
Tues-Fri 9.30-6 Sat 9.30-5.30
Customer Car Park at rear

GANTS HILL



442-444 Cranbrook
Rd, Gants Hill, Ilford
Tel: 0181-518 0915

Mark, Burak & Richard
Tues/Thurs/Fri 10 - 7
Wed/Sat 9.30 - 5.50
Easy Parking Near

SWINDON



60 Fleet St., Swindon
Tel: (01793) 538222

Andy, Wayne & Andrew
Tues-Sat 9.30 - 6
Easy Parking Near

READING



4 Queens Walk,
Broad Street Mall
Tel: 0118 958 5463

Simon, Keith & Tom
Tues-Sat 9-5.30
Car Park over Broad Street Mall

All shops closed Mondays

HOME INSURANCE ARE YOU COVERED?

Do you own expensive Home Entertainment and Hi-Fi equipment?

Does Your Home Insurance policy cover Hi-Fi and Home Entertainment equipment for its true value or only 10% of your total sum insured?

Will your policy cover accidental damage for Hi-Fi and Home Entertainment equipment?

Is your policy covering you New for Old cover on Hi-Fi and Home Entertainment equipment?

Most people assume they are covered for the above because they have a contents policy covering them for an amount equal to the total value of all their belongings.

But in all honesty they don't really know until its too late.

Most policies generally don't cover the above unless the policy has been specially arranged.

Hoddesdon Insurance Consultants does just that but with one very important difference.

We normally beat any other price you can obtain elsewhere even for policies inferior to the ones we offer.

For the most competitive quote on your Home Contents Insurance Policy, call now on

01992 470698

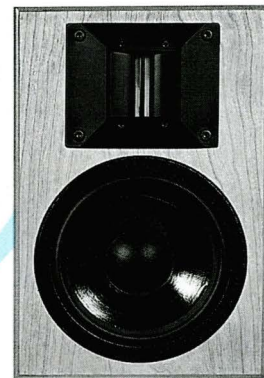
(Lines open till 8:00pm)

Hoddesdon Insurance Consultants
46 Ware Road, Hoddesdon, Herts EN11 9DU

NEAT loudspeakers

THE PETITE:
‘.. sounds anything
but petite;
it's stupendous!’
WHAT HI-FI

NEAT acoustics



tel: 01833 631021 fax: 01833 630022

e-mail: johncarrington@NEAT.octacon.co.uk

http://www.cdtec.co.uk/ext/neatacoustics/

making the most of the music

Teac VRDS-25

Looking for a new CD player with a big personality? Then look no further than Teac's VRDS-25, a player whose appearance, if not its technology, is clearly derived from predecessors like the VRDS-10 and, more recently, the VRDS-7 (issue 119 and 155 respectively).

This massive structure plays host to Teac's famous VRDS (Vibration-free Rigid Disc-clamping System) which clamps the CD onto the underside of a cast alloy turntable which, in turn, is suspended and driven from above by a powerful motor.

The surface of this miniature turntable is very slightly concave, and has the effect of ironing-out any small warps that may exist across the entire area of the CD. The mechanical stability of VRDS, coupled with Teac's DSRL technology (Digital Servo Ratio Locked Loop) ensures just about the lowest jitter levels of any integrated player currently available. Sadly, because of its high cost, this fabulous mechanism is not more widely used by other manufacturers — Copland and Wadia are two exceptions.

Widgets are plentiful but relegated to the long remote control which covers direct



track access, program, repeat and random play, index skipping, mute, fade and volume options. It seems every whim is catered for. Neither is there any skimping on the internal DAC technology which, with its 20-bit architecture, is derived from Teac's very expensive X-1s rather than the Philips Bit Stream devices used in its 'budget' VRDS players.

Sound quality

This is one CD player that actually sounds as big and powerful as it looks, even if one listener suggested wryly that it had "a somewhat over-inflated view of its own importance". The player seems to delight in conveying a huge sound, resonating with a richness that's reminiscent of a truly 'live' performance though one that is not necessarily uncoloured.

Ali Khan's voice was that is imbued with a new-found reverberation while the bass was mildly overblown. *The Face of Love* is an acoustic recording and yet every performer sounded both 'amplified' and slightly 'out of control', as our subwoofer reminded

us with the odd, seemingly misplaced note from time to time. Otherwise this really is a very detailed and mighty-sounding player which, generally speaking, has a very even balance. The only weak point is the bass, which is perhaps too forceful and strong, tending to slow down the largest of recordings. Perhaps as a result, the mighty Rachmaninov *3rd Symphony* was not desperately thrilling: "a little too much chocolate fudge sundae", concluded one listener who was clearly thinking about his lunch. Adderley's jazz set was, perhaps, not quite so well measured, but the bold sound of the sax and trumpet and weighty presence of the double bass all contributed to a thoroughly big and bouncy sound that, our panel conceded, "could not fail to get us caught up in the music".

Conclusion

In every respect, Teac's VRDS-25 is a solid player, combining a great structural resilience with a powerful sound and a technical copybook that, in many areas, defines the state of the digital art. But if its spiritual compatriot, Copland's *CDA-288*, proved a little grey and unexciting, then Teac's own implementation sounds too rich and colourful, a big and fruity outpouring that's probably better matched to small, though not necessarily budget loudspeakers. And if you own any expensive wooden furniture, do remember to detach Teac's optional pointed metal feet before proudly displaying your new acquisition...

VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★
VALUE ★★★★★
PRICE £1,299.95

▲ Powerful, vibrant and colourful. A real character.
▼ Too heavily scented, especially in the bass department.

✉ TEAC UK Ltd, 5 Marlin House, The Croxley Centre, Watford, Herts WD1 8YA
☎ (01923) 819630

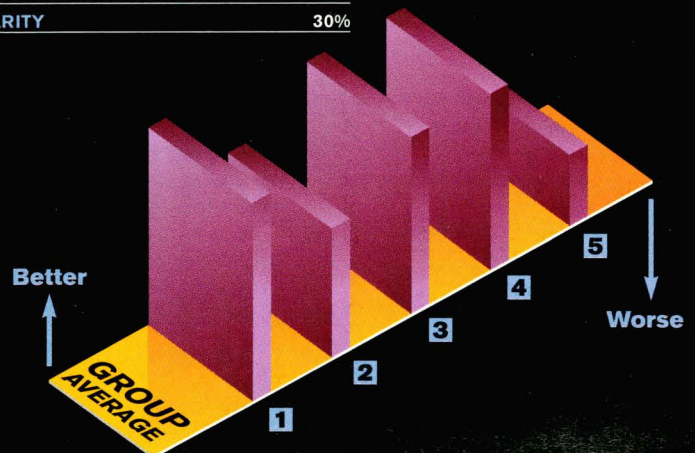
THE LAB REPORT

The VRDS-25 is one of the very few multi-bit CD players to maintain a consistently low distortion from 0dB right through to low signal levels. At peak output, distortion is a steady 0.0014 per cent and is primarily second/third harmonic in nature while, at -30dB, there is a small increase to between 0.005-0.01 per cent that is accounted for by noise rather than discrete harmonics. Most 18 or 20-bit players suffer an increase in distortion to around 0.06 per cent at -30dB, resulting in a potentially audible change to the player's 'character' over the uppermost 30dB of its dynamic range.

The combination of Teac's ZD-II dithering circuit and Analog Devices' 20-bit DACs (discussed above) also distinguishes its performance from other 20-bit DACs like the Burr Brown PCM63P. The overall S/N ratio is a few dB lower than expected at 110dB (though still higher than that achieved by bit-stream technology) but the noise modulation is also lower at +9dB rather than +12 to +14dB. Low-level linearity is also held to within +0.0/-0.5dB limits over a 100dB range while jitter — a function of the digital 'stability' across the entire player — is just 178psec.

HOW IT COMPARES

1	SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES	85%
2	JITTER	55%
3	PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE	75%
4	HARMONIC DISTORTION VS LEVEL	75%
5	LINEARITY	30%



Conclusions

A high proportion of Recommendations in this 20-strong group of CD players reflects both the quality of digital hardware these days, and also the fact that a certain 'pre-selection' of candidates — based on my experience of all new and up-and-coming models — was undertaken prior to the test proper.

Nonetheless, our sub-dividing of the 20 players into three distinct price groups has confirmed a trend that we had suspected from the empirical evidence of past CD player reviews. This is that a higher proportion of budget and mid-priced CD players will achieve a given standard of quality than their higher-priced cousins. No less than five of the six sub-£400 and £400-£1,000 players earned themselves swing-tags, leaving three of the remaining eight 'high-end' players to fulfil the same requirements in the £1,000-plus category.

Several explanations suggest themselves, though the perception that budget CD players are inherently better or more 'correct' than the higher-priced competition is not one likely to gain favour. Instead, consider the following. The sub-£400 sector is fiercely competitive and, as such, it's not uncommon for budget CD players to be 'subsidised' or treated as loss-leaders in the battle to achieve larger market shares. So some budget CD players do offer better value for money than is strictly plausible.

On the flip-side, high-cost players are just that. They are not subsidised in any way and, unit for unit, will provide a greater financial return for the manufacturer. It is not unreasonable for a manufacturer to establish its credibility with a loss-making budget range while 'making its money' from a spin-off range of higher-priced units.

When there is more money to throw at the problem, a CD player designer is given

more freedom to endow a player with a certain 'character' or musical emphasis. You might expect all high-priced players to converge towards a common notion of the 'perfect sound', but in truth they diverge and display greatly varied sonic qualities.

Finally, some manufacturers will make the mistake of justifying the cost of a player by using an unnecessarily complex circuit. This might include banks of shift registers, delay lines, multiple-DAC topologies and manipulative DSP routines in the digital path; or perhaps labyrinthine analogue filters, riddled with coupling capacitors and oodles of other components across and within the signal path.

Such efforts add up to over-engineering that looks very clever on paper, but which kills the spontaneity and passion of the music in practice. Naturally, 'over-engineering' is one thing a budget player is rarely accused of!

GROUP A (UP TO £399.99)

Arcam Alpha 7	£319.90
Cambridge Audio CD4SE	£199.95
Kenwood DP-7090	£399.95
Pioneer PD-S705	£299.95
Rotel RCD-970BX	£349.95
Sony CDP-XE300	£139.99

A broad range of technologies is represented in our budget group, from the different hybrid converters chosen by Rotel and Arcam, to the bitstream offerings of Cambridge and Sony, the

DSP antics of Pioneer, and the highly-evolved 20-bit scheme adopted by Kenwood. Each player has a very distinct story to tell, that goes beyond mere differences in appearance and flexibility. Sony's *CDP-XE300* provides a remarkable blend of good sound and useful widgets while Cambridge's *CD4SE* might look and feel like a member of the underclass by comparison, but its sound was a hair's breadth from the very best, regardless of price.

The Arcam and Rotel players are both bet-

ter built, but no better specified, and each provides something of a dynamic slant on the music event. There's less 'back to basics' and more 'onward march of technology' about both the Pioneer and Kenwood players; the latter squeezes an obscene amount of technology into what is, relatively speaking, a very affordable package. There are players costing thousands that use this sort of topology, and quite how Kenwood can afford to 'give away' the *DP-7090* remains a mystery!

GROUP B (£400-£999.99)

Arcam Alpha 8	£519.90
Audiolab 8000CD	£999.90
Denon DCD-3000	£999.99
Mission dAD3	£598
Myryad System MC-100	£699.95
Quad 77	£900

A slightly bigger budget certainly boosts the build quality and physical mass of these players, with models from Audiolab and Myryad featuring very sturdy alloy faceplates that reinforce the entire 'being' of the player. Both

Mission and Quad take this a step further by wrapping their *dAD3* and *77*, respectively, in novel die-cast alloy casings. There's a hint of minimalism creeping in too, with all players (save the Denon) relegating the vast majority of their user-convenient widgets to a handy remote control.

In this group upgrade facilities are also taken that bit more seriously, above and beyond the use of a digital output to service an outboard DAC at a later date. Specifically, both the Arcam and Mission players feature

plug-in boards to change both the underlying technology and, presumably, the sound of their players. The Mission will even accept a feed from its external *PSX-R* power supply by way of a further upgrade. Meanwhile the Myryad and Quad players both employ comms links to fully integrate them into their respective systems. In fact only the Denon *DCD-3000* is what you might call 'conventional', but even this employs a diverse technology in the form of its Alpha Processing. Nothing is what it seems!

GROUP C (OVER £1000)

Audio Research CD 1	£3,290
Copland CDA-288	£2,199
Meridian 508	£1,685
Musical Fidelity FCD	£1,499.99
Naim CD2	£1,997.50
Roksan Attessa DP3P	£1,595
Sherwood CD1	£1,099.95
Teac VRDS-25	£1,299.95

Kudos, pride of ownership, call it what you will, but the sheer status of these top-notch players will account for as much of their popu-

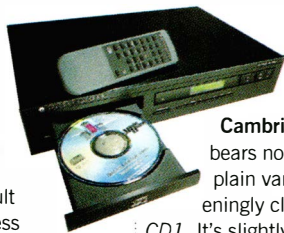
larity as straightforward sound quality. Sure enough, the best of the bunch can afford a genuinely grander and more masterful sound than the tiddlers, but others also demonstrate that a better sound cannot be *guaranteed* just because you hand over wads of cash. Players like the Audio Research and Naim respectively use either uninspiring or old technology, yet despite this they still put in a marvellous performance. Roksan, by contrast, is sticking with a tried-and-tested design that continues to deliver a thoroughly engaging sound.

Other examples, including the Sherwood, the Copland and, to a degree, the Meridian, fail to deliver the goods despite deploying up-to-the-minute engineering principles, while in the final analysis the Musical Fidelity ends up looking like a well-meaning but alas flawed attempt to inject a little valve-like brio into a budget bitstream box.

Teac's heavyweight VRDS mechanism serves the *VRDS-25* very well indeed, but the strong character of this battleship player will not suit the pacifists among you.

BEST BUYS

Only two players really achieved a price/performance ratio sufficient to justify the coveted Best Buy swing-tag. **Kenwood's** £399.95 **DP-7090** is the costliest of the pair, but its rendition of Rachmaninov's *3rd Symphony*, a notoriously difficult recording, flowed with a graciousness lost to all but a few players in this test, convincing our panel of its hidden depths. This is a fabulous-sounding player and one that successfully employs a highly complex digital technology. More often than not, these highly-evolved players are either flaky or engineered to death. Not the **DP-7090**, which sounds much more refined than its price-tag would suggest.



Cambridge Audio CD4SE

Less mature but invigorating and realistic to the last drop, **Cambridge Audio's** £199.95 **CD4 SE** bears no internal resemblance to the plain vanilla **CD4** and yet sounds frighteningly close to **Audio Research's** £3,290 **CD1**. It's slightly less coloured in outlook but, equally, not able to recreate such an astonishing sense of depth. Then again, our panel were at pains to point out they had never heard a £200 player sound so tactile, vibrant and, above all, musically convincing. If you don't like the aesthetics, buy it and keep your eyes shut.

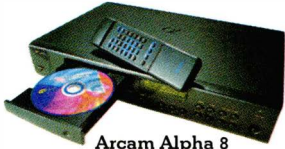


Kenwood DP-7090

RECOMMENDATIONS



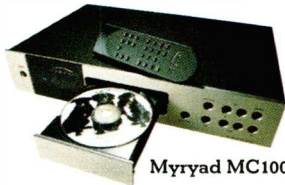
Arcam Alpha 7



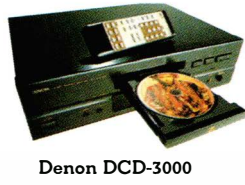
Arcam Alpha 8



Audio Research CD1



Myryad MC100



Denon DCD-3000



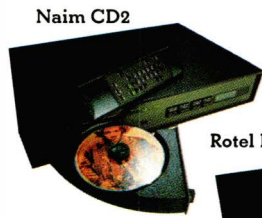
Cyrus dAD3

The least expensive but by no means least impressive Recommendation is **Sony's** **CDP-XE300**, which looks and sounds more exalted than its measly £139.99 price tag. **Arcam's** **Alpha 7** looks slightly more 'domestic' but puts more meat on the bones of its music, and can be upgraded to the smoother and more sophisticated-sounding **Alpha 8** with a plug-in DAC card. **Rotel's** **RCD-970BX** sounds more dynamic again and serves to demonstrate where the costlier **RCD-975** continues to go wrong.

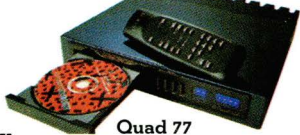
Nestling comfortably in the 'mid-priced' zone, both **Myryad** with its **MC-100** and **Mission** with its upgradable **dAD3** illustrate the advantage of a higher price, the former sounding typically neutral and unruffled while the latter introduces a little extra colour and flair into its music. Both are solidly constructed, as is the exceptionally fine-sounding **Quad 77**, whose performance belies its insignificant physical bulk. Even if you don't own other **Quad** components, the **77** should never be overlooked.

Teetering on the £1,000 barrier, **Denon's** **DCD-3000** looks every inch the traditional Japanese flagship, with standards of build, features and an interesting technical performance to match. **Roksan's** **Attesa** is somewhat more idiosyncratic, particularly with its loosely-sprung transport assembly. Perseverance brings its own rewards, however, in the exceptionally graceful and entrancing sound that ensues.

At the £2,000 break-point, **Naim's** **CD2** seduced our blind listeners with a very even-handed, neutral and utterly convincing performance that, while nothing short of delightful, seems slightly at odds with the archetypal 'Naim sound'. Less neutral but fabulously compelling all the same is **Audio Research's** **CD1**. Few people will be able to afford this wonderfully deep and rosy-sounding player, but those lucky souls at least will come to appreciate the digital adage that 'it's not the chips, but how you use them that really counts'.



Naim CD2



Roksan DP3P



Rotel RCD-970BX

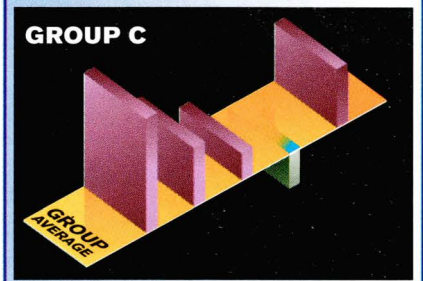
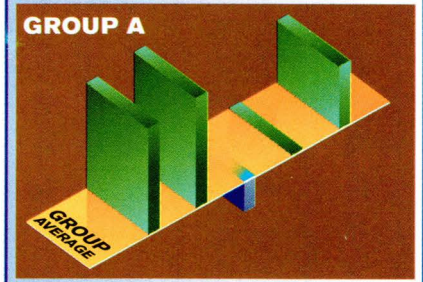
Quad 77



Sony CDP-XE300

HI-FI CHOICE

UNDERSTANDING OUR BAR-GRAPHS AND GROUP AVERAGES



There are huge differences between a CD player that costs £140 and one that costs £3,290. For this reason we have divided our 20 CD players into three groups to extract meaningful 'group averages' for our bar-graph lab-test summaries. The three groups (A, B and C) are explained in our introduction (pages 50-51), but just so that you can tell which player is in which group throughout the reviews, here is the key to the colour codings shown above:

Group A	(Up to £399.99)
Group B	(£400 - £999.99)
Group C	(Over £1,000)

Using this information, you can work out with which of its peers each CD player is being compared. Our aim is to assess every product's measured performance in the context of its closest rivals.

The bar-graphs themselves are derived from measurements performed by our Technical Editor, Paul Miller, using instruments controlled by his own award-winning, PC-based 'Virtual Instrument' software. Actual measured parameters are weighted and statistically processed to give the bar-graph values, relative to the group averages explained above. For more information, e-mail Paul Miller at 100576.3021@compuserve.com .

24 Branches Nationwide



SALE NOW ON

At Sevenoaks Hi Fi you will find a wide range of products on show with the emphasis on quality combined with unbeatable value for money.

Everything in stock is on display and available for audition in our dedicated Hi Fi and Home Cinema demonstration rooms.

Our friendly and experienced staff will be happy to assist you through every step of your purchase to ensure total listening satisfaction.

Sevenoaks Hi Fi - there is no better place to buy.



24 SEVENOAKS HI FI BRANCHES NATIONWIDE

-
- SEVENOAKS 01732 459555
109-113 London Road
 - ABERDEEN 01224 587070
491 Union Street
 - BARROW-IN-FURNESS 01229 838757
46 Cavendish Street
 - BEDFORD 01234 272779
29-31 St Peters Street
 - **new** BIRMINGHAM 0121 233 2977
12 Queensway Arches, Livery Street
 - BRIGHTON 01273 733338
55 Preston Street
 - BURY ST EDMUNDS 01284 753776
47 Churchgate Street
 - CHATHAM 01634 846859
4 Railway Street
 - CHELSEA 0171 352 9466
403 Kings Road, SW10
 - CHELTENHAM 01242 241171
24 Pittville Street
 - CROYDON 0181 665 1203
373 London Road
 - ENFIELD 0181 342 1973
7 Genotin Road
 - ESSEX 01376 501733
1 The Grove Centre, Witham
 - GUILDFORD 01483 36666
73b North Street
 - KINGSTON 0181 547 0717
43 Fife Road
 - LEICESTER 0116 255 7518
94 Granby Street
 - **new** MAIDSTONE 01622 686366
96 Week Street
 - **new** NORWICH 01603 767605
29/29A St Giles Street
 - OXFORD 01865 241773
41 St Clements
 - **new** READING 0118 959 7768
3 & 4 Kingswalk
 - TUNBRIDGE WELLS 01892 531543
28-30 St Johns Road
 - WATFORD OPEN SUNDAY 01923 213533
478 St Albans Road
 - WOOLWICH 0181 855 8016
162 Powis Street
 - WORCESTER 01905 612929
2 Reindeer Court
- Please telephone to verify price and availability before travelling.

SEVENOAKS 01732 459555

ABERDEEN 01224 587070

BARROW-IN-FURNESS 01229 838757

BEDFORD 01234 272779

BIRMINGHAM 0121 233 2977

BRIGHTON 01273 733338

BURY ST EDMUNDS 01284 753776

CHATHAM 01634 846859

CHELSEA 0171 352 9466

CHELTENHAM 01242 241171

CROYDON 0181 665 1203

ENFIELD 0181 342 1973

ESSEX 01376 501733

GUILDFORD 01483 36666

KINGSTON 0181 547 0717

LEICESTER 0116 255 7518

MAIDSTONE 01622 686366

NORWICH 01603 767605

OXFORD 01865 241773

READING 0118 959 7768

TUNBRIDGE WELLS 01892 531543

WATFORD 01923 213533 OPEN SUNDAY

WOOLWICH 0181 855 8016

WORCESTER 01905 612929

Quality at



ACOUSTIC ENERGY



Award winning Loudspeakers



ARCAM



Award winning Components

MUSICAL EXPRESSION PRODUCT SELECTION

quality hi fi with style and value for music connoisseurs

AMPLIFIERS

AMC		P.O.A.	
Arcam Alpha 7		£ 249.95	
Arcam Alpha 8P	Power	£ 249.95	
Arcam Alpha 8		£ 349.95	
Arcam Alpha 9P	Power	£ 399.95	
Arcam Alpha 9		£ 499.95	
Audiolab 8000A		£ 499.95	
Audiolab 8000C	Pre	£ 549.95	
Audiolab 8000S		£ 699.95	
Audiolab 8000P	Power	£ 749.95	
Audiolab 8000M (each)	Mono	£ 799.95	
Audiolab 8000PPA	Phono	£ 899.95	
Audiolab 8000Q	Pre	£ 1099.95	
Cyrus XPA	Power Supply	£ 299.95	
Cyrus PSXR	Power Supply	£ 329.95	
Cyrus SL		£ 399.95	
Cyrus	Power	£ 499.95	
Cyrus III i		£ 599.95	
Cyrus	Pre	£ 649.95	
Meridian 501	Pre	£ 694.95	
Meridian 555	Power	£ 749.95	
Meridian 551		£ 794.95	
Meridian 502	Pre	£ 1294.95	
Meridian 557	Power	£ 1399.95	
Micromega Minium		£ 349.95	
Pioneer A300R Precision		£ 399.95	
Quad 77 Int	Inc Remote	£ 849.95	
Quad 77	Power	£ 599.95	
Quad 77 Int	Ex Remote	£ 699.95	
Quad 77	Power	£ 799.95	
Quad 77	Pre Inc Remote	£ 849.95	
Rotel RQ970BX	Phono	£ 129.95	
Rotel RA930AX II		£ 149.95	
Rotel RA930BX		£ 199.95	
Rotel RA970BX		£ 249.95	
Rotel RC970BX II	Pre	£ 174.95	
Rotel RB970BX II	Power	£ 224.95	
MINI/MICRO			
Teac Ref 500	Ex Speakers	£ 799.95	
Yamaha Classic	Ex Speakers	£ 899.95	
CASSETTE DECKS			
Yamaha KX390		£ 149.95	
Yamaha KX580		£ 249.95	
Yamaha KXW392	Twin	£ 179.95	
HOME CINEMA			
A/Energy AE107C	Centre	£ 149.95	
Arcam Xeta Two	Processor	£ 649.95	
B&W CC3	Centre	£ 149.95	
B&W CC6	Centre	£ 199.95	
Cyrus AV Master	Processor	£ 699.95	

Cyrus MR3		£ 499.95	
Meridian 541		£ 1094.95	
Meridian 565 AC3		£ 2699.95	
Ruark Dialogue One	Centre	£ 289.95	
Yamaha DSP E390	Processor	£ 249.95	
Yamaha DSP E380	Processor	£ 449.95	
Yamaha DSP E1000	Processor	£ 699.95	
Yamaha DSP AS90	Amp	£ 349.95	
Yamaha DSP A780	Amp	£ 599.95	
Yamaha DSP A990	Amp	£ 899.95	
Yamaha DSP A2070	Amp	£ 1099.95	
Yamaha DSP A3090	Amp	£ 1699.95	
Yamaha RXV590	Receiver	£ 449.95	
Yamaha NSC60	Centre	£ 59.95	
Yamaha NSC105	Centre	£ 79.95	
Yamaha NSC80	Centre	£ 99.95	
Yamaha NSC150	Centre	£ 109.95	
Yamaha NSE60	Surround (Pr)	£ 79.95	
Yamaha NSE105	Surround (Pr)	£ 109.95	
Yamaha YSTS VW40	Sub	£ 139.95	
Yamaha YSTS VW80	Sub	£ 179.95	
Yamaha YSTS VW150	Sub	£ 279.95	
SPEAKERS			
Acoustic Energy AE100		£ 199.95	
Acoustic Energy AE109		£ 329.95	
B&W DM302		£ 129.95	
B&W DM305		£ 349.95	
B&W DM601		£ 199.95	
B&W DM602		£ 299.95	
B&W DM603		£ 499.95	
B&W CDM1		£ 599.95	
B&W P4		£ 674.95	
B&W P5		£ 874.95	
Castle Isis	(Deluxe extra)	£ 229.95	
Castle Tay	(Deluxe extra)	£ 329.95	
Castle Severn	(Deluxe extra)	£ 539.95	
Castle Avon	(Deluxe extra)	£ 699.95	
Castle Harlech	(Deluxe extra)	£ 849.95	
Castle Howard II	(Deluxe extra)	£ 1199.95	
Epos ES12		£ 499.95	
Epos ES22		£ 1184.95	
Meridian A500	(Blk)	£ 749.95	
Monitor Audio Monitor 1	(Blk)	£ 249.95	
Monitor Audio Monitor 2	(Blk)	£ 299.95	
Monitor Audio Monitor 3	(Blk)	£ 399.95	
Monitor Audio 700PMC	(Blk)	£ 599.95	
Monitor Audio 702PMC	(Blk)	£ 699.95	
Monitor Audio 703PMC	(Blk)	£ 799.95	
Monitor Audio 705PMC	(Blk)	£ 1399.95	
Monitor Audio Studio 2SE	(Blk)	£ 599.95	
Monitor Audio Studio 12	(Blk)	£ 999.95	

Monitor Audio Studio 20SE	(Blk)	£ 2199.95	
Monitor Audio Studio 50	(Blk)	£ 3999.95	
Monitor Audio Studio 60	(Blk)	£ 5999.95	
Quad 10L		£ 599.95	
Rogers DB101		£ 399.95	
Ruark Icon		£ 359.95	
Ruark Templar MkII		£ 559.95	
Ruark Sceptre		£ 599.95	
Ruark Talisman II		£ 749.95	
Ruark Prologue One		£ 799.95	
Ruark Crusader II		£ 1599.95	
TURNTABLES			
Michell Gyrodec/RB300		£ 967.95	
Project 0.5		£ 159.95	
Project 1		£ 199.95	
TUNERS			
Arcam Alpha 7		£ 229.95	
Arcam Alpha 8		£ 279.95	
Audiolab 8000T		£ 799.95	
Cyrus FM7		£ 399.95	
Meridian 504		£ 694.95	
Micromega Minium		£ 299.95	
Quad 77		£ 499.95	
CD PLAYERS			
AMC	P.O.A.	£ 319.95	
Arcam Alpha 7		£ 519.95	
Arcam Alpha 8		£ 599.95	
Audiolab 8000 CD		£ 999.95	
Audiolab 8000 CDM-96		£ 1399.95	
Audiolab 8000 DAC-96		£ 899.95	
Cyrus DAD3		£ 599.95	
Marantz CD63II K1 Signature		£ 499.95	
Meridian 506 20 bit		£ 1094.95	
Meridian 566 DAC		£ 1094.95	
Meridian 500 Transport		£ 1244.95	
Meridian 508 20 bit		£ 1684.95	
Micromega Minium		£ 349.95	
Micromega Stage 4		£ 539.95	
Micromega Stage 5		£ 749.95	
Micromega Stage 6		£ 949.95	
Micromega Drive 3 Transport		£ 999.95	
Micromega DAC		£ 749.95	
Musical Fidelity X10D		£ 99.95	
Pink Triangle	P.O.A.		
Pioneer PDR05 Recording CD		£ 1299.95	
Quad 77 Bus		£ 699.95	
Quad 77 Powered		£ 899.95	
Rotel RCD930AX		£ 179.95	
Rotel RCD950		£ 249.95	
Yamaha CDC555 Multi		£ 199.95	

Please telephone to verify price and availability before travelling. Offer valid until at least the end of January 1997 E&OE ©

0% FINANCE

Spread the cost of buying selected quality hi fi separates and loudspeakers with our 0% finance terms. Up to 24 months interest free.

Written details on request. 0% APR. Subject to status

- OPTION 1**
A minimum balance of £400 after a 10% deposit, followed by 6 equal monthly payments.
Example, Cost: £1000 Deposit: £100, followed by 6 equal Monthly Payments of: £150
- OPTION 2**
A minimum balance of £400 after a 25% deposit, followed by 9 equal monthly payments.
- OPTION 3**
A minimum balance of £400 after a 50% deposit, followed by 12 equal monthly payments.
- OPTION 4**
A minimum balance of £1000 after a 20% deposit, followed by 18 equal monthly payments.
- OPTION 5**
A minimum balance of £2000 after a 20% deposit, followed by 24 equal monthly payments.

0% Finance not available on price match.



SEVENOAKS 01732 459555

ABERDEEN 01224 587070

BARROW-IN-FURNESS 01229 838757

BEDFORD 01234 272779

BIRMINGHAM 0121 233 2977

BRIGHTON 01273 733338

BURY ST EDMUNDS 01284 753776

CHATHAM 01634 846859

CHELSEA 0171 352 9466

CHELTENHAM 01242 241171

CROYDON 0181 665 1203

ENFIELD 0181 342 1973

ESSEX 01376 501733

GUILDFORD 01483 36666

KINGSTON 0181 547 0717

LEICESTER 0116 255 7518

MAIDSTONE 01622 686366

NORWICH 01603 767605

OXFORD 01865 241773

READING 0118 959 7768

TUNBRIDGE WELLS 01892 531543

WATFORD 01923 213533 OPEN SUNDAY

WOOLWICH 0181 855 8016

WORCESTER 01905 612929

Free goods at



SALE NOW ON

Present this voucher to...
CLAIM FREE ACCESSORIES
(OR 0% FINANCE).

Purchase any of the products as advertised on this page and claim 20% of their value in free accessories.

(Headphones, interconnects, speaker cable, stands and racks).

Offer includes most models from GLL, KEF, DENON, KENWOOD, MORDAUNT SHORT, MARANTZ, MISSION, NAD, PIONEER, POLK, HARMAN, REL, TANNOY and TEAC.

0% Finance and Free Goods not available on price match.



ADDED VALUE PRODUCT SELECTION

the finest selection of quality hi fi for everyone's budget

AMPLIFIERS

Denon PMA250SE	£ 159.95
Denon PMA350SE	£ 199.95
Marantz PM66SE	£ 229.95
Nad 310	£ 99.95
Nad 312	£ 199.95
Nad 314	£ 259.95

MINI/MICROS

Denon DC1	inc spks	£ 379.95
Denon DM03	inc spks	£ 499.95
Denon DC30	inc spks	£ 499.95
Denon D77	ex spks	£ 649.95
Denon D77W	ex spks	£ 699.95
Denon DF07	ex spks	£ 649.95
Denon D99W	ex spks	£ 899.95
Denon DF10	ex spks	£ 999.95

CASSETTE DECKS

Denon DRM550	£ 159.95
Denon DRM650S	£ 229.95
Denon DRW580	Twin £ 199.95
Nad 613	£ 229.95
Nad 616	Twin £ 299.95
Pioneer CTS830S	£ 499.95

HOME CINEMA

Celestion HT in a box	Package	£ 749.95
Denon AVR900	Receiver	£ 349.95
Denon AVC77	Processor	£ 399.95
Denon LA2300	Laser Disc	£ 529.95
Harman AVR80	Receiver	£ 1499.95
JBL TLXAV5	Package	£ 374.95
Kef 60S	Surround (Pr)	£ 199.95
Kef 80C	Centre	£ 129.95
Kef 90	Centre	£ 259.95
Kef 100	Centre	£ 359.95
Kef 20B	Sub	£ 349.95
Kef 30B	Sub	£ 499.95
Mission 73S	Surround (Pr)	£ 99.95
Mission 73C	Centre	£ 149.95

Mission 75C	Centre	£ 249.95
Mission AV2	Package	£ 349.95
Mission 73AS	Sub	£ 449.95
Mission 75AS	Sub	£ 549.95
Mordaunt Short T1000	Centre	£ 239.95
Nad AV716	Receiver	£ 599.95
Polk M2	Surround (Pr)	£ 179.95
Polk CS250	Centre	£ 249.95
Polk RTFX	Surround (Pr)	£ 349.95
Polk RM5300	Package	£ 999.95
Rel Q50	Sub	£ 374.95
Rel Q100	Sub	£ 474.95
Rel Strata II	Sub	£ 574.95
Rel Storm	Sub	£ 694.95
Rel Stadium II	Sub	£ 994.95
Rel Stentor II	Sub	£ 1794.94
Tannoy 628	Surround (Pr)	£ 149.95
Wharfedale Valdus	Centre	£ 99.95

SPEAKERS

Kef Coda 7	£ 129.95
Kef Coda 8	£ 189.95
Kef Coda 9	£ 299.95
Mission 731i	£ 129.95
Mission 731LE	£ 149.95
Mission 732	£ 199.95
Mission 733	£ 329.95
Mission 734	£ 499.95
Mission 751f	(Deluxe extra) £ 349.95
Mission 752f	(Deluxe extra) £ 579.95
Mission 753f	(Deluxe extra) £ 799.95
Mission 754f	(Deluxe extra) £ 1299.95
Mordaunt Short MS05i	£ 99.95
Mordaunt Short MS10i	£ 139.95
Mordaunt Short MS20i	£ 199.95
Mordaunt Short MS10i Classic	£ 279.95
Mordaunt Short MS25i	£ 299.95
Polk RT3	£ 199.95
Polk RT5	£ 249.95

Polk RT8	£ 399.95
Tannoy Mercury M2	£ 139.95
Tannoy 631SE	£ 169.95
Tannoy 632 Profile Plus	£ 199.95
TDL RTL2 New	£ 279.95
TDL RTL3 New	£ 399.95

TURNABLES

Nad 533 inc. cart	£ 219.95
-------------------	----------

TUNERS

Denon TU260L	£ 119.95
Denon TU215RDS	£ 149.95
Denon TU425RDS	£ 199.95
Harman TU930	£ 149.95
Nad 412	£ 189.95
Nad 414RDS	£ 249.95

CD PLAYERS

Denon DCD425	£ 149.95
Denon DCD825	£ 239.95
Denon DCD1015	£ 349.95
Harman FL8300 Multi	£ 299.95
Harman HD710	£ 199.95
Marantz CD67SE	£ 349.95
Marantz CD17	£ 799.95
Marantz CD17 KI Signature	£ 1299.95
Nad 510	£ 199.95
Nad 512	£ 249.95
Nad 515 Multi	£ 349.95
Pioneer PDF605 Multi	£ 229.95
Pioneer PDF905 Multi	£ 399.95
Teac DT1 DAC	£ 449.95
Teac VRDST I Transport	£ 549.95
Teac VRD57	£ 649.95
Teac VRDS10SE	£ 849.95
Teac VRDS25	£ 1299.95

Offer valid until at least the end of January 1997 E&OE ©
Please telephone to verify price and availability before travelling.

SEVENOAKS 01732 459555

ABERDEEN 01224 587070

BARROW-IN-FURNESS 01229 838757

BEDFORD 01234 272779

BIRMINGHAM 0121 233 2977

BRIGHTON 01273 733338

BURY ST EDMUNDS 01284 753776

CHATHAM 01634 846859

CHELSEA 0171 352 9466

CHELTENHAM 01242 241171

CROYDON 0181 665 1203

ENFIELD 0181 342 1973

ESSEX 01376 501733

GUILDFORD 01483 36666

KINGSTON 0181 547 0717

LEICESTER 0116 255 7518

MAIDSTONE 01622 686366

NORWICH 01603 767605

OXFORD 01865 241773

READING 0118 959 7768

TUNBRIDGE WELLS 01892 531543

WATFORD 01923 213533 OPEN SUNDAY

WOOLWICH 0181 855 8016

WORCESTER 01905 612929

Superdeals at



SEVENOAKS SUPERDEALS PRODUCT SELECTION

fantastic hi fi bargains on many leading brands

AMPLIFIERS

Harman HK610	£179	£ 119.00
Kenwood KA3020SE	£199	£ 149.00
Marantz PM55SE	£249	£ 129.00
Pioneer A405R	£249	£ 179.00
Rotel RA920AX	£119	£ 99.00
Sansui - Amps from		£ 89.95
Sony TAF246E	£199	£ 159.00
Sony TAF448E	£249	£ 199.00
Sony TAF43ES	£399	£ 319.00
Technics SUA900 MkII	£449	£ 359.00

MINI/MICROS

Mention this magazine to claim these special mini/micro prices - inclusive of any cash back or similar manufacturers promotion when applicable.

Aiwa XRM6 inc spks	£349	£ 269.00
Aiwa LCX100 inc spks	£149	£ 129.00
Aiwa LCX300 inc spks	£199	£ 169.00
Aiwa LCX600 inc spks	£249	£ 219.00
Aiwa NSXV100 inc spks	£199	£ 169.00
Aiwa NSXV710 inc spks	£299	£ 239.00
Aiwa NSXV800 inc spks	£349	£ 279.00
Aiwa NSXAV70 inc spks	£399	£ 329.00
Aiwa NSXAV90 inc spks	£499	£ 399.00
JVC Adagio D4T inc spks	£329	£ 249.00
JVC Adagio D7T inc spks	£399	£ 319.00
JVC Adagio D8T inc spks	£499	£ 399.00
JVC UXD66 inc spks	£379	£ 329.00
JVC UX1000 inc spks	£269	£ 229.00
Philips FW692P inc spks	£599	£ 499.00
Pioneer N460G inc spks	£399	£ 319.00
Pioneer N560M inc spks	£449	£ 359.00
Pioneer N760M inc spks	£599	£ 479.00

Sony MHC801 inc spks	£399	£ 299.00
Sony MHC881 inc spks	£449	£ 359.00
Sony MHC991AV inc spks	£549	£ 439.00
Sony MDT5 inc spks	£599	£ 469.00

CASSETTE DECKS

Kenwood KXW4080Twin	£159	£ 129.00
Pioneer CTS250	£149	£ 99.00
Pioneer CTW205R Twin	£159	£ 129.00
Pioneer CTS550S	£249	£ 179.00
Sansui - Cassette Decks from		£ 79.95
Sony TCKE400S	£179	£ 139.00
Sony TCK661S	£299	£ 239.00
Sony TCKA6ES	£549	£ 439.00
Teac V610	£99	£ 79.00
Teac W416 Twin	£99	£ 79.00
Technics RSBX501K	£199	£ 159.00
Technics RSTR474 Twin	£219	£ 179.00

HOME CINEMA

Harman AV1100 (Amp)	£249	£ 149.00
JBL MR (Cntr)	£99	£ 59.00
Kenwood KRV7080 (Rec)	£379	£ 279.00
Pioneer VSX505RDS (Rec)	£299	£ 229.00
Pioneer CLD-D515-1	£549	£ 469.00
Pioneer CLD-D925 LD	£799	£ 669.00
Polk PSW100 (Sub)	£499	£ 269.00
Sansui RZ5110 (Rec)		£ 189.95
Sansui AV7100 (Amp)		£ 249.95
Sony TAV48ES (Amp)	£699	£ 569.00
Tannoy 625ALF (Sub)	£599	£ 269.00
Technics SAEX300 (Rec)	£249	£ 199.00
Technics SAEX700 (Rec)	£449	£ 359.00
Yamaha RXV390 (Rec)	£299	£ 199.00

SPEAKERS

JBL Control One	£199	£ 99.00
Sony SSI76E	£199	£ 159.00

Sony SSI76EB	£249	£ 199.00
Tangent 3 (Blk)		£ 59.00
Tangent 5 (Blk)		£ 79.00
Tangent 9 (Blk)		£ 149.00
Tangent 11 (Blk)		£ 179.00

TUNERS

Kenwood KT2080RDS	£129	£ 99.00
Pioneer F204RDS	£139	£ 99.00
Sansui - Tuners from		£ 69.95
Sony STS261	£139	£ 119.00
Sony STSE700	£179	£ 149.00
Sony STSA3ES	£249	£ 199.00

CD PLAYERS

Kenwood DPR4080 Multi	£179	£ 139.00
Kenwood DP3080	£169	£ 129.00
Kenwood DP7090	£399	£ 319.00
Marantz CD46	£149	£ 119.00
Marantz CD67	£269	£ 219.00
Marantz CD63SE	£349	£ 269.00
Philips CD601		£ 69.00
Pioneer PDS505	£199	£ 149.00
Pioneer PDS705	£299	£ 199.00
Sansui - CD Players from		£ 79.95
Sony CDP361	£149	£ 109.00
Sony CDPXE300	£139	£ 109.00
Sony CDP761E	£249	£ 199.00
Sony CDPXE900E	£299	£ 239.00
Sony MDSJE500 Mini Disc	£299	£ 259.00
Sony CDPXC200 Multi	£379	£ 319.00
Technics SLPG480AK	£139	£ 109.00
Technics SLPG580AK	£159	£ 129.00

NB - Limited stocks on some models. Please telephone to verify price and availability before travelling. Offer valid until at least the end of January 1997 E&OE ©

SEVENOAKS PRICE PROMISE

We always try to ensure that our prices are competitive. However, in the unlikely event an authorised dealer within 30 miles advertises an identical product as available from stock at a lower price, even in a sale, we will match that price!

STAFF WANTED

A Career in Hi Fi?
Please write to the personnel department at Sevenoaks Head Office including a recent photograph and CV.

0% Finance and Free Goods not available with 'Superdeals'.



SEVENOAKS 01732 459555
 ABERDEEN 01224 587070
 BARROW-IN-FURNESS 01229 838757
 BEDFORD 01234 272779
 BIRMINGHAM 0121 233 2977
 BRIGHTON 01273 733338

BURY ST EDMUNDS 01284 753776
 CHATHAM 01634 846859
 CHELSEA 0171 352 9466
 CHELTENHAM 01242 241171
 CROYDON 0181 665 1203
 ENFIELD 0181 342 1973

ESSEX 01376 501733
 GUILDFORD 01483 36666
 KINGSTON 0181 547 0717
 LEICESTER 0116 255 7518
 MAIDSTONE 01622 686366
 NORWICH 01603 767605

OXFORD 01865 241773
 READING 0118 959 7768
 TUNBRIDGE WELLS 01892 531543
 WATFORD 01923 213533 OPEN SUNDAY
 WOOLWICH 0181 855 8016
 WORCESTER 01905 612929

Dealer Guide

BERKSHIRE

B&B Hi-Fi
Berkshire's Leading Specialist

Aiwa, Akai, Alphason, Aura, Bang & Olufsen, Beyer, Bose, B+W, Canon, Castle, Celestion, Denon, Dual, Jamo, JPW, JVC, Kef, Kenwood, Marantz, Micromega, Mission, Mitsubishi, Monitor Audio, Mordaunt/Short, Musical Fidelity, NAD, Nakamichi, Panasonic, Path, Philips, Pioneer, Project, QED, Quad, Rel, Rogers, Rotel, Sennheiser, Sony, Tannoy, Target, Technics, TDK, Thorens, Wessex, Wharfedale, Yamaha.

Ask about **FREE delivery & FREE installation**

11-12 Market Place, Reading* Tel: 01734 583730
18 King Street, Maidenhead* Tel: 01628 73420
Princess Square, Bracknell* Tel: 01344 424556
4 Priory Road, High Wycombe Tel: 01494 535910
62 Northbrook Street, Newbury Tel: 01635 32474
12a Park Square, Luton* Tel: 01582 459915

***DEMONSTRATION ROOMS**

-Fraser's-
HI-FI VIDEO
AUDIO & VIDEO SPECIALISTS

PIONEER ★ DENON ★ YAMAHA
ONKYO ★ NAD ★ KEF ★ MISSION
QUAD ★ MUSICAL FIDELITY
HOME CINEMA SPECIALIST

Unit 32, Observatory Centre, High Street,
Slough, Berkshire SL1 1LE
Tel: (01753) 531875

LAKES
FOR BETTER HI-FI IN THE THAMES VALLEY

Agents for:
TECHNICS, KENWOOD, ROTEL, NAKAMICHI, B&W, MORDAUNT SHORT, SONY, PANASONIC, MITSUBISHI, PHILIPS, AIWA, J.V.C., WHARFEDALE, INFINITY

FREE DELIVERY • DEM ROOMS AT*

37 Stoke Road, Slough SL2 5AH (01753) 538287
252/254 High Street, Slough SL1 1BN (01753) 538288*
117/119 Oxford Road, High Wycombe HP11 2DN (01494) 528605*
9 Market Street, Aylesbury HP20 2PN (01296) 25119*
11 West Street, Marlow, Bucks SL7 2LF (01628) 483555
83 High Street, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 1JX (01628) 778611
11 Princess Square, Bracknell, Berks RG12 1LS (01344) 869898

BIRMINGHAM

MUSIC MATTERS
THE AUDIO SPECIALISTS

Latest additions to our extensive range of products include Audio Research, Theta, Dynaudio, and Sonus Faber. The Midlands' best HiFi store also offers the latest from B&W, Orelle, DPA, Musical Fidelity, Ruark, TEAC, Meridian, CYRUS, Yamaha and KEF.

WE TAKE: INTEREST FREE CREDIT AVAILABLE

DEMONSTRATIONS BY APPOINTMENT OPENING TIMES: TUES-SAT 10.00-5.30 Thursday 10.00-7.00	363 Hagley Road, Edgbaston Birmingham B17 8DL Tel: 0121 429 2811 FAX: 0121 434 3298	93-95 Hobs Moat Road, Solihull B92 8JL (near the ice rink) Tel: 0121 742 0254 FAX: 0121 742 3471	156-157 Lower High Street, Stourbridge DY8 Tel: 01384 444184 FAX: 01384 444968
---	--	---	---

EX-DEMONSTRATION SALE - CALL EDGBASTON BRANCH FOR DETAILS

Classified

Norman H. Field Hi-Fi

Consultants for Home High Fidelity

- B & W
- Denon
- Castle
- Dual
- Mordaunt-Short
- Technics
- Thorens
- Tannoy
- Yamaha
- Kenwood

NAD

Two-year guarantee
Private Listening Rooms

**HURST STREET
BIRMINGHAM B5 4BJ
Telephone: 0121-622 2323**

BATH/BRISTOL

VA AUDIO
35 Druid Hill
Stoke Bishop
Bristol BS9 1LJ
Tel: 0117 9284008

ATC, AVI, Acoustic Energy, Alon, Audiomeca, AMC, Cadence Valve, Chord AMPS, Electronic Companiet, Harmon Kardon, Heybrook, Jamo, Lyra, Ortofon, Perception, Pink Triangle, Ruark, Michell, REL, Sansui, SME (inc. 20A), Sonic Link, Stax, Sugden, Sumiko, Townsend, Triangle, Wadia

ACUSTIC ENGINEERS INTERNATIONAL

BUCKS

Hazlemere Audio
CONSULTANTS

OUR AIM is to help music lovers increase their enjoyment of music in their homes. To listen to the beautiful music produced by the world's finest audio equipment call for an appointment, day or evening: High Wycombe (01494) 437892

ALCHEMIST, ARION, ART AUDIO, AUDIOMECA, BASIS B.A.T, CLASSE, E.A.D. FANFARE, KORA, L.F.D, LUMLEY, MIRAGE, MUSE, NOTTINGHAM ANALOGUE, ORTOFON, TEAC, TRIANGLE, TRICHORD, TRILOGY, V.P.I., S.D. ACOUSTICS, STRAIGHTWIRE, V.A.C, WADIA.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

University Audio
HI-FI SPECIALISTS

MAIN AGENTS FOR:
A.T.C. • AVI • QUAD • DENON • MISSION
• ROTEL • MARANTZ • YAMAHA •
MERIDIAN • DENSEN • LINN

3 DEMO ROOMS

TELEPHONE: 01223 354237
FACSIMILE: 01223 322079

CHESHIRE

• TECHNICS • PIONEER • MARANTZ • T.D.L. • TANNOY • IXOS •

Who's Best in Home Cinema?
and MINI SYSTEMS - LASER DISC - SATELLITE - NICAM VIDEO - C.D.V. -
DOLBY PRO-LOGIC TV - HI-FI SEPARATES - LOUDSPEAKERS - CABLES - STANDS

We are: **WARRINGTON** **CHESTER**

WARRINGTON AV
106 BRIDGE STREET
WARRINGTON
TEL: 01925 636215

CHESTER AV
47 ST. WERBURGH ROW
CHESTER
TEL: 01244 320414

AUDIO-VISUAL

• MITSUBISHI • JAMO • MISSION • CELESTION • ATACAM • BOSE •

P
A
N
A
S
O
N
I
C

S
E
N
N
H
E
I
S
E
R

HI FI CHOICE
your No. 1 guide to buying Hi Fi

Dealer Guide

CHESHIRE

4 West Street
Alderley Edge
Cheshire SK9 7EG
Tel: 01625 582704 • Fax: 01625 586285



SPRING SALE

SPEAKERS:	Guide New Price:	Sale Price:
XD AURA SP50	399.00	199.00
SH CELESTION DL6 MK2	250.00	119.00
XD KEF 30B SUBWOOFER	500.00	375.00
XD KEF60S SURROUNDS	200.00	150.00
XD KEF 80C CENTRE	130.00	99.00
XD KEF CDDA 9	300.00	225.00
XD KEF REF MODEL 2	1800.00	1350.00
XD KEF Q10	230.00	179.00
XD KEF Q30	380.00	285.00
XD KEF Q50	530.00	399.00
SH LINN Index Mk 1 + Stands	250.00	150.00
SH RIAK Sabre MK2	250.00	149.00
XD SOLID Monitor	250.00	199.00
XD SOLID Team	140.00	99.00
XD MISSION 731	130.00	99.00
XD MISSION 751 BLACK	300.00	240.00
XD MISSION 751 ROSEWOOD	330.00	260.00
XD MISSION 752 BLACK	500.00	400.00
XD MISSION 753 ROSEWOOD	800.00	650.00
XD MONITOR AUDIO MA14/2	500.00	375.00
XD NAIM CREDO	1000.00	750.00
XD NAIM INTRO	600.00	450.00
XD NAIM SBL (inc x over)	1875.00	1399.00
XD TDL RTL2	300.00	225.00
AMPLIFIERS:		
XD AURA VA100 MK2	350.00	249.00
XD AUDIOLAB 8000A	500.00	375.00
XD AUDIOLAB 8000C PRE-AMP	550.00	419.00
XD AUDIOLAB 8000M MONOBLOC (each)	600.00	400.00
XD AUDIOLAB 8000Q PRE-AMP	1100.00	825.00
XD CYRUS THREE	100.00	375.00
XD MUSICAL FIDELITY E10	300.00	199.00
XD MUSICAL FIDELITY E200 PRE-AMP	600.00	449.00
XD MUSICAL FIDELITY E300 POWER AMP	700.00	499.00
XD NAD 302	180.00	149.00
XD NAIM FLATCAP POWER SUPPLY	670.00	500.00
SH NAIM Nait 1 mm	350.00	199.00
XD NAIM NAC 72 PRE-AMP	690.00	519.00
XD NAIM NAC82 PRE-AMP	2060.00	1550.00
XD NAIM NAC92 PRE-AMP	450.00	339.00
XD NAIM NAIT 3	550.00	419.00
XD NAIM NAP180 POWER	1000.00	750.00
XD NAIM NAP250 POWER	1580.00	1179.00
XD NAIM NAP90 POWER	450.00	325.00
XD NAIM NAC62 PRE-AMP	450.00	349.00
SH QED A270	350.00	199.00
XD QUAD 77	650.00	499.00
XD ROTEL RC980 PRE-AMP	375.00	279.00
XD ROTEL RB980 POWER AMP	475.00	349.00
XD ROTEL RQ970BX PHONO EQUALISER	130.00	99.00
XD ROTEL RA930AX AMP	150.00	119.00
XD ROTEL RB930BX AMP	200.00	150.00
XD ROTEL RA935BX AMP	250.00	189.00
XD ROTEL RB965 6CE POWER AMP	325.00	249.00
XD ROTEL RC970 PRE-AMP	175.00	129.00
COMPACT DISC PLAYERS:		
XD ARCAM Alpha 1	300.00	225.00
XD ARCAM Alpha 5 Plus	470.00	350.00
XD ARCAM Alpha 6 Plus	600.00	450.00
XD ARCAM Delta 250 transport	800.00	599.00
XD ARCAM Delta BR50 DAC	500.00	349.00
XD ARCAM Delta BR500 DAC	750.00	569.00
XD ARCAM DELTA 270	800.00	599.00
XD AUDIOLAB 8000 CDM TRANSPORT	1400.00	1099.00
XD AUDIOLAB 8000 DAC	900.00	699.00
XD CYRUS DAD 7	900.00	720.00
XD MERIDIAN 563 BAC	795.00	599.00
XD MICROMEGA STAGE ONE	550.00	419.00
XD MICROMEGA STAGE THREE	890.00	749.00
XD MUSICAL FIDELITY E60	300.00	199.00
XD MUSICAL FIDELITY E600	600.00	449.00
XD NAIM CD2	2000.00	1500.00
XD NAIM CD3	975.00	729.00
XD NAKAMICHI CD4	380.00	249.00
XD ROTEL RCD 965BX	300.00	199.00
SYSTEMS:		
SH ARCAM Alpha CD + Amp2 + Tuner2	700.00	349.00
TUNERS:		
SH ARCAM Delta 280	400.00	200.00
XD ARCAM Delta 280	400.00	300.00
XD CYRUS FM7	400.00	320.00
XD MUSICAL FIDELITY E500	549.00	349.00
XD NAIM NAT02	1030.00	779.00
HOME CINEMA:		
XD ARCAM XETA ONE	1000.00	750.00
XD NAIM AVI PROCESSOR	1600.00	1200.00

SH/SEC(ON)HAND) XD (Ex display) PP(Private sale)
ACCESS/VISA/SWITCH. Three months guarantee on SH/XD
(No guarantee on items marked*) Demonstrations not available
on items on this list E&OF

CUMBRIA



**CUMBRIA'S
LEADING HI-FI
SPECIALIST**

Demos and Part Exchange Welcome
Advice, selection, sales, installation and service.

6 ABBEY STREET, CARLISLE (01228) 46756

HERTFORDSHIRE

David Orton AUDIO VISUAL

Stockists of

Arcam, Audio Innovations, Audioquest,
Aura, Beyer, B&W, Bose, Celestion, Cyrus,
Denon, Heybrook, Marantz, Mission, Moth,
Musical Fidelity, Nakamichi, Ortolon,
Pioneer, Pro-Ject, REL, Rotel, Royd, Ruark,
Sennheiser, Systemdek, Target, Thorens,
Van den Hul & more!

Expert friendly service: Listening room
Pioneer Reference Point

6 Bancroft, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1JQ
Tel/Fax 01462 452248

ESSEX



Akai • Alphason • Arcam* • B&W • Bang & Olufsen • Bose • Celestion •
Dual • Harman Kardon • Kenwood • Quad* • Marantz • Mordaunt-Short •
NAD • Nakamichi* • Pioneer • Ruark • Sony • Wharfedale • Yamaha •
* Epping and Saffron Walden only

148 HIGH STREET • EPPING • TEL: (01992) 574242
26 KING STREET • SAFFRON WALDEN • ESSEX • TEL: (01799) 523728
70 SOUTH STREET BISHOP'S STORTFORD • HERTS • TEL: (01279) 656401

GRAYSTON sound&vision

Comfortable demo rooms
Free delivery/installation
Home trials
Musical evenings
Excellent credit facilities
available

LINN QUAD
MERIDIAN
ARCAM B&W
BOSTON
J.B.L.
PHILIPS
THORENS
DENON
ROTEL
RUARK
KEF
PIONEER
INFINITY

33 Sir Isaac's Walk, Colchester. Tel 01206 577682

HERTFORDSHIRE

The Audio File

Specialists in excellence

FOR THE BEST IN BRITISH HI-FI
& HOME CINEMA ENTERTAINMENT

VISIT OR CALL TO ARRANGE A
DEMONSTRATION WITH PRODUCTS FROM:
• AUDIO LAB • MICROMEGA • KEF
• ARCAM • MISSION • SONY
• LINN • NAIM • YAMAHA
• REGA • CYRUS • REL
• QUAD • RUARK
• DENON
• LOEWE • ABSOLUTE SOUNDS • PRO-AC
27 Hockerill Street, Bishop's Stortford, Herts
Tel: (01279) 506576 - Fax: (01279) 506638
41 Victoria Road, Cambridge
Tel: (01223) 68505 - Fax: (01223) 545975

HUMBERSIDE

Lend us your ears and
we'll blow your mind...

Audio Innovations, B & W, Celestion, Denon,
Kenwood, Kef, Marantz, Meridian, Michell,
Micromega, Mission, Mordaunt-Short, NAD,
Nakamichi, Pioneer, Panasonic, Quad, Rotel,
Sony, Tannoy, Technics, Wadia
and more.

Audition the very best at South Humberside's
premier Hi-Fi dealer...

MANDERS
HI-FI LTD.

2-4 EDWARD STREET (Off Pasture St.)
GRIMSBY. TEL: (01472) 351391

KENT

ELECTRICAL DISCOUNT CENTRE
SALES & SERVICE

JVC AKAI
Technics
PIONEER
B&W jama
marantz
PRO LOGIC
plus many more...

BRANCHES AT
The Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent. Tel: (0181) 298 7880. Fax: (01474) 535 937
138 Pelham Rd, Gravesend, Kent. Tel: (01474) 326600. Fax: (01474) 589601

IRELAND

Hearing is Believing

CLONEY
Audio

30 years of Excellence

55 Main Street,
Blackrock,
Dublin.

Tel: (01) 2889449/2888477

Open: Tues - Sat 10 am to 6 pm.
Thur - Fri 10 am to 6 pm.

Arcam
B&W
Audiolab
Castle
Meridian
Classé
Rega
Marantz
Epos
Technics
Sony
REL

Classified

Dealer Guide

WEST MIDLANDS



SOUTH AUDIO ACADEMY

Audio Equipment from leading and specialist brands for you to listen to and choose from.

Tel: 01922 493499/473499

- 3 Hi-Fi Studios
- Home Trials
- Home Cinema Theatre
- Audio Visual Equipment
- Inhouse Service Department
- Mail order available
- Interest Free Credit (On Selected Items. APR0%-written details on request)

Hi-Fi for those with an eye for Quality



WE ARE HERE
Sharing the ASDA Carpark with ample free parking. Off High Street, Walsall, West Midlands. Open 6 Days, 9am - 6pm. Late night Friday.

THE FIRST MIDLAND SPECIALIST FOR NAIM ARCAM AUDIO LAB CHORD KESWICK RESEARCH ALSO: APOLLO A.T. AUDIO ALCHEMY AUDIO QUEST B&W BOSE BEYER CABLE TALK CHORD COMPANY CYRUS CELESTION DPA EPOS EXPOSURE KEF REFERENCE KENWOOD MARANTZ MICHELL MORDAUNT SHORT MERIDIAN MICROMEGA MISSION MOTH MUSICAL FIDELITY NAKAMICHI ORTOFON PROJECT QUAD ROKSAN ROGERS ROTEL SENNHEISER SONY SUMIKO SYSTEMDEK TARGET TDL TUBE TECHNOLOGY VAN DEN HUL YAMAHA

SALES & SERVICES

LUXURY LOUDSPEAKERS



THE BANDOR 'TRIDENT'

THE BANDOR "TRIDENT"

The Bandor "Trident" Loudspeaker, is a triple cabinet, ultra compact, full range system, that is styled to be both discrete yet attractive, in almost any environment. Breathtaking clarity and openness from the tiniest real hi-fi system around. - truly exceptional.

DESIGN (J. Powell - 1995)
Retail price £789.00p vat included



BANDOR
MINIATURE LOUDSPEAKERS
DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE OF MINIATURE LOUDSPEAKERS AND SYSTEMS

DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT STUDIO
11 PENFOLD COTTAGES
PENFOLD LANE
HOLMER GREEN
BUCKS, HP15 6XR
Tel / Fax: (01494) 714058



"PICTURES" by BANDOR

Pictures are slim, attractive, wall-mounted loudspeakers, only 2 inches thick, offering superb sound quality.

Pictures contain an advanced driver, with spun aluminium cone, in a cabinet with a ceramic front, allowing their use in steamy environments such as kitchens and bathrooms, whilst being equally suitable in surround systems. DESIGN (J. Powell - 1994)

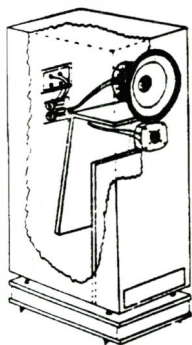
Very high quality --- very small. Banish mediocre extension speakers forever!

Retail one pair £329 vat included.

For more information on these and other Bandor systems please send a 50p stamp for brochure.

LOUDSPEAKERS

SPEAKER KITS FROM I.P.L. ACOUSTICS



The M3-TL, S3TL, S4TL and S5TL are superb Hi-Fi Transmission Lines using excellent SEAS, IPL, Audax and MOREL drive units to achieve sound quality and bass extension which is equivalent to speakers costing in the range of £700 - £2000. The kits include sturdy cast chassis bass units, quality textile dome tweeters, quality crossover components for hardwiring, grille material, acoustic foam, T-nuts and bolts. Dual terminals for BIWIRING, spikes and assembly plans and instructions.

- M3TL - 5.0" bass unit, cab size 810 x 186 x 210mm £178.00 + £6.50 p&p
- S3TL - 6.5" bass unit, cab size 903 x 230 x 350mm £187.50 + £6.50 p&p
- S4TL - 8.0" bass unit, cab size 960 x 275 x 400mm £216.00 + £7.50 p&p
- S5TL - 10" bass 6" mid., cab size 1080 x 320 x 400 £383.00 + £7.50 p&p

Plain or veneered MDF Cab kits also available. Please phone for details, or

Send cheque or PO to: **I.P.L. ACOUSTICS**

2 Laverton Road, Westbury, Wiltshire BA13 3RS. Tel: 01373 823333

ALTERNATIVELY send 38p S.A.E for 36-page SPEAKER BUILDING CATALOGUE comprising: VALUABLE ADVICE on DESIGNING & BUILDING speakers, and full technical specs, including response curves of eight speaker kits, drive units, cables and quality accessories.

KIT LOUDSPEAKERS

HI-FI ACCESSORIES

Wilmslow Audio

WIDE RANGE OF HI-FI EQUIPMENT
Drive units and Kit loudspeakers

ATC, Coles, Dynaudio, KEF, Morel, Peerless, R.C.L., Scanspeak, Seas, Spectra Dynamics, Volt. Over 30 kits. 4 demonstration rooms.

No appts necessary. Closed Mondays

Send for free catalogue. Major Credit Cards accepted

50 Main St, Broughton, Astley
Leicester LE9 6RD. Dept HFC
Tel (01455) 286603 • Fax (01455) 286605

KLIPSCH

Horn loudspeakers - a legend in sound for over 50 years, KLIPSCH hi-efficiency speakers are used in many studios, top hi-fi and stage systems.

FOR DETAILS CALL

(0121) 430 7817

To find out more about advertising in the finest HiFi magazine in the world, call Gina Cady on (0171) 917 3935

EX-DEMO

Audio Designs of East Grinstead

Hi-Fi, Home Cinema & Multi-Room Specialists

AUDIO DESIGNS SPECIAL OFFERS

PRODUCT	STATUS	WAS	NOW	PRODUCT	STATUS	WAS	NOW
Arcam Alpha 5+cd	xd/new	480	339/369	Linn Kairn (Phono)	xd/used	1700	1360/1190
Arcam Alpha 71cd	xd/new	300	239/269	Linn Klout	xd/used	2400	1800/1620
Arcam DB90B950	xd	1280	969	Linn Numark	xd/used	1500	1075/959
Arcam BB500	xd	750	599	Linn Kremlin	xd	2600	1759
Audiolab 8000c	xd	550	459	Linn Keilidh	xd	Various	Please call
Audiolab CDM	xd	1400	999	Linn Keltik	xd	6000	4485
Audiolab DAC	xd	900	720	Marantz CD10	xd	1199	699
Cyrus III	xd/new	500	399/439	Mission 752 (Oak)	xd	578	438
Cyrus III	shand	500	325	Mission 753	xd	700	559
Cyrus PSX	xd	328	268	Naim Nait 3	xd	550	455
Cyrus Disc/DAC	xd/new	1500	1300/1500	Naim CD3	xd	977	799
Cyrus DAD 7	new	900	720	Naim 52 pre	xd	447	368
Cyrus FM7	xd	398	338	Naim 90 pwr	xd	427	352
Castle Chester	xd	700	559	Naim CDS	xd	3751	2799
Epos ES11	xd	445	319	Naim CDI	new	1997	1647
Harman AVP2 Processor	xd	799	599	Quad66 Tuner	xd	554	399
Limco Centre 100	used	200	69	Quad ESL33	xd	3450	
KEF Model 2	xd	1499	1199	RegaXEL	xd	1040	649
Linn Majik (Phono)	xd	800	640	REL Stentor (Oak)	xd	1695	1355
Linn Majik (Line)	xd	650	549	Sony MDP 850 (laser disc)	new/xd	750	685/625
Linn LK100	xd	650	499	StaxSR34	xd	1700	138

Authorised Stockists of: ARCAM, AUDIOLAB, CASTLE, CHORD CO., CYRUS, EPOS, LINN, MARANTZ, MISSION, NAIM, QUAD, REL, ROTEL, SONY, SOUNDSTYLE, STANDS UNIQUE, TARGET, YAMAHA & MORE

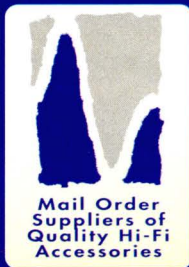
26 High Street, East Grinstead,
West Sussex, RH19 3AS
Open Mon-Sat 9.30-6.00.
Tel: 01342 314569/328065

Classified

Dealer Guide

SALES & SERVICES

MAIL ORDER



SOUND CONNECTIONS

TEL/FAX:
0151 348 1988

Tel/Fax/E-Mail
For Our Latest
Product & Price List.

**DNM RESON • VAN DEN HUL • CHORD CO
CARDAS • NORDOST • SONIC LINK
AUDIO QUEST • QED • TARGET
SENNHEISER • STAX • XLO
ORTOFON • AUDIO ALCHEMY
STANDS UNIQUE • LYRA
MUSICAL FIDELITY**
- and many more

52 Green Lane, Great Sutton,
South Wirral, Cheshire L66 4LE.

WE
OFFER A
HOME TRIAL
SERVICE
ON SELECTED
RANGES OF
CABLES &
ACCESSORIES

E-Mail: sound.connections@dial.pipex.com
Mon-Fri 9.30 a.m.-8.00p.m. (Sat to 1p.m.)

"THIS IS THE BEST SUB £1000 SPEAKER
CABLE WE HAVE TESTED" ...HI-FI CHOICE



"A FRESH, TRANSPARENT SOUNDING
INTERCONNECT PACKED FULL OF DETAIL"
(DNM RESON) ...HI-FI CHOICE.

MAIL ORDER

IAN HARRISON HI-FI

TEL: 01283 702875
9am - 9pm

SPECIAL OFFERS:

SENNHEISER HD5650	110.00
SENNHEISER HD265L	110.00
SENNHEISER HD535	78.00
SENNHEISER HD580P	160.00
AKG K240M	55.00
AKG K240DF	70.00
SONY MDRCD550	45.00
BEYER DT531	105.00
BEYER DT911	185.00

TEST CASSETTES

HARRISON MULTI-PURPOSE	20.00
HARRISON AZIMUTH	7.50
HARRISON SPEED	7.50

TEST CD's

DENON AUDIO-TECHNICAL	15.00
HIFI NEWS TEST CD 3	13.00
DENON ANECHOIC ORCHESTRAL	30.00

SURROUND SOUND CD's

TELARC 20 BIT	12.50
DELOS 2CD	12.50

TEST RECORDS (VINYL!)

HIFI NEWS TEST RECORD	15.00
-----------------------	-------

LIMITED QUANTITIES

I ALSO SUPPLY: CARTRIDGES, TONEARMS, TURNTABLES, CD PLAYERS, CASSETTE DECKS, DAT, MINIDISC, DCC, CDR, AMPLIFIERS, TUNERS, CABLES, HIFI FURNITURE, MICROPHONES, BLANK TAPES, TRANSFORMERS, CARTRIDGE ALIGNMENT GAUGES, TRACKING FORCE GAUGES, GENERAL ACCESSORIES.

PLEASE PHONE FOR SPECIFIC PRICES, DETAILS OR ADVICE

POSTAGE: (U.K.): TEST CASSETTES, CD's & LP: FREE. CARTRIDGES: FREE. ALL OTHER ITEMS: £5. OVERSEAS: £10. ON ALL ITEMS. • ALL PRODUCTS ARE BRAND NEW & BOXED WITH FULL U.K. GUARANTEES. NO EX-DEM OR EX-DISPLAY OR GREY IMPORT GOODS. PLEASE PHONE TO CONFIRM PRICE & AVAILABILITY PRIOR TO ORDERING

MAIL ORDER ONLY FROM: IAN HARRISON HI-FI, 7 MILL HILL, REPTON, DERBY, DE65 6GQ. TEL: (U.K.) 01283 702875 9am-9pm

PRE-OWNED

HEATHERDALE AUDIO LTD

HEATHERDALE PRE-OWNED GUARANTEED EQUIPMENT. EXPORT FACILITIES AVAILABLE

MICRO SEIKI DDK-1000 turntable, excellent.....	£595	MONITOR C28 Pre amp (mint).....	£795
KOETSU Onyx MC phono cartridge.....	£495	ROYD 47 Series II Loudspeakers.....	£75
VOYD Reference Turntable (Large Motor).....	£4695	TRANSPARENT Ultra interconnect 15ft pair.....	£1395
TEAC F700 CD Transport MINT/Boxed.....	£695	TRANSPARENT Ultra interconnect 1mtr. pair.....	£350
AUDIO NOTE DAC 4 MINT/Boxed.....	£3995	TRANSPARENT Ultra hi-wire sp. cable 12 set.....	£2195
CLEARAUDIO Insider Cartridge (Low Hours).....	£1995	TRANSPARENT Phono cable 2.5 mtrs.....	£395
B&W 808 Loudspeakers.....	£1995	GENESIS model III speakers, mint.....	£2495
EMT TSD15 MC Cartridge NEW/Boxed.....	£995	JADIDeity 7 stereo amp. mint.....	£3695
APOGEE Caliper Loudspeakers.....	£990	AUDIO RESEARCH DAC 1 Mint.....	£995
STUDER A807 Pro. tape recorder MINT.....	£3730	ACOUSTIC RESEARCH 2-ax speakers (rosewood).....	£195
CONRAD-JOHNSON Premier Eight valve Monos.....	£995	PRO-AC Response One S (ex demo).....	£995
AUDIO RESEARCH L22z Hybrid Line Pre (£3990) £2250		QUAD 34 Pre-amp MINT.....	£195
SOLISTICE A40 speakers with stands.....	£650	QUAD 405 Mini Power Amp MINT.....	£200
MANDRAKE Cable Balanced 1.5mtr set.....	£195	MUSICAL FIDELITY 2A pre-amp with phono.....	£250
MANDRAKE Cable Balanced 0.5mtr set.....	£195	LUXMAN MQ 3600 KT 88 stereo power amplifier.....	£295
GARRARD 401 turntable in Slate Plinth.....	£395	MARK LEVINSON ML3 dual mono Pre-amp, rare.....	£2495
KLIPSCH Klipschorn Loudspeakers.....	£2195	MARK LEVINSON ML3 200 watt stereo amp.....	£3195
AVI S2000 MA Power Amplifier.....	£350	ROGERS LS7T speakers Black ash.....	£350
Audio Research D-115 Mill Valve Power Amp.....	£995	STANDESIGN Speaker stands new/used.....	£95
ORTOFON MC25FL phono cartridge NEW.....	£210	BREUER Dynamic arm.....	£230
MARTIN LOGAN C50 Electrostatics.....	£2695	SONY ESPIRI TA-6000 Pre-amp Excellent.....	£995
SONUS FABER Elector speakers & Slate stands.....	£1295	APOGEE Centaur Minor Loudspeakers.....	£395
MARTIN LOGAN Aerus hybrid loudspeakers.....	£1295		
BREUER Dynamic arm.....	£230		
SONY ESPIRI TA-6000 Pre-amp Excellent.....	£995		
APOGEE Centaur Minor Loudspeakers.....	£395		

THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL OFFER
NEW CLEARAUDIO CARTRIDGES - Signature (£1495) only £999 Gamma S (£550) only £399
DON'T MISS OUT ON THAT BARGAIN! FOR AN UP-TO-THE-MINUTE LIST:
http://members.aol.com/heatherdale/heatherd.htm

ALL USED CARTRIDGES ARE CHECKED UNDER A MICROSCOPE BEFORE BEING OFFERED FOR SALE.

QUAD MAIN DEALERS.
VISA-SWITCH-MASTER CARD-DINERS CLUB WELCOME
WE TAKE PART EXCHANGE ON NEW AND USED STOCK.
202 Finton Road, Worthing, Sussex BN14 0EJ TEL: (01903) 872288
after hours number (0860) 660011 FAX: (01903) 872234

REVOX SERVICING

REVOX SERVICE

Fully Guaranteed Service and Repair
Insured Carriage arranged
Free Estimation
Also: Tape Supplies, Second User
Reconditioned Machines, Spare
parts orders welcome, Free Advice

RamTek

Tel: (0181) 207 6159 Fax: (0181) 953 1118
Kinetic Centre, Theobald Street,
Borehamwood, Herts. WD6 4SE

To advertise
on these
pages call
Gina on

0171 917 3935



HI-FI BARGAINS IN PETERBOROUGH

AMPLIFICATION/SYSTEMS	Equivalent £ Today	S/H
Audiolab 8000Q Mint	£1050	£800
Audiolab 8000M x 2	£1500	£1100
Deltac DSP505 + 2 x 505 Power Amplifiers	£1995	£995
Naim NAC425/NAP110	£1400	£650
Hafner DH200 Power Amplifier	£795	£395
Rappaport Pre 2 Pre-Amplifier	£695	£395
Denon DAP5500/PO800 Pre-Power Amp	£800	£425
Albary APS1 PSU DMP1 Pre/M408 Power	£1400	£700
Yamaha DSPA1000 A/V Amplifier	£900	£545
Sonagraph SC1 Preamp Mint	£900	£545
Cyrus 2/PSX Graphite Model	£700	£425
Concordant Excelsior preamp/groove/ power supply	£1140	£795
Art Audio VP1 valve preamplifier	£952	£595
Linn Klout Power Amplifier	£2400	£1800
Audiolab 8000C/P Black Mint	£1000	£1075
Audio Innovations 1000 Pre/200 Power	£1000	£695
Croft Series 5 Power Amplifier	£750	£375
Moth Passive Pre 2 x Monoblocks	£599	£350
Quad 77 amplifier (ex-dem mint)	£849	£649
Meridian 200 System 204/207/M30/209	£2670	£1895

IT'S 1997 - LET'S DEAL

CD PLAYERS/TUNERS	Equivalent £ Today	S/H
Marantz CD10 Mint	£900	£575
Arcam Alpha 6 CD Player	£600	£469
Arcam Black Box 3 DAC	£400	£249
Sony CDP557ESD CD Player	£800	£400
Linn Karik CD Player	£1850	£1400
Quad 77 CD Player (ex dem)	£899	£699
Micromega Trio Trichorded CD1	£4200	£2150
Quad FM3 Tuner	£160	£100

TAKE AN EXTRA 10% OFF
LISTED PRICES THROUGHOUT
JANUARY

TURNTABLES	Equivalent £ Today	S/H
Linn LP12/Syrinx arm/P3 cartridge, black	£1600	£645
Roksan Xerxes/Kuzma Stogi/ATF3	£1800	£800
Oracle/Grado Tonearm	£1750	£895
Revolver/Helius Scorpion/A&R P77MG	£795	£395
Thorens TD180 MKV/Stanton 500	£999	£199

PART-EXCHANGE YOUR SPECIALIST
HI-FI IN JANUARY AND IT COULD BE
WORTH 15% OFF OUR TOP BRANDS

LOUDSPEAKERS	Equivalent £ Today	S/H
Linn Kabers Walnut Passive	£2000	£950
Bose 901 Series VI	£1995	£895
KEF Ref. 105/3 Mint	£1905	£995
Quad ESL63/Gradient SU63	£5000	£2750
Linn Keilidh/Kustone Stands	£885	£595
Quad ESL63 Black/Stands	£9750	£2095
Spica TC50 SEX External crossover	£960	£650
Spendor S100 Mahogany Mint	£2125	£1300
Spendor S20 Walnut Mint	£770	£500
Yamaha NS1000 Rare in Cherry	£4999	£700
Quad LS57 Black	£1500	£495
IMF TLS80 teak	£1800	£600
Spendor BC3 teak	£1500	£600
Celestion SL6 walnut	£200	£220
Monitor Audio MA800 rosewood	£795	£495
Rogers LS7 teak finish	£550	£300
Time Window 1A	£999	£499
Castle Durham 900 Yew Finish Mint	£380	£300
Royd Apex	£600	£300

LET'S SELL YOUR SPECIALIST HI-FI
FOR YOU - 50% OF AGREED SELLING
PRICE, CASH UPFRONT

The HiFi Company

TRADING STATION

35-42 Cowgate Peterborough
Telephone (01733) 311587

Reader classified

Advertise in Hi-Fi Choice for £5*

Arcam Alpha 6 Plus amp. (£350) £269 ono. Only six months old, boxed and in mint condition. Richard, London (0171) 720 6877.

Arcam Delta amp £220, Arcam Alpha CD player £200 or together at £360. Both boxed, immaculate. London (0181) 907 2893.

Atacama SE24 speaker stands, brand new £45. Celestion DL4 speakers, cables £30. Denon DCD920 CD player £60. London (0973) 654986.

Audiolab 8000C/P new Feb 1996, 8000DAC, mint condition, £1,300. Rosewood speakers. MA14 Gold biwire. Audioquest Cobalt, Apollo table. Offers. Cheshire (01270) 501127.

Audiolab 8000Q preamp, black mint and boxed. (£1,100 new) will accept £850. York (01904) 708382.

B&W P4 loudspeakers in rosenut. Mint condition. Well-reviewed in Hi-Fi Choice, What Hi-Fi. Cost £675 new, will accept £425. Hants (01703) 283191.

Bang & Olufsen Beosound Century. Brand new, still boxed. £895 ovno. (01606) 834419.

Garrard 301 with original manual £75. Linn Valhalla power supply board £65. Audio Synthesis PAS 02 pre-amp £135. (01279) 656082.

Linn AV5140 loudspeakers. High quality, outstanding bass. New, unused, genuine offers only. Linn Akito tonearm, as new £100 ono. Manchester (0161) 790 9851.

Linn Axis turntable £250. Exposure X amp £250. Mission 780SE loudspeak-

To advertise on this page, write your advert in block capitals and send it to: **Hi-Fi Choice, Reader Classifieds, 19 Bolsover St, London W1P 7HJ.** Include a cheque for **£5*** made payable to Dennis Publishing Ltd. The advert will appear in one issue only and must be no more than 20 words (or five lines) long, including all spaces and your phone number. Reader Classifieds are for the use of private individuals only. All Reader Classified adverts will be printed on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to available space, and Dennis Publishing Ltd accepts no liability for the accuracy of the information contained therein, nor any consequence arising from it, nor for any typographical errors. We reserve the right to amend or refuse adverts at the Editor's discretion and cannot guarantee that an advert will appear in any specific issue.

***This service is FREE to subscribers, provided their subscriber number is enclosed.**

ers on filled stands £150. All mint. Leeds (0113) 226 3382.

Linn Isobariks, black ash, serial no: 6,600, latest spec, external crossovers, mint condition, £1,350 delivered. Brand new ATOC9, £220. DPA Renaissance CD player, mint condition, £700 delivered. Jules, Swansea (01792) 280061.

Linn Karik 3 CD player, as new, boxed, £1,150. David, Bridgewater (01278) 722993.

Marantz CD 63 SE. Excellent condition, box, manual. £225 ono. London (0171) 911 3166 day/(0181) 244 5049 eves.

Marantz KI Signature CD player. Little used. £420. Brighton (01273) 305176.

Meridian 200 (original) DAC. £200 ono. Chris, B'ham (0121) 605

6665/(0468) 520634.

Meridian 206 CD player. Mint condition. Boxed £425. Berks (01628) 416471.

Nakamichi cassette deck model BX300E SN 32575. Unused since complete servicing by Nakamichi. Oxford (01865) 553201.

Nakamichi DR-3 cassette deck £300. Excellent condition, little use, boxed. Enfield (0171) 363 7889.

Onkyo THX receiver TXSV919, eight months old, boxed, mint condition, hence £1,000. Surrey (01932) 245742.

Pioneer 300R Precision amp, £350 ono. Nakamichi IA.45 amp, mint £125.

(01782) 744875.

Rega XEL speakers, rosewood, boxed with instructions. As new £750. (01509) 620814.

Rogers LS6 speakers. Monitor quality. Teak veneer. Excellent condition. Target stands included. Boxed. £195. Somerset (01278) 760000.

SME 20 (1) SME V arm £2,300 ono. Rega ELA speakers £180. Bristol (01454) 312790.

Sondek Lingo Akito Cirkus K9 Naim 62/140 Proac Response 1's' speakers

£2,800 ono. May split. (01502) 583596/(01502) 501988.

Sony DAT player TCD-D7 and RM3D-K Remote £300. Musical Fidelity A1000 amp £1,200. Mint. Devon (01803) 865406.

Sony Reference CD player, huge 17kg monster, copper plating, balanced outputs, cost £1,199. Superb sound, mint, boxed. £425. London (0171) 794 3843.

Speakers: Cambridge R40 with KEF B319, B110, T27 units, 40 Watts, Beomaster 3000 tuner amplifier, offers please. Beds (01582) 660335.

Tannoy Amesburys, large top of the range classic speakers with 15" HPD drivers. Effortless delivery, deep bass. Clive (01622) 812121.

Unused and boxed QED Digit DAC with standard power supply £69 or with uprated Positron £89. (01279) 426647.

van den Hul Second Carbon. Cables XLRS 0.6m £95. Audio Synthesis Silver Digital 1m £35. Kimber Power Cord 6ft. £45. Merseyside (01744) 883856.

WANTED

Sony CDP 715E. (01782) 744875.

Sony DAT TCD-D3 battery pack wanted. Model no. BP-D3. Also blank DAT tapes. Liverpool (01704) 833601.

Feeling vinylly challenged? You could pick up a new turntable, the Linn Axis, for £250.

Here Is The Knowledge

Stan Vincent and Jason Kennedy reveal trade secrets
to help you buy a truly great hi-fi system.

If you're new to hi-fi, or even if you're a regular *Choice* reader about to go on a spending spree, this part of the magazine is where we try to help you 'buy smarter'. Novices may find it hard to understand how one component can sound different to another. And it's probably just as perplexing when hi-fi buffs talk about 'sonic characteristics', or about how the best systems are carefully blended from individual components, just like a tasty recipe. But this is the beauty of buying individual pieces of separates hi-fi – it lets you tweak a system's performance to suit your tastes precisely.

Hearing is believing

If you haven't listened to much good quality equipment before, you need to calibrate your hearing to understand just what hi-fi can do for you. We'd advise listening to as many different systems as possible, perhaps with help from your friends or, if you can find a friendly, accommodating hi-fi store, in a dealer's listening room. Ask them to play you their really expensive systems – even if you can't afford a megabucks outfit, at least you'll realise what is possible from the best of today's gear!

Here are just a few examples of some typical – but diverse – systems that are in favour today. Once you escape the economic confines of real world audio equipment you can sample some rather more distinct interpretations of the so-called absolute sound. Ironically, expensive systems often have more character than budget ones, but at the same time they get a lot closer to the sense of 'being there'.

There are many hi-fi paths you can follow, but the more popular ones include multi-amp systems, as exemplified by the Naim philosophy, for example. The ultimate Naim system has separate power supplies for virtually everything, and the result is awesome fire-power.

Some go for a more hair-shirt style with a minimum of high quality components. Exponents of this approach include DNM, whose top amp has a lower power output than many cheaper models. The pay-off is that when the amp is coupled with efficient Rehdeko speakers, for example, you get extraordinary clarity. Low power is also seen as an asset in the valve world, where the ultimate systems combine amplifiers with single-figure outputs and ultra-efficient horn speakers.

The pursuit of 'phase linearity' is a new gospel preached by Trichord Research and Pioneer among others. It prioritises resolution and the pursuit of 'stereo' in the Greek root of the word: three-dimensional sound.

Deal me in!

While you're finding your feet in hi-fi, a friendly local dealer is an essential ally. And when you've heard enough hi-fi to start forming an opinion about your likes and dislikes, you can start to build a system that's tailored precisely to your own requirements.

Here's a home truth: to make the most of hi-fi, you need to take a 'whole system' approach. This is taken as read if you're buying a complete outfit from scratch, but if you're upgrading just one part of your hi-fi, it is essential to assess any potential purchase in the context of your existing system. Again, this is where a good dealer can help – ask nicely, and you should be able to try new components at home, to be sure that they will work with your existing rig.

Upgrading your system is one of the joys of hi-fi. Many integrated amplifiers have preamp outputs, which means that they can be upgraded with the addition of external power amps. Many speakers can be bi-wired – with separate cable runs to woofer and tweeter – to improve the sound. And nowadays all but the cheapest CD players offer a digital output to plug into an external digital-to-analogue converter.

A tailor-made hi-fi system

In an age when most consumer goods are marketed to death, and sold in stores where salespeople are positively predatory, the great thing about buying hi-fi is its need for a little customer participation. And by the same token, you would be foolish to buy hi-fi purely on the basis of low prices, eye-catching deals or special offers. It's much more important to find equipment that you can live with. So don't be too surprised if your hi-fi dealer expresses strong views about what you're proposing to buy.

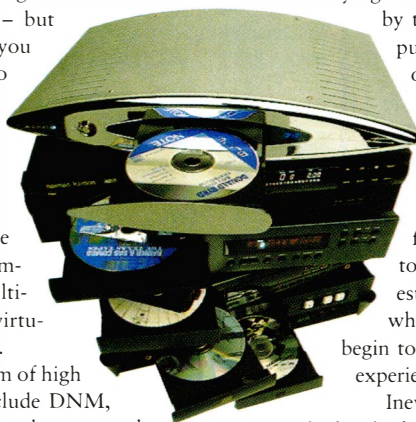
Try not to get hot under the collar if your dealer does not share your opinion of the 'ultimate' hi-fi components. All dealers should treat their customers with civility, and clearly it's in their best interests to ensure that you walk out of the door satisfied: what sounds mighty enticing on a first listen may begin to pall over the months ahead. Sometimes a dealer's experience is your insurance for lasting listening pleasure.

Inevitably, there is a lot of 'badge consciousness' attached to hi-fi. We get many letters from readers saying: "This is my system – what do you think?" Our response is always: "Stop worrying whether your system is hip. Just enjoy it." The hallmark of a really good system is that it seems to disappear when the music starts playing.

Thank you for the music

Some authorities maintain that a good hi-fi should really bring out the differences between your records. Others hold fast to the idea that hi-fi should recreate an accurate representation of instruments as they were recorded – sometimes tricky for drum'n'bass fans. But often, the greatest pleasure is to play a recording you thought you knew well, and suddenly hear musical nuances appear from deep in the mix.

Always remember that this stuff is about pleasure and leisure. And like most other leisure pursuits, if it hurts, you're doing it wrong! ▲



THE DIRECTORY

Our Three Step Guide to Buying Hi-Fi

The legendary *Hi-Fi Choice* Directory is now simpler to use than ever before, but contains all the information you need to select and buy the perfect hi-fi system.

STEP 1 Discover which products fall within your budget by using our Price Guide (starts on page 106). This listing is updated monthly and includes all hi-fi products currently available in the UK. It is organised by product type, then by price band, and is sorted alphabetically. Products whose names are printed in red are those that we have reviewed. Which leads us to...

STEP 2 Read about the hi-fi equipment that we have reviewed in the Directory (starts on page 114). Here you will learn which items have been singled out for our famous Best Buy and Recommended awards, which denote products of exceptional quality and value. The Directory is sorted by product type and listed alphabetically, and the beginning of each section provides essential information about each kind of hi-fi component.

STEP 3 Find your nearest hi-fi store in our Dealer Directory (starts on page 131) to book a demonstration of the products you are interested in.

Best Buys and Recommendations

If you see a Best Buy (red) or Recommended (blue) flag at the beginning of an entry in our Directory of reviewed products, the item concerned is particularly deserving of your attention.

B Red signifies the Best Buy swing-tag, which indicates products of the best quality and superb value for money in their price category.

R Blue Recommended products offer excellent quality and value, but not the same cost-effectiveness as a Best Buy.

Please note that an expensive Recommended product will nearly always perform better than an inexpensive Best Buy.

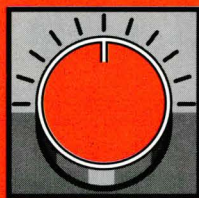
Using Best Buys and Recommendations to buy hi-fi.

Do not commit the cardinal sin of dashing into your local dealer, magazine in hand, demanding to purchase Best Buy CD player A, Best Buy amplifier B and Best Buy speakers C. This is unlikely to result in your long-term satisfaction. Our belief at *Hi-Fi Choice* is that you must consider the hi-fi system as a complete entity, not as a collection of components. While a superb system might well contain Best Buy and Recommended components, one cannot lump together Best Buys and Recommendations in the hope that they will automatically perform superbly. These ratings make a useful guideline for short-listing components worth trying, but only by hearing them for yourself can you draw meaningful conclusions about what suits your taste. Furthermore, don't panic if the dealer offers you equipment that we have not tested. At the end of the day, what matters most is that your hi-fi system fits your tastes like a glove, and it is the dealer's challenge to ensure your satisfaction by any means – and components – necessary!



DIRECTORY INDEX

ITEM	PAGE NUMBER
NEW PRODUCT PRICES	106
LIST OF REVIEWED PRODUCTS	114
INTEGRATED AMPLIFIERS	114
PREAMPLIFIERS	115
POWER AMPLIFIERS	115
CABLES	
ANALOGUE INTERCONNECTS	116
DIGITAL INTERCONNECTS	117
LOUDSPEAKER CABLES	117
CARTRIDGES	118
CASSETTE DECKS	119
CD PLAYERS	120
CD TRANSPORTS	121
DACS	121
DIGITAL RECORDERS	121
HEADPHONES	122
HI-FI LOUDSPEAKERS	123
SUBWOOFERS	126
STANDS & SUPPORTS	126
TOPEARMS	127
TUNERS	127
TURNTABLES	128
MANUFACTURER CONTACTS	129
FACTSBACK SERVICE	128



AMPLIFIERS

**Integrated Amps
Up to £250**

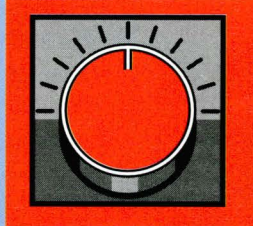
Aiwa XA-003	140
Arcam Alpha 7	250
Cambridge Audio New A1	100
Cambridge Audio A2	120
Cambridge Audio A3	200
Creek OBH-11	129
Grundig V11	160
Harman/Kardon HK610	200
JVC AX-R5BK	200
JVC AX-V6BK	230
Kenwood KA-3020SE	200
Luxman A-312	200
Luxman A-331	250
Marantz PM-47	150
Marantz PM-34	150
Marantz PM-57	200
NAD 310	100
NAD 312	200
Onkyo A-801	200
Pioneer A-105	130
Pioneer A-103	130
Pioneer A-203	150
Pioneer A-204R	160
Pioneer A-300R	200
Pioneer A-303R	200
Pioneer A-300X	230
Pioneer A-405R	250
Rega Brio	229
Rotel RA870BX	250
Sony TA-FE200	130
Sony TA-F300	150
Sony TA-F246E	200
Sony TA-F448E	250
TEAC AR300	200
TEAC AR500	250
Technics SU-V300	170
Technics SU-A600 Mk3	200
Technics SU-V500	200
Technics SU-V620	230
Technics SU-A700 Mk3	250
Yamaha AX-390	170
Yamaha AX-490	249
£251 to £500	
Alchemist Axiom	289
Alchemist Maxim	319
Analogue Jupiter	330
Arcam Alpha 8	350
Arcam Alpha 9	500
Audio Innovations Alto	300
Audiolab 8000A	500
Aura VA100 II	400
CR Developments Kalypso	499
Creek 4240	279
Creek 4240SE	350
Denon PMA-450SE	280
EMF Audio Sequel	349
Harman/Kardon HK620	280
Harman/Kardon HK1200	300
Harman/Kardon HK1400	400
Harman/Kardon HK640	450
Luxman A-353R	350
Luxman A-373	400
Magnum IA170	299

Marantz PM-66SE	300
Marantz PM-65	300
Marantz PM-711AV	400
Marantz PM-80II	450
Mission Cyrus III	500
Moth 30 Integrated	320
Musical Fidelity E10	299
Musical Fidelity E101	499
Musical Fidelity A2	499
NAD 314	260
NAD 317	470
Onix OA32LE	479
Onix OA31	480
Onix OA32M/C	499
Onkyo A-911	350
Onkyo A850	370
Oreille SA-100	449
Pioneer A-400X	300
Pioneer A-503R	300
Pioneer A-602	350
Pioneer A-605	400
Pioneer VSA-701S	500
Pro-Ject Model 7	300
Rega Elex	398
Shearpe 2.5	489
Sony TAFA-3ES	400
Talk Electronics Storm 1	500
Technics SU-A800D	400
Technics SU-A900 Mk2	450
Technics SU-A900D	500
Yamaha AX-590	299
£501 to £700	
Alchemist Kraken Anniv	549
Alchemist Nemesis	650
AMC CVT3030	529
Audiolab 8000S	700
DPA Renaissance	595
DPA Renaissance	595
Exposure XX Super	700
Gamma Acoustics Gemini	699
Harman/Kardon HK660	650
LFD Integrated 0	549
LFD Integrated 0 (Ph)	679
Linn Majik (Line)	650
Lynwood Opal	685
Magnum Class A	675
Micromega Tempo 1	700
Musical Fidelity A220	699
Myryad MI 120	530
Naim Audio Nait 3	549
Onix OA31LE	579
Pioneer VSA-D802S	600
Quad 77IA	700
Roksan Caspian	695
Rose Scion	545
Shearpe Phase 2	649
Stemfoort Audio SF60	549
Talk Electronics Storm 1P	549
Talk Electronics Storm 2	650
TEAC AB-X7R	700

£701 to £1000	
Alchemist Forsetti	899
Arion Acoustics Adonis Export	999
Aura VA150	800
AVI S2000MI	799
Copland CSA 8	950
CR Developments Romulus	998
Crede IMP702	938
Crede IMP703	1,000
Electrocompaniet ECI-2	990
Exposure XV Super	800
Harman/Kardon HK680	1,000
LFD Integrated 0 LE	799
Linn Majik (Phono)	725
Marantz PM-17	900
Meridian 551	795
Micromega Tempo 2	900
Minstrel Ultra Linear	900
Monrio MC-200S	895
Naim Audio Nait 3 R	724

Pioneer A-07	1,000
Rega Elicit	730
Shearpe Phase 2 Reference	799
Sony TAFA-5ES	1,000
Stemfoort Audio SF100	849
Talk Electronics Storm 2 P	730
TEAC AB-X10	1,000
Thule IA100	949
Unison Research Simply Two	995
£1001 to £2000	
Arion Acoustics Elektra	1,399
Arion Acoustics Talos	1,499
Arion Acoustics Nereus SE 300B	1,850
Arion Acoustics Tycho	1,999
Art Audio Integra	1,499
Audio Innovations Classic 25	1,099
Audio Innovations S500	1,199
Audio Innovations S700	1,199
Bryston B-60	1,090
Bryston B-60R	1,249
Copland CSA-14	1,100
Copland CTA-401	1,699
Crede LIM 702	1,191
Crede LIM 703	1,249
EAR 859	1,595
EAR 834	1,599
Electrocompaniet ECI-2SF	1,173
Graf Venticinque	1,995
LFD Integrated 1	1,099
Marantz PM-16	1,700
Meracus Intrare	1,095
Minstrel Partridge	1,499
Monrio MC-205	1,545
Musical Fidelity A1000	1,399
Rogers E-20a	1,090
Rogers E-40a	1,900
Sonic Frontiers SFC-1	1,795
Sonus-Faber Quid	1,223
Tube Tech Unisis S'Line	1,399
Tube Tech Unisis phono	1,399
Unison Research Simply Four P	1,555
Unison Research Simply Four T	1,595
Woodside ISA230 Line	1,099
Woodside ISA230 Disc	1,249

Over £2000	
Adyton Opera	2,595
Electrocompaniet ECI-1	2,233
Electrocompaniet ECI-1 SF	2,415
Gamma Acoustics Rhythm	2,499
Jadis DA30	3,490
Jadis DA60	5,490
Krell KAV-300i	2,490
Mcintosh MA6800	3,735
Meracus Onesta	2,595
Pioneer A-09	4,000
Tube Tech Synergy 1	3,999
Unison Research Performance One	4,500



**Preamps
Up to £500**

Alchemist Kraken/Pro	380
AMC AV81 Control	289
AMC 1030	379
AMC S84	479
AMC AV81 H.T. Control	499
Analogue Saturn	75
Analogue Saturn MC	75



Audiolab 8000Q/M The range-topping pre/power combo combines power and sophistication.

Art Audio Minuet	499
Audio Innovations P1	369
Audio Innovations L1	369
Audio Innovations T2	425
Creek OBM-8	99
Creek OBM-9	110
Crede P42	279
Crimson CS610C	450
Denon PMA-425R	230
DPA DSP 200S	495
EAR 834P	399
EAR 834L	449
Harman/Kardon AP2500	499
LFD Linestage LSO	499
Lumley Reference PP70	325
Lumley Reference PP1	325
Magnum MP330	475
Michell Iso	420
Moth 30 Passive	149
Moth 30 RIAA	199
Moth 30 Active	249
Moth 30 RIAA 100VA	299
Moth 30 Active 100VA	349
Musical Fidelity E20	399
Musical Fidelity F2	499
NAD 114	270
NAD 116	430
Naim Audio Prefix	334
Naim Audio NAC92	448
Qed Vector	199
Rega EOS	398
Roksan Art Axxeres	395
Rose RV-23	450
Rotel RC970BX MkII	175
Talk Electronics Hurricane 1	500
Technics SU-C1000	350
Thorens TTP-2000	500
Unison Research Simply Phono	500

£501 to £2000	
Adyton Chorus	1,995
Alchemist Forsetti Pre	919
Arion Acoustics Eros	1,199
Arion Acoustics Eros Phono	1,399
Art Audio Headline	700
Art Audio VPL	741
Art Audio Conductor Phono	750
Art Audio VP1	952
Art Audio Conductor	1,250
Art Audio Conductor Export	2,000
Audio Innovations L2	749
Audio Innovations P2MM	749
Audio Innovations P2MC	949
Audio Research PH-3	1,550
Audio Research LS-7	1,598
Audio Research LS-3	1,845
Audio Synthesis Pro Passion	595
Audio Synthesis Passion	695
Audio Synthesis Passion 6	1,195
Audio Synthesis Passion 8S	1,695
Audio Synthesis Passion 8M	1,695
Audiolab 8000C	550
Audiolab 8000PPA	900
Audiolab 8000Q	1,100
Aura CA-200	700
Aura CA-200C	750
AVI S2000MP	849
AVI S2000MP + P	1,049
Bryston .4	546
Bryston BP1	673
Bryston BP5	757
Bryston BP4	802
Bryston BP20	958
Bryston BP-25	1,129
Bryston BP-25P	1,355
Bryston 4B-ST PRO	1,495
Bryston BP-25MC	1,580
Chord CPA 1800	1,730
Concordant Exhilarant	900
Concordant Exquisite	1,950

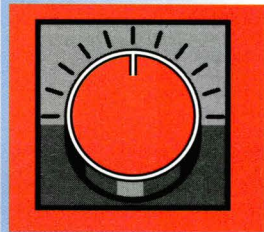
Copland CSA-303	1,155
Copland CTA-301MkII	1,349
Counterpoint SA-1000E	1,195
Counterpoint Solid 8E	1,195
Counterpoint SA-2000E	1,695
Crede CMP004	1,246
Crede CMP005	1,876
Dawn Audio Prelude +50	951
DNM 3 Start	950
DNM 3A Start	1,500
DPA Enlightenment	695
DPA DSP500S	2,000
Dynavector L200	1,195
Dynavector P100	1,495
Dynavector L100	1,995
ECA Vista S	760
ECA Vista HD	880
ECA Prisma	880
Electrocompaniet ECP-1	580
Electrocompaniet ECP-1 SF	675
Electrocompaniet EC-4.5	1,200
Electrocompaniet EC-4.5SF	1,343
Electrocompaniet EC-4 Line	1,466
Electrocompaniet EC-4 SF Line	1,648
Electrocompaniet EC-3MC	1,953
Exposure XIX	800
Exposure XVII	850
Gamma Acoustics Era Std	999
Graaf WFB Two	1,195
Graaf WFB One	1,895
Haybrook Signature II	1,600
Jadis DPL2	1,790
LFD MC1 PhonoStage	949
LFD LS1 Linestage	999
LFD MC2 PhonoStage	1,499
LFD LS2 Linestage	1,599
LFD Linestage LS2P	1,750
LFD Linestage LSB	1,999
Linn Wakonda/L	750
Linn Wakonda	850
Linn Kairn Line	1,400
Linn Kairn Phono	1,700
Lumley Reference PS1	795
Lumley Reference WAP1.5	895
Lumley Reference LV1.5	895
Lumley Reference LV1	1,000
Lumley Reference LV1	1,150
Lumley Reference WAP1	1,150
Lumley Reference L/R PV1.5	1,350
Lumley Reference PV1.5	1,500
Lumley Reference PV1	1,500
Lumley Reference PV1	1,700
Marantz AC-500	700
Marantz EC-500	900
Marantz SC-23	1,000
Mcintosh C712	1,479
Meracus Ingredi	925
Meridian 501	695
Meridian 562	765
Meridian 501V	875
Meridian 562V	995
Meridian 502	1,295
Michell Argo	730
Michell Iso HR	895
Michell Argo HR	1,339
Michi RHC-10	795
Michi RHQ-10	1,150
Michi RHA-10	1,150
Micromega Tempo P	1,250
Monrio ADN	625
Monrio PLUR1-L	960
Musical Fidelity F25	1,499
NAD 118	1,000
Naim Audio NAC92R	599
Naim Audio NAC72	690
Naim Audio NAC 102	999
Onix OA36L	999
Onix OA36	1,100
Quad 77PR	850



Harman/Kardon HK610 This punchy little integrated amp is a great way to start a budget system.

Rega HAL	998
Roksan ROK-L2.5	1,250
Rose RV-23S	525
Shearpe Phase 6 Pre	895
Shearpe Phase 1 Pre Ref	1,399
Sonic Frontiers SFP-1	1,095
Sonic Frontiers SFL-1	1,395
Sonic Frontiers SFP-1 Sig	1,495
Sonic Frontiers SFL-1 Sig	1,795
Sumo Ulysses II	629
Sumo Athena II Line	767
Sumo Polaris III	950
Sumo Athena IIB/II LS	987
Sumo Artemis OP	1,695
Sumo Audiomedia III	1,810
Sumo Model Five	1,975
Talk Electronics Hurricane 1 P	550
Talk Electronics Hurricane 2	650
Talk Electronics Hurricane 2P	730
Talk Electronics Hurricane 3	900
Talk Electronics Hurricane 3P	1,000
Technics SU-C2000	700
Tesseract TAADA	1,500
Tesseract TALA	1,500
Tesseract TAHA	1,800
Thorens TTP-2000F	650
Thorens TRP-3000	1,500
Thule PR200	699
Tube Tech Seer Line	575
Tube Tech Seer Phono	649
Tube Tech Prophet	1,199
Unison Research Mystery One	1,750
Unison Research Phono One	1,995
Woodside SC27 Line	949
Woodside SC27 Phono MM	1,099
Woodside SC27 Phono	1,249
Woodside SC26 Line	1,557
XTC PRE-1	1,000
Yamaha CX-2	650
Over £2000	
Adyton Temper	2,495
Adyton Modus	2,695
Alchemist Control	4,995
Arcan Acoustics Midas Phono	2,250
ATC SC42	2,499
Audio Research LS-3b	2,250
Audio Research PH-2	2,895
Audio Research LS-2 II	2,997
Audio Research SP9 III	3,290
Audio Research LS-2b II	3,398
Audio Research LS22	4,125
Audio Research LS-5 II	5,690
CAT SLI Sig line	5,500
CAT SLI Sig phono	6,000
Chord CPA 2200	2,298
Chord CPA 2800	3,090
Chord CPA 3200	3,352
Chord CPA 4000	6,025
Counterpoint SA-3000E	2,195
Counterpoint SA-5000E	3,995
Counterpoint SA-9	3,995
Credo LPR 001	2,815
DNM 3B Twin E	3,050
DNM 3B Primus E	3,630
DNM 3B Six E	4,780
EAR 802MC	2,599
EAR G88	6,999
Electrocompaniet EC-3MC SF	2,135
Gamma Acoustics Era Ref	3,999
Graaf GM13.5B	3,950
Jadis DP60L	2,800
Jadis DPL	3,190
Jadis DPMC	3,190
Jadis DEFY-P60	3,774
Jadis JPL	4,720
Jadis JPP-200	4,998
Jadis JP-30MC	5,978
Jadis JP-S2	7,900
Krell KRC3	3,198
Krell KSL-2	3,331
Krell KRC-2	4,190
Krell KRC-HR	6,949
Krell KRC	6,949
LFD Disc Preamp	4,499
Lumley Reference L/R M100	2,250
Lumley Reference L/R LS2	3,250
Lumley Reference L/R PS2	3,550
Lumley Reference L/R M140	4,250
Lumley Reference ST150	4,350
Marantz Model 7	3,500
Marantz SC-5	7,000
Mark Levinson 38	3,995
Mark Levinson 38S	6,495
Matisse Fantasy	2,300
Matisse Reference	3,500
Mcintosh C38	2,095
Mcintosh C22	2,099
Mcintosh C39	3,129
Mcintosh C40	3,239
Meracur Pretare	2,195
Meridian 601	2,750
Naim Audio NAC82	2,058
Naim Audio NAC52	3,190
Roksan ROK-L1.5	2,250

Sonic Frontiers SFL-2	3,795
Sumo Model Ten/M	4,200
Tesseract TAP-A	5,300
Woodside SC26 Line & Phono	2,233



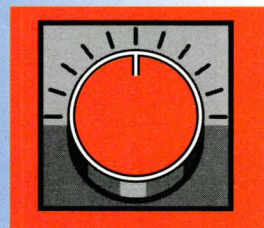
Power Amps	
Up to £500	
AMC 2445	299
AMC 2030	449
Arcam Alpha 9P	400
Arcam Delta 230P	400
Creek A42	279
Crimson CS620C	450
Denon PMA-250SE	160
Denon PMA-350SE	200
Denon PMA-725R	350
Harman/Kardon PA2100	400
LFD Powerstage PAO	499
Marantz MA-500	250
Marantz SM-500	400
Marantz MM-500	450
Moth 30 Series Power	239
Moth 30 Mono/40	459
Myryad MA 120	450
Naim Audio NAP90/3	428
Rotel RB970BX MkII	225
Rotel RB980BX	450
Talk Electronics Tornado 1	450
Technics SE-A1000	400

£501 to £2000	
Alchemist Forsetti Pwr	1,309
Arcan Acoustics EOS	1,299
Arcan Acoustics Triton	1,399
Arcan Acoustics Tycho	1,850
Art Audio Quintet	1,393
Art Audio Quintet SE MB	1,500
Art Audio Concerto	1,669
Audio Innovations Ser 800	999
Audio Innovations First Audio	1,749
Audio Innovations Ser 1000	1,799
Audio Synthesis Desire	1,695
Audiolab 8000P	750
Audiolab 8000M	800
Aura VA-150C	850
Aura PA-200	1,200
Aura PA-200 C	1,250
AVI S2000MA	849
AVI S2000MM	1,249
Bryston 2B-LP	639
Bryston 3B-ST PRO	987
Bryston THX3B	1,074
Bryston 3B-NRB	1,159
Bryston 7B-ST PRO	1,545
Bryston THX7B	1,605
Bryston 5B-ST PRO	1,610
Bryston 4B-NRB	1,756
Bryston 7B-NRB	1,815
Bryston THX4B	1,858
Bryston 8B-ST PRO	1,868
Chord SPM 400	1,290
Chord SPM 600	1,680
Copland CTA-501	1,599
Copland CTA-504	1,999
Counterpoint Solid 1EM	995
Counterpoint SA100E	1,495
Counterpoint Solid 1E	1,495
Counterpoint NPS-100E	1,995
Credo PMP 804	1,876
Crimson CS630C	800
Dawn Audio Cmd 2 by 200	890
DNM PA1	1,750
DPA Enlightenment	995
ECA Lectern S	880
ECA Lectern HD	1,480
Electrocompaniet AW60B	1,185
Exposure XVIII Super	850
Exposure XVIII (pr)	1,599
Harman/Kardon PA2200	700
Harman/Kardon PA2400	1,000
Jadis DA5	1,997
LFD PA1 Powerstage	999
LFD Powerstage PA2	1,599
LFD Powerstage PA2M	1,999
Linn LK100	650
Linn Klout	2,000
Lumley Reference ST40	1,250
Lumley Reference ST70	1,950
Lynwood Ruby	985
Magnum MF330	685
Marantz MA-23	1,800
Mcintosh MC7100	1,259

Meracur Ciere	1,095
Meridian 555	750
Michell Alecto Stereo	1,150
Michell Alecto Mono	1,989
Michi RHB-05	1,100
Michi RHB-10	2,000
Micromega Amp	1,250
Monrio Cento	1,495
Monrio HP1	1,995
Moth 30 Stereo/60	549
Moth 30 Mono/100	879
Musical Fidelity FX2	799
NAD 218THX	850
NAD Monitor 208	999
Naim Audio NAP140	722
Naim Audio NAP180	1,016
Naim Audio NAP135	1,576
Naim Audio NAP250	1,576
Onix OA601	699
Onix OA801	849
Onix OA701	899
Papworth TVA50	1,425
Quad 77SA	600
Quad 707	800
Rega EXS	598
Rega Exon	598
Roksan ROK-S1.5	1,495
Rose RP-190 (Dual Mode)	550
Rotel RB990BX	625
Shearpe Phase 3	619
Shearpe Phase 3 Reference	689
Shearpe Phase 5 Mono	879
Sonic Frontiers SFS-40	1,695
Sumo Andromeda III	1,975
Talk Electronics Tornado 2	600
Talk Electronics Tornado 3	750
Talk Electronics Tornado 4	1,100
Technics SE-A2000	1,100
Thorens TTA-2000	550
Thorens TRA-3000	2,000
Thule PA200	1,798
Tube Tech Unisig Pwr Amp	1,099
Woodside SAZ40	1,199
Woodside MA100	1,733
Woodside STA50	1,880
XTC POW-1	2,000
Yamaha MX-2	750

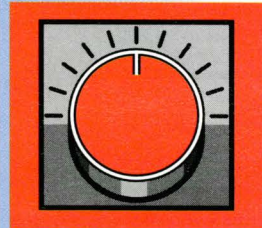
Over £2000	
Adyton Cordis 1.6	3,495
Alchemist Stereo	3,995
Alchemist Mono	8,995
Arcan Acoustics Nemesis SE 300B	3,000
Art Audio Tempo	2,499
Art Audio Quintet SE	2,500
Art Audio Maestro	3,524
Audio Innovations Ser 1000SE	2,499
Audio Innovations Second Audio	3,299
Audio Research D130	2,497
Audio Research VT60	2,645
Audio Research VTM120	2,645
Audio Research VT60SE	3,190
Audio Research VTM120SE	3,190
Audio Research D-200	3,248
Audio Research V35	3,355
Audio Research V70	4,480
Audio Research D-300	4,800
Audio Research VT130	5,994
Audio Research D-400II	6,600
Audio Research VT150	7,200
Audio Research VT130SE	8,145
Audio Research VT150SE	8,400
Audio Research V140	8,960
Bryston THX8B	2,030
Bryston 8B-NRB	2,195
Chord SPM 800	2,155
Chord SPM 1000B	2,650
Chord SPM 1200	3,840
Chord SPM 200	4,890
Chord SPM 1600	4,890
Chord SPM 3000	7,960
Copland CTA-505	2,099
Counterpoint Solid 2E	2,495
Counterpoint NPS-200E	2,995
Counterpoint SA4	3,575
Counterpoint Nat Progress	4,125
Counterpoint NPS-400E	4,395
Counterpoint NPM-E	8,995
Credo LPO 804	2,456
Credo PMP 155	2,676
Credo LPO 155	3,714
Credo LPO 455	4,975
DNM PA2BE	4,250
DNM PA2BS	5,250
DNM PA2BS-1	5,650
DPA DP4500S	3,000
Dynavector HX75	2,195
Dynavector HX1.2	3,995
EAR 509 Mk II	3,499
EAR 519	4,699
EAR 549	6,999
Electrocompaniet AW1000MB	2,115
Electrocompaniet AW1000MB-SF	2,298
Electrocompaniet AW2500MB	3,983
Electrocompaniet AW2500MB-SF	4,215

Electrocompaniet AW180MB	4,673
Electrocompaniet AW180MB-SF	4,910
Exposure IV	2,199
Exposure XVI	4,000
Gamma Acoustics Aeon 211/VT4C	4,999
Gamma Acoustics Space Ref	5,999
Graaf 5050	2,150
Graaf GM 100	4,490
Graaf GM200	4,800
Jadis JA-30	2,880
Jadis DA8	3,333
Jadis JA300B	4,500
Jadis JA-80	4,956
Jadis DA7	5,290
Jadis DEFY-7	5,290
Jadis JA-200	7,759
Krell KSA-50s	3,690
Krell KSA-100s	5,843
Krell KSA-200s	7,987
Krell KSA-300s	9,500
Lumley Reference M120	3,200
Marantz Model 8	3,500
Marantz Model 9	4,000
Marantz SM-5	5,000
Mark Levinson 29	3,450
Mark Levinson 331	4,495
Mark Levinson 27.5	5,399
Mark Levinson 332	6,495
Mark Levinson 23.5	7,399
Mark Levinson 333	8,495
Matisse Ref Monoblocks	7,800
Mcintosh MC7108	2,249
Mcintosh MC7150	2,295
Mcintosh MC7104	2,729
Mcintosh MC150	2,855
Mcintosh MC7300	3,195
Mcintosh MC7106	3,425
Mcintosh MC275	3,955
Mcintosh MC300	3,765
Mcintosh MC2600	5,395
Mcintosh MC500	6,265
Meracur Tentare	2,245
Meracur Cantare	8,995
Musical Fidelity F16	2,499
Musical Fidelity F19	3,999
Papworth M100	2,645
Papworth M200	3,825
Roksan ROK-M1.5	2,250
Shearpe Phase 1 Pwr Ref	2,199
Sonic Frontiers SFS-80	2,895
Sonic Frontiers SFS-160	5,495
Tesseract TAMP-60	7,350
Tube Tech Genesis	2,599
Unison Research Smart 845	3,250

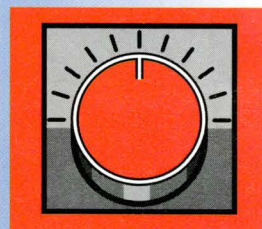


AV Amplifiers/Receivers	
Arcam Xeta One	1,000
Audio Research SDA1	4,391
Citation 7.1	2,500
Denon AVR-900	350
Denon AVC-1800	550
Denon AVC-2800	800
Exposure XXV	1,000
Grundig V1000DPL	360
Harman/Kardon AV1100	300
Harman/Kardon AVR-10	380
Harman/Kardon AV1150	400
Harman/Kardon AVR-21	500
Harman/Kardon AV1200	500
Harman/Kardon AVR-25	650
Harman/Kardon AVR-30	1,000
Heybrook Parasound HCA 806	1,495
JVC AX-V6BK	230
JVC RX-416VBK	270
JVC RX-616RBK	350
Krell KAV500/2	3,485
Krell KAV500/3	3,985
Krell KAV500/4	4,485
Krell KAV500/5	4,985
Marantz MM-500	400
Marantz PM-711AV	450
Mission AV-Master	650
NAD AV-316	450
NAD 216THX	470
NAD 917	570
NAD 716	600
NAD ASV 620	700
Onkyo A-SV610	600
Onkyo TX-SV525PRO	600
Onkyo TX-SV919THX	2,000

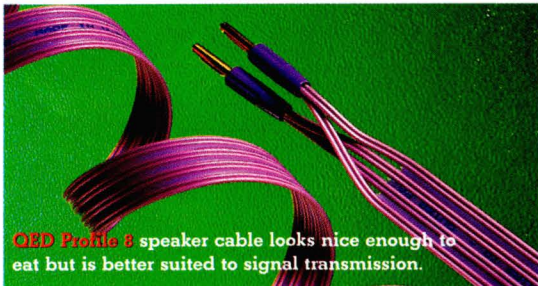
Pioneer VSA - 303	300
Pioneer VSA - 805S	450
Rotel RB956AX	350
Rotel RSP960AX	400
Sony TA-VE700	350
Sony TA-VE 800G	400
Sony TA-VA BES	700
Yamaha RX-V390RDS	300
Yamaha DSP-A590	349
Yamaha RX-V590RDS	449
Yamaha DSP-A780	599
Yamaha DSP-A970	799
Yamaha DSP-990	900
Yamaha DSP-A2070	1,099
Yamaha DSP 3090	1,700



Surround Sound Processors	
Arcam XETA 2	650
Audio Research SDPI	3,293
Exposure XXIII	750
Exposure XX1	1,050
Heybrook Parasound PSP 1000	995
Kenwood SS-3300	200
Marantz AV-1030	330
Marantz AV-1040	400
Marantz DP-870	600
NAD 117	470
NAD ED 901	700
Naim Audio NAV1	1,600
Onkyo SR211PRO	340
Pioneer VSP-200	250
Sanyo HT F450	180
Sherwood ES5030R	200
Sony SDP E300	230
Technics SH-AV500	280
Yamaha DSP-E390	250
Yamaha DSP-E580	450
Yamaha DSP-E1000	700



Surround Sound Receivers	
Denon AVR-600RD	300
Grundig R14DPL	280
Grundig R1000DPL	400
Harman/Kardon AVR-20	499
Harman/Kardon AVR-25	699
Harman/Kardon AVR-30	1,000
JVC RX-416VBK	270
JVC RX-616RBK	350
Kenwood KR-V5080	280
Kenwood KR-V6080	330
Kenwood KR-V7080	380
Kenwood KR-V990D	1,300
Marantz SR-66	300
Marantz SR-770	700
Marantz SR-96	1,300
NAD 711	400
NAD TXSV 424	450
NAD 316	450
NAD AV713	480
NAD 713	480
NAD TXSV 535R	600
NAD TXSV 525R	600
NAD AV716	600
NAD TXSV 727R	900
NAD TXSV 828THX	1,300
NAD TXSV 919THX	2,000



QED Profile 8 speaker cable looks nice enough to eat but is better suited to signal transmission.

Sherwood RV7050R	400
Sony STRD E405	280
TEAC AG-V600	400
Technics SA-EX100	200
Technics SA-EX300	250
Technics SA-EX500	350
Technics SA-EX700	450
Technics SA-TX50	1,000
Yamaha RX-V390RDS	299
Yamaha RX-V590RDS	449



CABLES
Analogue Interconnects

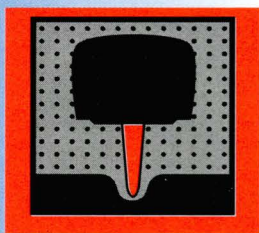
Art Yam Church 5000	515.00
Cable Talk Improved 2/CD	26.00
Cable Talk Advanced 2	35.00
Cable Talk Improved 2/T	50.00
Cable Talk Studio 2	65.00
Cable Talk Professional 2	85.00
Cable Talk Broadcast 2	130.00
Cable Talk Reference 2	180.00
Cable Talk Signature Gold	300.00
Cambridge Audio Atlantic	10.00
Cambridge Audio Artic	20.00
Cambridge Audio Pacific	30.00
Cambridge Audio Studio Ref	40.00
Chord Chrysalis	30.00
Chord Cobra	49.00
Chord Siren	65.00
Chord Chameleon	68.00
Chord Solid	99.00
DPA Slink	41.00
DPA White Slink	75.00
Heybrook Inter/BS Blue STRK	95.00
Ixos 104	20.00
Ixos 103	40.00
Ixos 102	60.00
Ixos 101	100.00
Kimber Cable Illuminati DX50	350.00
Kimber Cable Orchid	750.00
Kronos Konnekt 3	49.00
Kronos Konnekt 2	99.00
Kronos Konnekt 1	199.00
Naim Audio SNAIC-5	47.00
Nordost Magic	30.00
Nordost Black Knight	50.00
Nordost Blue Angel	80.00
Nordost Blue Heaven	120.00
Nordost Red Dawn	250.00
Qed P2 Gold	20.00
Qed Incon P2 Screened	23.00
Qed Incon P1 Screened	26.00
Roksan High Def 0.6M	75.00
Roksan High Def 1.5M	95.00
Silver Sound SS3	49.00
Silver Sound SS2	99.00
Silver Sound SS1	199.00
Sonic Link Bonus 1m	15.00
Sonic Link Silver pink	30.00
Sonic Link Black	45.00
Sonic Link White	50.00
Sonic Link Brown	60.00
Sonic Link Violet HPMC	65.00
Sonic Link Violet	85.00
Sonic Link Violet HPMC	100.00
Sonic Link Blue Nickel	105.00
Sonic Link Vermillion	170.00
Sonic Link Red earth	260.00
Sonic Link Black earth	350.00
Sonic Link Blue earth	495.00
Sonic Link Rare earth	1,200.00
Sumo IC-50	37.00
Sumo IC-80	60.00
Trichord Pulswire 75	150.00

Digital Interconnects

Art Yam Church 5000	275.00
Audioquest Video 2	50.00
Audioquest Digital PRO	90.00
Cable Talk Digital 2	75.00
Chord Codac	33.00
Chord Prodac	50.00
DPA Digi-link	28.00
Ixos 105	25.00
Monster Datalink 100	45.00
Moth Leyline Datalink	140.00
Nordost Moonglo	135.00
Nordost Moonglo-XLR	165.00
Qed DigiLink	20.00
QLN Nordost Moonglo	130.00
QLN Nordost-XLR	165.00
Roksan High Def 0.6M	45.00
Roksan High Def 1.0M	55.00
Roksan High Def 1.5M	65.00
Sonic Link Silver Pink	15.00
Sonic Link Green	50.00
Sonic Link Green Earth	110.00
Sumo IC-100	73.00
Sumo IC-200	151.00

Speaker Cables

Art Yam Church M2000	470.00
Art Yam Church 5000	795.00
Bandridge LC7409	4.00
Bandridge LC4110	28.00
Bandridge LC3410	40.00
Bandridge LC3210	75.00
Bandridge LC3219	75.00
Bandridge LC3220	90.00
Bandridge LC3310	95.00
Bandridge LC3240	125.00
Cable Talk Overture 2.1	4.00
Chord Myth	6.00
Chord Legend	15.00
DPA Black Sixteen	345.00
Electrocompaniet EC-K2	119.00
Gale XL315	2.00
Gale XL160-2	3.00
Grado 450CM	25.00
Ixos 607	2.00
Ixos 605	5.00
Ixos 606	8.00
Ixos 605/5	15.00
Linn K20	4.00
Linn K400	10.00
Linn K600	15.00
Lumley Reference Silver	35.00
Naim Audio NACA 5	5.00
Puresonic 7845	2.00
Rega REGA	2.00
Silver Sound 12 Gauge	15.00
Silver Sound 10 Gauge	35.00
Silver Sound 8 Gauge	75.00
SME S2LB-4	37.00
SME S3LB-4	42.00
SME 4900A	62.00
SME 5900A	83.00
Sonic Link Nickel plated	3.00
Sonic Link Gold plated	5.00
Sonic Link Silver aero	18.00
Sonic Link Silver aero SX00x2	35.00
Sonic Link rare earth metal	90.00
Sumo SS-1000-D	323.00
Trichord Pulswire 75/D	64.00



CARTRIDGES
Up to £100

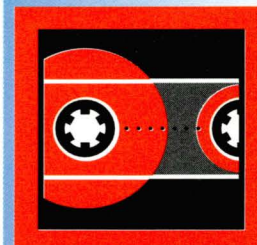
Audio Technica AT-91	13
Audio Technica AT-95E	19
Audio Technica AT-110E	24

Denon DL110	70
Denon DL160	90
Denon DL103	100
Goldring Elan P	17
Goldring Elan	19
Goldring Elektra	29
Goldring 1006	59
Goldring 1012GX	65
Goldring 1012 GX Cartridge	79
Goldring 1022GX	99
Grado ZTE+1	27
Grado ZCE+1	37
Grado Z3E+1	47
Grado Prestige Black	49
Grado Prestige Green	59
Grado Prestige Blue	69
Grado ZF1+	82
Grado Prestige Red	99
Linn K5	65
Nottingham Analogue Tracer I	98
Ortofon VMS2	14
Ortofon OMP-5E	20
Ortofon OM-5E	20
Ortofon OM10 Super	30
Ortofon OMPRO-S	38
Ortofon OM Pro S	38
Ortofon 510	38
Ortofon OMDJ's	50
Ortofon OMPRO-S+2	60
Ortofon OM Night Club S	65
Ortofon 520	65
Ortofon OM20 Super	70
Ortofon OM Night Club E	70
Ortofon MC1 Turbo	70
Ortofon Concord PRO-S	70
Ortofon Concord DJ's	80
Ortofon OM30 Super	90
Ortofon Concord PRO-S +2	95
Ortofon OMNC+2	100
Ortofon MC10 Super	100
Ortofon 530	100
Pickering TE-15	20
Pickering VE-15	25
Pickering T-E	25
Pickering V15-DJ	28
Pickering TL-E	35
Pickering TL-2E	45
Pickering XV15-625E	50
Pickering XV15-150-DJ	50
Pickering TL-2-S	55
Pickering XV15-757S	60
Pickering XV15-625DJ	60
Pickering XV15-1800S	70
Pickering TL3S	80
Pickering KEV-3001E	95
Pickering XLZ-3500	100
Pickering TL-4-S	100
Pro-Ject 78rpm Kit	20
Rega Bias	39
Rega RB78	39
Rega Super Bias	59
Rega Elys	85
Shure SC35C	29
Shure MESSEF	38
Shure M70BX	38
Stanton 500AL II	34
Stanton 500EL	37
Stanton 680AL/X	56
Stanton 680EL/X	70
Sumiko Oyster	30
Sumiko Black Pearl	50
Sumiko Pearl	70
Sumiko Blue Point	100

Over £100

Audio Technica AT-OC9	245
Audio Technica ART-1	944
Audioquest MC5	250
Audioquest 404L	599
Audioquest 404iMH	899
Audioquest 7000NSX	1,495
Denon DL304	200
Dnm Reson Mica	150
Dnm Reson Aciore	199
Dnm Reson Recca	225
Dnm Reson Etile	299
Dnm Reson Lexe	899
Dynavector 50X	159
Dynavector 10X	189
Dynavector 23RS	375
Dynavector 1702	450
Dynavector XX-1L	998
Dynavector XX-1	998
Dynavector Te-Kaitora	1,698
Goldring Eroica LX	110
Goldring Eroica	110
Goldring 1042	120
Goldring Elite	220
Grado Prestige Silver	119
Grado Prestige Gold	149
Grado Signature Junior	149
Grado Signature 8M2	250
Grado Signature MCZ	375
Grado Signature TLZ	650

Grado Signature XTZ	975
Koetsu Red T	1,550
Koetsu Red K Sig	1,998
Koetsu Urushi	2,297
Koetsu Signature	3,218
Koetsu Gold PR	5,498
Linn K9	150
Linn K18/II	250
Linn Klyde	500
Linn Arkiv	1,000
London Decca Maroon	259
London Decca Gold	299
London Decca Maroon Dp	339
London Decca Gold Dp	379
London Decca S Gold	399
London Decca S Gold Dp	479
London Decca Jubilee	999
Lyra Lydian	699
Lyra Clavis Da Capo	1,069
Lyra Parnassus	2,295
Nottingham Analogue Tracer II	175
Nottingham Analogue Tracer III	350
Nottingham Analogue Tracer IV	550
Ortofon Concord NC S	110
Ortofon OMDJ's +2	115
Ortofon OMNC+2	120
Ortofon Concord NC E	120
Ortofon MC3 Turbo	130
Ortofon MC15 Super II	130
Ortofon 540	130
Ortofon Concord NCS+2	150
Ortofon Concord DJS+2	150
Ortofon Concord NC+2	165
Ortofon MC25E	180
Ortofon MC25FL	249
Ortofon MC10 Supreme	300
Ortofon MC20 Supreme	425
Ortofon MC30 Supreme	525
Ortofon MC2000II	750
Ortofon MC Rohman	1,000
Ortofon MC3000II	1,100
Ortofon MC5000	1,500
Ortofon MC7500	2,000
Pickering TL-3003	145
Pickering XLZ-4500	150
Pickering TL-4004	175
Pickering XSV-5000U	200
Pickering XLZ-7500	200
Pickering TLZ-7500-S	200
Pro-Ject 6/A30	1,000
Pro-Ject 6/A35	2,350
Roksan Corus Black	130
Roksan Shiraz	970
Stanton 890AL/X	118
Sumiko BPS	250
Transfiguration SPIRIT	1,000
Transfiguration AF-1 MkII	1,595
Transfiguration TEMPER	1,950
Transfiguration Supreme	1,995
Van Den Hul MM-1	250
Van Den Hul MM-2	299
Van Den Hul DDT-II	699
Van Den Hul MC-10	799
Van Den Hul MC-One	999
Van Den Hul MC-ONE Super	1,150
Van Den Hul MC-Two	1,349
Van Den Hul The Frog	1,700
Van Den Hul Grasshopper IIISLA	2,200
Van Den Hul Grasshopper IIIGLN	2,999
Van Den Hul Grasshopper IIIGLA	2,999
Van Den Hul Grasshopper IIICMN	3,000
Van Den Hul Grasshopper IIICHN	3,400
Van Den Hul Grasshopper IVGLA	3,450



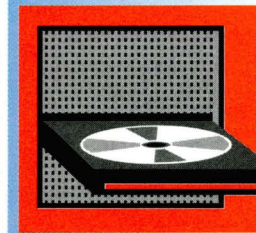
CASSETTE DECKS
Up to £200

Aiwa AD-F450	120
Aiwa AD-WX727	170
Denon DRM-550	160
Denon DRW-580	200
Denon DRS-640	200
Dual CC8000 RS	200
Grundig CCF3	200
JVC TD-W218BK	170
JVC TD-X372BK	170
JVC TD-R472BK	200
JVC TD-W318BK	200
Kenwood KX-W4080	160
Kenwood KX-3080	160
Kenwood KX-W6080	200

Kenwood KX-5080S	200
Luxman K-322	200
Marantz SD-53	200
Marantz SD-55	200
NAD TARW 311	20
Pioneer CT-S250	150
Pioneer CT-VV205R	160
Pioneer CT-VV505R	180
Pioneer CT-S450S	200
Sony TC-KE200	120
Sony TC-WE405	150
Sony TC-KE400S	180
Sony TC-WE505	180
TEAC W 416	100
TEAC V-610	100
TEAC W-780R	170
TEAC R-560	180
Technics RS-TR373	200
Technics RS-BX501	200
Yamaha KX-390	150
Yamaha KX-W392	180
Yamaha KX-490	199

Over £200

Aiwa AD-F850	230
Aiwa AD-S950	300
B&W DR-3	450
B&W DR-2	750
B&W DRAGON	2,350
Denon DRM-740	270
Denon DRS-810	310
Harman/Kardon TD420	280
Harman/Kardon TD450	350
Harman/Kardon TD470	450
JVC TD-V562BK	220
JVC TD-W718BK	250
JVC TD-V662BK	270
Kenwood KX-7060S	330
Luxman K-373	400
Marantz SD-63	300
NAD TA 6210	230
NAD 813	230
NAD 614	270
NAD 816	299
NAD TARW 311	320
NAD TA 6310	330
NAD TARW 411	370
Onkyo TA-RW311	320
Onkyo KR-609	350
Onkyo K-W606	370
Onkyo K-611	430
Pioneer CT-S550S	250
Pioneer CT-VV803RS	300
Pioneer CT-S830S	500
Pioneer CT-95	1,000
Sony TC-NE500S	230
Sony TC-WE80S	250
Sony TC-KE800S	300
Sony TCX-861S	300
Sony TC-KAGES	550
TEAC W-850R	250
TEAC V-1030	250
TEAC W-6000R	450
TEAC V-6030S	550
TEAC V-8030S	650
Technics RS-TR474	230
Technics RS-AZ6	220
Technics RS-TR575	280
Technics RS-AZ7	300
Yamaha KX-W592	280
Yamaha KX-690	400
Yamaha KX-W952	599



CD PLAYER
Up to £250

Aiwa XC-300	150
Cambridge Audio CD4	150
Denon DCD-625	200
Denon DCD-825	240
Denon DCD-825	240
Dual CD1135RC	140
Dual CD1150RC	150
Dual CD1000RS	170
Dual CD1180RC	180
Eclipse Model 30	50
Eclipse model 50	60
Eclipse model 101	80
Eclipse CD101	80
Grundig CDII	170
Harman/Kardon HD710	250
JVC XL-V184BK	120



Pioneer CT-S830S This impressive recorder is expensive but still great value for keen recordists.

JVC XL-V284BK	140	Denon DCD-1015	350
JVC XL-F116BK	180	Grundig CDC14	300
JVC XL-F216BK	200	Harman/Kardon HD7325	299
JVC XL-V574BK	250	Harman/Kardon FL8450	300
Kenwood DP-M5570	250	Harman/Kardon HD730	300
Kenwood DP-5060	250	Harman/Kardon HD7425	349
Luxman D-322	200	Harman/Kardon HD7525	400
Marantz CD-57	230	JVC XL-Z674BK	300
Marantz CC-47	250	Marantz CD-63SE	350
NAD 510	199	Marantz CD-631KI	500
NAD 512	250	Micromega Minium	350
Onkyo DX-710	200	Musical Fidelity E60	300
Onkyo DX-703	240	NAD 513	290
Philips CD711	120	NAD 515	350
Philips CD721	130	NAD 514	370
Pioneer PD-104	130	NAD 517	400
Pioneer PD-204	150	Onkyo DX-7210	260
Pioneer PD-M603	200	Onkyo C721	290
Pioneer PD-S505	200	Onkyo DX-7510	400
Pioneer PDF-605	230	Onkyo CM716	450
Rotel RCD-930AX	180	Orelite CD-100	500
Sony CDP-XE200	120	Pioneer PD-S705	300
Sony CDPM-303	130	Pioneer PDF-805	330
Sony CDP-XE300	140	Pioneer PD-F905	400
Sony CDPCCE-105	150	Pioneer PD-S904	400
Sony CDP-XE500	160	Rotel RCD-9658X	300
Sony CDP-CE405	180	Rotel RCD-970BX	375
Sony CDP-XE700E	200	Sony CDP-XE900E	300
Sony CDP-C325M	200	Sony CDPCX-200	380
Sony CDP-761E	250	TEAC CD-5	350
TEAC CD-P1800	130		
TEAC CD-P3450	150		
TEAC CD-P3450SE	200		
TEAC PD-D2200	250		
Technics SL-PG380A	120		
Technics SL-PG480A	140		
Technics SL-PG580A	160		
Technics SL-PG570A	170		
Technics SL-PS770A	200		
Technics SL-PS770A	250		
Yamaha CDC-555	199		
Yamaha CDC-655	249		
£251 to £500		£501 to £1000	
Aiwa DX-C100M	500	Arcam Alpha 8	520
AMC CD6	349	Arcam Alpha 6	600
Arcam Alpha 5 Plus	480	Arcam Delta 250	800
Audio Innovations Alto	399	B&W MB-2s	700
Audio Innovations Alto	400	Harman/Kardon HD7625	550
Aura CD100	450	Harman/Kardon HD7725	800
B&W MB-4s	350	Heybrook Signature 11	989
Creek CD42	500	Linn Mimik	875
		Luxman D-373	550
		Meridian 563	795
		Meridian 200	895
		Meridian 506	995
		Monrio Privilege	995
		Myryad MC100	700
		Naim Audio CD3	977
		Quad 77B	700
		Quad 77M	900
		TEAC VRDS-10SE	850
		Technics SL-P2000	1,000
		Thule CD100	849

Over £1000	
Audio Research CDI	3,290
AVI S2000MC	1,249
Copland CDA-288	1,799
Copland CDA-277	1,800
Jadis JS-1	8,068
Krell CD-DSP MkII	5,000
Krell CD-DSP II 5000	5,000
Krell KPS-20i	9,990
Luxman D500XS	4,500
Marantz CD-17	800
Marantz CD-17KI	1,300
Marantz CD-23	4,000
Mcintosh MCD7008	2,195
Mcintosh MCD7009	2,635
Meracur Auriga	1,295
Meracur Flagrare	2,495
Meracur Amago	3,995
Meracur Imagio	4,495
Meridian 606	1,350
Meridian 508	1,685
Micro-Seiki CD-M2DC	3,695
Micro-Seiki CDM-200X	4,689
Mission Disc/Dacmaster	1,900
Musical Fidelity FCD	1,499
Naim Audio CD2	1,977
Naim Audio CD5	3,751
Roksan ATT-DP3P	1,595
Audio Alchemy DDS III	700
Audio Research CDTI	3,290
Audio Synthesis Transcend	1,395
AudioLab 8000CDM	1,400
Audiomeca Damnation	950
Audiomeca Damnation SE	1,100
Audiomeca Kreatura	1,199
Audiomeca Kreatura SE	1,450
Audiomeca Talisman	1,850
Audiomeca Mephisto	2,100
Audiomeca Mephisto	2,350
Cambridge Audio New CD-4	200
Cambridge Audio Discmagic One	300
Cambridge Audio CD6	300
Counterpoint DA-11E	1,495
DPA Enlightenment	725
Jadis J02	4,990
Jadis JCDT	8,000
Jadis JDI	9,950
Krell KSP-20i/1	1,100
Krell MD-20	4,999
Krell MD-10	7,990
Krell KPS-20T	8,490
Krell DT-10	9,090
Linn Karik	1,750
Meridian 500	1,245
Meridian 602	1,750
Micromega Drive 1	700
Pink Triangle Cardinal	875
PS Audio Lambda TR	2,250
PS Audio lambda AT&T	2,778
Roksan ATT-DP3	1,295
TEAC VRDS-T1	550
TEAC VRDS-7	599
TEAC P-700	900
TEAC P-30	2,500
Theta Data Basic II	2,298
Theta Data Basic II AT&T	2,877
Theta Data BasicII S MDE	3,490
Theta Data III NTSC	5,345
Theta Data III NTSC/PAL	5,879
Thorens TCD-2000	900
Wadia 8	3,195
Wadia 20	4,370
XTC CDT-1LE	1,250
Arcam Black Box 50	480
Arcam Black Box 500	750
Counterpoint DA-10E	1,895
Linn Numerik	1,400
Pink Triangle Ordinal	837
Pink Triangle DaCapo	1,400
PS Audio UltraLink 2 HDCC	2,590
PS Audio Ref Link	4,550
TEAC D-T1	500
Trichord Pulsar Ser One	1,395

Pioneer PDR-05	1,300
Sharp MD-R1H	400
Sharp MD-MS100H	400
Sony MDS-SE7	300
Sony MDSJE-500	300
Sony MDS-S1	550
Sony MDS-503	550
Sony DTCZE-700	699
Sony MDA-JA3ES	700
Sony MXD-D1	800
TEAC R-9	1,200



HEADPHONES	
Up to £40	
Aiwa HP-X201	13
Aiwa HP-A360	13
Aiwa HP-X301	20
Aiwa HP-VX303	25
Aiwa HP-X705	40
Audio Technica ATH-P1	10
Audio Technica ATH-P3	15
Audio Technica ATH-P5	20
Beyer DT111 Alpha	13
Beyer DT111 Beta	17
Beyer DT111 Gamma	21
Beyer DT211	34
Denon AH-C33	26
JVC HA-22	6
JVC HA-CD88	18
JVC HA-D525	20
JVC HA-F65	20
JVC HA-D626	25
Kenwood KH-535	15
Kenwood KH-757	20
Kenwood KH-959	25
Kenwood KH-1000	25
Kenwood KH-2020	40
Maxell EB-125	4
Maxell HP-200	6
Maxell EB-225	7
Maxell HBS-150	8
Maxell HP-300	8
Maxell EBS-325	9
Maxell EB-425	10
Maxell HP-700	10
Maxell HP-800	11
Maxell HBS-250	13
Maxell HBS-350	13
Maxell HP-1000	20
Maxell HP-2000	25
Maxell HP-3000	30
Pioneer SE-A10	8
Pioneer SE-A20	13
Pioneer SE-A40	20

Pioneer SE-A20V	23
Pioneer SE-M250	25
Pioneer SE-M350	30
Ross RE-233	5
Ross RIH-150	6
Ross RE-235	6
Ross RE-234	6
Ross RE-229	6
Ross RE-2030	6
Ross RMH-300	7
Ross RE-280	7
Ross RE-246	7
Ross RE-223	7
Ross RMH-500CD	9
Ross RIH-360CD	9
Ross RE-2060CD	9
Ross RMH-310TV	10
Ross RIH-550	10
Ross RIH-460CD	12
Ross RDH-200CD	13
Ross RDH-100CD	15
Ross RDH-300CD	17
Ross RDH-400CD	22
Sennheiser MX3	9
Sennheiser HD26	10
Sennheiser HD36	15
Sennheiser MX4	15
Sennheiser HD56	18
Sennheiser MX5	25
Sennheiser Vegas	30
Sennheiser Manhattan	30
Sennheiser HD60TV	40
Sony OPEN MDR-005EL	6
Sony MDR-E807	8
Sony Technica ATH-P5	8
Sony MDRW-08L	10
Sony MDR-009	10
Sony MDR-E817V	12
Sony MDR-A009	12
Sony MDR-V50	13
Sony MDR-E827 KIT	15
Sony MDR-15	15
Sony MDR-E837	18
Sony MDR-E846MP	20
Sony MDR-009TV	20
Sony MDR-A34L	20
Sony MDR-E848	25
Sony MDR-CD170	20
Sony MDR-P1TV	25
Sony MDR-IF120	30
Sony MDR-CD270	30
Sony MDR-CD370	40
Technics RP-HT300	40
Vivanco SR60	3
Vivanco SR12	3
Vivanco SR52	5
Vivanco SR54	7
Vivanco SR14	7
Vivanco SR16	8
Vivanco SR120	15
Vivanco SR250	19
Vivanco SR150	20
Vivanco SR200	25
Vivanco SR300	30
Over £41	
AKG K221R	100



Meridian 508 20-bit Technological wonder that sets new standards for natural-sounding music.



DIGITAL RECORDERS	
Meridian CDR	4,500
Philips DCC730	250
Philips DCC170	250
Pioneer D-05	800
Pioneer D-07	1,150

SENNHEISER

THE ESSENTIAL ACCESSORY - SENNHEISER'S HD565

"Sound quality is exceptionally good... easily the best all-round model tested" - Alvin Gold, Hi-Fi Choice, September 1996. Call 01494 551551 for more information or your nearest stockist.



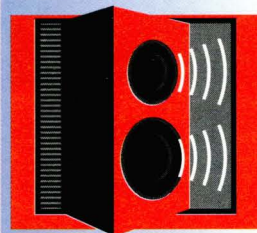
Mordaunt-Short MS10i Officially declared "a kickin' little box" in Hi-Fi Choice, issue 156.

Soundstyle X300	180
Soundstyle X053	200
Soundstyle X050	200
Soundstyle X305	210
Soundstyle X100	220
Soundstyle X058	230
Soundstyle X310	250
Soundstyle X120	250
Soundstyle X105	250
Soundstyle Select 6105	280
Stands Unique Tuned Speaker supp	222
Stands Unique Midi Sound Support	220
Stands Unique Midi Sound Tower	249
Stands Unique Sound Tower	249
Stands Unique Sound Tower 10	269
Stands Unique Sound Tower 10	299
Stands Unique Sound Tower 10	349
Stands Unique High	349
Stands Unique Ultimate	449
Stands Unique Ultimate High	529
Stands Unique Ultimate Tower	599
Target B5	175

Technics SB-CS55	80
Technics SB-CS75	100
Visonik 5202	129
Wharfedale Centre Cube	49
Wharfedale Modus CUBE	60
Wharfedale Valds 100	79
Wharfedale Valds Centre	100
Wharfedale Diamond 7.1	100
Wharfedale Diamond 6R	109
Wharfedale Valds 200	109
Wharfedale Modus Micro	109
Wharfedale Modus Centre	119
Yamaha NS-C80	99

£131 to £200

Acoustic Energy AE100	200
Allison Model 4A	170
Allison AL105	170
AMC WM75	160
Audio Innovations Alto	200
B&W CWM5	150
B&W DM601	199
B&W Solid Monitor	200
Bose 101 M'ble Monitor	190
Bose XL2000	200
Boston Acoustics HD5	139
Boston Acoustics 325	139
Boston Acoustics CR6	149
Boston Acoustics Runabout	169
Boston Acoustics 350	179
Boston Acoustics 335	179
Boston Acoustics Satellites	179
Boston Acoustics 351	180
Boston Acoustics CR7	199
Boston Acoustics Runabout II	200
Canon S-25	150
Canon S-30	180
Canon S-820	200
Celestion CS135	139
Celestion 3 MKII	139
Celestion Impact Centre CH	149
Celestion MP1	149
Celestion Centre 2	189
Celestion Style 1	199
Celestion Impact 15	199
Carwin Vega HED165	200
Denon SC-E313	160
Gale 2is	139
Gale 3s	150
Gale Model 4	200
Genexxa GX650	140
GLL Arena SW	139
GLL Imagio IC100	170
Grundig BX1	160
Harman/Kardon LS0200	149
Harman/Kardon LS0300	199
Heybrook Prima	139
Heybrook Solo	199
Infinity SM65	150
Infinity Reference II	150
Infinity Reference 11i	200
Interaudio XL2000	140
Interaudio XL3000	160
Interaudio XL4000	200
Jamo Studio-140	140
Jamo SAT-300.II	150
Jamo D-135	160
Jamo Studio-180	180
Jamo 38	180
Jamo Converta	180
Jamo D-165	200
JBL TLX111	140
JBL TLX121	170
JPW P1 Vinyl	150
JPW P1	170
JPW AP2	200
KEF Coda 8	189
KEF 60S	199
Kenwood LS-200G	200
Mission 73C	150
Mission 73Z	200
Monitor Audio MA301	200
Mordaunt-Short MS10i	140
Mordaunt-Short MS20i	200
Naim Audio NA PX0	133
Ortofon Concord 2	170
Pioneer CS-5030	170
Polk RT3	200
QLN Projekt A3	135
QLN Projekt A4	180
QLN Qubic111	200
Rega KYTE	198
Revolver Colt	139
Revolver Purdey MkII	199
Rogers LS1	149
Rogers LS1	149
Royd The Herald	198
Sequence 200	199
Sony SS-176E	200
Tannoy 631	149
Tannoy 632	189
TDL RTL1	180
TDL SBR	200
Technics SB-CS95	150
Technics SB-M20	200



LOUDSPEAKERS

Up to £130

Allison Micro Monitors	95
Allison Black Gold Centre	99
Allison AL100	100
Allison Mini References	120
AMC WM50	125
B&W Solid HCM1S	120
B&W DM302	130
B&W Solid HCM2	130
Bose XL1000	130
Canon SV15	100
Canon S-C10	130
Celestion CC1	90
Celestion Little 1	99
Celestion Impact 10	129
Celestion CSC	129
Denon SCM2	80
Gale Mini Monitors	80
Gale Centre 1	60
Gale Gold Hotshots	80
Gale Gold Monitors	90
Gale Ref Monitors	100
Gale Centre 2	120
Genexxa STS-50	25
Genexxa GX300	80
Genexxa GX330	80
GLL Arena HF	99
Goodmans Active 75	65
Interaudio XL1000	100
Jamo Studio-80	70
Jamo D-100	80
Jamo SAT-90	90
Jamo Studio-110	100
Jamo D-110	100
Jamo Cornet 20.4	100
Jamo SAT-170	110
Jamo Artina	120
Jamo D-115	120
Jamo Cornet 30.4	120
Jamo 28	125
Jamo SAT-200.II	130
JBL Control One	115
JPW Sonata Vinyl	100
JPW Sonata	120
JVC SX-SC1VBK	60
JVC SP-V50	80
JVC SP-X220TBK	100
JVC SP-X550BK	130
KEF Coda 7	129
Mission 73	125
Mission 73i	130
Mordaunt-Short MS05i	100
NAD 801	100
Pioneer CS-3030	120
Realistic Minimus 3.5	30
Realistic Minimus 21	30
Realistic Minimus 26	36
Realistic Minimus Pro-7	60
Realistic Minimus Pro-77	100
Revolver Beratta	100
Sony SS-E300	50
Sony SS-E500	80
Sony SS-86E	100
Sony SS-126E	130
TDL NUCLEUS 1	60
TDL NFM1	120
TEAC LS-CT8	80
TEAC LS-X8	80

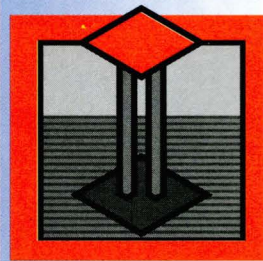
AKG K333IR	150
AKG K444IR	180
AKG K1000	700
Audio Technica ATH910PRO	90
Beyer DT311	57
Beyer DT411	69
Beyer IRH790	79
Beyer DT331	82
Beyer DT431	98
Beyer IRH 890	99
Beyer DT511	117
Beyer DT770 Pro	129
Beyer IR5790	130
Beyer DT531	135
Beyer DT990 Pro	160
Beyer DT100	160
Beyer DT801	172
Beyer DT811	200
Beyer IR890	222
Beyer DT901	222
Beyer DT911	235
Denon AH-D210	45
Denon AH-D350	65
Denon AH-D550	80
Denon AH-D650	95
Denon AH-D750	130
Denon AH-D950	150
Ergo 1	120
Ergo Model2	140
Grado SR80	110
Jecklin Float Model 1	79
Jecklin Float Model 2	99
Jecklin Float ELS	399
JVC HA-D727	43
JVC HA-D910	65
JVC HA-D1000	250
JVC HA-F25	699
Kenwood KH-5000	70
Sennheiser HD445	45
Sennheiser HD414 Class	50
Sennheiser HD455 II	55
Sennheiser HD465	65
Sennheiser IS360/UK	70
Sennheiser HD475	80
Sennheiser HD25 SP	90
Sennheiser HD535	105
Sennheiser IS450	120
Sennheiser HD545 Ref	125
Sennheiser HD585 Ovatt'n	150
Sennheiser HD265 Linear	150
Sennheiser HD25	160
Sennheiser IS550	180
Sennheiser HD 580 P'cision	200
Sennheiser HD600	250
Sennheiser LUCAS	280
Sennheiser IS850	859
Sennheiser HE60/HEV70	998
Sennheiser Orpheus	9,652
Sony MDR-IF120K	50
Sony MDR-CD470	50
Sony MDR-IF50K	70
Sony MDR-CD570	70
Sony MDR-LF320RK-MK2	80

Sony MDR-CD770	100
Sony MDR-CD770	100
Sony MDR-D77	130
Sony MDR-NC20	150
Sony MDR-NC10	150
Sony MDR-IF610K	160
Sony MDR-CD1700	200
Stax SR34	169
Stax SR Gamma	239
Stax SR84	259
Stax SR Lambda	349
Stax Gamma Pro	399
Stax Lambda Pro	449
Stax Lambda Sig	549
Stax Omega	1,695
Technics RP-HT400	50
Technics RP-HT600	60
Technics RP-HT700	70
Vivanco IR5700	50
Vivanco IR5000	50
Vivanco SR850	50
Vivanco SR650	50
Vivanco SR750	60
Vivanco IR6000	70
Vivanco SR909	70
Vivanco IR6500	90
Vivanco SR10001FL	110
Vivanco IR7100	120
Vivanco IR7600	140
Vivanco SR2001FL	140

Soundstyle X012	100
Soundstyle X024	105
Soundstyle X020	105

Equipment Supports

Audiophile Furniture Base	480
Deadrack 701	60
Deadrack 703	130
Deadrack 704	190
Deadrack 705	230
Fi-Rax R4	321
Ixos 800	35
Ixos 701	40
Ixos 711	60
Ixos 802	70
Ixos 803	90
Ixos 802P	100
Ixos 703	100
Ixos 803P	110
Ixos 804	110
Ixos 713	130
Ixos 804P	140
Ixos 704	140
Ixos 705	170
Ixos 714	190
Ixos 715	230
Jamo TLS-1	40
Jamo ST-80	130
JPW MS2	45
JPW MS3	55
JPW MS1	80
JPW 3 Tier	80
JPW 5 Tier	100
Kenwood SR-CM7	45
Kenwood SR-WB7	100
Mana Acoustics Sound Frame	125
Mana Acoustics Mini Table	150
Mana Acoustics Sound Table	235
Mana Acoustics Reference Table	350
Mana Acoustics 2 Tier Amp stand	375
Mana Acoustics 3 Tier Amp Stand	450
Mana Acoustics 4 Tier Amp Stand	500
Mana Acoustics 5 Tier Amp Stand	600
Mana Acoustics 6 Tier Amp Stand	700
QLN A3	125
QLN Modulux	125
QLN A4	165
QLN A5	205
QLN A6	245
Quadraspire Q4MSC	60
Quadraspire QKSC	80
Quadraspire QAVSC	120
Quadraspire Q4C	200
Quadraspire Q4M	200
Quadraspire Quadraspire	300
Quadraspire QKC	400
Sound Organisation 2022	60
Sound Organisation 2230	70
Sound Organisation 2201	75
Sound Organisation 2030	95
Sound Organisation 2060	115
Sound Organisation 2550	125
Sound Organisation 2038	130



EQUIPMENT SUPPORTS

Speaker Stands

Canon STDS25	70
Deadrack 903	60
Deadrack 902	60
Deadrack 901	60
Harbeth HL-Stands	199
QLN Signature	75
Royd Royd	99
Sound Organisation 2037	55
Sound Organisation 2027	55
Sound Organisation 2026	55
Sound Organisation 2040	70
Sound Organisation 2055	72
Sound Organisation 2010	82
Sound Organisation 2018	84
Sound Organisation 2024	86
Soundstyle X016	100

Visonik 6003	143
Visonik 5001	170
Wharfedale Modus Mini	139
Wharfedale Diamond 7.2	140
Wharfedale Valdis 300	149
Wharfedale Modus Music Centre	150
Wharfedale Modus Music Two	170
Wharfedale Valdis 400	199
Wharfedale Modus Music Four	200
Wharfedale Diamond 7.3	200
ZYP A1	199
£201 to £300	
Allison Mini Ref Sub	210
Allison MS200	220
Allison AL110	220
Allison AL115	280
Allison RA LABS HTS One	299
Allison CD6	300
AMC WM100	210
Audio Gem Opal	230
B&W CWM6i	240
B&W Solid HCM1	249
B&W DM602	300
B&W Solid Powerbass	300
B&W CWM8i	300
Bandor Loudspeakers Voice	270
Bandor Loudspeakers Pictures	300
Bang & Olufsen Beovox CX50	300
Bose XL3000	230
Bose 151 Environmental	270
Bose 161 Freestyle	275
Bose 201 Ser III	290
Bose XL4000	295
Boston Acoustics 360 Ser II	209
Boston Acoustics 361	210
Boston Acoustics CR8	239
Boston Acoustics 380	249
Boston Acoustics 381	250
Boston Acoustics CR9	279
Boston Acoustics Voyager	299
Boston Lynnfield VR10	250
Boston Lynnfield VRS	300
Boston Lynnfield VR12	300
Canon SV15KIT2	210
Canon V-100	210
Canon V-100W	220
Canon V-100EX	240
Canon SV15KIT1	250
Canon S-35	250
Castle ISIS	229
Castle Keep (STD)	250
Castle Durham 900	300
Celestion Impact 20	279
Celestion CSW	299
Celestion Style 2	299
Celestion Impact 23	300
Cerwin Vega HED265	300
Cerwin Vega SAT-6	300
Dali 102B	260
Faraday FS1	245
Gale Model 5	220
GLL Imagio IC110	300
Heybrook HB1	269
Infinity SM85	250
Jamo 68	230
Jamo 307A	230
Jamo Art	270
Jamo Atmosphere	280
Jamo Deco Art	300
Jamo D-265D	300
Jamo D-265C	300
Jamo Classic 4	300
JBL TLX50	250
JBL TLX60	300
JPW AP3	230
JVC SX-SW10	300
KEF Q10	229
KEF Coda 9	299
KEF 70S	299
Kenwood LS-300G	300
Keswick Audio Aria II	299
Lumley Reference Premenade SP1	299
Micromega Minium MS1	300
Monitor Audio Monitor 1 Gold	245
Monitor Audio Monitor 7 Gold II	299
Monitor Audio Sub /W/200/92	300
Monitor Audio MA201	300
Mordaunt-Short MS30i	275
Mordaunt-Short MS25i	300
NAD 802	279
Ortoton Concord 4	230
Pioneer CS-7030	230
Pioneer S-4UK	250
Pioneer S-60	270
Pioneer CS-9030	280
Pioneer S-LC1	300
Polk M3 II	220
Polk RT5	250
Polk RT7	300
Polk M5	300
QLN Projekt A5	225
QLN Projekt B3	240
QLN Qubic 121	250
QLN L22	270
QLN A6	270
QLN Projekt B3i	285
Rega EL8	298
Rogers LS33	249
Rogers LS53	249
Royd Minstrel	269
Royd Merlin	298
Sequence 300	249
Sequence FW120	249
Sony SS-1765EB	250
System Audio 905	250
Tannoy 633/H	300
TDL RTL 2	280
Visonik 7003	203
Visonik SUB5	259
Wharfedale Modus MFM1	250
Wharfedale Modus Music Six	280
Wharfedale Valdis 500	299
Yamaha NS10M	300
ZYP A1T	219
ZYP A2S	275
ZYP A2ST	295
£301 to £500	
Acoustic Energy AE109	330
Allison CD7	380
Allison Model 2A	420

Allison AL120	420
Audio Innovations Alto	329
AVI Neutron	499
B&W CDM2	400
B&W Solid Verticale	400
B&W AS6	500
B&W DM603	500
B&W Signature 7	500
Bang & Olufsen Beovox CX100	400
Bang & Olufsen Beovox RL6000	450
Bang & Olufsen Beovox 4500	475
Blue Room Mini Pod	400
Bose 301 VM	380
Bose 305	430
Bose A'Mass AM3 II	500
Bose 401	500
Boston Acoustics SW10	449
Boston Acoustics SubSat 6	449
Boston Lynnfield VR20	380
Boston Lynnfield VR500	450
Castle Tay (Standard)	330
Castle York	370
Castle Eden (STD)	430
Castle Severn	500
Celestion Impact 25	399
Celestion Style 4	399
Celestion Style 3	399
Celestion Impact 30	429
Celestion SL6Si	429
Celestion CS6i	449
Celestion CS8i	499
Cerwin Vega VS10	350
Clements 300Si	395
Dali 104B	370
Dawn Audio Chorus BS	482
Epos ES12	499
Faraday SG	345
Faraday Siren	445
Fullers Sultan	349
Fullers Sultan H.E.	475
GLL Imagio IC120	420
Grundig 8X3 Mk II	350
Heybrook Heylios	339
Heybrook Trio	373
Heybrook Heylo	389
Heybrook Heystak	499
Infinity SM105	350
Infinity SM115	450
Infinity SSW-10 Sub	500
Jamo 407A	350
Jamo 98	360
Jamo Classic 6	360
Jamo BX-100A	370
Jamo D-365B	400
Jamo THX Sub One	400
Jamo THX LCR One	400
Jamo Graphic	400
Jamo Classic 8	430
Jamo BX-150A	460
Jamo 128	500
Jamo 477A	500
Jamo Concert Centre	500
Jamo Silhouette	500
JBL TLX151	350
JBL TLX70	400
JBL TLX161	400
JBL TLX171	500
JPW Ruby 1	500
KEF Q30	379
Keswick Audio Aria II	329
Keswick Audio Centrale	359
Linn Sekrit Passive	350
Linn Tukan Passive	500
Lumley Reference LM4	375
Lumley Reference Premenade SP2	399
Lumley Reference LM5	499
Lumley Reference Premenade SP3	499
Mission 733	330
Mission 751 Freedom	348
Mission 734	499
Monitor Audio Monitor 9 Gold II	350
Monitor Audio MA302	400
Monitor Audio MA202	450
Monitor Audio MA303	500
Monitor Audio Monitor 14 Gold II	500
Monitor Audio MA700 P/MC	500
Mordaunt-Short MS40i	450
Musical Technology Harrier	400
NAD 804	400
Neat Critique	445
Neat Acoustics Critique	385
Origin Live OL-1AS	399
Origin Live Monarch	399
Origin Live OL-2A	470
Ortoton Concord 6	330
Pentachord A	469
Pioneer S-80	370
Pioneer S-LC2	500
Polk RT8	400
Polk LS 1/x Surround	449
Polk RT10	500
Prof Monitor Co TB1S	366
Prof Monitor Co TB1SM	403
Prof Monitor Co TB1	410
Prof Monitor Co TB1M	447
Prof Monitor Co XB1	499
QLN Projekt B4	320
QLN Projekt B3ii	329
QLN Projekt C3	330
QLN Projekt B MULTI	330
QLN Projekt D3	360
QLN Projekt C3i	370
QLN Qubic 222	400
QLN Projekt C3ii	400
QLN Projekt B5	400
QLN Projekt C3iii	400
QLN Projekt D3i	440
QLN Projekt C4	440
QLN Projekt C3iv	440
QLN Projekt D3iii	470
QLN Projekt D4	480
QLN Projekt CMULTI	500
Rega ELA	498
Rogers AB33	379
Rogers db101	399
Rogers db101 Series	399
Rogers LS55	429
Rogers LS55	429
Rogers Studio 3	499
Royd The Squire	350
Royd Doublet	450
Ruark Swordsman Plus II	329
Ruark Icon	359
Ruark Sabre II	449
Ruark Templar	499
SD Acoustics SD3R	449
Sequence 400	329
Spendor 2020	399
Tannoy Subsat3	399
Tannoy 636	419
Tannoy 625	450
Tannoy 637	499
TDL RTL 3	400
TDL RTL 3	400
Technics SB-M300	350
Technics SB-M500	450
Totem Mite	495
Triangle Titus Tze	349
Triangle Comete Tze	499
Ukd-Opera Oera Solo	395
Ukd-Opera Opera I	450
Visonik TB1S	366
Wharfedale Modus MF M3	350
Wharfedale Modus Music Eight	360
Wharfedale Modus MSC One-Six	460
£501 to £800	
Acoustic Energy AE1-II	795
Allison RA LABS HTS Two	509
Allison Model 3A	525
Allison CD8	550
Allison AL125	650
Allison AL130	800
Audio Gem Emerald	540
Avanti C6/20	533
Avanti C6/25	763
B&W CD ML	600
B&W P4	675
Bandor Loudspeakers Trident	720
Bbc Monitors LS3/5a	699
Bose SE-5 Ser II System	760
Bose A'mass AM511	800
Boston Acoustics SubSat 7	549
Boston Lynnfield VR30	600
Canon V-200	600
Castle Avon	700
Castle Chester	700
Castle Harlech	799
Celestion Impact 35	529
Celestion 100	539
Celestion Impact 40	629
Celestion Impact 45i	670
Cerwin Vega VS12	550
Cerwin Vega VS15	700
Clements 600Si	595
Dawn Audio Chorus FS	698
Epos ES14	675
Faraday FS10	795
Fullers Sultan H.E.	625
Fullers Pharaoh 1	749
GLL Imagio IC130	530
Harbeth BBC LS3/5A	699
Harbeth HL-P3ES	799
Heybrook Quartet	575
Infinity SM125	550
Infinity SM155	650
Jamo BX-200A	550
Jamo THX Surr One	550
Jamo Classic 10	700
Jamo 507A	800
JBL TLX181	600
Jordan Watts JH200	510
Jordan Watts JHFLG	560
JPW Ruby 2	700
KEF Q50	529
KEF LS3/5a	649
KEF Q70	729
Keswick Audio Volante	599
Keswick Audio Volante	629

Linaeum LFX Wood	649
Linn Kellidh Passive	700
Lumley Reference LM6	650
Lumley Reference Premenade SP4	650
Manitorc Minaret	580
Meridian A500	695
Mission 752	578
Mission 735	650
Mission 753 Freedom	798
Monitor Audio Studio 2	600
Monitor Audio 702PMC	799
Monitor Audio MAG901	800
Mordaunt-Short MS50i	550
Naim Audio INTR0	596
Naim Audio NA PX03	705
Naim Audio S-NAXO 3-6	719
Naim Audio S-NAXO 2-4	719
Neat Petite	595
Neat Mystique	650
Neat Petite II	745
Neat Acoustics Mystique	575
Neat Acoustics Petite II	745
Orelle Orator II	649
Origin Live Resolution	732
Origin Live Victory	750
Pentachord B	519
Pentachord Pentode	729
Pioneer S-200	600
Polk RT12	600
Polk LS50	800
Proac Response CC One	599
Proac Tablette 50	599
Proac Studio 100	699
QLN 313	600
QLN 929	700
QLN Classic One	800
Quad Q7710L	600
Rogers AB1	549
Rogers LS3/5A	699
Rogers Studio 5	699
Roksan Roksan 1	595
Roksan Ojan 3S	795
Roksan Ojan 3 Black	795
Royd The Sorcerer	595
Royd Abbot	665
Ruark Talisman II	749
Shahinian Super Elf	790
Silverado Raider	695
Sonus-Faber Concertino	595
Spendor 2030	599
Spendor LS3/5A	630
Spendor SP3/1	795
Tannoy 638	599
Tannoy D100	649
TDL T-Line 2	550
TDL RTL4	650
TDL T-Line3	750
Totem Rokk	695
Triangle Zephyr	749
Ukd-Opera Operetta II	770
£801 to £1500	
Acoustic Energy AE2-II	1,095
ATC SCM10	1,000
ATC SCM20	1,500
Audio Physic Step	1,299
Audiovector 2X	850
Audiovector 3X	1,500
Avanti C6/28	1,303
B&W PS	875
B&W Matrix 805 V	995
B&W DM604	1,000
B&W P6	1,095
Bandor Loudspeakers Bandora	1,140
Bandor Loudspeakers Mora	1,260
Bang & Olufsen Beolab 4500	1,200
Bang & Olufsen Beolab 6000	1,450
Blue Room House Pod	895
Blue Room Techno Pod	1,295
Bose A'mass AM7	900
Boston Lynnfield VR40	1,000
Canon S-75	1,000
Castle Howard S2	1,100
Celestion SL600Si	820
Celestion 300	1,099
Celestion 700SE	1,435
Cerwin Vega 1515	1,300
Chord SysAudio Sig	850
Clements Reference 1	995
Epos ES22	1,185
Fullers Pharaoh 2	1,400
Gamma Acoustics Epoch Five	1,499
Harbeth HL-K6	975
Harbeth BBC LS5/12A	1,259
Harbeth HL-Compact 7	1,329
Heybrook Sektet	1,129
Impulse Kora	1,250
Infinity Kappa 6.1i	995
Infinity Kappa 7.1i	1,195
Jamo 707i	900
Jamo Concert 8	1,300
JBL L20	850
JBL L40	1,100
JBL L60	1,200
JBL L80	1,300



You must listen to...Mission's 731i.

"A combatant truly worthy of the budget speaker challenge" - Alan Sircom, Hi-Fi Choice, July/August 1996

Call 01480 451777 for more information or your nearest stockist.



Atacama SE24 Support your local speaker!
And a pair of these are an ideal way to do it...



JBL L90	1,300
Jordan Watts JH400	820
Jordan Watts JH400M	970
JPW Ruby 3	1,000
JPW Ruby 4	1,300
KEF Model One	1,099
KEF Model Two	1,499
Keswick Audio Torino	899
Keswick Audio Figaro Evolution	899
Keswick Audio Milano	1,099
Keswick Audio Alto	1,299
Keswick Audio Amber	1,399
Linn Sekrit Aktiv	850
Linn Tulan Aktiv	1,000
Linn Keilidh Aktiv	1,200
Living Voice Auditorium	1,300
Lumley Reference LM3	895
Lumley Reference L/M3.5	1,050
Magneplanar SMG-C SE	990
Magneplanar MG-0.6 SE	1,370
Magneplanar MG-C SE	990
Magneplanar MG-0.6 SE	1,370
Manticore Matisse	1,390
Meridian Argent 1	995
Mission Freedom 5	1,298
Monitor Audio 703PMC	899
Monitor Audio Studio 6	900
Monitor Audio Studio 12	1,000
Monitor Audio 705PMC	1,499
Mordaunt-Short Performance 820	1,495
Naim Audio Credo	987
Origin Live Sovereign	975
Pink Triangle Vertical	990
Pioneer S-400	950
Polk LS70	1,200

Proac Tablette 50 SIG	899
Proac Response 1S	999
Proac Studio 150	1,399
Prof Monitor Co LB1	935
Prof Monitor Co AB1	1,496
QLN Signature	1,000
QLN Prestige	1,500
QLN Sig Splitfield	1,500
Rega XEL	1,040
Rogers Studio 7	899
Roksan Ojan 3 Rosewood	995
Roksan Ojan 3X Black	1,195
Roksan Ojan 3X Rosewood	1,395
Royd The Albion	1,270
Ruark Broadword II	899
Ruark Paladin	1,099
SD Acoustics SD5	1,395
Sonus-Faber Minuetto	898
Sonus-Faber M Amator	1,498
Spendor 2040	899
Spendor SP2/3	930
Spendor SP1/2	1,330
Tannoy D500	1,470
TDL Studio 1m	899
Technics SB-M1000	1,500
Thiel SCS	1,379
Thiel 2	1,499
Thiel CS-5	1,499
Totem Model One	1,195
Triangle Antal	1,099
Ukd-Opera Callas II	895
Ukd-Opera Callas I	950
Ukd-Opera Opera III	999
Ukd-Opera Callas Gold	1,050
Ukd-Opera Divina II	1,500

Vandersteen 2C0	1,395
Visonik LB1	935

£1500 to £3000

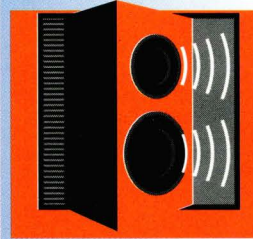
Acoustic Energy AE1 Sig	1,695
Acoustic Energy AE2 Sig	2,695
Allison I.C. 10	2,500
ATC SCM20 Tower	1,999
Audio Physic Spark 2	1,749
Audio Physic Tempo	1,999
Audiovector 5	2,500
B&W Matrix 804	1,595
B&W Matrix 803s2	1,995
B&W Matrix 802s3	2,795
Bandor Loudspeakers Bandora/Mora	2,800
Bang & Olufsen Beolab 8000	1,999
Bang & Olufsen Beolab Penta 3	2,500
Bbc Monitors LS5/9	1,531
Bose 901 VI	1,650
Boston Acoustics Lynfield 300L	2,000
Bravura Virtuoso	2,995
Castle Winchester	1,650
Celestion Kingston	2,500
Chord LS5/12A	1,593
Chord CEL 301	2,130
Chord CEL 201	2,840
Clements Reference 7	1,995
Credo SPB 003	1,820
Credo SPB 009	2,453
Dawn Audio Symphony	1,995
Edo Servo A.2	2,450
Epos ES25	1,655
Fullers Pharaoh 3	2,800
Fullers Sphinx 2	3,000
Gamma Acoustics Epoch Ref Five	2,999
Harbeth HL-5ES	1,799
Harbeth HL-S8	1,895
Helius Syrius II	2,395
Helius Syrius I	2,850
Horning Aristophane	2,600
Impulse Lali	1,850
Jamo Concert 11	2,000
Jamo THX System	2,500
JBL Ti 1000	1,600
JBL L100	1,800
JBL Ti 2000	2,000
JBL Ti 3000	2,700
Jordan Watts JH1+1 Aspect	1,730
Jordan Watts JH1+1 Aspect K	2,310
Jordan Watts Aspect JH1+1	2,745
KEF 104/2 REC	1,799
KEF Model Three	1,999
KEF Model Four	2,999
Linn Kaber Passive	1,800
Linn Kaber Aktiv	2,440
Lowther Fidelio	1,999
Lowther Academy	2,399
Lowther Bel Canto	2,699
Lumley Reference LM2	2,500
Lumley Reference L/M 2	2,795
Magneplanar MG-10 SE	1,650
Magneplanar MG-1.5 SE	1,780

Magneplanar MG-2.7 SE	2,650
Magneplanar MG-10 SE	1,650
Magneplanar MG-1.5 SE	1,780
Magneplanar MG-2.7 SE	2,650
Martin-Logan Aeries	2,288
Martin-Logan Stylos	2,993
Monitor Audio Studio 20SE	2,200
Mordaunt-Short Performance 860	1,895
Mordaunt-Short Performance 880	2,795
Naim Audio SBL Active	1,743
Naim Audio SBL Passive	1,876
Neolith NEO 1	2,999
Origin Live Conqueror	1,600
Pentachord P'column	1,649
Polk LS90	1,700
Polsett Albatros	2,200
Proac Response 2S	2,000
Proac Studio 250	2,249
Proac Response 2.5	2,700
QLN Reference	2,000
QLN Ref HDII	2,500
Rehdeko RK115	1,550
Rehdeko RK125	2,750
Rogers LS5/9	1,531
Rogers Studio 9	1,549
Ruark Crusader II	1,599
Ruark Equinox	1,849
Ruark Accolade	2,699
SD Acoustics SD1E	2,995
Shahinian Arc	1,675
Shahinian Obelisk	2,490
Silverado Silverado 1	1,995
Sonus-Faber Electa	1,790
Sonus-Faber Amator	2,992
Spendor SP7/1	1,990
Spendor SP100	2,030
Tannoy Sterling TW	1,750
Tannoy D700	2,100
Tannoy Edinburgh TW	2,700
TDL Studio Monitor m	2,449
TDL Studio	2,450
Thiel CS2.2	2,749
Totem Mann-2	2,795
Triangle Zays	1,650
Triangle Altinis	2,250
Triangle Extan	2,950
Ukd-Opera Caruso II	2,250

Over £3000

Acoustic Energy AE5	7,995
Allison I.C. 20	5,500
ATC SCM50	3,499
ATC SCM100	4,149
ATC SCM50A	4,999
ATC SCM100A	5,699
Audio Physic Virgo 2	3,199
Audio Physic Terra	3,499
Audio Physic Avanti 2	6,399
Audio Physic Caldera	9,999
Audiovector 6	4,600
B&W Matrix 801s3	3,795
B&W Silver Signature	5,000
Boston Acoustics Lynfield 500L	4,449
Boston Lynfield 500L	4,500
Chord LF5.12	3,620
Credo SPB 012	3,147
Credo SDP	5,353
Credo SDL 001	5,677
Definitive BP2000	3,600
Impulse Ta'us	3,100
Infinity ARS Epsilon	9,995
Jamo Oriol	7,000
JBL S2600	3,500
JBL Ti 5000	3,700
Jordan Watts JH2K	3,230
Jordan Watts Classic JH2KM	4,250
Jordan Watts Classic JH5K	4,875
Jordan Watts Classic JH5KM	5,860
Jordan Watts Classic JH10K	9,340
KEF 107/2 REC	3,999
Keswick Audio Zero2	6,000
Linn Keltik Aktiv	4,400
Living Voice RW24 Basepin sys	9,500
Lowther Delphic	3,999
Lumley Reference L/M 2 Signature	4,500
Lumley Reference LM1	8,500
Magneplanar MG-3.5 SE	3,800
Magneplanar MG-3.5 SE	3,800
Martin-Logan Sequel SL3	3,349
Martin-Logan Sequel II	3,399
Martin-Logan CLS IIz	4,555
Martin-Logan Quest Z	5,350
Martin-Logan Monolith IHP	8,730
Meridian DSP5000	3,295
Meridian DSP6000	9,400
Monitor Audio Studio 50	4,000
Monitor Audio Studio 60	7,000
Naim Audio DBL Active	7,414
Neolith NEO 2	3,499
Neolith NEO 3	4,999
Proac Response 3.5	4,250
Prof Monitor Co MB1	4,370
Prof Monitor Co MB1P	4,681
Prof Monitor Co BB5	6,270

Prof Monitor Co BB5P	6,754
QLN Artec 1600	4,500
Quad ESL63	3,450
Rehdeko RK145	4,250
Rehdeko RK175	7,750
Shahinian Hawk	4,950
Shahinian Diapason	8,350
Sonus-Faber Extrema	5,991
Spendor SP9/1	3,400
Tannoy GRFM TW	3,500
Tannoy Canterbury 12 ^	5,500
Tannoy Westminster TW	6,000
Tannoy Canterbury 15 ^	7,000
TDL Ref Standard-m	4,999
Thiel CS3.6	3,899
Triangle Nemo Altair	3,850
Wilson WAP Puppy II	5,600
Wilson Puppy 5	7,290
Wilson WATT 5	8,800
Wilson WITT	8,88



**AV Loudspeakers
Dedicated Centre Speaker**

B&W CC3	150
B&W CC6	200
Boston Acoustics 404V	100
Boston Acoustics CR1	100
Boston Acoustics Centre 6	130
Boston Acoustics Centre 7	200
Boston Acoustics VR12	300
Canon S-C10	129
Canon S-C20	199
Celestion Centre 2	189
Jamo Centre 50.II	80
Jamo Centre 40	100
Jamo Centre 100.II	130
Jamo Centre 18	150
Jamo Centre 160	180
Jamo Centre 200	200
JBL MR Centre	100
JBL SC305	150
KEF 80C	129
KEF 700C	699
Kenwood CS-6	150
Keswick Audio Centrali	359
Martin-Logan Logos	1,949
Meridian M60C	1,125
Meridian DSP5000C	1,750
Meridian DSP6000C	4,900
Mission 75C	248
Monitor Audio CC200	200
Monitor Audio CC900	400
Polk CS200	170
Polk RM2500C	249
Polk CS250	250
Polk CS350	450
Rogers C33	222
Royd AV77	250
Sony SS CN15	40
Sony SS CN35	70
Sony SS CN65ES	130
Triangle Sat 1	375
Yamaha NS-C60	60
Yamaha NS-C105	80
Yamaha NS-C150	110
ZYP A1TAV	109

Dedicated Surround Speaker

B&W SCM8	550
Boston Acoustics CRX	200
Boston Acoustics VRS	429
Boston Acoustics 575X	450
Canon V-100	210
Jamo Surround 40	60
Jamo Surround rear	60
Jamo Surround 50	70
Jamo Surround 100	90
Jamo Surround 200	180
Jamo Surround 300	280
Kenwood RS-05	80
Kenwood CM-5ES	80
Kenwood CM7ES	100
Martin-Logan Stylos	2,872
Musical Technology Merlin	200
Musical Technology HOBBY	250
Musical Technology Osprey	250
Polk M3 II	220
Polk M5	300
Polk LS 1/x Surround	449
Sony SS SR65ES	170
Triangle SAT II	250



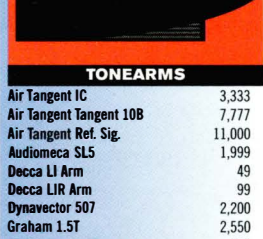
KEF 30B Packaged with the 60S surrounds and 80C centre, won two major awards last year.



Wilson Benesch Turntable Deploys high-tech bearings in the name of harmonious sound.

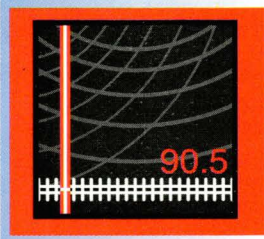
Subwoofer	
Aiwa TS-W9	170
B&W Solid Powerbass	300
B&W AS6	500
B&W PCS8	750
B&W 800ASW	1,500
Boston Acoustics VR500	450
Boston Acoustics SW10	450
Boston Acoustics 595X	455
Canon S-820	200
Canon VSB-100	250
Credo SDC 001	3,054
Jamo SW25	140
Jamo SW170.II	240
Jamo SW200.II	300
Jamo SW400E	330
Jamo SW300.II	370
Jamo SW505E	400
Jamo SW600E	530
JBL P560	399
JPW Satellites	80
JPW Subwoofer	130
JVC SX-SC1VBK	60
KEF Model 20B	349
KEF 30B	499
KEF 40B	759
KEF AV1	2,499
Kenwood SW500	250
Linn Sekrit	298
Linn 5150	2,850
Meridian Sub 1	1,500
Meridian M2500	1,595
Mission 73PS	180
Mission 73AS	450
Mission 75AS	550
Polk PSW100	500
Polk PSW300	750
REL Strata 2	575
REL Storm	700
REL Stadium II	1,000
REL Stentor2	1,800
REL Studio2	4,000
Rogers AB33	379
Rogers ASB60	469
Solid Powerbass	300
Solid Verticale	400
Sony SA W101	230
Sony SA W301	330
Tannoy G25ALF	595
Triangle SATIII	650

Yamaha YST-SW40	140
Yamaha YST-SW80	180
Yamaha YST-SW150	280



TONEARMS	
Air Tangent IC	3,333
Air Tangent Tangent 10B	7,777
Air Tangent Ref. Sig.	11,000
Audiomeca SL5	1,999
Decca LI Arm	49
Decca LIR Arm	99
Dynavector 507	2,200
Graham 1.5T	2,550
Helius Orion 4 Copper	549
Helius Orion 4 Silver	725
Helius Cyalene 2	1,495
Linn Akito	350
Linn Ekos	1,500
Manticore Musician	425
Manticore Magician1	750
Manticore Magician2	850
Moth Arm	95
Mothers MkIII	146
Naim Audio ARO	992
Nottingham Analogue Space	350
Nottingham Analogue Mentor	750
Nottingham Analogue Alien	1,200
Rega RB250	109
Rega RB300	174
Rega RB900	598
Roksan Tabriz	320
Roksan Tabriz Zi	420
Roksan Artemiz	895
SME 3009 Ser II Imp	250
SME 3009 S2 Ser II Imp	273
SME Series II 3009-R	416
SME Series II 3010-R	426
SME Series II 3012-R	458
SME Series 300-309	558

SME Series 300-310	571
SME Series 300-309Gold	642
SME Series 300-312	649
SME Series IV	796
SME 300-309 Gld Pld	1,024
SME Series IV Gld Pld	1,261
SME Series V Gld Print	1,361
SME Series V	1,391
SME Series V Gold Pld	1,649
Townshend Excalibur	1,499
Wilson Benesch ACT1	975
Zeta AS	469



TUNERS	
Arcam Alpha 7	230
Arcam Alpha 8	280
Arcam Delta 280	399
Audiolab 8000T	800
Aura U90	350
AVI S2000MT	599
B&W ST-3s	350
Day Sequerra FM Ref	5,937
Day Sequerra S B'dcast Mon	14,640
Dennon TU-260L	120
Denon TU-215RD	150
Denon TU-380RD	200
Grundig T12	170
Harman/Kardon TU930	180
Harman/Kardon TU950	200
Harman/Kardon TU9400	299
Kenwood KT-2080	130
Kenwood KT-3080	180
Linn Kudos Sneaky	500
Linn Kudos	775
Linn Kremlin	2,600
Luxman T-353	200
Marantz ST-57	150
Marantz ST-65	200

McIntosh MR7084	1,550
Meridian 504	695
Meridian 604	1,350
Michi RHT-10	895
Micromega Minium FM	300
Micromega Tuner	700
Mission Cyrus FM7	400
Musical Fidelity E50	300
Musical Fidelity E500	499
NAD T 4210RDS	180
NAD 412	190
NAD 414RDS	250
Naim Audio NATO3	566
Naim Audio NATO2	1,028
Naim Audio NATO1	1,645
Onix TU39	800
Onkyo T-409	230
Onkyo T-411RDS	280
Onkyo R-811RDS	420
Pioneer F-203RDS	130
Pioneer F-204RDS	140
Pioneer F-303RDS	180
Pioneer F-304RDS	190
Pioneer F-504RDS	250
Quad FM66	554
Rega Radio	229
Rotel RT-990BX	500
Sony ST-SE200	100
Sony STS-E300	120
Sony ST-S261	140
Sony STS-E700	180
Sony STS-A3ES	250
TEAC T-R400	120
TEAC TB-X10	400
Technics ST-GT350L	150
Technics ST-GT550L	200
Technics ST-GT650L	250
Thorens TRT-2000	450
Yamaha TX-480L	120
Yamaha TX-590RDS	180

Rega Planar 3	274
Rega Planar 3 Colour	289
Roksan Radius3	470
Sony PS-LX56	70
Sony PS-LX-150H	90
Sony PS-J10	90
Sony PS-LX-300H	150
Systemdek I/920	136
Systemdek IIX/900	230
Systemdek I/920/Moth	235
Systemdek IIXE/900Ap	388
Systemdek 960	500
Technics SL-BD20	160
Technics SL-BD22	180
Technics SL-1210MKII	500
Technics SL-1200MKII	500
Thorens TD-180 AT91	190
Thorens TD-180/S500	200
Thorens TD-280 IV/UK	200
Thorens TD-166 VI/UK/BC	200
Thorens TD-280 IV UK AT95E	209
Thorens TD-180 Stanton 500	219
Thorens TD-166 VI/UK/AT	270
Thorens TD-166 VI/UK/RB	300
Thorens TD166 VI REGA 250	400
Thorens TD-3111 TP50	500

Over £500	
Audiomeca Romance	1,675
Audiomeca J1	2,500
Audiomeca J1/SL5	4,250
Basis Basis 201	2,750
Basis Ovation II	4,800
Basis Debut Gold Std III	7,200
Basis Debut Gold Vacuum	9,250
DNM Rota 2	4,800
Dnm Reson Rota 1	3,500
Impulse Moskito	695
Linn LP12 Basik	1,050
Linn LP12 Valhalla	1,200
Linn LP12 Lingo	1,750
Lumley Reference Strotosphere ST1	6,250
Manticore Mantra	950
Manticore Magister	3,990
Marantz TT-1000	6,000
Michell Mycro/arm	577
Michell Gyrodek	825
Michell Gyrodek/arm	967
Michell Orbe	1,950
Nottingham Analogue Spacedeck	600
Nottingham Analogue Illusion	600
Nottingham Analogue HyperSpacedeck1,200	1,200
Nottingham Analogue Graphic	2,200
Nottingham Analogue Mentor	4,800
Nottingham Analogue Mentor Ref	4,800
Pink Triangle Export	948
Pink Triangle Anniversary	1,797
Pink Triangle Anni/DC PSU	2,173
Pro-Ject 6/Sumiko	850
Rega Planar 9	1,598
Roksan Xerxes 10	1,295
Roksan TMS	2,750
SME Model 20	3,240
SME Model 20/2A	3,941
SME Model 30	8,652
SME Model 30/2A	9,836
Technics SL-1200LTD	1,000
Thorens TD-146 V1 TP50	550
Thorens TD-3001BC	630
Thorens TD-2001 TP90	700
Thorens TD-2001	700
Thorens TD-3001/UK	770
Thorens TD-520	900
Thorens TD-520 SME	1,050
Townshend MkIII Rock	1,499
Well Tempered Record Player	1,850
Well Tempered Classic	2,980
Well Tempered Super	3,900
Well Tempered Reference	5,300
Wilson Benesch	1,550



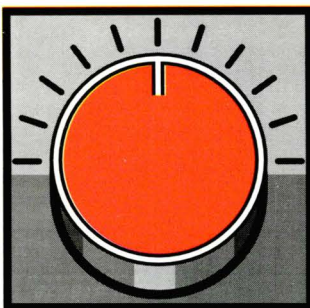
TURNTABLES	
Up to £500	
Akai AP A950	179
Ariston Pro-1200	160
Dual CS3700/3701	85
Dual CS435	130
Dual CS503-2	170
Dual 505-4 UK	200
Dual CS750-1	350
Dual Golden II	500
Genexxa Lab-710	60
Genexxa Lab-810	70
Grundig TT1	180
Kenwood KD-492F	100
Michell Mycro	435
Moth Alamo	175
Moth Turntable	199
Moth Kanoot Mkl Arm	249
Moth Kanoot MkIII Arm	299
NAD 533	220
Pioneer PL-J2500-C	80
Pioneer PL-225	120
Pioneer PL-990	130
Pioneer PL-335	150
Pro-Ject 0.5 (OM10)	160
Pro-Ject 1 (510)	200
Pro-Ject Project 2 MC10	300
Pro-Ject Project 6(MC15)	450
Rega Planar 78	214
Rega Planar 2	214



Audiolab 8000T Acclaimed as a frequency-fondler of note. On your wavelength, missus!

Remember that all entries printed in RED refer to hi-fi products that we have reviewed. Turn to page 114 for a full summary of test results!





Amplifiers

The amplifier sits at the heart of the system, processing the outputs from the various music sources as necessary and then driving the loudspeakers. These two (quite separate) functions are integrated into a single box at the low-to-middle price points; but become separated into preamps and power amplifiers. Even separate power supplies become increasingly common as one moves upmarket. Bear in mind that output power and sound quality are not necessarily

related. Some of the finest amplifiers available have outputs as low as 12 Watts, but team them with high efficiency loudspeakers and you can achieve loudness aplenty.

Power output is equally no indication of sound quality.



KEY

LINE INPUTS: Amount of input sockets for non vinyl sources such as CD players, tuners and cassette decks.

MM PHONO INPUT: If an amp has a vinyl phono input for moving magnet (normal output) cartridges.

MC PHONO INPUT: If an amp has a vinyl phono input for moving coil (low output) cartridges.

REMOTE CONTROL: If an amp is couch potato ready.

HEADPHONE SOCKET: If an amp is can friendly.

POWER OUTPUT (W): Lab tested power output in Watts per channel.

RECEIVER: If an amp has a built in radio tuner.

FACTSBACK NUMBER: The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback

information page.

BACK ISSUE: The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.

INTEGRATED AMPLIFIERS

Product	Price(£)	Comments	LINE INPUTS	MM PHONO INPUT	MC PHONO INPUT	REMOTE CONTROL	HEADPHONE SOCKET	POWER OUTPUT(W)	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER	RECEIVER
Alchemist Maxim APD30A	299	Vivid and colourful sounding amp that's just too bold and brassy	5	●				30	1737	154	
AMC 3050	220	Low-price NAD-alike amplifier that is polite and modest but rather wooden. Phono better than line	4	●			●	45	1738	154	
Arcam Alpha 8	350	Enjoyably soft-centred amp won't frighten the animals. Upgradeable via preamp output, and R/C (not supplied)..	5	●			●	50		162	
Audio Innovations Alto	300	Probably because of a lack of deep bass, this stylish amp sounds open, natural and relaxed	6					35	1540	138	
Audio Innovations S700	1,199	Turns the roughest of digital sounds into understated and graceful music	5					25		116	
Audio Note Ongaku	56,000	A single ended, zero negative feedback triode, line-level amplifier and a half. Probably the best amplifier in the world	3					26		C91	
Audio Note Oto SE	1,500	Transparent, dynamic, clear and subtle, but limited power	4					24		126	
Audiolab 8000A	500	The 8000A remains a highly disciplined and mature sounding amp	5	●	●		●	60	1581	140	
Audiolab 8000S	650	Informative in every sense, only a slight lack of bite detracts. Perhaps Audiolab's best yet!	6				●	60	1740	154	
Aura VA100 II	330	Big, smooth yet slightly disjointed sound was equally familiar	5	●			●	70	1541	138	
Copland CSA-14	1,099	Great sound and looks, but watch out for high capacitance cables	4	●				60	1416	148	
Creek 4240	279	Bearing no relation to earlier Creek designs, this radical rethink is more successful via MM than CD	4	●			●	40	1127	134	
Creek 4240SE	350	At best, bland and plodding, at worst grainy, shouty and honky. Best on simple rock	5				●	35	1741	154	
Denon PMA-350SE	200	Reinvented in the minimalist tradition, the new SE model is a control freak, but can sound wonderful	5				●	50		162	
Denon PMA-450SE	280	Based on the original '450 and offers a fast, furious and entertaining sound	5	●			●	60	1258	142	
Denon PMA-725R	350	Warm, bold, up-front presentation but musically unexciting	5	●	●	●	●	97	1802	157	
Densen Beat B-100	600	Low feedback amp with passive internal preamp gives a bold, pacy and thoroughly involving sound. Phono option listed.	5					60		162	
DeVa 125	249	Subjectively loud this throws an unlikely quantity of music at the audience, bouncy sense of rhythm	6					20	1464	149	
DPA Renaissance	595	DPA's first integrated amp is typically innovative, but a little too 'crisp 'n dry' for our tastes	5	●			●	40	1582	140	
EMF Audio Sequel	349	Relaxed and restrained design from Mike Creek	5	●			●	50		109	
Exposure XX Super	700	Rather transistorised, unexciting sound. Good coherence and rhythm. Best played loud	6					55	1743	154	
Gamma Acoustics Gemini	699	Genuine single-ended triode design, but low power, mundane sound and poor build	3					12	1416	148	
Grundig Fine Arts V-11	160	Rhythmically dull. Never gets out of first gear	5	●		●	●	55	1803	157	
Harman/Kardon HK610	200	Lively and friendly sound, but could prove too exciting for the faint hearted	6	●			●	30	1465	149	
Harman/Kardon HK620	250	Capable and musical amplifier which is among the nicest available at the price. Optional add-in MM/MC board available.	6				●	40		162	
Harman/Kardon HK1200	300	Big sound with little bite. Becomes confused with complex music	7					45	1804	157	
Harman/Kardon HK1400	400	Relaxed, confident sound is only troubled by the most dense of recordings.	5	●	●			40	1011	129	
Harman/Kardon HK640	450	Breezy, nimble sounding amp lacks grip and fortitude - it can sound artificial and insubstantial	6				●	55	1542	138	
John Shearne Phase 2	649	Either a natural-sounding superstar or nasal and hard to listen to — make up your own mind!	5					50	1744	154	
JVC AX-V4	200	Respectable performance for a Pro-Logic AV amplifier. Lacks resolution and sparkle, though	5				●	63	1805	157	
JVC AX-R5	200	Versatile, and lots of even-handed, articulate detail, but let down by superficiality	5	●			●	45	1466	149	
Kenwood KA-3020SE	200	Not a brilliant phono stage, but this is a lively, exuberant sounding amp via CD	5	●			●	50	1130	134	
Kenwood KA-3060R	230	Classy engineering, but sound is over-dry, often frustratingly restrained and rather unsophisticated	5	●			●	45	1260	142	
Kenwood KA-5050R	350	A listenable but neither particularly communicative nor captivating amplifier	5	●			●	95	1012	129	
Kenwood KA-7090R	400	Power with responsibility here, but the Kenwood can sound lean and lacks transparency	6	●	●		●	85		162	
LFD Integrated Zero	499	Lively and brisk, but at the same time cold and unsympathetic	6					50	1584	140	
Linn Majik-I (Phono)	725	The cornerstone of Linn's modular hi-fi system is innovative, but sounds vague and confused	5	●	●		●	33	1013	129	
Magnum IA170	270	Gives a realistic sense of instruments playing within a very believable acoustic, preserves colour & dynamics well	6				●	96	1260	142	
Magnum Quartet	329	An integrated model that incorporates four monoblocks optimised for bi-wiring, but sound is sandy in the treble	5	●			●	36		121	
Magnum IA-200	465	Sweet, valve -flavoured solid state amplifier flatters where it doesn't cast light. Note: power output listed is peak	7					100		162	
Magnum Class A	599	Lashings of rich and compelling music, but the Class A trades lushness for accuracy.	4	●	●			60		116	
Minium Amp	350	Excellent musical performance but doesn't like high levels or low impedance speakers	6	●			●	40	1806	157	
Mission Cyrus IIII	600	Beautifully presented, but mid-dominated balance and other anomalies were not liked on test. Upgradeable using PSX unit PSU.	6	●			●	50		162	
Musical Fidelity E10	300	Smooth and high-endish sound that is marred by a lack of dynamics and a touch of grain	5	●			●	40	1746	154	
Musical Fidelity A2	499	Lucid, transparent midband and a full upper bass are provided by this highly proficient A1 replacement	5	●				25		162	
Myrrad MI 120	530	Despite an ultra-modern appearance, the old-fashioned cold, dry transistor sound	5				●	60	1747	154	
NAD 310	100	Fleet and sure of foot, it seems likely to set all appendages tapping with itsblend of enthusiasm and artfulness	5					20	1468	149	
NAD 314	260	Lively if coloured presentation that is musically engaging and easy on the ear	6	●			●	53	1807	157	
Naim Nait 3	550	Distinctive and highly musical sounding integrated. Perhaps too distinctive for sme tastes	5					30	1748	154	
Onix OA31	480	Eager to please, dynamic and fresh sounding, but it's grip is wafer thin	5	●	●		●	60	1587	140	
Orelle SA-100	449	A musically rewarding amplifier that grows on you. Trace of coarseness in treble	5					50	1749	154	
Pioneer A-300R	200	Its bright and breezy sound is a natural tonic to those of use worn down by the ongoing stress of life	5	●			●	50	1469	149	
Pioneer A-303R	200	Fresh and uncomplicated sound bests much of the audiophile competition	5	●			●	45	1129	134	

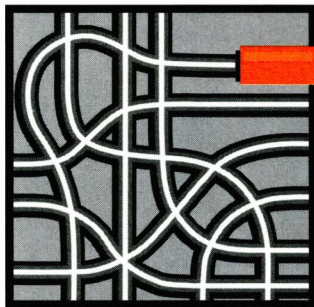
INTEGRATED AMPLIFIERS

MM PHONO INPUT
MC PHONO INPUT
REMOTE CONTROL
HEADPHONE SOCKET
POWER OUTPUT(W)
FACTSBACK (W)
RECEIVER
ISSUE NUMBER

Product	Price(£)	Comments	MM PHONO INPUT	MC PHONO INPUT	REMOTE CONTROL	HEADPHONE SOCKET	POWER OUTPUT(W)	FACTSBACK (W)	RECEIVER	ISSUE NUMBER
Pioneer A-300X	230	This revamped version of the A300 sounds more confident via CD than MM, yet our panel was unmoved	5	●	●	●	40			116
Pioneer A-400X	300	On second audition, this amp was tonally unchanged but less compelling	6	●	●	●	50		1545	138
Pioneer A-503R	300	Best via MM disc, the dull and claustrophobic sound is otherwise deeply uninspiring	5	●	●	●	70		1544	138
Pioneer A-300R Precision	400	Sophisticated breathed-on variant of the A-300R is not an obvious winner, but it will slowly win you over with its subtle charms	5	●	●	●	35			162
Pro-ject Model 7	300	A minimalist amplifier brimming with good intent, but too quirky for its own good. Either MM or MC	5	●	●	●	40		1264	142
Quad 77	650	Stylish remote driven amp, bright and lively. Tested in Sessions	4	●	●	●	50			139
Rega Elex	398	Minimalist amplifier derived from Elicit is a little uninspiring, though at least it is not badly behaved.	4	●	●	●	50			162
Rotel RA920AX	120	Commendable performance at the price. Tuneful, robust bass	4	●	●	●	32		1808	157
Rotel RA930AX mkII	150	Good phono stage with a realistic sense of space and dynamics but CD is less impressive	3	●	●	●	30		1470	149
Rotel RA970BX	250	Lively, fresh and perky with plenty of power, but not so clever with complex recordings	6	●	●	●	60		1546	138
Sherwood AX-7030R	400	Versatile, and with truck-loads of power on tap, this model is disappointingly coarse and uninvolved on audition.	5	●	●	●	95			162
Sonic Frontiers SFC-1	1,795	Smooth, sophisticated Canadian valve amp with a decent direct input and more features than average	6	●	●	●	50			126
Sony TA-F246E	200	Relaxed quality that seduces with its guile and subtlety, MM input is a tad laconic but CD is very tidy and composed	3	●	●	●	40		1471	149
Sony TA-F448E	250	Confused and coloured sounding, it needs a large dose of delicacy adding to its presentation	5	●	●	●			1809	157
Talk Electronics Storm 1	500	Good soundstaging and strong detail are provided by this unassuming and not especially powerful model	6	●	●	●	50			162
TEAC A-BX7R	700	Characterful balance mars an otherwise meticulously designed amplifier. Includes a balanced input, optional MM/MC stage.	5	●	●	●	50			162
Technics SU-A700 Mk 3	250	Fully equipped, high tech amplifier ultimately fails the 'is it Stork...?' test, and can sound messy and inarticulate	5	●	●	●	45			162
Woodside ISA230 Disc	1,249	Smooth and inoffensive valve amplifier, though it lacks the sparkle and euphony required for a truly entertaining sound	3	●	●	●	30			116
Yamaha AX-490	250	Widgets aplenty, but unemotional sound evoked an uncertain response from panel	5	●	●	●	85		1473	149
Preamplifiers										
Alchemist Kraken/Pre	380	Quirky Class A design with an equally warm and colourful sound	4							124
Audio Innovations L1	369	Reviewed with S800 Anniversary — Explicitly detailed, conveys the message of the music as a whole	4						1300	145
Audiolab 8000C	520	Distinctive, stark neutrality that will not appeal to all. Good value engineering.	5	●	●	●				97
Audiolab 8000Q	1,000	Tested with 8000M monoblocks	6	●	●	●			1301	145
Conrad-Johnson PV-10A	1,250	Beautiful imaging, superb detail, plenty of gain on the phono input; classy build too. Tested in Sessions	4	●	●	●			1560	139
Conrad-Johnson Premier 7	11,000	The 7 is designed without compromise, and is clearly one of the finest (valve) preamplifiers money can buy	5							C91
Copland CTA-301MkII	1,349	Sweet sounding - but never gets bogged down in audio treacle	4	●					1630	151
Creek P42	279	Tested with bridged A42 power amps, an articulate and open combo with tight tuneful bass (optional phono stage & remote)	6				●			155
Cyrus Pre	650	Tested with Cyrus Power. High tech design Punchy, light footed character with a sense of substance and natural warmth	5	●	●	●				155
DPA DSP200S	495	Dramatic but detailed and transparent sound belies modest power rating (tested with DPA-200S)	6							124
EAR 802MC	2,599	Tested with £3499 509 Mk II - see comments in power amp section	4	●	●					63
ECA Vista	760	Wind up the volume and blow a breath of fresh music into your system (tested with Lectern)	5						1302	145
Exposure XVII	849	Superbly rhythmic; maybe a tad overpowering in the midband. Tested in Sessions with XVIII Super	5	●	●					142
Jadis JP-30MC	5,978	French tubes, JP-30MC has beautiful build, nostalgic styling and delightful midrange. (tested with JA30)	5	●						60
Krell KRC-2s	4,190	This is an exquisitely refined and transparent design (tested with KSA-50S in Statements)	6				●			141
Meridian 501	695	Tight, positive sound, but dispassionate; intense at high levels. Tested with 555	5	●	●	●			1303	145
Meridian 562V	995	Transparent and capable preamp, also features 6 digital inputs	9	●	●	●				140
Moth 30 Passive	149	Modular system gives cracking results. Passive preamp and power amp warrant Best Buy (tested with 30/Stereo 60)	4							109
Moth 30 Active	249	Tested with 100W monoblocks. While demonstrating solid, even balance it proved adept at delivering vital musical qualities	4							155
Musical Fidelity E200	599	Weighty, luxuriant but hardly scintillating. Tested with MF E300	7				●	●	1304	145
Rose RV-23	450	You can pay more to get a more transparent sound, but it's hard to criticise at the price	3	●	●					77
Rotel RC970BX MkII	175	Confident, consistent sound. reviewed (in Sessions) with RB970BXMkII power amps	5				●			144
Rotel RC980BX	375	Tames enthusiastically recorded material with a laid back and occasionally smeared sound (tested with RB980BX)	5	●	●	●				155
Sumo Athena IIB	767	Tested with Polaris III. Big, natural and tidy sounding with very natural reproduction of acoustic and electric instruments	6						1305	145
Thorens TTP2000	500	Minimalist shoebox preamp, rhythmic, warm balance. Tested in Sessions with TTA2000	4	●	●	●				139
Woodside SC26 Phono	2,233	Synergistic with STA35, with a cool, controlled sound, good focus and transparency (tested with STA35)	5	●	●	●				100
YBA 3 Pre	1,250	See-through, ethereal stereo images, but more convincing towards centre of soundstage (tested with £1199 3 Pwr)	4	●						72
YBA 2 Pre	1,699	Superbly finished, good space and transparency. Needs transformer for MC cartridges (tested with £2150 2 Pwr)	4	●						56
YBA 1 Pre	3,750	Tested with £4250 1 Pwr - see power amp section for comments	5	●						62
Power amplifiers										
Acurus A150	1400	Price includes RL11 preamp with which it was tested. Powerful remote control US combo with a slightly forward inclination	1					150		151
Alchemist Kraken/Pwr	399	Hardly accurate, but entertaining nevertheless	1					60		124
Art Audio Quintet	1,393	Switchable triode, ultralinear output stage. In triode mode, these are 15 of the sweetest Watts around. Surprisingly gutsy	1					15		109
Audio Innovations S800 Anni	1475	Reviewed with L1 — Explicitly detailed, conveys the message of the music as a whole remarkably well	1					25	1300	145
Audiolab 8000M	750	Strong, controlled sound; confident bass, but colourless. Tested with 8000Q	1					125	1301	145
Audio Research VT60	2,645	Ranks as 'must try' American cultural item (tested in Statements). Tube design	1					35	1179	136
Copland CTA-505	2,099	Grown up amplifier with a refined, yet never over-civilised air	1					67	1630	151
Creek A42	279	Tested with bridged P42 pre in bridged mode. Articulate and open combo with tight tuneful bass	1					100		155
Cyrus Power	450	Tested with Cyrus Pre. Punchy, light footed character with a sense of substance and natural warmth (bridgeable)	1					50		155
DPA 200S	750	Dramatic but crisp, open sound belies power rating (tested with DSP-200S)	1					60		124
EAR 509 Mk II	3,499	Combining sonic strengths of transistors and valves, this amp warrants attention (tested with £2599 802)	1					100		63
ECA Lectern	880	Tested with Vista. Wind up the volume and blow a breath of fresh music into your system	1					50	1302	145
Exposure XVIII Super	849	Slight dullness and hardness, but great 'boogie factor'	1					70		142
Jadis JA-30	2,880	French tubes, JP-30MC has beautiful build, nostalgic styling and delightful midrange (tested with £5978 JP30)	1					30		60
Krell KSA-50s	3,690	Stretches the performance margins of difficult speakers - state of the art at the price	1					50		141
Meridian 555	750	By providing an open window on the music, this amp is wide open to RF and low level IM distortions	1					60	1303	145
Moth 30 Stereo/60	549	Tested with 30 Passive. Modular system gives cracking results	1					60		109
Moth 30 Series Monoblocks	879	Tested with Active Preamp. While demonstrating solid, even balance it proved adept at delivering vital musical qualities	1					100		155
Musical Fidelity E300	699	Tested with E200. Weighty, luxuriant but hardly scintillating	1					100	1304	145
Musical Fidelity F18	3,999	Belongs to the rarified group of refined, high resolution amplifiers	1					220	1508	133
NAD Monitor 208	1100	Truly a beefy amplifier, but no mad cow!	1					250		124
Rotel RB-970BX MkII	225	Tested with RC970BX MkII in Sessions (see preamp section)	1					60		144

POWER AMPLIFIERS (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	MM PHONO INPUT	MC PHONO INPUT	HEADPHONE CONTROL	POWER OUTPUT(W)	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
Rotel RB-980BX	475	Tames enthusiastically recorded material with a laid back and occasionally smeared sound (tested with RC980BX)	1			120		155
Sumo Polaris III	898	Tested with Athena IIB. Big, natural and tidy sounding with very natural reproduction of acoustic and electric instruments	1			164	1305	145
Thorens TTA2000	550	Tested with TTP2000 (see preamp section) in Sessions	1			35		139
Woodside STA35	1,323	Synergistic with SC26, with a cool, controlled sound, good focus and transparency. More poise than grunt (tested with SC26)	1			35		100
YBA 3 Power	1,199	Tested with 3 Pre - see preamp section for comments	1			45		72
YBA 2 Power	2,150	Superbly finished, but with slightly softened bass (tested with YBA 2 Preamp)	1			70		56
YBA 1 Power	4,250	Well finished pre/power amp with front rank imaging and transparency (tested with YBA 1 Preamp)	1			85		62



Cables

Cables are not accessories, but an integral part of a system. Inevitably some cables are better than others. The best cable for your system will only be found through trial and error, but by combining our recommendations with those of a dealer, you will end up with something suitable. Generally speaking, budget to spend about ten per cent of the total system cost on cables.

■ Analogue interconnects are the leads that connect source components to amplifiers and pre to power amps. The cables in this section are priced for a one-metre terminated pair.

■ Digital interconnects connect CD transports to DACs, and are traditionally coaxial with a 75 Ohm impedance. They come in optical and electrical varieties, the former being made of plastic or glass. The prices shown are for a terminated linear metre.

■ Speaker cables are used between the amplifier and speaker. Our prices are per unterminated metre. Termination (plugs and soldering) costs vary with brands.



KEY

SYMMETRICAL: A twisted pair of conductors.	SOLID CORE: single or multiple individually insulated strands.	FACTSBACK NUMBER: The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback information page.	BACK ISSUE: The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.
COAXIAL: A central 'hot' conductor and a shield that carries the negative signal.	COPPER: Material used for conductor.		
STRANDED: Multiple strands with no intervening insulation.	SILVER: Material used for conductor.		
	DIG CABLE TYPE: O - optical digital, E - electrical digital.		

CABLES

Product	Price(£)	Comments	SYMMETRICAL	COAXIAL	STRANDED	SOLID CORE	COPPER	SILVER	DIG CABLE TYPE	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
Analogue Interconnects											
Audio Note AN-A	29.50	Not especially impressive, warm but well rounded balance that restricts 'air' but is not unclear	●								108
Audio Note AN-C	59.50	Neutral but lacking in subtle texture and unable to distinguish fine detail					●	●		1687	131
Audio Note AN-S	139	Up-beat and enthusiastic sound with satisfyingly deep and grumbly bass	●				●			1687	131
Audio Note AN-V	219	15 individually insulated silver strands make up this very clean and dynamically unchallenged cable	●					●		1687	131
Audioquest Turquoise	40	A fit and forget cable that sounds distinctly lazy	●								160
Bandridge AL421	5	Light and airy sound lacks authority, splashy treble				●	●	●		1688	131
Bandridge AL426G	10	Gold plated plug OFC version of AL421 with same ineffectual sound quality				●	●	●		1688	131
Bandridge SG AL4720	13	4N OF copper, full smooth balance but a little plodding and relentless, lacks panache				●	●	●		1688	131
Bandridge SG+ AL4820	25	4N OF copper, distinctly teutonic, thrusting detail forward but still plodding and relentless				●	●	●		1688	131
Bandridge ProfiGold PG301	65	A perfect cable for enlivening a system, but too cold for most systems				●	●	●			160
Cable Talk Studio 2	65	A first-class performer from tonal, dynamic and rhythmic standpoints	●				●	●			160
Cambridge Audio Studio Ref	40	Dynamic cable with strong soundstaging and only a slight lack of detail				●	●	●			160
Chord Chameleon	68	Anomalous treble with a dry but vaguely sibilant quality, sometimes sounds smooth, sometimes harsh!						●			108
Chord Solid	99	Thin but very stiff with excellent resolution of subtle timbral detail and fine dynamics				●	●	●			108
Connections Midas HD	39	Canary yellow cable with excellent plugs and an open sound. Slight treble glare	●				●	●			160
DNM TCC75	34	Price for 0.75m length. High resolution cable, but best in short runs due to higher than average series impedance					●	●		1690	131
DPA Slink	41	Slightly bright and zingy sound with flat soundstaging and hollow sounding bass, vocals and strings sound convincing though					●	●		1690	131
DPA White Slink	75	Highly expressive, very easy on the ear and attractively detailed though not entirely characterless at high frequencies					●	●		1691	131
DPA Black Slink	220	Initially dark and meaty but becoming lucid and transparent with running in. Quad geometry, Gore-tex dielectric	●				●	●		1691	131
Ixos 104	20	Open and detailed presentation, full bass and silky if overly smooth treble				●	●	●		1692	131
Ixos 103	40	Even handed and generous sound, bass has a well rounded, bouncy quality				●	●	●		1692	131
Ixos 102	60	A tad bright and undynamic, this cable is nevertheless a good all-rounder, whose faults are largely subtractive				●	●	●			160
Ixos 101	100	A cable with personality, its veiled and shut in quality brings an earthiness to vocals and rhythm guitar alike				●	●	●		1693	131
LFD Spirolink I	35	Price for 0.7m length. Dynamic but smoothly detailed performance, but gives the impression of looking down on the music					●	●		1694	131
LFD Spirolink II	70	Price for 0.7m length. Strong and confident sound enhancing bass depth and subtlety, concentrates of the meat of the music	●				●	●		1694	131
LFD Trilink	150	Price for 0.7m length. Warm and luxurious sound but a little too fruity in balance, treble is a little subdued, bass detached	●				●	●		1695	131
Linn Phono to Phono	47	Encourages a delicate performance underpinned by a strong and authoritative bass				●	●	●		1695	131
Monster Interlink 200	20	Colourful in an appealing rather than contrived sense, bass is slightly over-blown, large and ingratiating sound stage	●				●	●		1696	131
Monster Interlink 300	30	Richer, smoother more civilised sound than 200 with improved articulation and reduced sibilance	●				●	●		1696	131
Monster Interlink 400	40	Compromised by a grainy top end, treble and vocal range sound particularly sharp and untidy	●				●	●		1697	131
Monster Interlink 500	50	Sounds rather good, providing a livelier and more interesting account of music than most sub £100 cables	●				●	●			108
Monster Interlink 800	80	Not as bright or aggressive as the 400 but treble is strangely lumpy, muted and manipulated - odd cable	●				●	●		1697	131
Monster Interlink Reference 2	100	Easy on the ear but rather contrived, slightly clanky treble fails to integrate with the smoother but splotchy midband	●				●	●		1697	131
Moth Ley Line Black	100	Offers a full and big sound, neutral yet very solid and confident in delivery. Expansive imaging retains music's energy	●				●	●			108
Moth Ley Line Grey	200	Detailed enough but there's a sense of distance between the music and the listener, vox are course rather than liquid	●				●	●			108
Nordost Black Knight	55	Flat black cable that is distinctive, but slightly coloured — but not in a wholly negative manner	●				●	●			160
Panasonic RP-CA910	50	Uncongested and even handed balance if slightly flat imagewise, retains impact but has a vaguely untransparent quality					●	●			108
Silvertone Ex-Static	35	Pleasantly unfatiguing and competitively priced cable that lacks detail and insight					●	●			160
SonicLink Silver Pink	35	Dynamically sensitive and muddle-free. Unsure about the flesh-coloured finish though...	●				●	●			160
SonicLink Black	49	Encourages an upbeat and snappy sound that's driven by leading edges, full and rumbustious bass maintains an even tempo					●	●		1699	131

CABLES (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	SYMMETRICAL	COAXIAL	STRANDED	SOLID CORE	COPPER	SILVER	DIG CABLE TYPE	FAXBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
Tara Labs Prism 11	45	Very compatible cable that wins through with a naturally balanced and realistically dynamic sound. 6N purity copper	●				●	●		1699	131
Tara Labs Prism 22	56	Delivers a fresh and detailed sound with clear and bright treble giving it a free, quick and dynamic character			●		●	●		1700	131
Tara Labs Quantum CD	75	Lacking in obvious vices, neutral and transparent, there's also a good solid bass. Vox are not always as intimate as possible	●				●	●			108
Tara Labs Prism 33	90	A pedestrian cable that sounds lively but muddled. Quite dynamic, quite rich, quite smooth but also quite indistinct			●		●	●		1700	131
Transparent Audio Music Link	119	No aggressive nasties to tax the ears, neither does it sparkle with inspirational detail. Only suited to low output impedances			●	●		●		1701	131
van den Hul The Storm	25	Price for 0.8m length. Rich and warm but bass is rolled off, however there's plenty of drive and high frequencies are clear			●		●	●		1701	131
van den Hul Source HB	50	(Priced for 0.8m) Hybrid carbon-fibre/copper cable that is a paragon of naturalness. Airy and well controlled			●	●		●			160
van den Hul The First	210	Using 12,000 carbon fibres, a gentle and subtle sounding cable that conveys oodles of information but lacks dynamic punch			●	●		●		1702	131
van den Hul The Second	225	Wonderfully open and relaxing but also intimately detailed, slightly softens percussive dynamics	●				●	●		1702	131
XLO Type 150	50	A restrained but useful cable for taming lively CD players, dynamics lack freedom, treble lacks clarity			●	●		●		1703	131
XLO Type 0.1	180	Unusual but highly expressive and detailed with a hint of graininess on powerful vocals					●	●		1703	131
Digital Interconnects											
Audio Note AN-V	110	Ostensibly an analogue cable but gives a meaty and natural performance when used for digital duty	●				●	●	E	1704	131
Audioquest Video X	40	A decent level of detail, imparts a gentle lift from vocal to high treble that can sound a little splashy			●		●	●	E	1705	131
Audioquest Video Z	60	The very best available, with an expressive sound, but generously priced	●	●	●	●	●	●	E		108
Audioquest Optilink Z	120	Good level of midband detail but frequency extremes lack depth and extension							O		108
Audioquest Digital Pro	100	A silver cable with all the drive of Video Z but lacking its clear cut transparency			●	●			E		108
Bandridge AL4900G	40	Lacks deep rounded bass and treble is coloured with a spittiness, a little rough and ready			●	●		●	E	1705	131
Chord Codac	32	A connection with a stranded inner core and a sound that lacks integration			●	●		●	E		108
Chord Prodac	50	Price for 0.6m length. Lively detailed treble, drives music along confidently with no hint of fizz			●		●	●	E	1706	131
DPA Opti-link	20	Very similar to Bandridge AL560; sound is lacklustre							O		108
DPA Digi-link	28	Can seem slightly impassive but there's no avoiding its exceptionally detailed sound			●	●		●	E		108
Ixos 105	25	Extended but soft edged treble that's mercifully free of fatiguing colourations, plenty of weight, smooth vox			●		●	●	E	1707	131
Kimber Kable Opti-link	70	Hardly cheap for what appears to be a bog-standard PMNA fibre, yet it sounds a little brighter and livelier than most							O		108
LFD DigiLink Copper	30	Slightly grainy highly compatible cable with coherent and forward dynamic quality			●		●	●	E	1708	131
Monster Interlink LS100	45	Well constructed stepped-index fibre with polished ends and connectors. Lean, fuzzy, engaging performance							O		108
Monster Datalink 100	45	Price for 0.5m. A colourful coaxial interconnect with an equally colourful and up-beat sound. Very compatible			●	●		●	E		108
Moth Leyline Datalink	140	A thin, coaxial version of Leyline Black with a rather hard and unforgiving character. Too expensive			●	●		●	E		108
QED DigiFlex	20	A top performance, low-loss 75ohm coax with a very open, almost liquid quality			●	●	●	●	E		108
Siltech HF-6	150	Sounds detailed, very clean and very extended, but bass is less well resolved - a treat for high end systems			●		●	●	E	1709	131
SonicLink Green	60	Spacious, positive and engaging if a tad over crisp at times, very compelling however			●		●	●	E	1709	131
van den Hul MC Videolink 75	48	An AV-cum-digital cable that nearly beats QED's DigiFlex, but emphasises sibilants			●			●	E		108
van den Hul The First	120	Exceptionally natural albeit slightly dark or cautious compared to some, plenty of subtle information and beautiful integration			●	●			E	1710	131
Loudspeaker Cables											
Audio Note AN-D	4.50	Supplied in linear, non-polarised lengths that should be twisted into stereo pairs. Sounds rather grippy and forward					●	●			109
Audio Note AN-B	16.50	Well suited to valve systems, elastic bass, methodical but unintrusive and musical					●	●		1711	133
Audio Note AN-L	29.50	Fruity bass and expressive vocal rendition was appreciated by the panel which was happy to accept its foibles	●				●	●		1712	133
Audio Note AN-SP	125	A calm and civilised presentation, very quiet in the way it reveals subtle low level detail. Great poise and clarity	●				●	●			109
Audioquest F-14	1.95	Ideal for laying under carpets, F-14 encourages a slightly warm and vibrant sound					●	●			109
Audioquest Type 4	4.95	Four 18-gauge OFHC copper conductors wound in a Litz-type fashion increases capacitance but restrains the cable's 'bite'			●	●		●			109
Audioquest Cobalt 2	45	A rather polite and anemic sound that bubbles gently with detail and is largely uncoloured and cautiously spacious			●	●		●			133
Bandridge SF LC1070	42p	Basic figure 8 bellwire, lightweight balance and a softness that dilutes even the strongest bass			●	●		●		1713	133
Bandridge SF LC1259	1	Fresh and open, bubbly and naturally colourful soundstage that's neither forced or unduly edgy. Treble is slightly messy			●	●		●		1713	133
Bandridge Highflex LC2604	3.50	Substantial 6mm ² conductor produces weighty but ploddy music that lacks transparency			●	●		●		1714	133
Bandridge LC7409	3.85	Detailed and up-beat cable. A bit too steely for classical strings			●	●		●		1800	157
Cable Talk 4.1	4.25	Smooth and cultured sound that lacks fine detail and is a bit too restrained				●		●		1800	157
DNM LSCB500	5.95	High impedance can influence the treble response, but this was a winner on sound per pound. Bi-wire					●	●		1716	133
DPA Black Sixteen	90	Unflappable resolution of fine musical details, there's no dampening of dynamics simply oodles of taut information	●				●	●		1717	133
Gale XL315	2	A little lacking in detail but plenty of life and excellent value					●	●		1800	157
Gale XL160-2	2.50	Rhythmic and bouncy sounding bi-wire cable. Slightly manipulative sounding					●	●		1800	157
Heybrook Heywire	4	This well-meaning facsimile of earlier ribbon cables ends up sounding lumpy and uneven					●	●			109
Ixos 603	2	Big and expansive sounding cable, full and engaging while retaining a high degree of neutrality					●	●		1718	133
Ixos 604	5	Midrange is detailed and surprisingly smooth but treble is hard and synthetic and the bass no better					●	●		1719	133



Tel: 0181 348 5676 (2.00-7.00 pm)
Fax: 0181 341 9368

Esoteric High Fidelity CABLES

Dealers in: Absolute, Audio Note, Audioquest, Deltec, Electrocompaniet, Harmonix, Kimber, Mandrake, MIT, Siltech, Symo, Transparent, Van den Hul, WBT and others.

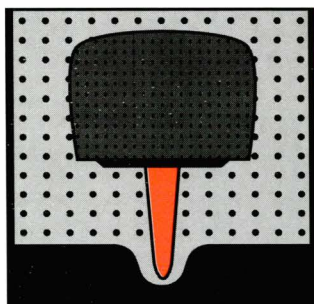
... the RIGHT cables
... in YOUR system
... for YOUR ears
... in YOUR home

Contact us by phone, fax, or letter and we'll do our best to help you achieve your goal.
(Auditions may be subject to a handling charge)

CONNECTIONS 13 John Princes Street, London W1M 9HB (A division of Connection 90' Travel Ltd.)

CABLES (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	CABLE TYPE				ISSUE NUMBER	FAXBACK NUMBER
			SYMMETRICAL	COAXIAL	SOLID CORE	STRANDED		
Mission Quartet	7.90	Mixed, inoffensive sound, adds guttural resonance to vocals and could be generally more coherent. Bi-wire			●	●	1722	133
Monster Cable XP	1.50	XP offers plenty of slightly soft bass and a slightly rounded treble, a relaxed cable whose indiscretions are not bothersome			●	●	1723	133
Naim NACA 5	5.11	Described as a 'dinosaur of a cable', this stiff wire rod doesn't belong outside Naim systems. But it works a treat in them			●	●		109
Ortofon SPK100	3	Grey sounding and strips instruments of their natural richness and resonance, a bit bass shy too			●	●		133
Ortofon SPK300	8	Tremendously open and atmospheric with robust full blooded bass, and dynamic too if slightly bright at times			●	●		133
Puresonic 7845	1.95	Big, weighty sound — but too messy and bloated for its own good			●	●	1800	157
Puresonic 7891	2.85	Chunky cable design, shame about the sound quality	●		●	●	1800	157
QED Qudos	2.50	Despite high tech design and excellent Air-Loc plugs, the music failed to gel			●	●	1800	157
QED Profile 8	5	Sophisticated flat cable that lacks decent bass and get up and go			●	●	1800	157
SonicLink AST50	1.95	It may look like bell-wire, but AST50 sounds detailed, ordered and balanced			●	●	1800	157
Tara Labs Rectangular SCM	725	Price for terminated 2m pair. Dynamics are exquisite, luxurious smooth sound, brimming with unforced detail			●	●	1725	133
Transparent Audio Musichord	11.42	Sweet, open and refined treble, a bit of breathy exuberance and can sound slightly lackadaisical			●	●	1728	133
Transparent Audio Wave	22.84	Very close to the sound of 'no cable', one of the very best. Slightly softens treble detail	●		●	●	1728	133
Tech + Link OFC79	1	Bargain basement cable that sounds cosy, but suffers from a wobbly bass			●	●	1800	157
van den Hul The Clearwater	6	Despite its evocative title, the Clearwater turns out to be a disappointingly murky sounding cable			●	●		109
van den Hul CS122	19	Smooth and articulate with superb focus and control, its sheer coherence makes it a winner (tested in Sessions)			●	●		153
van den Hul The Magnum	31	Touted as vdH's most prestigious twinlead cable, Magnum sounds soft and old fashioned			●	●		109
van den Hul The Wind	35	'The Wind' kicks up a storm with its lush midrange and bone-crunching bass!			●	●		109
van den Hul Revolution	64	Silver plated OFC combined with carbon fibre prompts a sombre character with an easy and relaxed treble			●	●	1726	133
XLO Pro Type 625	4	Lively but natural and relaxed sounding but a hint of congestion at frequency extremes			●	●	1726	133



Cartridges

Cartridges fall into two groups: high output MM (moving magnet) models, capable of working directly into most phono inputs; and generally more expensive low and very low output MC (moving coil) models. MC cartridges usually have better mechanical integrity, tighter tolerances and give better performance. Many amplifiers are no longer equipped with the necessary phono input for a cartridge, and a separate phono stage is necessary. Phono input equipped valve designs need a

transformer to cope with MC cartridges.

Cartridge/amplifier interfacing can be very subtle, but even basic high output MM designs benefit in overall balance from optimised amplifier capacitance loading.



KEY

MM: Moving magnet cartridge with a normal output suitable for all vinyl disc amplifier inputs.
MC: Moving coil cartridge with a low output only suitable for high

sensitivity vinyl disc amplifier inputs.
REPLACEABLE STYLUS: Most MM cartridges have a stylus that can be removed and replaced

OUTPUT (MV): Cartridge output in millivolts.
MASS (g): Cartridge mass can affect arm choice.
FACTSBACK NUMBER: The Factsback reference for ordering a fax

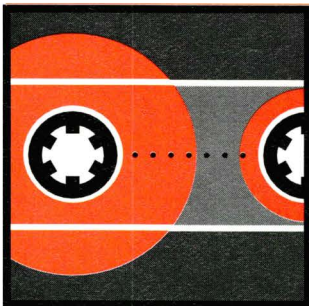
copy of the review.
BACK ISSUE: The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.

CARTRIDGES

Product	Price(£)	Comment	REPLACEABLE STYLUS		OUTPUT (MV)	MASS (g)	ISSUE NUMBER	FAXBACK NUMBER
			MM	MC				
Arcam C77	30	A sensible moving magnet package with good bounce at a competitive price.	●	●	4.0	6	48	
Arcam C77MG	40	Punchy, with plenty of energy to liven things up. The solid body is well worth the extra £10.	●	●	4.0	6	67	
Arcam E77MG	60	Our sample had a disappointing stylus, but gave a coherent, rich and laid back sound.	●	●	4.0	6	48	
Arcam P77MG	73	Preferred to its cheaper partner thanks to a better tip. Channel balance poor	●	●	4.0		48	
Audio Note Io IIV	1,395	One of the best, giving an extraordinarily relaxing midrange clarity. Needs a transformer.		●	0.1		100	
Audio Technica AT-95E	19	Clear and dynamic, though richly balanced.	●	●	2.8		48	
Audio Technica ART-1	944	This is a delicate and very fluid-sounding MC that tracks well.		●	0.4	9	72	
Audioquest 404L	599	Slight harshness detracted from the performance of this otherwise clear-sounding and detailed cartridge.		●	0.5	6	84	
Audioquest 7000NSX	1,495	Stunning stereo imaging and detail spoiled by poor tracking and high sensitivity to arms.		●	0.4	6	91	
Denon DL110	70	A fine all-rounder, this high output MC model is likely to perform well		●	1.0	6	48	
Denon DL160	90	Although listeners just preferred the 110, its brother here survived lab tests and is still 'thoroughly competent'.		●	0.1	6	43	
Denon DL103	100	Good performance in bass and good 'life' is seriously let down by its spherical stylus which kills subtle detail.		●	0.1	6	103	
Denon DL304	200	Uncoloured, detailed, tracks superbly. Top notch altogether and a top notch bargain too.		●			103	
Dynavector Karat 17D2 mk2	449	Clean and controlled sound with taut, tuneful bass. Detailed and musically cogent.		●	0.15	5.3	158	
Dynavector XX-1L	998	Very clear, very detailed; a response lift around 20kHz seems to do no harm.		●	0.25	12	84	
Dynavector XX-1	998	Good, but not immensely competitive at the price, and not helped by comparison with the low output version.		●	2.0	12	84	
Goldring Elan	17	A lightweight and frisky-sounding MM apparently based on Nagaoka MM4 body	●		5.0	7	67	
Goldring 1012GX	65	Slightly harsh but plenty of life and detail. Some high frequency colouration apparent.	●		6.5	7	85	
Goldring 1022GX	85	As with 1012, a touch harsh; detail and transient purity improved	●		6.5	7	85	
Goldring Eroica LX	100	Not the most subtle cartridge in the world. can sound edgy at times, but lively and informative.		●	0.5	8	84	
Goldring 1042	105	Not terribly subtle, and not such good value alongside 1012 and 1022. Quite lively though.		●	6.5	6	91	
Goldring Elite	200	The basics are right, and it will cheerfully tackle any source material, but its sound has a certain dirtiness.		●	0.5	8	103	
Grado Prestige Gold	150	Rich sounding with an unusually refined top-end for a moving magnet-type cartridge	●	●	4	6	158	
Linn K5	65	Not as crisply focussed as the other Linn magnetics, but the K5 is smoother.	●		4.5	6	67	
Linn K9	150	Linn improved this model by beefing up the Basik's bodywork and adding a super stylus.	●	●	4.5	5	Col	
London Decca Maroon	199	Now manufactured under the London brand name, this Decca cartridge is as iconoclastic as ever.		●	5.0	6	67	
London Decca S Gold	339	Immediate and detailed, but coloured, nonlinear with a questionable effect on records.		●	5.0	6	84	
Lyra Lydian	699	Superbly capable all-round musical performer that improves markedly when its body cover is removed		●	0.3	7	158	

CARTRIDGES (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comment	REPLACEABLE STYLUS MM	OUTPUT (mV)	FACTSBACK MASS (g)	ISSUE NUMBER
Lyra Clavis Da Capo	1,069	A stable tracker, and one of the finest cartridges we've heard	●	0.1	7	143
Milltek Aurora	299	An overall feeling of relaxed ease characterised this clear and atmospheric Kiseki-built cartridge.	●	2.0	0.1	299
Ortofon 510/P	32	For the price, a good blend of virtues - weight, clarity and neutrality	●	3.0	5	85
Ortofon 520/P	55	Sensitive to load capacitance, the 520/P has a lively, effervescent sound.	●	3.0	5	6
Ortofon MC10 Super	85	'What a delightfully sweet-sounding cartridge this is...' we said.	●	0.3	7	48
Ortofon MC3 Turbo	110	The 3 Turbo is bright, cheerful and bouncy, but unobtrusive - take it as it comes.	●	3.3	4	103
Ortofon MC15 Super II	110	A good all-rounder, with outstanding resolution, if slightly bright and clon up.	●	0.35	7	103
Ortofon MC25E	160	An excellent upgrade for a mid-price turntable	●	0.5	11	139
Ortofon MC25FL	210	A bit too stark and honest, but faithful to what's on the LP	●	0.5	11	139
Ortofon MC30 Supreme	450	Highly detailed and even-sounding cartridge that has a special affinity with female vocal recordings	●	0.5	10.7	158
Ortofon MC3000II	950	A real eye-opener. Nothing to criticise anywhere, one of the very best.	●	0.12	10	84
Ortofon MC5000	1,500	Limited tracking ability, bright and forward sound, but good stereo	●	0.12	10	91
Rega Bias	34	Difficult to mount in some arms due to its shallow build, the Bias offers a gentle, refined sound.	●	5	4	67
Rega Elys	74	Clearly superior to the Bias, the Elys is both more detailed, accurate and convincing.	●	5.0	5	67
Roksan Corus Black	130	Recognisably related to the Corus Blue, but more civilised and smoother.	●	6.5	5	91
van den Hul MM-1	250	If woody midrange could be tamed, imaging and security would pull it through	●	5.5	6	103
van den Hul DDT	699	Outstanding stereo imaging and neutral balance are appealing but rhythmically the DDT-II is a bit lazy	●	0.35	7.6	158
van den Hul MC-10	799	A neutral, balanced performer gives, fine depth and focus and a firm, extended bass	●	0.4	6	60
van den Hul MC-One	999	This extended all the positive qualities of the '10, but added greater authority and scale - worth all the extra money.	●	0.4	6	60
van den Hul MC-Two	1,349	MC-Two rewards with a highly detailed yet fluid and musically convincing portrayal.	●	0.4	6	72
van den Hul G' hopper III GLA	2,999	Undoubtedly one of the finest cartridges available, it has tremendous bandwidth, energy and finesse.	●	0.4	6	122
Wilson benesch Matrix	689	Extraordinarily well balanced cartridge: neutral and detailed yet lively and rhythmically assertive.	●	0.58	6	158



Cassette Decks

The compact cassette is still the world's most versatile and ubiquitous music storage medium. Buffs may wrinkle their noses, but they all use it.

There should be no problems in connecting a cassette deck to any normal amplifier, but some care needs to be taken in choosing the best tapes for a specific machine. (Trial and error is one effective technique, but many decks have manual bias adjustment and some match up to the tape automatically.) Twin decks offer the option to dub tapes and play two cassettes

sequentially. Autoreverse is a useful feature, but usually implies some mechanical compromise. The sort of facilities that are useful include tape monitor switching and Dolby S.

B Best buy **R Recommended**

KEY

DOLBY C: A rather extreme noise reduction system not usually associated with high sound quality.
DOLBY S: A desirable derivative of the Dolby SR professional noise reduction system.
DOLBY HX PRO: System designed by B&O to extend headroom

for cassette recording.
3-HEAD: If you want to monitor a recording whilst you are making it a third head is essential.
TWIN DECK: Contains two decks for dubbing and continuous play, in most instances only one deck will record.

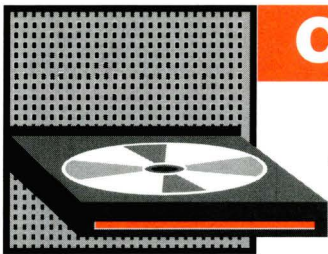
AUTOREVERSE: Automatically plays both sides of the cassette.
AUTO CALIBRATION: The deck will automatically set up bias and EQ for any tape.
ADJUSTABLE BIAS: Bias can be manually set to suit the tape being used.

FACTSBACK NUMBER: The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback information page.
BACK ISSUE: The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.

CASSETTE DECKS

Product	Price(£)	Comments	DOLBY C	DOLBY S	DOLBY HX PRO	3-HEAD	TWIN HEAD	AUTOREVERSE	AUTO CALIBRATION	ADJUSTABLE BIAS	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
Aiwa AD-F450	120	Basic but well designed budget deck, astonishing value; only the poor metering gives the game away.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1513	136
Aiwa AD-WX727	170	High class twin for those who want bells, whistles - and music.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1377	146
Denon DRM-550	160	There are some technical limitations, but this remains a fine sounding deck, and excellent value.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1591	140
Denon DRS-640	200	Drawer loading deck, with simple facilities and smooth, well adjusted sound.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1514	136
Denon DRM-740	270	Breathed-on DRM-710, with good external treatment offers good, if somewhat detached sonics.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1592	140
Denon DRS-810	310	Drawer loading deck, carefully designed yet lacking in subtlety on audition.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1380	146
Grundig CCF3	200	Simple, sensible and well built twin, but lack of pitch stability compromises performance	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1379	146
Harman/Kardon TD420	280	Minor inconsistencies detract from a well conceived, minimum features design	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1593	140
JVC TD-R472	200	Excellent auto-reverse deck which doesn't suffer the usual disadvantages and is very sharply priced	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1381	146
JVC TD-V562BK	220	Ultra-sophisticated transport at a silly price; sound quality is stable but slightly opaque.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1382	146
JVC TD-V662BK	270	Assured, clean and agile sounding recorder, if not quite the most refined in its class.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1383	146
Kenwood KX-5060S	235	Well engineered transport and Dolby S star in this refined and detailed design.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1384	146
Kenwood KX-7060S	329	Although slightly dull sounding with prerecorded tapes, this is a well equipped and fine sounding deck.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1385	146
Luxman K-322	140	Gives best value results with lower bias tapes, helped by a successful Dolby C installation.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1648	152
Luxman K-373	350	Decent performance, but a little costly. Includes microphone inputs.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1388	146
Marantz SD-53	200	Modestly equipped player is short-changed by a rough transport, and dull prerecorded quality.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1384	146
Marantz SD-63	270	Poor pitch stability is a major snag in an otherwise nondescript design.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1385	146
NAD 602	199	Minimalist deck for the audiophile market. Unfortunately engineering is minimalist too.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1386	146
NAD 613	230	Rough and ready, but enjoyable sound, though marred by mechanical motor noise.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1387	146
NAD 616	320	Double deck whose music sounded shut in and prosaic, as though its energy content had been ironed flat	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1388	146
Onkyo K-611	430	Cute drawer loading mini-size component with 3-heads and dual capstan transport.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1389	146
Pioneer CT-S830S	500	High class mechanism, if lacking in battleship externals, and superb sound.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1390	146
Sony TC-KE600S	300	Mild setting-up problems notwithstanding, this UK-tweaked design has a smooth, open and un-cassette-like sound.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1391	146
Technics RS-AZ7	300	Thin-film head gives a solid, almost CD-like bass and midrange. A clear advance in the state-of-the-art.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1392	146
Yamaha KX-490	199	Electrifyingly transparent and capable deck, whos only flaw is a trace of audible wow and flutter.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1393	146
Yamaha KX-580	250	Stable and clean, if bright. Play Trim helps wake up recalcitrant recordings.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1394	146

CD Players brought to you in association with



All CD players offer a basic selection of facilities, and some can keep you entertained for hours as you programme in disc names and track orders. All but the excessively inexpensive feature remote control. Most CD players can be upgraded by adding an outboard DAC (see below). To do this the player needs a digital output of either electrical or optical persuasion; sonically the former is preferable. A CD player can be split into two basic components: the disc drive or

transport, and a device which turns the digital bitstream coming off the disc into an analogue audio signal. This is called a digital to analogue convertor, or DAC. Although most players are contained in a single box, expensive players are usually two-box affairs.



Best buy



Recommended

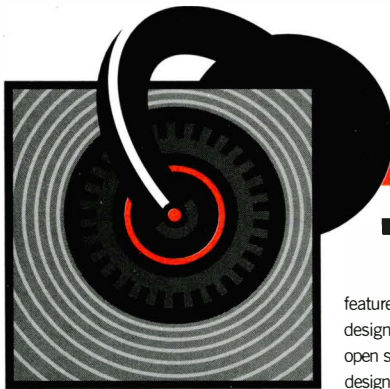
KEY	ELECTRICAL DIGITAL OUTPUT:	AES/EBU ELEC DIG OUTPUT:	OPTICAL DIGITAL OUTPUT:	AT&T OPT DIG OUTPUT:	BAL ANALOGUE OUTPUT:	HEADPHONE SOCKET:	VARIABLE OUTPUT:	output:	MULTI-DISC:	DAC TYPE:	bitstream, PWM etc	FACTSBACK NUMBER:	BACK ISSUE:
	For electrical connection to an outboard DAC.	Balanced digital output to be used with similarly equipped DACs.	For optical connection to an outboard DAC.	High speed optical output to be used with similarly equipped DACs.	Balanced analogue output for amplifiers equipped with balanced inputs.	For can users.	Remotely adjustable volume controlled		Equipped with a carousel or multi-tray system for continuous play of multiple discs.	Digital to analogue convertor: BS - Philips Bitstream, MB - multibit, Hyb - hybrid of multibit and bit-stream technologies, 1bit - single bit types such as MASH,		The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback information page.	The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.

CD PLAYERS

Product	Price(£)	Comments	AES/EBU ELEC DIG OUT	OPTICAL DIGITAL OUTPUT	AT&T OPT DIG OUT	BAL ANALOGUE OUTPUT	HEADPHONE SOCKET	VARIABLE OUTPUT	MULTI-DISC	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
AMC CD6	349	Based on Rotel's RCD-965BX, but has a raunchier, beefier but less transparent sound	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	124
Audio Innovations Alto	399	Refreshing piece of audio sculpture belies inconsistent audio behaviour	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1635 151
Cambridge Audio CD4	150	Basic appearance and sluggish track access/track search belies its up and at 'em sound quality.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Hyb	1268 147
Cambridge Audio CD6	300	A sharp, lively and articulate player, a real thoroughbred in fact, perhaps too sharp and lively for some systems	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	157 159
Denon DCD-625	200	DCD-615 replacement is generously equipped but lacks sophisticated sound of its forebear	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1269 147
Denon DCD-825	240	Despite extensive revisions, this latest player still sounds like a typical 18-bit Denon, which is no bad thing!	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1531 137
Denon DCD-1015	350	Excellent, middle range player - fast, fluid and lean	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1599 141
Dual CD1000RS	170	Old fashioned sound and appearance, though well suited to light classical music	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1562 139
Eclipse CD101a	80	If you want to know the sound of high order distortion, this is probably as good a place to start as any	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	184 144
Harman/Kardon HD710	250	Player of integrity, but can sound a tad hard and rough when extended, and is somewhat amplifier fussy	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1bit	159
Harman/Kardon HD7625	550	Crisply styled, well equipped and slick, sound quality is fast and assured, if slightly 'obvious'	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1761 155
Harman/Kardon HD7725	800	This flagship implementation of RLS sounds impressively bold and dynamic	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	124
JVC XL-V284BK	140	Featuring a new set of bitstream innards, this flexible player has a refined, if occasionally unpredictable sound	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1bit	1270 147
JVC XL-Z574	250	Strong resolving power and good midband and dynamics, but slightly raw and thin	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1bit	159
JVC XL-Z674BK	300	Even handed, but glosses over the most intimate moments	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1bit	1637 151
Kenwood DP-3080	170	Bold, dynamic and outgoing sound, though somewhat aggressive. Poor build quality and finish	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1bit	159
Kenwood DP-7060	380	Fleet-footed, but will appear bright in lightweight systems	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1bit	1601 141
Krell KPS 20i	9,900	Forthright, edge of the seat sound with outstanding bass performance (tested in Statements)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1734 155
Linn Mimik	875	Useful multiroom features matched to strong bass, but poor imagery and transparency	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Hyb	1762 155
Luxman D-322	200	Well bred player sounds smooth and cultured without appearing grey or boring.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1272 147
Marantz CD-53	200	Looks identical to CD-63, but internal costs are cut, exposing a slightly ragged performer	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1565 139
Marantz CD-67	270	Dynamic, authoritative, and wide tonal response, but also shut-in and mid-forward balance	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1 bit	159
Marantz CD-17	800	Fabulous packaging and an excellent all round performer: smooth, detailed and consistent	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1763 155
Meridian 506	995	Crisp, clean and detailed player now seems a little flat and mechanical: a dated balance	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Hyb	1764 155
Meridian 508	1,685	Excellent partner for Meridian digital systems, and one of the best neo-high end systems (tested in system)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	DS	140
Micromega Minium	350	Dynamically weak and some roughness offsets the pleasing tonal balance, articulate mid and strong bass	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1 bit	159
Mission DAD7	900	Pleasant but not particularly exciting, but this remains a classy, sharply etched performer	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	145
Musical Fidelity FCD	1,499	Remarkably coherent and three-dimensional performer, and an inspiring piece of audiophilia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1051 131
NAD 512	250	Simple, well focused presentation, and articulate with it, though hard nosed quality is not everyone's cup of tea	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1 bit	159
NAD 514	370	Boisterous sound, but undeniably attractive	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1639 151
Naim Audio CD3	978	The idiosyncratically packaged CD3 is solid and highly articulate. Always has its feet on the ground though	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1765 155
Nakamichi MB4s	350	Entry level Music-Bank player has plenty of dynamics and detail but little stereo depth	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1074 132
Onkyo DX-7210	260	Well-bred CD player features an unusual digital filter is smooth and cultured without appearing grey or boring	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1273 147
Onkyo DX-7510	400	Strongly flavoured, assertive sound	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1640 151
Orelle CD-100	500	Excellent information retrieval and convincing with a wide range of music. HF could be more natural though	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1628 151
Orelle CD-100SE	549	Articulate and solid performer, with a simple, purposeful; interface and attractive pricing	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1766 155
Philips CD-721	130	Surprisingly well sorted, articulate if slightly lossy and attractively presented sound. Captive signal lead	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1 bit	159
Philips CD-740	170	One of several Philips players using hybrid DAC technologies. Still sounds insufferably boring, however	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1567 139
Pioneer PD-204	150	Generally easy on the ear, but can bite back, especially with complex high frequency music content. Well endowed	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1 bit	159
Pioneer PD-S904	400	Too much legato - literally - in sound, but a very smooth performer	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1bit	1641 151
Quad 77	850	This player knows how to sing. Pity the control system is so buggy.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Hyb	1767 155
Quad 67	875	Powerful, fluid and captivating sound reminiscent of Meridian's 206	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	124
Rotel RCD-940BX	250	A sea change in transport and DAC technology lies behind this untidy-sounding and irritating player	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1535 137
Rotel RCD-975	849	Bright and superficially detailed, this deck can sound coarse and inarticulate	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1767 155
Sherwood CD-4030R	180	Easy on the ear, smooth sounding player, with limits set by the slightly soft, compressed quality - and messy facia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	159
Sony CDP-361	150	Bantamweight it capable and resolute machine with no serious shortcomings at the price	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1628 151
Sony CDP-XE500	160	Fine all-rounder, and a good match for middle ranking systems. Jog dial works well, but display is messy	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	159
Sony CDP-761E	250	Tarted up CDP-561E with less widgets and a slightly overcooked but nonetheless fine performance	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1267 147
Sony CDP-XE900E	300	Refined and analytical disc scavenging tool, but there are some distinctive colourations making auditioning vital	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	159
Sony CDP-XA2ES	400	Strong-willed, heavyweight sound; not for the faint-hearted	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1642 151
Teac CD-P3200	150	A primitive looking CD player, housing 16-bit electronics delivering an equally primitive and uninspiring sound.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1277 147
Teac CD-5	350	Bright, breezy and up-beat - but short in the trouser department	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1643 151
Teac VRDS-7	599	Although bold and outgoing, this player can sound both intrusive yet lacking fine detail	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1769 155
Teac VRDS-10	770	A basic analogue stage compromises performance. Lacks bass energy	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	119
Technics SL-PG480A	140	Full driving sound, but somewhat uneven in balance with a unsubtle, slightly harsh top end	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1 bit	159

DIGITAL RECORDERS (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	FORMAT	DAC TYPE	ADC TYPE	ELECTRICAL I/O	OPTICAL I/O	PORTABLE	FAKBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
Pioneer D-07	1,150	96kHz double sampling mode gives this deck a sense of naturalness missing from most DAT recorders	DAT	BS	BS	●	●	●	1089	133
Pioneer PDR-05	1,300	CD recorder that uses domestic blanks only (limited to 62 minutes), write once but excellent sound quality	CD-R	BS	BS	●	●	●	1652	152
Pioneer D-C88	2,000	State of the art portable 96kHz DAT recorder, the size of a lap-top computer this Nagra country on the cheap	DAT	BS	BS	●	●	●	1431	150
Sharp MD-M11	450	Slick MD personal with recording capabilities and rapid track access but less stunning sound quality	MD	BS	BS	●	●	●		139
Sony MDA-IA3ES	800	Full width MD recorder that makes a decent job of recordings but is less impressive with pre-recorded material	MD	BS	BS	●	●	●	1216	152



Headphones Brought to you in association with SENNHEISER

There are a variety of different approaches to headphone design. Among the more expensive models, electrostatic drivers are used in open-backed phones. Most models feature dynamic (moving coil) drivers in circular, open or closed-back designs. The advantage of open backs seems to be a correspondingly open sound, but one can also hear external noise, of course. Closed-back designs are useful in situations where it is necessary to block out noise.

There are three styles of headphone: circumaural models enclose the ear; supra-aural designs feature a flat pad which presses on the outer ear; and intra-aurals (in-ear) rest inside the ear itself, à la personal stereos. For best results a separate headphone amplifier is recommended.

B Best Buy **R Recommended**

KEY		CLOSED BACK:	3.5MM JACK ADAPTOR:	to find the Factsback information page.
TYPE:	Operating principle: D - dynamic, E - electrostatic.	Keeps out external noise.	Can be used with mini-jack-equipped components such as personal stereos.	BACK ISSUE:
SUPRA-AURAL:	Style where a flat pad presses on the outer ear.	WEIGHT (G):	Mass in grams	The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.
CIRCUM-AURAL:	Style which encloses the ear.	IMPEDANCE (Ω):	Load offered to the headphone amplifier. The higher the impedance the louder the sound for a given amplifier output.	
OPEN BACK:	Offers an open sound but lets in noise.		FACTSBACK NUMBER:	The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page

HEADPHONES

Product	Price(£)	Comments	SUPRA-AURAL TYPE	CIRCUM-AURAL	CLOSED BACK	OPEN BACK	3.5mm JACK ADAPTOR	WEIGHT(G)	IMPEDANCE(Ω)	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
AKG K240 Monitor	82	Something of a classic, these AKGs are very user-friendly in all respects; sonically on the warm side of normal.	D	●	●	●	240	600			63
AKG K1000	646	One of the best dynamics on the market, hooks directly into speaker outputs.	D	●	●	●	270	120			99
Audio Technica ATH910PRO	80	The closed back 910s are an improvement on the 909s, with a nice rhythmic quality rarely found with headphones.	D	●	●	●	280	40			55
Beyer DT100	152	Rugged, modular professional design, but bass is woolly and treble lacks detail.	D	●	●	●	350	600			157
Beyer DT311	49	Uncharacteristically tight, unrefined sound quality from this otherwise well engineered 'phone.	D	●	●	●	124	40	●	1098	133
Beyer DT331	82	Tonally bright and deficient in bass, but exceptionally comfortable, articulate, detailed and refined.	D	●	●	●	210	40	●	1801	157
Beyer DT411	69	A reasonable but not very thrilling headphone that doesn't really offer enough at the price.	D	●	●	●	120	250			111
Beyer DT531	129	A good buy for serious, heavy-duty music making	D	●	●	●	245	250			144
Beyer DT911	219	Probably too revealing for many headphone amps, these are very subtle and fine, if expensive cans.	D	●	●	●	275	250			111
Denon AH-D550	80	A competent 'phone with integrity, but little panache or charisma. Hard headband causes brain strain.	D	●	●	●	200	35	●	1801	157
Grado SR-80	110	Clear, open and dynamic with pedantically open mid-band. Crude physical design, rough frequency extremes.	D	●	●	●	60	8	●	1801	157
Jecklin Float Model 1	75	Whilst very unusual in appearance, the Floats give remarkable sound quality and openness at a reasonable price.	D	●	●	●	400	200			55
Jecklin Float Model 2	99	Helmet shaped, but open sounding and comfortable in long term, despite lack of adjustment.	D	●	●	●	400	200			63
JVC HA-D910	65	Broadly acceptable if unexciting design with low level losses and some colourations.	D	●	●	●	220	32	●		121
Kenwood KH-1000	20	First step up from a true mini: a near miniature which is cheap, comfortable and inoffensive	D	●	●	●	30	32	●		121
Maxell HP-3000	30	Solid, smooth sounding supra-aural headphone, but congested and undynamic. Includes in-lead controls.	D	●	●	●	120	32	●	1099	133
Pioneer SE-400D	37	Acceptable, if unexciting all-rounder, this supra-aural phone has good long-term comfort levels.	D	●	●	●	185	35	●	1099	133
Ross RDH-300CD	17	In-lead controls are the highlights of this shoddy, sometimes aggressive sounding design.	D	●	●	●	155	8	●		133
Sennheiser HD445 II	40	Still the one by which others at the price are measured, though now slightly leaden sounding, with a cold treble	D	●	●	●	125	52	●		121

TO ORDER A FAX COPY OF REVIEWS WITH A FACTSBACK REFERENCE TURN TO PAGE 128 FOR DETAILS

HEADPHONES (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	CIRCUM-AURAL TYPE	OPEN BACK	CLOSED BACK	3.5mm JACK ADAPTOR	FACTSBACK IMPEDANCE(Ω)	WEIGHT(g)	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
Sennheiser HD455	50	Inoffensive, if nondescript sound, modular, but can become dislodged from head.	D	●	●	●	185	60	●	1801 157
Sennheiser HD565 Ovation	140	Wide bandwidth design which is refined, expressive and extremely comfortable.	D	●	●	●	255	150	●	1801 157
Sony MDR-CD770	100	Neutrality and comfort make the Sony easy to live with. Technically correct sounding too, yet musically unrewarding.	D	●	●	●	-	-	●	1801 157
Stax Lambda Pro	449	Tested with SRD-7B PSU, this is an industry reference, and is frighteningly revealing.	E	●	●	●	325	-	●	55
Stax Lambda Sig	549	With SRM-T1. Electrostatic - the Signature must be the most transparent headphone available.	E	●	●	●	325	-	●	72
Technics RP-HT700	70	Well-finished but physically crass and grubby sounding.	D	●	●	●	255	-	●	1801 157
Vivanco SR606	40	Although slightly overblown at times, this model is easy on the ears and essentially enjoyable	D	●	●	●	225	32	●	1101 133
Vivanco SR650	50	Unusually comfortable 'phone with excellent detail resolution but aggressive, thanks to tweeter resonance.	D	●	●	●	175	-	●	1801 157
Vivanco SR750	60	Cossetting physical design, attractive sound an pricing, though suffers overhang and lacks ultimate dynamics.	D	●	●	●	188	-	●	1801 157
Vivanco IR1700	120	Infra-red phones that work well but suffer from the limitations of the medium ie compression and hiss(Sessions)	D	●	●	●	265	-	●	149

SENNHEISER HEADPHONES ARE THE ESSENTIAL ACCESSORY!
 To find your nearest dealer, call ☎ (01494) 551551. And don't miss Sennheiser's Web site on the Net - <http://www.sennheiser.com>



Hi-Fi Loudspeakers

As the last item in the hi-fi chain, the loudspeaker is merely the slave of what has gone before; it is only as good as the signal it is fed. Nevertheless, the distortions introduced by loudspeakers (and rooms) tend to be the most obvious. The average loudspeaker consists of an enclosure plus a couple of drive units behind a removable grille. Inside the box lurks a simple electrical circuit known as a crossover, which divides the incoming (full range) signal into the right bits for the drivers to handle. The designer's primary

task is to balance the 'sensitivity' of the loudspeaker (how loud it goes for a given electrical input) against the bass extension (how low it goes), for the given box size. Subwoofers augment the bass and come in passive and amplified active form, they are less sensitive to placement than regular speakers.

B Best Buy **R Recommended**

KEY

SIZE WxHxD (cm): Width by height by depth in centimetres.	IMPEDANCE (Ω): Measured in Ohms impedance it is a measure of how hard a loudspeaker is to drive: the lower the number the more powerful the amplifier needs to be.	reproduce, based on in-room measurements.	FACTSBACK NUMBER: The reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback page.
FLOORSTANDER: As opposed to requiring a dedicated stand.	BASS FROM (Hz): The lowest frequency that a speaker can	FREE SPACE: Speakers should be placed away from walls.	BACK ISSUE: The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.
SENSITIVITY (dB/W): Efficiency: how much volume you get for a given input; the higher the louder.		CLOSE TO WALL: It is recommended that these speakers be placed close (between 3 and 12cm) to the rear wall.	

HI-FI LOUDSPEAKERS

Product	Price(£)	Comments	SIZE WxHxD(CM)	FLOORSTANDER	SENSITIVITY(dB/W)	BASS FROM (Hz)	IMPEDANCE(Ω)	FREE SPACE	CLOSE TO WALL	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
Allison AL100	100	Loud and lively budget wall-mount is big and beefy, but lacks sparkle and refinement	24,33,19	●	90	4	30	●	●	94	
Allison AL105	170	Pretty enough in appearance; sonically the AL105 doesn't really make the grade at the price	24,37,21	●	90	4	45	●	●	78	
Allison AL110	220	Compact bookshelf model is a little dry and mid-forward, but bass is extended and solid	24,40,23	●	90	4	28	●	●	102	
Allison AL120	420	Pretty well balanced if slightly mid-forward, but sound quality is disappointing at the price	28,61,29	●	90	4	30	●	●	98	
ATC SCM20	1,499	Massively built, invariably informative but the rather forward presentation can be uncomfortable	24,44,31	●	83	8	28	●	●	86	
Audio Innovations Alto	329	Styling makes competition look old-fashioned, but sound is thin and cold	20,38,26	●	88	6	45	●	●	1653 152	
Audio Note AN-J/B	799	Light damping and local unevenness adds some colouration, but doesn't spoil the very speaker	38,58,25	●	93	8	25	●	●	110	
Audio Note AN-E/B	1,299	Coherent dynamic and transparent, with extended bass and high sensitivity - but ugly!	36,84,28	●	94	8	20	●	●	106	
Audio Physic Tempo	1,999	Tall and unusually styled floorstander has stunning stereo but suspect bass tuning	22,107,47	●	88	8	28	●	●	1344 143	
Audiovector 3X	1,500	Superior time coherence, a wide dynamic range and exception bass/mid balance	19,32,98	●	89	8	20	●	●	1345 143	
B&W DM302	130	highly competent and neutral all rounder; clever Prism enclosure	19,32,22	●	88	4	45	●	●	1778 156	
B&W DM601	200	Great main driver for the price, entertaining dynamics	20,5,35,5,23	●	88	6	30	●	●	1779 156	
B&W DM602	300	Prefers tall stands and space, but offers impressive midband dynamics and musical tension	24,49,31	●	90	8	30	●	●	1654 15	
B&W CDM1	600	Gorgeous stand-mount delivers unusually good bass for its size	22,38,28	●	88	6	30	●	●	160	
B&W Matrix 805 V	995	Stylish, remarkable imaging, good balance and low colouration	33,33,21	●	87	8	30	●	●	98	
B&W Matrix 801S3	3,795	Lacks transparency and the drama of the best dynamics, but acoustically a tour de force	44,100,56	●	87	8	20	●	●	81	
Bose 305	430	Fine dynamic liveliness and a good room match counter strange imaging and treble	23,45,28	●	-	8	40	●	●	78	
Bose 401	500	Cheaply built but distinctively styled , the 401 suffers from heavy midband	30,30,76	●	-	4	28	●	●	110	
Boston Acoustics HD5	139	Pretty miniature lacks boxiness, but is short of drama and dynamic drive	16,25,18	●	89	8	30	●	●	110	
Canon S-30	180	Moulded design has lively coherence, with 'wide imaging stereo'	23,27,24	●	90	6	50	●	●	114	
Canon S-75	1000	Unique 'wide image' floorstander has great charm despite some sonic flaws	25,79,25	●	87	4	26	●	●	160	
Castle Isis	230	Expressive with a full upper bass, tonally colourful with a big, dynamic sound (tested in Sessions)	17,35,19,5	●	87	8	60	●	●	1729 154	
Castle Durham 900	300	Lovely veneer and lots of engineering create a very upfront, coherent and exciting sound	22,40,23	●	90	8	60	●	●	1162 135	
Castle York	370	Real wood compact has an engaging transparency: fine balance and timing, but could use some authority	26,43,22	●	89	8	50	●	●	110	
Castle Severn	500	Light and bright, but sound is open and communicative. Looks good too	23,77,20	●	88	8	47	●	●	1655 152	
Castle Chester	700	A brilliant throwback, using a horn type approach to provide startling dynamics and coherence	23,91,25	●	90	8	44	●	●	98	
Castle Harlech	800	Handsome big-sounding floorstander, great value and dynamic midrange	20,96,33	●	88	8	28	●	●	160	
Castle Howard S2	1,100	Ably fills the gap between Chester and Winchester; has a rich, laid back balance	26,104,41	●	90	8	40	●	●	1078 132	
Castle Winchester	1,650	Large for its bass extension but engagingly agile, open and airy	42,108,23	●	90	8	35	●	●	90	
Celestion 1	99	It sounds a bit scrappy and untidy, but its heart is in the right place	16,27,21	●	86	8	50	●	●	114	
Celestion 3 MKII	139	Smooth and polished by budget speaker standards, if a bit laid back for some tastes	21,31,18	●	88	8	45	●	●	1036 130	
Celestion Impact 23	300	Big, cheap and loud. Sounds coloured and old fashioned, lacks subtlety	28,82,29	●	89	8	30	●	●	1656 152	
Celestion 15	389	Big box and but short on subtlety and control though long on both enthusiasm	21,100,25	●	89	8	28	●	●	114	
Celestion Impact 25	400	Both capable and enjoyable these rock boxes are real contenders in the bang-for-the-buck stakes	27,82,29	●	90	8	43	●	●	1758 155	
Celestion SL6Si	429	This stereotype luxury compact can sound a bit dull and congested; favours CD	20,38,27	●	84	8	30	●	●	94	

HI-FI LOUDSPEAKERS (CONTINUED)

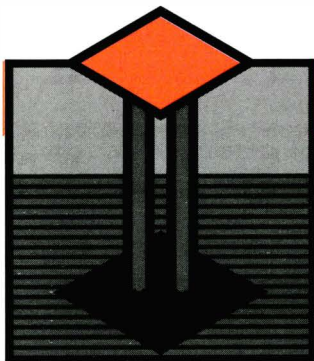
Product	Price(£)	Comments	SIZE WxYxD(CM)	SENSITIVITY (dB/W)	FLOORSTANDER	BASS FROM (Hz)	IMPEDANCE(Ω)	FACTSBACK FREE SPACE	CLOSE TO WALL	ISSUE NUMBER
Celestion 300	1,099	Splendid bass extension and fine panel-like openness, but dynamics and timing are suspect		21,97,33	●	84 8 20	●			118
Cerwin-Vega VS10	350	Not all that refined but ballsy as heck, these rock boxes have no shortage of gung ho		33,70,29	●	95 6 37	●			1758 155
Dali 104B	370	Lively, rich sounding and communicative. Shame about bland styling and dull balance		22,86,27	●	93 4 28	●			1657 152
Dawn Audio Chorus FS	698	Compact floorstander with superb coherence but rather forward midband. Would suit smaller rooms best		26,88,21	●	89 8 30	●			114
Electrofluidics Sonolith 2.2xi	5,999	Substantial polymer concrete cabinet with aluminium cones produces world class imaging and very serious bass		38,95,42.5	●	86 4 n/a	●			139
Epos ES12	500	High quality luxury stand-mount has great midband and stereo imaging		20,38,25	●	85 8 45	●			160
Epos ES14	675	Substantial stand mount delivers delightful midrange focus and delicacy with good bass control		23,49,29	●	87 8 25	●			98
Epos ES22	1,185	Elegant floorstander with 'safe' balance that can be enlivened with the right cable and energetic material (Sessions)		21,88,25	●	87 6 58	●			1629 151
Epos ES25	1,655	Handsome floorstander with a rather uneven and bass heavy balance		24,90,35	●	88 6 22	●			1346 143
Faraday Siren	445	High mass concrete cabinet is let down by imbalance of ageing driver combination		25,27,42	●	90 4 48	●			94
Gale Model 4	200	Low cost floorstander; sounds a bit edgy, with detached bass		19,79,22	●	87 8 28	●			1780 156
GLL Imagio IC130	550	Lots of speaker for the money, but sound is decidedly dull and shut in		22,112,29	●	88 4 20	●			160
Harbeth BBC LS3/5A	699	Still a classic miniature, though not to every taste, and none the better for the recent update		19,30,18	●	82 10 80	●			66
Harman/Kardon LS0200	149	Laid back to a fault but entertaining nevertheless, and a big box for the price		21,35,30	●	87 8 30	●			1037 130
Heybrook Prima	139	Fine pace and timing, but balance is forward and bass is tight		20,29,18	●	87 6 50	●			110
Heybrook Solo	199	Untidy bass and treble, but handles complex rhythmic material well		23,36,23	●	89 6 28	●			90
Heybrook Trio	373	HBS1 drivers in real wood enclosure give a sweeter and more forgiving sound		24,47,25	●	89 8 45	●			118
Heybrook Heylo	389	Good vocal reproduction, but sounds thin and bass seems an afterthought		23,73,19	●	88 8 30	●			1658 152
Heybrook Heystack	499	Elegant, highly detailed and level-headed sound, but could use injection of life		22,98,28	●	89 8 38	●			141
Heybrook Quartet	575	Solidly large bookshelf model with good sensitivity and a lively, forward sound		24,41,22	●	90 8 48	●			122
Heybrook Sextet	1,129	Coherent and highly analytical, partly due to distinct upper-mid forwardness		27,90,20	●	88 8 25	●			102
Infinity Reference 1i	150	Although not to our tastes, this is a competent speaker, and decent material value		20,34,20	●	89 6 50	●			1403 148
Infinity Kappa 6.1i	995	Good extension, but bass is fat and slow, and dynamics are unconvincing.		31,95,25	●	89 6 25	●			1080 132
Jamo BX100A	370	A cracking output for their size these rock boxes can be a tad bright but have decent bass		31.5,54,28	●	91 8 40	●			1758 155
Jamo Classic 8	430	A lot of speaker for the money; good when playing quietly, but boom 'n tizz character sounded crude		22,90,29	●	90 4 28	●			1659 152
Jamo 477	500	Very prettily styled, but build and sound quality are disappointing at the price		19,77,28	●	88 4 40	●			1549 138
Jamo 707A	900	Superb styling and cosmetics and decent balance apart from detached bass		26,38,104	●	90 4 25	●			1085 132
JBL Control One	115	Sub-miniature with forward midrange and real bass; price justified by build		24,156,14	●	87 4 100	●			90
JBL TLX70	400	Startling bass weight from party animal that is let down by rather bland high frequencies		27,88,28	●	88.5 8 50	●			1758 155
JBL L20J	850	Pricey, heavy and a bit laid back, but this is a fine rock 'n'roller which is dynamic and communicative		26,42,28	●	86 8 30	●			1550 138
JBL L90	1,300	A classic monitor which communicates with gusto and enthusiasm, though it can sound a tad crude		24,94,35	●	91 6 23	●			143
JBL Ti 1000	1,600	Performance compromised by over enthusiastic midbass output from port		20,30,13	●	89 4 45	●			118
Jordan Watts JH400	820	Piano finish hexagon has controversial sound, with uneven balance but delightful mid		28,38,21	●	86 8 50	●			106
JPW Mini Monitor	60	Ultra-cheap miniature works well in a limited way		18,27,17.5	●	86 8 50	●			1781 156
JPW Gold Monitor	80	More informative than Mini Monitor - but fiercer too		18,27,17.5	●	86 8 50	●			1782 156
JPW Sonata	120	Fine sound if limited bass and dynamic range, wood veneered at a silly price		23,32,22	●	87 8 70	●			71
JPW P1 Vinyl	150	Competent loudspeaker for the price, with a safe sound that won't disappoint		26,44,25	●	89 8 65	●			102
JPW P1	170	Longstanding design is remarkable material value (real wood etc) and sounds pretty too		26,44,25	●	89 8 65	●			1611 141
JPW AP2	200	Real wood finish, and performance is cleaner but similar to P1 Vinyl overall		26,44,25	●	89 8 65	●			106
JPW AP3	230	Good stereo and well balanced overall; character is well suited to vinyl replay		26,52,29	●	88 8 55	●			46
JPW Ruby 1	500	Very pretty but pricey luxury metal-cone miniature has good, if slightly edgy balance		19,32,21	●	87 6 55	●			1572 139
KEF Coda 7	130	Lovely open voice reproduction, but bass could be tauter; build tougher		18,30,23	●	88 6 50	●			1783 156
KEF Coda 8	190	Outstandingly well balanced, bass is deep but a little vague		20,32.5,29	●	86 6 28	●			1784 156
KEF Coda 9	300	Uneven budget 3-way floorstander with poor bass definition		20,86,28	●	89 6 30	●			1785 156
KEF Q30	379	Fine focus from Uni-Q driver, but lacks drive and time coherence		19,73,30	●	88 6 44	●			126
KEF Q50	529	Compact twin-driver floorstander with Uni-Q treble and a rather midbass, heavy overall balance		19,83,30	●	89 6 50	●			1573 139
KEF 104/2	1,799	A reference point for dynamics, best without KUBE, suited to many rooms.		28,90,41	●	92 4 50	●			60
Keswick Audio Aria II	329	Confident and dynamic sound, if a little crude and shut in		21,42,24	●	89 8 20	●			1405 148
Linn Keilidh Passive	700	Stunning timing and coherence, and awesome bass drive		20,83,28	●	87 4 22	●			1552 138
Linn Kaber Passive	1,800	Dry, bright balance emphasises dynamics and transients, but can sound unforgiving		20,90,28	●	87 4 25	●			118
Living Voice Air Pa ner S	27,000	Outstanding transparency and dynamics from remarkably solid and fast mega horn		64,160,90	●	108 8 40	●			138
Lumley Reference LM4	375	Metal diaphragm and wood veneer; balance uneven upper and has suspect timing		18,36,22	●	86 6 44	●			126
Lumley Reference LM3	895	Despite indifferent bass alignment, LM3 is fast, coherent, solid and informative		27,87,28	●	90 8 30	●			106
Meridian DSP6000	8,500	Sophisticated digital design, with a wide ranging, refined and detailed sound. Has onboard amplification		28,133,43	●	- - 35	●			1226 140
Meridian DSP5000	2,995	State of the active loudspeaker art, a high grade design with unique capabilities. Has onboard amplification		21,90,30	●	- - 35	●			1226 140
Mission 731	130	Much improved bass but dull top; likes to play loud		17.5,31,18	●	87 6 45	●			156
Mission 732	200	Attractive presentation but a rather dull and thick sounding speaker, and a tad pricey too		20,41,30	●	89 8 45	●			1613 141
Mission 733	300	Duller than before, though still an honest all-round package		20.5,87,30	●	87 8 45	●			1786 156
Mission 751	300	Gorgeous looking, very petite; boogies with a sting at the top		17.5,32,26	●	87 8 45	●			1788 156
Mission 734	430	Fine all rounder, and good value, but dynamically a bit lazy, and tweeter quality limited		21,84,33	●	90 8 43	●			1660 152
Mission 752	500	Brilliant style, engineering and sound		20,88,26	●	90 8 50	●			1553 138
Mission 753	700	Gorgeous presentation and potential for open transparency.		21,88,32	●	90 6 45	●			114
Monitor Audio MA201	300	Lively and coherent with good power handling, but also a bit shut in and coloured		22,41,40	●	90 8 40	●			1164 135
Monitor Audio MA202	450	Uneven, informative and easy-listening floorstander delivers decent scale		22,89,27	●	90 8 50	●			1575 139
Monitor Audio MA700 PMC	500	Good looking luxury compact with all-metal diaphragms, lovely midrange, but occasionally edgy		22,35,26	●	89 8 45	●			1661 152
Monitor Audio MA703 PMC	800	Lovely but pricey floorstander has up-front, coherent 'shiny' sound		20,89,27	●	88 8 50	●			160
Monitor Audio Studio 6	900	Metal diaphragm compact has transparent midband but lacks vigour and drive		22,35,25	●	88 8 45	●			118
Monitor Audio Studio 12	1,000	A real looker, but sound and content are a bit on the small side for the price		17,92,20	●	90 8 28	●			1349 143
Mordaunt-Short MS10i	140	Up front, bouncy and a whole lot of fun		18.5,30.5,20	●	86 8 50	●			1789 156
Mordaunt-Short SW1	150	Prettily finished and inexpensive passive subwoofer is only really useful with sub-miniature speakers		24,58,26	●	90 8 40	●			128
Mordaunt-Short MS30i	275	Slightly shut in and coloured quality is compensated by fine bass and impressive communication		25,43,28	●	90 8 28	●			1662 152
Mordaunt-Short Perf 860	1,695	Although a very neutral loudspeaker it can, with the right ancillaries, pack a serious punch (Statements)		26,86,35	●	90 6 35	●			1367 146

HI-FI LOUDSPEAKERS (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	SIZE WxHxD(CM)	FLOORSTANDER	SENSITIVITY(dB/W/M)	IMPEDANCE(Ω)	BASS FROM (Hz)	FACTSBACK NUMBER CLOSE TO WALL FREE SPACE	ISSUE NUMBER
Morel 704/2	1,000	There's real potential here, but it's not fully realised	23,80,21	●	88	8	20	●	1350 143
Musical Technology Harrier	400	Very pretty package, good measured performance and even sound. Sensitivity is low, and dynamics limp	25,80,23	●	86	8	25	●	1663 152
Naim SBL Passive	1,878	Lively and punchy - smoother but more upfront than before	27,89,27	●	88	6	25	●	1352 143
Neat Mystique	575	Elegant compact floorstander has good allround sound and value	20,85,18	●	84	8	25	●	160
Neat Petite II	745	Compact design now utilising ribbon tweeter with a fine sense of timing and surprising musicality (tested in Sessions)	20,30,18	●	86	8	33	●	160
Origin Live OL-2A	470	Fine dynamics and a good looking, well engineered package, though presence bland and treble restrained	19,80,19	●	86	8	45	●	1664 152
Origin Live OL-1	499	Luxury miniature has very good overall balance, sacrificing sensitivity for bass	20,30,19	●	86	8	25	●	106
Philips Legend FB720II	200	Liveliness, coherence and fine information retrieval justifies the odd looking baffle	21,37,31	●	90	6	50	●	122
Pink Triangle Ventral	896	If you are after Quad Electrostatic type transparency but can't afford the price . . . (Sessions)	15,80,32	●	86	11		●	142
Pioneer S-4UK	250	Latest version now balances pretty well, with a coherent lightweight bass	21,37,28	●	88	6	50	●	1157 139
Polk LS50	800	No enthusiast tweaks here, but powerful and beautiful balance	27,83,29	●	89	8	25	●	1155 138
Polk LS70	1,200	High sensitivity, but balance has too much midbass boom; mid-top is laid back	31,94,37	●	90	8	22	●	1084 132
Proac Response 2.5	2,700	For aspirant high-enders looking for seriously good conventional boxes, this speaker should be first port of call	22,107,25	●	86	8	30	●	1457 149
PMC TB1	500	Superb transparency, subtle laid back sound, well worth seeking out	20,40,31	●	87	8	45	●	160
PMC LB1	998	Delightful smoothness and transparency, though bass and treble are both limited	18,53,25	●	89	4	33	●	110
PMC AB1	1,598	Lovely panel-like transparency, slightly shut-in balance, needs a big room	26,79,43	●	89	6	22	●	114
Polk RT16	800	Bass rich, lively and powerful, but suspect top end; big and not very pretty	22,105,39	●	91	4	22	●	160
QLN Qubic 222	400	Ugly but good value floorstander with loads of bass and a smooth balance	21,87,29	●	88	6	25	●	160
Quad ESL-63	2,860	Classic electrostatic lacks punch, but has strengths some can't live without	66,93,27	●	86	8	34	●	60
Rega Kyte	198	Has splendid timing and coherence, sounds very explicit and informative	19,31,19	●	87	8	50	●	114
Rega EL8	298	Kyle drivers in compact floorstander gives more bass but less coherence	17,72,20	●	86	8	55	●	122
Rega ELA Mk II	498	Pretty and smooth, the latest incarnation has a superb midband and excellent communicative skills	30,80,20	●	87	8	40	●	1578 139
Rega XEL	1,040	Looks and sounds great: balance bright but even, with delightful coherence and timing	20,82,30	●	89	6	40	●	1083 132
Revolver Beretta	100	Great bass for the price, a bit crude further up	19,35,22	●	87	8	45	●	1790 156
Revolver Colt	139	A good all-rounder, if a little bland, and excellent value for money	30,19,22	●	88	6	48	●	1407 148
Revolver 260	350	A no nonsense presenter of rock with plenty of dynamics, not too refined (tested in Sessions)	21,5,91,6,30	●	89	6	40	●	1731 154
Rogers LS1	149	High grade miniature	20,20,30	●	87	6		●	1408 143
Rogers AB1	499	Designed as partner for LS3/5a or similar miniatures	19,57,16	●	82	8		●	1354 143
Rogers Studio 3	499	Pricy LS3/5A derived miniature, excitingly coherent if lightweight, can't go loud	19,30,16	●	85	8	30	●	118
Rogers LS3/5A	699	Clever AB1 stand/subwoofer helps the classic 3/5A monitor give its best shot.	19,31,17	●	82	12	45	●	1354 143
Rogers Studio 5	699	Luxury finish bookshelf size model has genuine monitoring capabilities	25,25,48	●	89	8	40	●	1556 138
Rogers Studio 7	899	Latest variation on classic BBC-monitor theme has beautifully voiced, laid back sound	30,63,30	●	90	8	30	●	122
Roksan ROKone	600	Large stand-mount is musically very communicative if a little coloured	21,45,33	●	89	6	30	●	160
Roksan Ojan 3 Black	795	Squat, stylish and black, great bass extension and somewhat uneven balance	28,76,46	●	88	8	20	●	1082 132
Royd Minstrel	249	Not much wellie or loudness but fine coherence and timing, a bit bright	18,69,12	●	86	8	30	●	1167 135
Royd Merlin	298	Inigorating and exciting design with plenty of upfront detail, but balance lacks warmth and a tad overpriced	20,31,18	●	86	8	33	●	1409 148
Royd Doublet	450	Great value compact floorstander; lively and very informative, if a little uneven	18,93,19	●	90	4	28	●	160
Royd The Sorcerer	595	Extremely musical and communicative speaker that fun to listen to. Aesthetics could use improving though	20,31,18	●	86	8	35	●	139
Royd Abbot	665	Dynamic and fine transient qualities are hampered by a rather coloured mid-forward balance	20,81,30	●	90	8	43	●	118
Ruark Templar	499	Striking baffle gives decent bass/mid but dull treble; could tame over-bright system	19,70,27	●	87	8	25	●	122
Ruark Talisman II	749	Less ideologically committed than some, strength lies in fine all-round coherence	23,84,32	●	88	8	30	●	118
Ruark Equinox	1,849	The primary strength of this speaker is its ability to remove itself from the picture	25,88,34	●	88	6	45	●	1227 140
SD Acoustics SD3R	399	New SD3 has the agility and charm of a quality miniature, good bass and low sensitivity.	20,38,30	●	87	8	25	●	106
SD Acoustics SD5	1,235	Bass suspect but forward midband is delightfully smooth. Has ribbon tweeter	20,110,30	●	88	8	30	●	1081 132
Shahinian Arc	1,675	Occasionally wonderful small floorstanding omni; bright but coherent and revealing	35,69,25	●	88	6	24	●	110
Spendor 2020	399	Utilising an oval drive unit in a stylish cabinet this is a neutral design with AV inclinations (tested in Sessions)	18,34,26	●	87	8		●	1756 155
Spendor 2030	600	Discreet slimline floorstander with delicately coherent, laid back sound	18,89,27	●	87	8	30	●	160
Spendor S20	760	Maintains Spendor's tradition for peerless mid-to-treble coherence and perspectives.	22,38,26	●	84	8	25	●	102
System Audio 905	250	Fine coherence and remarkable dynamic freedom some something so small, though there's little real weight	15,27,21	●	89	8	60	●	1410 148
Tannoy 631	149	Balanced, open, unboxy and quite lively, but lacks muscle	19,34,15	●	87	6	60	●	1616 141
Tannoy 631SE	170	Very refined midband; maybe too laid back for some	13-19,34,16	●	86	7	45	●	1791 156
Tannoy 632	189	Clever cabinet avoids boxiness and promotes focus imaging and bass	43,51,27	●	88	20	25	●	1168 135
Tannoy 633/II	300	Impressive bass and balance from very compact floorstander. Upper midband could be cleaner	29,75,28	●	89	85	20	●	1665 152
Tannoy 635	450	Beefy low-line floorstander packs real bass punch and an up-front balance	17-29,85,27	●	90	6	22	●	160
Tannoy 638	599	Big value vinyl big box has good balance and lots of loudness, but needs a good amp.	33,96,32	●	91	6	25	●	1558 138
Tannoy D500	1,470	Plenty of muscle and stereo, but short of poise and delicacy. Hard work for amps	31,93,34	●	91	6	20	●	1355 143
Tannoy Westminster TW	6,000	These awesome horn loaded speakers are remarkably controlled and impressive	large	●	99	8	38	●	C93
TDL Near Field Monitor	100	Despite low price, this is an unimpressive performer, poor low frequency resolution and analysis being main flaws	18,30,17	●	87	8	50	●	1043 130
TDL RTL2	300	Spacious, weighty and enveloping sound if you can accept the laid back balance	20,73,22	●	87	8	25	●	1412 148
TDL RTL3	400	Bargain price floorstander has rich, heavy and bright sound with a good scale	20,90,37	●	90	8	25	●	126
TDL Studio 0.5	499	Tiny floorstanding transmission line lacks coherence or the balance of Studio 1	20,62,30	●	85	8	40	●	94
TDL Studio 1	699	Genuinely extended bass from a compact enclosure, very detailed but a shade clinical	23,77,33	●	86	8	25	●	78
TDL Studio 1m	899	Transmission line helps bring the best from metal cone driver	23,77,34	●	86	8	20	●	118
Technics SB-M20	200	Well balanced with natural perspectives and fine midband coherence, but bass is a bit boxy and uneven	20,32,23	●	70	8	50	●	1413 148
Technics SB-M500	450	This model offers a clean, open sound, offset by midbass heavy balance and low sensitivity	25,78,37	●	100	8	25	●	1666 152
Thiel SCS	1,379	Class leading coherence and communication, but can sound shut-in and dark	23,92,41	●	87	4	45	●	114
Totem Model One	995	Utterly delightful but exasperatingly expensive luxury miniature sets the benchmark for its size	17,31,23	●	87	4	28	●	122
Vandersteen 2Ce	1,395	Elegant staggered baffle contributes to a refreshing freedom from boxiness	41,101,27	●	88	7	23	●	86
Visonik David 6001	163	Sharp styling, but the complex grillwork worsens a sound which starts off with too much top and not enough bottom	13,20,12	●	87	8	130	●	74
Wharfedale Valdus 400	199	Goes very loud with a minimum of amplification, but the sound is very thick and uneven, with a heavy upper bass	25,80,26	●	91	8	30	●	1414 148
Wharfedale Valdus 500	299	Offering a large version of events these rock boxes can move plenty of air, albeit not as subtly as alternatives	25,108,26,5	●	91	4	40	●	1758 155
ZYP AI	199	Cute metal cased micro-miniature is quite coloured but great fun	14,22,12	●	88	8	30	●	110

SUBWOOFERS

Product	Price(£)	Comments	SIZE WxHxD(CM)	SENSITIVITY(dB/W)	FLOORSTANDER	BASS FROM (Hz)	IMPEDANCE(Ω)	FACTSBACK CLOSE TO WALL	ISSUE NUMBER
Boston Acoustics SW10	450	A little thumpy but transparent with good timing and goes loud (active)	28.5,50,42	●		33			128
Celestion CS135	139	Compact hideaway passive sub lacks deep bass: for high sensitivity speakers	52,19,34	●		86	8	45	128
Infinity RS10	500	A very cute cube of an active sub but midbass is boomy with no real extension	34,34,34	●		38			128
Jamo SW600	530	Has some neat styling touches and remote control but deep bass is limited (active)	38,41,53	●		30			1736 154
KEF Model 30B	500	Commendably discreet with good sense of timing but limited extension (active)	38.5,37,43	●		45			1736 154
KEF AV1	2500	Works well, looks great, shakes the windows but costs a lot and is bulky	56,43,50	●		45			128
M&K VX-7B	450	Baby of a big range this active design delivers deep, plenteous bass albeit lacking in transparency	35,25,37	●		40			1736 154
Mordaunt-Short SW1	150	Fair value, can help sensitive small speakers but no serious extension to match upper bass	58,24,25	●		85		45	128
REL Q-Bass	350	Smashes the price barrier for deep bass performance	40,41,5,40	●		20			1670 154



Stands & Supports

Hi-fi furniture is more important than you might imagine. The effect it can have on the sound of your system is far from subtle. Hi-fi furniture can be split up into two categories — equipment supports and loudspeaker stands. It is not entirely clear what makes a great equipment support, but some are definitely more equal than others. There's a variety of approaches and materials used, including particle board, glass and all

manner of steel tube and section. Speaker stands come in a variety of sizes and styles to suit different models. Use dealer or manufacturer recommendations to narrow down the choice, but as a rule you want the tweeter at ear height.

Best buy

Recommended

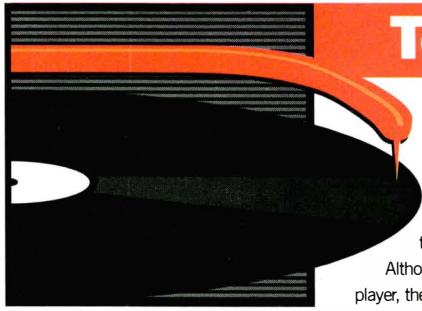
KEY

HEIGHT (CM): Height of stand or equipment shelf.
TOP PLATE SIZE (CM): Dimensions of top plate on speaker stand or equipment support.
FILLABLE: Some speaker stands can be filled with sand and/or lead to increase mass, which affects sound.
WELDED: The better stands and supports are welded rather than bolted together.
NUMBER OF SHELVES: The amount of biers on an equipment rack or support.
SHELF TYPE: Material that shelves are made of on an equipment rack. Wood generally means MDF.
FACTSBACK NUMBER: The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback information page.
BACK ISSUE: The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.

STANDS & SUPPORTS

Product	Price(£)	Comments	TOP PLATE SIZE(CM)	HEIGHT(CM)	FILLABLE	WELDED	NUMBER OF SHELVES	FACTSBACK SHELF TYPE	ISSUE NUMBER
Equipment Supports									
Audiophile Furniture Base	480	Easy to set up, well ordered sound	40				4	Wood	1633 151
Fi-Rax R4	250	Lively, exuberant sound, slightly weak bass					5	Glass	1633 151
Mana Acoustics Ref. Table	350	King of its type, angle iron, chipboard and glass combined to make a significant difference to sound quality					1	Glass	147
Mana Acoustics 5 Tier Amp Stand	600	Infinitely upgradable. Persuasive and thrilling glass and angle iron design that adds speed and bandwidth to components upon it					5	Glass	1633 151
Quadraspire Q4	200	Easy to live with, and tonally neutral					4	MDF	1633 151
Sound Organisation Z038	130	Too lively and lacking order - but cheap	50	40,84			5	Wood	1633 151
SoundStyle Select 6105	280	Respectable sonics, structurally solid and smart					5	Glass	1633 151
Stands Unique Sound Tower	249	Adds colouration, and lacks weight. Optional Isolation Platform	81	72,42			5	Glass	1633 151
Target B5	175	Free of colourations, fine grip and good value					5	Wood	1633 151
Speaker Stands									
Alphason NC I	45	Filled single column design without threaded spike holes that's appropriate for non-critical applications	40-60	16,16	●				1373 146
Alphason NCII	80	Tall, slim and elegant, though sound and value are unexceptional	40-60	17,17	●				159
Alphason Titan	120	Excels in the midband and allows voices to come across in a detailed and expressive fashion	40-60	16,16	●	●			1373 146
Apollo AZ6	80	Fine engineering value, but sound unexceptional and top-plate small	66	15,13	●	●			159
Atacama BD21	55	Good looking and good value but doesn't match the SE24's sound quality	56	15,17	●				159
Atacama SE24	70	Stand out from the budget crowd because of the consistency and overall quality of the performance	61	19,5,17	●	●			1373 146
AVF Tower 400	35	Ridiculously cheap and much better than no stand at all	54	17,20	●				159
Ixos Deadrock 903	50	Smooth and tonally even but short on definition. Deep bass is soft which doesn't help timing	60						1373 146
Gale Reference 600	60	Smooth sounding with impressive bass well suited to less civilised speakers					●	●	1373 146
Kudos S50	100	Better sound than the budget stands, particularly at the bottom end	60	15,21	●				159
Kudos S100	270	The best all round stand around... Probably.	63	15,21	●				159
Mana Soundframes	125	For use under floorstanders and equipment racks these make music effortless and natural, can be stacked for greater effect	5				●		1373 146
Partington New Merlin	60	Although light in weight, the stands performance seemed remarkably muscular but musical rendering lacked a little precision					●	●	1373 146
Partington Discovery	80	The depth and substance of the presentation truly added to the convincing nature of the system's portrayal					●	●	1373 146
Partington Trophy	100	Four column design with damped top and base plates, sound is tight and cogent with smoothly integrated detail					●	●	1373 146
Revolver RS1	70	A good blend of performance and appearance for the price	53	18,18	●				159
RMS/Stands Unique Vivus	550	Pricy carbon fibres give ultra-clean sound with exceptional voices	50	N/A					159
Soundstyle 124	100	Big, shiny and solid, with fine midband projection	65	17,16	●				159
Sound Style Z024	100	Three pillar triangular based design with high gloss finish. Enthusiastic sound suited to better systems	61		●	●			1373 146
Stands Unique HP	220	Real wood disguises high performance tuned technology	59	22,23					159
Sound Organisation Z124	80	Atacama style big pillar. A pleasantly balanced performer, tonally even with good timing and dynamics, but leaks sand!	61		●				1373 146
Sound Organisation Z129	110	Heavy four pillar design, extracts detail well and very little colouration together with an excellent sense of timing	74		●				1373 146
Target R1	280	Truly high mass four pillar design with superb weight and speed, giving music delicious attack and outstanding imagery	53	15,21	●	●			1373 146
Target TR60	67.50	Lively, dynamic midrange and detailed treble from a less than audiophile oriented twin column design	60	15,15	●				1373 146

Tonearms



Turntables at the cheaper end of the market tend to be supplied with a matching tonearm, and often include a 'starter' cartridge. Still better quality is found at higher prices among the separate motor units and tonearms. Careful partnering and set-up is essential for these components.

Although the turntable is the most important part of a record player, the tonearm is the second most important, and the quality of

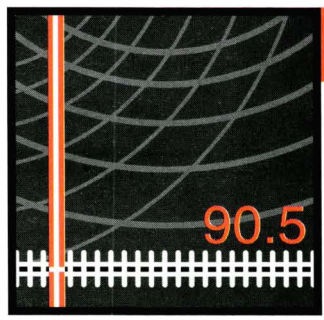
its construction and design have a significant bearing on sound quality. There are three basic types of arms listed in the key and each has its strengths, but pivoted designs are the most popular, for reasons both practical and economical.

B Best buy **R** Recommended

KEY	
EFFECTIVE MASS: This relates to cartridge compliance. Generally high mass arms are suitable for low compliance cartridges and vice versa.	PARALLEL TRACKING: An arm which allows the cartridge to track the disc in a linear fashion.
PIVOTED: Arms which allow the cartridge to describe an arc as they traverse the record.	UNI-PIVOT: Pivoted arms with a bearing that allows movement in two planes.
EFFECTIVE LENGTH (cm): Length of arm from bearing to cartridge mounting.	ADJUSTABLE HEIGHT: Important for accurate cartridge set-up.
FACTSBACK NUMBER: The reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback.	BACK ISSUE: The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.

TONEARMS

Product	Price (£)	Comments	PARALLEL TRACKING	EFFECTIVE MASS	PIVOTED	UNI-PIVOT	EFFECTIVE LENGTH (cm)	ADJUSTABLE HEIGHT	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
Alphason HR100S	490	S-shaped arm sounds smooth, but nevertheless reproduces transients with fine attack.	Medium	●	●	●	229	●	86	86
Kuzma Stogi Ref	1,000	Large, solid and well made arm, gives exceptionally clear sound with just a hint of brightness.	High	●	●	●	229	●	79	79
Linn Ekos	1,297	Superb, state of the art design which builds significantly on predecessor's strengths.	Medium	●	●	●	229	●	6	6
Moth Arm	95	The ultimate budget arm? Refined, sweet, detailed and natural.	Low	●	●	●	237	●	60	60
Rega RB300	139	Despite its modest price it sets exceptional standards and could be used on many high end turntables.	Low	●	●	●	237	●	60	60
Roksan Tabriz Basic	275	Targetted at the Xerxes, this is a good alternative to the Rega arm in many cases - a touch bright though.	Low	●	●	●	240	●	91	91
SME Series 300-309	657	Beautifully made and finished: fully adjustable and a highly neutral performer.	Low	●	●	●	238	●	79	79
SME Series IV	936	Superb engineering and finish with a finely balanced sound, impressive stereo focus and low colouration.	Low	●	●	●	233	●	60	60
SME Series V	1,391	Excellent in all respects, this arm arguably sets the standards for pivoted arms, regardless of price.	Low	●	●	●	233	●	60	60



Tuners

The radio medium operates at a lower profile than TV, but in areas outside pop music the BBC service is the envy of the world. Live concerts rival all other sources from a hi-fi perspective. Though tuners might seem something of a hi-fi afterthought, the task they discharge is far from simple, since it requires the skills of RF (reception) and audio (signal processing) engineering. The importance of the former will depend on reception conditions, but a high-quality aerial system is

well worth having. Tuners come in two basic types. Analogue models tune gradually and can have analogue or digital displays; they are often preferred for sound quality. Digital tuners offer convenient automatic tune facilities and pre-set memories.

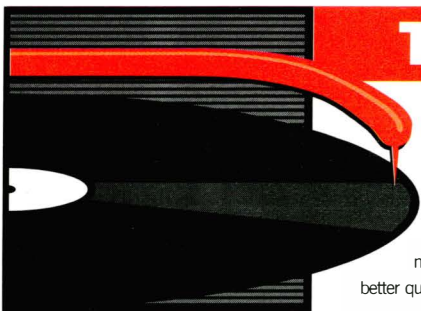
B Best buy **R** Recommended

KEY	
WAVEBANDS: Only the FM (VHF) bands give stereo hi-fi sound, though AM (MW & LW) are useful for receiving certain transmissions in the UK.	APPLICATIONS: Basically RDS tuners can identify and display the name of the radio station being received, but they offer a variety of other features as well.
PRESETS: Number of station frequencies that can be stored.	REMOTE CONTROL: Couch-potato friendly.
RDS: (radio data system) was originally designed for in-car applications.	SIGNAL STRENGTH METER: Indicates strength of signal from aerial, useful for aligning your 'twig' during installation.
	ROTARY TUNING KNOB: The ergonomically attractive approach to dial-surfing.
	FACTSBACK NUMBER: The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback information page.
	BACK ISSUE: The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.

Tuners

Product	Price (£)	Comments	WAVEBANDS	PRESETS	RDS	ROTARY TUNING KNOB	SIGNAL STRENGTH METER	REMOTE CONTROL	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
Arcam Alpha 5 Plus	220	Selectivity modest and there is some susceptibility to front end overload, though basic sound quality is pretty good	FM,M,L	24					1254	142
Arcam Delta 280	399	Fine sound quality marred by mild synthesiser whine; RF performance only average. remote £60 extra	FM	20		●			120	120
Audiolab 8000T	750	Unusually combination of fine sound quality and RF performance (inc AM), and superb ergonomics	FM,M,L	39		●	●	●	1254	142
Denon TU-260L	120	Careful minimalist design promises a surprisingly open and vivacious sound.	FM,M,L	20					93	93
Harman/Kardon TU950	200	Sound quality is among the best in its price range, only exposing its rough edges at high playback levels	FM,M,L	30	●	●	●	●	1810	157
Harman/Kardon TU9400	299	This striking tuner exceeded our expectations. On stereo FM, it's HK's best yet	FM,M	24					1254	142
Linn Kremlin	2,600	Controversially good sound at a very high price. The reviewer's saving up but you should check it out for yourself.	FM	80		●	●	●	1254	142
Magnum Dynalab FT101	825	Although fairly expensive given its minimum set of facilities, its excellent sound provided ample compensation.	FM						72	72
Micromega Tuner	700	Has digital output but even without the Micromega DAC, this provides exceptional sound quality. Looks good too.	FM	39		●	●	●	1810	157
Mission Cyrus FM7	400	Open, generous soundstaging gives the music plenty of foundation, if a touch shut in at the top	FM	29		●	●	●	1254	142
Musical Fidelity E50	300	Sounds involving if coloured and with a subjectively larger than life presentation	FM	20					1810	157
Naim NATO1	1,645	There may be better sounding tuners in the world, but we have yet to hear one.	FM						1254	142
Onkyo T-430RDS	190	Pleasingly neutral, but rather undynamic and congested	FM/MW	30		●			1254	142
Quad FM66	554	Very pretty and compact but technically unadventurous. Sound is smooth, but only makes sense in Quad system context.	FM	19		●			1254	142
Sony ST-SA3ES	250	Clean, lean presentation but needs a quality aerial to its best	FM,M,L	30		●	●	●	1810	157
Technics ST-GT350L	150	Decent RF performance is offset by sound quality more typical of a mini/midi system	FM,M,L	30		●	●	●	1254	142
Thorens TRT2000	450	Not exactly neutral sounding, it nonetheless makes listening fun	FM,M	59		●	●	●	1810	157

Turntables



Specialist turntables are what high fidelity sound is all about. CD players may offer silent backgrounds and flat frequency responses, but they can't match the dynamics and superlative timing that serious turntable users take for granted. Turntables at the cheaper end of the market tend to be supplied with a matching tonearm, and often include a 'starter' cartridge. Still better quality is found at higher prices among the separate motor units

and tonearms. Careful partnering and set-up is essential for these components, but many so-called 'sympathetic' combinations exist. Because turntables are mechanical devices that are designed to retrieve modulations as small as a micron, engineering quality is of paramount importance. It is also the reason why turntables cost as much as they do, and require high quality support systems.



KEY

MANUAL: You do it all: put the needle on the record and take it off.
AUTO: The record player does it all.
SEMI-AUTO: You share the work: you put it on, it takes it off.
SPEEDS: In RPM to correspond with your platters.
SUSPENDED SUBCHASSIS: Sprung suspension to minimise structural interference.
EXTERNAL PSU: Outboard power supply, generally it indicates high quality.
SUPPLIED WITH ARM: Many turntables require a separate arm to be fitted; if not, this tells you so.
SUPPLIED WITH CARTRIDGE: Most turntables do not come supplied with a needle.
FACTSBACK NUMBER: The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback information page.
BACK ISSUE: The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.

TURNTABLES

Product	Price(£)	Comments	MANUAL	SEMI-AUTO	AUTO	SPEEDS	SUSPENDED SUBCHASSIS	EXTERNAL PSU	SUPPLIED WITH CARTRIDGE	SUPPLIED WITH ARM	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
Alphason Sonata	835	Good sound in all areas - bass, clarity and neutrality all in top class (tested with HR100S MCS).	●						33	●	●	79
Clearaudio Reference	2,500	Opulent beast tested with Souther TQ-1 arm. Tends to gloss over detail with a fizzy character but is quite bold	●						33/45			1328 144
DNM Rota 2	4,800	Tonally slightly bleached, but extracts detail like few others. Works well on own table	●						33/45	●	●	1328 144
Dual CS503-2	170	Coarse and woolly sound - not inoffensive, but bettered by the CS-505-3.				●			33/45	●	●	91
Dual 505-4 UK	200	Consistent sounding and well isolated turntable. It is slightly lacking in oomph.				●			33/45	●	●	103
Kozma Stabi/PS	1,200	(Tested with Stogi Reference) Solid oak plinth; sound is very clear, detailed and extended.	●						33/45	●	●	91
Linn LP12 Basik	1,050	Trails the full LP12 significantly, but pace, rhythm, timing etc still top rank	●						33	●	●	103
Linn LP12 Lingo	1,750	The classic reference is improved by the Lingo, but charming character remains.	●						33/45	●	●	91
Michell Gyrodek	765	Sweet and natural sounding player, well matched to Rega RB300 arm	●						33/45	●	●	55
Notts Analogue Spacedeck/Arm	1,125	No frills, just a first rate, outstandingly natural sounding deck that will last forever.	●						33/45	●	●	159
Pink Triangle Anniversary	1,980	Possibly the most detailed, clear and neutral sounding deck around. Likeness to master tape is uncanny.	●						33/45	●	●	91
Pro-ject 6/Sumiko	699	Don't think of this as a mid price deck with a good arm, but as a scaled down Oracle Delphi - it's that good	●						33/45	●	●	138
Rega Planar 2	214	A remarkable product at the price, surprisingly articulate and confident	●						33/45	●	●	48
Rega Planar 3	274	The '3 (with RB300 arm) sounds musical in a balanced and coherent manner, needs decent isolation	●						33/45	●	●	48
Rega Planar 9	1,598	Featuring the RB900 arm and a ceramic plinth this deck puts Rega into contention with the best decks available	●						33/45	●	●	151
Reson RS1	675	Supplied set-up and ready-tuned, this unconventional deck is packed with mid-band detail.	●						33/45	●	●	159
Rivelin Eclipse	1,100	Tested with SME 309. Tends to simply things and add a slightly ragged edge to the proceedings	●						33/45	●	●	1328 144
Roksan Radius 3/Tabriz zi	890	Elegant looking turntable with a tidy, ordered sound. Bright and breezy if a shade lightweight.	●						33/45	●	●	159
SME Model 20A	4,631	Supplied with Series V arm. Engineered to last a lifetime, giving excellent stereo and detail retrieval.	●						33/45/78	●	●	118
Systemdek I/920/Moth	235	The motor is derivative of the Rega Planar 2 with a Moth arm. Uptempo, even bright at times but never lacks enthusiasm.	●						33/45	●	●	115
Systemdek 2X2	499	Neutral, flexible and dynamic deck that begs to be used with a good arm and cartridge.	●						33/45	●	●	159
Thorens TD166 VI/UK/RB	300	Refined and solid sound with well focussed imagery; suitable for use with good MM and budget MC cartridges.	●						33/45	●	●	103
Thorens TD2001	700	Balances convenience and sound well, but deck lacks detail and bass could be better controlled	●						33/45	●	●	159
Thorens TD3001/UK	770	Excellent middle ranking esoterica, with strong all-round abilities rather than excellence in particular areas.	●						33/45	●	●	103
Voyd 0.5	3,940	Cross between standard and Reference Voyds. Superb finish, colourful and dynamic.	●						33/45	●	●	1328 144
Voyd Reference	6,962	Voyd's flagship, equipped with three substal motors, is a strong contender for world's best.	●						33/45	●	●	91
Well Tempered Record Player	1,800	Intriguing and challenging. Musically it is not ideal, but has a limpid quality and a lack of artificiality that sets standards.	●						33/45	●	●	1180 136

Ever wanted to look back at a Hi-Fi Choice review or needed some sound independent advice to make up that 'Best Buy' system? Factsback is a personal service designed to help you navigate the ever-increasing list of available products. Now, our reprints are instantly available to you via your fax (or fax/modem) 24 hours a day. You get the review you need, just when you need it. International readers can order copies of reviews (£1.50 per page with a credit card) by calling Starcomm on 44 1132 940600

How much will it cost?

The cost of our easy-to-use service is 39p per minute off-peak and 49p per minute at all other times. The pages you will receive have been designed to keep user costs to a minimum. The Factsback system was put together by Starcomm Ltd (01132) 940600

Factsback



How Hi-Fi Choice Factsback works

- 1 Call the Factsback system from the handset of your fax machine. The handset must be switched to 'tone'.
- 2 Following voice prompts, select either an index of documents or specific documents by a known document number from the keypad of your fax machine.
- 3 Factsback delivers your choice of documents to your fax machine complete with coversheet.

CALL 0891 616518

MANUFACTURER & DISTRIBUTOR CONTACT NUMBERS

A

Acoustic Energy Ltd • tel 0181 840 6305 • fax 0181 579 1761
 Acoustic Precision • tel 01443 816856
 ADT • Aanvil Audio • tel 01359 240687 • fax 01359 240687
 Advent • Entel Ltd • tel 01483 425702
 Adyton • Aanvil Audio • tel 01359 240687 • fax 01359 240687
 Air Tangent • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962
 Aiwa UK • tel 0181 897 7000 • fax 0181 564 9446 • Dealers 2000+
 Akai (UK) Ltd • tel 0181 897 6388 • fax 0181 897 1508 • Dealers 250
 AKG • Harman Audio UK Ltd • tel 0181 207 5050 • fax 0181 207 4572 • Dealers 30
 Alamo • Moth Marketing • tel 01234 741152 • Dealers 50
 Alchemist Products • tel 0181 883 3008 • fax 0181 883 1160
 Allison Acoustics Ltd • tel 01484 603333 • fax 01484 607774
 Alphason • tel 01942 678000 • fax 609913 • Dealers 700
 Apollo Hi-Fi Furniture • tel 0121 520 5070 • fax 0121 522 2055
 Apollo • Campus International Ltd • tel 01494 431290
 Arcam • A&R Cambridge Ltd • tel 01223 440964 • fax 01223 863384 • Dealers 211
 Arion • Kronos Distribution • tel 018687 48632 • fax 018687 48281
 Ariston • Hi-fi Direct • tel 0171 827 9827 • fax 0171 827 9009 • Dealers 23
 Art Audio • tel 0115 965 3604 • fax 0115 963 7795
 Atacama • Sambell Engineering • tel 01455 283251
 ATC Loudspeaker Technology Ltd • tel 01285 760561 • fax 01285 760683 • Dealers 25
 ATD • Aanvil Audio • tel 01359 240687 • fax 01359 240687
 Audio Alchemy • Path Premier • tel 01494 441736 • fax 01494 461209
 Audio Innovations • Hi-fi Direct • tel 0171 827 9827 • fax 0171 827 9009 • Dealers 23
 Audio Note • Audio Note UK • tel 01273 220511 • fax 01273 731498 • Dealers 15
 Audio Physic • Aanvil Audio • tel 01359 240687 • fax 01359 240687
 Audio Research • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962
 Audio Technica Ltd • tel 01133 2771441 • fax 01133 2704836 • Dealers 100
 Audiolab • Cambridge Systems Technology Ltd • tel 01480 52521 • fax 01480 52159
 Audiomeca • Kronos Distribution • tel 018687 48632 • fax 018687 48281
 Audiophile Furniture • tel 01342 826262
 Audioquest • A&R Cambridge Ltd • tel 01223 440964 • fax 01223 863384
 Audiostatic • Audiofreaks • tel 0181 948 4153 • fax 0181 948 4250 • Dealers 12
 Audiovector • The Chord Company • tel 01722 331674 • fax 01722 411388
 Aura • B&W Loudspeakers (UK Sales Ltd) • tel 01903 750750 • fax 01903 750694
 AVI • AV International Ltd • tel 01453 765682 • fax 01453 752777 • Dealers 23

B

B&O • Bang & Olufsen UK Ltd • tel 01734 692288 • fax 01734 693388 • Dealers 167
 B&W Loudspeakers (UK Sales Ltd) • tel 01903 750750 • fax 01903 750694 • Dealers 400
 Bاندridge • tel 0181 543 3633
 Basis • RT Services • tel 01235 813058
 Benz-Micro • Audiofreaks • tel 0181 948 4153 • fax 0181 948 4250 • Dealers 12
 Beyerdynamic • tel 01273 479411 • fax 01273 471825 • Dealers 300
 Bose UK Ltd • tel 01795 475341 • fax 01795 427227 • Dealers 496
 Boston Acoustics • Portfolio Marketing • tel 01494 890277
 Bravura • Thomas Transducers • tel 01732 851408
 Bryston • Professional Monitor Co • tel 01923 249119 • fax 01923 249219

C

Cable Talk • tel 01252 373434 • fax 01252 371818
 Cadence • Ortofon UK Ltd • tel 01753 889949 • fax 01753 889636
 Cambridge Audio • Hi-fi Direct • tel 0171 827 9827 • fax 0171 827 9009 • Dealers 23
 Canon Audio Ltd • tel 01256 841300 • fax 01256 841333
 Castle Acoustics Ltd • tel 01756 795333 • fax 01756 795335 • Dealers 264
 CAT • Reference International • tel 01435 868004
 Celestion International Ltd • tel 01473 322222 • fax 01473 729662 • Dealers 200
 Cerwin Vega • CSE Administration • tel 01423 359054 • fax 01423 359058 • Dealers 98
 Chimera International Amplification • tel 0181-441 1951
 Chord • The Chord Company Ltd • tel 01722 331674 • fax 01722 411388 • Dealers 210
 Chord Electronics • tel 01622 764874 • fax 01622 764874
 Classe Audio • Audio Illusion • 01753 542761 • fax 01753 542772
 Clearaudio • Heatherdale Audio • tel 01903 261213
 Clements • Wollaton Audio • tel 0115 928 4147
 Concordant • Sambell Engineering • tel 01455 283251
 Conrad-Johnson • Audiofreaks • tel 0181 948 4153 • fax 0181 948 4250 • Dealers 12
 Copland • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962 • Dealers 32
 Counterpoint • MPI Electronic UK Ltd • tel 01483 454993 • fax 01483 454992
 Credo • Townshend Audio • tel 01784 455866
 Creek Audio Ltd • tel 0181 361 4133 • fax 0181 361 4136 • Dealers 40
 CR Developments • CR Developments Ltd • tel 01702 469055 • fax 01702 601883
 Crimson • Virtual Reality Audio Systems • tel 01277 227355 • fax 01277 224103
 Croft • Eminent Audio • tel 0121 373 1442 • fax 0121 377 8309

D

Dali • Onkyo UK • tel 0181 343 2082 • fax 0181 346 4925
 Dawn Audio Ltd • tel 01932 355040 • fax 01932 355041
 Day Sequerra • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962
 Deadrock • Path Distribution • tel 0121 749 2240 • fax 0121 748 3838 • Dealers 700
 Denon • Hayden Laboratories Ltd • tel 01753 888447 • fax 01753 880109 • Dealers 350
 Densen • Russell Kauffman Distribution • tel 01582 561227

DNM • Virtual Reality Audio Systems • tel 01277 227355 • fax 01277 224103
 DPA • tel 01222 795621 • fax 01222 794267 • Dealers 17
 Dual • RAM UK Ltd • tel 0161 973 0505 • fax 0161 905 1965 • Dealers 450
 Dynavector • Pear Audio Ltd • tel 01665 830862

E

EAD • Audio Illusion • 01753 542761 • fax 01753 542772
 EAR • Yoshino • tel 01480 467788
 ECA Distribution • tel 0181 998 1086 • fax 0181 998 1086 • Dealers 5
 Electrofluidics • tel 0171 247 0813
 Electrocompanion • Esoteric Audio Imports • tel 01243 533030 • fax 01243 533030
 Electrostatic Research • Audusa & Co • tel 0181 942 6241 • fax 0181 395 0793
 EMF Audio • tel 0181 361 6734 • fax 0181 361 4136
 Epos Acoustics • tel 01705 407722 • fax 01705 400099 • Dealers 68
 Exposure Electronics • tel 01273 423877 • fax 01273 430619

F

Faraday Sound • tel 01603 762967
 Fi-Rax • JEM Distribution • tel 01924 277626
 Forte Audio • Acoustic Energy Ltd • tel 0181 840 6305 • fax 0181 579 1761
 Fullers • Fuller's Audio • tel/fax 01702 612116

G

Gale • Hi-fi Direct • tel 0171 827 9827 • fax 0171 827 9009 • Dealers 23
 Gallo • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962
 Gamma Acoustics • Gamma Acoustics • tel 01753 526939 • fax 01753 526939
 Genelec • Project • tel 0171 359 0400
 Genexxa • Intertan Ltd • tel 01922 434000 • fax 01922 710789 • Dealers 346
 Glanz • Presence Audio • tel 01444 461611 • fax 01444 461510
 GLL • Goodmans GLL • tel 01705 492777 • fax 01705 470875 • Dealers 250
 Goldring Products Ltd • tel 01284 701101 • fax 01284 750040 • Dealers 100
 Goodmans Industries Ltd • tel 01705 673763 • fax 01705 664333
 Grado • Goldring Products Ltd • tel 01284 701101 • fax 01284 750040 • Dealers 50
 Graham • Reference International • tel 01435 868004
 Grant Amplifiers • tel 01705 837392
 Grundig International Ltd • tel 01788 577155 • fax 01788 562354
 GT Audio • tel 01895 833099

H

Harbeth Acoustics Ltd • tel 01444 440955 • fax 01444 440688
 Harman/Kardon • Gamepath Ltd • tel 01908 317707 • fax 01908 322704 • Dealers 85
 Heliuss Designs • tel 01386 830083 • Dealers 5 + direct
 Heybrook Hi-fi Ltd • tel 01579 342866 • fax 01579 342833 • Dealers 75
 Hørning • Definitive Audio • tel 0115 981 3562

I

Impulse Loudspeakers • tel 0181 766 0474 • fax 0181 766 0468 • Dealers 11
 Infinity • Gamepath Ltd • tel 01908 317707 • fax 01908 322704 • Dealers 85
 Interaudio • Bose UK Ltd • tel 01795 475341 • fax 01795 427227
 Ixos • Path Distribution • tel 0121 749 2240 • fax 0121 748 3838 • Dealers 700

J

Jadis • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962
 Jamo UK Ltd • tel 01327 301300 • fax 01327 300511 • Dealers 300+
 JBL • Gamepath Ltd • tel 01908 317707 • fax 01908 322704 • Dealers 85
 Jecklin • May Audio Marketing (UK) Ltd • tel 01943 864930 • fax 01943 863814
 John Shearne • tel 01438 740953
 Jordan Watts Acoustics Ltd • tel 0181 985 1646 • fax 0181 986 0112
 JPW Loudspeakers Ltd • tel 01752 607000 • fax 01752 607001 • Dealers 200
 JVC UK Ltd • tel 0181 450 3282 • fax 0181 208 3038 • Dealers 5000

K

KAL UK Ltd • tel 01303 245005 • fax 01303 221736
 KEF Audio Ltd • tel 01622 672261 • fax 01622 672939 • Dealers 240
 Kenwood • Trio-Kenwood UK • tel 01923 816444 • fax 01923 819131 • Dealers 1000
 Keswick Audio • tel 01977 671823 • Dealers 13
 Kimber Cable • RATA Ltd • tel 01539 823247 • fax 01535 823317
 Kiseki • Presence Audio • tel 01444 461611 • fax 01444 461510 • Dealers 10 + direct
 Koetsu • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962 • Dealers 20
 Koss • HW International • tel 0181 808 2222 • fax 0181 808 5599
 Krell • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962 • Dealers 17
 Kronos Distribution • tel 018687 48632 • fax 018687 48281
 Kudos • tel 01732 461648 • fax 01732 462949
 Kuzma • Audiofreaks • tel 0181 948 4153 • fax 0181 948 4250 • Dealers 12

L

LAT International • Audusa & Co • tel 0181 942 6241 • fax 0181 395 0793
 LFD • tel 01255 422533 • fax 01255 221370 • Dealers 7
 Lineaum • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962
 Linn Products • tel 0141 644 5111 • fax 0141 644 4262
 Living Voice • Definitive Audio • tel 0115 981 3562
 London • Presence Audio • tel 01444 461611 • fax 01444 461510 • Dealers 10 + direct
 Lowther Voight Ltd • tel 0181 300 9166
 Lumley Reference • Reference International • tel 01435 868004
 Luxman • Hi-fi Direct • tel 0171 827 9827 • fax 0171 827 9009 • Dealers 23
 Lynwood Electronics • tel 01709 873667 • Dealers 25
 Lyra • Path Premier • tel 01494 441736 • fax 01494 461209

MANUFACTURER & DISTRIBUTOR CONTACT NUMBERS (CONTINUED)

M

MAG Audio (UK) Ltd • tel 0181 555 1222
 Magnepan • Audionord UK • tel 01235 813058
 Magnum • Hailey Audio Ltd • tel 01992 442425 • Dealers 6
 Magnum Dynalab • Reference Imports • tel 01435 868004 • fax 01435 864481
 Mana Acoustics • tel 0181 868 2788 • fax 0181 429 0118
 Manticore Audio Visual • tel 01767 318437 • Dealers 5 + direct
 Marantz Hi-fi UK Ltd • tel 01753 680868 • fax 01753 680428 • Dealers 200 +
 Mark Levinson • Path Premier • tel 01494 441736 • fax 01494 461209
 Martin-Logan • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962 • Dealers 20
 Matisse • GT Audio • tel 01895 833099
 Maxell UK Ltd • tel 01923 777171
 McIntosh • MPI Electronic UK Ltd • tel 01483 454993 • fax 01483 454992
 Meridian Audio Ltd • tel 01480 434334 • fax 01480 432948 • Dealers 98
 Metaxas • UK Distribution • tel 01753 654531
 Michell Engineering • tel 0181 953 0771 • Dealers 8
 Michi • Gamepath Ltd • tel 01908 317707 • fax 01908 322704 • Dealers 18
 Micro-Seiki • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962
 Micromega DA Ltd • tel 0181 502 1416 • fax 0181 502 1438 • Dealers 104
 Minstrel • Quantum Audio Ltd • tel 01563 571122 • fax 01563 571133
 Mission • Centralforce Ltd • tel 01480 451777 • fax 01480 432777 • Dealers 259
 Monitor Audio Ltd • tel 01223 242898 • fax 01223 214532 • Dealers 45
 Monrio • UK Distribution • tel 01753 654531
 Monster • Gamepath Ltd • tel 01908 317707 • fax 01908 322704 • Dealers 181
 Mordaunt-Short Ltd • tel 01705 407722 • fax 01705 400099 • Dealers 200
 Morel • Clere Electronics Ltd • tel 01635 297717 • fax 01635 297717
 Moth Marketing • tel 01234 741152 • Dealers 30
 Musical Fidelity Ltd • tel 0181 900 2866 • fax 0181 900 2983 • Dealers 145
 Musical Technology • tel 01494 793137
 Myriad Systems Ltd • tel 01705 265508 • fax 01705 231407

N

NAD Marketing Ltd • tel 0181 343 3240 • fax 0181 346 4925 • Dealers 380
 Naim Audio • tel 01722 332266 • fax 01722 412034 • Dealers 70
 Nakamichi • B&W Loudspeakers (UK) Ltd • tel 01903 750750 • fax 01903 750694
 Neat Hi-Fi • tel 01325 460812 • Dealers 15
 Nottingham Analogue • tel 01773 762947 • fax 01773 533566 • Dealers 4
 NVA • tel 01763 272707 • fax 01763 271694 • Dealers 3

O

Onix Electronics • tel 01273 517358
 Onkyo UK • tel 0181 343 2082 • fax 0181 346 4925 • Dealers 120
 Orelle Hi-fi • tel 0181 908 4126 • Dealers 30
 Origin Live • tel 01703 442183 • Dealers 25
 Ortofon UK Ltd • tel 01753 889949 • fax 01753 889636 • Dealers 200

P

Panasonic UK Ltd • tel 0990 357357 • fax 01908 681931 • Dealers 3000 +
 Papworth Audio Technology • tel 01480 830345
 Partington • tel 01322 383712
 Pentachord Loudspeakers • tel 0181 788 2228 • Dealers Direct
 Perception • Kinshaw Electronics Ltd • tel 01209 715878 • fax 01209 711939
 Philips Consumer Electronics Ltd • tel 0181 689 2166 • Dealers 5000 +
 Pickering Cartridges • tel 01904 642463 • fax 01904 652225
 Pink Triangle Projects • tel 0171 703 5498 • Dealers 47
 Pioneer High Fidelity (GB) Ltd • tel 01753 789564 • fax 01753 789536 • Dealers 500
 Polk Audio • tel 01727 827311 • fax 01727 827284 • Dealers 104
 Posselt • GT Audio • tel 01895 833099
 Pro-ject • Ortofon UK Ltd • tel 01753 889949 • fax 01753 889636 • Dealers 70
 Proac • DNA Marketing • tel 01403 753180 • fax 01403 753181 • Dealers 19
 Professional Monitor Co • tel 01923 249119 • fax 01923 249219 • Dealers 12 + direct
 PS Audio • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962

Q

QED Audio Products Ltd • tel 01276 451166 • fax 01276 452211 • Dealers 150 +
 QLN UK Ltd • tel 01352 730251 • fax 01352 730251
 Quad Electroacoustics Ltd • tel 01480 52561 • fax 01480 413403 • Dealers 130
 Quadraspire Ltd • 01634 296615 • Dealers 50

R

RCF Electronics • tel 01268 570808 • fax 01268 570809
 RA Labs • RDL Acoustics • tel 01484 603333 • Dealers 4 + direct
 Realistic • Intertan Ltd • tel 01922 434000 • fax 01922 710789 • Dealers 346
 Rega Research Ltd • tel 01702 333071 • fax 01702 432427 • Dealers 54
 Rehdeko • Virtual Reality Audio Systems • tel 01277 227355 • fax 01277 224103
 REL Acoustics Ltd • tel 01656 766093 • Dealers 80
 Reson • Virtual Reality Audio Systems • tel 01277 227355 • fax 01277 224103
 Revolver UK Ltd • tel 0161 973 0505 • fax 0161 905 1965
 Richard Allen Loudspeakers • tel 01274 872442
 Rivelin Audio • Sonic Link • tel 01332 674929 • fax 01332 361390
 Rogers • Swisstone Electronics Ltd • tel 0181 640 2172 • Dealers 100 +
 Roksan • Centralforce Ltd • tel 01480 451777 • fax 01480 432777
 Rose Industries Ltd • tel 01235 847023 • Dealers 10

Ross Consumer Electronics Ltd • tel 01703 666363 • fax 01703 666190
 Rotel • Gamepath Ltd • tel 01908 317707 • fax 01908 322704 • Dealers 232
 Royd Loudspeakers Co Ltd • tel 01952 290700 • fax 01952 290190 • Dealers 65
 Ruark • tel 01702 601410 • fax 601414

S

Sansui UK • tel 01204 700139
 SD Acoustics • tel 0181 399 6308 • fax 0181 399 6308
 Sennheiser UK Ltd • tel 01628 850811 • fax 01628 850958 • Dealers 850
 Sentec • MAG Audio (UK) Ltd • tel 0181 555 1222
 Shahinian • Pear Audio Ltd • tel 01665 830862 • Dealers 15
 Sharp Electronics (UK) Ltd • tel 0161 205 2333
 Shearpe Audio • tel 01438 740953 • fax 01438 740995
 Sherwood • Hi-fi Direct • tel 0171 827 9827 • fax 0171 827 9009 • Dealers 23
 Shun Mook • Audiofreaks • tel 0181 948 4153 • fax 0181 948 4250
 Shure • HW International • tel 0181 808 2222 • fax 0181 808 5599
 Siltech • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962
 SME Ltd • tel 01903 814321 • fax 01903 814269 • Dealers 125
 Sonic Frontiers • MPI Electronic UK Ltd • tel 01483 454993 • fax 01483 454992
 SonicLink • Audiokits • tel 01332 674929
 Sonus-Faber • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962 • Dealers 30
 Sony United Kingdom Ltd • tel 0181 784 1144
 Sound Organisation • Goldring Ltd • tel 01284 701101 • fax 01284 750040
 Sound-Lab • Audiofreaks • tel 0181 948 4153 • fax 0181 948 4250
 Soundstyle • Goldring Products Ltd • tel 01284 701101 • fax 01284 750040 • Dealers 170
 Spondor Audio Systems • tel 01323 843474 • Dealers 17
 Spica • Presence Audio • tel 01444 461611 • fax 01444 461510
 Stands Unique • tel 01933 461058
 Stanton • Lamba Electronics plc • tel 017278 40527 • fax 017278 37811
 Stax • Path Premier • tel 01494 441736 • fax 01494 461209
 Stemfort Audio • Audio Synergy Ltd • tel 01924 406016 • fax 01924 410069
 Sugden • Audio Synergy Ltd • tel 01924 406016 • fax 01924 410069 • Dealers 12
 Sumiko • Path Premier • tel 01494 441736 • fax 01494 461209
 Sumo • Audusa & Co • tel 0181 942 6241 • fax 0181 395 0793
 System Audio • The Chord Company • tel 01722 331674 • fax 01722 411388
 Systym • Systemdek Ltd • tel 01294 271251 • fax 01294 277095

T

Tannoy Ltd • tel 01236 420199 • fax 01236 428230 • Dealers 400
 Tara Labs • Acoustic Energy • tel 01285 654432 • fax 01285 654430
 Target Audio Products • tel 01582 401244
 TDL Electronics Ltd • tel 01628850111 • fax 01628 850130 • Dealers 274
 Teac UK Ltd • tel 01923 819630 • fax 01923 236290 • Dealers 200
 Technics • Panasonic UK Ltd • tel 0990 357357 • fax 01908 681931 • Dealers 2000
 Tesserac Research Ltd • tel 0181 669 0011 • fax 0181 773 0406
 Theta • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962
 Thiel • MPI Electronic UK Ltd • tel 01483 454993 • fax 01483 454992
 Thorens • Portfolio Marketing • tel 01494 890277
 Thule • Virtual Reality Audio Systems • tel 01277 227355 • fax 01277 224103
 Totem • May Audio Marketing (UK) Ltd • tel 01943 864930 • fax 01943 863814 • Dealers 6
 Townshend Audio • tel/fax 0181 979 2155
 Transfiguration • Reference International • tel 01435 868004
 Transparent Audio • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962
 Triangle • Kronos Distribution • tel 018687 48632 • fax 018687 48281
 Trichord Research Ltd • tel 01684 573524 • fax 01684 577380
 Tube Technology • tel 01932 850354

U

UKD-Opera • UK Distribution • tel 01753 652669
 Unison Research • UK Distribution • tel 01753 652669

V

van den Hul UK • tel 0181 810 9388 • fax 0181 810 9365 • Dealers 160
 Vandersteen • A&R Cambridge Ltd • tel 01223 440964 • fax 01223 863384
 Visonic • Canford Audio • tel 0191 415 0205
 Vivanco UK Ltd • tel 01442 231616 • fax 01442 235421 • Dealers 1000 +
 Voyd Turntables Ltd • tel 01242 574528
 VPI • Audiofreaks • tel 0181 948 4153 • fax 0181 948 4250

W

Wadia • Woodstock • tel 01865 883535 • fax 01865 881012
 Well Tempered • Pear Audio Ltd • tel 01665 830862 • 01665 830051
 Wharfedale Loudspeakers Ltd • tel 0113 2601222 • fax 0113 2600267
 Wheaton • Audiofreaks • tel 0181 948 4153 • fax 0181 948 4250
 Wilson • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962 • Dealers 7
 Woodside Electronics • tel 01934 520248

Y

Yamaha Electronics UK Ltd • tel 01923 233166 • fax 01923 244930
 YBA • Kronos Distribution • tel 018687 48632 • fax 018687 48281
 Yoshino • tel 01480 467788

Z

Zeta • Moth Marketing • tel 01234 741152 • Dealers 50
 ZYP • Presence Audio • tel 01444 461611 • fax 01444 461510 • Dealers 2 + direct

Choosing a good hi-fi dealer is the most vital step in acquiring the system that is right for you. This unique directory gives full information on dealers able to help in your area.

DEALER Directory

Members of the British Audio Dealers Association are able to offer:



- Two year guarantee, transferable to another BADA dealer should the purchaser move more than 30 miles from his/her original address
- low cost five year guarantee option
- proper demonstration facilities
- seven day exchange or refund scheme if the dealer's advice is taken on product selection
- fully guaranteed service work
- customer complaints procedure in the event of problems

For more information, contact BADA on ☎ (0171) 226 4044

BATH/BRISTOL

AUDIO EXCELLENCE, 65 Park Street, Bristol. Tel (0117) 9264975. All that's best in Hi-Fi carefully selected and demonstrated by friendly knowledgeable staff, at prices to suit all budgets. Delivery and installation, home dems, part exchange, in-house workshops, full credit facilities with interest free on selected items. Tues-Sat 9.00-5.30. Closed Mon. **BADA**

PAUL GREEN HI-FI LTD. c/o Harper Furnishings, Kensington Showrooms, London Road, Bath BA1 6AD. Tel (01225) 316197. Technics, Denon, Sony, Rotel, AVI, Quad, Rogers, Mission, Tannoy, Aura and many many more. 2 demo rooms, home demos, appointments required, service dept, free install, home trial. Access, Visa, Int free credit, instant credit. Tue-Fri 9-5.30, Sat 9-5, closed Monday.

THE RIGHT NOTE. Tel (01225) 874728. We have some of the best sounds at any price, with outstanding new items from Sirius (amps), XTC (CD and amps), Wadia (CD), Sonneteer (amps) and speakers from Audio Physic, Magneplanar and Totem. We know from the reactions of others that you will be surprised and delighted to find real alternatives to the magazines' favourites. Believe your own ears in your home where you can best judge the benefits. Ask about our ex-dem and mint used items. CD - Audio Synthesis, Copland, Enlightened Audio Design, Orelle, Wadley, XTC. Amps - CAT, Classé, Copland, Kora, Lumley, Michell, Orelle, Sirius, Sonneteer, Tube Technology, XTC. Speakers - Audio Artistry, Audio Physic, Harbeth, Magneplanar, Lumley, Mirage, NEAT, Spondor, Totem. Cables - Cogan Hall, DNM, Silver Sounds, SonicLink, Tice.

V AUDIO, 36 Druid Hill, Stoke Bishop, Bristol BS9 1EJ. Tel (0117) 9686005. Alon, ATC, Audiomeca, AVI, Cable Talk, Cadence Valve, Chord Amps, Electrocompaniet, Exposure, Goldring, Harman Kardon, Heybrook, Jamo, LFD, Lyra, Mesa Baron, Michell, Opera, Ortofon, Pink Triangle, Pro-Ac, Project, REL, Ruark, Shearner Audio, Silver Sounds, SME (inc 20A), Sonic Link, Stax, Townshend, Triangle, Trichord, Unison Research, Wadia. Demos by appt only, home trial facilities, free installation, service facilities. Access, Visa. For full product listing please see Dealer Guide.

BEDFORDSHIRE

RICHARDS AUDIO VISUAL, 4 Greyfriars, Bedford, Tel (01234) 365165. Stockists of Arcam, Audioquest, Aura, Beyer, B&W, Bose, Celestion, Cyrus, Denon, Heybrook, Marantz, Mission, Moth, Nakamichi, Ortofon, Pioneer, Pro-ject, REL, Rotel, Royd, Ruark, Sennheiser, Systemdek, Target, Thorens, Van den Hul & more! Hi-Fi Listening Room. Open 6 days 9.30-5.30.

BERKSHIRE

AUDIO T, 4 Queens Walk, Broad Street Mall, Reading. Tel (0118) 958 5463. Fax (0118) 956 6417. Open Tues-Sat 9-5.30. See our main entry under Oxford. We also sell Audio Alchemy, AV, Linn, Naim, Rega & Royd. **BADA**

B&B HI-FI, 11-12 Market Place, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 2EG. Tel (01734) 583730. Aiwa, Denon, Kenwood, Mission, NAD, Panasonic, Pioneer, Rotel, Sony, Technics. Free installation, Service dept. Access, Visa, Credit Facilities including interest free credit subject to status. 9.30-5.30, Sat 9-5.30. Also at: Bracknell, Maidenhead, High Wycombe, Newbury.

FRASERS, Unit 32 Observatory Centre, High Street, Slough, Berks, SL1 1LE. Tel (01753) 531875. Stockists of Pioneer, JVC, Denon, Yamaha, Mission, TDL, KEF, Quad, NAD, Onkyo. Sound and vision demonstration room, service dept, free installation. Access/Visa/Amex/Diners. Instant credit and interest free credit. Open Mon-Sat 9-5.30.

BIRMINGHAM

SOUND ACADEMY 152a High Street, Bloxwich, Nr Walsall W. Midlands, Tel (01922) 493499/473499. Audio equipment from leading and specialist brands, with 3 demo floors, home trials, home cinema with instore demo theatre, evening demo's by appointment. In house service dept. Mail order avail. Int free credit subject to status. Open 6 days 9am - 6pm. Late night Friday. Expert advice, cable dressing and free installation **BADA**

GRIFFIN AUDIO, 94 Bristol Street, Birmingham. Tel (0121) 692 1359/(0121) 622 2230. Please see full entry under Wst Midlands

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

NORTHWOOD AUDIO II, 98 Cambridge St. Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1BA. Tel. (01296) 28790 (A/P). Selected sounds from Alchemist, Audio Meca, Aura, Boston, B&W, Cabletalk, Castle, Celestion, Chord Company, Denon, D.P.A., Exposure, Grado, Harman Kardon, Heybrook, KEF, Marantz, Michell, Micromega, Monitor Audio, Moth, Musical Technology, NAD, Nakamichi, Pink Triangle, Pro-Ac, Rega, REL, Rose, Rotel, Royd, Ruark, Systemdek, Tannoy, TDL, Teac, Thorens. NOBODY EVER REGRETTED PURCHASING THE BEST. Export orders welcome. 2 Dem rooms. Credit facilities available.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

THE AUDIO FILE, 41 Victoria Road, Cambridge CB4 3BW. Tel (01223) 68305. See our main entry under Hertfordshire. **BADA**

UNIVERSITY AUDIO, 1-2 Peas Hill, Cambridge. Tel (01223) 354237. Acoustic Energy, Mission-Cyrus, Arcam, Rotel, Denon, Meridian, Ruark, ATC, AVI, Quad, Linn. 3 dems, 1 single speaker. Home trial, free install. Service Department Visa. Access, Amex, Credit. Open 9-5.30. **BADA**

CHESHIRE

ACOUSTICA, 17 Hoole Rd, Chester CH2 3NH. Tel (01244) 344227. All that's best in Hi-Fi from Arcam, Audiolab, Linn, Michell, Naim, Rega, Rotel, Royd, Ruark, Teac and many more. Multi room systems from Linn Knegt. Superb demonstration facilities, home demonstrations and installations a pleasure. We offer the best products, the best service and the best sounds. Open Tuesday to Saturday, evenings by appointment.

ACTION GATE AUDIO, 4 Ruabon B'd, Wrexham. Tel (01978) 364500. Arcam, Audio Alchemy, Bose, B&W, Cannon, Castle, Celestion, Denon, Jamo, Marantz, Michell, Micromega, Mission, Mordaunt-Short, Musical Fidelity, Myrrand, NAD, Quad, Rotel, Rogers, Ruark, Spondor, Tannoy, TDL, Thorens, UKD, Unison, Yamaha and AV specialists. Demonstration room, installation service. Easy parking and motorway access. Access, Visa etc.

ASTON AUDIO, 4 West St, Alderley Edge. Tel (01625) 582704. Arcam, Audiolab, Bang & Olufsen, Cyrus, KEF, Meridian, Mission, Quad, Rotel. For the very best in hi-fi separates and home cinema. Wide range of specialist audio, interest free credit. Visa, Access. Home trial. **BADA**

AUDIO COUNSEL, 14 Stockport Rd, Cheadle, Cheshire. Tel (0161) 428 7887. Please see entry under Greater Manchester. **BADA**

AUDIO EXCELLENCE, 86-90 Boughton, Chester, CH3 5AQ Tel (01244) 345576. All that's best in Hi-Fi carefully selected and demonstrated by friendly knowledgeable staff, at prices to suit all budgets. Delivery and installation, home dems, part exchange, in-house workshops, full credit facilities with interest free on selected items. Tues-Sat 9.00-5.30. Closed Mon. **BADA**

CHRIS BROOKS HI-FI, 29 Gaskell St, Stockton Heath, Warrington. Tel (01925) 261212. Tues-Sat 10-6. 3 dem rooms. Credit facilities. All credit cards. Total absence of bull****. **BADA**

CONGLETON HI-FI, 1/1a Duke St, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1AP. Tel (01260) 297544. Arcam, B&W, Canon, Definitive, Denon, Epos, KEF, Linn, Miller & Kreisel, NAD, Onix, Royd, Target, Yamaha, etc. Superb single speaker demo facilities, 3 listening rooms with one dedicated to Home Cinema. No appts nec, home trial facilities, free installation. 2 year guarantee on all equipment. Access, Visa. Credit facilities available on request. Open Mon-Sat. **BADA**

DOUG BRADY HI-FI, Kingsway Studios, Kingsway North, Warrington, WA1 3NU. Phone (01925) 828009, Fax (01925) 825773. For the widest range of high quality hi-fi in the Northwest. Family business est. 35 years. 3 dem rooms, incl home cinema, home trials; deliveries throughout NW; Access, Visa, Credit Facilities. Open 10-6; 6 days. Send for free map and/or 5 page sale list **BADA**

HALE HI-FI, 2 Bold St, Hale Road, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 2ER. Tel (0161) 929 0834. Open Mon-Sat 10-6 & later by appointment. Specialising in equipment by: Naim, Quad, Royd, NAD, Denon plus selected others. Large range of quality accessories. On site service department. Installation & delivery. Home demonstrations a pleasure.

THE HI-FI SHOWROOMS, 12A West Str, Congleton, Cheshire Tel (01260) 280017. Celestion, Creek, Exposure, Musical Fidelity, Naim, Project, Rotel, Royd, Ruark, Tannoy, TDL, Technics, Thorens, UKD opera. 5 Dem Rooms, Home trial, Free install, Service dept. Access, Visa, Lombard Tricity. Open 9-5.30, Closed Wed.

SWIFT HI-FI, St Ann's Parade, Wilmslow. Tel (01625) 526213. Audiolab, Aura, B&W, Caste, Celestion, Denon, KEF, Kenwood, Marantz, Mission, M-Short, NAD, Onkyo, Pioneer, Rotel, Royd, Teac, Thorens, Technics. Open 10.00am-6.00pm. Closed Wed. Dem room, Service Dept., Free Parking. NO PRESSURE! Est: 1969.

CLEVELAND

ACTION ACOUSTICS, 155-157 High Street, Redcar, Cleveland TS10 3AN. Tel (01642) 480723. Audio Innovations, Audio Note, Denon, Harman-Kardon, JBL, Michell, Ortofon, Pink Triangle, Rogers, Royd, Sonic Link, Teac, Thorens, Townshend etc. Dem Room. Appts nec. Home trial facilities, free installation, service dept. Access, Visa & H.P. Open 9.15-5.30. Interest free credit.

CORNWALL

SOUNDS PERFECTION, Nightree House, Mawgan, Helston, Cornwall, TR12 6AX. Tel/Fax (01326) 221372. Brands include Alchemist, Analysis, Arion, Audiomega, Audionote, Audio Spectrum, Cadence, Harrian, Kardon, Michell, Monitor Audio, Ortofon Phyllosopy Cables, Parasound, Project, REL, SME, Thorens, Triangle, Trichord. Demonstration facilities by app. Home trials, friendly service available 7 days anytime.

CUMBRIA

MISONS SOUND & VISION, Victoria Viaduct, Carlisle, CA3 8AN. Tel (01228) 22620. Bang & Olufsen, Quad, Exposure, Harbeth, Sugden, Castle, Aura, B&W, Sony, NAD, Heybrook, Yamaha, Philips, Panasonic and many other fine brands. Demo suite, home trials, free installation, service dept. Open 9-5 Mon to Sat.

DEVON

AUDIO EXCELLENCE, 156 Sidwell St, Exeter EX4 6RT. Tel (01392) 491194. All that's best in hi-fi, carefully selected and demonstrated by friendly knowledgeable staff at prices to suit all budgets. Delivery and installation, home dems, part exchange, in-house workshops, full credit facilities with interest free on selected items. Tues-Sat 9.00-5.30. Closed Monday. **BADA**

CHELSTON HI-FI 38 Walnut Road, Chelston, Torquay, Devon TQ2 6HS. Tel (01803) 606863. Where you can compare a range including Acoustic Energy, Bose, Castle, Celestion, Creek, Denon, Heybrook, JPW, Kenwood, Marantz, Musical Fidelity, Pioneer, Rotel, Sony etc. Two dem rooms (including AV room 25 x 18ft.) Free installation. Free delivery up to 15 miles. Access, Visa, Amex, Diners. Credit facilities. 9.30 - 7.30. Mon-Fri. 9.30-6.00 Sat. **BADA**

DORSET

DAWSONS, 23 Seamore Road, Westbourne, Bournemouth, Dorset. Tel (01202) 764965. B&O, Castle, Canon, Jamo, JBL, Pioneer, Sony, Target, TDL, Technics. No appts necessary. Free install, Service depart. Various credit facilities available. Open 9-5.30 6 days a week.

MOVEMENT AUDIO, 588 Ashley Road, Poole, Parkstone, Dorset BH14 0AQ. Tel (01202) 730865. Arcam, Audiolab, B&W, Castle, Cyrus, Denon, KEF, Marantz, Meridian, Michell, Micromega, Pioneer, Ruark, Shearner Audio. 2 Dem rooms. Listen to the available choice and decide at your leisure - no pressure, no obligation. Our staff enjoy music, with our choice of products, you can too! Service Department. Free installation. Home trial facilities. Access, Visa, Amex, Diners card. Credit facilities available. Open Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 9-6. **BADA**

MOVEMENT AUDIO, 336 Wimborne Road, Winton, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH9 2HH. Tel (01202) 529988/520066. Arcam, B&W, Denon, KEF, Marantz, Meridian, Mission, Pioneer, Sony, Yamaha. Full dem facilities available, also home dem. Friendly expert advice. Service Department. Free installation. Home trial facilities. Access, Visa, Amex. Open Mon-Fri 9-5.30. **BADA**



INDICATES MEMBERSHIP OF THE BRITISH AUDIO DEALERS ASSOCIATION

DORSET (CTD)

SUTTONS HI-FI, 18 Westover Road, Bournemouth. Tel (01202) 555512. Linn, Arcam, Mission, Quad, Audiolab, Rotel, Yamaha, Denon etc. 2 Single Speaker Listening Rooms. Home Demonstrations. Free Installations. Open Mon-Sat 9-5.30. Call for details. **BADA**

WEYMOUTH HI-FI, 33-35 Maiden Street, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 8BA. Tel (01305) 785729. Arcam, Aura, B&W, Denon, Kenwood, Marantz, Musical Fidelity, Panasonic, Quad, Sony, Technics, Yamaha. Dem room. Friendly professional advice. Only quality hi-fi dealer in Weymouth area. Service Department. Free installation. Home trial facilities. Access, Visa, Amex, Switch, Delta Mastercard. Interest free credit. Instant credit. Open Mon 9.30-5.30, Fri-Sat 9.30-5.30 **BADA**

DOVER

JOHN MARLEY HI-FI CENTRES LTD, DOVER HI FI, 43 High Street, Dover. Tel (01304) 207562. Arcam, Aura, B&W, Heybrook, J.P.W., NAD, Pioneer, Panasonic, Rotel, Ruark, Tannoy, TDL, Technics. AV Dem Room. Full service department. Mon-Sat 9-5.30. Free installation. Credit to £1000. Access, Visa, Switch, Electron. Established 24 years. Expert advice. Friendly service.

DURHAM

HI-FI EXPERIENCE, 17 Coniscliffe Road, Darlington DL3 7EE. Tel Help Line (01325) 481418. Agencies include: Arcam, Audiolab, Bang & Olufsen, Celestion, Cyrus, Denon, Harman, IMF, KEF, Marantz, Mission, Musical Fidelity, Meridian, NAD, Pioneer, Quad, Rotel, Shearpe, Tannoy, Yamaha. 3 listening rooms. 3 years guarantee. Free delivery and simple installation North Yorks/South Durham. Home cinema specialist. **BADA**

ESSEX

AUDIO T, 442-444 Cranbrook Road, Gants Hill, Ilford, IG2 6LL. Tel (0181) 518 0915. Fax (0181) 554 8463. Open Tues/Thur/Fri 10-7. Wed/Sat 9.30-5.30. See our main entry under Oxford. We also sell AVI, Jamo, Michel & Micromega. **BADA**
RAYLEIGH HI-FI, 44a High Street, Rayleigh, Essex. Tel (01268) 779762/747571. 216 Moulsham St, On-the-Parkway, Chelmsford. Tel (01245) 265245. 132-134 London Road, Southend-on-Sea. Tel (01702) 435255. Arcam, Audiolab, Cyrus, Denon, Epos, KEF, Linn, Loewe Tvs, Marantz, Miller & Kreisel, Naim, Quad, Rega, Roksan, Rotel, Ruark. 0% finance. Excellent AV range. Home cinema Dolby Pro-Logic, multi-room specialist. **BADA**

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

AUDIO EXCELLENCE, 58 Bristol Road, Gloucester. Tel (01452) 300046. All that's best in Hi-Fi carefully selected and demonstrated by friendly knowledgeable staff, at prices to suit all budgets. Delivery and installation, home dems, part exchange, in-house workshops, full credit facilities with interest free on selected items. Tues-Sat 9.00-5.30. Closed Mon. **BADA**

AUDIO T, 40-42 Albion Street, Cheltenham, GL52 2RQ. Tel (01242) 583960. Fax (01242) 226435. Open Tues-Fri 9.30-6. Sat 9.30-5.30. See our main entry under Oxford. We also sell Linn, Naim, Royd & Ruark. **BADA**

THE RIGHT NOTE - see Bath/Bristol.

HAMPSHIRE

AUDIO T, 4 Feathers Lane, Basingstoke, RG21 1AS. Tel (01256) 24311. Fax (01256) 24430. Open Tues-Sat 9-5.30. See our main entry under Oxford. We also sell Linn, Naim, & Royd. **BADA**

HAMPSHIRE AUDIO LTD, 2-12 Hursley Rd, Chandlers Ford, Hants SO53 2FU. Tel (01703) 252827/265232. 3 hi-fi and 2 home cinema /Dolby surround sound demo studios. 'Winner for Southern England Sony/Hi-Fi News Dealer Awards.' Projection TV with 8' Screen. Thurs late eve, closed Mon (except in Dec). 2-year guarantee, service dept. on site, large free car park, junctions 4 (M27/M3), 5(M27), 12(M3), 13(M3) all within 3 miles. Est 1969. BADA Bonded. **BADA**

JEFFRIES HI-FI 29 London Road, Portsmouth. PO2 0BH. Tel (01705) 663604. Hi-fi, home cinema and multi-room specialist. Range includes Acoustic Energy, Arcam, Beyer, Celestion, Chord, Definitive Technology, Denon, Harbeth, Heybrook, KEF, Lexicon, Linn, Loewe, Miller & Kreisel, Naim, Panasonic, Polk, Rega, REL, Rotel, Royd, Ruark, Selec, Sennheiser, Sound Organisation, Sound Style, Top Tape, Yamaha. 2 dem rooms. Open Tues-Sat, late night Wed. Free parking, bus route, credit facilities. Winner Sony/Hi-Fi News Best Southem Dealer. **BADA**

NOW THATS HI-FI 32 Arundel St., Portsmouth. Tel (01705) 811230. Pioneer, Yamaha, Marantz, Kenwood, Mission, T.D.L., REL, Attacama and much more. Laserdisc and AC3 specialists. Accessory centre at 24 Arundel Way, Portsmouth. Tel (01705) 811618.

SEXTONS, 81 High Street, Aldershot, Hants GU11 1BY. Tel (01252) 20728 Fax (01252) 319635. Most major manufacturers stocked including Marantz, Mission, Pioneer, Technics, B&W, NAD, and Yamaha. Two demonstration lounges including full Home Cinema suite. Knowledgeable staff offer a friendly unbiased service. Monday to Saturday 9.00 to 6.00. Access, Visa, Amex and Switch accepted. Mail order service also available.

HEREFORDSHIRE

ENGLISH AUDIO, 37 Whitecross Road, Hereford HR4 0DE. Tel (01432) 355081. Arcam, A.T.C., Audiolab, B&W, Castle, Celestion, Cyrus, Denon, Exposure, KEF, Marantz, Micromega, Mission, Musical Technology, Naim, Nakamichi, Pink Triangle, Pioneer, REL, Rotel, Ruark, Shearpe, Stax, Systemdek, Quad, TDL, Yamaha and others. Single Speaker Dem room. Home trial. Free install. Service dept. Access, Visa, Credit arranged. Open Mon-Sat 9.30am-5.30pm. **BADA**

HERTFORDSHIRE

ACOUSTIC ARTS LTD, 101 St Albans Rd, Watford, Herts. Tel (01923) 245250. Fax (01923) 230798 Apogee, Audiolab, Audio Research, B&W, Bose, Castle, Celestion, Chord, Classe, Copland, Denon, KEF, Magneplanar, Marantz, Martin Logan, Michell, Micromega, Orelle, PS Audio, Professional Motor, Roksan, Ruark, SME, Sonus Faber, Sonic Link, TDL, Theta, Thorens, Wilson. 4 demonstration rooms. Purpose built AV studio. Credit available, 100 yards from Watford Junction station. Open Tues-Sat 10-5.30 (Thursday open until 8pm). **BADA**

THE AUDIO FILE, 27 Hockerill St, Bishops Stortford, Herts CM23 2DW. Tel (01279) 506576. 9.30-5.30 open 6 days, 9.30-8pm Thursdays. Linn, Naim, Quad, Cyrus, Arcam, Roksan, Denon, Epos, KEF, Marantz, ProAc, Rega, Yamaha. 0% credit. **BADA**

DARBY'S OF ST. ALBANS 6 Market Place, St. Albans, Herts. Tel (01727) 851596. Hertfordshire's premier Hi-Fi/AudioVisual specialists est. 1946. Full Home Cinema demonstration suite. Whether your needs are large or small, we stock it all; Arcam, Yamaha, Quad, Denon, Musical Fidelity, Sony, Bang & Olufsen, Pioneer, Nokia, REL, JVC, JBL, TDL, KEF, Mission, Ruark, Celestion, Polk, and many more. Free planning service, free delivery and basic installation. Full workshop facilities. Open 9-6 Mon-Sat. **BADA**

HAILEY AUDIO LTD, 328 Ware Road, Hailey, Hertford SG13 7PG. Tel (01992) 442425, Fax (01992) 448387. Enjoy choosing your system in one of our three listening rooms. Relax with coffee or something from the bar. Demonstrations include Lexicon CP3 with THX surround sound with the guaranteed deepest, tightest bass available. Choose your hi-fi (top valves and MOS-FETS), LD, CDi etc in a realistic domestic environment. Brands include; REL, AC Magnum, CR Devs, Rotel, Celestion, Micromega, Lumley Reference, Acoustic Energy, Royd, JPW, Sonic Link, Harmon, etc. We deliver anywhere in the UK for home audition, or mail order, Access, Visa etc.

STUDIO 82 (Harpenden) Ltd, 82 High Street, Harpenden, Herts AL5 2SP. Tel (01582) 764246, Fax (01582) 467022. Arcam, ATC, Audiolab, Aura, AVI, Bang & Olufsen, Bose, Castle, Chord Co, Denon, Harbeth, KEF, Marantz, Mission, Musical Technology, NAD, Naim Audio, Nakamichi, Panasonic, Quad, Roberts Radio, Sennheiser, Soundstyle, Tannoy, Target, TDL. Single Speaker Demonstration room. Free installation. Service dept. Access, Visa, Switch, Amex. Open 9am-5.30pm Mon-Sat. **BADA**

HUMBERSIDE

ZEN AUDIO, 35 George St, Hull. Tel (01482) 587397. Comfortable listening rooms; Home dems; Personal, friendly service; Free installations. Agencies include: Arcam, Aura, Audiolab, Atacama, Audio Note, Audion, Alchemist, B&W, Cable Talk, The Chord Company, D.P.A., Densen, Denon, E.A.R., Exposure, Harbeth, Heybrook, Impulse, KEF, Michell, Micromega, Monitor Audio, Mordaunt-Short, Myryad, NAD, NAIM, Pioneer, REL, Rehdeko, Rotel, Royd, Ruark, Shearpe Audio, Stands Unique, Sugden, Spendor, Sonic Link, TEAC, TDL, Tube Technology, Vivanco...and many others.

KENT

ASHFORD SOUNDCRAFT HI-FI, 40 High Street, Ashford. Seeking musical lovers, male or female any age, to share common interest in, musical Pro-aktiv Hi-Fi Systems, Multi Room or Home Cinema. Attractive unusual equipment in unusual setting, your place or ours, we guarantee lasting pleasure. Open Mon-Sat, Appointment Service or just pop in. Tel (01233) 624441. **BADA**

HALKSWORTH WHEELER, 85 King Street, Maidstone ME14 1BG. Tel (01622) 756756. Bang & Olufsen, Bose, Denon, Grundig, JVC, Jamo, KEF, Mordaunt Short, Marantz, NAD, Onkyo, Panasonic, QED, Sony, Sennheiser, Technics, Target, Hi-Fi, Home Cinema, Multi-Room Custom Installation Specialists Part Exchange, Service Dept Full Finance Facilities. **BADA**

HALKSWORTH WHEELER, 34 Guildhall Street, Folkestone Tel (01303) 255688. See above entry. **LINN STUDIO**, 123 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent, CT17 9AP. Tel (01304) 201525, Fax: 01304 240135. Sondeck LP12*, Knekt*, Karik*, Kaim*, Klout*, Kremlin*, Keltik*, Kaber*, Keiledh*, Numerik*, Tukan*, Wakonda*, Majik*, Mimik*, LK100*, Ekos*, Kudos*, Arkiv*, Brilliant*, Lingo*, Valhalla*, Sekrit*, Aktiv*... Dream systems for everyone from £2000 to £30000+. A new dealership from a specialist family business, established in 1948. Outstanding service and facilities. Multi-room specialist. **BADA**

MUSICAL IMAGES LTD, 126 High St, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1ED. Tel (0181) 663 3777, Fax (0181) 663 3555. Email: sales@musical-images.co.uk. AV Dealer of the Year. Home Cinema, Hi-Fi, multi-room specialists. Main authorised dealers for over 100 brands. Interest free credit anywhere in the UK, subject to status. Mail-order worldwide. 10 demonstration rooms throughout Musical Images, including projectors and big screen TVs. Professional home installation and design consultancy. Part exchange, service and repairs. Active Musical Images Club. Open all week including Sundays. 10am-6pm (10am-4pm Sundays.) **THX BADA**

UNILET SOUND & VISION 24-26 Union Street, Maidstone ME14 1ED. Tel (01622) 676703. 5 minutes from M20. Three superb hi fi and home cinema demonstration rooms. Most leading brands. Home survey and set up. Friendly and interested staff. Interest free credit and credit cards. "The best place in town for hi fi and home cinema." Bada Bonded. **BADA**

V J HI-FI, 29 Guildhall St, Folkestone. Tel (01303) 256860. Kenwood, Marantz, Mission, Musical Fidelity, Pioneer, Quad, Rogers, Tannoy, Yamaha. Dem and home trial facilities, free local install. No appts necessary, service dept. Amex, Diners, Visa, Access, Interest free credit, Instant credit. Mon-Sat 9-6. **BADA**

V J HI-FI, 119 High Street Margate. Tel (01843) 226977. For full details see our above entry. **BADA**

LANCASHIRE

AUDIO EXCELLENCE, 131 Friargate, Preston, Lancs PR1 2EE. Tel (01772) 253057 Fx (01772) 562731. All that's best in Hi-Fi carefully selected and demonstrated by friendly knowledgeable staff, at prices to suit all budgets. Delivery and installation, home dems, part exchange, in-house workshops, full credit facilities with interest free on selected items. Tues-Sat 9.00-5.30. Closed Mon. **BADA**

CLEARTONE, 235 Blackburn Road (1/2 mile from city centre on the A 666 Blackburn Road), Bolton, Lancs BL1 8HB. Tel (01204) 531423. Bolton's biggest Hi-Fi superstore. Every top brand & all the best buys at guaranteed unbeatable prices. Aiwa, Akai, Arcam, Audiolab, B&W, Bose, Castle, Celestion, Denon, Hitachi, Infinity, JBL, JVC, KEF, Kenwood, Marantz, Meridian, Mission, Mordaunt Short, NAD, Panasonic, Pioneer, Rotel, Sony, Tannoy, TDL, Technics, Toshiba, Yamaha. 2 Dedicated Hi-Fi Demo rooms and 2 AV Demo rooms, no appointments necessary. Service department, free installation, home trial facilities. free parking. Access, Visa, Amex, Diners. Interest free credit. Open Mon - Wed 10.00-6.00, Thurs - Fri 10.00-7.00, Sat 9.00-6.00, Sun 11.00-5.00.

LEICESTERSHIRE

LEICESTER HI-FI CO, 6 Silver Walk, St Martins Square, Leicester LE1 5EW. Tel: (0116) 2539753. Fax (0116) 2626097. Alchemist, Arcam, Aura, B&W, Copland, Harman Kardon, KEF, Marantz, Michell, Mission Cyrus, Musical Fidelity, Pink Triangle, Quad, Roksan, Rotel, Sonus Faber, Technics, Yamaha and more too numerous to mention. 2 Dem rooms. We can demonstrate, deliver and install. Credit Facilities. All cards taken, 6 days 9.30-5.30 **BADA**

LISTEN INN, 6 Hotel Street, Leicester., LE1 5AW Tel (0116) 262 3754 Fax (0116) 262 3758. Arcam, Audiolab, Cable Talk, Chord Co, Denon, Epos, Heybrook, KEF, Linn Hi-Fi, Linn AV51, Micromega, Myryad, Projekt Furniture, Rega, Rotel, Royd, Multiroom Design and Installation Service.4 Listening Rooms. Home Demonstrations and Free installations. Finance available. Open 6 days 10.00-5.30. **BADA**

STEREO SHACK, 1-3 Guildhall Lane, Leicester. Tel (0116) 2530330. Fax (0116) 2626097. Yamaha, Kenwood, NAD, Mission, Teac, Aiwa, Cerwin Vega, Pioneer, TDL, Thorens, JBL, Rotel, Celestion, Jamo and many more. We are A.V. specialists, 2 dem rooms. We can demonstrate, deliver & install. Credit facilities and all cards taken. 6 days 9.30-5.30.

WILMSLOW AUDIO, 50 Main St, Broughton Astley, Leicester LE9 6RD. Tel (01455) 286603. Suppliers of high quality loudspeaker kits, drive units, acoustic sound damping, cross-overs, and components. ATC, Dynaudio, KEF, Morel, Peerless, Scanspeak, Seas. All major credit cards taken. Open 9-5.30 Mon-Fri, 9-1 Saturday.

LINCOLNSHIRE

STAMFORD HI-FI, 9 Red Lion Square, Stamford, Lincs PE9 2AJ. Tel (01780) 62128. Aiwa, Denon, KEF, Kenwood, Marantz, Mission, NAD, Pioneer, Quad, Technics, Yamaha, plus all major speaker manufacturers. Expert advice, comparator demonstrations, on two floors, part exchange Hi-Fi purchased for cash. No appointments necessary, home trial facilities, free installation, service department. Mastercard, Visa & credit charge, finance available. Mon-Sat 9-5.30pm, closed Thursdays.

LONDON

AUDITORIUM, 119 Middlesex St, (off Bishopsgate), London E1 7JF. Tel (0171) 247 5000. Condescending, elitist Hi-Fi snobs with bad attitudes, that offer 'Great Coffee' and ill informed advice, we aren't. Great kit, demo room, multi-room installations etc., friendly and professional are our middle names. Call Derek, Keith or Alester for a demo, or just turn up. Brands include: Naim Audio, Rega, Denon, KEF, Mission, Cyrus, B&O etc.

AUDIO T, 190 West End Lane, West Hampstead, London NW6 1SQ. Tel (0171) 794 7848. Fax (0171) 431 3570. Open Tues-Sat 10-6 Late Thurs until 8.00. See our main entry under Oxford. We also sell Micromega, Proac, Van den Hul & XTC. **BADA**
BILLY VEE SOUND SYSTEMS, 248 Lee High Road, Lewisham, London SE13 5PL. Tel (0181) 318 5755/(0181) 852 1321. Arcam, AVI, Denon, Linn, Marantz, Mission, Naim, Pioneer, Rega, Rotel, etc. Two domestic style listening lounges. Apts required, service dept, home trial facilities. Interest free credit, instant credit. Access, Visa. Open Mon-Sat 10-6.30. Closed Thurs. **BADA**

THE CORNFLAKE SHOP, 37 Windmill Street Fitzrovia, London W1P 1HH. Tel (0171) 631 0472. Fax (0171) 436 7165. Open Tues-Sat 10-6, 10-7 Thurs. The specialists for the highest quality of sound, for one room or many more. Friendly advice, full delivery and installation service available. 2 listening rooms (appointments preferred), service department. Access, Visa, Amex, Switch. Worldwide mail order service. Brands include: ATC, AVI, Arcam, Mark Levinson/Procead, Naim, Nakamichi, Rega, Royd, Audio Alchemy and many more... We are simply the best CORNFLAKE SHOP in the world.

GRAHAMS HI-FI, Canonbury Yard, 190a New North Rd, London N1. Tel (0171) 226 5500. Winner Sony/HFN Greater London Dealer Award 1986/89/90. "One of the 5 best hi-fi shops in the world". Arcam, Linn, Meridian, Naim, Rega, etc. Systems from £500. FREE PARKING, 4 dem rooms, service dept, open Tues-Sat. RING FOR APPOINTMENT. **BADA**

HI-FI & COMPONENTS, 84 Battersea Rise, London, SW11 1EH. Tel (0171) 223 1110. ESTABLISHED 31 years. Beyer, Celestion, Denon, Dual, Gemini, Goodmans, Harman Kardon, Jamo, Kenwood, NAD, Ortofon, Rotel, Sennheiser, Shure, Stanton, Tannoy, Wharfedale, etc. Apts nec, Service Dept. Access, Visa, Diners, Amex, Open 10-6 Closed Wed.

HI-FI EXPERIENCE, Lion House, 227 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 1HX. Tel Help Line 0171-580 3535 24 hour. Fax 0171-436 4733. Agencies include: Arcam, Audiolab, Bang & Olufsen, Castle, Celestion, Chord, Cyrus, Denon, Heybrook, Harman, IMF, KEF, Marantz, Mission, Musical Fidelity, Meridian, Nakamichi, NAD, Pioneer, Quad, Rotel, Shearman, Tannoy, TDL, Yamaha. 8 listening rooms, 3 years guarantee. Free delivery and simple installation (M25 periphery), home cinema specialist. **BADA**

INFIDELITY, 9 High Str, Hampton Wick, Kingston-upon-Thames. Tel (0181) 943 3530. For full details see entry under SURREY. **BADA**

K.J. WEST ONE, 26 New Cavendish St, London, W17 7LH. Tel (0171) 486 8262/63. Fax (0171) 487 3452. Most established brands stocked. Two Hi-Fi and two Home Cinema dem studios Apts nec Home trial. Free installation. Service dept. Major credit cards. Interest free credit usually available - ask for details. Open 10am-6pm 5 days - closed Weds and Sunday.

KAMLA 251 Tottenham Court Rd, London, W1P 9AD. Tel (0171) 323 2747. Kenwood, Pioneer, JVC, Philips, Toshiba, Boston, B&W, AR, Mitsubishi. Demonstration room available. Apts required. Service dept. Access, Visa, Amex, Diners. Open Mon-Sat 9-6.

MUSICAL IMAGES LTD, 18 Monmouth Street, Covent Garden, London WC2H 9HB. Tel (0171) 497 1346, Fax (0171) 497 9205. Email: sales@musical-images.co.uk. AV Dealer of the Year. Home Cinema, Hi-Fi, multi-room specialists. Main authorised dealers for over 100 brands. Interest free credit anywhere in the UK, subject to status. Mail-order worldwide. 10 demonstration rooms throughout Musical Images, including projectors and big screen TVs. Professional home installation and design consultancy. Part exchange, service and repairs. Active Musical Images Club. Open all week including Sundays. 10am-7pm (10am-4pm Sundays). **BADA**

MUSICAL IMAGES LTD, 173 Station Road, Edgware HA8 7JX. Tel (0181) 952 5535, Fax (0181) 951 5864. E-mail: sales@musical-images.co.uk. See main entry under Middlesex. **BADA**

MUSICAL IMAGES LTD, 45 High Street, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 1JR. Tel (0181) 569 5802, Fax (0181) 569 6353. E-mail: sales@musical-images.co.uk **BADA**

ORANGES & LEMONS, 61-63 Webbs Road, Battersea SW11. Tel (0171) 924 2040. Juicy fruit from London's newest, freshest hi-fi/home cinema retailer. Telephone demonstrations or just pop in. All the usual, ie friendly and efficient service, free home installation, credit cards, 0% finance available, plus all the very best from: Arcam, Cable Talk, Chord Co, Demion, Denon Lifestyle, Epos, Micromega, NAD, Naim, QED Multiroom, Quad, Rega, Roksan, Rotel, Royd, Ruark, Soundstyle, Stands Unique, Yamaha with more to come. The innovative Audio/Visual retailer.

STUDIO 99, 79-81 Fairfax Road, Swiss Cottage, London NW6. Tel (0171) 624 8855, Fax (0171) 624 5315. Naim, Meridian, Quad, ATC, Mission, Cyrus, Rega, KEF, Arcam, Epos, Austic Energy, Yamaha, Philips, Royd, Rotel, Sonus Faber, Bang & Olufsen. High quality demonstrations. Home Cinema. Multi-room. Service Dept. Visa/Access credit facilities. Mon-Fri 10.00am-7.00pm, Sat. 10.00-6.00pm. **BADA**

THOMAS HEINITZ, 35 Moscow Road, Bayswater, London, W2 4AH. Tel (0171) 229 2077. Fax (0171) 727 9348. Nearest tube stations Queensway and Bayswater. Plenty of parking meters available. Demonstration room available by appointment. Stockists of B&O, Naim, Rega, Micromega, Cyrus, Denon and Epos. Payment via, ACCESS, VISA, cheques, cash and interest free credit facilities (details on request). Open 10.30am-6.00pm, Tuesday-Saturday. **BADA**

GREATER MANCHESTER

AUDIO COUNSEL, 14 Shaw Road, Oldham, OL1 3LQ. Tel (0161) 633 2602 Fax (0161) 633 2502. Linn, Naim, Rega, Arcam, Rotel, Royd, Mission, Micromega, Marantz, Shahinian, Celestion, Nakamichi, Dynavector. Free installation. Record club. Major credit cards and credit facilities. Open Tuesday-Saturday 10.00 to 5.30, 8pm on Thurs. **BADA**

SWIFT OF WILMSLOW, 4-8 St Annes Parade, Wilmslow. Tel (01625) 526213. Aura, B&W, Denon, Kenwood, Marantz, NAD, Pioneer, Rotel, Tannoy, Revolver, JPW. Open 9:30am-6:00pm 2 dem rooms. No pressure!

MIDDLESEX

AUDIO T, 159a Chase Side, Enfield, Middlesex EN2 0PW. Tel (0181) 367-3132, Fax (0181) 367-1638. Open Tues-Fri 9.30-6. Sat 9.30-5.30. See our main entry under Oxford. We also sell Kenwood, Linn, Micromega & Moth. **BADA**

MUSICAL IMAGES LTD, 173 Station Rd, Edgware HA8 7JX. Tel (0181) 952 5535, Fax (0181) 951 5864. Email: sales@musical-images.co.uk. AV Dealer of the Year. Home Cinema, Hi-Fi, multi-room specialists. Main authorised dealers for over 100 brands. Interest free credit anywhere in the UK, subject to status. Mail-order worldwide. 10 demonstration rooms throughout Musical Images, including projectors and big screen TVs. Professional home installation and design consultancy. Part exchange, service and repairs. Active Musical Images Club. Open all week including Sundays. 10am-6pm (10am 4pm Sundays). **BADA**

MUSICAL IMAGES LTD, 45 High Street, Hounslow, TW3 1JR. Tel (0181) 569 5802, Fax (0181) 569 6353. E-mail: sales@musical-images.co.uk. See above entry. **BADA**

MUSICAL IMAGES LTD, 18 Monmouth St, Covent Garden, London WC2H 9HB. Tel: (0171) 497 1346, Fax (0171) 497 9205. E-mail: sales@musical-images.co.uk. See main entry under London. **BADA**

RIVERSIDE HI-FI LTD, 422 Richmond Road, East Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 2EB. Tel (0181) 892 7613. Fax (0181) 892 7749. Arcam, Audiolab, Audio Research, Audio Alchemy, B&W, Bose, Copland, Castle, Denon, Dual, Krell, KEF, Meridian, Marantz, Monitor Audio, Musical Fidelity, Michell, Micromega, Mission, Martin Logan, Nakamichi, Pioneer, Quad, Rotel, Sony, Sonus Faber, Tannoy, Theta, Wilson, Yamaha. Appointments recommended. Finance available. All major credit cards accepted. Mon-Sat 10-6, Thurs 10-7 **BADA**

WEST MIDLANDS

AMADEUS SOUND & VISION, 10 Boldmere Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands. Tel (0121) 354 2311. Audio Innovations, aura, B&O, B&W, Castle, Marantz, Micromega, Musical Fidelity, Nakamichi, Harman Kardon, QED. Single speaker demo, apts preferred, service available, installations, B&O link install, home trials. Access, Visa, interest free credit available subject to status. 9.30-6pm, 6 days. **BADA**

EMPIRE ELECTRICAL SUPERSTORE, 21-22 Stephenson Street (behind New Street, opposite Pollasades car park), Birmingham City Centre, West Midlands B2 4JD. Tel (0121) 643 0972. Birmingham's biggest Hi-Fi superstore. Every top brand & all the best buys at guaranteed unbeatable prices. Aiwa, Akai, Arcam, B&W, Bose, Castle, Celestion, Denon, Hitachi, Infinity, JBL, JVC, KEF, Kenwood, Marantz, Mission, Mordaunt Short, NAD, Panasonic, Pioneer, Rotel, Sony, Tannoy, TDL, Technics, Toshiba, Yamaha. 2 Dedicated Hi-Fi Demo rooms and 2 A.V Demo rooms, no appointments required. Service department, free installation, home trial facilities. Access, Visa, Amex, Diners. Interest free credit. Open Mon - Fri 9.30-6.00. Sat 9.00-5.30

FRANK HURVEY HI-FI EXCELLENCE, 163 Spon Street, Coventry. Tel (01203) 525200 Fax (01203) 631403. E-MAIL: frank@hiflex.demon.co.uk Audiolab, Audio Alchemy, Arcam, Audio Quest, B&W, Bang & Olufsen, Castle, Canon, Cable Talk, Chord, Cyrus, Definitive Technology, Denon, KEF, Marantz, Meridian, Miller & Kreisel, Mission, NAD, Pioneer, Quad, REL, Rega, Revolver, Rogers, Rotel, Sennheiser, Sharp Projection, Systemdek, Teac, TDL, Van Den Hul, Yamaha. 3 Floors with 3 Dedicated Hi Fi Demo Rooms. Apts Necessary. Service Dept. Free install & Home Trial. Interest Free Credit on selected products. Open 9.30am to 5.30pm Monday to Saturday. **BADA**

GRIFFIN AUDIO, 94 Bristol Street, Birmingham, West Midlands. Tel (0121) 622 2230/(0121) 692 1359. 40 years in Hi-Fi and still the best in the Midlands. We sell great Hi-Fi from Arcam, Denon, Linn, Marantz, Musical Technology, Nakamichi, Naim, Quad, Rega, Shahinian and Loewe Television. Arcam Xeta Home Theatre. Open Tues-Sat 10.00-5.30.

MUSIC MATTERS, 351 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B17 8DL. Tel (0121) 429 2811. Rotel, Denon, Lexicon, Tannoy, Ruark, Alchemist, Exposure, Pioneer, Roksan, Nakamichi, Arcam, Audiolab, Musical Fidelity, Mission/Cyrus, Meridian, KEF, Monitor Audio, Pink Triangle. 2 single speaker luxury demo rooms. Apts nec, home trial facilities, free installation, service dept. Access, Visa, instant credit up to £1000, interest free credit available. Tue-Thur 10.30-6, Fri 10.30-8, Sat 10-6. Branches also at: 93-95 Hobs Moat Road, Solihull, W Midlands B92 8JL. 0121-742 0254. 156-157 Lower High Str, Stourbridge, W Midlands D18 1TS. (01384) 444184. **BADA**

SOUND ACADEMY, 152a High Street, Bloxwich, Nr Walsall, W Midlands Tel (01922) 493499/473499. Please see entry under BIRMINGHAM. **BADA**

NORFOLK

AUDIBLE DEFERENCE, Near Diss, Norfolk. Tel (01379) 740227. Absolute Sounds, Audion, Art Audio, ATC, Audio Innovations, Audio Note, AVI, DPA, EAR, Impulse, LFD, Pink Triangle, Unison Research, SME, Tube Technology. Full demonstration facilities including evenings. Apts required, free installation, home trial facilities. Open Mon-Fri 12-9pm, Sat 9-5pm.

BASICALLY SOUND, The Old School, School Rd, Bracon Ash, Norwich NR14 8HE. Tel (01508) 570829. Audio Alchemy, Arcam, Audiolab, Beyer, Cabletalk, Denon, Dynavector, Epos, Grado, Heybrook, Micromega, Naim, Nakamichi, Sound Organisation, Rotel, Royd, Spendor, TDL, etc. 2 comprehensive dem rooms. Home trial. Free installation. Visa, Access, HP facilities. Tues-Sat 9.30-1, 2-5.30.

MARTIN'S HI-FI est. 1968, Ber St, Norwich. Tel (01603) 627010 Fax (01603) 611302. Arcam, Atacama, Audiolab, Audioquest, Cable Talk, Celestion, Cyrus, Denon, GLL, KEF, Marantz, Mission, Meridian, Monitor Audio, NAD, Pioneer, Quad, Rotel, REL, Ruark, Sennheiser, Soundstyle and Target, separate AV and Hi-Fi demo rooms, Home Cinema specialists, Open Monday to Saturday 9-5.30. Home delivery and installation available. Interest free credit. Price promise - we will match any genuine local price. **BADA**

ZEROTH AUDIO, Tel (01493) 443693. System consultant, computer-aided design and analysis of your system. Stockists of Serpant high quality handmade cables. Agents for Bandor speaker systems. Modifications to your own equipment. New and used sales. Appointments only, please ring for details.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

AUDIOCRAFT, 23-25 Derrgate, Northampton, NN1 1TY. Tel (01604) 36291 Fax (01604) 21786. Bang & Olufsen, Kenwood, Technics, Marantz, Celestion, KEF. No apts nec. Free installation. Service Dept open Mon-Sat 9-5.30pm.

CLASSIC HI-FI + VIDEO, School Lane, Kettering, Northants. Tel (01536) 310855. Aura, B&W, Exposure, Harmon Kardon, Heybrook, JBL, KEF, Kenwood, Marantz, NAD, Orelle, Pioneer, Rogers, Rotel, Shearman, Sugden, Tannoy, Yamaha and many more. Home trial, free installation, service department. All major credit cards. Open 9.30-5.30pm.

LISTEN INJR, 32 Gold Street, Northampton. Tel (01604) 37871 Linn, Naim, Rega, Audiolab, Arcam, Mission, KEF, Epos, Royd, Nakamichi, Micromega, Minium, Myryad, Denon, Rotel, Marantz, Yamaha, Sennheiser, Chord Co, Cabletalk. 2 Listening Rooms. Free installation. Part Exchange. All Major Credit Cards. Interest Free Credit Subject to Status. **BADA**

OVERTURE, 3 Church Lane, Banbury, OX16 8LR. Tel (01295) 272158. See main entry under Oxfordshire. **BADA**

NOTTINGHAM

DEFINITIVE AUDIO serves the first time purchaser and the seasoned audiophile with the same high level of care and interest. Our aim is long term customer satisfaction. We achieve this with quality impartial advice, quality back up and service and genuine interest in your needs. We have an established reputation for achieving sound quality benchmarks with innovation. We have an extensive range of carefully selected agencies. We are open Mon-Fri 9.30-6.30, Sat 10.00-1.30. Visa / Mastercard / Amex. Deliveries nationwide and worldwide. Extensive second hand stock. Components from £10.00 to £75000. Call for more information. Tel/Fax (0115) 9813562.

JOHN KIRK, 70 Chilwell Rd, Beeston, Nottingham. Tel (0115) 9252986. Est 1970. Professional advice and service. Demo room. Free installation, Service Dept. Arcam, Atacama, Aura, B&W, Canon, Castle, Denon, Dual, Marantz, Mordaunt Short, Nakamichi, Quad, Rogers, TDL, Technics, Thorens. Tues-Sat 9.30-5.30. Access/Visa/Switch.

NOTTINGHAM HI-FI CENTRE, 120-122 Alfreton Road, Nottingham. Tel (0115) 9786919. The area's oldest established specialist (Est. 1969). Two superb demonstration rooms, easy free parking. Home Cinema and Multi Room. Stockists of: Arcam, Audiolab, Celestion, Denon, KEF, Linn, Loewe T.V., Marantz, Micromega, Michell, Mission-Cyrus, Rotel, Sennheiser, Yamaha. Mon-Sat 9.00-5.30. **BADA**

PETER ELLIS AUDIO 29 Kirkgate Newark, Nottingham, NG24 1AD. Tel (01636) 704571. Castle, JBL, Arcam, JVC, B&W, Jamo, Minium, Mordaunt Short, QED, Sugden, Tannoy, TDL, Thorens, Marantz, Denon, Teac. Demo room, Free install, Service Department. Home cinema dem room. Home trial facilities. Switch, American Express, Access, Visa, Mon-Sat 9-5.30 Close at 1:00pm on Thursday.

DEALER Directory

OXFORDSHIRE

ASTLEY AUDIO LTD., 3 Marketplace, Wallingford. Tel (01491) 839305. Aura, B&W, Canon, Denon, Dual, KEF, Kenwood, Marantz, Mission, Mordaunt Short, Panasonic, Pioneer, Sony, Tannoy, Technics, Yamaha. Home trial, free installation. Service dept. Access, Visa, Amex, Diners. Instant credit. Tues-Fri 9-5.30, Sat 9-5. Tapes & Records stocked.

AUDIO T, 19 Old High Street, Headington, Oxford OX3 9HS. Tel (01865) 65961, Fax (01865) 60415. E-mail: hifi@audio-t.co.uk Web site: <http://www.audio-t.co.uk> Great Value on Acoustic Energy, Arcam, Audiobal, B&W, Cable Talk, Celestion, Cyrus, Denon, Dynaudio, KEF, Marantz, Meridian, Mission, Monitor Audio, Mordaunt-Short, NAD, Pioneer, Quad, REL, Rotel, Trichord, Technics, Yamaha & many more. Tues-Fri 10-6. Sat 9.30-5.30. Late Thurs until 8.00. 3 year guarantee on Hi-Fi separates. Price Promise. 30 day free upgrade scheme. Part exchange. Interest Free Credit on selected items. 2 listening rooms. Home trials. 30 years in business. Home Cinema specialists. BADA Banded. Serious hi-fi shops - Silly prices!

OVERTURE HI-FI, 3 Church Lane, Banbury, OX16 8LR. Tel (01295) 272158. Arcam, Bose, Denon, Heybrook, KEF, Linn Products, Mission, N.A.D., Naim Audio, Quad, Yamaha. For sensible unbiased advice, call Oxfordshire's audio experts. Superb demo facilities. No appts nec, service dept, free install, home trial. Access/Visa, instant credit. Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 9.30-5.30.

OXFORD AUDIO CONSULTANTS, Cantay Hse, Park End Street, Oxford OX1 1JE. Tel (01865) 790879 Fax (01865) 791665. Quad, Denon, Spondor, Aura, Micromega, Ruark, B&W, Pink Triangle, Roksan, Krell, Sonus Faber NAD, Rotel, Musical Fidelity, Pioneer, Marantz, Rogers, TDL. Demo room. Home trial and free installation. Instant credit, Access, Amex, Visa. 10-6 Mon-Sat.

WESTWOOD AND MASON, 46 George St. Oxford. Tel: (01865) 247783. Aura, Arcam, Denon, Epos, KEF, Infinity, Marantz, Mission, Monitor Audio, Nakamichi, Naim, Quad, Rega, Rotel, Royd, Solid, TDL, Yamaha. Open 10-5pm. Dem room. Closed Thur. Access/Visa

SHROPSHIRE

CREATIVE AUDIO, 9 Dogpole, Shrewsbury. Tel (01743) 241924. One of the largest ranges of quality hi-fi/av audio visual equipment outside of London. Arcam, Audiobal, Celestion, Cyrus, Denon, Epos, KEF, Meridian, Mission, NAD, Naim, Quad, Rega, Roksan, Rotel. Comfortable listening room, home installation, specialist workshop and service department. Access/Visa/Switch/Amex and low cost finance from £350 up to £15,000. Tues-Sat 9.30-5.30.

SOMERSET

MIKE MANNING AUDIO - The HiFi and AV specialists. The best in HiFi from: Arcam, ATC, Aura, B&W, Castle, Denon, Heybrook, KEF, Marantz, Naim Audio, NAD, Pioneer, Rega, Rotel, Royd, Shahinian, TDL, Teac. Somerset's Bang & Olufsen centre. Dedicated listening lounge for relaxed and unpressured demonstrations. Home installations on most systems, Full service department. Access, Visa, Instant Credit. Closed Mondays. 110, Middle Street, Yeovil, Somerset BA20 1NE. **FREEPHONE 0800 627 627. (01935-79361)** THE RIGHT NOTE - see Bath/Bristol.

STAFFORDSHIRE

GRANGE HI-FI LTD., 153 Branston Rd, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3DQ. Tel (01283) 533655. Arcam, Cabletalk, Castle, Denon, JPW, KEF, Marantz, Mission, Moth, Musical Technology, Pink Triangle, Pioneer, Polk, Rogers, Systemdek, Yamaha. Home Cinema and Hi-Fi demo rooms, appts nec on Sat. Service dept. Access, Visa, interest free credit available, subject to status. Open Tues-Sat 9.00-5.30pm.

SUFFOLK

AUDIBLE DIFFERENCE, Near Diss, Norfolk - see main entry under Norfolk.

BASICALLY SOUND, The Old School, School Rd, Bracon Ash, Norwich. Tel (01508) 570829. For full details see entry under Norfolk.

EASTERN AUDIO, 41 Bramford Rd, Ipswich. Tel (01473) 217217. Established over 21 years. Easy parking, dem room. Mon-Sat 9.30-6. Quad, Arcam, Marantz, Meridian, Denon, Nakamichi, Audiobal, Technics, NAD, Castle, Celestion, Mission and B&W.

SURREY

AUDIO DESIGNS, 26 High Street, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 3AS. Tel/Fax (01342) 314569. See main entry under West Sussex.

INFIDELITY, 9 High Street, Hampton Wick, Kingston Upon Thames, Surrey. Tel (0181) 943 3530. Arcam, Densen, Epos, Heybrook, Linn, Micromega, Naim Audio, Neat Acoustics, Rega Research, Royd, Shahinian, Yamaha. Single speaker listening room. Appts pref, free installation, service dept. Major credit cards. Closed Mon, Tues-Fri 10.30-7, Sat 10-6pm.

PJ HI-FI, 3 Bridge Street, Guildford, GU1 4RY. Tel (01483) 504801/304756. Mon-Sat 9-6pm. Linn, Rega, ProAc, EPOS, Rotel, Audiobal, Arcam, Meridian, Musical Technology, NAD, Quad, KEF, Acoustic Energy, Marantz, B&W, Nakamichi, Rogers, Mission/Cyrus, Pioneer (precision). Listen to Linn/Meridian AC3 here now! Home Cinema & HiFi Dem rooms, parking, Free delivery & installation. Service department on the premises. Call now.

RIVERSIDE HI-FI, 422 Richmond Road, East Twickenham. TW1 2EB. Tel: (0181) 892 7613. Fax: (0181) 892 7749. See main entry under Middlesex.

ROGERS HI-FI, 13 Bridge Street, Guildford, Surrey. Tel (01483) 561049. B&W, Castle, Denon, Harman-Kardon, Marantz, Micromega, Mordaunt-Short, Musical Fidelity, Ruark, Systemdek, and many more. Demonstration facilities available, no appointment necessary. Free installation. Service department. Access/Visa. Instant credit up to £1,000 subject to status. Monday-Saturday 9.30-6pm, later by appointment.

SPALDINGS HI-FI, 352-4 Lower Addiscombe Rd, Croydon, Surrey CR0 7AF. Tel (0181) 654 1231/2040. Linn Naim, Quad, Meridian, Audiobal, Mission, Marantz, Denon, Ruark, Tannoy, Arcam. 3 dem rooms including AV room. Service dept, free install, home trial facilities, appointments advisable. Access, Visa, Amex. Interest free credit, instant credit. Mon-Sat 9-5.45. Tues-8. Closed Wed. Service dept.

SURREY HI-FI, 45 High St, Godstone, Surrey RH9 8LS. (Just off J6 - M25) free parking, closed Wednesdays. Tel (01883) 744 755. Home Cinema on demo. Arcam, Alphason Atacama stands, Audiobal, Audioquest, Refer headphones, Bose, Cabletalk, Denon, KEF, Beyere, KEF, Marantz, Michell, Musical Fidelity, Partington stands, Qudos Cable, REL, Rogers, Seismic sink, Sennheiser, Sound Style, Tannoy, Target, TDL, Thorens, Van den Hul cables, Yamaha. Interest free credit.

UNILET SOUND & VISION, 35 High Street (Opposite Waitrose), New Malden, Surrey. KT3 4BY. Tel (0181) 942 9567. The very best hi fi and home cinema brands on show with 3 hi fi PLUS 3 home cinema demonstration rooms fully equipped at New Malden. Knowledgeable staff. Free car parking. Open Sundays.

SUSSEX (EAST)

ADAMS & JARRETT, 6-18 Norman Road, St. Leonard's-on-sea, East Sussex, TN37 6NH, Tel (01424) 437165/432398. Stockists of B+W, Cabletalk, KEF, Marantz, Meridian, Micromega, NAD, REL, Rotel, Ruark, Sennheiser, Tannoy, Target, Yamaha. Two demo rooms, home trial, AV specialists. Instant and interest-free credit available. Open Mon-Sat 9-5.30.

JEFFRIES HI-FI, 69 London Road, Brighton BN1 4JE. Tel (01273) 609431. Hi-fi, home cinema and multi-room specialist. Range includes Acoustic Energy, Arcam, Beyer, Celestion, Chord, Definitive Technology, Denon, Harbeth, KEF, Kinshaw, Lexicon, Linn, Loewe, Miller & Kreisel, Naim, Panasonic, Rega, REL, Rotel, Royd, Ruark, Sennheiser, Shahinian, Sound Organisation, Sound Style, Top Tape, Yamaha. 2 dem rooms. Open Tues-Sat, late night Wed. Free parking, bus route, credit facilities. Winner Sony/Hi-Fi News Best Southern Dealer.

JEFFRIES HI-FI, 4 Albert Parade, Green Street, Eastbourne BN21 1SD. Tel (01323) 731336, Fax (01323) 416005. Hi-fi, home cinema and multi-room specialist. Range includes Acoustic Energy, Arcam, Beyer, Celestion, Chord, Definitive Technology, Denon, Harbeth, Heybrook, KEF, Lexicon, Linn, Loewe, Miller & Kreisel, Naim, Panasonic, Polk, Rega, REL, Rotel, Royd, Ruark, Seleco, Sennheiser, Sony, Sound Organisation, Sound Style, Top Tape, Yamaha. Two demonstration rooms. Open Tues-Sat, late night Wed. Free parking, bus route, credit facilities. Winner Sony/Hi-Fi News Best Southern Dealer.

THE POWERPLANT, 66 Upper North Street, Brighton BN1 3FL. Tel (01273) 775978. Arcam, ATC, Audiobal, Cyrus, Epos, Marantz, Micromega, Mission, Neat Acoustics, Proceed, Rega, Rotel, Yamaha. Single speaker demonstration room, home trial available, no appts required, service dept, free installation. Access, Amex, Visa. Interest free credit. Open 10-6pm.

SUSSEX (WEST)

AUDIO DESIGNS, 26 High Street, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 3AS. Tel/Fax (01342) 314569. Hi-Fi, Home cinema + multi-room specialists. Authorised stockists of: Arcam, Audiobal, Castle, Cyrus, Epos, KEF, Linn (inc. AV51), Marantz, Mission, Naim, Pioneer (inc LaserDisc), Quad, Rel, Rotel, Sony, Soundstyle, Stands Unique, Target, Thorens, Yamaha & more. 3 dedicated demonstration rooms - Hi-Fi & Home cinema. Service dept. 0% finance available. 9.30-6.00 Mon-Sat. Late by appointment.

BOWERS & WILKINS LTD. (Est. 1945) 1 Becket Buildings, Littlehampton Rd, Worthing. Tel (01903) 264141. 1 minute from A24 & A27. Free local parking. Aura, B&W (inc. Matrix), Denon, Mission, Nakamichi, Quad, T.D.L., Teac, Technics, Thorens, and many more in 4 Dem Rooms. Systems, Hi-Fi and Home Cinema. Service Dept., Installations. Open 6 days a week. Access, Visa, instant credit to £1000 subject to status.

PHASE 3 HI-FI, 215 Tarring Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 4HW. Tel (01903) 245577. The South's leading Hi-Fi specialists. Premise facilities include listening rooms and dedicated 'Home Cinema' demonstration rooms. Adcom, Arcam, B&W, Castle, Celestion, Denon, Heybrook, KEF, Reference, Kenwood, Lexicon, Marantz, Meridian, Monitor Audio, NAD, Shearpe, Spondor, Tannoy, Thorens, Yamaha.

WARWICKSHIRE

SOUNDS EXPENSIVE, 12 Regent Str, Rugby. Tel (01788) 540772. Arcam, Audiobal, Quad, Meridian, Marantz, Mission, Celestion, KEF, Rotel, Ruark, Rotel, Heybrook. IMPROVE YOUR IMAGE, BE SEEN WITH US. Appts required, no service dept, free install, home trial facilities. Access, Amex, Visa, Diners, instant credit. Open 9-5.30pm Mon-Sat.

STRATFORD HI-FI, 10A Chapel Street, Stratford Upon Avon, Warwickshire. Tel (01789) 414533. Arcam, B&W, Bose, Cyrus, Denon, KEF, Marantz, Micromega, Mission, Monitor Audio, NAD, Panasonic, Onkyo, Pioneer, Rotel, Sony, Technics, Yamaha. Demonstration room, Service facilities, Mail Order, Interest free credit. Open 9.30-5.30 Monday to Saturday. All major credit cards.

WILTSHIRE

AUDIO T, 60 Fleet St, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN1 1RA. Tel (01793) 538222. Fax (01793) 487260. Open Tues-Sat 9.30-6. See our main entry under Oxford. We also sell Linn & Naim.

SALISBURY HI-FI LTD., 15 Catherine Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 2DF. Tel (01722) 322169. Arcam, B&W, Celestion, Denon, KEF, Kenwood, Marantz, Meridian, Micromega, NAD, Ruark, Sony, Yamaha. 2 Dem rooms. Friendly relaxed atmosphere. Professional advice. Home dem available. Service Department. Free installation. Home trial facilities. Access, Visa, Amex. Interest free credit. Instant credit. Open Mon-Sat 9-5.30.

THE RIGHT NOTE - See Bath/Bristol.

WORCESTERSHIRE

WEST MIDLANDS AUDIO, 158 Ombersley Road, Worcester WR3 7HA. Tel (01905) 58046. Audiobal, Arcam, Naim Audio, Rega, KEF, Roksan, Epos, Quad, Nakamichi, Absolute Sounds and lots more. 4 demo rooms for budget & high-end audio. Dedicated DSP room. Appointments required. Free install, service dept. Access, Visa, Amex, Diners, Switch. Chartered Trust. Mon-Sat 9.00-5.30 late evenings by appt.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH)

HARROGATE HI-FI, 15 Commercial Str, Harrogate, N Yorks. Tel (01423) 504274. One of the best ranges of quality hi-fi in the North of England, including: Lumley valve amplification, Audio Research, Musical Fidelity, Martin Logan, Sonus Faber, Castle, Orelle, Michell, Ruark, Stax, Copland, Tannoy, NAD, Onkyo, Rotel, Meridian, Lexicon, Project, Silversounds, Cogan Hall, DNM. Home cinema dems. Home dems (appts not always reqd.). Service dept. All major credit cards accepted. Credit facilities available. Open 10-6pm. Why? Because music matters.

SOUND ORGANISATION YORK, 2b Gillygate, York YO3 7EQ. Tel (01904) 627108. Carefully chosen Hi-Fi & AV equipment includes Arcam, B&W, Denon, Linn, M&K Subwoofers, Naim, Rega, Rotel, Royd etc. 3 Dem rooms incl Home Cinema & Multiroom facilities. Service department. Home installations. Instant Credit and Major credit cards. Closed Mondays. Phone for a chat & more details.

YORKSHIRE (SOUTH)

HI-FI STUDIOS, Sunnyfields, Doncaster, DN5 8SA. Tel (01302) 781387. TDL, Audio Alchemy, Sugden, Audiobal, Electrocompaniet, Proac, Ruark, Castle, Teac, Union valves, Impulse Horns, Apogee, Stemfoort, Pink Triangle, Heybrook, Monitor Audio, Harbeth, Keswick Audio Research, Michell Turntables, CR Developments (valves), Art Audio (valves), R.E.L. Subwoofers, Pro-ject, Plus Yamaha and Klipsch Home Cinema Pro-Logic Demonstrations, Systemdek, Alphason, Target Sonic Link, Chord, Hoffi, Q.L.N., Audio Quest. Listening room, dems, home trial, free delivery and install, 2 year guarantee. Access, Visa. 10-8pm Tues-Fri, 10-6 Sat. Closed Monday. Phone for further info. & FREE fact pack.

YORKSHIRE (WEST)

ASTON AUDIO, 19 Crossgate, Otley, Leeds, LS21 1AA. Tel (01943) 467689. Naim, Mission, Cyrus, Arcam, Audiobal, Meridian, TDL, Micromega, Quad, B&W, Nakamichi, Denon. Home Cinema, dem rooms, int free credit, Visa, Access. Open Tues-Sat 9-6pm.

AUDIO REFLECTIONS, Specialist ATC distributors from one of the longest established UK ATC dealers. You are cordially invited to audition perhaps the finest loudspeaker range available in the world today from the largest selection of ATC monitors and electronics assembled in the UK. Also AVI, Bryston, Chord Electronics, Castle, Harbeth, Marantz, Spondor, Sumo, Teac, Van den Hul etc. For further details contact John Bleakley Phone/fax Leeds (0113) 2528850 (evening calls welcome). Generous part exchange and second hand equipment available.

AUDIOVISION (YORKSHIRE) LTD. Est. 1957, 5 Bethel St., Brighouse, W. Yorks. HD6 1JR. Tel (01484) 713996. Choose from the LARGEST & latest range of TECHNICS hi-fi separates & systems in Yorkshire. Hear the full range of YAMAHA Cinema DSP hi-fi components & new stylish BOSE Lifestyle Systems. Speakers by Castle, Celestion, Cerwin-Vega!, JBL, Mordaunt-Short, REL, TDL & POLK AUDIO. See quality demonstrations with Panasonic or Philips Widescreen TV's & Pioneer Laserdisc Players. Visit AUDIOVISION - The Experts for Widescreen Home Cinema. 1 mile from junction 25, M62, Central West Yorkshire or call hi-fi separates mail order sales (01484) 718116. Masterton, Visa, Switch, Delta. Open 9-5.30.

CLEARANCE (FORMERLY ERRICKS), Rawson Square, Bradford City Centre, BD1 3JR. Tel (01274) 309266. Bradford's leading Hi-Fi specialists. Every top brand & all the best buys at guaranteed unbeatable prices. Aiwa, Akai, Arcam, Audiobal, B&W, Bose, Castle, Celestion, Denon, Hitachi, Infinity, JBL, JVC, KEF, Kenwood, Marantz, Micromega, Mission, Mordaunt Short, NAD, Panasonic, Pioneer, Rotel, Sony, Tannoy, TDL, Technics, Toshiba, Yamaha. 2 Dedicated Demo rooms, no appointments required. Service department, free installation, home trial facilities. Access, Visa, Amex, Diners. Interest free credit. Open Mon - Sat 9.30-5.30.



INDICATES MEMBERSHIP OF THE BRITISH AUDIO DEALERS ASSOCIATION

DEALER Directory

YORKSHIRE (WEST) CTD

EMPIRE ELECTRICAL MEGASTORE, Ingleby Road, (Girlington), Bradford, BD8 9AN. Tel (01274) 575000. The North's biggest electrical megastore. Every top brand & best buy at guaranteed unbeatable prices. Aiwa, Akai, B&W, Bose, Celestion, Denon, Grundig, Hitachi, Jamo, JVC, KEF, Kenwood, Marantz, Mission, Mitsubishi, Mordaunt Short, NAD, Panasonic, Pioneer, Rotel, Sony, Tannoy, TDL, Technics, Toshiba, Yamaha. 3 Dedicated Hi-Fi & AV Demo rooms, no appointments required. Service department, free installation. Free parking, Access, Visa, Amex, Diners. Interest free credit. Open Mon - Fri 9.30-8.00, Sat 9.30-6.00, Sun 11.00-5.00.

EMPIRE ELECTRICAL SUPERSTORE, The Clock Buildings (formerly the Clock Cinema), Roundhay Road, Leeds (on the junction of the A 58 & Roundhay Road), LS8 2SH. Tel (0113) 2351701. Leeds' largest range of Hi-Fi separates & systems including all the best buys at guaranteed unbeatable prices. Aiwa, Akai, B&W, Bang & Olufsen, Bose, Castle, Celestion, Denon, Hitachi, JVC, KEF, Kenwood, Marantz, Mission, Mitsubishi, Mordaunt Short, NAD, Panasonic, Pioneer, Rotel, Sony, Tannoy, TDL, Technics, Toshiba, Yamaha. 2 Dedicated Hi-Fi Demo rooms and 2 AV Demo rooms, no appointments necessary. Service department, free installation, home trial facilities. Free parking. Access, Visa, Amex, Diners. Interest free credit. Open Mon - Wed 10.00-6.00, Thurs - Fri 10.00-8.00, Sat 9.30-5.30, Sun 11.00-5.00.

EMPIRE (EC) LTD., 94 Kirkgate, Wakefield City Centre, (opp. Canon Cinema) West Yorkshire WF1 1TB. Tel (01924) 361736. Wakefield's leading Hi-Fi store. Every top brand & best buy at guaranteed unbeatable prices. Aiwa, Akai, B&W, Bang & Olufsen, Bose, Celestion, Denon, Hitachi, JVC, KEF, Kenwood, Marantz, Mission, Mitsubishi, Mordaunt Short, NAD, Panasonic, Pioneer, Rotel, Sony, Tannoy, TDL, Technics, Toshiba, Yamaha. Full demonstration facilities, service department, free installation. Access, Visa, Amex, Diners. Interest free credit. Open Mon - Sat 9.30-5.30.

HUDDERSFIELD HI-FI CENTRE, 4 Cross Church St. Huddersfield. Tel (01484) 544668, Fax (01484) 423140 Also at 3-5 Kings Cross Street, Halifax, West Yorks. Tel: (01422) 366832 Fax (01422) 349954. B&W, Cyrus, Kenwood, Denon, Rotel, Arcam, Musical Fidelity, Quad, Audio Lab, Marantz, Mission, etc. Dem facilities - appointment reqd. Mon-Sat 9-5.30, Thurs 9-8. Closed Wed. Free installation, credit facilities. Access, Visa.

IMAGE HI-FI, 17 The Springs, Wakefield, WF1 1QE. Tel (01924) 200272. Fax (01924) 200404. The finest in Home Cinema, Multiroom installation and classic stereo systems from Arcam, B&W, Cyrus, Denon, Linn, Mission, Quad, Rega, Yamaha DSP. Open Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 5.30pm

BADA

IMAGE HI-FI, 8 St Annes Road, Headingley, Leeds, LS6 3NX. Tel (0113) 2789374, Fax (0113) 2754252. The finest in Home Cinema, Multiroom installation and classic stereo systems from Arcam, B&W, Cyrus, Denon, Linn, Mission, Quad, Rega, Yamaha DSP. Open Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 6.00pm

BADA

NORTHERN IRELAND

BELFAST

LYRIC HI-FI, 161/3 Stranmillis Road, Belfast. Tel (01232) 381296. Demonstration and installation of the finest Hi-Fi, Home Cinema and Multi-room systems, including Arcam, Cyrus, Denon, Linn, Loewe, Mission, Naim, Yamaha and many more. Our experience will help you to choose the right system for your needs. Open Mon-Sat 10-6, Late night Thurs, closed all day Wednesday.

SCOTLAND

AYRSHIRE

THE SOUND FOUNDATION, 22 Nelson St, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, KA1 1BA. Tel (01563) 574185, Fax (01563) 574186. Equipment by Sugden, Audio Note, DPA, Electrocompaniet, Pink Triangle, Pro Ac, Harbeth, Neat, Michell. Demonstration by appointment. Open Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 late night Thursday til 7pm. Home dems and delivery, installation service available. Contact Kevin for more information and directions.



EDINBURGH

MUSIC MILL, 72 Newhaven Rd., Edinburgh EH6 5QG. Tel (0131) 555 3963 or Fax (0131) 555 3964. Audio Research, Copland, Naim Audio, Krell, Roksan, Marantz, DPA, AVI, Martin Logan, Pro-Ac, Wilson Audio, Theta Digital, Alchemist. Listening Rooms, Free Parking, Full Workshop, Delivery, Installation. Open Mon-Sat 10-6 Tel for map or contact Al, Mark, Fraser or Mike.

GLASGOW

STEREO STEREO, 260 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5RL. Tel (0141) 248 4079. Email stereo@cix.compulink.co.uk We will help you choose a system to suit your needs precisely. Whether it's a complete distributed audio and video system or just a repair to your old speakers. WE'RE NOT JUST STEREO STEREO. Open 10-6.00pm closed Sunday, Tuesday. Interest free credit available.

STIRLING

STIRLING AUDIO, 19 Barnton Street, Stirling, FK8 1HF. Tel (01786) 479958. For central Scotland's best selection of quality Hi-Fi at all prices demonstrated and installed to suit your needs. B&W, Aura, Crimson, Ruark, Audiolab, Arcam, Marantz, Thule, Rotel, Impulse, Polk, Audio Innovations, Royd, Infinity, DNM Reson, NHT, REL, Revolver, Micromega, Beyer, Sennheiser, Harman Kardon, QLN, Target + Stands Unique and many more. Plus custom cable service + QED multiroom installation. Contact Barry or John for more information. Interest free credit available

WALES

CLWYD

ACOUSTICA, 17 Hoole Road, Chester, Cheshire CH2 3NH. Tel (01244) 344227. See main entry under Cheshire.

ACTION GATE AUDIO, 4 Ruabon Rd, Wrexham Tel (01978) 364500. Audio Visual specialists. Aiwa, Arcam, AMC, Bose, B&W, Beard, Canon, Celestion, Castle, Cyrus, Jamo, Marantz, Michell, Mordaunt-Short, Musical Fidelity, NAD, Nakamichi, Micromega, Quad, Radford, Rotel, Rogers, Rega, Ruark, Spendor, Tannoy, Wharfedale, UKD, Yamaha DSP member. Demonstration room, installation service. Easy parking and motorway access. Access, Visa etc.

SOUTH GLAMORGAN

AUDIO EXCELLENCE, 134 Crwys Road, Cardiff. Tel (01222) 228565. All that's best in Hi-Fi carefully selected and demonstrated by friendly knowledgeable staff, at prices to suit all budgets. Delivery and installation, home dems, part exchange, in-house workshops, full credit facilities with interest free on selected items. Tues-Sat 9.00-5.30. Closed Mon.

BADA

AUDIO EXCELLENCE, 9 High St, Swansea. Tel (01792) 474608. All that's best in Hi-Fi carefully selected and demonstrated by friendly knowledgeable staff, at prices to suit all budgets. Delivery and installation, home dems, part exchange, in-house workshops, full credit facilities with interest free on selected items. Tues-Sat 9.00-5.30. Closed Mon.

BADA

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

DUBLIN

ACOUSTIC DIMENSION, (Blackrock) Co Dublin. Personal advice on all aspects of Audio, Dolby Surround, and Multi-room Applications. We call to you. Agents for:- Avi, Polk Audio, Kenwood, Rotel, Cal Audio Labs, Densen, System Audio, Nordost Cables, and Multi-room and Home Automation components. Trade-in's accepted • Mail order • Credit cards • Fax: (00 353 1) 2899312 Mobile: 088-553020

DUBLINN HI-FI, 38 Aungier Street, Dublin 2. Tel: (00 353) 1 4785205 Fax: (00 353) 1 4785219. We all have two ears and one mouth - use them accordingly. We only stock the best products, based on performance and reliability - not reviews or sales patter! Call Mark or drop in for a listen. Three single speaker demo rooms. Free delivery and installation. Full service department. Open Mon-Fri 10-7, Sat 10-6.

If you're picking up bad vibes, pick up one of our brochures.

You can spend a fortune on your hi-fi, but without proper support it won't sound as good as it should. Sound waves bounce off the walls, your floor and components, causing distortion. It's a problem we've been working on since 1975, resulting in some of the finest speaker, hi-fi and audiovisual supports available today. For example, the Adagio table shown here boasts a fully assembled, welded tubular steel frame, braced at the corners for extra rigidity. The legs and top shelf are supported on isolation spikes to minimize sonic interference. It's just one of many Apollo designs free of bad vibrations. For full details return the coupon or ask your hi-fi dealer.



I want good vibes. Please send me a brochure.

Name _____

Address _____

Post code _____

APOLLO

HI-FI FURNITURE

Our components improve yours

Zenith Crown Ltd., Tipton Road, Dudley,
West Midlands, DY1 4SQ Tel: 0121 520 5070/1432

INDICATES MEMBERSHIP OF
THE BRITISH AUDIO DEALERS
ASSOCIATION

NEW ISSUE

THE MAGAZINE FOR MEN

MAXIM

FEBRUARY 1997

£2.50

TIGHT FIT!

**Get into
Arabella's
jeans, p18**

**'NO, NO,
AFTER YOU'**
Three-in-a-bed sex

HOW TO...
Cheat at cards
Stop smoking for good
Look cool in a mack
Buy the best VCR

HOLLYWOOD SPORTS
How the stars learn to play like pros



**'BUT I DIDN'T
DO IT, OFFICER'**
What every man
should know
about false arrests

IDITAWHAT?
The toughest race
on earth

PIN-UP SPECIAL!

**Page 3 girls and
their dads**

**Marilyn vs Pam
vs Brigitte**

PLUS
Dani Behr
Brad Pitt
The Stranglers
Winona Ryder
Sharon Stone
John Cleese
Al Pacino
Heroic pets
Big condoms

On sale 3 January

HI-FI CHOICE

The small print...

● QUERIES AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Accepted by letter only to the fax number, e-mail or postal addresses given below. We deeply regret that we are unable to speak with readers or answer queries on the telephone.

● BACK ISSUES

A number of selected back issues are available at £4.00 each (£6.95 overseas) including p&p. Call (01789) 490215 to order — all major credit cards accepted.

● SUBSCRIPTION PROBLEMS

In all instances contact our fulfilment company on (01454) 620070, or fax on (01454) 620080. Quote your subscriber number, printed at the top of your subscription address label.

● NEW PRODUCT INFORMATION

We welcome information on all new and upgraded products. In all instances manufacturers should contact the editorial department on the telephone numbers below. However, the Publisher respectfully points out that the magazine is obliged neither to review nor return unsolicited products. The Editor-in-Chief does not accept responsibility for unsolicited copy.

● PHOTOCOPIES

We cannot supply photocopies of articles that are out of print, but do try our FactsBack service (p. 128).

● COPYRIGHTS & REPRINTS

Material in *Hi-Fi Choice* is copyright and may not be reproduced in any form without written permission from the Publisher. Address requests for re-use of copyright material to Paul Smyth, Reprint Sales Executive, Dennis Publishing Ltd., 19 Bolsover Street, London W1P 7HJ. ☎ 0171-917 3946.

● DISCLAIMER

Every care has been taken in the preparation of this journal, but the publishers cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of the information contained herein, or for any consequence arising. All judgements have been made in the context of equipment available to *Hi-Fi Choice* at the time of review. 'Value for money' comments are based on UK prices at press time (which are subject to fluctuation) and only apply to the UK market.

Editorial Editor-in-Chief ATW "Stan" Vincent ☎ 0171-917 7747 • Deputy Editor Jason Kennedy ☎ 0171-917 7746 • Reviews Editor Alan Sircom ☎ 0171-917 7751 • Art Editor Del Gentleman ☎ 0171-917 7748 • Production Editor Christina Bunce ☎ 0171-917 7745 • Consultant Editor Paul Messenger • Technical Editor Paul Miller • Editorial Fax 0171-917 5512 • e-mail 100433.1130@compuserve.com ☐ Contributors Richard Black Clive Caines • Jimmy Hughes • Russell Moorcroft • Brett Ryder • David Vivian ☐ Photography Chris Foster • Chris Richardson ☐ Advertising Group Ad Manager Rob Debenham ☎ 0171-917 3834 • Deputy Ad Manager Sean Gibson ☎ 0171-917 3932 • Sales Executive Gina Cady ☎ 0171-917 3935 • Advertising Fax 0171-917 5555 ☐ Production Manager Simon Maggs ☎ 0171-917 7676 • Advertisement Controller Jane Shepherd ☎ 0171-917 3885 • Production Fax 0171-580 6430 ☐ Circulation Director Sean Farmer ☎ 0171-917 7654 • Manager James Burnay ☎ 0171-917 7810 • Marketing Director Alison Townsend ☎ 0171-917 7675 • Market Research Manager Lesley Downey ☎ 0171-917 7702 • Co-Operative Manager Cheryl Hamer ☎ 0171-917 7802 • List Rental Sales Exec Laura Stephens ☎ 0171-917 3943 • Reprint Sales Exec Paul Smyth ☎ 0171-917 3946 • PR & Sales Marketing Manager Amanda Barker-Davies ☎ 0171-917 7742 • Events Marketing Manager Rashmi Sehgal ☎ 0171-917 7784 • Mail Order Exec Sarah Burton ☎ 0171-917 7807 • Designer Dave Hilton ☎ 0171-917 7800 • Circulation & Marketing Fax 0171-636 5668 ☐ Men In Suits Publisher Simon Davies ☎ 0171-917 7718 • Advertising Director Ian Westwood ☎ 0171-917 7618 • Publishing Director Eric Fuller ☎ 0171-917 7686 • Managing Director Alistair Ramsay ☎ 0171-917 7661 • Chairman Felix Dennis • Film Output & Image Manipulation Elements, London W1 ☐ Web Offset Printing St Ives (Plymouth) Ltd. ☐ Distribution USM Distribution Ltd, 86 Newman Street, London W1P 3LD ☎ 0171-396 8000 Fax 0171-396 8002 ☐ Published by Dennis Publishing Ltd, 19 Bolsover Street, London W1P 7HJ ☐ Company registered in England, number 1138891 ☐ Entire contents of this issue © 1997 Felden Productions ☐ ISSN 09551115



NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE

A MEDLEY OF MELLIFLUOUS MORSELS IN OUR MARCH MAGAZINE



Avons calling — new from Castle and under scrutiny next month!

Loudspeakers

Paul Messenger and his panel of blind listening experts concentrate their cochleae on loudspeakers. All the latest models, priced from £200 to £800 and including the latest speakers from Castle, Naim Audio, Tannoy and Wharfedale, will be marched around the exercise yard several times prior to their ordeal.

NAD 614 gets it taped next month.

Cassette decks

Still not got your MiniDisc recorder? If your religion forbids digits, and your recordings are still on tape, we test five cassette decks under £300 to keep the compilations coming.



Meridian 518

Jitter busters



Help rid the world of the dreaded digital demon jitter, with the latest crop of accessories from CD experts like Trichord, Meridian, Monarchy and Theta. Paul Miller measures performance against expectations.

Statements

Those mad Danish amps with their funky knobs — the Densen DM20/DM30 pre-processor amps, to be plain — were regrettably postponed from this issue, but will *definitely* appear in the March issue of *Choice*. Also, Alan Sircom is the first reviewer in this country to get to grips with the latest digital combo from US high-end valve kings Conrad-Johnson — its first-ever CD transport and latest valve D/A converter.

PLUS: OUR FAMOUS BUYERS GUIDE, NEWS, ANSWERS TO YOUR HI-FI QUERIES, INFLUENTIAL OPINIONS AND MUCH MORE.

Ensure you never miss another issue by subscribing to **Hi-Fi Choice!** With prices starting from £14.97, and superb free gifts on offer, it's the ideal way to keep up to date with hi-fi. See page 26 for full details.

THE MARCH 1997 EDITION OF HI-FI CHOICE WILL BE ON SALE FRIDAY FEBRUARY 7, 1997 — DON'T MISS IT.

Ultra

David Vivian debates the desert that has become hi-fi shopping – is an oasis being created in the Kentish town of Maidstone?

Vivian Scene

"Look up," he said. "You can only judge the true prosperity of a town above street level, above the shop facades". This canny hi-fi dealer reckoned that by scrutinising first-floor paintwork, curtains, roof-tiles and the general décor of the shops in an area, he could tell you if it was possible, as it was in his case, to run a successful hi-fi retail business. Eastbourne passed the roof-tile test. Brighton, too. The shops in question (archetypal dens of purist pretension, staffed by people with beards wearing Naim t-shirts) have been part of the scenery for many years.

According to this seemingly reliable social theory, it also explained why where I live, Maidstone in Kent, was the hi-fi shopping equivalent of the Gobi Desert. County town, plenty of big-name stores, promising catchment area and great beer, but flaky paint, frayed curtains and crumbling tiles. Only poor people shopped in Maidstone, the dealer contended, and they didn't buy hi-fi. We'll returned to this in a moment. Meantime, bloody cheek...

He exposed a paradox, though. Maidstone is surrounded by probably the highest concentration of wealth in the south-east. But back then, some 10 years ago, not much of it came to town. The serious plastic preferred to drive to posher Kentish addresses — Canterbury, Tunbridge Wells or Sevenoaks. Hence the Moon-like aridity of Maidstone's terrain for audiophiles and the lean pickings for purveyors of serious stereos.

I have to report that Maidstone hasn't changed much. It's a bit smarter, there are a few more pubs in the high street and the river festival fireworks lasted an extra 15 seconds this year. But there's little to suggest that Maidstone has become the tourist magnet prophesied just before the Channel Tunnel opened. Foreigners want to see Canterbury Cathedral, and who can blame them? The excuse is the ongoing recession, and the promise that there are plans for multiplex cinemas, hypermarkets and, apparently, lots of

night clubs. But none of this really matters.

Maidstone's main claim to fame remains its fascination for market research companies. Teams of clip-board ladies pepper the town centre waiting to pounce on anyone who can't be bothered to affect a menacing scowl. Why Maidstone? Apparently it's meant to be a true barometer of what ordinary people eat, drink, think and buy.

It's easy to conclude from this that the men

boss Paul Lee Kemp why he chose Maidstone for his latest store. He said it's because the lease on his shop in the nearby Medway town of Chatham expires in February and the site in Maidstone showed promise. So it does, sandwiched as it is by Blockbuster Video and McDonald's. Not exactly a flagship location, but not to be sniffed at, either. Kemp isn't known as a reckless gambler.

BADA's Mike Lewin admitted to being a little surprised by Unilet's choice but fancied the shop's chances and felt the proximity of the two BADA stores was a healthy sign. At least it fits in with his perception of how things are going. He sees the split between "real" hi-fi (as espoused by BADA) and everything else under the general "audio" banner growing wider. This trend is supported by BADA membership which has grown from 105 in 1994/95 to 131 now. Over the same period the number of hi-fi companies BADA deals with has contracted from 78 to 63 as bigger names join forces and smaller ones sink or swim.

The struggle is typified by the almost evangelical zeal of Richer Sounds. Once king of the pile-'em-high school of retailing, Julian Richer has declared war on midi systems and probably believes his ability to sell quality separates so cheaply (£299 for a system that will blow any midi out of the water is his claim) is "real" hi-fi's last chance saloon. He may be right. Time will tell.

So, people of Maidstone, this is it. There will probably never be a better opportunity to improve your lives. The truth is, hi-fi isn't the exclusive preserve of the well-heeled, it's the perfect means for ordinary people to buy into something special while the less-discerning throw cash at goods that are palpably inferior. All we have to invest is a little time and patience. And it all starts when you walk through the door of a good hi-fi dealer.

If Sevenoaks and Unilet can survive in Maidstone, real hi-fi will have taken root in the desert. Who knows what might happen then? We wish them well.



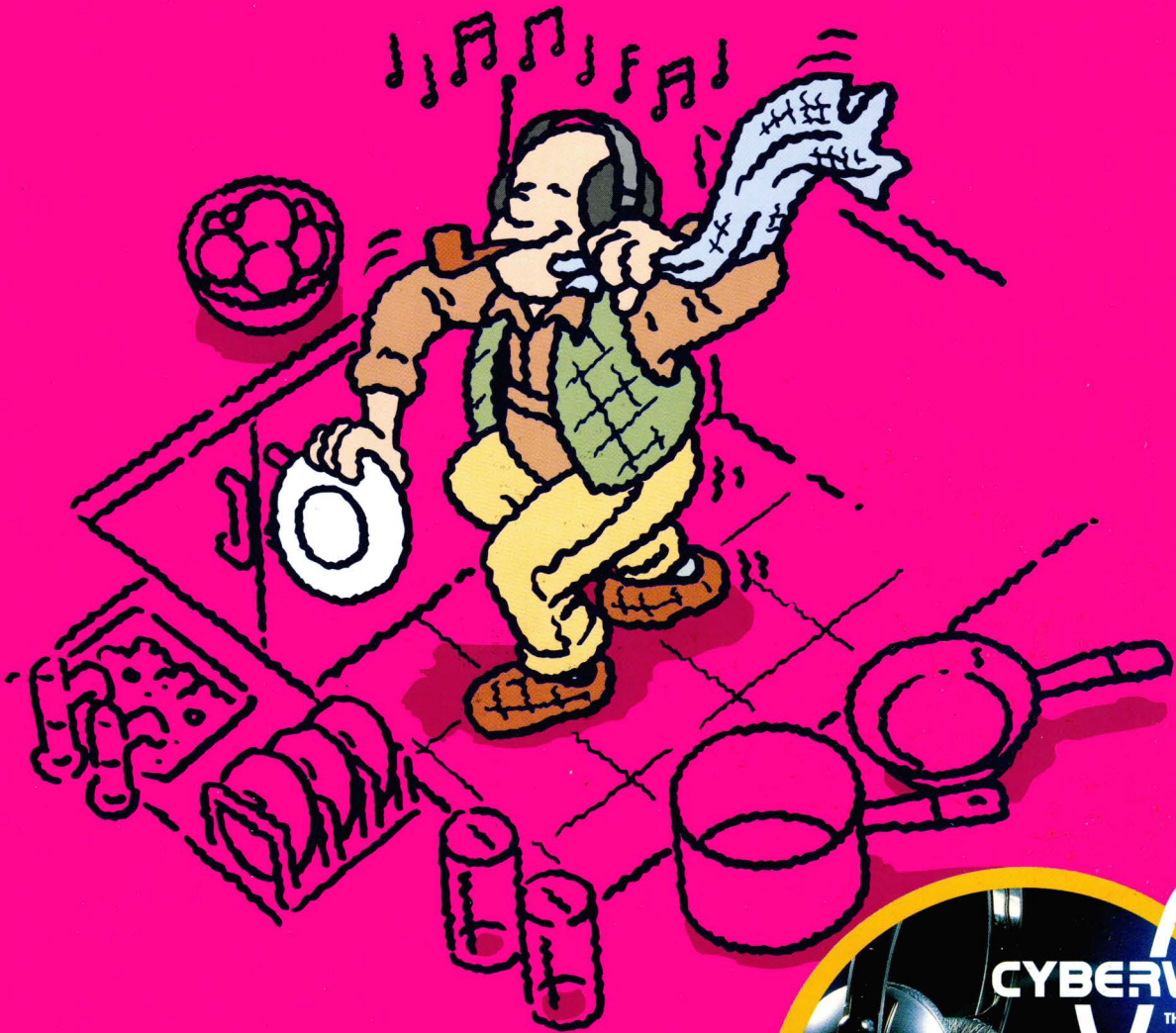
"Free sheep's eyes with all amps this week, sir!"

and women in the street, as represented by the fair folk of Maidstone, aren't interested in hi-fi. Seems to square with the national attitude. Sales of quality separates down, sales of any old micro, mini or midi rubbish purporting to be hi-fi up. There are a lot of depressed and worried people in the "real" hi-fi industry. Even the ones doing well look to the future with a sense of foreboding.

Well, here's some news to cheer us all up. As of November 1996, Maidstone has three hi-fi shops. Two of them — Unilet Sound & Vision and Sevenoaks Hi-Fi — are British Audio Dealers Association (BADA) outlets operating within a quarter of a mile of each other. Both have a thoroughly modern and accessible approach to selling the Good Stuff and have impressive demo facilities, AV suites, home visit and installation options and a broad range of quality brands.

I asked Sevenoaks Hi-Fi's founder and

Norman had noticed an improvement in his quality of life



The UK's first FM stereo cordless headphones

With his Cyberwave FMH3000 from Vivanco, Norman can now enjoy the sound of his favourite music, TV programmes and educational tapes, anywhere in his house or garden.*

To share in Norman's new freedom and improved quality of life, fill in this coupon or call the number below to find out more.

*range: up to 30 metres



CYBERWAVE
THE WIRELESS WORLD



WIN one of 10 high quality Cyberwave jackets! Simply phone, fax or post your details to be entered into our FREE draw!

Name

Address



Phone **01442 230765** (24 hr answerphone) quote ref: **HICH297**



or fax this form to **01442 235421**



or post to **Vivanco UK, Unit C, Boundary Way,
Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP2 7SS**

would like the name of my nearest Cyberwave stockist please tick

would like more information on the new Cyberwave FMH3000 please tick

B&W's patented method of using Kevlar's unique woven fibres for loudspeaker cones has been a major factor in reducing unwanted standing waves.



DM 601



"The 601s sound like the voice coils of God."



P4

WHAT HI-FI?



"Fast, weighty, superbly balanced sound: gorgeous range of real wood finishes. These floorstanders are among the best in their price band."

For more information
please contact
B&W Loudspeakers (UK) Ltd
on: +44 (0)1903 750750
<http://www.bwspeakers.com>



L I S T E N A N D Y O U ' L L S E E

