

# THE CHOICE OF THE WORLD

**WIN!**  
£2,000 WORTH OF  
MARANTZ CD PLAYERS



## BIG AMPS, BEST VALUE!

**PLUS TOP HI-FI RATED!**



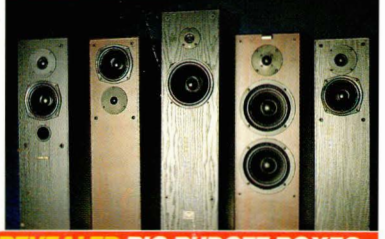
**SCOOP ACOUSTIC PRECISION'S EIKOS CD - INSTANT CLASSIC?**



**WIN! A FANTASTIC QUAD HI-FI SYSTEM WORTH OVER £3,500!**



**AMAZING HIGH DEFINITION CD SOUND FOR LESS THAN £300!**



**REVEALED BIG BUDGET BOXES THAT LOOK AND SOUND GREAT**



**We choose the ultimate two-box amplifiers: power you can afford from £700 to £2,100!**

**Buyer's Guide**

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

9 770955 111014 04 >  
APRIL 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](mailto:speakers@jamo.dk)

# HI-FI CHOICE

## ● QUERIES AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Accepted by letter only to the fax number, e-mail or postal addresses given below. We deeply regret 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, (01454) 620080 (fax), or e-mail 'cihotline@aol.com'. Quote your Subscriber Number, which is 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. However, 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. 120).

## ● 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, Co-Operative Marketing 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 Clive Caines • Alvin Gold • Jimmy Hughes • 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 • Manager Amanda Decker ☎ 0171-917 7742 • Co-Operative Marketing Executive Paul Smyth ☎ 0171-917 3946 • Circulation & Marketing Fax 0171-917 7677 ☐ 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



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 honours the finest hi-fi and home cinema products throughout Europe.



# Editor's Notebook



PHOTO BY SEAN RALPH

Stan Vincent announces good news, reminds the buyer to beware, remedies omitted addresses and generally saves the world!

**W**elcome. Hope you've been safely tucked up indoors with your hi-fi during the wild-weathered months of early 1997. We've stayed in too, listening to great music while assembling the latest issue — hope you like it!

## Choice readers vote with their feet

Our officially-audited circulation figure (ABC) has increased to 24,449 copies per month, in the six months from July 1 to December 31, 1996. This represents an increase of almost 400 copies per month over the same period in 1995 — our best result since 1994. And while our sales are up by two per cent from July-December 1995 to July-December 1996, those of our rival *What Hi-Fi?* increased by less than 0.2 per cent over the same period. Thanks to all readers, old and new, for their support!

## Ambiguous adverts

For a number of months a consortium of independent hi-fi dealers has been promoting an editorial-style advert in the UK hi-fi press. It's in this month's issue on pages 84 and 85, where you'll see that they hired our Consultant Editor, Paul Messenger, to write an article espousing the virtues of the independent dealership. Nothing shocking there — *Hi-Fi Choice* has always recognised independent dealers' valuable rôle in hi-fi retail: adding value to their sales through high-quality demonstrations and other services, rather than just seeking to sell at knock-down prices. With respect to this advert, however, I would just like to echo a note of caution I sounded in my editorial for issue 160. The 'Top 20' dealers cited on page 85 have in no way been selected by *Hi-Fi Choice's* editorial team. The fact that they appear in the advert carries no implicit, or explicit, editorial endorsement by ourselves. They are simply paying for the privilege of appearing in the advert. Though I would hope our readers know this already...

## Cowboys with speakers

We've had a number of calls this month from readers who've been offered speakers 'off the back of a lorry'. The usual pitch is that these speakers are 'studio monitors'

which are surplus to requirements; that's why they're being offered at £200 or £300 rather than the usual £1,500. Needless to say, these enclosures are the worst kind of tat, knocked up in someone's garage for pennies, and almost certain to sound dreadful at best; at worst they could seriously damage your amplifier. Remember that unless you're buying from an authorised retailer, you have absolutely no guarantee that goods are what they're claimed to be. If you're offered speakers like these, just say no. Better still, get in touch with your local trading standards officer.

## Freepost? Schmeepost!

In last month's issue we published our annual Reader Survey form, in which we solicit your opinions about the magazine. However, slight amnesia in Dennis Publishing's marketing department caused omission of the all-important Freepost address to which these forms must be sent.

If you've got a form but not completed it yet, the correct address is: *Hi-Fi Choice* Reader Survey, FREEPOST WD7, Bristol BS12 0BR. We've decided to put back the closing date for returned forms, so you now have until Friday April 11, 1997 to enter the prize draw for the two Talk Electronics amplifiers. If you've lost or discarded your form, but still want to participate, call our Market Research Manager, Lesley Downey, on ☎ (0171) 917 7702. She'll be glad to post a form to you.

Sorry for the mix-up, but may I say thanks to all readers who took the initiative to call us or send in the form anyway. I'll relay the results to you as soon as we've finished compiling them.

## Errata

In last month's Ultra Vivian Scene column, we printed the wrong number for Tangent Acoustics. As you'll also find in our review of Tangent's Monitor Nine speaker, on page 43 of this issue, the correct telephone number is ☎ (0500) 828620.

*That's all for this issue. Keep the hi-fi faith and spread the word of audio truth until we meet again next month!*

*Stan Vincent*



50

We test 14 of the best pre/power amplifier combinations around.

38

Floorstanding speakers — not to be tripped over!

# CONTENTS

APRIL 1997 ISSUE 165

## REGULARS

### 6 Update

Famine, war, crime, alien-abduction and politics have all been sidelined in favour of news about the latest, hottest hi-fi gear.

### 10 Instant Systems

Alan Sircom tests the strengths and weaknesses of two superior British hi-fi systems.

### 21 Write On!

Your chance to become the Hunter S. Thompson of hi-fi. Send us your deepest darkest thoughts, but go easy on the ether.

### 22 Statements I

Jason Kennedy delves deep into his box of superlatives trying to describe what could be the greatest CD player on the planet.

### 25 Statements II

Sonus Faber is renowned for superbly-finished speakers, but as Jason Kennedy finds out, they have sonic elegance to match.

### 26 Help!

Sir Alvin Gold is this month's knight in shining advisory rôle. No problem too great or small for our valiant hi-fi trouble-shooter!

### 32 Inspirations

Alan Sircom battled a ferocious hound to bring us a tale of aspirational audio revelry involving hi-fi, AV and multi-room equipment.



25

We review Sonus Faber's Concerto: made in Italy to be the Stradivarius of speakers!

**WIN!WIN!WIN!****Four Marantz KI  
Sig CD players!****OPINION****3 From the Editor's Notebook**

Stan Vincent discovers a link between hi-fi and the supernatural as he delves, x-ray specs in hand, into the ultraworld. Probably.

**15 Ear Waxings**

Sometime valve enthusiast Jason Kennedy has discovered a black box that will send your tubes on a one-way trip to audio nirvana.

**17 The Jimmy Hughes Experience**

Jimmy Hughes rediscovers the delight of accessories whose effect cannot be explained... with some help from Shun Mook.

**19 Personal Messages**

Paul Messenger takes a closer look at the interface 'twixt floorstanding speaker and floor, and comes up with an interesting idea.

**130 Ultra Vivian Scene**

David Vivian has been having a whale of a time with a shiny little barrel of digital conversion called the Musical Fidelity X-DAC.

**REVIEWS****38 Floor-Standing Speakers**

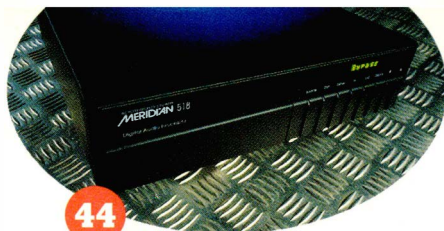
Fresh from his encounter with the Tangent range last month, David Vivian takes on a van full of sub-£200 floor-standers to see how they shape up to the bookshelf competition.

**44 Jitter Busters**

In an extended *Oasis Of Sanity* Paul Miller takes an in-depth look at the dreaded digital disease known as jitter. What's more, he rates the effectiveness of three jitter busters at eliminating this scourge of the CD player.

**50 Pre/Power amps**

Some amps are better and some amps are bigger: when the two go hand in hand chances are the result is a pre-amp/power-amp combination with its sights set on the top of the amplificatory range. Here Alvin Gold and his listening panel assess 14 partners in crime, while Paul Miller pushes them to the limit in his laboratory.



44

**Jitterbusters:** can they banish nasties between CD players and DACs?

**READER SERVICES****28 Subscriptions**

Improve your Scrabble. Become more attractive. Learn fluent Hungarian in six hours. All this and more is possible if you subscribe to *Hi-Fi Choice*. Allegedly.

**93 Reader Classified**

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

**121 Factsback**

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

**129 Next Month & Back Issues**

Find out what's going on in May's action-packed *Hi-Fi Choice*, and how to get hold of any issues you may have missed.

**THE BUYER'S GUIDE****94 How To Buy!**

Daunted by the prospect of buying a system? Fear not: expert advice is on hand to help you avoid the pitfalls.

**95 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.

86

**WIN!WIN!WIN!**

**£3,600 worth  
of Quad 77  
Series hi-fi gear  
must be won  
this month!**

**PRODUCTS FEATURED  
IN THIS ISSUE**

Acoustic Precision Eikos	22
AMC CVT2100	61
AMC CVT1030A	61
Arcam Alpha 9	53
Arcam Alpha 9P	53
Aura CA200	73
Aura PA100	73
Border Patrol PSU	15
Cerwin-Vega CT-165	39
Gale 4i	40
Jamo Cornet 75	40
LFD Mistral Linestage	55
LFD Mistral Power	55
Meridian 518	44
Michell Alecto	75
Michell Argo	75
Monarchy DPi	44
Moth 30 Active	57
Moth 60 Stereo	57
Musical Fidelity F2	63
Musical Fidelity FX2	63
Musical Fidelity X-DAC	130
Myryad MA120	65
Myryad MI120	65
NAD 114	59
NAD 214	59
Naim CD3	12
Naim Intro	12
Naim NAC92R	67
Naim Nait 3R	12
Naim NAP90	67
Quad 77 Amplifier	10
Quad 77 CD	10
Quad 77 Power	76
Quad 77 Preamp	76
Quad 7710L	10
Rega Exon	77
Rega Hal	77
Revolver Purdey	41
Shun Mook Iso-Qubes	17
Shun Mook Record Weight	17
Sonus Faber Concerto	25
Talk Electronics Hurricane 2L	69
Talk Electronics Tornado 2	69
Tangent Monitor 9	43
Thorens TTA2000	71
Thorens TTP2000F	71
Trichord Pulsemaster	44

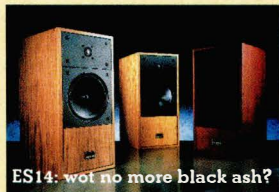
# Update

JUST IN THIS MONTH... ARCAM'S RETRO BI-AMP KIT... TANGENT'S MONSTER BARGAINS... CHORD'S CRACKING CABLES

## In brief

AVi used February's Bristol Hi-Fi Show to unveil a pre-production prototype of the Positron, a new two-way, 12-litre, floor-standing loudspeaker that has been designed to equal the quality of AVi's hi-fi separates. Subject to approval from burghers of the West Country, no doubt, it's due on sale in May at £999. Also on display at Bristol was a 'revolutionary' new RDS receiver priced at £699. ☎ (01453) 752777

JVC has announced 'fully-fledged' DVD operations in Japan, including the marketing of players, and software, authoring tools and disc manufacturing. Its first DVD player, the XV-1000, is scheduled for launch on April 21 at a price of ¥93,000 (approx. £465). Horizontal picture resolution is claimed to exceed 500 lines. Operation should be simplified by an on-screen Graphic User Interface (GUI). JVC is claiming it will offer more than 20 DVD movie titles by year-end, and will commence software manufacture at its Kanagawa plant, also in April. ☎ (0181) 450 3282



ES14: wot no more black ash?

The Epos ES14 speaker is now available in three real-wood-veneered finishes: light cherry, dark cherry and walnut, all at the original price of £675. The black ash finish has been discontinued. ☎ (01795) 407722.

Hi-fi fans in the Capital might care to join the new London Audio Club, whose inaugural meeting has been pencilled in for mid-

## Arcam says bi-bi!

Citing new statistics that indicate over half of all hi-fi speakers in the UK are bi-wirable, Arcam has announced the launch of a £50 kit, which allows existing Arcam amp owners to bi-amp their systems.

The upgrade, which includes fitting costs, applies to Alpha Five, Five Plus, Six and Six Plus amps. Comprising an extra circuit board and wiring harness, the kit converts an amp's second pair of tape outputs into properly-buffered pre-amp outputs — as found on the latest Alpha 7, 8 and 9 amps.

Coupled with a matching power amp such as Arcam's 8P (£249.90), 9P (£399.90) or Delta 290P/Xeta 290P (£399.90), this allows the existing integrated amp to drive a bi-wirable speaker's high-frequency unit, while the new power amp drives the bass.

According to Arcam, sonic benefits include clearer, cleaner sound thanks to reduced intermodulation between high and low frequencies in one amplifier.



Arcam's new kit brings bi-amp bounty to the masses!

Arcam ☎ (01223) 203203

*Editor's note: To see bi-amping in action, turn to our review of Arcam's Alpha 9/9P combo on p.53. Also see Help!, p.26, for advice on bi-amping your system.*

## Lautsprechung durch technik

It's Audi S8 time for Boston Acoustics — its new £699 Micro90 speaker package includes two die-cast aluminium satellite speakers and a powered subwoofer.

The Micro90 sats, available in black or white, incorporate Boston's 25mm Lynnfield VR anodised aluminium tweeter and an 89mm copolymer bass unit. Sensitivity is quoted at 89dB, and there's an optional swivel-mount pedestal stand.

The Micro90 sub, again offered in black or white options, has 75 Watts on tap to drive its 200mm drive-unit, and its 3dB crossover point may be varied from 50 to 150Hz to suit rooms and tonal preferences.

Portfolio Marketing ☎ (01489) 795519



World's first corrosion-free speakers?

## LFD gets connected

New from LFD Audio of Clacton: interconnects and digital links! Mistral Interconnect is a twin-axial cable that, claims LFD, was originally designed for military and computer applications. Each silver-plated oxygen-free copper (OFC) conductor is shrouded in polythene, and thanks to an outer copper braid this wire suits conventional single-ended and balanced operation. Price is £49.95 per 0.7 metres.

Spirolink III's unique feature is a dual-dielectric insulator based on polythene and PTFE. It retails at £79.95 per 0.7 metres.

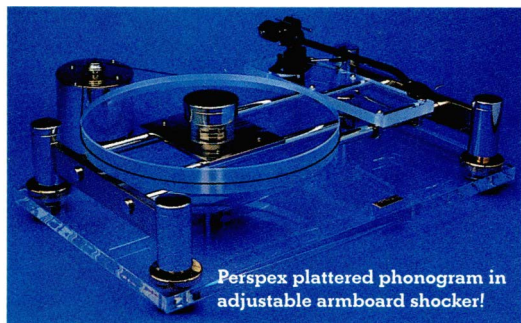
LFD proprietor Richard Bews claims Reference Silver "is the most open, transparent and natural-sounding cable we have been able to manufacture." It deploys 99.9999 per cent purity large-crystal silver, in a configuration where one large-diameter conductor is surrounded by several of smaller diameter. At £359.95 per 0.7 metres this is one for serious wire-heads.

For digital signals there's the £44.95/0.7m Digilink Copper II, and the £89.95/0.7m Digilink Silver II, which replaces LFD's existing reference digital link. LFD Audio ☎ (01255) 422533



LFD's whizzy wire, imbued with Essex goodness.

# One size fits all



Perspex plattered phonomag in adjustable armboard shocker!

Turntable fans! Ever worried what would happen if you purchased a tone-arm that was too long for your deck? Sound By Design has the perfect solution in the form of its Gold/Chrome Quasar turntable. This £2,383 platter-spinner deploys a novel sliding arm board to permit installation of even the most well-endowed cartridge support.

Beneath its 30mm-thick acrylic platter there's a gold-and-silver-plated, solid-brass subchassis; beneath this is an acrylic base-board resting on four brass cones. Housed in a standalone unit is a synchronous motor and PSU.

Sound By Design also offers the Quasar Limited Edition, which can accommodate two tonearms for those who have trouble deciding which needle to employ... Sound By Design ☎ (0181) 286 4343

## Classics for pleasure

West Country dealership Radfords is sponsoring a unique Festival of Hi-Fi and Music under the aegis of the famous Bath International Music Festival to be held in May.

Intended to bring serious hi-fi to classical music buffs in an atmosphere far removed from the traditional hi-fi show, Radfords' initiative comprises 12 hotel suites in which hardware manufacturers will demonstrate the latest releases from a classical record company.



The quiet luxury of music and hi-fi.

Confirmed brands included Linn, Naim, Bang & Olufsen, Pioneer, Quad, Ruark, Audio Note and Roksan.

This event will take place on the weekend of 17th/18th May at the Hilton National Hotel, Bath. Admission is free and doors will be open 10.00am to 5.00pm both days. Radfords ☎ (0117) 924 0878

## Tangent slashes prices

Cut-price hi-fi purveyor Tangent Acoustics, attracting notice for its ultra-affordable new Monitor series speakers (as reviewed this issue on p.43), has announced three special system deals on AMC and Tangent equipment.

System One comprises an AMC 3020 amp, AMC CD9 CD player and Tangent Monitor Three Rosewood speakers, and will retail at £249.95 (£40 off separate prices).

System Two (reviewed next month) sports an AMC 3025A remote-controlled amp, AMC CD8 CD player and the same Tangent speakers as System 1. Its £299.95 price-tag represents a package saving of £50.

Finally System Three offers the AMC 3050A amp (again remote controlled), the same CD player as System Two and the Tangent Monitor Five Rosewood speakers. This package will retail at £349.96, saving you £60. Call ☎ (0500) 828620 for stockist details.

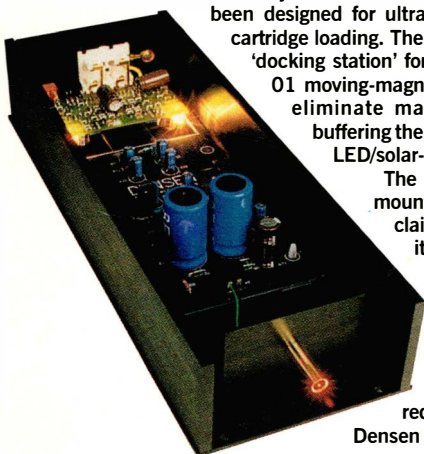
## Densen takes a Drive

Densen has announced "the last great moving-coil head-amp" — to be precise the DP-Drive/DP-02 priced at £350.

Three years in the making, this device has been designed for ultra-low noise and easy cartridge loading. The DP-Drive serves as a 'docking station' for the DP-02 and DP-01 moving-magnet stage. It claims to eliminate mains-borne noise by buffering the AC input with a novel LED/solar-panel interface.

The DP-02 uses surface-mount components and, is claimed to be the first of its kind to be configured as a current rather than voltage amplifier. It is compatible with all kinds of cartridge regardless of their loading requirements.

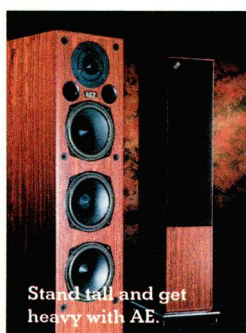
Densen ☎ 01582 561227



## TEAC's system supercharge

TEAC has unveiled a CD player for its Reference 500 mini system (reviewed HFC 160), which is equipped with the company's proprietary Vibration-free Rigid Disc-clamping System (VRDS). Hitherto VRDS has been reserved for TEAC's more costly separates CD players.

The £699.95 VRDS 9 is available in anodised 'gold' or black to match existing '500 components; includes a 20-bit, eight-times-oversampling filter; and offers two digital outputs to connect with an external DAC or MiniDisc player. TEAC ☎ (01923) 819630



Stand tall and get heavy with AE.

## AE's tower of power

Acoustic Energy's AE109 floor-stander (Recommended HFC 164) will in April be joined by the new AE120 loudspeaker enclosure, a 'true three-way' design that is tri-wirable and magnetically shielded.

Sporting two five-inch bass units, a five-inch midrange and a one-inch soft-dome tweeter, the new floor-standing AE120 speaker claims to provide sensitivity figures of 90dB from its 920mm-tall, 19mm-thick MDF enclosure.

The midrange unit is loaded by two front-facing ports, while the bass drivers address a 'high-power' port to the rear.

Like the AE109 before it, the enclosure of the AE120 is no shrinking violet. It weighs in at a hefty 23 kilos thanks to factory-fitted mass loading; while to further aid stability there are base-plinths with eight-mm, high-tensile metal spikes.

Acoustic Energy ☎ (01285) 654432

## In brief

March. To find out more about proposed activities, call Norman Wright on (0181) 692 8328.

Soundstyle's new X110 table has been designed to fit mid-width hi-fi separates. Offering four tinted, toughened-glass shelves with a usable width of 340mm, and adjustable-height base cones, the X110 is available in Classic colours (black, red, grey) at £210, or Select colours (blue, green, red, white and black) with a gold-finish top and base, at £230. ☎ (01284) 767755



Begin your journey in hi-fi...

Grado has announced its most affordable headphone yet, the £45 SR40. In the words of progenitor John Grado it is aimed at high-enders "who started their journey in hi-fi by finding one great piece of low-end equipment that really opened their eyes and ears." ☎ (01284) 767755

British Standards Institution (BSI) has announced new publications BS EN 60094, *Magnetic tape sound recording and reproducing systems*; and BS EN 60094-3: 1997, *Methods of measuring the characteristics of recording and reproducing equipment for sound on magnetic tape*. £30.75 members; £61.50 non-members. ☎ (0181) 996 7000

Rane's new SSE 22 is a stereo graphic/parametric equaliser designed to equalise the response of in-wall surround-sound speakers, and remote stereo speakers in multi-room systems. Both 11-band third-octave and two-band parametric equalisers can apply up to 6dB of correction per channel. ☎ Shuttlesound (0181) 640 9600

High-end drive-unit manufacturer Morel has closed its Ipswich factory to concentrate all man- ▶▶

**UNRIVALLED REALISM**—Audio Research delivers a true reference sound quality in the **Reference 1** preamp and **Reference 600** monoblocs. Sixteen power output valves run with 50% partial cathode coupling and a high efficiency, tight coupled output transformer in each mono chassis deliver an effortless 600 watt for a naturalness and ease of dynamics only associate with live performance. And with its wide bias adjustment the Reference 600 can use of any of the popular output valves of the 6550, KT88/90/99/100 families.

The all-valve Reference 1 stereo line preamp has full micro-processor remote control of volume, balance, record and input selection with both balance and single ended inputs (eight plus full tape loop) and

# UNRIVALLED

# REALISM

outputs (two main, one tape). There are no mechanical switches to degrade the signal path. The array of awards and world-wide acclaim says it all.

**REAL POWER**—Audio Research offers a new 130 watt per channel stereo power amplifier for the solid-state enthusiast—the **D130**. This exceptionally hard driving power amplifier has been designed for the ultimate in speed and slam. Audio Research has also introduced a remote control solid-state preamp to replace the **LS3/3B** that enjoyed such a long and distinguished life. The replacement, designated **LS9**, is an all new, direct-coupled Class A design using the constant-current technology of the flagship Reference 1. A low profile design, the **LS9** features two balanced and three single-ended inputs plus a full tape monitor 1 op.

**REAL PERFORMANCE**—the **LS15** steps into the shoes of the much loved **LS2** series preamps. Running both singled ended and balanced inputs with microprocessor controlled relays for gain control and switching the **LS15** caters for those making an important transition into the real high-end yet who want to retain the convenience of full remote control of all front panel functions. In partnership with the **VT100** power amplifier the **LS15** will rock you back on your heels with its fine resolution and musical dynamics. The 100 watt per channel **VT100** is a hard-driving amplifier with true bass slam matched by a liquid mid and top. Its speed and control have to be heard. At £8394 this partnership can put the excitement back into your music making.

**REAL PRAISE**—the all-valve **LS22** brings down the cost of true Audio Research high-end performance.

This line stage preamplifier was reviewed in March 1996 (Hi-Fi News & Record Review, Martin Colloms) as “a truly first-rate line controller. The **LS22**

performed as flawlessly on the lab bench as it did in the listening room. (the **LS22**) proved uncompromising in its closest approach to the absolute—a neutral, transparent, musically honest gain control.” The review concludes: “a work of reference, universal in application and a tonic for any system. In my opinion it’s the best mixed mode pre-amplifier I’ve heard to date and in view of what it achieves, the price is nicely competitive”.

**REAL SOUND FOR HOME CINEMA**—In answer to the demands of Home cinema enthusiasts for yet higher sound quality, Audio Research offers the **Spatial Definition Processor**. The **SDP1** builds a 5-channel matrix from stereo information and is designed specifically to enhance existing audiophile

quality two-channel systems—it does not use Dolby™ noise reduction or steering logic, setting new standards in low noise and low distortion. Its

hallmark is in increased intelligibility and coherence of the sound ‘envelope’. A partnering 4-channel amplifier, the **SDA1**, is available.

**REAL INTEGRATION**—the long-awaited **CA50** all-valve, remote control integrated amplifier is here! Taking its styling cues come from the awesome Reference 1, the **CA50** is matched by the new **CD2** Compact Disc player. Conservatively rated at 50 watt per channel the **CA50** was designed to be stunningly musical, handsome in appearance and completely convenient. Join the queues of those



waiting to audition this important product—an Audio Research first.

**REAL QUALITY**—Audio Research is now established as a producer of outstanding source components. An entirely new full 20-bit **CD player**, the **CD2**, replaces the single box **CD1** and **CDT1** transport. As a complete player Audio Research is convinced the **CD2** can compete with anything in the market with its astounding resolution of detail and dynamics. For those seeking classic Audio Research sound quality ideals in an outboard digital converter the all valve-output **DAC3** converter is the perfect choice. The **DAC3**—now in **Mk II** production with improved components and important mechanical improvements to reduce vibration is joined by the entry-level **DAC5** converter.

The **LS5** preamplifier has moved to **Mk III** production with the popular addition of single-ended inputs to the fully balanced-only version. Time for some musical realism?—contact Absolute Sounds for full information and a list of dealers where you can experience the effortless reality of Audio Research.



**Absolute Sounds**  
58 Durham Road  
London SW20 0DE  
Tel 0181-947 5047  
Fax 0181-879 7962  
Email 73064.1710@compuserve.com



**audio research**  
HIGH DEFINITION™



# Tales from the flat side

Bi-wirable speakers look set to benefit from the Chord Company's new Legend speaker cable. This innovative flat-profile design, priced at £14.95 per metre, contains 22 strands of oxygen-free copper cable, arranged as two sets of seven strands for the bass drive-unit and two sets of four strands for the treble.

Chord Company claims this has reduced capacitance in the treble portion and inductance in the bass portion of the cable, optimising current-carrying capacity for Amp-hungry low frequencies and improving the coherence of sound overall.

Chord Company Myth, meanwhile, uses 14 strands of oxygen-free copper encased in a polyethylene dielectric, and is designed for single-input speakers. Price is £5.95 per metre.

Both cables, it is claimed, may be laid under carpets and folded around corners with ease.

Chord Company ☎ (01722) 331674



Chord's cables are so flat, they are the stuff of Legend (left) and Myth...

## In brief

Manufacturing at its HQ in Israel. Henceforth UK retail customers will be served by Wilmslow Audio, ☎ (01455) 286603.

US high-enders Enlightened Audio Designs claims a world first in the provision of a DTS 5.1 module for its TheaterMaster DAC-cum-surround-sound processor. DTS 5.1 is a digital surround-sound format that, like its competitor Dolby Digital, has descended from professional professional cinema projection systems. The module price of £875 from UK importers Audio Illusion includes a DVD decoder upgrade. ☎ (01753) 542761

To celebrate the launch of its new 201 and 301 speakers, Bose has announced a £60,000, no-purchase-necessary prize-draw that will be offered in 150 hi-fi stores nation-wide during March. All you have to do is take a demonstration of 'Stereo Everywhere'® to stand the chance of winning a 301 speaker worth £380. ☎ (0800) 317533

Spectra Dynamics, manufacturers of Deflex compliant damping panels, has announced it will bring its 'visco-elastic decoupling' techniques to bear on a new range of hi-fi equipment supports and speaker stands. ☎ (01745) 360070

Re: last month's Instant Systems feature on pp.12-13, contrary to information available at the time, Tannoy's Profile Plus 632 speakers are available in Richer Sounds' stores nationwide, alongside the Cambridge Audio components also featured. ☎ (0500) 101112

### A box for your jewels

Just the job for your family jewels — CDs, that is.

Philip Koomen Furniture has announced solid-wood CD cabinets to complement the equipment furniture showcased in January's *Update*. Both wall-mounted and table-standing options are available to hold up to 60 CDs. Pictured left to right are finishes Cherry with Boxwood inlay (£390); Brown Oak with Maple (£378); and Bird's Eye Maple with Walnut inlay (£378). Philip Koomen ☎ (01491) 681122

### A musical Q tip for your system.

## A little QT

Cambridge-based QTA Systems has announced a miniature four-litre enclosure sporting two of Bando's 50mm, metal-coned drive units. With a rated power handling of 60 Watts RMS and eight-Ohms' nominal impedance, the cabinet is supplied either in mixed hard-wood panels with contrastingly-veneered MDF, or as an all-MDF construction veneered throughout. A variety of exotic wood veneers are available, as is a kit option. Prices range from £220 to £338 depending on options and finish.

QTA Systems ☎ (01223) 891091

### Digital radio gathers steam

Prototype DAB receivers like this Philips will soon become a consumer reality

Spurred by estimates that over 100 million Europeans will have access to Digital Audio Broadcasts (DAB) by the end of 1997, the newly-formed WorldDAB forum has announced that most leading receiver manufacturers (including Grundig, Philips, Panasonic and Sony) are set to showcase products at this year's Fünkausstellung show in Berlin, late August. At least 20 countries, according to WorldDAB, will have operational or pilot DAB services available by the end of this year. They include China, Australia and India in addition to many European nations.

WorldDAB President's Office ☎ (0171) 765 4004

## Multiroom to go

Not just a dealership... an Emporium! That's the bold claim for Robert Taussig's new store at 39 Blandford Street, in London's West End.

Concentrating on the exposition of multi-room installations big and small, the Emporium claims its staff will advise on plans and liaise with contractors such as architects. Their resources will include multi-room equipment from QED's affordable Systemline to Linn's high-end Knekt, by way of Audio Access's discreet, easy-to-use components en route.

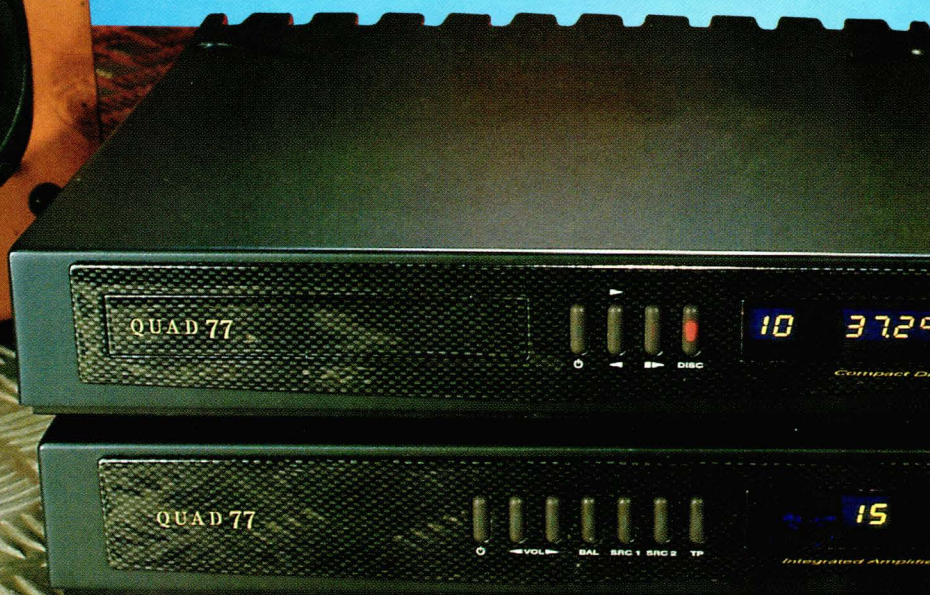
Taussig, one of the pioneers in hi-fi multi-room installation with 20 years in retail, brings to bear experience of installing professional systems for clients such as Harvey Nichols and Benetton, as well as high-end domestic systems for clients including Douglas Adams, noted high-tech enthusiast and author of *The Hitch Hiker's Guide To The Galaxy*. Robert Taussig ☎ (0171) 286 1728

### ALBUMS PLAYED IN THE HI-FI CHOICE OFFICE THIS MONTH

- Funkadelic**  
Hardcore Jollies
- Jeff Beck**  
Wired
- Fluke**  
Six Wheels On My Wagon
- Radiohead**  
The Bends
- Crash Test Dummies**  
The Ghosts That Haunt Me
- Pat Boone**  
In A Metal Mood
- Red Snapper**  
Reeled & Skinned
- Eels**  
Beautiful Freak
- Michelle Ndegéocello**  
Plantation Lullabies
- Fila Brazilia**  
Maim That Tune

INSTANT SYSTEMS

# Two of a kind



**Alan Sircom** takes distinctive systems from two classic British marques and finds out what makes them tick.

**T**o date, most of our Instant Systems have been hand-picked by reviewers or dealers. All have roughly the same formula: source, amp and speaker from two (or more likely three) different manufacturers. But there are a handful of companies who can supply a complete system from one end to the other. And it seems only fair that, if a company makes a component package designed to be used as a complete system, we should evaluate it in that context.

Blending the performance of CD, amplifier and speaker is a delicate art best performed by the dealer or manufacturer. Arbitrarily placing a product in a benchmark system can tell the listener a lot about its general character, especially if that product has either a distinctive sonic signature, or attempts to be entirely characterless. However, benchmarking doesn't tell you how a product will work with another system — for that you have to listen in context.

There are many systems designed to be contextual, such as the two in this month's review. Although the Naim 3R amplifier appears in non-Naim systems, it is rare for either the CD3 CD player or the new Intro speaker to appear in non-Naim systems. This is not because of some obscure incompatibility between Naim and other companies' components, but simply that most Naim equipment is used with other Naim products. The Quad set-up is more system dependent than usual. This version of the 77 CD player doesn't have a power supply and takes its juice from a 77 amplifier.

**SYSTEM A**

Quad 77 Amplifier & Remote...	£849.95
Quad 77 CD Player (QuadBus)	£699.95
Quad 7710L Loudspeakers .....	599.95
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>£2,149.85</b>

**THE ALL-QUAD SYSTEM**

Now falling under the mighty Verity banner, alongside Roksan, Mission, Cyrus and Wharfedale, Quad's newest trio proves that the most respected name in British hi-fi has only benefited from its change of ownership.

The EISA-award-winning 77 amplifier is a paragon of simplicity. Gone are the tone-shaping controls of yore, banished to the 77 Pre-amp (review p.76). Quad's line-only integrated amplifier comes complete with the 'intelligent' remote for £850 or without for £700. Though conventional phono inputs are in short supply, the QuadBus data socket at the rear of the amplifier makes the amp far more flexible when it is conjoined with other Quad products. The QuadBus forms one link in a daisy-chain along which power, signals and control data flow. This makes the amp much more versatile and upgradable than most.

We Recommended it in free-standing trim (issue 163), but the 77 CD player is reviewed here in QuadBus form. This does mean that if the 77 amplifier goes wrong, ▶▶





the entire system is out of action, but Quad's reputation should ensure this is not an issue.

With only a handful of buttons on their front panels, this duo would be inflexible without the Quad Remote. Chunky, easy to use and fully rechargeable, the Remote offers two-way signalling, a page-by-page LCD display and easy-to-follow controls to make all Quad-style operations a doddle.

And then there's Quad's first dynamic speaker, the £600 7710L. Beautifully finished in a range of veneers, this is a small two-way sealed design not unlike a modernised LS3/5a, with poly cones and bi-wirable gold-plated rear terminals.

Given a little time to settle in, the Quad system makes a sound that is quick, clean and detailed without being etched. Bass is very good for a small box loudspeaker. This is a much more exciting sound than from previous Quad kit, but it still retains the tonal honesty and naturalness that made the company a household name.

It is more baroque than rock in approach, but the simplicity and freshness of its music-making will win you over. You will appreciate the virtuosity of top-class musicians and the genius of the great composers. If that all sounds a touch too cerebral then look elsewhere, but if you want to hear musical notes and are not content just to nod your head in time, the Quad is a little wonder.

My only criticism of the Quad system is its inability to play loud. Towards the end of the 32-step volume control's range, the speakers begin to get into trouble with material that has a large quota of bass frequencies or marked dynamic contrasts. This applies as much to the classical fortissimo as it does to the heavy metal kerrang.

**SYSTEM B**

Naim CD3 CD player.....	£977.60
Naim Nait 3R amplifier .....	£724.98
Naim Intro loudspeakers .....	£596.90
Total .....	£2,252.48

**THE ALL-NAIM SYSTEM**

Thanks to the recently-launched Intro loudspeaker, Naim Audio now has a complete 'entry-level' system — for £2,253. It starts with the £978 CD3 CD player, as recommended by *Hi-Fi Choice* in issue 155. This uses a swinging, manually-operated CD drawer and magnetic puck to affix the disc to the transport. There's no digital output, the only connection is a DIN plug, and inside the CD3 is Philips' trusty-but-rusty 16-bit D/A converter technology, albeit heavily modified by Naim.

The £725 Nait 3R also sticks largely to DIN connectors at rear, but offers a single pair of phono sockets as a concession to regular interconnects. The minimalist 35 Watt Nait 3R has next to no frills, and should be used with Naim's own NAC A5 speaker cable for best results. It's Naim's first integrated amp with remote control: the remoteless Nait 3 (Recommended by *Choice* in issue 154) is available for £550.

The £597 Intro loudspeaker (a Best Buy in issue 164) completes this idiosyncratic trio. It's a simple-looking black box, but this two-way speaker has some natty features. Most notably, the bass driver's cabinet is perched on top of (but completely decoupled from) the treble unit and its floorstanding chamber. Even the grille doesn't touch the bottom cabinet for fear of interaction. In standard guise, the Intro is single-wired, but can easily be adapted for bi-amplification or even active operation.

So, you hear this trio play in a demonstration, buy them and have them installed by the dealer — then what? Bright, thin and horrible sound, that's what. And it will continue to sound like that until all the electronics have bedded down and warmed up, and the speaker drivers have run in. Then you start to smile, and your grin broadens when you realise that it still has a month or more of improvement left in it. The moral of the story? Don't even think about turning this stuff off at the wall.

When fully cooked, this system transmutes its initial brightness into acute observation of detail and musical insight, putting the listener in the centre of attention. Play Underworld's *Second Toughest In The Infants*, and within seconds, 20 partially-emaciated blokes in beanie hats, puffer jackets and sad little goatees will appear on your doorstep.

This is no mega-civilised, so-detailed-that-you-can-hear-the-screws-on-the-third-violinist's-music-stand kind of system. Quantities like imagery, soundstaging, even absolute timbral accuracy, are not important to the Naim system. Instead, what you get is a sound so uncontrived, so fresh and so dynamic that music gets played and played. If you like to play music loud, that's something at which this system excels.

One caveat. The entry-level Naim sound is geared more towards bold, dynamic music than many systems. If your CD collection consists principally of polite cantatas, airs and giges, this Naim combination may raise your blood pressure! ▲

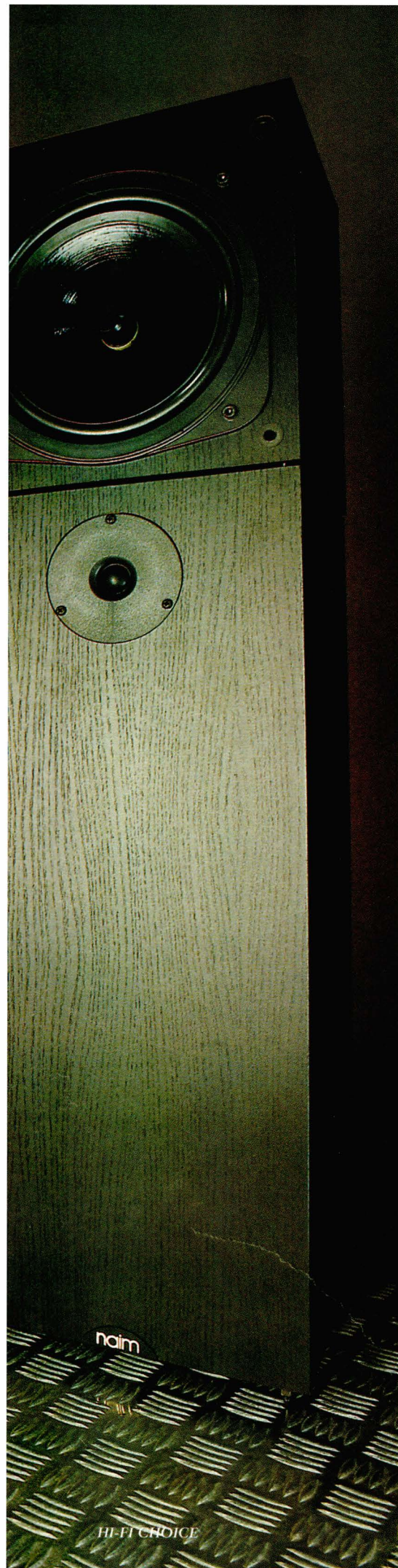
**CONCLUSION**

These two systems will appeal to very different tastes; a perverse yet apposite parallel can be drawn with BBC2 arts programmes, Think of the Naim system as *Later With Jools Holland* (featuring Dr John and Rage Against The Machine), and the Quad system as an *Arena* special on the music of Brahms and Haydn. And no, this doesn't mean one is a rock system and the other is a classical unit: I could see the Naim appealing to a Mahlerian and the Quad doing wonders to the sounds of less anthemic rock. There's a lot of common ground, too — take Glenn Gould, for example.

Sound aside, both have build quality that's the envy of manufacturers the world over. If you're buying one make sure you take time to choose wisely, as it will be a long while before you'll be able to exercise the 'equipment breakdown' excuse to renew your hi-fi dealer's acquaintance...

**MANUFACTURER CONTACTS**

Naim (01722) 332266  
 Quad (01480) 433777



**Y**ou 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](mailto: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.....

INVEST HFC 4/97

Postcode.....

Invest



**Or invest in an Arcam**

In Australia: Stollmack Audio Pty. Ltd., P.O. Box 162, 16 Wolseley 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.

# Ear Waxings

Jason Kennedy brought his Jeep and night-vision glasses, but in fact this month's Border Patrol is a stunning new power supply for amps of the valved variety . . .

**Y**ou don't know it yet, but your valve amp sounds a mess! Strong stuff, perhaps, but once you hear your amp with a Border Patrol supply in tow, I think you'll agree with me. The item in question is a valve-regulated, choke-input-filter power supply, which can be used to replace the HT (high tension) supply in virtually any tube power amp. To double the performance of anything from a Leak Stereo 20 to a megabucks single-ended design is a rare achievement, so at £595 I think the Border Patrol's a bargain.

The choke filtering is where the BP differs from the onboard HT supplies in most amps. There are a few valve-regulated designs around, but they tend to be rather expensive; when it comes to choke-filtered there are only a few to choose from — Audio Research being one of them. Why so few units embodying an apparently effective solution? Because it's hard to make a choke filter that doesn't have severe transformer buzz. Gary Dews, Border Patrol's creator, has overcome that issue and the result is pretty spectacular.

In order for your amp to feel the Border Patrol effect, Gary or one of his dealers must solder into it a flying lead, which plugs into the back of the supply. This lead carries the HT supply, obviously, but also control signals for an ingenious relay attached to the amp's heater supply. This allows Border Patrol to turn itself on and off in tandem with your power amp, so you never need to touch the black box itself. This is an immensely convenient feature, but more importantly stops you from destroying the amp if you accidentally leave the HT on with the LT (low tension) heater supply off.

Gary demonstrated the Border Patrol with amps including the aforementioned Leak, an Audio Innovations Series 800, and my own Marantz 8B. Previously I've heard its effect on an Audio Innovations First Audio, not to mention the BPed units powering the Living Voice Airscouts I wrote about in issue 163.

## That Patrol emotion

In every instance the Border Patrol effect was nothing short of a transformation. Bass solidified, imaging became significantly more three-dimensional and substantial, and the power-supplied amp made the regular version sound, quite literally, a mess. And don't forget this is with amps that are by no means shabby; these are units I have used extensively and found to be very effective. Now I couldn't tolerate them in their standard all-too-valvey guise.

Perhaps because I haven't lived with a tube amp for several years, I have become

overall presentation is more dynamic.

For the purposes of his demo, Gary powered up an Audio Innovations L1 pre-amp and Series 800 power-amp with the BP supply already attached. It sounded pretty good after the tranny gear I had been listening to. Then he took off the supply and caused an alarming loss of definition across the band. Cymbals became fizzy and the structure of the music fell to pieces. With the Border Patrol back on the music regained its composure: instruments not only sounded more natural and realistic, but seemed much more musically coherent. In many respects it was like taking the good things about transistor amps and adding them to the natural strengths of valves — a remarkable blend.

## Small is beautiful

The Border Patrol effect, in the breadth of its applications, reminds me of Trichord's Clock 2 CD player modification, which also breathed new life into a wide variety of products. It's interesting how these little companies are devising enhancements that make the most of bigger players' designs, yet a big company often has limited room for manoeuvre because of self-inflicted corporate constraints or rigid commercial practice.

But neither the Clock 2 nor the Border Patrol would cost a great deal more if instigated at the manufacturing stage. For example Pioneer's new PD-S505 Precision CD player (to be reviewed next month) has a variation on the Clock theme on board, which with a variety of other mods adds £260 to the price of the standard machine.

So how many years will it be before a tube-enhanced brand incorporates one of Gary's supplies into a power amp? I suspect it may be only a matter of months when people hear what it can do. ▲

Border Patrol ☎ (01273) 276716



The new Border Patrol HT power supply will rejuvenate even the most jaded thermionic entourage!

critical of the genre's shortcomings compared to transistors — particularly the soft bass and rather hazy, ill-defined imagery. Tubes still offer beautifully fluid mid-bands and fine dynamics, but I came to be dissatisfied — in all but a small number of cases — with the thermionic lack of grunt. The BP removes these limitations. Tubebass now has power and depth, high frequencies shine and sparkle with seamless definition, and the



## DIGITAL DESIGNS

Advanced technology brings you a new family of Audiolab digital designs.

Ask your Audiolab dealer to demonstrate the 8000CD Integrated CD Player. For ultimate performance and flexibility choose the 8000CDM CD Transport with the 8000DAC Digital-Analogue Converter.

Both CD players are perfect examples of the outstanding sound quality delivered by all Audiolab products.

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**



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



Audiolab 8000Q  
Audiolab 8000M  
Audiolab 8000T



Audiolab 8000S



# The Jimmy Hughes Experience

Jimmy Hughes has enjoyed an audience with new, affordable tweaks from Shun Mook. Yet again, their mystic power defies rational explanation...

**L**ast year in issue 158, I raved quietly about the effect produced by Shun Mook's Diamond Resonators. This set of three spiked, wooden blocks function as support feet for hi-fi components like CD players and amplifiers. Placed under such devices the Diamond Resonators caused them to produce a remarkable improvement in sound quality; more, in fact, than I would have believed possible.

The solitary drawback of the Diamond Resonators was their price — £430. So I was pleased to learn that Shun Mook had come up with something more affordable: Iso-Qubes. While the prices of these are undoubtedly higher than you'd expect, their cost is not excessive given the improvements they can produce.

Iso-Qubes come in two sizes. The larger version (£129 for three) offers a higher standard of performance, and provides greater stability when used with big or heavy products. They're simple to fit, and unlike the Resonators they don't need to be orientated specially. But you may find the sound changes as the spacing between the Iso-Qubes is varied.

With three of the larger Iso-Qubes placed under NAD's 317 integrated amplifier, the sound grew fuller and sweeter, with a more three-dimensional sound-stage. Clarity increased, allowing detail to tell more effortlessly. Tonally the sound seemed richer, and slightly louder too, though the volume level was identical. I wouldn't say the improvement was quite as spectacular as that produced by the Diamond Resonators, but it wasn't far off. And of course, this was at almost a quarter of the price.

The music sounded more effortless and flowing, with improved timing and greater expressiveness. At once the difference was subtle, yet strikingly obvious — it was possible to hear more in the music. Because instruments and voices are better separated, it's easier to follow what's going on. You don't have to concentrate so hard for the performance to make its point.

Tonal contrasts are enhanced, making the music sound more lively and vivid.



Shun Mook's Record Clamp (top) with large and small Iso-Qubes.

Everything's more tactile and focused, crisp and vibrant, yet no brighter. If your system sounds harsh, Shun Mook suggests you use Iso-Qubes without spikes.

I used the smaller set of Iso Qubes (£99 for three) under a Cambridge Audio DACMagic 1, using them to replace three Michell Tenderfeet. Again, the sound grew subtler yet more incisive, demonstrating that the Iso-Qube is much more than just a spike.

### Weighing down

Perhaps even more remarkable is Shun Mook's new Record Weight. An earlier one, now unavailable, retailed at a cool £1,200; apparently it became impossible to find pieces of Mpingo wood big enough! Hence this new 'economy' version.

The new weight (£600) is smaller, yet is said to offer 80 per cent of its predecessor's performance. Its weight may require adjustment of some suspended-sub-chassis models.

With both Roksan Xerxes and Kuzma Stabi turntables it produced an equally beneficial effect. Despite stark differences in the design concepts of these decks (the Kuzma is intended to be used with a clamp, the Roksan is not) the Shun Mook effect worked much the same magic on both models. Yet in both cases the Record Weight enhanced clarity and separation, improving focus and fine detail, and lending the music a sweeter, more

liquid feel. Everything 'sang' more, and came across with a great sense of ease. Joe Sample's piano lines on the LP *Carmel* had far more ebb and flow, making his playing seem much more varied and expressive.

It was interesting to listen with the Weight in place, then remove it as the disc played. At first there seemed to be little difference with the Weight on. Then suddenly the sound would change, growing subtler, sharper and more vivid at the same time. This with/without contrast was much clearer with the Weight off; immediately the sound changed, losing much of its depth and contrast. The dynamics of the music collapsed into the speakers, destroying the 'out-of-the-box' sound evident with the Weight.

On a complex piece of music with many interrelated, overlapping instrumental parts, the Weight harmonises contrasts so that everything seems smoother and more concordant. It's like a machine that's been oiled — moving parts no longer seem to grate when they come together.

When I say smoother, I don't mean the sound loses its bite or energy; if anything detail and articulation actually increase. Rather, there's a heightened sense of instruments and voices complementing one another, rather than being in competition.

One LP that showed this superbly was Stanley Clarke's *If This Bass Could Only Talk*. The title track features bassist Clarke with Gregory Hines tap dancing. With the Weight, bass and dancer were more separate. I could really hear the metal in the shoes — clarity was smeared without the Weight. More importantly, Hines's foot-taps sounded much more in time with Clarke's bass playing. With the Weight removed it was less obvious that the percussive taps were made by feet.

Now I can hardly bear to send the Weight back. Its effect makes a mockery of our attempts to explain away sonic differences in terms of conventional science. Measurements hold a certain validity, but how could they deal with something remarkable like Shun Mook? ▲

*Audiotrends* ☎ (0181) 948 4153

# 77 *Carbon*



telephone: 01480 433777  
fax: 01480 431767

1936  
QUAD  
7996

# Personal Messages

Paul Messenger, frustrated by spikes on floor-standing speakers, proposes more metalwork by way of a remedy.

**I** did a little number-crunching recently, on speaker sales figures. These showed quite clearly that the stereotypical hi-fi speaker is no longer the traditional stand-mount 'bookshelf' design. Instead, it is a floor-stander. This only confirms what the trade was saying throughout 1996, and also reflects the manufacturers' response. It's no coincidence that in both of our most recent speaker tests, floor-standers made up no less than three-quarters of the groups.

It's not all doom and gloom for speaker-stand brands, however. Stand-mount speakers still represent the bulk of sales volumes. But because floor-standers are more expensive, their share of the market is fast approaching parity with stand-mounts. With important new floor-standing models arriving almost every month, there's not even a hint that this trend is running out of steam.

Pundits, myself among them, have often pointed out that the floor-stander is not always the ideal speaker solution, acoustically or mechanically. But this is immaterial, as continued commercial success for floor-standers is guaranteed by the simple fact that they look so much more homogeneous than a bookshelf speaker on a stand. Fashion trends and profit motives in harmony make a powerful combination — but that doesn't mean the stand makers must become marginalised.

## On the spike

My most frequent criticism of this new breed concerns the often lousy mechanical integrity of its floor-coupling arrangements. When dealing with samples, I've learned to take special care not to over-tighten lock-nuts while fitting carpet-piercing spikes. Even so, when it's time to de-spike prior to repacking and shipping out, a depressingly large proportion of floor-standers' spikes still pull their sockets out of the woodwork. About a quarter of brands take spike mounting seriously, and a further quarter pass muster. But that still leaves

around half of all examples in which this important factor receives scant attention — even where money and real-wood veneer have been lavished on a footprint-extending, aesthetically-attractive plinth.

This is a far cry from the speaker stands I reviewed last Autumn. A stand's *raison d'être* is to provide a secure mounting platform, so it came as no surprise with the stands to find that high-integrity spike-fixing was universal. This vindicates the speaker stand's specialist nature, and reminds us that the root of the problem lies in the wood-to-spike interface.

The solution, surely, must be to marry the physical integrity of a metal speaker stand with the elegance of a floor-standing enclosure. It's not exactly an original idea — I could quote several precedents, most obviously and recently the little Musical Technology Harrier reviewed in issue 164.

For £35 extra above the basic price, MT supplies a hefty metal triangle (pictured right) which extends an otherwise tiny footprint and adds useful mass.

Resembling some commercial stand bases, for example from Revolver and Alphason, MT's solution is effective but could be more elegantly executed. The corners of its triangle are rounded off, but the edge is still unsightly and a bit sharp, and the spike tops remain visible above the plate.

A better looking approach is typified by single-pillar speaker stands like the best-selling Atacama SE24 (left). Here a pressed-steel base has its edge turned down, and concealed welded strips are tapped for the spikes, ensuring they are mounted rigidly and hidden out of sight. Given a good standard of finish, the result is arguably as good-looking as any wooden plinth, plus it's a lot better mechanically, and heavier too.

## Metal forces

A pair of Atacama SE24s sells for £70, which indicates that the bases alone could be sold for

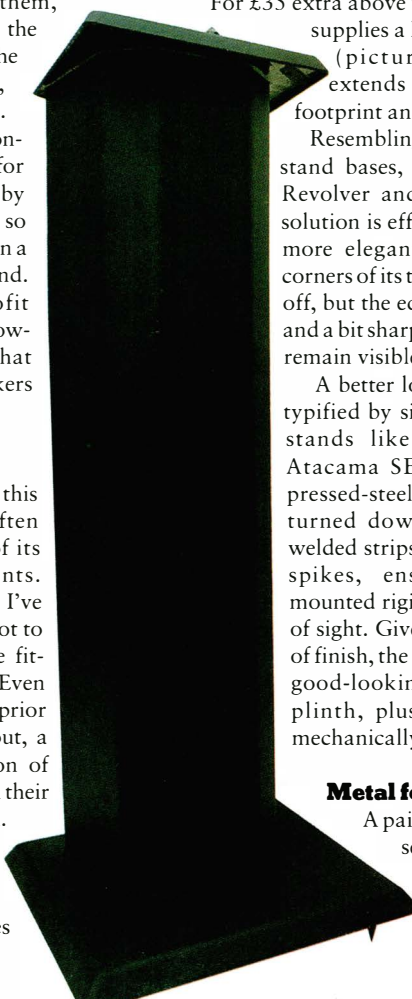


Blend a smart stand with your speaker for superior spike security!

less than half that price. Thus, this kind of 'plinth kit' could be a very cost-effective upgrade for a pair of budget floor-standers. The high-gloss, eight-mm spike-equipped base from the Soundstyle X124 would make a fine alternative for a few quid more.

Unfortunately not all floor-standing speakers have the same footprint, so a single-size 'floor-stander base' wouldn't necessarily fit all. However the variation in widths isn't that great, and a bit of rear overhang could be positively beneficial for stability. In the first instance I'd suggest simply wood-screwing the metal plinths into the base of the speaker, though the possibility of some controlled decoupling (as in Naim's Intro) could open up an interesting new avenue for further elaboration.

So if you're a dedicated follower of fashion intending to move from stand-mounts to floor-standers, you might consider converting your existing stands into plinths, at the cost of only a little dismantling and drilling. What it would look like remains an imponderable, but flat-pack stands should lend themselves to such conversion, and a wooden spacer block could accommodate the protruding spikes of flat-plate bases. Beats a 1,000-piece jigsaw-puzzle for something to do on a rainy afternoon... ▲



*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

# Write on!

TELL US YOUR VIEWS ON HI-FI AND THE MAGAZINE. THE BEST LETTER EACH MONTH WINS A GARMENT!

## LETTERS OF THE MONTH

### Grizzle, grizzle

I am disappointed that you have replaced Paul Miller's VI charts with bar-graphs in your lab reports. By showing comparative bar-graphs in price bands you are denying the one possible absolute in hi-fi: better measurements are unequivocally better while sound quality, however bad, will always be a matter of preference.

If space is a problem why not ditch the Price Guide section of your Buyer's Guide? I want to know about products you have reviewed; my dealer can tell me about the others.

D W French, Benfleet, Essex

### Kvetch, kvetch

Once again your magazine has disappointed me. The latest issue, number 164, has no budget reviews. Fifteen speakers — none below £299. Six tape decks — none below £229. Three turntables — none below £274, and you have the nerve to call them "budget"! People like myself, who only earn £75 a week, just cannot afford up-market hi-fi. Budget hi-fi = £80 to £199.

Mr Malvern, Camborne, Cornwall

*Stan Vincent replies... Both letters make very good points, but Hi-Fi Choice's monthly mission is to introduce the finest hi-fi products to the broadest possible audience. Regrettably this goal is incompatible with extreme technicality and inexorable bargain-hunting, but we will always attempt to cover as many bases as we can to provide the most balanced perspective. However I always welcome this kind of feedback to keep us in touch with our readers' needs, so we'll dole out a double helping of polo shirts this month. Anyone else care to express an opinion?*

### Hearing is believing

In issue 162 *The Jimmy Hughes Experience* said it all about the true enjoyment that results when we sit in the privacy of our own listening rooms and really 'listen' to music. I've had many hours of pleasure listening to recordings both old and new, on LP or CD, on a system that enables family and guests to forget about the equipment and just hear music.

Positioning the speakers on

#### OUR ADDRESS

The Editor-in-Chief, *Hi-Fi Choice*,  
19 Bolsover Street, LONDON W1P 7HJ.  
f 0171-917 5512.

e 100433.1130@compuserve.com.

We reserve the right to edit all letters that we publish. Concise correspondence greatly preferred!

granite slabs, investing in equipment supports and other tweaks have paid off handsomely, it must be said.

I am very satisfied too with the sound of my 'old' Cambridge CD3 following Trichord's Clock modification. Amplification is Naim 32.5/140 plus PSU. But I didn't hear as much of a difference as I'd expected when I added a Cambridge Audio DACMagic 1 between CD player and amp. So how can I use the balanced outputs of the DACMagic to get a real benefit? Alternatively, would it be possible to find something similar to Jimmy's famed Luxman transformer?

Thanks for your help. I'll go back to the music now...

Francisco Martin, Segovia, Spain

*Jimmy Hughes replies... A good alternative transformer can be purchased from Avondale Audio ☎ (01246) 200096, but you'd need a special XLR-to-phono lead to make it work with the balanced outputs. It would still make a worthwhile improvement used via the DACMagic's standard (unbalanced) outputs. Alternatively you might consider buying a Musical Fidelity X10-D if you want extra richness and depth.*



Meridian  
508.20: thrusting...

### The vigorous thrust of debate #1

Being interested in purchasing a Meridian 508.20 CD player I purchased issue 163 of your magazine. I was very alarmed at the equivocal review you gave it. Comparing your review with that in *Hi-Fi News* (May 1996) it would seem you are testing completely different machines. You seem to have different results even in the technical aspects of the player's performance — you say it "could sound very different from one system to another", while *Hi-Fi News* says it "contains nothing to upset any amplifier". Can you explain how this can be?

I wonder whether hi-fi magazines are worthwhile if there can be no agreement between them...

K Daniels, Cwmbran, Gwent

### The vigorous thrust of debate #2

For more than 20 years I have read various American, British

and French hi-fi magazines, but I am still puzzled when I see reviews of the same component coming to totally different conclusions.

For example the Sony TA-F448E integrated amplifier. In its September 1996 issue *What Hi-Fi?* gave it five stars for value, and decided that it was the best in the test; while in the same month's edition *Hi-Fi Choice* gave it only one star for value and voted it the worst in the comparative test. So who are we supposed to believe?

C Roiseaux, Brussels, Belgium

*Stan Vincent replies... As we have explained before, when hi-fi magazines give different verdicts about the same pieces of equipment, you must look behind the headlines to the way the tests are done. In Hi-Fi Choice's group tests, we appraise hi-fi gear just as we have done for the past 20 years, with a combination of 'blind' and sighted listening sessions, backed by a rigorous lab test. When magazines disagree, you, the reader, must judge which title gives the most objective results. When hi-fi magazines start to agree about everything, that's the time to suspect foul play...*

## By Jove!



This stylish *Hi-Fi Choice* garment, in dark green with a discreet logo, will be awarded to the writer of the most interesting letter every month. One XL size fits all.

# Sonic Truth?

Waiting for a number 63 bus on the Road to Damascus, **Jason Kennedy** hitches a ride with phase-linear audio gurus in a mean-machine called Eikos...

**A**s a reviewer, one is bombarded with top-quality hi-fi kit on a regular basis, and inevitably there is a tendency to become jaded or even blasé about the stuff. When you start in this game there are new aural surprises every day, and you find yourself having to re-evaluate your references and record collection fairly often. However, I don't think I've ever felt the need to listen afresh to my hoard of CDs — until now. Many excellent CD players have graced my Mana tables, but this is the first time since I got into CD that a player has rearranged all of my preconceptions.

The Eikos is the first CD player from newly-formed brand Acoustic Precision, but with electronics designer Tom Evans and loudspeaker engineer Patrick Hanscombe behind it, this design emerges from the stables a thoroughbred. Tom Evans has been making audio electronics since he was a teenager; more recently as a founder of and innovator within Trichord Research, which made a name for itself with the Clock 2 CD upgrade and more recently with the Genesis and Revelation CD players, and the Digital Turntable CD transport.

Patrick 'Paddy' Hanscombe builds the Electrofluidics series of loudspeakers that incorporate metal-coned Jordan drive units within polymer-concrete cabinets. The pair teamed up to pursue their personal Holy Grail of hi-fi, which they term 'phase linearity'. (This is more of a philosophy than a strict technical edict, but as Eikos means 'likeness to truth', one might deduce that the goal is ultra-realistic reproduction. *ed*)

The Eikos started life as a Pioneer PD-S904S, but it has undergone a complete sonic and aesthetic transformation, rendering it unidentifiable to all but the keenest Pioneer-spotter. Naturally Acoustic Precision would have preferred to build a machine from scratch, but the expense and time involved would have been disproportionate for a company of this size. By taking a third-party product and treating it as a blank canvas, AP could make a player that was realistically priced and fully featured.

Spectacular black-lacquer paintwork and stylish ivory legends put clear blue water between the tweaked AP and the mass-produced Pioneer. And very few Pioneers have

a polymer concrete slab affixed to the underside of their casework! What's inside also varies dramatically from the norm: Tom has added his Eliminator analogue output stage alongside an Acoustic Precision Superclock 3, and a whole host of fairy-dusted components have replaced the line-fits. There's been a reduction in componentry but the Legato-Link S-DAC chip remains. Initially they'd planned to replace this with the best DAC that Burr-Brown could muster, but after some experimentation Tom concluded that Pioneer's DSP-equipped device, with its ability to simulate frequencies up to 50kHz, was after all the most pukka, so it stayed in.

Though both casework and transport mechanism are heavily damped to quell any airborne resonance, vibration transmitted by equipment supports is repressed even more harshly. Beneath the Eikos is a base that Acoustic Precision calls an Inertial Slab, which consists of a mineral-loaded polymer board bonded to the player and supported by 'Pneumosphere' feet. The slab is made of a high-mass, self-damping material that is as dense as cast iron but 10 times less resonant. Aply, AP dubs this 'smart mass'.

Rear-panel socketry is pretty conventional: RCA phono analogue and digital, plus optical TOSLINK. AES/EBU balanced outputs will be an option in future.

## The complete picture

When you listen to complete systems that Tom and Paddy have designed, you realise that the whole is considerably greater than the sum of the parts. This is illustrated no more clearly than when you substitute alternative speakers for their staples. Indeed it is very difficult to feel you're getting the most out of Evans-designed electronics without Hanscombe-designed speakers! That's not to say that the magic is lost; the following eulogy is based on experience with speakers that Tom wouldn't give cupboard space to; however, I was left hankering for the total experience. I'd recommend anyone to buy this CD player, but I'd have to warn that it will lead to other things!

Nonetheless for the purposes of this indulgence I partnered Eikos with the following line-ups. In the *Hi-Fi Choice* studio I used the Meridian 502/557 pre/power com-

bination, with its sibling the 508 20-bit CD player (£1,685) on hand for comparison. Speakers were Tannoy D-100s atop filled Kudos S-100 stands, and while this system gave the slightly cheaper Meridian player a bit of a head start, I declined to use balanced connections which would have tipped the scales further in its favour.

Chez Kennedy I compared and contrasted with a modest but remarkably capable system incorporating Pioneer A-300R Precision amp and Living Voice Auditorium speakers, hooked up with Trichord interconnects and Electrofluidics speaker cables. Perhaps due to the Evans input on the amp and his preferred wire, this was more to the Eikos's liking; but the Trichord Digital Turntable, Pulsar DAC and Pulsemaster jitterbuster combination is equally at home in these surroundings, and put up a stiffer fight than the Meridian CD.

Neither Trichord nor Meridian stayed in the running for long. But I was surprised that the difference between Eikos and Meridian on the 'away turf' was less than that between Eikos and Trichord, considering that the latter pair are, to a certain extent, cast from the same mould. Is the explanation in the ancillaries? That the Meridian and Tannoy combination was somehow less 'phase linear' than the Pioneer/Living Voice pairing? Certainly I got a greater sense of three-dimensional solidity at home, but in this respect the Eikos bested both rivals. Compared with the Meridian Eikos drew attention to a sense of presence and naturalness in the sound. The image was indeed larger, with greater depth and 'air', but it wasn't until I got home that a genuine sense of palpability infused the music.

I think that it is an unparalleled level of resolution that allows Eikos to stand tall both by comparison and in absolute terms. It pulls so much information off the disc, I barely had to refer to the Trichord gear; new-found lyrics emerged from discs I've played fifty times; lifelike acoustics sprang up around recorded instruments that had previously sounded dead; and underpinning everything was the tightest, quickest bass I've ever encountered. I had to move the speakers six inches closer to the wall to compensate for a lack of the customary overhang, but that doesn't mean



A bona fide lacquer-coated, fairy-dusted, low-profile-tyres-and-hot-camshaft dream machine...

there was no depth. My partner thought the neighbours were taking a sledgehammer to the floor, three doors away! I would not have believed that Living Voice's Auditoriums could reproduce this way — with a £400 amp to boot.

This surfeit of resolution wrings intelligibility from difficult and dense material, but also enhances the joy of virtual realism that a great recording can create. Okay, so maybe the second Vienna-school-style darkness of Zappa's *Yellow Shark* is still hard to stomach, but because instruments sounded so natural and devoid of distortion, it became possible for the armchair auteur to work with it. Which is quite something for an air-guitar enthusiast like me!

The Eikos is good enough to bear comparisons with the Voyd turntable I use. Many of the differences between CD and LP were down to mastering or wear'n'tear, but in the case of a recent pressing the LP had a more

'open' midband compared to the CD's wider bandwidth and more precise stereo. I preferred Rush's *Moving Pictures* on LP, and Frank Zappa and the Mothers' *We're Only In It For The Money* on CD, so it was a close run thing.

So Eikos does imaging like nothing else, it has bass speed like nothing else, and it has treble extension which is just plain cheating for a CD player — but what about timing? Well, when you've got bass this quick and no apparent glare or grain in the upper midrange, timing isn't emphasised, but the Eikos is on the ball. It couldn't do everything else without being this way. It's the solitary area where the contrast with, say, a Marantz CD-17 K I Sig would be interesting, but would a player which is that way inclined better Eikos in this crucial respect of musical reproduction? I doubt it, but judgement must be reserved until I can do a side-by-side comparison.

### Cruelty to reviewers

So there you have it: the best source component I've heard to date, and it, ahem, *only* costs £1,800. That sort of money wouldn't buy you a decent record player any more, let alone a high-end CD player. Yet I'd feel confident putting the Eikos up against any of them. Of course, you have to build an appropriately oriented system around it, but that proviso applies to all genuinely state-of-the-art components.

What may hinder Eikos's passage into the history books is its preference for speakers with minimal high-frequency distortion. It challenges the numerous enclosures designed for sources that roll-off sharp at 20kHz. But you can't blame it for its resolving power: that's what sets it apart, and makes such a cruelty of lending it to reviewers then taking it away again. Beware, this is definitely a can't-live-without-it product. ▲

Acoustic Precision ☎ (01483) 267516

# Authorised Cyrus Centres

## Midlands, North & Scotland

### Aberdeen

Holburn Hi Fi 01224 585713

### Alderley Edge

Aston Audio 01625 582704

### Belfast

Lyric Hi Fi 01232 381296

### Blackburn

Romers 01254 887799

### 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 253057

### 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

The logo for Cyrus, featuring the word 'CYRUS' in a stylized, bold, sans-serif font. The 'Y' and 'R' are particularly prominent, with the 'Y' having a unique shape and the 'R' having a long, sweeping tail.

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



# The Italian Job

Sonus Faber speakers are built like musical instruments and renowned for a luxurious finish. Jason Kennedy listens to the new Concerto model and finds its beauty is more than skin deep.



The Concerto's leather-and-wood exterior would not look out of place on a luxurious car dashboard... Inset: close-up of silk-dome tweeter and 'cellulose carbonium' woofer.

**S**onus Faber is to hi-fi what Louis Vuitton is to luggage and Ferrari is to cars. Unique style and great refinement are the keynotes here, as this small but exquisite range of Italian loudspeakers features solid walnut and leather. These touches aid both sound quality and appearance, both areas in which this brand seems to excel.

Since products as beautiful as these are available, it's a great pity when hi-fi equipment is ranked alongside dishwashers and vacuum cleaners in the prestige stakes — as is all too often the case in the UK. Visit the homes of the few who wear Versace and drive Mercedes, and it's more than likely you'll find a £300 midi system stashed next to the Jackie Collins in the bookcase. To the beautiful people hi-fi just isn't fashionable, but would they feel the same if they encountered the Sonus Faber Concerto?

At £1,098 the Concerto is the middle model in Sonus Faber's Concerto range, and nestles between the baby Concertino at £599, and a floor-standing likeness of itself, the forthcoming Concerto Grand. Concerto is not very big, but at 22kg and 15 litres nor is it very miniature. It's substantial enough for the price but should not offend aficionados of interior décor. That said, it's hard to see why anyone wouldn't want such a stylish pair of speakers around the house. I partic-

ularly like the little brass buttons, which are reminiscent of the copper rivets on another style icon: Levi's jeans.

At the heart of this two-way reflex design is a 20mm silk-dome tweeter, and a 180mm 'cellulose carbonium' woofer with an unusually large dust cap. The front facing port means that the Concertos can stand quite close to a wall, but they like to stand tall, too. There are two Sonus Faber stands: the £290 Iron Fixed, which is 27.5 inches tall; and the adjustable Ironwood, which is the prettier and more substantial of the two but costs £475. In the absence of these a decent high-mass, 24-inch-plus-high stand should suit. I heard the Concerto on Slate Audio and Kudos S100 stands, and the Target R Series features a suitable model.

Being a refined and transparent loudspeaker, the Concerto appreciates the context of well-mannered partnering equipment. In *Hi-Fi Choice's* listening room we auditioned with Meridian, Trichord and Naim; while London dealership The Sound

Organisation offered us the chance to audition with electronics from Copland, Denson and Audio Research. Any speaker would enjoy working with components of this calibre; the Concerto revelled in their company. In its own particularly fine style, this is a delicately precise loudspeaker. It is in contrast with the sort of speakers that I use most often, since it excels in the reproduction of refined and preferably small-scale music, making it sound as natural and eloquent as possible. Jazz ensembles, pianos, string quartets and solo voices are the Concerto's forte.

Many loudspeaker designs deal with a broad range of music by compromising individual areas of excellence for an all-round competence. The Concertos, however, have a knack of focusing on music that can be really accurately portrayed in the domestic environment. Only in the most expansive listening rooms is there much chance of reproducing the volume levels and dynamics of

a rock band or orchestra; one can only generate a facsimile to suspend disbelief. But by concentrat-

ing its talents on small-scale music, the Concerto is making a different sort of compromise, by aiming for extremely realistic reproduction of a goal that is achievable. If you love this type of music, once you've heard it through the Concertos, you'll find that the majority of alternative speakers at this price will sound either crude or veiled by comparison.

Is there a quid pro quo? Only if your preference is rock and heavier styles of music, replayed at concert levels. But while there are numerous enclosures out there for metalheads, there are precious few nimble little delights like the Concerto, which will extract the nuance and shading from a piece and present it in a coherent and precise manner without sounding mechanical. There's even a tone control on the Concerto: its grille. Leave it on and the sound has a beguiling mellifluousness; take it off and get closer to the picture, but accept you'll be able to see the brush strokes, which may distract from the overall composition.

This is an admirable design that achieves its sonic goals and looks beautiful in the process. Extremely alluring stuff. ▶

Absolute Sounds ☎ (0181) 947 5047

# Help!

**Alvin Gold is down your way with answers to your hi-fi problems.**

Send your hi-fi queries to 'Help!' at Hi-Fi Choice, 19 Bolsover Street, London W1P 7HJ • fax on 0171-917 5512 • e-mail on 100433.1130@compuserve.com

## Query of the month

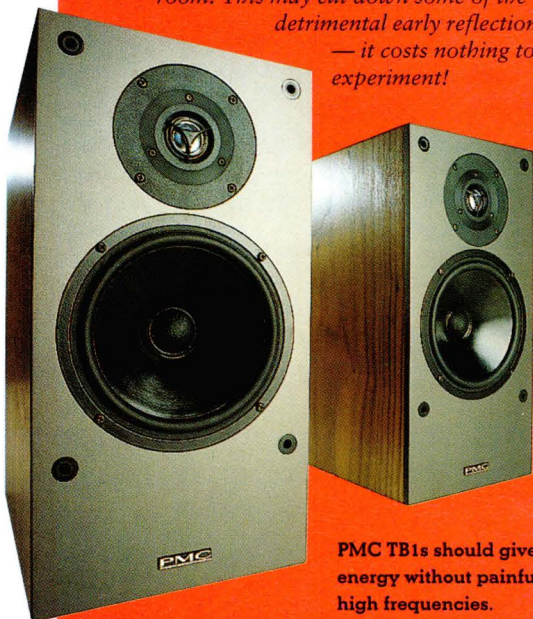
### A bright move

I recently moved into a new flat, and I'm experiencing problems with my existing system. I have a Linn Sondek LP12 with an Ittok arm and K9 cartridge. The amp is a Musical Fidelity A-1000 and speakers are Gale 302s. My musical tastes are blues, rock, pop and classical.

The new flat has wooden floors, high ceilings and wooden blinds in place of curtains, so the acoustics are very bright to start with. I have always found the Gales quite tight and a bit bright, but it all sounds much worse now. I have been thinking of changing the electronics, and I am not sure if a complete change is due now, or would more mellow speakers and a smoother CD player help?

John Crane, London

*In years gone by the Gale 302 was a true audiophile speaker, unlike the current budget products sold under the marque today. Gales had a reputation for tending towards a hard, aggressive sound, and were very demanding of the partnering system — indeed, of the listening room too. The solution to your problem is therefore to address the speakers as the culprits, not the electronics. In short, a new pair of speakers is indicated, and with your current system you should be looking at the £500 price point as the minimum at which to enter. The PMC TB1 is an obvious choice, but also consider the Castle Avon and the Ruark Templar II. Alternatively, or as a temporary measure, undertake a little shuffling of the furniture, or perhaps put a rug on the floor or hang one on the wall at the speaker end of the room. This may cut down some of the detrimental early reflections — it costs nothing to experiment!*



PMC TB1s should give you energy without painful high frequencies.

### If it ain't broke...

My system includes a Marantz CD-63, Arcam Alpha 6 amp and Mission 733 speakers. I listen to indie, dance, some jazz and classical. I can't find any particular problem with this set-up but would like to upgrade all the components in due course. Can you recommend the order in which I should upgrade them?

Jason Cross, via the internet

*I have not encountered a system working satisfactorily that could not be readily improved with an infusion of new CDs or records. If you have a system that delivers the goods, why replace it? If it ain't bust, why fix it? Still, if you insist, it is the speakers I would be gunning for, though it wouldn't be necessary to look outside the brand for a replacement. My first recommendation would be the Mission 752, which has developed over time into one of the best middle-range floor standers on the planet. The CD player should come next... by which time next month's CD player report will have been published!*

The next step for Jason could be a pair of 752s.

### From first principles

To play a large collection of old LPs and CDs I have a haphazardly-collected set of bits and pieces, including a Denon PMA-250SE (35 Watts per channel), Yamaha KX-W392 cassette deck, an eight-year-old Philips CD380 mini-system CD player, a second-hand Dual CS505-3 player and a pair of 25-year-old Celestion 15 speakers linked by high voltage solid-core electrical cable and supported on two cabinets. Given the rough'n'ready music sources, would there be any benefit in upgrading any of my equipment? I have not yet been convinced that paying more than a couple of pounds for a CD is musically worthwhile, especially as my tastes are for ex-78rpm material. In approaching hi-fi for the first time, are there any basic rules to follow after deciding the budget? For example, is there a basic link between an amplifier and speaker relating to the Wattage of either? I am not convinced that one can rely on a listening test as a method of choosing unless one has a lot of experience.

P Higgins, Blackpool, Lancs

*Where do we start? Of its type, your system probably makes quite nice noises, and probably doesn't have any glaring weaknesses; at least you're happy with the rather coloured Celestion Ditton 15. Just to put your mind at rest however, although it may take some practice to make the best of product demonstrations, when given a choice most normally-endowed folk can quickly tell if one component or system outperforms another.*

*Yes, there is a relationship between amplifier power output and speaker power input, but it is not as simple as matching the numbers, and in practice can be safely ignored. As long as you buy components of notionally similar stature and you're not looking for exceptionally high volume levels on a routine basis, you should be okay.*

### Delicacy and detail

I would like your advice about upgrading my CD player. My system consists of: Rotel RCD-965 CD player; Simaudio PW-4000 integrated amplifier and LAQ Periple speakers on plaster pseudo-Greek columns above the couch. You won't know my amp or speakers, but they would be worth about £500 and £400 in the UK. The amplifier is a little like the Pioneer A-400: precise yet delicate and lively with firm bass control; and the speakers are something like the Castle York: soft with depth and timbral accuracy. I know that DVD is coming, but having invested a bit of money into CDs, I would like to listen to them for a while! I also have a Kenwood active subwoofer which I keep switched on but at a discreet level to add fullness. Would the new Rega Planet CD player be a suitable choice for my taste? The Rotel is probably too antiquated to act as a good transport; would you agree? I would also be interested in a player with valve output, such as the Dynaco or AMC (my budget is around £500). Musical tastes range from Kate Bush and Zappa to medieval music and Mahler. I am looking for delicacy and detail as well as solid orchestral or heavy-rock capability, but I am no bass freak.

*Alain Berthiaume, Montreal, Canada*

*You make several points. On DVD you're right: it's coming, but it will be backwards compatible, which means you will still be able to use your existing CDs in any DVD player, so your investment is not compromised. You're right about your amplifier or speakers, I don't know them, but taking your descriptions at face value, the Rega CD player sounds like a very good idea. I have only heard the Rega as a prototype, and then only briefly, but it did impress, and others whose ears I can normally trust tell me that the production players sound good.*

*I am less happy with the idea of a valve-output CD player. There have been successful marriages of these two technologies (not least from Musical Fidelity), but on the whole CDs and tubes appear to have little to offer each other, and buying a product simply because it has valves inside is surely the worst possible reason to proceed. For the low signal levels from a CD player there is no difficulty in designing a very good solid-state*



The Rega Planet could be the natural successor to Rotel's RCD-965BX.

*Class A output amplifier if this is desired, and valves are sometimes included not for sound technical reasons, but to reinforce the impression that a player has a 'softer', more analogue sound. My advice would be to forget the technology and listen to the music!*

### You say jump, we say how high?

I refer to the HFC Directory, concerning headphone impedance. Am I right in reading that the higher the impedance, the louder the sound for a given output?  
*G. Barnea, via the Internet*

*No, the lower the impedance, the louder the sound, all other things being equal. In practice, however, even the least sensitive headphones tend to be very sensitive, and in practice it is almost always possible to generate clean sound pressure levels that will certainly damage your hearing. For safety's sake you should always seek to use the lowest volume setting that will give you the clarity of sound you need.*

*I can't argue with your proposed choice of speakers, though I certainly can't help you choose between them as I have not had hands-on experience with the ProAcs. The CDM1 I know, however, as a good 'un: a solid, articulate design that's a Hi-Fi Choice Recommended product to boot.*

*The choice of main speaker may influence your choice of subwoofer. My own experiments indicate, paradoxically, that subwoofers work best with large, wide-bandwidth 'satellite' loudspeakers, and that you should aim for the largest satellites you can accommodate or afford as a first step, even if it means putting off buying the subwoofer for a while. I don't know all the subwoofers you suggest (not all are sold in the UK) but the M&K is an excellent compact design, and probably the standard by which other true compacts are judged. If you can spare room for a slightly larger (but still comparatively compact) design, shortlist the Boston Acoustics VR500 (£400) and the Mission 75AS (£549) — an unusually slim and attractive unit.*

**The Boston Acoustics VR500 will take your system even deeper than Seaquest DSV...**



### Stateside sub situation!

My system consists of a Marantz CD-63SE CD player, Harman/Kardon FA2100 power amp, H/K 3250 receiver used as a preamp/tuner, and NHT Superone Loudspeakers on Atlantis Reference SE24 Stands. I'm looking for a small, powered subwoofer for music only, and have shortlisted the Infinity BU1, M&K VX-7B, and Cambridge Soundworks Sub I. Do you have any suggestions? Also the NHT Superones are currently America's top-selling budget loudspeaker at \$350. I think they're over-rated and I'm considering replacing them with either the B&W CDM1 or ProAc Tablette 50.

*Paul Thommasso, New Jersey, USA*

# 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 0BR (No stamp required)

**Overseas readers, please post to:** Hi-Fi Choice Subscriptions Department, Bradley Pavilions, Bradley Stoke North, Bristol BS12 0BQ, 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: <b>Bank name</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Postcode</b>	
<b>Name of account holder(s)</b>	
Bank sort code                 Account number	
Originator's identification number <b>7 2 4 6 8 0</b>	
Please pay Dennis Publishing Ltd. Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee.	
<b>Signature(s)</b>	<b>Date</b>
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)**

**◀ Immediate concern**

I am trying to put together my first hi-fi system with an old Technics CD player, Aiwa tape player and a Rotel RA-920AX amp. I would like to add a tuner and some new speakers, and have come up with a few options. For the former: Sony ST-E700 or Harman/Kardon TU950; for the latter Mordaunt-Short MS10i, B&W DM302 or KEF Coda 7. At some point in the near future, probably, I will also upgrade my CD and tape players so my immediate concern is that components suit my amplifier. I can afford to spend between £100-£200 on each component but would prefer them to be nearer the £100 mark.

*Jonathan Gray, via the Internet*

*You've done your homework well. The only changes I'd suggest are eliminating the KEF Coda 7 and adding the Tannoy Mercury M2. I'm not familiar with the Sony tuner but can recommend the Denon TU-260L, and suggest you hang on for our tuner review coming up next month.*

**Tannoy's new Mercury M2s seem hard to beat.**



**Bean-can blues**

A few days ago I bought a Harman/Kardon HK620 amp (Best Buy in HFC) which sounds very good with my six-year-old B&W DM560s. I have a problem with my old CD player, though, which sounds like a miniature band playing in a bean can and striving for attention by playing loud. It's a Kenwood DP-2010 I bought seven years ago in the belief that all CD players were pretty much equal. Now I know that they're not!

I've listened to the Harman/Kardon HD710 at home and it sounded very dynamic and clear. I loved it — it felt like a big bag of cotton pulled out of my ears! Could you please tell me what other CD players you recommend for under £250?

*B. Kuyper, Delft, The Netherlands*

*At the price, and writing just before getting busy with a new group of CD players, the obvious choice would be between the mellow but musical Marantz CD-53, and the rather sharper, brighter Cambridge Audio CD4SE, both at £200. Given the rest of your system, I would guess that the Marantz would be the better tonal match, but I have no doubt you'd be well pleased by either.*



**Marantz CD-53: should prove just the ticket!**

**Second mortgage situation**

My current setup comprises an Arcam Delta 250 transport with BB50 DAC, Arcam Alpha 6 amplifier and B&W P5 loudspeakers. My lounge is five by six metres, has a high ceiling and is open plan to the rest of the house which has tiled floors. Most loudspeakers tend to sound harsh in the room, even though I've added carpets and thick curtains. The P5s are very smooth and do not have this problem. I listen mostly to acoustic music such as the Windham Hill and Narada artists, but I also enjoy Mahler, Mozart and Beethoven.

The system sounds fine tonally, but lacks detail and needs improved control of the bass. I intend to upgrade the amplifier and would appreciate your suggestions. I have tried a Pioneer A-400 which is more detailed but lacks refinement, also a Cyrus III which is very good, but lacks excitement. My dealer recommends a Bryston amplifier which would require a second mortgage on my house. Can you recommend an amplifier which is very detailed, can control the bass of the P5s and does not cost the earth? Many thanks!

*John Kennekam, Cape Town, South Africa*

*Try the Musical Fidelity A-1000 and Copland CSA14, both of which are costly by integrated amp standards, but not by prepower amp standards — and I can't imagine you being disappointed by either. Given your very live acoustics, the A-1000 could be the better system match.*

**Copland CSA14: a smooth operator with plenty of muscle.**



**Bi-wirer beware**

System used: Arcam Alpha 8 and 8P, Pioneer PD-S703, Audio Alchemy DITB, KEF Coda 9 Loudspeakers, Audioquest Jade

Interconnect, van den Hul The Storm Interconnect, QED Digiflex Interconnect and Cable Talk 3 speaker cable. I am satisfied with the sound produced by my system, but have been advised that bi-amping the speakers will produce better sound than a single wire. So one day I tried to bi-wire my speakers and blew up my amplifier, because my existing speakers have a single-wire input. Can you suggest a bi-wirable speaker within my £400 - £500 budget? I

listen to a wide range of music, including Pink Floyd, Dire Straits, Metallica, Pearl Jam, Celine Dion, Rock Bitch etc.

*Mohd. Rakik, via the internet*

*Here is a salutary lesson for anyone interested in bi-wiring: never bi-wire or bi-amplify any speakers with a single input, or where the two sets of speaker terminals are shorted together, which is how most bi-wirable speakers are supplied.*

*Choosing a speaker on its bi-wirability or lack thereof is akin to choosing a particular brand of coffee by the colour of the lid. It isn't a good enough reason to choose, just a useful facility to exploit where available. There are many speakers that could suit you and your system well. Start by auditioning the Keswick Audio Aria II and the Castle Durham 900 in the first instance, and take it from there.*



**Whichever way it's wired, the Aria II is a fine speaker.**

### Forward with floorstanders

I have the following system and am seeking some advice. Marantz CD-63 CD player, Cambridge Audio DACmagic 1, Aura VA100 Evolution mkII amp, Rega Planar 3 turntable, Castle Chester mkII speakers, Cambridge Audio Pacific interconnects, and Cable Talk 3 bi-wire speaker cable.

Having recently acquired the Chesters as replacements for Castle Trent IIs, and admitting that I've always fancied owning a decent pair of floorstanders, I was astonished at the difference they made to my system. However I still think they are capable of an even better sound, and am unsure where to go next. Do I change the CD player and DAC first, or replace the amp? I like the smooth sound the Aura delivers, but I want more detail. My budget is £500.

Mr D Allen, Newark, Notts

*Yes, a bigger, better amplifier should make quite a difference, certainly more than changing tack elsewhere; the amplifier test in this issue should give you some good ideas. In fact there is an obvious choice in this case, namely the Arcam Alpha 9, which costs exactly £500, and can be bi-amplified by adding the Alpha 9P for an extra £400, though you could take this second step later. If properly set up, your system should then be well matched.*

### New for old

I am in the process of replacing an elderly hi-fi system that plays a cherished collection of vinyl, and would welcome your advice. Already the first step has been taken: the Quad 33/303 amp has been replaced by a Linn Wakonda/LK100 combination, which to my ears sounded the best for my type of music, which is predominantly classical, and mainly baroque. The question is, what comes next? On one end is a Thorens TD-160/SME IIS/Shure V15IV; at the other an early model Rogers LS3/5a and Yamaha NS-W1 subwoofer. The present generation of 'narrow/deep' floorstanders has overcome completely (well, almost) my wife's antipathy to large boxes, so I'll be looking for something like that. I've always had a hankering for an MC cartridge, supposedly the best for vinyl reproduction. Could the present arm handle such a thing, as I have a vague memory that the compliances don't match? Or should I start from scratch and invest in another turntable/arm first; if so, what? I am prepared to spend a reasonable amount but I am not a bottomless pit — my ballpark figure is around £4,000.

J A McStea, Holstein, Switzerland

*Much depends on the condition of your existing record player, and given the antiquity of the components concerned, it is likely that the cartridge is on its last legs, and that the rest of the turntable may also be past its best. Certainly there is much to gain from a change to one of the better turntables, arms and new MC cartridges, and this could mean a Nottingham Analogue Spacedeck, Linn Sondek LP12 or Roksan Xerxes. The other components I would rip out are the Rogers LS3/5a and subwoofer. I may not be popular with fans of this legendary design, but I feel that it is a beguiling but ultimately limited and compressed loudspeaker.*

*There is, however, an ideal choice. This is the Definitive Technology BP2002. It costs £2,400, and is bipolar in construction: it has an identical speaker array on the front and rear surface. It also has a built in active subwoofer, though this is not the reason I suggest you seek it out. I cite it only because it works well.*

### By the bi

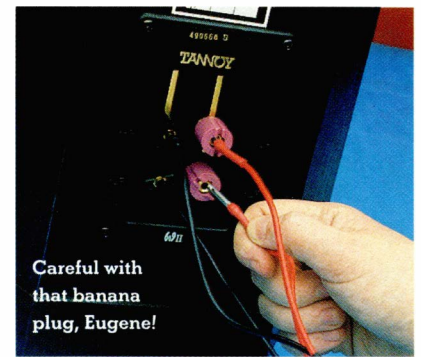
The main components of my system are a Cambridge Audio DiscMagic 1 transport with a Cambridge Audio DACMagic 2 DAC. Amplification is provided by a Rotel RC970BXII preamp and a pair of bridged Rotel RC970BXII power amps. I feel that my Mission 762s are the weak link, and therefore I hope to upgrade to a pair of Mission 734s, 752s or similar floorstanders. I listen to all types of music and would be grateful for some advice.

Would bi-wiring the speakers improve sound quality, or should I keep using the Rotel power amps as monoblocks? Is it possible to bi-amp with four bridged Rotel power amps, and would it be worthwhile?

B L Llewellyn, Birchgrove, Swansea

*If you can bridge one pair of amplifiers, you can bridge two pairs of amplifiers, and bi-wire each speaker with one bridged pair, which means they are being bi-amped. I would suggest using one amplifier pair for both tweeters and the other pair to feed both bass units, because heavy voltage and current swings to the bass unit on one channel could modulate the other channel through the power supply.*

*The general point here is that bridging power amplifiers often results in better sound quality, though this is by no means always the case, and on a standard analysis of amplifier behaviour, bi-amping doesn't necessarily improve matters. One reason is that the impedance of the speaker as 'seen' by the amplifier is halved, which reduces damping and increases frequency response errors due to any reactive component in the speaker-cable-amplifier loop.*

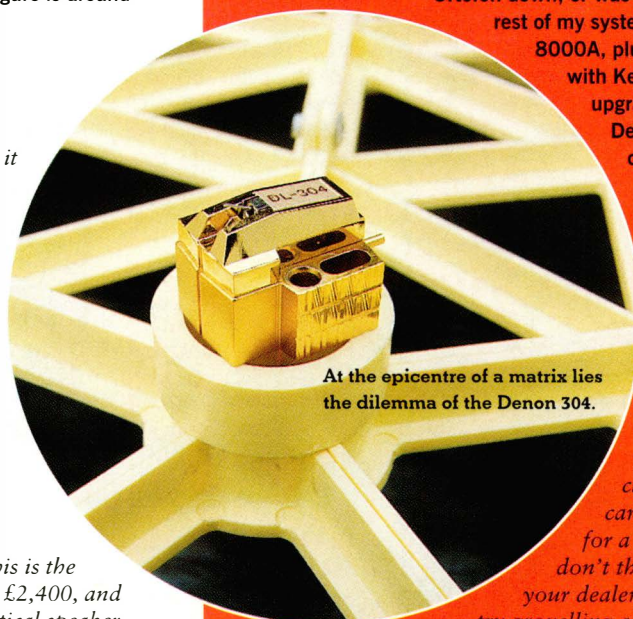


Careful with that banana plug, Eugene!

### Downgrade from Denon?

On my Michell Gyrodec/Rega RB300 arm/QC power supply turntable outfit, I recently upgraded the Denon 304 cartridge to an Ortofon MC10 Supreme costing £100 more. After about a month of listening, I've found my old Denon cartridge sounded a lot better! Why is this, when my dealer convinced me the Ortofon would be far superior? Could the rest of my system be letting the Ortofon down, or was my dealer talking rubbish? The rest of my system comprises an Audiolab 8000A, plus JBL L1 speakers connected with Kelvin Labs silver cables. Do I upgrade something or buy another Denon when my Ortofon wears out, probably at the end of '97?

Arian Robson, via the Internet



At the epicentre of a matrix lies the dilemma of the Denon 304.

*You haven't said what you don't like about your new cartridge, but my guess is that it may have blown some cobwebs out of your system, exposing what can be a rather unforgiving top end in the JBLs. If you really can't get along with your new cartridge, you'd better save up for a new old one. Sad to say, I don't think you have a case against your dealer, though you could always try grovelling a bit. It has to be said however, that the DL304 is a very fine cartridge and hard to beat at anywhere near the price.*

**VTA**ggro

I recently swapped my Dual 505-2 turntable for a Rega Planar 3 and installed my old Denon DL-110 cartridge in the RB300 arm. At first I was impressed, but when I took a closer look, I found that with the stylus on the record, the cartridge end of the arm is a few millimetres higher than the bearing. As far as I know, it should be lower, or at least horizontal. This arises because the Denon DL-110 is taller than the old Rega Elys. I would like to upgrade my turntable with an Ortofon MC15 Super II, but this is two-mm higher still. Any ideas? Victor Staffeleu, *The Hague, Netherlands*

*Rega produces a spacer which fits between the arm and the player chassis to raise the bearing. Simply undo the large nut that holds the arm and withdraw the latter along with the arm cable. Fit the spacer and put it all back together. However there will be a negligible error in the VTA (vertical tracking angle) due to the bearing being out of position by a few millimetres. Any VTA-related effect is almost always swamped by adjusting the tracking down-force by as little as a tenth of a gram (depending on cartridge compliance, i.e. the springiness of its suspension). This level of adjustment is well within a cartridge's set-up parameters.*

**Spongy system sadness**

My system consists of an Arcam Delta 250/BB50 CD player, Audiolab 8000C/P and Mission 753s, with Chord Co. Flatline twin speaker cable. Due to spongy old floorboards the speakers are on concrete slabs about six inches from the rear wall, slightly 'toed in'. I like the sound my system makes most of the time, but I do rail against the slightly harsh treble it kicks out. I want to add a second 8000P to bi-amp the Missions and a skilled electrical engineer I know has suggested upgrading the internal cabling with Chord Co. Rumour. He has done this in a pair of 752s with great success.

I am currently waiting to borrow a Marantz CD17 and CD17 KI Signature to see how they sound in my system, but I wonder whether I should be looking at amplifiers too. Being a musician I like neutrality and detail. I have also considered changing the speakers to something like Mordaunt-Short Performance 820s, but I have yet to hear them side by side with the Missions. My room is about 15 feet square and has to double as an office. The rear wall is reflective and I have considered hanging up a rug — would this calm down the treble?

*Jon Dahms, via the internet*

*No easy answers I'm afraid. There is much to gain potentially from re-wiring the speakers, but no guarantees of success, and of course Mission will disenfranchise you as soon as you take the nutcracker to the box. Although it has been going for a while, the Mission 753 sets pretty high standards, and although you can certainly buy better speakers, you're almost certainly going to have to pay quite a lot more, and still not be guaranteed success. The M-S Performance 820 may indeed fit the bill, but it is not a speaker we've tested, though it seems unlikely that it would be suitable for a listening room 15 feet square. If you really want to pursue this course, however, search down a pair of JBL L90s, which are the right size for your room, and a genuine qualitative advance on the*

*Mission. I can't see a lot of mileage in upgrading your amplifier at this stage: any gains are likely to be small or very costly.*

**JBL L90: should get you up and air-guitaring.**

**HINTS AND TIPS****The "Hello!" effect**

Jimmy Hughes offers some lessons in hi-fi etiquette.

Picture the scene. You've got some hi-fi friends over to listen to your latest upgrade, and you're wondering whether they really like the sound. Impressions seem favourable, but how can you be sure they're telling the truth and giving an honest appraisal?

Answer — you can't! Perhaps we hi-fi enthusiasts as a breed are all too nice and diplomatic, but many fudge the issue when asked for an opinion, especially when they don't like the sound. They might say "I've never heard anything quite like it..." but that can be taken both ways, alas!

My pet hate is people who listen and describe the sound as "interesting", especially when this is preceded by a few deep meaningful "mmmm"s. I always think: you lying gits; you don't like the sound at all, but haven't the guts to tell me straight out!

And then there are those who really think your system does sound good, but are so eaten-up with envy and jealousy that they can't acknowledge the fact. Instead of saying how great they think it all sounds, they hiss through clenched teeth "yeah, it's okay..." We've all done it. So how can you tell what your guests really think? Speaking personally, I always take note when people stop talking and listen intently. Silence is golden: invite a few friends over to listen, and if within minutes of the music starting they're engaged in a conversation, chances are they don't like your sound — whatever is said to the contrary.

A great-sounding system involves the listener in the music, producing the kind of respect one gives to a good musician playing live. Given great sound, people rarely indulge in chit-chat. Instead, they listen with rapt attention and interest because the music engages both intellect and emotions.

When conversation develops over the music, your audience either doesn't like the sound being made, or else the music itself simply doesn't command their respect and attention. Turning up the volume won't help; it has little to do with loudness! When you don't like a sound, talking can often be a way of blotting out what you'd rather not hear.

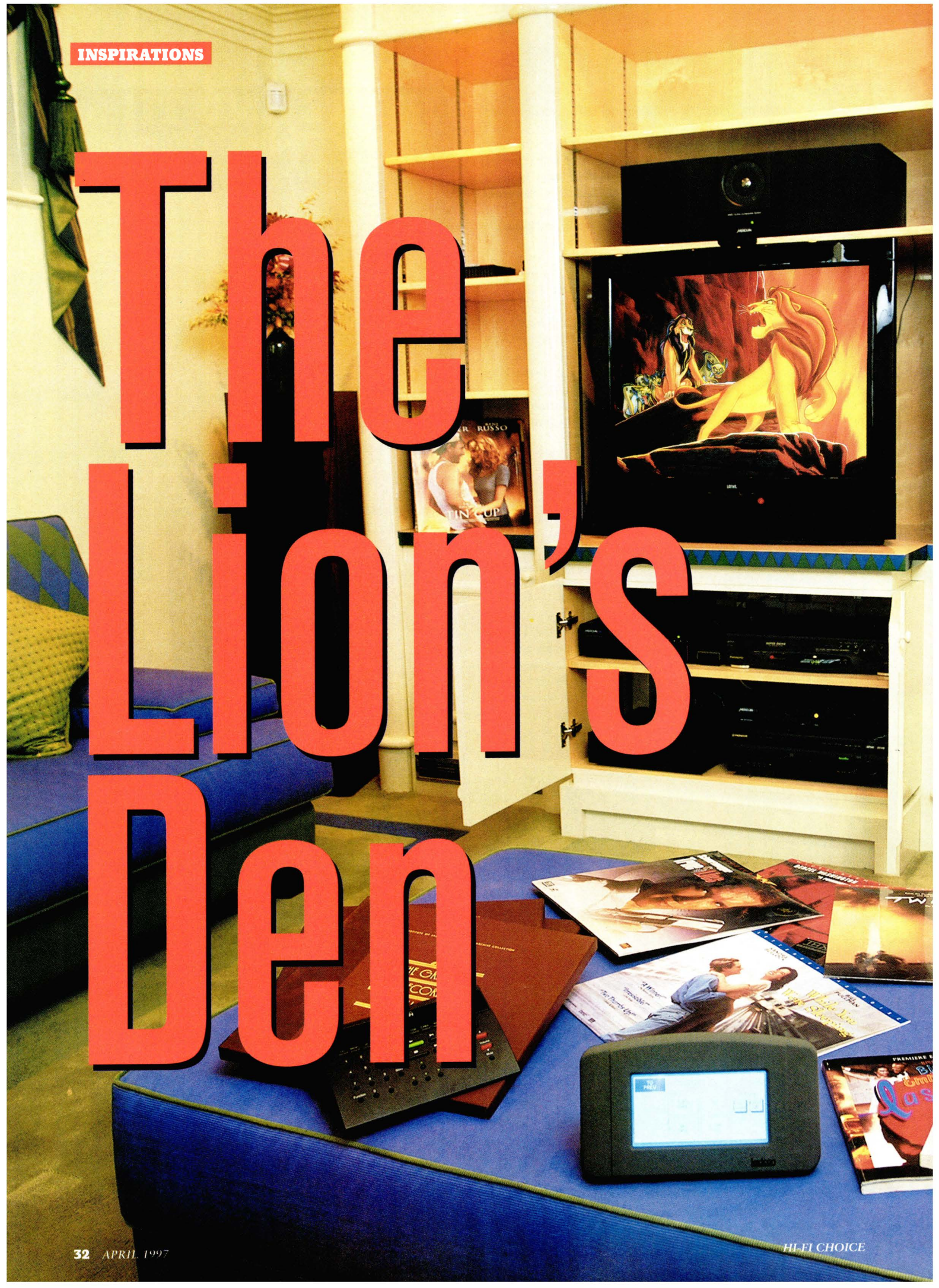
Tied in with this is the question of whether the system can recreate a really commanding musical presence. Hear a great guitarist like Adrian Legge in the flesh and you won't start to chat. Here's a player so capable and brilliant, he could go into a noisy crowded pub, twang a few notes, and within a few seconds the whole place would fall silent to listen...

Some musicians have the ability to command attention; others don't. And it's the same with hi-fi systems. Call it presence, immediacy, focus, whatever; essentially it's something that totally engages your interest. And you know it's there when people fall silent and can't help but listen as the music plays.



Make yourself comfortable... and listen to the music.

# The Lion's Den





This luxury system is guarded by a fearsome hound called Simba, Alan Sircom barely got out in one piece!

**A**sk any dealer. One of the hardest problems in hi-fi is improving an existing system — especially if its constituent components bear little resemblance to your usual portfolio of products. No matter how tempting it may seem, you can't just laugh, proclaim "what cowboy sold you that?" and consign said system to the nearest skip.

When this problem cropped up for Grahams Hi-Fi in Islington, it took smooth handling to transform the system you see from simple stereo into state-of-the-art AV.

It all began in late 1993, when our resident Mr X approached Grahams to set up his Linn Sondek LP12 turntable, part of a system purchased from Radlett Audio in former years. He had approached Radlett to service his LP12, but this retailer, now in St Albans, was no longer a Linn dealer, and pointed him in the direction of Grahams instead.

To say that Mr X was impressed by Grahams' efforts would be an understatement. Internationally recognised as one of the Grandmasters of Linndom, Grahams set up the turntable with aplomb and suggested a few subtle modifications to transform the deck. Out went the Ittok arm and in came an Ekos, closely followed by a Lingo power supply, the Cirkus modification and a Trampolin baseboard. Koetsu's Red Signature cartridge remains, as Mr X loves its warm sound.

The rest of this hi-fi system remains as Radlett Audio designed, with the now discontinued and greatly-missed Jeff Rowland Consummate preamplifier, Marantz CD-94 CD player, Mark Levinson 23.5 stereo power amplifier and a pair of ProAc Response Three loudspeakers.

In 1994, however, Mr X began to transform his £1million-plus home, and the hi-fi system got relocated while the builders went to work. This was not simply a dab of plaster and tin-of-paint job: nigh on eight different contractors and a brace of subcontractors went to work on the house, putting a swimming pool here, a gym there and much, much more in the spaces inbetween.

At the time, Mr X announced that he wanted to rewire his AMC multi-room sys-

►►  
Where hi-fi meets AV... ProAc Response Three speakers share lounge-space with TV and AC-3.

# 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.

# 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.

<http://www.kamla.com/kamla>

[hifi-info@kamla.com](mailto:hifi-info@kamla.com)



Great for driving woofers! (Arf, arf.) The Mark Levinson power amp lives in the kitchen.

tem when the house was finished. The multi-room rig was intended to interface with the hi-fi and extensive new AV facilities — requests that Grahams takes in its stride. However, it became clear that the complexity of the installation was beyond the capabilities of the AMC set-up, so in 1994, David Graham, a director of the North London dealership, suggested that the recently-introduced Linn Knekt and Intersekt systems would be more useful. The die was cast.

There is no space here to give further details of the multi-room system: it is geared principally towards piping radio and TV signals around the house. However the ease of operating it in any room belies the sheer complexity of the installation. And while the sound from the KEF in-wall speakers is not what you'd call hi-fi, that you can control the music anywhere indoors, and that the entire system is hidden from view, makes a strong argument for the multi-room approach.

### The covers are off

Once most the building work had been done, it was time to take the covers off the main hi-fi. Grahams' installers placed the turntable, CD and pre-amp into an alcove at the rear of the living room, using a long run of balanced cable to link the pre-amp with the Levinson power amplifier. This conglomeration of huge metal heat-sinks is not lounge-friendly, so Grahams cunningly moved the amp into the housekeeper's kitchen directly behind the living room. The amplifier is left on constantly, despite its thirst for mains current.

I'd have to opine that the sound of the main system is slightly hampered by the positioning of the ProAc Response Three speakers. Realistically, they could do with moving about half a metre further into the

room. This would make the bass less sluggish and open out the sound a little. But even given that caveat, this system has a lot going for it. The Linn has warmth and timing a-plenty and the Marantz is remarkably similar in tone to the analogue source.

The superlatively transparent Jeff Rowland pre-amp, thunderstorm-powerful Levinson power amp and tonally exquisite ProAc's go together like a horse and carriage (carriages?) in a manner well-suited to Mr X's catholic musical tastes. He has a broad-ranging record and CD collection, but favours easy-listening styles overall.

### At the apogee of AV

New AV equipment adding a twist to the main system includes a large Loewe TV, Panasonic VCR, Pioneer CLD-D915 AC-3 compatible LaserDisc (LD) player, plus a Meridian 565 AC-3 processor and DSP5000 centre channel speaker.

At first Mr X was undecided about his need for AC-3 Dolby Digital compatibility, which offers five full-range digital channels in addition to a subwoofer channel. After all, this is a big investment which will only be repaid by LDs imported from the US and consequently blessed with AC-3 soundtracks. However, in the honourable tradition of converts to a cause, once he heard the digital dimension, Mr X quickly became a staunch fan of AC-3.

Adding home cinema was a perfect excuse to ditch all existing remote-control

Top-spec Linn Sondek flanks Marantz CD player and Jeff Rowland pre-amp.

Lexicon's 500T touch-screen remote controller.

hand-sets in favour of the amazing fully-programmable Lexicon 500T touch-screen remote. This can store multi-step 'macro' programs under a single

button of its LCD screen, which makes light work of operating complex systems such as these. So much so, in fact, that Mr X has splashed out on a second 500T for use around the house, not just in the AV room. At £2,000 a pop, that's high-end control!

Grahams didn't configure the system, but deserves the lion's share of the credit for blending the hi-fi equipment with such an extensive web of AV and multi-room connections. Naturally Grahams will always be on hand to maintain his gear, come what may.

Mr X sleeps secure in this knowledge; indeed, when it comes to security, he has every base covered. His equipment is hooked up to a comprehensive alarm system; a network of closed-circuit security cameras can be monitored on any TV in the building; and last but not least there's Simba the drooling-fanged attack dog, who is immortalised in this article's headline. Even if you managed to scale the perimeter fence, evade the cameras and disable the alarm, you would not leave the building without a canine incisor impression somewhere on your body. I'm just glad that the only things I took were notes... ▲

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

**WHAT HI\*FI?**

and only available from these authorised dealers...

- |   |  |   |   |   |  |  |   |  |  |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| <p><b>ABERDEEN</b><br/>Sevenoaks Hi-Fi<br/>01224 587070</p> <p><b>ACCRINGTON</b><br/>Cryers<br/>01284 391440</p> <p><b>ALDERLEY EDGE</b><br/>Aston Audio<br/>01425 582704</p> <p><b>AYLESBURY</b><br/>Northwood Audio II<br/>01296 28790</p> <p><b>BANBURY</b><br/>Blinkhorns<br/>01295 259859</p> <p><b>BANGOR</b><br/>I &amp; H Griffiths<br/>01248 370655</p> <p><b>BARKING</b><br/>Hyper-Fi<br/>0181 591 6961</p> <p><b>BARNSTAPLE</b><br/>J &amp; A Video Centre<br/>01271 24384</p> <p><b>BARROW-IN-FURNESS</b><br/>Sevenoaks Hi-Fi<br/>01229 838757</p> <p><b>BASINGSTOKE</b><br/>Audio T<br/>01256 24311</p> <p><b>BATH</b><br/>Moss of Bath<br/>01225 465085</p> <p><b>BECKENHAM</b><br/>Musical Images<br/>0181 663 5777</p> <p><b>BEDFORD</b><br/>Richard's A.V.<br/>01234 365165</p> <p><b>BELFAST</b><br/>Audio Times<br/>01232 249117</p> <p><b>BIRMINGHAM</b><br/>Empire Superstore<br/>0121 643 0972</p> <p><b>BIRMINGHAM</b><br/>Music Matters<br/>0121 429 2811</p> <p><b>BIRMINGHAM</b><br/>Music Matters<br/>0121 742 0254</p> <p><b>BIRMINGHAM</b><br/>Norman H. Field<br/>0121 622 2323</p> <p><b>BIRMINGHAM</b><br/>Richer Sounds<br/>0121 643 1516</p> <p><b>BIRMINGHAM</b><br/>Sevenoaks Hi-Fi<br/>0121 233 2977</p> <p><b>BIRMINGHAM</b><br/>Superfi<br/>0121 631 2875</p> <p><b>BISHOP'S STORTFORD</b><br/>Chew &amp; Osborne<br/>01279 656401</p> <p><b>BIRMINGHAM</b><br/>The Audio File<br/>01279 506576</p> <p><b>BLACKBURN</b><br/>Cryers<br/>01245 51842</p> <p><b>BLACKBURN</b><br/>Practical Hi-Fi<br/>01254 691104</p> <p><b>BLACKBURN</b><br/>Romers Hi-Fi<br/>01254 887799</p> <p><b>BLACKPOOL</b><br/>Practical Hi-Fi<br/>01253 300599</p> | <p><b>BLOXWICH</b><br/>Sound Academy<br/>01922 473499</p> <p><b>BODMIN</b><br/>E.T.S.<br/>01208 75579</p> <p><b>BOLTON</b><br/>Cleartone<br/>01204 531423</p> <p><b>BOLTON</b><br/>Practical Hi-Fi<br/>01204 395789</p> <p><b>BOLTON</b><br/>Sound &amp; Vision<br/>01204 701711</p> <p><b>BOURNEMOUTH</b><br/>Movement Audio<br/>01202 529988</p> <p><b>BRADFORD</b><br/>Erricks<br/>01274 309266</p> <p><b>BRENTWOOD</b><br/>Hi-Spek Electronics<br/>01277 226303</p> <p><b>BRIGHTON</b><br/>Richer Sounds<br/>01273 673333</p> <p><b>BRIGHTON</b><br/>Sevenoaks Hi-Fi<br/>01273 733338</p> <p><b>BRIGHTON</b><br/>The Powerplant<br/>01273 775978</p> <p><b>BRISTOL</b><br/>Audio Excellence<br/>0117 926 4975</p> <p><b>BRISTOL</b><br/>Richer Sounds<br/>0117 973 4397</p> <p><b>BROMBOROUGH</b><br/>CROSS<br/>Peter's Hi-Fi<br/>0151 344 1874</p> <p><b>BROMSGROVE</b><br/>Spains<br/>01527 872460</p> <p><b>BURTON UPON TRENT</b><br/>Grange Hi-Fi<br/>01283 533655</p> <p><b>BURY ST. EDMUNDS</b><br/>Sevenoaks Hi-Fi<br/>01284 753778</p> <p><b>CAMBORNE</b><br/>E.T.S.<br/>01209 712344</p> <p><b>CAMBRIDGE</b><br/>Campkins Hi-Fi<br/>01223 312240</p> <p><b>CAMBRIDGE</b><br/>The Audio File<br/>01223 88305</p> <p><b>CAMBRIDGE</b><br/>University Audio<br/>01223 354237</p> <p><b>CANTERBURY</b><br/>O Audio<br/>01227 462787</p> <p><b>CARDIFF</b><br/>Audio Excellence<br/>0122 228565</p> <p><b>CARDIFF</b><br/>Richer Sounds<br/>01222 465654</p> <p><b>CARLISLE</b><br/>Practical Hi-Fi<br/>01228 44792</p> <p><b>CASTLEFORD</b><br/>Eric Willey Hi-Fi<br/>01977 556774</p> <p><b>CHATHAM</b><br/>Sevenoaks Hi-Fi<br/>01634 846859</p> | <p><b>CHELMSFORD</b><br/>Richer Sounds<br/>01245 355666</p> <p><b>CHELtenham</b><br/>Audio T<br/>01242 583960</p> <p><b>CHESTER</b><br/>Sevenoaks Hi-Fi<br/>01242 241171</p> <p><b>CHESTER</b><br/>Audio Excellence<br/>01244 345576</p> <p><b>CHESTER</b><br/>Peter's Hi-Fi<br/>01244 319392</p> <p><b>CHIPPENHAM</b><br/>JD Stereo Center<br/>01181 342 1973</p> <p><b>EPPING</b><br/>Chew &amp; Osborne<br/>01992 574242</p> <p><b>EXETER</b><br/>Audio Excellence<br/>01392 491194</p> <p><b>EXMOUTH</b><br/>Ere Video<br/>01395 278 558</p> <p><b>FAKIRK</b><br/>Hi-Fi Corner<br/>01324 629011</p> <p><b>FOLKESTONE</b><br/>Halksworth Wheeler<br/>01303 255688</p> <p><b>FOLKESTONE</b><br/>V.J. Hi-Fi<br/>01270 257030</p> <p><b>GLASGOW</b><br/>Richer Sounds<br/>0191 460 0999</p> <p><b>GLASGOW</b><br/>Linton Audio<br/>0191 477 4167</p> <p><b>GLASGOW</b><br/>Bill Hutchinson<br/>0141 248 2857</p> <p><b>GLASGOW</b><br/>Richer Sounds<br/>0141 226 5551</p> <p><b>GLASGOW</b><br/>The Music Room<br/>0141 332 5012</p> <p><b>GLoucester</b><br/>Audio Excellence<br/>01452 300046</p> <p><b>GODSTONE</b><br/>Surrey Hi-Fi<br/>01883 744755</p> <p><b>GUILDFORD</b><br/>Rogers Hi-Fi<br/>01483 61049</p> <p><b>DOUGLAS</b><br/>Sevenoaks Hi-Fi<br/>01483 366666</p> <p><b>HALIFAX</b><br/>Huddersfield Hi-Fi<br/>01422 365832</p> <p><b>HARROW</b><br/>Harrow Audio<br/>0181 863 0938</p> <p><b>HASTINGS</b><br/>Adams &amp; Jarrett<br/>01424 437165</p> <p><b>HELSTON</b><br/>E.T.S.<br/>01326 573285</p> <p><b>HEREFORD</b><br/>English Audio<br/>01432 355081</p> <p><b>HIGH WYCOMBE</b><br/>B&amp;B Hi-Fi<br/>01494 535910</p> <p><b>EASTBOURNE</b><br/>Smythe &amp; Barrie<br/>01323 729192</p> <p><b>EAST GRINSTEAD</b><br/>Audio Designs<br/>01342 314569</p> | <p><b>EDGWARE</b><br/>Musical Images<br/>0181 952 5535</p> <p><b>EDINBURGH</b><br/>Bill Hutchinson<br/>0131 220 0909</p> <p><b>EDINBURGH</b><br/>Bill Hutchinson<br/>0131 667 2877</p> <p><b>EDINBURGH</b><br/>Richer Sounds<br/>0131 226 3544</p> <p><b>ENFIELD</b><br/>Audio T<br/>0181 367 3132</p> <p><b>ENFIELD</b><br/>Sevenoaks Hi-Fi<br/>0181 514 7448</p> <p><b>IPSWICH</b><br/>Eastern Audio<br/>01473 217217</p> <p><b>KETTERING</b><br/>Classic Hi-Fi<br/>01536 310855</p> <p><b>KINGS LYNN</b><br/>Martins Hi-Fi<br/>01533 761683</p> <p><b>KINGSTON UPON THAMES</b><br/>Intidality<br/>0181 943 3530</p> <p><b>KINGSTON UPON THAMES</b><br/>Richer Sounds<br/>0181 549 9999</p> <p><b>KINGSTON UPON THAMES</b><br/>Sevenoaks Hi-Fi<br/>0181 547 0717</p> <p><b>LANCASTER</b><br/>Practical Hi-Fi<br/>01524 36991</p> <p><b>LEEDS</b><br/>Bill Hutchinson<br/>0113 242 7777</p> <p><b>LEEDS</b><br/>Empire Superstore<br/>0113 235 1701</p> <p><b>LEEDS</b><br/>Richer Sounds<br/>0113 245 5717</p> <p><b>LEEDS</b><br/>Superfi<br/>0113 244 9075</p> <p><b>LEICESTER</b><br/>Cymbiosis<br/>0116 262 3754</p> <p><b>LEICESTER</b><br/>Richer Sounds<br/>0116 253 9753</p> <p><b>LEICESTER</b><br/>May's Hi-Fi<br/>0116 262 5625</p> <p><b>LEICESTER</b><br/>Richer Sounds<br/>0116 255 4656</p> <p><b>LEICESTER</b><br/>Sevenoaks Hi-Fi<br/>0116 255 7518</p> <p><b>LEICESTER</b><br/>The Stereo Shack<br/>0116 253 0330</p> <p><b>LINCOLN</b><br/>Superfi<br/>01522 520265</p> <p><b>LIVERPOOL</b><br/>Beaver Hi-Fi<br/>0151 709 9898</p> <p><b>HASTINGS</b><br/>Adams &amp; Jarrett<br/>01424 437165</p> <p><b>HELSTON</b><br/>E.T.S.<br/>01326 573285</p> <p><b>HEREFORD</b><br/>English Audio<br/>01432 355081</p> <p><b>HIGH WYCOMBE</b><br/>B&amp;B Hi-Fi<br/>01494 535910</p> <p><b>EASTBOURNE</b><br/>Smythe &amp; Barrie<br/>01323 729192</p> <p><b>EAST GRINSTEAD</b><br/>Audio Designs<br/>01342 314569</p> | <p><b>HUDDERSFIELD</b><br/>Huddersfield Hi-Fi<br/>01484 544668</p> <p><b>HULL</b><br/>Superfi<br/>01482 324051</p> <p><b>HULL</b><br/>Zen Audio<br/>01482 587397</p> <p><b>ILFRAD</b><br/>Audio T<br/>0181 518 0915</p> <p><b>ILFRAD</b><br/>PRC Hi-Fi &amp; Video<br/>0181 514 7448</p> <p><b>IPSWICH</b><br/>Eastern Audio<br/>01473 217217</p> <p><b>KETTERING</b><br/>Classic Hi-Fi<br/>01536 310855</p> <p><b>KINGS LYNN</b><br/>Martins Hi-Fi<br/>01533 761683</p> <p><b>KINGSTON UPON THAMES</b><br/>Intidality<br/>0181 943 3530</p> <p><b>KINGSTON UPON THAMES</b><br/>Richer Sounds<br/>0181 549 9999</p> <p><b>KINGSTON UPON THAMES</b><br/>Sevenoaks Hi-Fi<br/>0181 547 0717</p> <p><b>LANCASTER</b><br/>Practical Hi-Fi<br/>01524 36991</p> <p><b>LEEDS</b><br/>Bill Hutchinson<br/>0113 242 7777</p> <p><b>LEEDS</b><br/>Empire Superstore<br/>0113 235 1701</p> <p><b>LEEDS</b><br/>Richer Sounds<br/>0113 245 5717</p> <p><b>LEEDS</b><br/>Superfi<br/>0113 244 9075</p> <p><b>LEICESTER</b><br/>Cymbiosis<br/>0116 262 3754</p> <p><b>LEICESTER</b><br/>Richer Sounds<br/>0116 253 9753</p> <p><b>LEICESTER</b><br/>May's Hi-Fi<br/>0116 262 5625</p> <p><b>LEICESTER</b><br/>Richer Sounds<br/>0116 255 4656</p> <p><b>LEICESTER</b><br/>Sevenoaks Hi-Fi<br/>0116 255 7518</p> <p><b>LEICESTER</b><br/>The Stereo Shack<br/>0116 253 0330</p> <p><b>LINCOLN</b><br/>Superfi<br/>01522 520265</p> <p><b>LIVERPOOL</b><br/>Beaver Hi-Fi<br/>0151 709 9898</p> <p><b>HASTINGS</b><br/>Adams &amp; Jarrett<br/>01424 437165</p> <p><b>HELSTON</b><br/>E.T.S.<br/>01326 573285</p> <p><b>HEREFORD</b><br/>English Audio<br/>01432 355081</p> <p><b>HIGH WYCOMBE</b><br/>B&amp;B Hi-Fi<br/>01494 535910</p> <p><b>EASTBOURNE</b><br/>Smythe &amp; Barrie<br/>01323 729192</p> <p><b>EAST GRINSTEAD</b><br/>Audio Designs<br/>01342 314569</p> | <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>Brians Hi-Fi<br/>0171 631 1109</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>Chelsea A.V.<br/>0171 352 2596</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>Cornflake Shop<br/>0171 631 0472</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>Francis of Streatham<br/>0181 769 0466</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>Grahams Hi-Fi<br/>0171 226 5500</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>Hi-Fi Care<br/>0171 637 8911</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>Hi-Fi Confidential<br/>0171 233 7225</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>Hi-Fi Surplus Store<br/>0171 323 6712</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>Hi-Spek Electronics<br/>0181 349 1166</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>Kamla Electronics<br/>0171 323 2747</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>KJ West One<br/>0171 486 8262</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>Kerco Electronics<br/>0181 743 3698</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>Martin-Kleiser<br/>0181 742 3444</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>M. O'Brien Hi-Fi<br/>0181 946 1528</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>Musical Images<br/>0171 497 1346</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>Myers Audio<br/>0181 520 7277</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>Oranges &amp; Lemons<br/>0171 924 2040</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>PRC Hi-Fi &amp; Video<br/>0181 470 3499</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>Richer Sounds<br/>0191 230 3600</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>Richer Sounds<br/>0191 230 1392</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>NEWPORT<br/>Hi-Fi Western<br/>01633 262790</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>Quartetdeck Music<br/>01637 851441</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>NEWTOWNARDS<br/>Moore's Hi-Fi<br/>01247 812417</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>NORTHAMPTON<br/>Listen Inn<br/>01604 37871</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>NORWICH<br/>Basically Sound<br/>01508 570829</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>NORWICH<br/>Martins Hi-Fi<br/>01603 627010</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>NORWICH<br/>Sevenoaks Hi-Fi<br/>01603 767605</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>NOTTINGHAM<br/>Forum Hi-Fi<br/>0115 962 2657</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>NORWICH<br/>John Kirk<br/>0115 925 2986</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>NORWICH<br/>Richer Sounds<br/>0115 924 1551</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>NORWICH<br/>Superfi<br/>0115 941 2137</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>OBAN<br/>John Munro<br/>01343 812340</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>LUTON<br/>B&amp;B Hi-Fi<br/>01582 459915</p> <p><b>LONDON</b><br/>MAIDENHEAD<br/>B&amp;B Hi-Fi<br/>01628 73420</p> | <p><b>MAIDSTONE</b><br/>Halksworth Wheeler<br/>01622 756756</p> <p><b>MAIDSTONE</b><br/>Sevenoaks Hi-Fi<br/>01622 686366</p> <p><b>MANCHESTER</b><br/>Bill Hutchinson<br/>0161 832 1600</p> <p><b>MANCHESTER</b><br/>Central Radio<br/>0161 834 6700</p> <p><b>MANCHESTER</b><br/>Practical Hi-Fi<br/>0161 839 8869</p> <p><b>MANCHESTER</b><br/>Superfi<br/>0161 835 1156</p> <p><b>MANCHESTER</b><br/>The Hi-Fi Room<br/>0161 832 0888</p> <p><b>MARGATE</b><br/>V.J. Hi-Fi<br/>01843 226977</p> <p><b>MARKET HARBOUROUGH</b><br/>The Auditorium<br/>01648 461460</p> <p><b>MIDDLESBOROUGH</b><br/>Gilson Audio<br/>01642 248793</p> <p><b>MIDDLESBOROUGH</b><br/>MSV<br/>01642 223366</p> <p><b>MILTON KEYNES</b><br/>Technosound<br/>01908 604949</p> <p><b>NELSON</b><br/>Wilkinson's Hi-Fi<br/>01282 612901</p> <p><b>NEW MALDEN</b><br/>Grandix<br/>0181 336 0012</p> <p><b>NEWBURY</b><br/>B&amp;B Hi-Fi<br/>01635 32474</p> <p><b>NEWCASTLE</b><br/>Bill Hutchinson<br/>0191 230 3600</p> <p><b>NEWCASTLE</b><br/>Richer Sounds<br/>0191 230 1392</p> <p><b>NEWPORT</b><br/>Hi-Fi Western<br/>01633 262790</p> <p><b>NEWPORT</b><br/>Quartetdeck Music<br/>01637 851441</p> <p><b>NEWTONARDS</b><br/>Moore's Hi-Fi<br/>01247 812417</p> <p><b>NORTHAMPTON</b><br/>Listen Inn<br/>01604 37871</p> <p><b>NORWICH</b><br/>Basically Sound<br/>01508 570829</p> <p><b>NORWICH</b><br/>Martins Hi-Fi<br/>01603 627010</p> <p><b>NORWICH</b><br/>Sevenoaks Hi-Fi<br/>01603 767605</p> <p><b>NORWICH</b><br/>NOTTINGHAM<br/>Forum Hi-Fi<br/>0115 962 2657</p> <p><b>NORWICH</b><br/>John Kirk<br/>0115 925 2986</p> <p><b>NORWICH</b><br/>Richer Sounds<br/>0115 924 1551</p> <p><b>NORWICH</b><br/>Superfi<br/>0115 941 2137</p> <p><b>NORWICH</b><br/>OBAN<br/>John Munro<br/>01343 812340</p> <p><b>NORWICH</b><br/>LUTON<br/>B&amp;B Hi-Fi<br/>01582 459915</p> <p><b>NORWICH</b><br/>MAIDENHEAD<br/>B&amp;B Hi-Fi<br/>01628 73420</p> | <p><b>OXFORD</b><br/>Audio T<br/>01865 65961</p> <p><b>OXFORD</b><br/>Oxford Audio<br/>01865 790879</p> <p><b>OXFORD</b><br/>Consultants<br/>01865 241773</p> <p><b>OXFORD</b><br/>Sevenoaks Hi-Fi<br/>01865 241773</p> <p><b>OXFORD</b><br/>E.T.S.<br/>01736 64274</p> <p><b>OXFORD</b><br/>PERTH<br/>W.M. Coupar<br/>01738 634809</p> <p><b>PETERBOROUGH</b><br/>Audio Vision<br/>01733 352752</p> <p><b>PETERBOROUGH</b><br/>The Hi-Fi Company<br/>01733 341755</p> <p><b>PLYMOUTH</b><br/>The Hi-Fi Attic<br/>01752 669511</p> <p><b>POOLE</b><br/>Movement Audio<br/>01202 730865</p> <p><b>PORTSMOUTH</b><br/>Radlett Audio<br/>01705 811618</p> <p><b>PORTSMOUTH</b><br/>Now That's Hi-Fi<br/>01705 811230</p> <p><b>PRESTON</b><br/>Audio Excellence<br/>01772 253057</p> <p><b>PRESTON</b><br/>Practical Hi-Fi<br/>01772 883958</p> <p><b>PRESTON</b><br/>Bill Hutchinson<br/>0191 230 3600</p> <p><b>PRESTON</b><br/>Richer Sounds<br/>0161 773 0333</p> <p><b>RAMSEY</b><br/>Island C.D<br/>01624 815521</p> <p><b>READING</b><br/>Audio T<br/>0118 958 5463</p> <p><b>READING</b><br/>B&amp;B Hi-Fi<br/>01734 583730</p> <p><b>READING</b><br/>Reading Sony Centre<br/>0118 950 0350</p> <p><b>READING</b><br/>Richer Sounds<br/>01734 591111</p> <p><b>READING</b><br/>Sevenoaks Hi-Fi<br/>0118 9597768</p> <p><b>ROSSENDALE</b><br/>Cryers<br/>01706 216305</p> <p><b>ROTHERHAM</b><br/>Moorgate Acoustics<br/>01709 370666</p> <p><b>SAFFRON WALDEN</b><br/>Chew &amp; Osborne<br/>01799 523728</p> <p><b>SALE</b><br/>Hi-Fi Stereo<br/>01793 538222</p> <p><b>SALISBURY</b><br/>Salisbury Hi-Fi<br/>01722 322119</p> <p><b>SCARBOROUGH</b><br/>Audio One<br/>01723 355654</p> | <p><b>SEVENOAKS</b><br/>Sevenoaks Hi-Fi<br/>01732 459555</p> <p><b>SHEFFIELD</b><br/>Audio Images<br/>0114 273 7893</p> <p><b>SHEFFIELD</b><br/>Moorgate Acoustics<br/>0114 275 6048</p> <p><b>SHEFFIELD</b><br/>Richer Sounds<br/>0114 266 1616</p> <p><b>SHEFFIELD</b><br/>Superfi<br/>0114 272 3768</p> <p><b>SHEFFIELD</b><br/>SHREWSBURY<br/>Creative Audio<br/>01743 241924</p> <p><b>SHEFFIELD</b><br/>Shropshire Hi-Fi<br/>01743 232317</p> <p><b>SLOUGH</b><br/>Frasers Hi-Fi<br/>01753 520244</p> <p><b>SOUTHAMPTON</b><br/>Richer Sounds<br/>01703 231311</p> <p><b>SOUTHAMPTON</b><br/>Southampton Hi-Fi<br/>01703 228434</p> <p><b>ST. ALBANS</b><br/>Radlett Audio<br/>01727 855577</p> <p><b>ST. AUGUSTINE</b><br/>E.T.S.<br/>01726 75400</p> <p><b>ST. NEOTS</b><br/>A N Audio<br/>01480 472071</p> <p><b>ST. NEOTS</b><br/>Audio Vision<br/>01480 471202</p> <p><b>STAINES</b><br/>Video Systems<br/>01784 460958</p> <p><b>STAMFORD</b><br/>Stamford Hi-Fi<br/>01780 62128</p> <p><b>STOCKPORT</b><br/>Richer Sounds<br/>0161 480 1700</p> <p><b>STOKE</b><br/>Living designs<br/>01782 260047</p> <p><b>STOKE</b><br/>Superfi<br/>01782 265010</p> <p><b>STOURBRIDGE</b><br/>Music Matters<br/>01384 444184</p> <p><b>STRATFORD</b><br/>Stratford Hi-Fi<br/>01789 414533</p> <p><b>SWANSEA</b><br/>Audio Excellence<br/>01792 474608</p> <p><b>SWANSEA</b><br/>Quinn's A.V.<br/>01792 773644</p> <p><b>SWINDON</b><br/>Audio T<br/>01793 538222</p> <p><b>THAME</b><br/>Thame Audio<br/>01844 215431</p> <p><b>THORNTON HEATH</b><br/>AWE<br/>0181 653 3657</p> | <p><b>TORQUAY</b><br/>Chelston Hi-Fi<br/>01803 606863</p> <p><b>TRURO</b><br/>E.T.S.<br/>01872 79809</p> <p><b>TUNBRIDGE WELLS</b><br/>Sevenoaks Hi-Fi<br/>01892 531543</p> <p><b>TUXFORD</b><br/>nr. Newark<br/>Chantry Audio<br/>01777 870372</p> <p><b>UXBRIDGE</b><br/>Uxbridge Audio<br/>01895 230404</p> <p><b>WALLINGFORD</b><br/>Astley Audio<br/>01491 839305</p> <p><b>WARRINGTON</b><br/>Doug Brady Hi-Fi<br/>01925 828009</p> <p><b>WARRINGTON</b><br/>Practical Hi-Fi<br/>01925 32179</p> <p><b>WATFORD</b><br/>Hi-Fi City<br/>01923 226169</p> <p><b>WATFORD</b><br/>Richer Sounds<br/>01923 218888</p> <p><b>WATFORD</b><br/>Sevenoaks Hi-Fi<br/>01923 213533</p> <p><b>WEYBRIDGE</b><br/>Cosmic<br/>01932 854522</p> <p><b>WEYMOUTH</b><br/>Weymouth Hi-Fi<br/>01305 785729</p> <p><b>WILMSLOW</b><br/>Swift Hi-Fi<br/>01625 526213</p> <p><b>WOKING</b><br/>Bartletts Hi-Fi<br/>01483 771175</p> <p><b>WOLVERHAMPTON</b><br/>Superfi<br/>01902 772901</p> <p><b>WORCESTER</b><br/>Sevenoaks Hi-Fi<br/>01905 612929</p> <p><b>WORTHING</b><br/>Bowers &amp; Wilkins<br/>01903 264141</p> <p><b>WORTHING</b><br/>Phase 3 Hi-Fi<br/>01903 245577</p> <p><b>WREXHAM</b><br/>Acton Gate Audio<br/>01978 364500</p> <p><b>YEOVIL</b><br/>Mike Manning Audio<br/>01935 79361</p> <p><b>YORK</b><br/>Vickers Hi-Fi<br/>01904 629659</p> |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|

1994



Best Speaker Cable

1995



Best Interconnect & Highly Recommended Speaker Cable

1996



Best Interconnect & Best Speaker Cable

Cable Interconnects

# 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 04/97

ON TEST: BUDGET FLOOR-STANDING SPEAKERS

# THE FLOOR SHOW

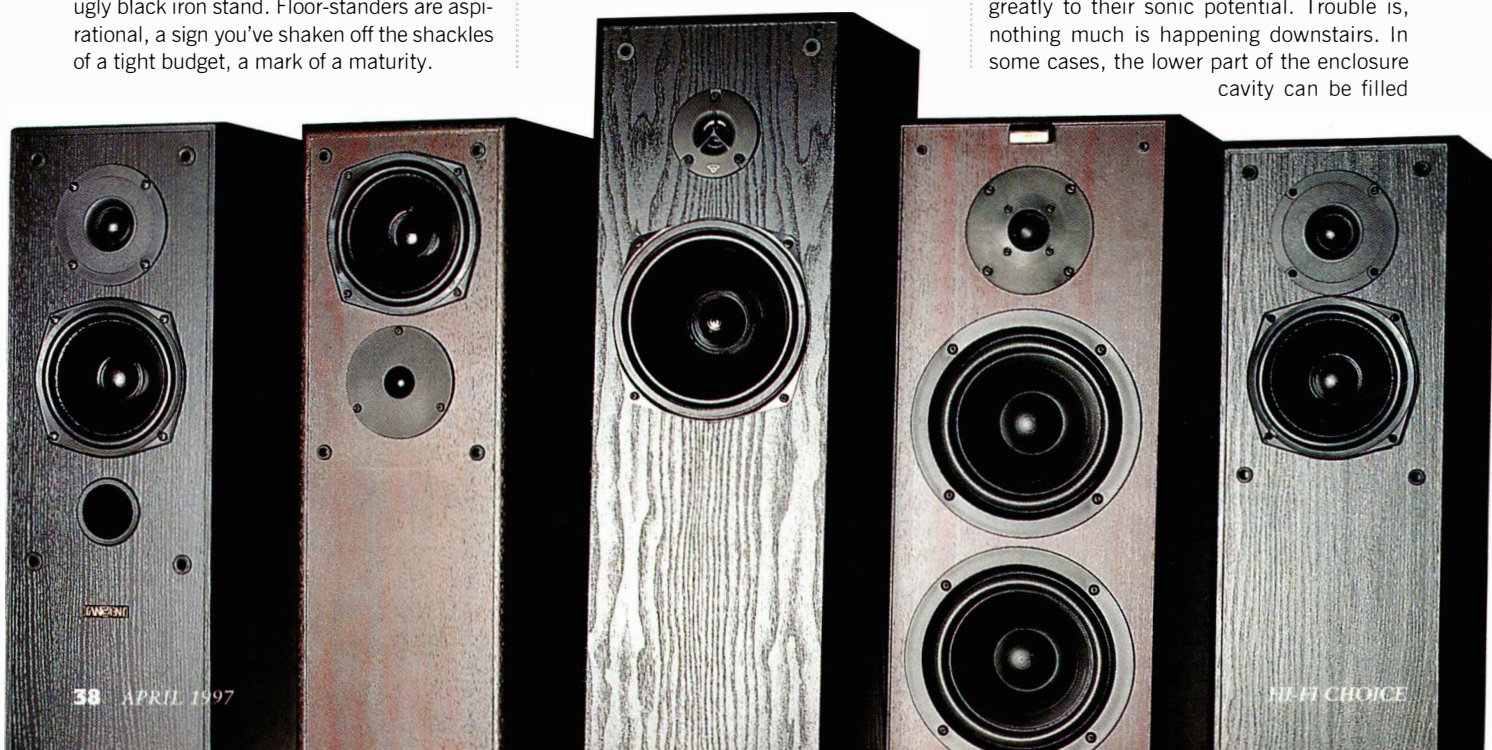
New breed of bargain, or mug's eyeful? David Vivian tests big budget boxes.

**F**loor-standing speakers are marketed as one of hi-fi's great stepping stones. Upgrade from your tiny budget box to a floorstander, the received wisdom suggests, and you can't help but accrue sonic and aesthetic benefits. Your life will be transformed by a bigger more effortless sound with deeper bass, extra loudness — and, of course, natural timber to look at instead of an ugly black iron stand. Floor-standers are aspirational, a sign you've shaken off the shackles of a tight budget, a mark of a maturity.

And if you're spending upwards of £600, that might well be the case. A bigger, taller box can be an advantage if its design and development budgets extend to making best use of the extra internal volume: a nice transmission line, for instance. Most of the world's truly great and expensive speakers are floor-standers. In theory, a good big'un

will always beat a good little'un. There's psychological weight behind this argument.

Possibly a large dollop of kidology, too. What we have here is a neat south-Manhattan skyline of floor-standing speakers that sell for the price of decent bookshelf budgeteers. More speaker for the money, right? Wrong. Think again if you imagine the volume of their lofty enclosures contributes greatly to their sonic potential. Trouble is, nothing much is happening downstairs. In some cases, the lower part of the enclosure cavity can be filled



## THE MUSIC WE USED

Five CDs lined up for repeated rides in the Pioneer. Biggest on decibels and fury was show-off guitarmeister Steve Vai's *There's A Fire In The House* from the album *Fire Garden*. Bass virtuoso Tom Kennedy kept the energy levels cooking with a no-prisoners bass'n'drum battle against Dave Weckl called *Oleo*, the final track on *Basses Loaded*. Bobby Lyle's West Coast funk throttled back proceedings — *Aruban Nights* from his new album *The Power of Touch* is one effortless groove — in preparation for the altogether slower pace of George Michael's title track from *Older*, and a gorgeous version of the jazz standard *Tenderly* from Diane Reeves' latest, *The Grand Encounter*.

with sand or other heavyweight damping materials to increase mass and therefore 'bass authority'. But the main purpose of the extra woodwork is merely to raise the upper part of the box to ear level. It fulfils the same function as the separate stands that bookshelf speakers require. More cheaply.

Three of these speakers — the Gale 4i, Tangent Monitor 9 and Revolver Purdey — are really two-way bookshelf designs wearing long skirts which can either be left hollow or filled with mass damping. The Cerwin-Vega CT-165 also has just the two drivers and its bigger box gives slightly more internal volume but, you guessed it, the bottom bit is the 'integral stand'; there isn't even any provision for adding extra mass.

The Jamo Cornet 75, however, doesn't just give you more box for your buck, but also an extra driver slotted between the woofer and tweeter. This has the added benefit of increasing the 'actual' enclosure to 47 litres, more than twice the size of the others.

The Jamo Cornet 75, however, doesn't just give you more box for your buck, but also an extra driver slotted between the woofer and tweeter. This has the added benefit of increasing the 'actual' enclosure to 47 litres, more than twice the size of the others.

All for £175. Amazing. Or it would be were it not for the direct distribution tactics of Tangent and Gale, which allows them to sell their entry-level floor-standers for a startling £150 and £140 respectively. Either Revolver hasn't moved with the times, or it has supreme confidence in the performance of its Purdeys. Though fractionally smaller than the Gales, they actually cost four pence less than the comparatively towering Cerwins. 10 months ago £200 was the norm for this embryonic class; now the kiddies' playground has become a battlefield.

All the speakers have metal threads in their bases for sturdy spikes. The Gale and Revolver loudspeakers even have twin gold-plated binding posts to facilitate bi-wiring or bi-amping. (We bi-wired where possible.) Amp duties fell to the remarkably revealing Pioneer A-300R Precision, fed by the trusty Pioneer PD-S904 CD player. Audioquest speaker cables and interconnects did wiring duties throughout.

## THE CAST LIST

Cerwin-Vega CT-165.....	£199.99
Gale 4i .....	£139.95
Jamo Cornet 75.....	£199.99
Revolver Purdey .....	£199.95
Tangent Monitor 9 .....	£149.95



## Cerwin-Vega CT-165

Apart from its impressive size (the World Trade Centre towers of our south-Manhattan skyline) the CT-165 doesn't look like a particularly serious speaker. Not in the mould of its American head-banging cousins, anyway. For one thing, its base spikes are pretty weedy, for another it uses the dreaded spring-clip terminals. Sure, you can poke 4mm banana plugs in these terminals, but they waggle around.

As for the drive units — 165mm paper-cone, rubber-surround woofers; 19mm soft dome polycarbonate tweeters — they hardly warrant the exclamation mark Cerwin-Vega likes to put after its name. Best not to pull off the grilles. Slide in the CD, whack up the volume and, believe us, the CT-165 comes on like a charging rhino. What we hadn't bargained on was a surprising degree of subtlety and grace.

We had the music to verify both sides of the double act. The CT-165s played Steve Vai at hurricane force without flinching. By the standards of, say, the Revolver Purdeys, the sound was fulsome, visceral and propulsive. More than any other speaker on this track, it makes you want to purchase an air Fender. If the treble sounded a little exposed and grainy, it was no big deal.

The Cerwin didn't do so well with string tones, and made Diane Reeves sound

CERWIN-VEGA CT-165 - VERDICT	
SOUND	★★★★☆
VALUE	★★★★☆
PRICE	£199.99
<p>▲ Sounds like a big box, party-on bass, can be fun. Steamrollers some music.</p>	
<p>✉ Cerwin-Vega, Unit 9, Centre Park Holdings, The Airfield, Tockwith, York YO5 8QF</p>	
<p>☎ (01423) 359054</p>	

uncharacteristically husky. When it came to George Michael, sibilants acquired something of an unwelcome sting too, but what impressed on this track was the way the CT underpinned proceedings with a truly effortless bass quality that stayed in control longer and lower than any other.

Keeping the mood relaxed, Bobby Lyle's slow-burning funk had more of everything. More size, more bottom, more top, more groove. But less intimacy and sexiness. Bass boomed horribly in places and, by most definitions of the word, imaging didn't exist. In short, the presentation was a bit overblown. Quite possibly, the CT was generating too much bass for my small listening room.

Much more convincing was the rendition of Tom Kennedy's full-on jazz workout. At last here was a full-size drum kit. And a true double bass. No doubt about it, more air was being moved. The players had a tangible presence: big.

**Jamo Cornet 75**

Jamo's Cornet 75 positively oozes confidence — and not just because of its generous size-to-price ratio and complement of drive units. (Note not one but two well-made 165mm woofers and a 25mm soft dome tweeter.) It's the elegant radiused corners and smooth veneers of the cabinet that make you look twice. In the lift-and-knuckle-rap test, build quality seems fairly light but rigid (the MDF construction helps here) while the gold-plated speaker terminals are substantial beyond the modest price of the speaker. No bi-wire option, though. According to Jamo, the 75 has a nominal impedance of six Ohms and works best with amplifiers with between 20-120 Watts output. With a sensitivity of 90dB it doesn't require much power to go respectably loud.

Despite numerous identifiable strengths, the Cornet was disappointing on audition. Initially beguiling with a rhythmically lucid and controlled delivery, its tendency to boom in the upper bass soon became wearisome and ultimately smothered fine detail, to give a rather coloured and contrived rendition of most musical styles.

An exception here was the speaker's handling of Steve Vai's heavily-produced guitar/synth thrash, which came across with just the right degree of menace and weight, — given a certain lack of leading edge and low level resolution.



**Gale 4i**

The Gale 4, a Richer Sounds stalwart, became the benchmark for budget floor-standers a few years ago. And that's when it cost £200. Stiffer competition has forced the price down and the quality up — which means a £60 downgrade to £140 and an 'i' upgrade that comprises an improved 25mm tweeter, modified bass port and tweaked crossover. So these are the cheapest boxes in the group — but by just £10 over the Tangent, and we know how good that is...

The Gale's reputation more or less hangs together. On the whole, the 4i sounded great but not entirely consistent, but then it isn't the best speaker in this trial.

With the unstoppable heavy Vai track, bass was full to the point of being over-ripe. Even so, it went deep for such a slim box with good timing and integration. But there was a samey quality to the lower registers that didn't ring true. Bass lines were tuneful and easy to follow, but not as effortless and easy-breathing as with the bigger boxes from Jamo, Tangent and Cerwin-Vega.

It is easy on the ear, though. With the moody Diane Reeves track, the Gale was honey-sweet, capturing the melancholy mood of the piece well, making it easy to relax into. There wasn't the transparency and resolving power of the Revolver, nor the

**GALE 4i - VERDICT**

<b>SOUND</b>	★★★★☆
<b>VALUE</b>	★★★★☆
<b>PRICE</b>	£139.95

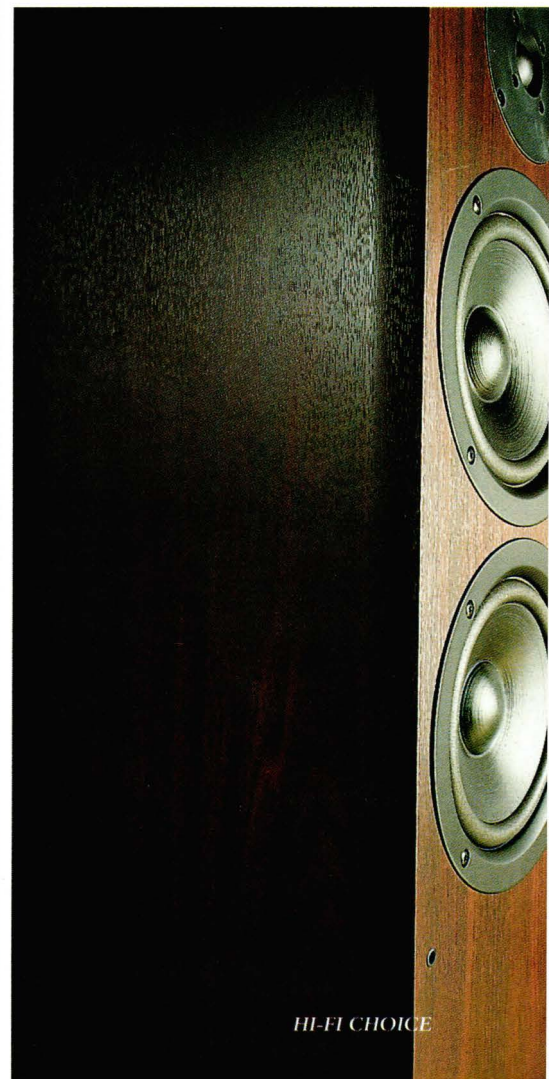
- ▲ Punchy without being pushy; mostly musical.
- ▼ Never really opens up, over-fruity bass.

✉ Hi-Fi Direct, Hankey Place, London SE1 4BB  
☎ (0171) 586 5977

effortlessness of the Cerwin, but musical flow and coherence were both good.

This marginally closed-in quality — a final reluctance to let go and breathe — cropped up time and again. But so too did the natural tonality and fine integration. It followed that the George Michael smooch-fest had a classy, well-co-ordinated feel with warm, realistic strings and tuneful, well-shaped bass. Only the scale of the piece seemed denuded — as if the recording session was taking place in a slightly smaller studio. Nevertheless, it sounded like real instruments and the music made sense.

Bobby Lyle's jazz-fusion had a glossy sheen and an impressively expansive sound-stage, but a strangely antiseptic and detached piano sound. Like many of the other floor-standers, the Gale seemed most likely to be let down by imaging anomalies — a much rarer effect with budget bookshelf speakers mounted on sturdy stands.





The stomach-pummelling bass'n'drum Tom Kennedy track started out fast and dynamic, with double bass and kick drum being propelled into the listening room with eyebrow-raising impetus and gusto. But the speaker soon revealed itself to be neither fast nor particularly articulate. Neither did the bass go quite as low as expected. That said, the Jamo's presentation was well-balanced and reasonably effortless, if a bit amorphous at times.

When it came to the immaculately-produced George Michael track, with its extraordinary combination of closely-recorded vocals and subterranean bass, the Jamo clawed back some lost ground. The bass didn't boom as it had before, and George's studio-enhanced sibilants didn't fizz or spit on the speaker — though it did have a curiously rounded-off character quite unlike that of any other speaker. The overall presentation was listenable but ultimately a little lacking in compulsion.

**JAMO CORNET 75 - VERDICT**

**SOUND** ★★☆☆☆  
**VALUE** ★★☆☆☆  
**PRICE** £199.99

▲ Generous sound with reasonable timing; looks expensive.

▼ Boomy upper bass, strange treble colorations.

✉ Jamo UK Ltd, Jamo House, 5 Faraday Close, Drayton Fields, Daventry, Northants NN11 5RD  
 ☎ (01327) 301300



**Revolver Purdey**

If there is a justification for what appears to be the Revolver's rather steep £200 price tag, it's the fact that it looks more expensive than the similarly-sized Gale. The Bahia Rosewood finish of the test pair was particularly fetching and well-executed. Beneath the rosy veneer, though, it's standard fare: two-way bass-reflex box, bi-wire/amp 4mm gold terminals. The more noteworthy of the drive units is a 19mm tweeter with what Revolver calls a 'super-soft' PVC dome. Sensitivity is a better-than-average 88dB, so no need for beefcake amplifiers. Revolver recommends between 30 and 130 Watts.

The Purdey looks good and is good to listen to. Its bounce, vivacity and eagerness to present music in a positive, involving way were immediately engaging and likable.

The well-ordered treble, crisp leading edges and fine basic speed were all immediately obvious from the first bars of the Tom Kennedy virtuoso masterclass. String tone on the George Michael and Diane Reeves tracks had a particularly natural and unforced quality — smooth and well integrated, if lacking slightly in body.

More generally, the Purdey sounded clear and detailed without being obvious or seeking attention. The 'super-soft' tweeter indeed did the business, successfully blend-

**REVOLVER PURDEY - VERDICT**

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

▲ Open and articulate with detailed treble and crisp timing.

▼ Undermined by a weak, papery bass.

✉ Revolver, Aura House, 77 Dane Road, Sale, Manchester M33 7BP  
 ☎ (0161) 973 0505

ing the usually conflicting interests of crisply etched definition and tonal smoothness. This made the speaker sound open, articulate and controlled.

The Purdey was unique in this test for its the ability to be analytical and musical at the same time. Elements of dense mixes were rendered clear and easy to follow, but were also nicely rounded without artificial harshness or edge, especially on saxophone.

What the Purdey lacked in the extreme was bass weight and extension. What little bass there was came over as being rhythmically coherent, but on the Vai track the relentless, chugging menace had simply disappeared. Half-an-octave went missing from George Michael's bass synth, too. To be fair, the Revolver was auditioned without mass loading; to have added it might have helped, but it's doubtful whether it would cure.



- 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
- Phillips
- 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
- Spender
- 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

# The Power House of Choice

- Decide what you want to buy
- Decide what you can afford to pay per month
- With 0% apr<sup>†</sup> INTEREST FREE credit you can suit your taste and your pocket.

0% INTEREST

Cash Price **£800**  
 Deposit £80  
 Balance £720  
 18 mths at **£40**

0% INTEREST

Cash Price **£1400**  
 Deposit £200  
 Balance £1200  
 16 mths at **£75**

0% INTEREST

Cash Price **£3000**  
 Deposit £300  
 Balance £2700  
 27 mths at **£100**

0% INTEREST

Cash Price **£5000**  
 Deposit £500  
 Balance £4500  
 36 mths at **£125**

**Open Sundays HiFi & Home Cinema specialists A/V Design & Installation Service**

**You Decide - We Provide - Anywhere in the U.K.**



45 High Street  
 Hounslow  
 Middlesex TW3 1RH  
 0181 569 5802

126 High Street  
 Beckenham  
 Kent BR3 1ED  
 0181 663 3777

173 Station Road  
 Edgware  
 Middlesex HA8 7JX  
 0181 952 5535

\* 18 Monmouth Street  
 Covent Garden  
 London WC2H 9HB  
 0171 497 1346

**SONY A/V Dealer of the Year**

<sup>†</sup>Subject to Status. Ask for written details. E&OE. Offer not valid with any other promotions or offers.  
 e-mail: sales @ musical images.co.uk

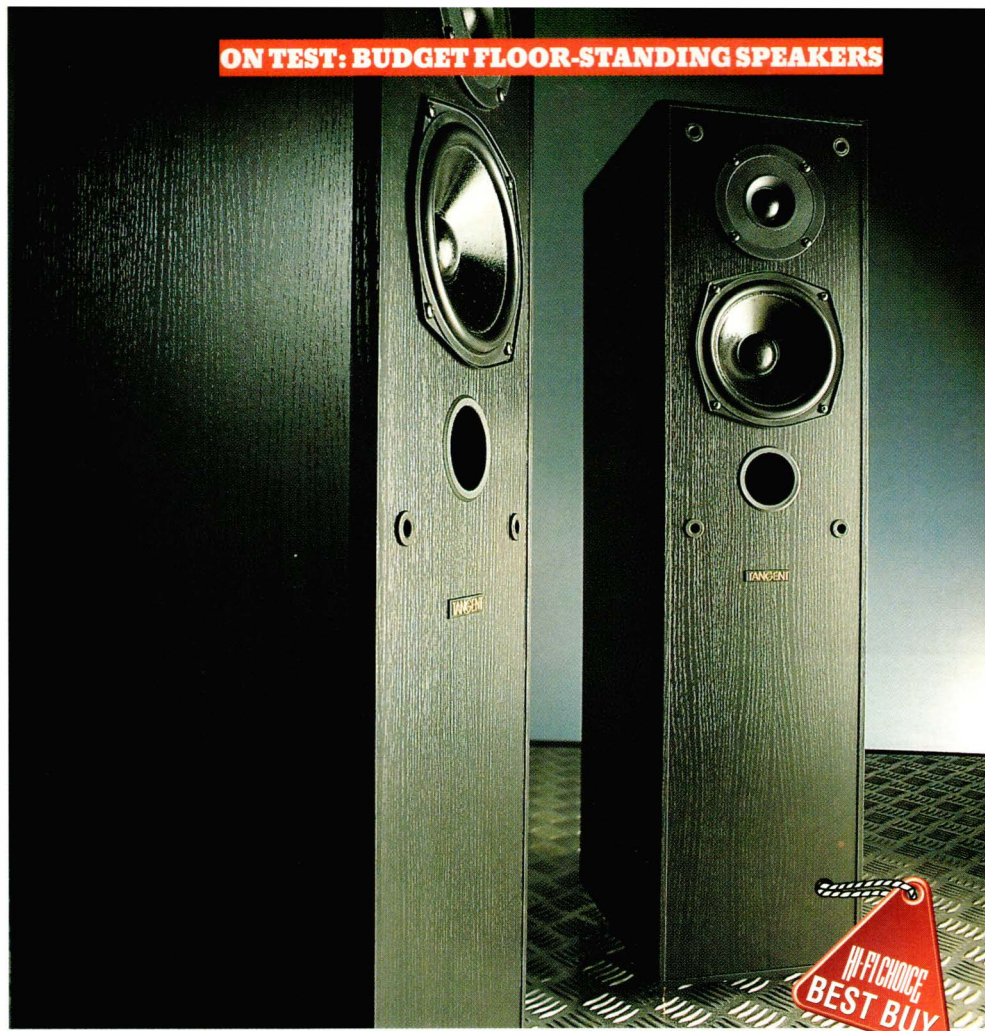
◀ **Tangent Monitor 9**

A substantial meat'n'two veg speaker from Tangent's low-price, no-nonsense hi-fi emporium: the rear-ported Monitor 9 is beefier than its closest rival, the Gale. Slightly bigger than the latter in every dimension, the Tangent is considerably heavier when filled to its boots with lead shot substitute. But Tangent's aim is to offer an intrinsically more expensive speaker for less cash, a claim that seems to hold water when you consider the solid build quality and the chunkiness of the twin gold-plated binding posts round the back. Sensitivity is an amp-friendly 90dB, power handling a robust 100 Watts.

The Monitor 9 has a remarkably big-boned and hard-hitting sound. With Vai strutting his stuff, the listening room was immediately and alarmingly transformed into a crowded basement gig: loud, dirty, but not ragged. This speaker has more than a reasonable measure of control, but it can boogie. The forceful, up-front sound on this track has a solid, rhythmic bass, lightning transients and a scarily explicit presentation of mid-range information. Through it all, the Tangent sounded tight and musical.

Treble could be a bit raw and exposed on occasion, but not obtrusive. George Michael's voice sounded clear, cool and well enunciated. Bass was smooth, deep and tuneful — amazingly so. Synth washes had colour and resolution, offering a great mix of punch, detail and delicacy.

The smoochy Diane Reeves jazz set benefited from the Tangent's ebullient delivery in some ways but not others. The very real sense of place and scale and almost palpable instrumental presence was good; less welcome were the sometimes slightly cold and screechy violins. More minuses were accrued with jazz keyboardist Bobby Lyle. The lushness of the production



was well portrayed, although the imaging was diffuse and lacked depth. High treble sometimes sounded zingy.

Tom Kennedy's energetic workout fared better, moving along at a fair old lick without tripping over itself. Sax could sound a bit small and mean of spirit, but the incisive sting of wood whacking skin was spot on, and the Monitor 9 once again excelled low down with smooth, deep bass lines. Sonically, a lot of speaker with a confident sound. ▲

**TANGENT MONITOR 9 - VERDICT**

<b>SOUND</b>	★★★★☆
<b>VALUE</b>	★★★★★
<b>PRICE</b>	£149.95

- ▲ Can really motor when the music demands it; solid bass performance.
- ▼ Occasionally raw, slightly cold-sounding treble.

✉ Tangent Acoustics UK, 115 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0QT  
☎ (0500) 828620



**OVERALL VERDICT**

The **Tangent Monitor 9** wins. Despite being the second cheapest in the group, it delivers music with the most vitality and the fewest glaring compromises. Up-front and exciting, but never uncouth, it treads a fine line well. The **Gale 4i** is slightly sweeter but sounds smaller and less dynamic, while the **Revolver Purdey** is essentially more transparent and analytical, although bass is shy and too expensive.

The only boxes that sound bigger than a good bookshelf on a decent stand, though, are the **Cerwin-Vega CT-165** and **Jamo Cornet 75**. Both are fun and would make fine party speakers. But neither displayed the sophistication or finesse to worry their smaller floor-standing rivals in a true hi-fi context.

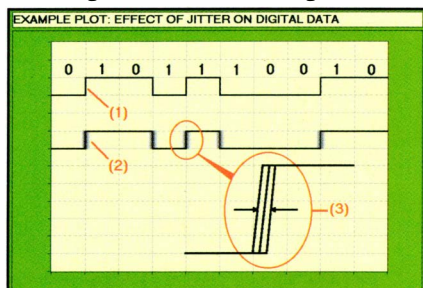
Finally, the \$64,000 question: are budget floor-standers a new landmark in hi-fi value? We're not so sure... If you're looking for big scale, deep bass and tight control, you won't find it at £200 or less. Yet even the best of this bunch, the Tangent, was made to sound over-aggressive and clumsy by Tannoy's new £140 'large' bookshelf design, the Mercury M2. The point is, even a half-decent pair of stands takes that up to £200. While the Tannoys' sound quality is mighty appealing, we wouldn't argue with anyone who wanted to save £50 and plump for the slick package from Tangent.

# JITTER YE NOT

Paul Miller gets his jitters out for the lads as he delves into the secrets of the ultimate interfaces for CD players – the jitter busters.

**F**orget the spooks in your spare room and poltergeists on your patio. If your two-box CD player is sounding rough and its data is all a-quiver, who do you call? Jitter Busters of course, the A-team of the industry drawn from the ranks of Trichord, Monarchy and Meridian.

But if this new breed of 'little black box' is the solution, just what, precisely, is the problem with jitter? First off, it's important to appreciate we're talking about a digital disease whose symptoms colour our enjoyment of analogue music reconstructed from CD. Loudspeakers, amplifiers and tape decks, for example, do not suffer from jitter. But because CD players, DAT and MD recorders all use a digital code to represent our music, they are all potentially subject to the ravages of this insidious bug.

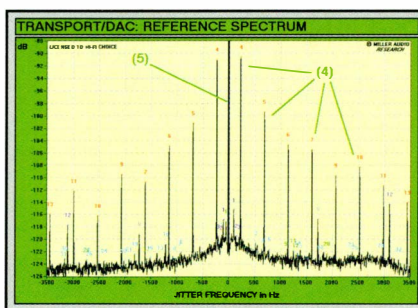


## The grubby digital jitter bug

Digital data stung by the jitter bug will bring grubbiness and general disdain to the clarity of CD players, transports and DACs. Without jitter, the life of the digital engineer would be a lot simpler as the 'edges' that describe our digital codes (1) would all turn up precisely on time. In real life, jitter — a type of interference — vibrates or blurs these edges

(2), bringing a degree of uncertainty to their precise position and timing (3). There's no single, simple source of this interference. Noise from the power supply, from 'competing' digital circuits within the player, even repetitive patterns in the data itself: all are capable of defocusing the digital code.

So if the edges that make up our code are appearing fractionally before or after they are expected, this causes the reconstructed signal — the music — to become distorted. But don't confuse jitter with digital errors. Typically, jitter shifts the code backwards and forwards in time but the data's sequence remains completely intact. You would need several truckloads of jitter to jump between successive edges and 'overlook' a bit of data. Ordinarily, jitter comes in teaspoons, not trucks.



## A touch of the wobbles

In practice, jitter is measured in fractions of a second: picoseconds (million-millionths of a second) to be precise. These tiny 'wobbles' in time prompt unwanted sidebands to appear either side of the 'real' music signal (4) once it is converted from its digital code by the D/A converter. This is the audible

symptom of the digital malaise.

For these tests, I used my own-design 'Virtual Instrument' Jitter Analyser, which provides an accurate picture of jitter doing its dirty work between a Thorens TCD-2000/TDA-2000 CD transport and out-board DAC, last reviewed in issue 162. The jitter sidebands, or distortion, can be seen radiating out from the 'real' signal (5) as a series of regularly-spaced peaks that contribute to a high 1853psec of jitter. Sidebands caused by data-induced jitter are highlighted using a series of red markers, with other coloured markers corresponding to other sources of jitter.

This pattern of strong, data-induced jitter is symptomatic of a badly-engineered digital interface, but it provides a very distinctive 'visual' pattern for us to confirm the efficacy of these so-called jitter busters. Any reduction in jitter will reward us with an improvement in sound quality, but a reduction of ten times to around 200psec is the target.

## Monarchy DIP Super Drive

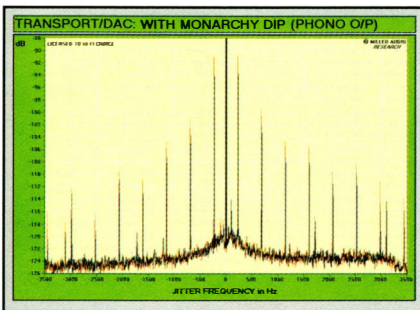
This little box of tricks was the subject of my first *Oasis* column back in issue 155, since when Monarchy has made a variety of modifications. Electrical and optical digital inputs are provided along with two electrical outputs — a phono socket marked 'S/PDIF' and a BNC socket marked '75 Ohm'. In reality, both sockets supply an S/PDIF signal because 'S/PDIF' (Sony/Philips Digital Interface Format) describes the type of data used for consumer digital audio. Monarchy's DIP uses a high-speed receiver/transmitter chip to feed a professional 'repeater' that demodulates the incoming S/PDIF signal



**JITTER ANALYSIS: MONARCHY DIP SUPER DRIVE**

Origin	Description	Peak-to-peak		
		Original	Monarchy (phono)	Monarchy (BNC)
Data	1-15 harmonics	1845psec	1315psec	340psec
Weighted Total (Improvement)		1853psec	1333psec (28%)	382psec (79%)

into respective clock and data lines. These are then separately re-encoded and clocked-out via a highly stable oscillator.

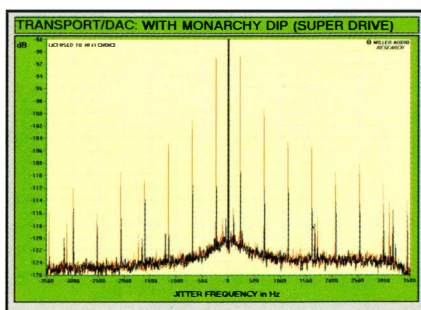


**Original (red trace) vs. jitter buster (black trace)**

Monarchy's transformer-coupled phono output offers a reduced bandwidth signal from a non-standard 150 Ohm output impedance. This is because the transformer is designed to service a balanced AES/EBU interface and not the unbalanced 75 Ohm consumer output fitted here.

Moreover, both phono and BNC outputs are well above the 500mV standard output and could, conceivably, over-drive some digital inputs. As we see from the graph, the phono-socketed option is only 28 per cent

effective (black trace) at reducing data-induced jitter between our 'test' CD transport and DAC (red trace).



**Original (red trace) vs. jitter buster (black trace)**

Retaining the same digital input but reverting to Monarchy's other (BNC) digital output now provides a healthy 79 per cent reduction in the data-induced jitter suffered by Thorens's CD transport/DAC combination (red trace). The jitter-busted (black trace) signal shows a uniform reduction in jitter from 1853psec to just 382psec — a great result but not the full suppression we know is possible. Indeed, Monarchy's BNC or 'Super Drive' output used to be direct-coupled. This version (Revision N° 3) is driven

via a band-limiting RC network — not unlike Arcam's earlier CD transports — with a floating ground connected to the DIP's casework. Despite appearances, then, this year's DIP performs very differently from last year's DIP! *Wollaton Audio* ☎ (0115) 928 4147

### Trichord Pulsemaster

Since its introduction over a year ago, Trichord's Pulsemaster has witnessed one or two significant revisions. As before, the Lilliputian case provides both electrical and optical inputs, but now there's also a re-clocked coaxial output together with an optical output. The digital inputs are acquired by Crystal's CS8412 interface chip with its bog-standard 20-25kHz PLL (Phase-Locked Loop), while a CS8402A transmitter chip services the direct-coupled outputs. Incidentally, Trichord has now increased its electrical output in line with the 500mV/75 Ohm S/PDIF standard.

The key to the Pulsemaster lies in its ingenious use of a 20-bit AD1890 sample-rate converter, which effectively reconstitutes digital code at the same sample rate but relative to a new, ostensibly jitter-free master clock. The graph shows a massive reduction of the data-induced patterns (from



**JITTER ANALYSIS: TRICHORD PULSEMASTER**

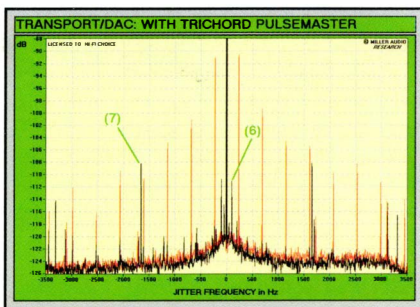
Origin	Description	Peak-to-peak	
		Original	Trichord
Data	1-15 harmonics	1845psec	134psec
PSU	100Hz	110psec	194psec
Unknown	1656Hz + 3312Hz	124psec	301psec
<b>Weighted Total (Improvement)</b>		<b>1853psec</b>	<b>396psec (79%)</b>

**Meridian 518**

Originally conceived as a mastering processor for professional and semi-professional studio use, Meridian's deceptively simple-looking 518 has evolved into a very comprehensive digital preamplifier in its own right. As a true multi-media workstation it has the capacity to recognise any current or future data flagged as 'non-audio', such as DVD or AC-3, and output it bit-for-bit unchanged. Otherwise, in its capacity as a 'resolution-enhancer' for digital audio signals, the 518 can increase the digital word length of incoming data using advanced noise-shaping and dithering techniques.

Dither is used to randomise the quantisation errors that cause low-level distortion, and Meridian provides a battery of 'dither curves' from which to choose. Each curve introduces a subtle effect of its own and may be selected according to the tastes of the owner.

Similarly, the digital output may be configured to adopt a 16, 18, 20, 22 or 24-bit word length in both consumer and professional formats, all to suit your choice of partnering DAC. It's also possible to digitally 'pre-emphasise' ordinary CDs (only one per cent of which are typically pre-emphasised), potentially improving the treble performance of existing classical music recordings.

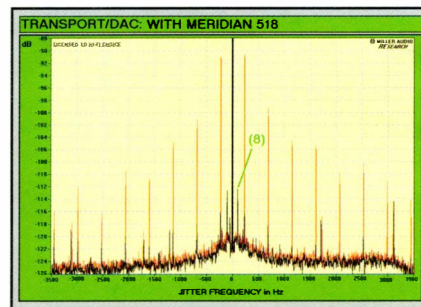


**Original (red trace) vs. jitter buster (black trace)**

1845psec to 134psec) but shows a slight increase in power-supply related jitter (6) in addition to two new jitter components centred a little over 1.6kHz (7).

Trichord uses a single 33.87MHz crystal in its latest version of the Pulsemaster, dividing this frequency in two to generate the 16.9MHz reference (for the sample rate converter) and then by six to generate the 5.64MHz reference for the digital output transmitter chip. It's not inconceivable that the new jitter patterns are unexpected by-products of this process. Either way, this jitter pattern's subjective sonic impact is minor compared to the great musical advantage gained by removing the excitement-sapping data-induced jitter.

Trichord Research Ltd ☎ (01684) 573524



**Original (red trace) vs. jitter buster (black trace)**

Digital data is greeted at the gates of the 518 by a Crystal CS8412 receiver, as in Trichord's Pulsemaster. Here, however, the standard PLL is joined by a second quartz-crystal PLL that latches onto incoming CD-based data (i.e. 44.1kHz only) with a narrow tolerance window of just +/-100ppm. This stabilises the incoming clock, which drives both the re-clocking and transformer-coupled output buffers. Meridian also strips out the time-code data, an unused repetitive pattern that might contribute to jitter.

This is effective in reducing data-induced jitter by some 91 per cent, though the overall figure is slightly compromised in our example by a mild increase in supply-related components (8). There are subtle differences in the degree and distribution of



**JITTER ANALYSIS: MERIDIAN 518**

Origin	Description	Peak-to-peak	
		Original	Meridian
Data	1-15 harmonics	1845psec	168psec
PSU	100Hz	110psec	169psec
<b>Weighted Total</b>		<b>1853psec</b>	<b>273psec</b>
<b>(Improvement)</b>			<b>(85%)</b>

its jitter suppression depending on the 518's DSP settings. Optimum results were with with DSP set to 'gain', dither set to 'high-pass', input to 16-bits and output to 20-bits (consumer mode). Meridian's DSP relies on a Motorola 56001 processor running at 60MHz, which generates the dither patterns, pre/de-emphasis and volume adjustment at triple (72-bit) precision before rounding the output to between 16 and 24 bits. All this while squashing jitter too...

Meridian Audio ☎ (01480) 434334

**Conclusions**

Although a clear order of merit can be derived from our tests, remember that the

figures are proportional and not absolute. Nevertheless, the relatively poor 28 per cent reduction in jitter from Monarchy's standard phono digital output is likely to be fully representative. Fortunately, its alternative 'Super Drive' BNC connection comes to the rescue with a worthwhile 79 per cent improvement — something of a turnabout from the Monarchys of yesteryear and the (ostensibly identical) DIP Super Drive reviewed in issues 154 and 155.

Trichord's Pulsemaster provides the best suppression of the data-induced jitter commonly incurred across the interface of a CD transport and DAC. But it does so at the expense of generating a spurious pattern all

of its own, bringing a potential improvement of 87 per cent down to 79 per cent — on a par with the Monarchy, albeit for different reasons. As it stands, the Pulsemaster is very effective, but with a little extra work its 'jitter busting' could be the best bar none.

All of which leaves us with Meridian's 518, a box of digital tricks that is so very, very much more than a jitter buster. The 518 succeeded in suppressing the 1853psec of jitter in our test system by 85 per cent although, in other circumstances, its performance is likely to be greater still, because the remaining 273psec is very close to the residual figure caused by Thorens' D/A converter itself. ▲

**S U M M A R Y T A B L E**

JITTER BUSTER	DIGITAL OUTPUT LEVEL	DIGITAL OUTPUT IMPEDANCE	DIGITAL 'EDGE' RISE TIME	JITTER REDUCTION	PRICE £
Domestic CD Standard	500mVp-p	75ohm	-	-	
Meridian 518	615mVp-p	78ohm	3.5nsec	83%	£895
Monarchy DIP (Phono)	1110mVp-p	154ohm	19.5nsec	28%	£245
Super Drive (BNC)	1375mVp-p	73ohm	9.5nsec	79%	
Trichord Pulsemaster	496mVp-p	71ohm	3.5nsec	79%	£349

# 24 Branches Nationwide



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.

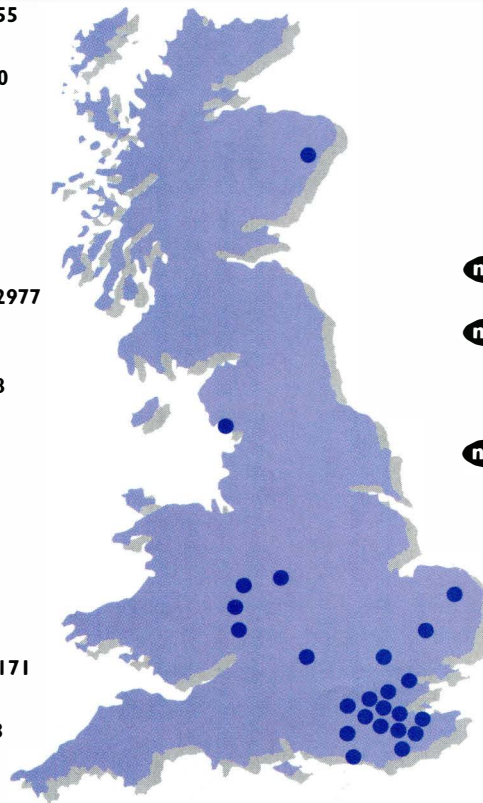
Our friendly and experienced staff will be happy to assist you through every step of your purchase to ensure total listening satisfaction.

**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 Relocated to Maidstone
- 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 SEE MAIDSTONE

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



**(((AE)))**  
**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 3020		£ 99.95
AMC 3025a		£ 129.95
AMC 3050a		£ 169.95
Arcam Alpha 7	Power	£ 249.95
Arcam Alpha 8P		£ 249.95
Arcam Alpha 8	Power	£ 349.95
Arcam Alpha 9P		£ 399.95
Arcam Alpha 9	Power	£ 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	£ 299.95
Cyrus PSXR	Power Supply	£ 329.95
Cyrus SL	Power	£ 499.95
Cyrus III i	Power	£ 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 707	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
<b>MINI/MICRO</b>		
Teac Ref 500	Ex Speakers	£ 799.95
<b>CASSETTE DECKS</b>		
Yamaha KX390		£ 149.95
Yamaha KX580		£ 249.95
<b>HOME CINEMA</b>		
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

Meridian 541	Processor	£ 1094.95
Meridian 565 AC3	Processor	£ 2699.95
Ruark Dialogue One	Centre	£ 289.95
Yamaha DSPE390	Processor	£ 249.95
Yamaha DSPE580	Processor	£ 449.95
Yamaha DSPE1000	Processor	£ 699.95
Yamaha DSPA590	Amp	£ 349.95
Yamaha DSPA2070	Amp	£ 1099.95
Yamaha DSPA3090	Amp	£ 1699.95
Yamaha NSC60	Centre	£ 59.95
Yamaha NSCI05	Centre	£ 79.95
Yamaha NSCI50	Centre	£ 109.95
Yamaha NSE60	Surround (Pr)	£ 79.95
Yamaha NSE105	Surround (Pr)	£ 109.95
Yamaha YSTSW40	Sub	£ 139.95
Yamaha YSTSW 80	Sub	£ 179.95
Yamaha YSTSW150	Sub	£ 279.95
<b>SPEAKERS</b>		
Acoustic Energy AE100		£ 199.95
Acoustic Energy AE109		£ 329.95
Acoustic Energy AE120		£ 499.95
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
Kef Reference		P.O.A.
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)	£ 399.95
Monitor Audio 702PMC	(Blk)	£ 599.95
Monitor Audio 703PMC	(Blk)	£ 799.95
Monitor Audio 705PMC	(Blk)	£ 1399.95
Monitor Audio Studio 25E	(Blk)	£ 599.95
Monitor Audio Studio 12	(Blk)	£ 999.95
Monitor Audio Studio 205E	(Blk)	£ 1199.95
Monitor Audio Studio 50	(Blk)	£ 3999.95
Monitor Audio Studio 60	(Blk)	£ 5999.95

Quad 10L		£ 599.95
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
<b>TUNABLES</b>		
Michell Gyrodec/RB300		£ 967.95
Project 0.5		£ 159.95
Project 1		£ 199.95
<b>TUNERS</b>		
AMC T7		£ 129.95
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		£ 699.95
<b>CD PLAYERS</b>		
AMC CD9		£ 119.95
AMC CD8		£ 149.95
Arcam Alpha 7		£ 319.95
Arcam Alpha 8		£ 519.95
Audiolab 8000 CD		£ 999.95
Audiolab 8000 CDM-96		£ 1399.95
Audiolab 8000 DAC-96		£ 899.95
Cyrus DAD3		£ 599.95
Marantz CD67SE		£ 349.95
Marantz CD6311 KI Signature		£ 499.95
Marantz CD17 KI Signature		£ 1299.95
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		£ 599.95
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
Pioneer PDS505 Precision		£ 459.95
Pioneer PDR05 Recording CD		£ 1299.95
Quad 77 Bus		£ 699.95
Quad 77 Powered		£ 899.95
Rotel RCD930AX		£ 179.95
Rotel RCD950		£ 249.95

Please telephone to verify price and availability before travelling. Offer valid until at least the end of March 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.



THE ULTIMATE IN SOUND ADVICE WE ONLY SELL PRODUCTS FOR WHICH WE ARE AUTHORISED DEALERS

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 SE E MAIDSTONE  
 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

# We've got the power

Alvin Gold (listening) and Paul Miller (lab) check out 14 hot pre/power amplifier combinations!

**D**reaming of a new amplifier? Looking for a model that combines powerful performance with loads of upgrade options for the future? One of our 14 pre/power amplifiers may be the answer to your prayers. Though they're a highly diverse bunch, among them you'll find all the grace, authority and features you demand.

Some members of this group are models whose charm is hidden within their case-work, with front-panel controls comprising just the basic knobs and switches needed to select inputs and raise or lower the volume. At the other end of the ergonomic spectrum is a model from Quad with a sophisticated bus-type interface, and a two-way remote handset that relays messages back and forth to its components. With no compromise to sound quality it can grow seamlessly into a multi-channel home cinema outfit.

Some models cost little more than the average integrated amp, yet offer more power and greater flexibility; other models provide an entry point to the wonderful world of high-end — Michell's amps, for example.

In day-to-day operation, most of us just select an input, adjust the volume and retire to the sofa. In this respect pre/power amplifiers offer no specific advantage over cheaper integrated models. To explain their specific benefits fittingly could fill a long essay, but in a nutshell these are the plus-points: the possibility of extra power; improved sonic performance thanks to the physical separation of critical circuits; plus increased flexibility and enhanced upgradability.

Two models here (Myryad and Arcam) eschew a pre/power configuration for a partnership of integrated amp with power amp. This opens up the possibility of bi-amping — the use of dedicated power amplifiers for the bass and treble drive units in each enclosure — if bi-wirable speaker systems are available.

## How the tests were done

As usual the centrepiece of our reviews was a series of blind listening tests, staged over two days and comprising a programme of varied pieces of music played on a system

THE CAST LIST		
MODEL	PRICE	PAGE
AMC CVT1030A/CVT2100	£999.90	61
Arcam Alpha 9/9P	£899.80	53
Aura CA200/PA100	£1399.90	73
LFD Mistral Linestage/Power	£898	55
Michell Argo/Alecto Stereo	£1880	75
Moth 30 Active/60 Stereo	£948	57
Musical Fidelity F2/FX2	£1300	63
Myryad MI120/MA120	£979.80	65
NAD 114/214	£739.90	59
Naim NAC92R/NAP90	£1026	67
Quad 77 Pre/Power	£1449.90	76
Rega Hal/Exon	£2194	77
Talk Hurricane 2L/Tornado 2	£1249.90	69
Thorens TTP2000F/TTA2000	£1199.98	71

whose only variable was the amplifier under test. Each music sequence was preceded by test tones which were monitored to ensure that the replay level remained constant. Some products were presented more than once without the panel's knowledge.

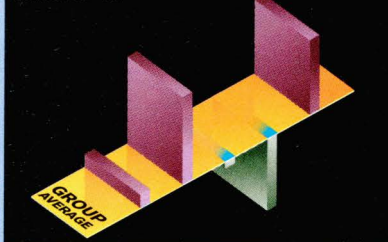
Reference equipment included a Copland CDA-277 CD player and a pair of KEF Reference Two floor-standing speakers. The Copland was chosen because of its fine reputation; the KEFs because of their pedigree and the full-bandwidth nature of their design. This fact, in conjunction with a four-Ohm nominal impedance, is a good test of a partnering amp's resolve. The electronics were placed in a corridor adjacent to the listening room, to ensure anonymity.

Other equipment included a Dual turntable with Audio Technica AT-F5 MC and Roksan Corus Black MM cartridges; a Myryad MC100 CD Player; Ixos 103 interconnects; Nordost Flatline Gold and Linn speaker cables; and Mana supports.

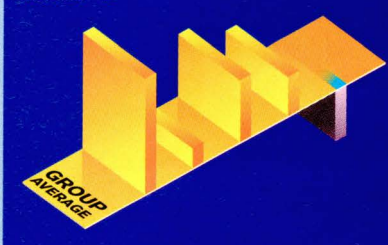
With hindsight, I felt that the 'tuned' quality of KEF's coupled-cavity bass loading system stopped it from 'breathing' naturally, and thus prevented some of the amplifiers from giving a full account of themselves in the low frequencies. Any consequent shortcomings, however, were redressed in hands-on listening sessions where each amp was auditioned with alternative speakers including Castle Howard S2s and Ruark Templars. The former is a large, wide-bandwidth design; the latter roughly medium size and medium bandwidth.

## UNDERSTANDING OUR BAR-GRAPHS AND GROUP AVERAGES

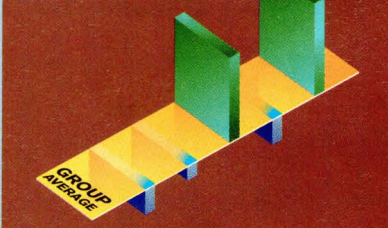
GROUP A



GROUP B



GROUP C



**T**here are huge differences between an amplifier that costs £700 and one that costs over £2,000. For this reason we have divided our 14 amplifiers into three groups to extract meaningful 'group averages' for our bar-graph lab-test summaries. Subjective results from the three groups (A, B and C) are summarised on pages 78 and 79, but to help you identify which player is in which group throughout the reviews, here is the key to the colour codings:

Group A	(below £950)
Group B	(£951-£1,300)
Group C	(above £1,300)

Using this information, you can work out with which of its peers each pre/power amp combination is being compared. Our aim is to assess every product's measured performance in the context of its closest commercial rivals.

The bar-graphs themselves are derived from measurements performed by our Technical Editor, Paul Miller, using instruments controlled by his own award-winning '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 on 100576.3021@compuserve.com .

GROUP A (BELOW £950)



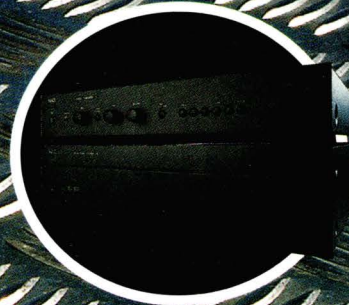
Arcam Alpha 9/9P p.53



LFD Mistral Linesource/Power p.55



Moth 30 Active/60 Stereo p.57



NAD 114/214 p.59

GROUP B (£951-£1,300)



AMC CVT1030A/CVT2100 p.61



Musical Fidelity F2/FX2 p.63



Myryad MI120/MA120 p.65



Naim NAC92R/NAP90 p.67



Talk Hurricane 2L/Tornado 2 p.69

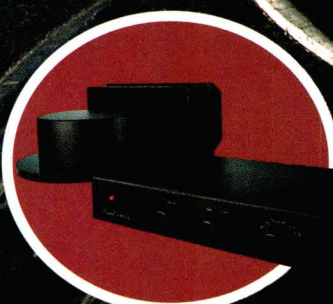


Thorens TTP2000F/TTA2000 p.71

GROUP C (ABOVE £1,300)



Aura CA200/PA100 p.73



Michell Argo/Alecto Stereo p.75



Quad 77 Pre/Power p.76



Rega Hal/Exon p.77

# The experience is out there...

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  
SHAHINIAN  
YAMAHA

Whatever your tastes in musical and visual entertainment; whatever your budget - our experience will help you to enjoy your experience to the full.

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
- ◆ For the same product and service we are never knowingly undersold.

## 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  
**BADA**  
ad authorised  
DEALER

HOME  
**CINEMA**  
SPECIALIST  
CENTRE

# Arcam Alpha 9/9P

Like the Myriad system (p.65), Arcam's combination employs an integrated amp where you might normally expect to find a pre-amp. Arcam doesn't produce a pre-amplifier-only version of the Alpha 9, but using an integrated amp with a separate matching power amp facilitates bi-amping, with potential performance advantages over a straight pre/power combination. Such a system might be expected to suffer a price penalty, but this is one of the most affordable combinations in this test.

Based on the Delta 290, the Alpha 9 is a fully-featured design offering tone controls with a 'direct' bypass switch, switching for two pairs of speakers, a headphone socket, separate listen-and-record source selectors, and a Tape 2 monitor/processor-loop facility with fixed or 'floating' gain setting — useful in an AV system. An MM/MC phono input (internally switchable) can be plumbed in, and 'power in' sockets allow the 9 to be used as a power amp, though this mode of operation wasn't explored during the test. An infra-red remote control is included.

The Alpha 9P power amp has the same switching for two pairs of speakers, but is otherwise bereft of controls, though perhaps

surprisingly it does include a headphone socket. With the same power-amp topology, both 9 and 9P are rated at 70 Watts per channel, but when used together as part of a bi-amplified system, their power output is effectively increased to a level that, Arcam claims, is subjectively equivalent to a 100 Watt amplifier, on typical programme material.

## Sound quality

For practical reasons, the bi-amp facility was not used in the panel tests, which concentrated on the Alpha 9 as a pre-amp, and the 9P as the power amp. The results were poor on the first outing, perhaps because the Arcam was the first amplifier to be auditioned, and the comments were probably more system- than amplifier-related. It was much better received the second time around, but to help iron out uncertainties it was subsequently presented to the second-day panel twice, gaining above average scores on both occasions. The overall average score was just over five out of 10, and on the last three occasions, 6.4 out of 10.

If one disregards the first presentation, which appears to have been atypical, the worst criticism of the Arcam was concerning its slightly inconsistent dynamics, which lack the solidity and discipline of bigger amplifiers. It is precisely this area, however, that showed the greatest improvement when the amplifier was subsequently audi-

tioned in the bi-amp format, along with parallel improvements in the perceived separation of instrumental and vocal strands, and in a more relaxed and consistent quality at higher volume levels.

Most of the remaining comments concentrated on the Arcam's colourful, even vivid tonality (some explicitly compared it to the Quad), its transparency and its lack of synthetic artefacts. "Good out-of-the-box stereo even when sitting off-centre" was one comment, made of the Allison Krauss, while another wrote of "bags of character in Ella's voice — her phrasing really comes across".

## Conclusion

A clear Best Buy at £900, the Alpha 9/9P is the most exciting Arcam amplifier for some time, from a brand whose amplifiers have not always impressed recently. Bi-amping (given a speaker with twin inputs, of course) helps firm up an otherwise slightly wayward character, and makes for a colourful, dynamic and disciplined sound that's at ease with the music. *AG*



## VERDICT

**SOUND** ★★★★★☆  
**VALUE** ★★★★★★  
**PRICE** £900 AS TESTED (ALPHA 9 £499.90; ALPHA 9P £399.90)

▲ Clear, colourful and solid, the Arcam is a good all-rounder that can compete with conviction well out of its price class.

▼ At the price, very little, though the external presentation is nothing to write home about.

✉ A&R Cambridge Ltd, Pembroke Avenue, Waterbeach, Cambridge CB5 9PB  
 ☎ (01223) 203203

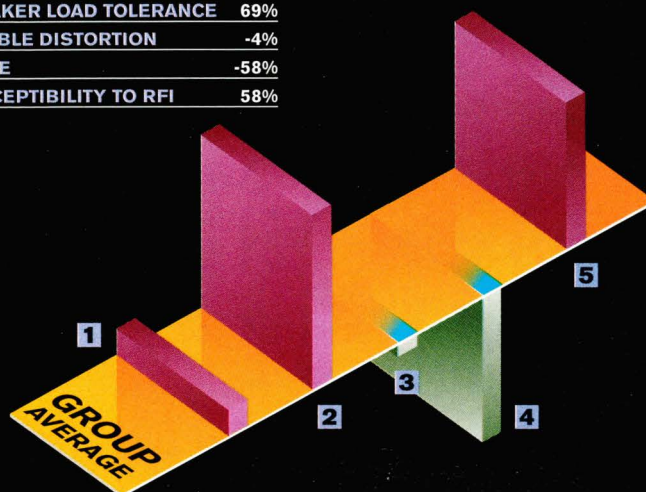
## THE LAB REPORT

Budget CD players beware, for Arcam's Alpha 9 (along with Musical Fidelity's F2) presents a fearsome 5kOhm input load which, particularly if you're using long or 'exotic' interconnects, could easily stretch the capacity of the player's output op-amps. Sadly, I must also take issue with Arcam's 90W/8 Ohms and 140W/4 Ohms single-channel specification. In practice some 94W/134W respectively is possible, but only through the midband. At higher frequencies, a severe waveform distortion limits the power output of the 9P to around 60-65W/8 Ohms before genuine 'clipping' sets in. The generous 23A reserve of current, however, still ensures the 9P will handle any difficult loudspeakers.

There are other 'niggles'. For example distortion jumps from 0.004 to 0.15 per cent, midband-to-treble, at all power levels. The volume control begins to look a little shaky beyond -60dB with interchannel errors exceeding 3dB, while the 9/9P's noise performance is some 10dB behind the best in this survey. A little less gain (amplification factor) may well have sorted this little problem which, incidentally, still fails to 'mask' mild susceptibility to RF interference. Expect the 9/9P's performance to be very variable according to the components it is partnered with. *PM*

## HOW IT COMPARES

1	DYNAMIC POWER OUTPUT	10%
2	SPEAKER LOAD TOLERANCE	69%
3	AUDIBLE DISTORTION	-4%
4	NOISE	-58%
5	SUSCEPTIBILITY TO RFI	58%



# TANGENT

TANGENT DEALERS

**LONDON REGION**  
 Barking - Hyper-Fi  
 0181 591 6961  
 Camden - Superfi  
 0171 388 1300  
 Central - Brians Hi-Fi  
 0171 631 1109  
 Central - Spatial Audio  
 0171 637 8702  
 Chelsea - Sevenoaks  
 0171 352 9466  
 Croydon - Sevenoaks  
 0181 665 1203  
 Enfield - Sevenoaks  
 0181 342 1973  
 Kingston - Sevenoaks  
 0181 547 0717  
 Watford - Sevenoaks  
 01923 213533  
 Woolwich - Sevenoaks  
 0181 855 8016

**SOUTH**  
 Brighton - Sevenoaks  
 01273 733338  
 Chatham - Sevenoaks  
 01634 846859  
 Guildford - Sevenoaks  
 01483 36666  
 Reading - Sevenoaks  
 0118 959 7768  
 Sevenoaks - Sevenoaks  
 01732 459555  
 Tunbridge Wells - Sevenoaks  
 01892 531543  
 Windsor - Radfords  
 01753 856931

**EAST**  
 Bury St. Edmunds - Sevenoaks  
 01284 753776  
 Witham - Sevenoaks  
 01376 501733

**WEST**  
 Bath - Radfords  
 01225 446245  
 Bristol - Radfords  
 0117 944 1010  
 Cardiff - Radfords  
 01222 398121  
 Cheltenham - Sevenoaks  
 01242 241171  
 Exeter - Radfords  
 01392 218895  
 Plymouth - Radfords  
 01752 226011

**MIDLANDS**  
 Bedford - Sevenoaks  
 01234 272779  
 Birmingham - Sevenoaks  
 0121 233 2977  
 Birmingham - Superfi  
 0121 631 2675  
 Coventry - Superfi  
 01203 223254  
 Leicester - Sevenoaks  
 0116 255 7518  
 Lincoln - Superfi  
 01522 520265  
 Nottingham - Superfi  
 0115 941 2137  
 Oxford - Radfords  
 01865 511241  
 Oxford - Sevenoaks  
 01865 241773  
 Worcester - Sevenoaks  
 01905 612929

**NORTH**  
 Barrow-in-Furness - Sevenoaks  
 01229 838757  
 Derby - Superfi  
 01332 360303  
 Hull - Superfi  
 01482 324051  
 Leeds - Bill Hutchinson  
 01132 427777  
 Leeds - Superfi  
 0113 244 9075  
 Manchester-Superfi  
 0161 835 1156  
 Manchester - Bill Hutchinson  
 0161 832 1600  
 Newcastle-Upon-Tyne - Bill Hutchinson  
 0191 230 3600  
 Sheffield - Superfi  
 0114 272 3768  
 Stoke on Trent - Superfi  
 01782 265010  
 Wolverhampton - Superfi  
 01902 772901

**SCOTLAND**  
 Aberdeen - Sevenoaks  
 01224 587070  
 Edinburgh - Bill Hutchinson  
 0131 220 0909  
 Edinburgh - Hi-Fi UK  
 0131 667 2877  
 Glasgow - Bill Hutchinson  
 0141 248 2857

## UNDISPUTED THE BEST SUB £60 SPEAKER ON THE MARKET

"the monitor 3's are alone at the price... they have no peers" "exceptional depth scale and substance"

**WHAT HI-FI?**

AWARDS 1996

★★★★★

"the monitor three is almost absurdly affordable but it looks and sounds anything but cheap" "the monitor five for £80 is LITTLE SHORT OF A MIRACLE"

**HI-FI CHOICE**

MARCH 1997

**MONITOR THREE**

**£59.95** per pair

TANGENT

ALSO MONITOR FIVE £79.95 PER PAIR

## "REVOLUTIONARY NUMBER NINES"

"a pair of floor standers under £150... but even more wonderful is they sound more like £200 speakers"

**WHAT HI-FI?**

OCTOBER 96

★★★★★

"the monitor nine is a remarkably gutsy and dynamic performer... for the money it's simply stonking and a potent advert for affordable hi-fi"

**HI-FI CHOICE**

MARCH 1997

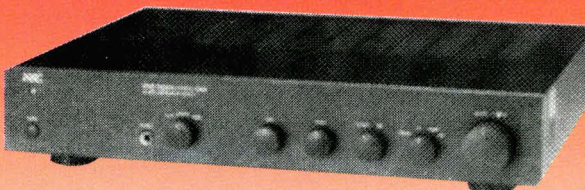
**MONITOR NINE**

**£149.95** per pair

TANGENT

ALSO MONITOR ELEVEN £179.95 PER PAIR

## "AMC IMPRESSES WITH BARGAIN AMP"



"winning sound for the money ... if you want a remote AMP on a very tight budget look no further".

**WHAT HI-FI?**

MARCH 1997

★★★★★

**3025a**

**£129.95**

AMC™

## "THE AMC TUNER IS HARD TO BEAT"



"Its well built... but its when you start to listen that the AMC reveals it's true talents... it's a fine buy"

**WHAT HI-FI?**

MARCH 1996

★★★★★

**T7**

**£129.95**

AMC™

Available from 50 stores nationwide:

and Mail Order Delivery Direct from Tangent 0500 828620

Please add £6 for insured securicor delivery

TANGENT ACOUSTICS U.K.

115 NEW LONDON ROAD, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX. CM2 0QT ENGLAND TELEPHONE 0500 828620

Tangent Acoustics UK are the sole official distributor for A.M.C., Sansui and Tangent Hi-Fi Products in the UK

EXPORT DISTRIBUTORS FOR TANGENT LOUDSPEAKERS REQUIRED FAX 0141 248 2857

# LFD-Mistral Linestage/Power

The Mistrals form part of LFD's extensive range of amplifier products, which range from simple line and phono pre-amplifiers from under £300, to a battery phono preamplifier costing £4,500. The duo scrutinised here is from the affordable end of the range, offering simple manufacturing and straightforward circuit topology, though the gold-finished fixings and controls give the system a touch of class.

As often is the case, these designs reflect the particular concerns of their designer, Dr Richard Bews. In this case, the twist is less negative feedback than usual in the power amp: at the cost of slightly higher distortion figures, better sound is claimed to result.

The pre-amp is said to use no overall feedback at all: point-to-point wiring is deployed wherever practical in place of printed circuit tracks, and the power supply uses banks of small-value capacitors connected in parallel. This means that continuous power output figures suffer, despite the presence of a relatively large transformer; reportedly, however, this ameliorates problems caused by slow-charging electrostatic capacitors in the power supply. The LFD

capacitor bank is designed to recover faster, and to give a low impedance supply, again reportedly for sound quality reasons.

The Linestage/Power combination provides five line inputs and a single tape circuit with off-tape monitoring. One of the inputs is labelled phono, but it is a line input unless you add a plug-in board (£180 extra). In all other respects minimalism is the rule.

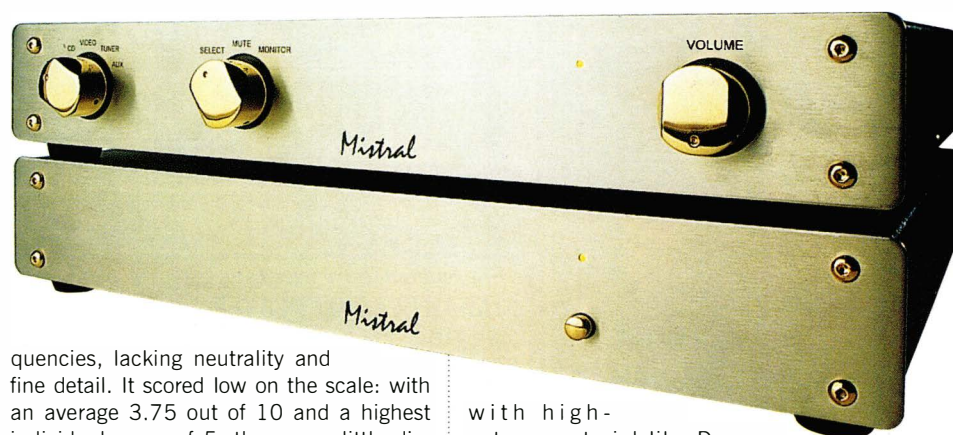
## Sound quality

Something of a curate's egg. The Mistrals were felt to be dynamically flat in the low fre-

quencies, lacking neutrality and fine detail. It scored low on the scale: with an average 3.75 out of 10 and a highest individual score of 5, there was little disagreement about how this amplifier sounded. Listening to the Keb' Mo track, one panelist wrote that the sound was "initially impressive, but the voice and guitar are coloured". A similar comment was made about Ella Fitzgerald's voice in the track from Porgy and Bess. Others complained also of a lack of inflection and expressiveness. The bass was criticised by a number of the listeners (ironic given the manufacturer's

design rationale) for sounding heavy or slow. The mid and treble were generally felt to be much livelier, and on a couple of occasions were criticised for going over the top. "A touch in-ye-face," was a typical remark, in this case referring to the sweetly-refined Allison Krauss track.

In hands-on sessions, the LFD didn't confound the panel's appraisal, even when hooked up to smaller speakers, especially those with an energetic, forward balance like the latest Ruark Templar. This simply sounded edgy and uncomfortable, especially



with high-octave material like Doug McLeod's bottleneck guitar opening on *All I Had Was The Blues* (AudioQuest).

with high-octave material like Doug McLeod's bottleneck guitar opening on *All I Had Was The Blues* (AudioQuest).

## Conclusion

The Mistral combo costs less than most other models in this test group, but it is still up against some powerful competition from NAD and Arcam, both of whose competing designs are more transparent and less obviously manipulative. **AG**

## VERDICT

**SOUND** ★★☆☆☆  
**VALUE** ★★☆☆☆  
**PRICE** £898 (LINESTAGE £449,  
**POWER** £449, PHONO £180 EXTRA)

▲ Decent aesthetics and ergonomics count in the LFD's favour, and its sense of upper-band vitality was often infectious.

▼ Lacks detail; suspect LF dynamics and an overall lack of 'grip' and transparency.

✉ LFD Audio, 7 Lancaster Gardens West, Clacton-On-Sea, Essex CO15 6QG  
 ☎ (01255) 422533

## THE LAB REPORT

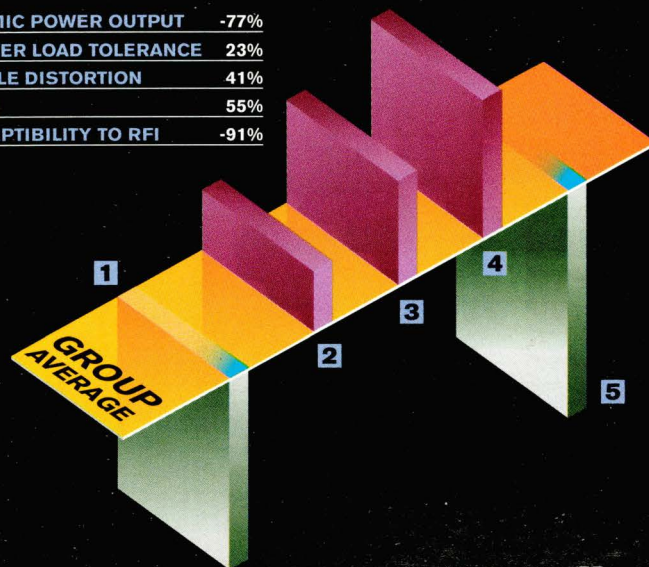
CD players and outboard DACs with less-than-heroic analogue output buffers may blanch at the Mistral Linestage's lowish 9.5kOhms line input impedance, though there are other, more significant, offenders in this test. Otherwise the Linestage enjoys a very wide 2Hz-120kHz bandwidth (-3dB); it is slewing, rather than a clean 'clip', that limits its output at high power/high frequencies.

In the absence of any specification from manufacturers LFD, a rating of 60W from 20Hz-20kHz/8 Ohms is just achieved with a generous 13.4A reserve of current representing dynamic peaks of 180W into especially troublesome loudspeakers. The 'dynamic output' bargraph looks grim only because the Mistral is compared with both Arcam and NAD amplifiers in group A. In general terms, it could hardly be described as lacking.

Odd-order distortions tend to dominate, however, increasing to some 0.3 per cent through the treble. More important is the Mistral's extreme sensitivity to spurious RF noise from 140MHz right through to 1GHz. Environmental conditions prevailing, this may well result in a rough and unsympathetic sound. **PM**

## HOW IT COMPARES

1	DYNAMIC POWER OUTPUT	-77%
2	SPEAKER LOAD TOLERANCE	23%
3	AUDIBLE DISTORTION	41%
4	NOISE	55%
5	SUSCEPTIBILITY TO RFI	-91%





**WELCOME TO THE HOME OF GOOD HI-FI**  
 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, a great deal featuring the PDR -05 and we have the fabulous new B & O 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>

FREE 24hr nationwide delivery for most items? - YES!

Buy both and save over £65  
**MARANTZ CD 67 PLAYER**  
**MISSION 731i SPEAKERS**  
 Buy both and claim a £25 voucher redeemable against any amplifier  
**£339**  
 purchased (offer ends 31/3/97)

**PDR-05 RECORDABLE CD PLAYER**  
 Player and Recorder

60min Recordable CD's Only £7.99 >  
 74min Recordable CD's Only £9.99 >  
 Available NOW!

This month an offer not to be missed: (offer ends 30/4/97)  
 For a limited period we are offering the Pioneer PDR - 05 at £1299 including 10 FREE 74 minute recordable discs worth £99.90 or INTEREST FREE CREDIT with only a £99 Deposit and 16 payments of £75 (Please write or call for details)

**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  
 Marantz CD 67se (NEW!) ..... £349.00  
 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  
 60 min Recordable CD Disc ..... £6.99  
 74 min Recordable CD Disc ..... £9.99  
 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  
 Epos ES12 (NEW!) ..... £499.00  
 Linn Keilidh Monitors ..... £750.00  
 Mission 751 Freedom (NEW!) ... £348.00  
 Mission 752 Freedom (NEW!) ... £578.00  
 Mordaunt Short MS10i Classic .. £279.00  
 Naim INTRO (NEW!) ..... £596.00  
 ProAc Tablette 50 Speakers .... £599.00  
 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 Delta 270 CD Player (New, 1only) ... (799.00)	<b>£399.00</b>	Marantz PM55se Amplifier ..... (249.00)	<b>£149.00</b>
B&W Solids/Active Bass Woofer ..... (469.00)	<b>£299.00</b>	Naim CD3 Player (boxed) ..... (977.00)	<b>£739.00</b>
K.E.F. 90 Centre Speaker ( 1 only) ..... (259.00)	<b>£139.00</b>	Naim CDi Player (S/H Mint-1 yr warranty) (1997.00)	<b>£1395.00</b>
Linn Keltik Active (Wal, current spec) ..... (6000.00)	<b>£3500.00</b>	Naim NAP135 Power Amp (mono x 2) .... (1576.00)	<b>£899.00</b>
Linn Cherry Keilidh Spks inc Stands ..... (975.00)	<b>£749.00</b>	Pioneer 5 Spkr A.V. Sub/Sat Combo ..... (249.00)	<b>£119.00</b>
Marantz CD 67 (Slight marks) ..... (249.00)	<b>£175.00</b>	Quad 77 Amplifier (boxed) ..... (650.00)	<b>£395.00</b>
Marantz CD 67se (New, slight Marks) ..... (349.00)	<b>£249.00</b>	Quad 77 System remote control ..... (299.00)	<b>£149.00</b>
Marantz CD 63se Ki Sig (slight marks) ..... (499.00)	<b>£339.00</b>	Quad 66 Preamp ..... (875.00)	<b>£449.00</b>
Mission 732 Speakers (New) ..... (199.00)	<b>£129.00</b>	Rega EL8 Speakers ..... (298.00)	<b>£198.00</b>
Mission 733 Speakers (slight marks) ..... (299.00)	<b>£199.00</b>	Revolver 250 Speakers (New) ..... (249.00)	<b>£149.00</b>
Mission 753 Speakers (Slight marks) ..... (699.00)	<b>£459.00</b>	Tannoy 632 Speakers (New) ..... (199.00)	<b>£119.00</b>
Mordaunt Short MS25i (Boxed) ..... (299.00)	<b>£209.00</b>	Tannoy 633+ Speakers (boxed) ..... (299.00)	<b>£199.00</b>



# Moth 30 Active/60 Stereo

The Moth system reviewed here was permuted from a number of components, including more powerful monoblok power amps, a simple passive line preamplifier and a phono preamplifier. The test system comprises four components: preamplifier, stereo power amplifier and power supplies in matching boxes.

Aesthetically, the Moth system is a gem, not because of its distinctive wood-dressed fronts, nor because it lacks the gadget overhead of its peers, but because it's so tiny. There are no control labels, so you'll have to remember which input is which; the red power indicators don't line up with their viewing holes consistently; and the volume control has a rather cramped action in its first 90 degrees of rotation.

Inputs are all phono-based bar the tape circuit, for which there's only room to accommodate a 5-pin DIN socket — adaptor leads are reasonably easy to find in a hi-fi accessory store. The power amp has bi-wirable 4mm binding posts, and controls are limited to volume, a selector switch for the four inputs and a tape-monitor button.

## Sound quality

There was diversity in the panel scores, which ranged between 3.5 and six out of

10, with an average of 4.6. There was less disagreement about the basic sound, which was considered lacking in some of the finer virtues. This duo didn't seem quite equal to the task of driving a big, hairy, wide-bandwidth loudspeaker like the KEF Reference Two, which eats all but the most solid designs for breakfast. Perhaps the 100-Watt Moth monobloks would have been a better match for the KEFs.

In particular, the panel noticed that the Moth was unable to control the KEF's ample bottom-end convincingly. "The bass was quite ponderous," complained one listener about the precise, even lightweight Alison Krauss track. Another noted a "muddy" quality to the Keb' Mo song, describing the amp in his overall comments as having a "bass heavy" balance. From my hands-on listening sessions I'd echo the panel's comments, but the Moth's inability to get a grip on the KEF's bass does remind that this speaker needs a firm disciplinarian hand.

The Moth did attract praise for its "reserved" but "powerful, authoritative" sound, though it was also said to sound a bit coloured and even harsh at times. My own tests confirmed that the Moth was capable

of only relatively limited output, and quickly became harsh and uncomfortable when the volume was cranked up to even moderately high volume settings. Generally it seemed happier with compact speakers that present a straightforward electrical load. Substituting alternative power and pre-amps also suggested that, relatively speaking, the power amp is the weaker of the two components.

## Conclusion

Not everyone wants an 18-inch-wide tin box in their main room mixing it with the furniture, and Moth has addressed this requirement. Its products are designed to be user-friendly, with the smallest possible visual 'footprint' shorn of all inessential controls or widgets to present an attractive, informal, non-techie appearance. The combination tested makes an interesting niche choice to match middle-ranking compact speakers, but can sound out of its depth with wide bandwidth, high resolution enclosures. **AG**



### VERDICT

**SOUND** ★★☆☆☆  
**VALUE** ★★☆☆☆  
**PRICE** £948 AS TESTED (ACTIVE LINE STAGE £349 POWER AMP £599)

- ▲ Modularity means flexibility, great low-key looks; preamplifier especially sounds fine.
- ▼ Power amp lacks control and finesse, and sounds off-colour with difficult speakers.
- ✉ Moth Group, 10 Dane Lane, Wilstead, Bedford MK45 3HT.
- ☎ (01234) 741152

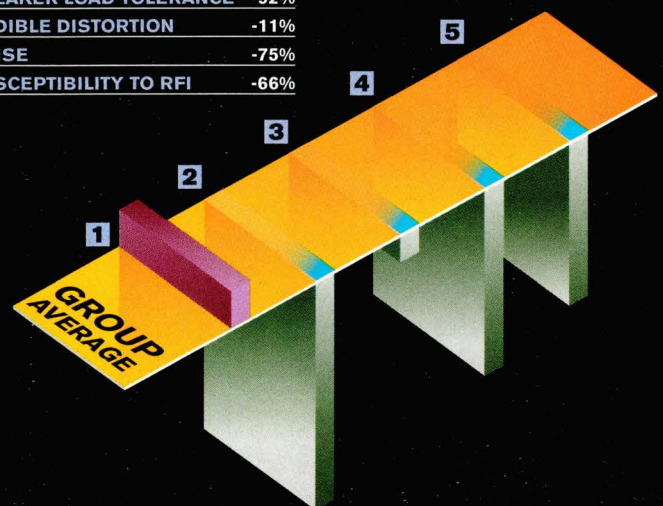
## THE LAB REPORT

While this mix of 30 and 60-Series components has its high points, it also harbours one or two unexpected blights. In practice, the Series 60 Stereo will deliver some 80W into an 8 Ohm load and a full 109W into 4 Ohms. There's even a healthy +1.8dB of headroom to accommodate peaks up to 127W into 8 Ohms. Lower impedance speakers are not tolerated so comfortably, as presumably Moth's V/I limiting circuitry cuts in a little too early and restricts momentary bursts to just 20W into 1 Ohm loads. Stick to sensitive, easy-going speakers to avoid unduly taxing the Series 60.

The overall gain of the 30/60 is also unnecessarily high, requiring just 69mV to achieve full output (400mV would be more appropriate) and compromising the 74dB 1W/8 Ohm S/N ratio en route. 84dB would have been better. The massive 110mV DC offset also needs to be corrected to eliminate the risk of unduly 'biasing' the bass cones of the most sensitive loudspeakers. RF sensitivity should also be addressed, as the 30/60 is susceptible to spurious noise right up to the test limit of 1GHz (1,000MHz). However both Quad and LFD products made a worse showing in this respect. **PM**

## HOW IT COMPARES

1	DYNAMIC POWER OUTPUT	14%
2	SPEAKER LOAD TOLERANCE	-92%
3	AUDIBLE DISTORTION	-11%
4	NOISE	-75%
5	SUSCEPTIBILITY TO RFI	-66%





## 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



9 DOGPOLE · SHREWSBURY · SHROPSHIRE · TEL 01743 241924

AUTHORISED RETAILER FOR:

ARCAM · AUDIO ALCHEMY · AUDIOLAB · CELESTION · CYRUS · DEVON · EPOS · KEF · LYRA · MERIDIAN · M&K · MISSION · NAD · NAIM · QUAD · REGA · ROKSAN · SOUNDSTYLE · STANDS UNIQUE · TRIPODS

# NAD 114/214

The 114/214 combination is a typical NAD design, from its mid-grey paint job (the house colours) to its modest gadget count, which lies between the stripped-down minimalism of most natural competitors, and flexible designs like the Arcam Alpha 9/9P, both of which cost rather more. In fact, this NAD combination is the least expensive tested by more than £150; indeed it is one of the cheapest pre- and power-amp combinations available on the market today.

Glamorous it ain't, but this is a supremely practical package. The preamplifier, based on the NAD 106, is a reasonably slim design with bass and treble controls, a tone bypass switch to take them out of circuit, and a headphone socket backed by a dedicated amplifier rather than a tap from the main output. There are seven inputs (including a discrete moving coil/moving magnet phono input), four line inputs, and two tape circuits allowing bi-directional tape dubbing. One of the latter permits off-tape monitoring. Two sets of outputs are fitted, with a claimed low impedance output for driving long interconnects.

Despite using a low-lying toroidal mains transformer, NAD hasn't attempted to cram

the power-amp into the same-size box as the pre-amp. The 214 is rated at 80 Watts per channel, and may be bridged to deliver a claimed 240 Watts into a single speaker. It is designed, says NAD, to deliver plenty of current into adverse loads — down to two Ohms bridged or one Ohm stereo on a short-term basis. Switchable 'soft clipping', a standard NAD feature, aims to make the best fist of distortion incurred at the limits of performance; in normal operation it's best switched out of circuit.

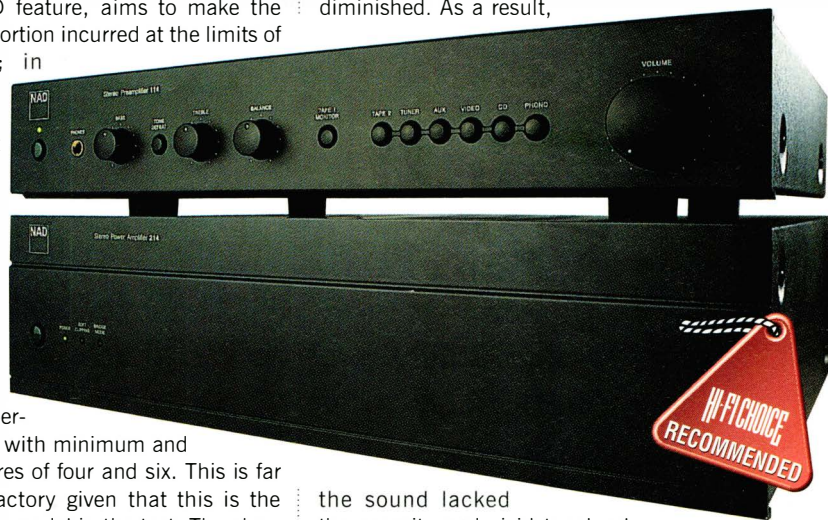
## Sound quality

The average test score was 4.75 out of 10, which was very consistent from person to person, with minimum and maximum scores of four and six. This is far from unsatisfactory given that this is the least expensive model in the test. The character of the comments was equally consistent, painting a picture of an amplifier with strong dynamics and considerable detail-resolving ability, some loss of refinement and a tonal balance which was consistently felt to be on the lightweight side of neutral.

"Fairly clean and transparent, with a nice percussive edge to the banjo," one panelist wrote about the instrumental opening to the Allison Krauss test track, adding that "a better defined soundstage would be a benefit". Another described the same track as "slightly flat...the bass is solid but not very

powerful". The Debussy piano track was felt to have a "nice, clean piano tone" but to be "a bit lacking in body" — that comment echoed throughout the tests.

The NAD is lightweight by the best of standards, and the weight and architecture of large instrumental groups — orchestras, rock bands or jazz combos — tended to be diminished. As a result,



the sound lacked the sonority and vivid tonal colours that some of the more costly amplifiers were able to generate. Nevertheless, style was clear and essentially uncoloured, and such difficult sounds as plucked strings and subtle vocal inflections were preserved in all their vitality and complexity.

## Conclusion

A fine, consistent and detailed amplifier at a bargain price, and the bridging option allows it to grow with you in future. It lacks the star quality to be a Best Buy by a whisker, but it is heartily Recommended. **AG**

## VERDICT

**SOUND** ★★★★★  
**VALUE** ★★★★★  
**PRICE** £740 AS TESTED (114 £369.95; 214 £369.95)

▲ Plenty of Watts for very little money. The NAD pairing sounds focused, detailed and consistent.

▼ Lacks weight and has somewhat bleached tonal colours.

✉ The Audio Club, Adastra House, 401-405 Nether Street, London N3 1QG  
 ☎ (0181) 343 3240

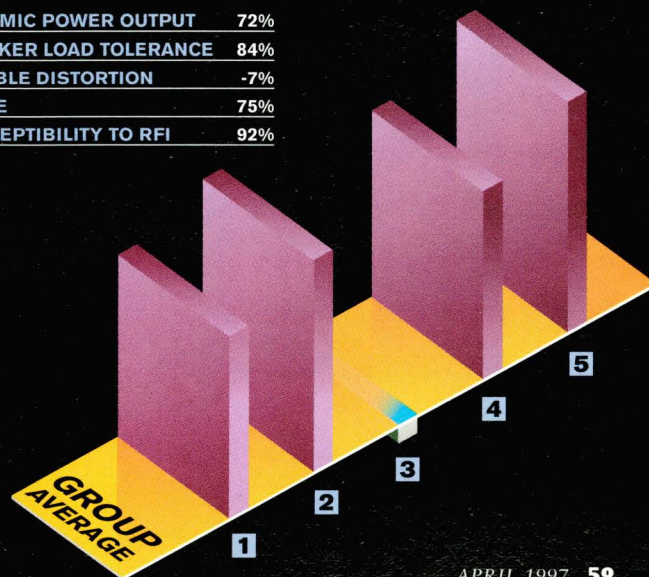
## THE LAB REPORT

Quality does not automatically go hand-in-hand with quantity, but if you ever need an affordable amplifier capable of driving a short length of damp string, then NAD's 214 is the one. Capable of delivering over 130W into 8 Ohms and 210W into 4 Ohms, this combination will also stun any recalcitrant speaker into next week with a mighty 28.5A reserve of current (equal to bursts of over 800W into 1 Ohm at less than 1 per cent distortion). The wide and flat response, very low susceptibility to RF interference, usefully low 0.03 Ohm output impedance and magnificent 86dB S/N ratio (re. 1W/8 Ohms) all contribute to the amplifier's clean, fresh and powerful sound.

Drawbacks are few and far between, though even NAD can't continue the low 0.001 per cent distortion enjoyed through the midband into the high treble octaves, where THD is closer to 0.01 per cent. Big deal, quite frankly. The acceptable 0.4dB channel tolerance, high overload margins, sensible 19 kOhm input impedance (pre-amp) and low DC offset (power-amp) just add further reinforcement to this combination's all-round compatibility. A good and powerful design, make no mistake. *PM*

## HOW IT COMPARES

1	DYNAMIC POWER OUTPUT	72%
2	SPEAKER LOAD TOLERANCE	84%
3	AUDIBLE DISTORTION	-7%
4	NOISE	75%
5	SUSCEPTIBILITY TO RFI	92%



# Maḡa Acoustics

## ***Would like to thank the following***

**TOP EVENTS Ltd.** for putting on **The Hi Fidelity Show '97**

at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, Manchester

*What a success it has already turned out to be.*

*Other manufacturers who were not there please take note!!*

**ATC** for the even more amazing active 100A Loudspeakers with the new SL Bass drivers (*superb upgrade!*).

**Linn Products** for the LP12 (*still our favourite turntable*).

**Naim Audio** for the 52 Pre Amp and ARO tonearm.

**Path Group** for the Sukimo Sho cartridge (*a reference to be proud of - we're on our second one so it's got to be good*).

The following people for giving their time, patience and effort:

**Mike Hall (ATC), Paul Ogle, Ian Wright, Davey Cameron, Adrian Cowderoy, Tony Vassallo, Paul Williams** and of course **Damian** (*Nice one guys*).

And the biggest shout is to all the music lovers who attended the show and made it all worthwhile.

Hope to see you all again next year. 31st January - 1st February 1998 - same place, another time.

*John Watson,*

**MANA ACOUSTICS**

P.S. A special thank you to Mark Sissine (Issue 163) - we owe you one for the publicity, and to the people who wrote to Hi-Fi Choice on our behalf.

# AMC CVT1030A/CVT2100

If you know your history, you will know that certain NAD (and Yamaha) products — dating back to the seminal 3020 which propelled NAD into the public consciousness — are manufactured by AMC in Taiwan. One of NAD's chief designers was the British-born but now US-based Peter Bath, who also designed the AMC range which includes a number of valve-based components.

The range is being distributed by Tangent Acoustics at prices that make them look like real value in strictly material terms. The power amp is an astonishingly heavy (19kg) stereo valve/MOSFET hybrid, using paired KT88s in a notional Class A output, with a claimed power rating of 80 Watts per channel, all for £600. The 2100 can even be supplied with a module that provides output bridging, or another that additionally gives XLR balanced inputs.

The preamplifier has inputs for phono (MM), five line inputs and a tape circuit with an off-tape monitor facility. Tone controls and valve-driven circuits are included, as is a 'direct' bypass facility and a headphone socket. Two sets of line outputs are complemented by the option of XLR sockets carry-

ing balanced audio. These specs are undeniably impressive for the money, though build quality, I must say, is only adequate at best.

### Sound quality

The AMC combination generated a certain amount of hiss'n'hum on both channels, though no more than you'd expect of most valve amps. In addition the right-hand channel suffered from a significant level of 'flicker'-type noise (three of the four panel members referred specifically to this effect), which was traced to the preamplifier circuit downstream of the volume control.

In the power amp there was a degree of mechanical noise, which emanated from two cooling fans whose task it is to keep the power amp at working temperature. The panel members were not aware of this, however, as all the amps were set up in a corridor adjacent to the listening room.

The AMC combination attracted mixed notices, and an average score of 4.5 out of ten, with a maximum of seven and a minimum of two. This spread is partly explained by the weighting each listener applied to cosmetic faults like those already mentioned.

The common thread in all listening comments was that the amplifier sounded engaging and organic, but at the same time rather boxy, and inconsistent in the way it treated stereo imagery, which was thought to lack focus. On the best interpretation, the

AMC was felt to have a "lively, open" sound (Allison Krauss), though another described the voice as "thin, and lacking in separation". The same listener described the Debussy piano sound as "lightweight (and) lacking in harmonics", and Keb' Mo's guitar as "wooden and stilted" with a "flat" vocal line. Even the most enthusiastic listener noted a "boxy" bottom end. I also felt that the sound lacked excitement at the bottom end, and regrettably I didn't find this combination particularly stimulating or engaging.

### Conclusion

These two components make a brave attempt to bring valve amplification to the masses — you get a lot of box for the money. However there were niggling faults with a lower-powered power amp originally intended to accompany the CVT2030A pre-amplifier, and the sound lacks the magic associated with the best of valves. *AG*



### VERDICT

**SOUND** ★★☆☆☆  
**VALUE** ★★☆☆☆  
**PRICE** £1,000 AS TESTED (CVT1030A £399.95/CVT2100 £599.95)

- ▲ Astonishing amount of hardware for the money, and the sound occasionally has star quality, though it fails to sustain this in the long term.
- ▼ Suffers mechanical and electrical noise; sound is coloured, especially in the LF end of the spectrum.
- ✉ Tangent Acoustics UK, 115 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0QT (0500) 828620

## THE LAB REPORT

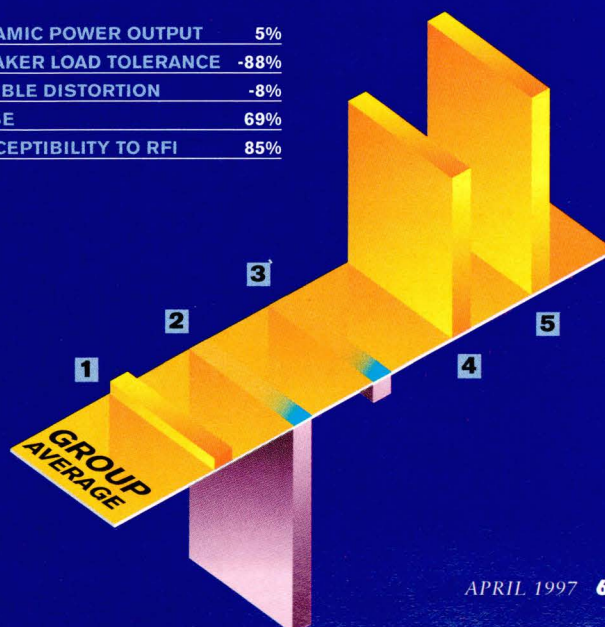
Alvin's listeners reported a problem with AMC's CVT1030A pre-amp, and regrettably it expired altogether on arrival at my lab bench. As regards the CVT2100 power amp, if you push distortion no higher than 1 per cent, it's possible to squeeze some 45W from across the midband, but this falls to 19W in the deep bass and just 5W at the treble extremes. AMC rates the CVT2100 at 80W at an optimistic 1 per cent distortion. Naturally it's possible to wring a little more juice from the amp, but only at the expense of added distortion. I clocked-up 110W/8 Ohms at 5 per cent THD, for example.

The amplifier is not tolerant of low-impedance speakers for several reasons. Not least is its high 1.6 Ohm output impedance which, in the real world, could make a mockery of its notionally flat 4Hz-100kHz response. So, depending on the impedance trend of the speaker, the response and therefore the tonal balance of the CVT2100 will be affected.

Distortion is also very variable, ranging from 0.02 per cent (midband/1W) to 0.6 per cent (midband/two-thirds power) and 0.6 per cent (treble/1W). Good news? Well, without the pre-amp in tow, the CVT2100's noise performance is rather good at just -86dB 1W/8ohm. *PM*

## HOW IT COMPARES

1	DYNAMIC POWER OUTPUT	5%
2	SPEAKER LOAD TOLERANCE	-88%
3	AUDIBLE DISTORTION	-8%
4	NOISE	69%
5	SUSCEPTIBILITY TO RFI	85%

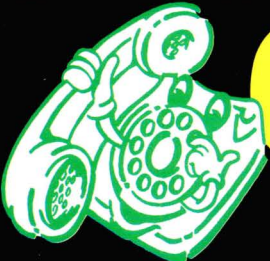


**AUTHORISED DEALER**

- AIWA
- AKAI
- ALPINE
- ARCAM
- AUDIOQUEST
- BANG & OLUFSEN
- BOSE
- CABLETALK
- 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
- Q E D
- QUAD
- REL
- ROTEL HI-FI
- SAMSUNG
- SANYO
- SHARP
- SOLID
- SONY
- TANNOY
- TDL
- TECHNICS
- TOSHIBA
- WHARFEDALE
- YAMAHA

**For Any Make/Model of Hi-fi, TV, Video, Camcorder Buy Direct And Save £££'s Off High Street Prices**

**Freephone 0800 454980**



**LINES OPEN**  
 Monday - Friday 9am-8pm  
 Saturday - 9am-6pm  
 Sunday 10am-4pm

**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*

"This is the first time I have ever ordered Hi-fi by mail order and take this opportunity to say how pleased I was with your service. Absolutely no criticism - well down and thank you."  
*RM - Holmes Chapel*

Thank you once again for getting the camcorder to me for Christmas. I have a 4 year old son and it makes all the difference to me.  
*LB - Truro, Cornwall*

**SAVE £££'s... CALL EMPIRE DIRECT NOW**

**Just a small selection of our huge range of products.**

**BRITISH HI-FI AWARDS 1996**

<b>BEST CD Player</b> under £250 DENON DCC-825	<b>BEST A/V Amplifier</b> under £350 DENON AVR-900	<b>BEST Subwoofer</b> REL Storm	<b>BEST Complete Hi-Fi Systems</b> above £1000 QUAD 77
<b>BEST Tuner</b> under £250 ARCAM Alpha 5 Plus	<b>BEST A/V Amplifier</b> above £350 ARCAM Xeta One	<b>BEST Hi-Fi Speakers</b> under £200 KEF Coda 7	<b>Editors Award for Outstanding Hi-Fi Product of the Year</b> PIONEER PDR-05 CD Recorder
<b>BEST Cassette Deck</b> under £250 DENON DRS-640	<b>BEST A/V Speakers</b> under £750 Celestion Style	<b>BEST Hi-Fi Speakers</b> £200 - £500 MISSION 73	<b>BEST Complete Hi-Fi Systems</b> under £1000 AKAI TX 700
<b>BEST Cassette Deck</b> above £250 PIONEER D-05	<b>BEST A/V Speakers</b> above £750 KEF 60S, KEF 80C, KEF 30B		

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

**Nobody Else Can Offer You All This**

- 1 **UK'S LEADING DIRECT SALES/MAIL ORDER SPECIALISTS** ✓
- 2 **UK'S LARGEST RANGE OF ELECTRICAL GOODS** ✓
- 3 **FREE NATIONWIDE 48 HOUR DELIVERY SERVICE** ✓
- 4 **FREE NATIONWIDE IN-HOME AFTER SALES SERVICE** ✓
- 5 **UK'S LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEE (CALL 0800 454980 FOR FULL DETAILS)** ✓
- 6 **A DEDICATED DIRECT SALES DEPARTMENT** ✓
- 7 **OPTIONAL NATIONWIDE INSTALLATION SERVICE** ✓
- 8 **SIMPLE ORDERING PROCEDURE - MASSIVE STOCKS** ✓
- 9 **MEMBERS OF RETRA - YOUR GUARANTEE OF A FAIR DEAL** ✓
- 10 **INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED BS EN ISO 9002 - QUALITY ASSURED FIRM** ✓

<b>AMPLIFIERS</b>	<b>CASSETTE DECKS</b>
DENON PMA 250 SE ..... freephone	YAMAHA KX580 ..... freephone
HARMON/KARDON HK620 ..... freephone	SONY TCKAGES ..... freephone
KENWOOD KA-3020SE ..... freephone	
MARANTZ PM-66SE ..... freephone	<b>TUNERS</b>
NAD 312 ..... freephone	DENON TU260L ..... freephone
ROTEL RA-930AX ..... freephone	DENON TU425RD ..... freephone
ROTEL RA-970BX ..... freephone	SONY STSE300 ..... freephone
ROTEL RB-970BX II ..... freephone	SONY STSE700 ..... freephone
ROTEL RC-970BX II ..... freephone	<b>SPEAKERS</b>
SONY TA-F246 ..... freephone	CASTLE SEVERN ..... freephone
SONY TA-F448 ..... freephone	KEF - full range ..... freephone
TECHNICS SU-A900 II ..... freephone	KEF CODA 7 ..... freephone
TECHNICS SU-A900 D ..... freephone	KEF CODA 8 ..... freephone
	KEF CODA 9 ..... freephone
<b>HOME CINEMA</b>	MISSION - full range ..... freephone
DENON AVC 1800 ..... freephone	MISSION 731 ..... freephone
DENON AVC 2800 ..... freephone	MISSION 735 ..... freephone
HARMON/KARDON AVI 100 ..... freephone	MORDAUNT SHORT - full range ..... freephone
KENWOOD KRX 1000 ..... freephone	MORDAUNT SHORT MS05i ..... freephone
PIONEER VSX 804RDS ..... freephone	MORDAUNT SHORT MS10i ..... freephone
YAMAHA DSPC 390 ..... freephone	MORDAUNT SHORT MS25i ..... freephone
YAMAHA DSPA 590 ..... freephone	SONY SS176E ..... freephone
YAMAHA DSPA 1000 ..... freephone	TANNOY 6315E ..... freephone
YAMAHA DSPA 3090 ..... freephone	TDL RTL3 ..... freephone
	<b>NICAM VCR'S</b>
<b>CD PLAYERS</b>	AKAI VS-C 745 ..... freephone
DENON DCD 825 ..... freephone	FERGUSON FV98HVX ..... freephone
DENON DCD 1015 ..... freephone	JVC HR-5700 ..... freephone
MARANTZ CD63II Ki-Signature ..... freephone	PANASONIC NV-HD 605B ..... freephone
MARANTZ CD 67 ..... freephone	PANASONIC NV-HD 610B ..... freephone
MARANTZ CD 67SE ..... freephone	PANASONIC NV-HD 660B ..... freephone
ROTEL RCD 970 BX ..... freephone	PHILIPS VR668 ..... freephone
SONY CD761E ..... freephone	SONY SLVE 710 ..... freephone
TECHNICS SLP 480A ..... freephone	<b>HI-FI SYSTEMS</b>
TECHNICS SLP 590A ..... freephone	AIWA - full range ..... freephone
TECHNICS SLP 670A ..... freephone	AKAI - full range ..... freephone
TECHNICS SLP 770A ..... freephone	DENON - full range ..... freephone
	JVC - full range ..... freephone
<b>LASER DISC PLAYERS</b>	KENWOOD - full range ..... freephone
PIONEER CLD S315/AC3 ..... freephone	SONY - full range ..... freephone
PIONEER CLD D925/AC3 ..... freephone	TECHNICS - full range ..... freephone
SONY MDP 850D ..... freephone	
	<b>CASSETTE DECKS</b>
<b>CASSETTE DECKS</b>	DENON DRM 550 ..... freephone
DENON DRM 550 ..... freephone	TECHNICS RSXB 501 ..... freephone
TECHNICS RSXB 501 ..... freephone	

**Just a small selection of our huge range of products.**

**Save £££'s! Call 0800 454980 NOW!!**

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

**EMPIRE direct (UK)**

**SUPERSTORES AT 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, Girlington THE NORTH'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL MEGASTORE  
 Cleartone HiFi, Rawson Square, City Centre

**LEEDS**  
 Empire Superstore, The Clock Buildings, Roundhay Road, Harehills.

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.



# Musical Fidelity F2/FX2

**M**usical Fidelity's flagship F16 power amplifier, which has been available for about a year, has sired the FX2 power amplifier and a partnering preamplifier, the F2. Both are traditional minimum-feature designs, housed in similar boxes based on a concave, satin, aluminium fascia extrusion with contrasting black handles. This arrangement is distinctive and attractive, but at 482mm wide, these components were too big for the Mana stand used for this test, and would dwarf many supports unless placed on the top shelf. This could be a problem when both a pre-amp and power-amp must be accommodated.

The F2 has a power rating of 100 Watts per channel into eight Ohms and a claimed 150 Watts into four Ohms (see lab report), and is based on a scaled-down F16 circuit. The MOSFET output stage, for example, is virtually identical to that of the F16, but with half the output current. According to Musical Fidelity, the power supply (configured effectively as separate mono supplies for each channel) is proportionately beefier than the one on the F16. The power-amp can be switched to mono, but rather than bridge the output to give extra Watts, the

effect doubles the current with the same number of Watts, which is said to improve dynamics and imagery. With only one FX2 to hand, I declined to try this option!

The pre-amplifier is equally workman-like, with a well-endowed power supply section designed to have the lowest possible noise floor. There are six inputs, two of which are tape circuits. Tape dubbing is possible in either direction, and off-tape monitoring can derive from either tape input. One input is equipped for phono operation, factory adjusted to MM or MC.

## Sound quality

This amplifier was used 'blind' for system setup on day one of the panel tests, and was noticeably more grown-up sounding than the amplifiers that followed, although most of these were less expensive. Auditioned subsequently alongside other similarly-priced models, the Musical Fidelity F2/FX2 attracted strong praise on the whole, but with the odd caveat, mostly concerning a lack of absolute stereo precision, and a degree of forwardness, though there was less than universal agreement on the latter.

"More natural (than the preceding amp)," was a typical comment following the Allison Krauss recording. "The music sounds less forced and has a better developed bass. The sound overall is nice and open." The antique (though not antiquated) Porgy & Bess recording was similarly praised for

being "nicely paced, with a good balance of voice and orchestra." A second listener felt that the amp sounded "very sweet and enjoyable, and much more dynamic" in the same Allison Krauss recording, but suggested the sound was "very slightly 'dirty' and 'loud'."

In the hands-on testing, the F2/FX2 was clearly more powerful and consistent at higher power levels than most of the rest; its vivid, colourful tonal range also helped it stand out from the crowd even at normal volume settings. Individual instruments and other sounds were well resolved and separated, sonically and spatially, though there was a slight loss of central image focus by the best standards, noticeable with some solo and chamber recordings.

## Conclusion

This combination almost has it all: plenty of power; and a confident, colourful way of delivering it into real-world speakers. The only detraction is an inescapable hint of ultimate focus and precision going awry. Confidently Recommended. **➔**



## VERDICT

**SOUND** ★★★★★☆  
**VALUE** ★★★★★☆  
**PRICE** £1,300 AS TESTED (F2 £799.99  
 FX2/799.99)

▲ An excellent all-rounder which blends good build quality and presentation with ample power, colour and finesse.

▼ Marginal lack of central focus noticeable with some material.

✉ Musical Fidelity Ltd, 15/16 Olympic Trading Estate, Fulton Rd, Wembley HA9 0TF  
 ☎ (0181) 900 2866

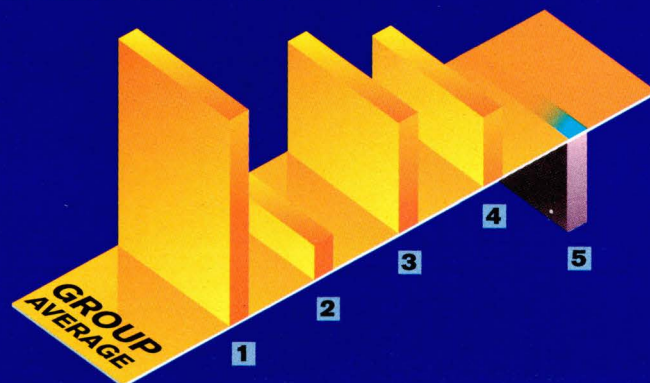
## THE LAB REPORT

Instead of the warming bass 'hump' associated with earlier MF amplifiers, the F2/FX2 has a gently declining bass below 100Hz, reaching -3dB at a sensible 12Hz. Bass quality will also be influenced by the high-ish 0.25 Ohm output impedance, though the effect will vary from speaker to speaker. Difficult speakers should probably be avoided for other reasons, not least for the shortfall in output that occurs from 8 Ohms (105W) to 4 Ohms (98W) to dynamic bursts into 1 Ohm (just 40W).

Some sub-100 Watters (the Myriad for example) can sustain peaks in excess of 400W into 1 Ohm, so the MF is evidently less capable than the barchart would suggest (the AMC and Thorens are inadequate by comparison, it must be said). The 5.4 kOhm input impedance will also give some CD players a hard time but at least the 134mV input sensitivity (for full output), the 83dB S/N ratio (re. 1W/8 Ohms) and excellent channel matching all bode very well. The product's RF susceptibility is a bit high and distortion somewhat irregular from 0.006 to 0.18 per cent across the audio and dynamic bandwidth. Overall, a good but patchy performance. *PM*

## HOW IT COMPARES

1	DYNAMIC POWER OUTPUT	83%
2	SPEAKER LOAD TOLERANCE	14%
3	AUDIBLE DISTORTION	45%
4	NOISE	28%
5	SUSCEPTIBILITY TO RFI	-35%



# BILL HUTCHINSON'S

## FOR QUALITY HI-FI AND AUDIO VISUAL SYSTEMS

### 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.

### OUR 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.

**GLASGOW**  
43 HOPE STREET  
0141-248 2857

**EDINBURGH**  
40A QUEENSFERRY ST.  
0131-220 0909

**MANCHESTER, 50 BRIDGE STREET**  
0161-832 0888



WE WILL NOT BE  
BEATEN ON  
CHOICE ♦ SERVICE  
VALUE

### 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.

### OUR POLICY

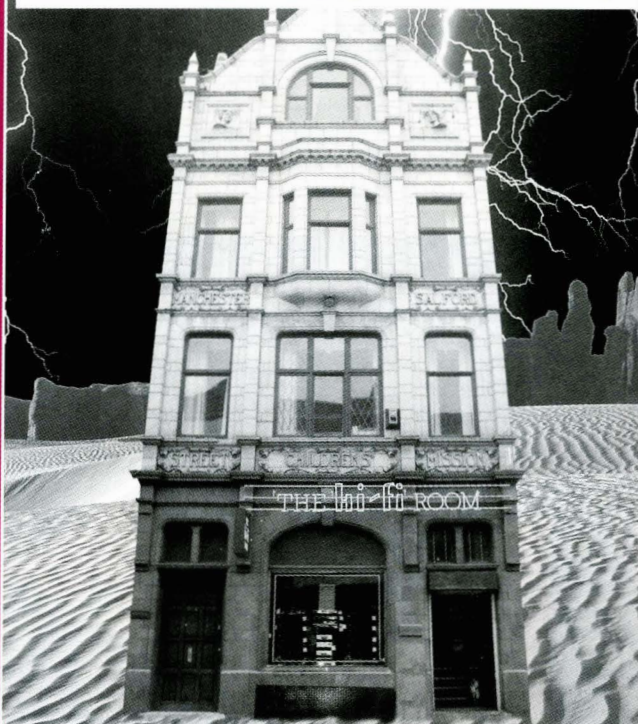
Our Product Guarantee and Pricing Policy ensure you obtain an excellent deal. My staff and I look forward to being of service to you.

**NEWCASTLE**  
87A CLAYTON ST.  
0191-230 3600

**LEEDS**  
26-28 WOODHOUSE LANE  
0113-242 7777

**MANCHESTER, 50-52 DEANSGATE**  
0161-832 1600

ALCHEMIST, AUDIOLAB, CHARIO, CHORD  
ELECTRONICS, CYRUS, KEF REFERENCE,



MICROMEGA, MONARCHY, Q.L.N.,  
QUAD & MANY MORE

## 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



# Myryad MI120/MA120

Myryad equipment derives from the pen of Chris Evans — the former head designer at NAD, not the absurd TV celebrity! Myryad's electronics comprise a sober yet stylish looking range, with a strong quality feel thanks to thick aluminium facias, and an unusual control design of particular flair and elegance.

The MI120 (reviewed issue 154) is a middle-market integrated amp whose pre-amplifier is basically a passive switch-box and an ALPS volume control. All gain is performed by the power amp, though the MI120 offers a headphone socket and full remote control, and a rear-panel 'My-Link' wired-data connection system (RC5) which allows system operation from one handset.

The amp also includes a 'pre-amplifier' output, potted down from the main amp output, which allows an outboard power amplifier to be added and more to be daisy-chained for multi-amp or simple multi-room applications. The MI120 is rated at 60 Watts per channel with the usual qualifications. Four line inputs are available, and two tape circuits, one with off-tape monitoring.

The MA120 is a stereo power amp, identical in design to the one in the MI120. It should be a slightly cleaner-sounding

device, as its power supply has no truck with the remote control, so Myryad recommends using the MA120 to drive tweeters in a bi-amped system.

A minor cosmetic shortcoming is the different implementation of the 'power-on' LED indicators in the two units. The disparity, we're told, will be eliminated.

## Sound quality

To maintain a level playing field with other amps on test, we conducted blind listening panel tests without bi-amping, taking the speaker feed from the MA120. However full mono and bi-amp tests were conducted before and after the formal sessions.

The MI120 was felt to be 'old-fashioned'-sounding in the previously published test, and the new panel clearly felt much the same way. An overall average score of 3.5 out of 10 was given, though with some variation between listeners: the best score was six. One described the amp as "just awful; I can think of nothing to recommend this — sounds like Ella is doing *Stars In Their Eyes*;" another panelist wrote of a "rather flat front-to-back soundstage — is it Ella, or is it just another competent singer?" The consistent theme underlying all responses, however, was a feeling that Myryad music sounds rather cold and unemotional, with a loss of definition in the bass.

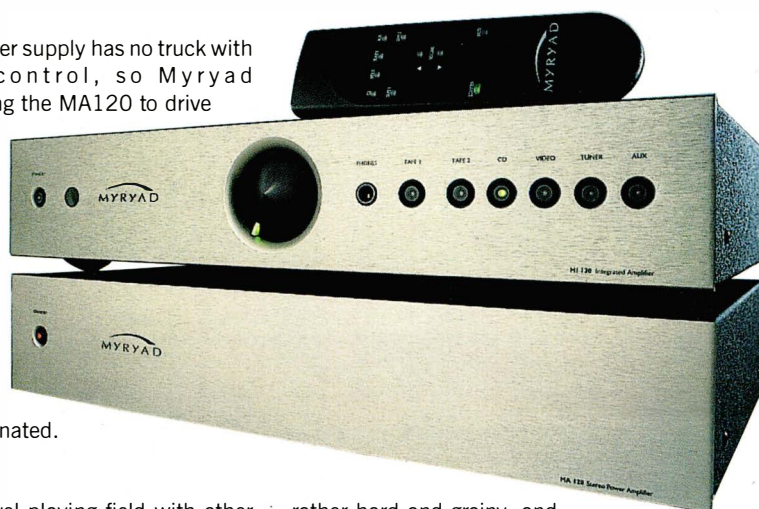
This observation cannot be denied: in my own listening I too described the sound as

rather hard and grainy, and bass did indeed sound blurred by the best standards. Nevertheless I feel more favourably disposed than the panel, especially after listening to the amplifier in bi-amp mode, which seems to resolve some loose ends that a single pair of power amps can't address alone.

In particular, the amplifier sounded much more comfortable at high volumes, as though someone had lit a match under the musicians. The benefit seems to be concentrated in the mid and treble areas rather than the bass, but when the midrange gets better the whole system improves.

## Conclusion

Our three-star score relates to the results obtained when bi-amping with both the MI120's and MA120's outputs. On balance this gives better results than the MA120's outputs alone. Good build and reasonable pricing are plus-points, though, and these products deserve an audition. **AG**



## VERDICT

**SOUND** ★★☆☆☆  
**VALUE** ★★★★★  
**PRICE** MI120 £529.90; MA120 £449.90

▲ Generally crisp and detailed, if not always very clean; a real looker.

▼ Can sound rather coarse and grainy at times, with an ill-defined bass.

✉ Myryad Systems Ltd, 2 Pipers Wood, Waterbury Drive, Waterlooville, Hants P07 7XU  
 ☎ (01705) 265508

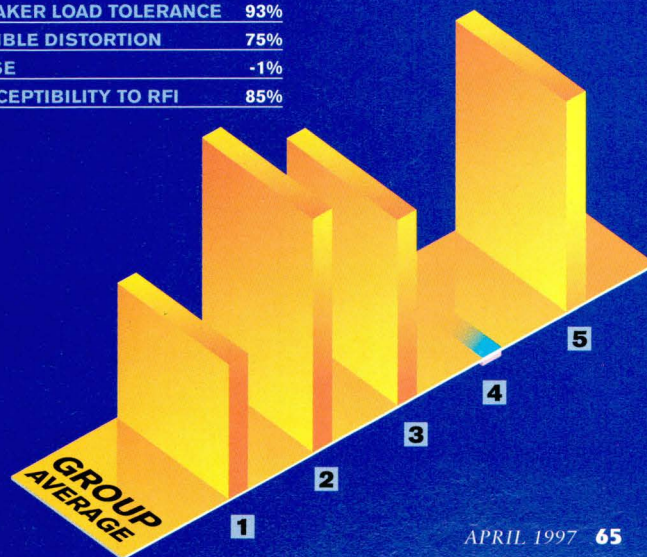
## THE LAB REPORT

By all accounts Myryad's MA120 amplifier should be a big but clean and transparent-sounding design, not unlike NAD's 114/214 powerhouse. The response is flat enough (just 0.4dB down at 20kHz), and its substantial 20A reserve of current and low 0.022 Ohm output impedance ensure control over the trickiest of loudspeakers. Susceptibility to RF interference is very low too, while the 300mV input sensitivity (for full 86W/8 Ohm output) and 82dB S/N ratio (re. 1W/8 Ohm) all suggest that gain is well-optimised for modern line-source components.

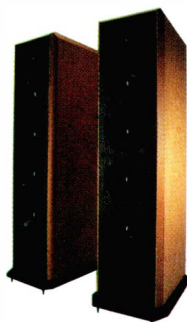
The low-ish 11.5 kOhm input impedance might upset some of the less straightforward or even inadequate CD players that populate the market, otherwise the MI120 is perfectly compatible. Distortion, meanwhile, is a fairly consistent 0.018 per cent through bass, mid and treble, and from 1W to two-thirds output, even though its harmonic complement shifts from 3rd at low level to a mix of 2nd and 3rd at higher output. All of this suggests a reasonable degree of compensation at work within the MA120. An old-fashioned case of too much feedback getting in the way of the music? *PM*

## HOW IT COMPARES

1	DYNAMIC POWER OUTPUT	53%
2	SPEAKER LOAD TOLERANCE	93%
3	AUDIBLE DISTORTION	75%
4	NOISE	-1%
5	SUSCEPTIBILITY TO RFI	85%



MISSION MISSION MISSION MISSION



The Mission 753 Freedom 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. *Bill*

**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.

**WE WILL NOT BE BEATEN ON VALUE • SERVICE • CHOICE**

43 HOPE STREET, GLASGOW G2 6AE. **0141-248 2857**  
 40A QUEENSFERRY STREET, EDINBURGH. **0131-220 0909**  
 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 Phone: 01926 888644  
 Leamington Spa Fax: 01926 887486  
 Warwickshire CV32 5EJ E-mail:thehi-ficompany@dial-pipex.com

**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

**Practical Hi-Fi**

Mission M-Time only available in Preston.  
 Cyrus AV Master available in Carlisle &  
 Warrington. AV1 available in all branches

- ▶ **MANCHESTER: 65 Bridge Street – 0161 839-8869**
- ▶ **PRESTON: 43 Friargate – 01772 883958**
- ▶ **WARRINGTON: 88 Bridge Street – 01925 632179**
- ▶ **BOLTON: 33 Knowsley Street – 01204 395789**
- ▶ **CARLISLE: 106 English Street – 01228 44792**
- ▶ **BLACKPOOL: 81 Whitegate Drive – 01253 300599**
- ▶ **LANCASTER: 84 Penny Street – 01524 39657**

# Naim Audio NAC92R/NAP90

Fancy getting started with Naim gear? For a long while the first move has been a Nait integrated amp, whose current incarnation is the £549 Nait 3 or £724 Nait 3R remote-controlled version. The NAC92R and NAP90 pre/power amplifier combo is based on the Nait 3R's circuitry, and although the latter's heritage is clear, obvious benefits have been gained from the pre/power approach. Some of these are performance related, but there's the matter of upgrade options — either component can be elevated to the standard of other Naim products, and the pre-amp itself can take advantage of Naim's Flat-Cap or Hi-Cap outboard pre-amp power supplies.

Like the Nait 3R, the NAC92R has been revised with a new circuit layout, incorporating a number of detail changes that, experience suggested, would provide worthwhile performance gains. The power amp transistors suffer less stress than earlier output stages, and hence, it is claimed, can work closer to their theoretical limits.

As always, these two components are not easily mated to non-Naim components. They use non-standard DIN-based signal-cum-power interconnects, though one phono-based input can be adapted for

phono (record player) operation. Two input circuits are equipped with record and play connections, though tape monitoring is only available on one input. Naim recommends its own speaker cables in specified minimum lengths, mainly to ensure stability of the output stage. All functions are available on the neat remote handset which is supplied.

## Sound quality

In the past Naim products have worked best with their own source components, but as we were conducting a comparative test, the 92R/90 was specifically addressed here as a standard, general-purpose amplifier with components that wouldn't have been in the designer's mind. We didn't use Naim cable for the panel tests, though Linn cable (a permissible alternative to Naim) was used in the hands-on testing as a compatibility check — with some detriment to perceived definition, it should be added.

These facts should give some perspective on the lower-than-average score (4.1 out of 10). This figure conceals some differences of opinion between observers: scores ranged from two to six. One listener described the Allison Krauss track in these terms: "banjo sounds dead, and the whole soundstage seems shut in. There is some vocal coloration and the harmony vocal is indistinct," while the Debussy piano track was felt to be "dynamically understated — and shut in." The bass was criticised for sounding variously "boxy", "coloured" or "sluggish" by all

panel members, but several comments were made praising the powerful, driving if sometimes hard-edged midband — coincidentally, this would be an accurate description of the Nait!

The separate hands-on testing confirmed that the Naim is happier with smaller speakers — the Ruark Templar proved near ideal. The bass remained rather lightweight in balance, but it did sound properly integrated with the midband and it no longer seemed coloured or boxy. The treble was rather hard-nosed, however, and amplifiers like the Quad and Arcam sounded much more colourful and varied. The Naim's driving, propulsive midband provided ample compensation, however.

## Conclusion

Naim's NAC92R/NAP90 is not a general purpose amplifier, and only gives of its best with siblings from the Salisbury stable or like-minded components from other brands. It's not eligible for Recommendation here, but Naim dealers will demonstrate this combo in the context of synergistically assembled systems, where it is probably hard to beat at the price. *AG*

## VERDICT

**SOUND** ★★☆☆☆  
**VALUE** ★★☆☆☆  
**PRICE** £1,027 AS TESTED (NAC92R  
 £599.25/NAP90 POWER AMP £427.70)

▲ Lightweight but driving, dynamic midband.  
 ▼ Load-sensitive and potentially coarse-textured sound. Needs very careful system matching, typically involving Naim speakers and speaker cable.

✉ Naim Audio Ltd, Southampton Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 2LN  
 ☎ (01722) 332266

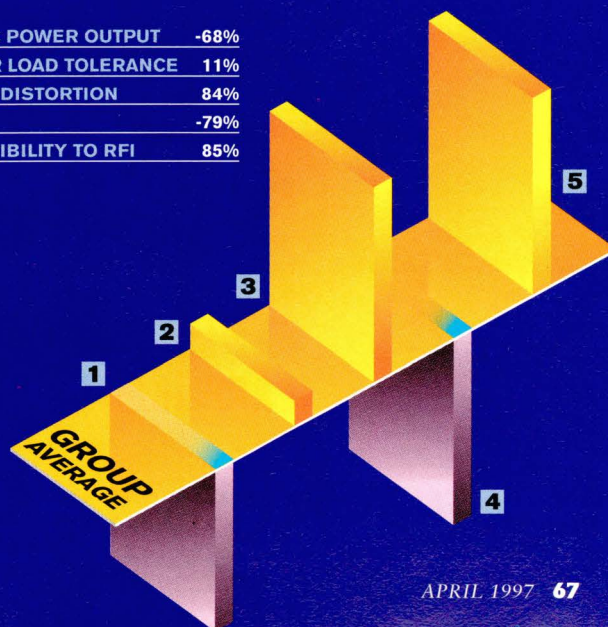
## THE LAB REPORT

With a basis in Naim's traditional quasi-complementary configuration, the NAP90 is really a 'mini' version of the NAP140 power amplifier. As a consequence its technical performance is coloured by what might best be described as some 'historical features'. For example, the 74dB 1W/8 Ohm S/N ratio is a little poor, but then the combination requires a mere 62mV input to achieve its full 35W/8 Ohm power output. This very high gain is unnecessary with today's high-level CD line sources but exists today as a throwback to the time when much lower output tape decks and tuners were the norm.

Anyway, although this combination is a little 'noisier' than most (on a par with the Moth 30/60 combination) the compromise is not through hum (indeed, mains rubbish is very well suppressed) but through an increase in 'hiss' through the upper octaves. The spectral balance of this noise may well be linked to the amplifier's characteristically energetic mid and treble. On the grunt front, some current-limiting restricts burst power into very low impedances and with just 35W/50W available into 8/4 Ohm loads respectively, this pre/power is best partnered with very sensitive speakers. Naim's, for example... *PM*

## HOW IT COMPARES

1	DYNAMIC POWER OUTPUT	-68%
2	SPEAKER LOAD TOLERANCE	11%
3	AUDIBLE DISTORTION	84%
4	NOISE	-79%
5	SUSCEPTIBILITY TO RFI	85%





# BLUE MURDER

## SALE

22nd MARCH -  
27th APRIL '97

We've murdered the prices of leading Hi-Fi and home cinema brands – if you want to move in for a killing it couldn't be simpler



Just phone or clip the coupon for a sale price list



Visit Unilet between 22nd March and 27th April 1997



Full demonstration facilities available during the sale period in our audio and home cinema rooms.



**UNILET**  
*sound & vision*

35 High Street,  
New Malden,  
Surrey KT3 4BY  
Tel: 0181 942 9567  
[Open every Sunday]

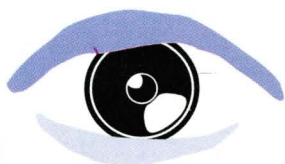
**UNILET**  
*sound & vision*

24-26 Union Street,  
Maidstone  
Kent ME14 1ED  
Tel: 01622 676703  
[Open every Sunday]

- Interest free credit on selected items during the sale period (subject to status)
- 9 Home Cinema & Hi-fi demonstration rooms in 2 stores
- AC3 demonstrations in both New Malden & Maidstone
- Both stores open every Sunday
- Approved stockists for most leading brands
- Wide choice of Factory seconds
- Ex demonstration & used models
- Most major Credit Cards

BRITISH AUDIO DEALERS ASSOCIATION

**BADA**



**UNILET**  
*sound & vision*

### FREE PRICE LIST APPLICATION FORM

Detach and send off for a sale price list now (see addresses above).

Title Mr  Mrs  Miss  Ms

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No. Daytime \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_



# Talk Hurricane 2L/Tornado 2

**W**e reviewed Talk Electronics' Storm 1 in issue 162's survey of integrated amps. The Hurricane 2L is a dead-ringer for the Storm, sharing its smart, brushed-alloy casework and aesthetic treatment of the front panel. The latter is adorned with a row of source selectors, a volume control, a mains on/off switch and LEDs. The power amp is equally simple, with just an on/off switch mimicking the pre-amp's volume control, and a pair of LEDs indicating power and operational status. Remote control is part of the deal, and the remote handset also operates a CD player. My only criticisms are some sharp edges on the the volume control, and the fact that volume buttons on the remote handset work in a counterintuitive manner.

The Hurricane 2L pre-amp offers four line inputs and two tape circuits, one of which allows off-tape monitoring. Two sets of outputs enable two power amplifiers to be used, typically for bi-amplification purposes. The internal design is related to the Storm 1, but with beefed-up and improved power supply components, and changes to input and output buffering. This eliminates a subtle limitation on the Storm relating to maintaining absolute phase between the main

and preamplifier outputs, which does not apply to the separates. Some higher-grade components have been specified on sound quality grounds.

Power output is a couple of decibels below average for this group at 65 Watts per channel, and the amp is not recommended for sub-four-Ohm loudspeakers, though a second sample seemed happy with the KEF Reference Threes used during the panel listening tests, at moderate volume settings. An earlier Tornado 2 suffered a failure on one channel, later traced to a blown biasing component unrelated to the speaker load.

## Sound quality

It proved instructive to compare the panel listening comments with those made of the Storm 1 integrated in a previous test. The Hurricane 2L/Tornado 2 combination scored an average 5.9 out of 10 to the integrated's seven, which is broadly consistent with the higher average standard for this test group, and the striking family resemblance between the two Talk Electronics models.

"A hint of Radio Two," complained one panelist, making a clear reference to "smooth, balanced" but "bland" sound (Porgy & Bess). Another thought the amp sounded "bright and a little hard," but with a "slightly shallow piano tone" (Debussy), and a third described it as "pretty natural, though one misses the edge imparted to (Keb' Mo) by the others."



These observations broadly concur with my own listening notes, which describe the Talk Electronics pre/power amp combo as detailed but a little lacking in dynamic and image scale, perhaps because bass energy is more carefully husbanded than usual.

Overall results were a little better when the amp was used with less demanding loudspeakers. For example the Ruark Templar, a compact two-way floor-stander that revelled in the Talk Electronics's engaging and refined clarity, highlighted a degree of reluctance to get to grips with difficult, wide-bandwidth loudspeaker loads.

## Conclusion

The problem here is that the Hurricane 2L and Tornado 2 appear only slightly more powerful than the Storm 1 integrated, and the sound quality improvement is probably not quite enough to justify the much higher price. The tested combo remains, however, a workmanlike and often engaging, if not compelling design. *AG*

### VERDICT

**SOUND** ★★☆☆☆  
**VALUE** ★★☆☆☆  
**PRICE** £1,248 (HURRICANE 2L £649.95  
 TORNADO 2 £599.95)

▲ A design of integrity which, nine times out of 10, gets to the heart if not the soul of the music.

▼ Lacks the authority and range associated with the best amplifiers at the price.

✉ Talk Electronics, Unit 12, Farnborough Business Centre, Eelmoor Road, Farnborough, Hants GU14 7XA  
 ☎ (01252) 378383

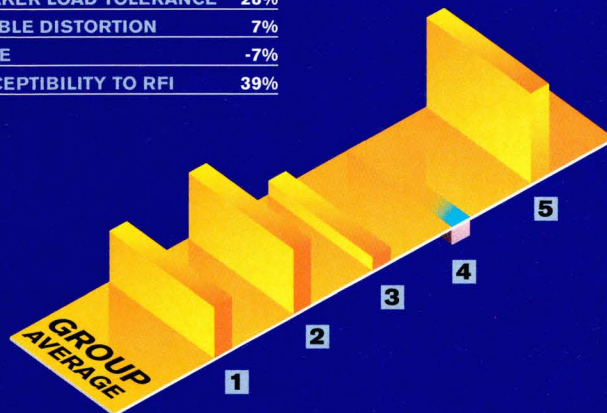
## THE LAB REPORT

Talk's whirlwind combination succeeds in achieving its rated 65W/8 Ohm specification by the skin of its MOSFETs, but fails to match the 0.01 per cent THD claimed for both the Hurricane 2L and Tornado 2. In practice, a figure of 0.07 per cent is more likely and this comprises a surprisingly extended spray of harmonics (as far as the 14th harmonic). Treble distortion increases closer to 0.3 per cent while the Tornado 2 remains modestly susceptible to the ravages of RF interference.

The amplifier's response is very extended into the bass (-3dB at 6Hz) but begins rolling off beyond 10kHz (-0.5dB) where it falls to -2.4dB at 20kHz (the high frequency limit of the audioband). As a result, the Hurricane is unlikely to sound 'bright' in every system. Its frailty in the face of demanding speaker loads is not in doubt, however, as the Tornado 2 will only deliver bursts of 6.4A into 1 Ohm loads up to 1 per cent distortion (just 2.2A or 5W/1 Ohm at 0.8 per cent THD). However, I am glad to report that, by the time you read this, Talk's problem of low-current delivery will be solved. *PM*

## HOW IT COMPARES

1	DYNAMIC POWER OUTPUT	22%
2	SPEAKER LOAD TOLERANCE	28%
3	AUDIBLE DISTORTION	7%
4	NOISE	-7%
5	SUSCEPTIBILITY TO RFI	39%



# 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 _____
HFC APRIL 97			

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*

# Thorens TTP2000F/TTA2000

Thorens waited a long time before making its break-out bid from the fast-contracting turntable market, but finally did so with the Consequence electronics range, whose shoebox format is reminiscent of Verity's Cyrus products. The Thorens' 215mm width means the pre- and power-amp can be placed side-by-side, and thus stacked with conventional 430mm-width components. Aesthetically they are marked out by darkened, back-lit Perspex front panels with gold detailing — the power-amp has a car-ignition-type key for on/off switching.

The pre-amp, a development of the original TTP2000, has full remote control and a digital control board, though the full system handset (the only one available) is only supplied as standard with the CD player; otherwise it's a £60 option. The original version of the TTP2000 can be upgraded with the ALPS motorised volume control and remote-control receiver for £70, but remote-source switching cannot be updated. Also redesigned is the phono section, whose MM/MC switching and capacitor-load settings can be customised using miniature DIL switches beneath the top cover. The new circuit is claimed to be quieter and to sound

better than before. Quality components, including silver wire and Wima metal foil capacitors, have been used where considered beneficial.

The power amplifier is rated at two times 35 Watts/eight Ohms, and two times 60 Watts/four Ohms. A substantial proportion of this is claimed to be in Class A. Design features include a large capacity (250VA) power supply and WBT speaker terminals. Both components feature rear-panel mains-phase indicators, and the author was a little shocked to be reminded how much the sound improved when mains phase is corrected.

## Sound quality

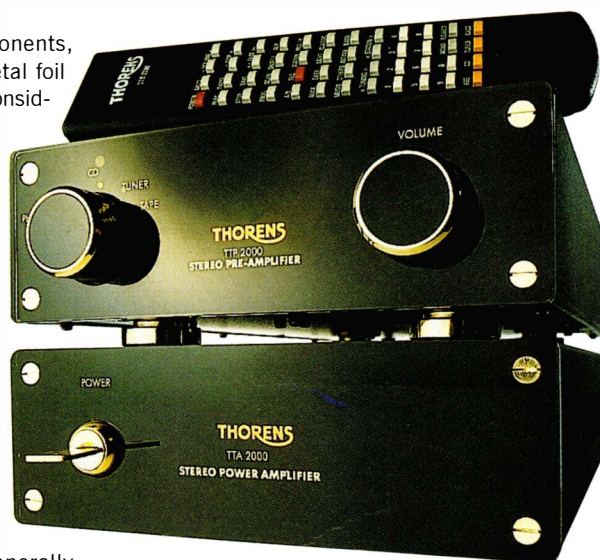
The Thorens combination was generally described as lively and vibrant, and bright tonally, with odd adjectives such as "zingy" and complaints of "sibilant vocals" (Allison Krauss) thrown in. The consensus view was that the system was a little small and lacking in bass, though the power amp was at times stretched towards its limits. There was, however, some disagreement about the mid and top, where the panel was split: two described the sound as "boring and undynamic" (Debussy) and as having "small scale imaging" (Porgy & Bess). The others remarked on its "free and easy" nature (Keb' Mo) and on its "slick, revealing sound" (Porgy & Bess). The overall scored averaged 3.75, dragged down by an isolated score of one out of 10.

The Thorens was one of those amplifiers that performed rather more convincingly in the separate hands-on sessions, where the lower power could be taken into account. Used with the less stressful Ruark Templar

loudspeakers at moderate volume levels, the Thorens was sometimes subject to a suggestion of granularity (aka the sound of transistors), but for the most part it proved impressively refined, with ample inner detail and subtle ambience retrieval from appropriately recorded material, on vinyl and CD alike. Imagery was well developed in depth and lateral planes, and the sound suggested much of the complexity of the source, responding organically to subtle dynamic shading.

## Conclusion

This impressive-looking Thorens combination is clearly not a general-purpose design. The ideal application would be in partnership with medium bandwidth speakers situated in small rooms, or where high volume levels are not required. It is a subtle and engaging-sounding design, but remains a few steps short of total accomplishment. **AG**



## VERDICT

SOUND ★★☆☆☆

VALUE ★★☆☆☆

PRICE £1,200 AS TESTED (TTP2000F £649.99, TTA 2000 £549.99, REMOTE £60)

▲ Great looker, Mercedes-class engineering, and mostly silver-tongued sound which is particularly strong on subtle detail and imagery.

▼ Weak power delivery for the price, and some coarseness at times.

✉ Portfolio Marketing, PO Box 88, Hedge End, Hants SO32 2XN

☎ (01489) 795519.

## THE LAB REPORT

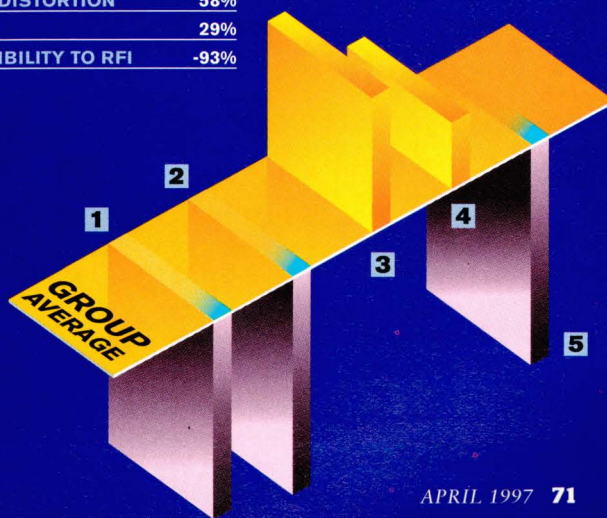
The verdict box refers to the Thorens combination as offering "weak power delivery for the price", but this is a somewhat generous criticism. In practice this amplifier runs very hot — perhaps too hot — and suffers from what might best be described as a 'creeping distortion' that already amounts to 1 per cent at 10W/11W/3W (re. 20Hz/1kHz/20kHz into 8 Ohms). This is despite the fact that the true clip points are some way off at 37W/37W/36W respectively.

Even under dynamic conditions you're unlikely to squeeze much more than 40W out of these gilded boxes. This amplifier operates just fine into an open load (i.e. several Megohms) but *real* speakers cause it very real problems. And lower impedance loads? Well, I could not coax momentary current bursts of more than 0.9A from the TTA2000 at less than 5 per cent THD! Reports of this combination sounding undynamic are unlikely to be an exaggeration.

The 84dB A-wtd S/N is good, certainly, but the high distortion, high susceptibility to RF interference from 1-200MHz and unusually high 0.31 Ohm output impedance, coupled with the poor power delivery, all suggest a poorly executed design. *PM*

## HOW IT COMPARES

1	DYNAMIC POWER OUTPUT	-84%
2	SPEAKER LOAD TOLERANCE	-92%
3	AUDIBLE DISTORTION	58%
4	NOISE	29%
5	SUSCEPTIBILITY TO RFI	-93%



# 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.

## 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

## 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, B&W, DENSEN, EPOS, LINN, LOEWE, MICROMEGA, NAIM, NAKAMICHI, NEAT, PIONEER PRECISION, REGA, ROKSAN, ROTEL, ROYD, SHANINIAN, TALK ELECTRONICS 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.

**BADA**  
THE ULTIMATE IN SOUND QUALITY

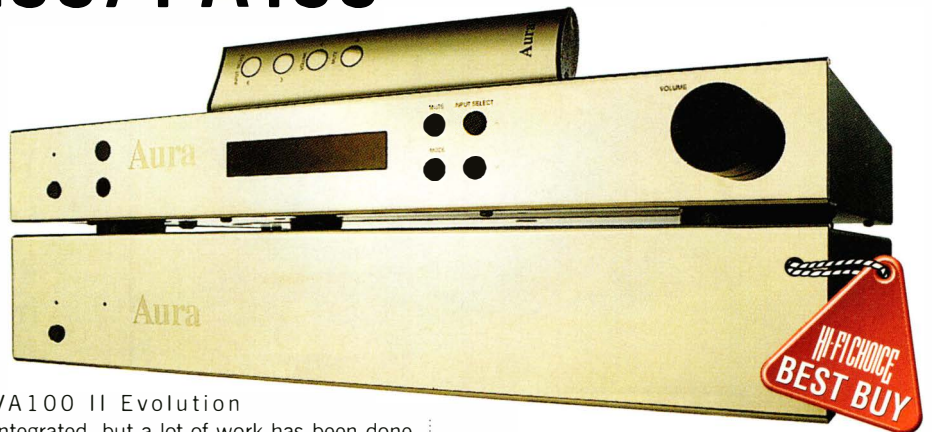


# Aura CA200/PA100

**A**ura's new range of electronics has been a long time in the pipeline, and although the newcomers look little different to earlier Aura designs, extensive work under the hood has resulted in a much more sophisticated and mature product. One key aim was to provide a high level of flexibility, and to this end the CA200 has eight line inputs, plus a phono stage that had to be condensed onto a small surface-mount module to fit within the space available. There are two tape circuits, with independent monitoring and bi-directional dubbing, and a 'lock' facility to prevent a recording source being deselected — typical of Aura's attention to detail.

There are two unbalanced outputs, each with a claimed impedance of 22 Ohms, potentially allowing them to be used with long interconnects. A comprehensive function display is included, with user-customisable input descriptions which are retained in a non-volatile EPROM chip. Both the headphone and main line amplifiers are balanced Class A designs, and completely discrete. A tubular alloy remote control is supplied.

The PA100 power amp is based on the



## VA100 II Evolution

integrated, but a lot of work has been done on the heavily regulated power supply, much of it in conjunction with the transformer supplier. Reservoir capacity has been increased, and the amp is rated at 100 Watts per channel, or 250 Watts (mono) bridged, though power bandwidth is deliberately more tightly constrained than average. Sophisticated output protection circuitry, representing a major revision over Aura protection circuits of yore, is designed not to limit short-term power yield from the MOSFET output stage. This uses three pairs of devices per channel — i.e. 12 in total.

## Sound quality

This was one of the highest-ranking amplifiers in the panel listening tests (the average score was 7.9 out of 10, and one panelist gave it a full 10). It elicited many comments paralleling those on the Rega combination, though there was less concentration on the occasional negatives. "A little brash (and) loud" one wrote about the Allison Krauss track, while another thought the same track had "a slightly dirty edge". At the opposite extreme, another described the Aura in his concluding notes as "fluid and nice to listen

to" (Allison Krauss again) and with a "very relaxed feel to (Satchmo's) trumpet". The Keb' Mo track was variously described as "fluid, dynamic and clean", as "gutsy and solid", and offering "good vocal separation".

In the consensus view the Aura was assured and delivered fine resolving ability, plus it was capable of convincing perspectives and expressive, dynamic musical landscapes. In subsequent listening with a range of speakers, including the vastly capable Castle Howard S2, the Aura presented music in an expressive yet hard-hitting way, with just occasional signs of brashness and momentary sibilance, and with a light but well extended, agile and highly tuneful bass. Only if your ideal of amplifierdom is lush or overtly valve-like are you likely to find the Aura less than musically edifying.

## Conclusion

A star! The new Aura amplifier range has been a long time coming, but the wait has been worthwhile, with or without the chrome trim. There are no significant shortcomings, and the amp has more inputs than almost any other. A clear Best Buy. **▶▶**

## VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★

VALUE ★★★★★☆

PRICE **£1,500 AS TESTED (CA200 £699.95 IN BLACK, £749.95 IN CHROME; PA100 £699.95 IN BLACK, £749.95 IN CHROME)**

▲ Fast, clean and dynamic sounding amplifier which is also strong on flexibility.

▼ Errs on side of aggressiveness, and has a relatively lightweight forward balance.

✉ B&W UK Ltd, Marlborough Road, Lancing, West Sussex BN15 8TR

☎ (01903) 750750

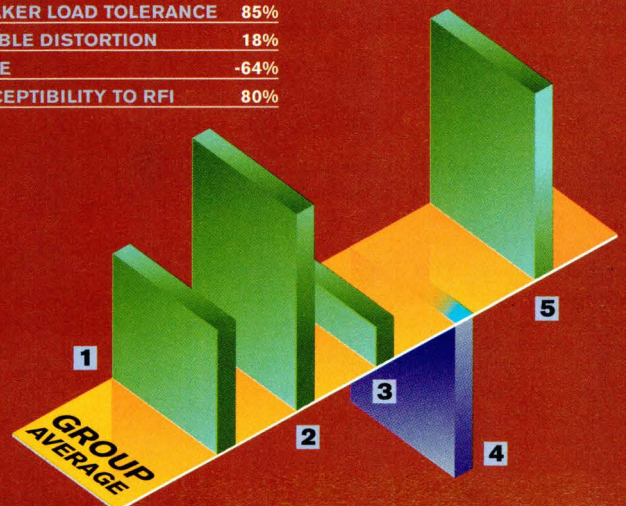
## THE LAB REPORT

Second only to NAD's combination in the 'sheer grunt' department, Aura's pre/power combo will sustain its impressive 130W/8 Ohm power delivery into the trickiest of speakers, with a substantial 24.5A reserve of current. This is equivalent to bursts of 600W at less than 1 per cent THD, into loads as low as just 1 Ohm! Its overall response is some 1.6dB down at 20kHz to prevent any hint of brightness, while its freedom from RF IMD should, similarly, reduce any audible coarseness.

At 80.5dB (1W/8 Ohms/A-wtd), its noise performance is better than the bargraph would suggest — down on the Quad and Michell in this group C but about average for the 14 pre/power combinations when viewed en masse. Distortion increases towards the far treble, but never exceeds 0.1 per cent across the entire audio bandwidth and over 80 per cent of its dynamic range. Add to this its low output impedance, easy drive for CD players, excellent channel balance (within 0.1dB over a 60dB range) and sensible 450mV input sensitivity, and you have a recipe for success. All a far cry from earlier Aura amplifiers which were thermally compromised. *PM*

## HOW IT COMPARES

1	DYNAMIC POWER OUTPUT	55%
2	SPEAKER LOAD TOLERANCE	85%
3	AUDIBLE DISTORTION	18%
4	NOISE	-64%
5	SUSCEPTIBILITY TO RFI	80%



*"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"**



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) 2431 1  
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 - 5.30  
Easy Parking Near

**SWINDON**

60 Fleet St., Swindon  
Tel: (01793) 538222  
Andy, Wayne & Andrew  
Tues-Sat 9.30 - 6  
Easy Parking Near

**READING**

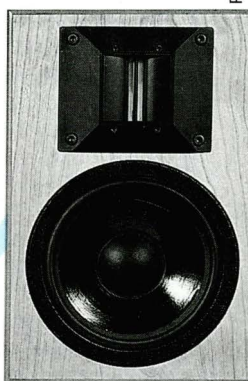
4 Queens Walk,  
Broad Street Mall  
Tel: 0118 958 5463  
Simon, Keith & Tom  
Tues-Sat 9-5.30  
Car Park over Broad Street Mall

All shops closed Mondays

**NEAT** loudspeakers

PETITE II




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**

*"This is an excellent little speaker, delivering fine sound quality from a compact and attractively finished enclosure"*

**HI-FI CHOICE  
MARCH 1997**

**HEYBROOK**

**HEYLIOS - £339**

*"The Heylios deliver an impressive sense of scale with plenty of rich bass perfect for atmospheric pieces"*

**WHAT HI-FI? NOVEMBER 1996**

*"Dynamics and bass are both excellent as is the soundstaging"*

**HI-FI WORLD FEBRUARY 1997**

-----  
Please send me details of the Heybrook Heylios  
Name.....Address.....  
-----

**HEYBROOK HI-FI LTD, CLEMO ROAD,  
LISKEARD, CORNWALL PL14 3NH  
TEL: 01579 342866 FAX: 01579 342833**

# Michell Argo/Alecto

Tom Evans is something of a cause célèbre on the UK hi-fi scene. His fame derives from the Trichord Clock CD player modifications, joint projects with Pioneer like the A-300R Precision amp, and, as you'll read on p. 22 of this issue, the new Audio Precision Eikos CD player. Michell amps are another of Tom's designs.

On an aesthetic level, the Alecto power amp is simply gorgeous. Fundamentally, it is an exercise in the application of form to function. It is based on a thick, darkened acrylic platform, with a toroidal transformer fitted inside a black, anodised, spun-metal screening can. In another darkened acrylic box nearby sits the rest of the circuit: a multi-layer board with earth planes for screening, and a novel topology that shortens signal and speaker-lead paths. The circuit is a simple, three-stage design, with a MOSFET output stage rated at 50 Watts/eight Ohms. Monoblok versions are available as an alternative.

The Argo pre-amplifier simply couldn't be more different in style. With five line inputs and a tape circuit, it is built into a compact wooden box to avoid the subtle degradation associated by many with metal boxes. The Argo looks like a '60s *Wireless World*

throwback, its appeal relying on honesty and purposefulness rather than any innate sense of style. For this test, the Argo was supplied in base form with a simple out-board power supply, but a higher-grade supply is available, as is an upgraded acrylic-boxed version of the Argo, the Argo HR. The Iso is an optional phono-input amp.

## Sound quality

The designer's declared aim was to produce a transistorised amplifier that sounds like a valve amp, minus the potential ills of a valve amp's output transformer:

loss of power at frequency extremes, and the risk of potential frequency response variations resulting from the interaction of speaker loads with the transformer's high output impedance. Of course the listening panel knew none of this, but one listener remarked on cue that this combo sounded "clean, without the usual sound of transistors, and spatially very good" (Porgy & Bess); and later that it was "fluid, my favourite of the day". Not all comments were so enthusiastic. Two listeners criticised this combination for tonal weediness and loss of weight; another complained of smear and a lack of dynamics. All, however, conceded the overall competence of Michell's system.

As the most affordable introduction to the Argo/Alecto range, the amplifier tested here is not intended to do more than hint at the

qualities outlined earlier, and certainly the combination is more dependent on appropriate system matching than some. In retrospect, the KEF Reference Two's coupled-cavity bass loading offered the wrong qualities for this amp, which responds better with wide-bandwidth designs like the Castle Howard S2 (one of the models used in the hands-on testing). With the Michell combination the Castles sounded more open and spacious in the deep bass than with most of the others, and produced much better imagery, with a well-focused centre stage and, quite independently of the music content, a wide ambient spread from suitable recordings.



## Conclusion

Given a suitable loudspeaker (i.e. a reasonably sensitive design with impedance greater than eight Ohms), the Michell combination evinces an unusually well developed sense of soundstage focus, presence and scale, and lacks the hardness and other nasties associated with solid-state amplifiers. Recommended, subject to relevant system matching criteria being met. AG

## VERDICT

**SOUND** ★★★★★  
**VALUE** ★★★★★  
**PRICE** £1,880 AS TESTED (PRE £730, POWER £1,150, ARGO PSU £175)

▲ Wide open yet sharply-focused imagery; and natural, refined textures.

▼ Needs careful system matching to exploit its special virtues. Can sound thin.

✉ J A Michell Engineering Ltd, 2 Theobald Street, Borehamwood, Herts WD6 4SE  
 ☎ (0181) 953 0771

## THE LAB REPORT

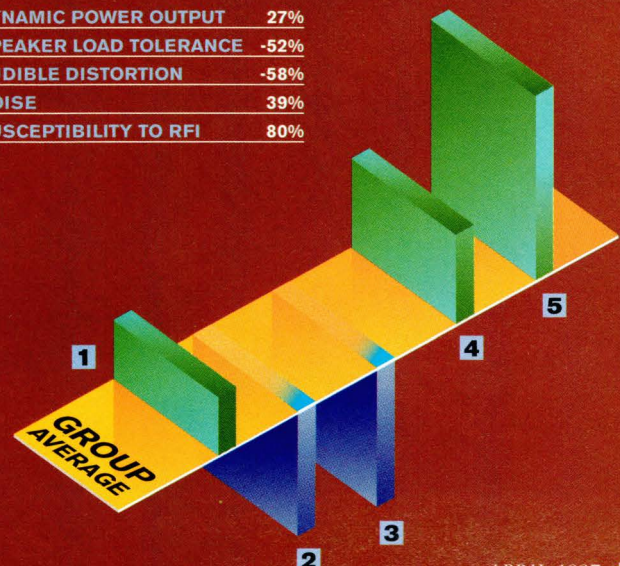
This is an unusual combination, rather dominated by the behaviour of the Alecto power amplifier. On the one hand the Argo/Alecto enjoys excellent immunity from RF interference, a wide 86dB (1W/8 Ohm) S/N ratio, and a 26 kOhm input impedance that seems something of a happy medium these days. Channel balance drifts by 2.5dB at -60dB but could be cured by a better-quality volume pot.

Power output holds steady between 104-117W across the audio band into a standard 8 Ohm load, but into lower impedance loads, the Alecto has a habit of running away with itself, thermally speaking. Distortion varies between 0.004 and 0.2 per cent depending on load and frequency (at 1W), while no more than 16W can be reliably delivered on a *continuous* basis into 4 Ohms. This is not typical behaviour for a valve amp, if this is truly what Michell is trying to achieve!

Dynamic peaks, however, are tolerated up to 206W into 4 Ohms (and 108W into 1 Ohm) provided the amplifier is adequately ventilated. This is an important proviso, because the Alecto does not appear to enjoy the 'safety net' of any output-stage protection. An oversight, I would suggest, given its thermal proclivities. PM

## HOW IT COMPARES

1	DYNAMIC POWER OUTPUT	27%
2	SPEAKER LOAD TOLERANCE	-52%
3	AUDIBLE DISTORTION	-58%
4	NOISE	39%
5	SUSCEPTIBILITY TO RFI	80%



# Quad 77 Pre & Power

Several attributes mark out the 77 Pre/Power as a quality product. There's the cast-alloy chassis, the high-quality packaging, the excellent instructions — who else, for example, warns that the local environment should be 'free of rubbish'? I only draw the line at the garish front panels.

Quad 77 components are built around a proprietary data bus called Quadlink, which uses flat, ribbon cables fitted with 15-pin D-type connectors. These carry audio signals, power for source components, and control data that informs a two-way infra-red link to the table-top remote controller — Quad dubs this a System Console. Non-Quad components can be connected conventionally to one of four phono-socket-based line inputs or phono (MM/MC) inputs. The pre-amp can drive up to three 77 power amps (for home cinema applications), which are rated at 85 Watts/eight Ohms, and 115 Watts into four Ohms.

The System Console, which has a software-driven hierarchical menu structure, relays to the user status information such as CD track number and playing time. In this respect it is often more informative than the system's minimalist front-panel readouts.

Being software driven, the control software is upgradable, for example when the full Quad AV system is made available. The Console's most impressive feature is the impressively smooth rotary volume control, though hardened Quad devotees will note the access granted to sophisticated tone/ filter stages, adjustable input sensitivities and an input-naming facility. The handset is 'intelligently' charged whilst off-duty.

## Sound quality

The control software is really quite polished now, and the amplifiers didn't miss a beat when put through their paces. Of course, technological sophistication is no guarantee of good audio performance, especially when the smarts apply to peripheral control systems. In practice, however, the Quad combo turned in a stonking musical performance. It achieved some of the highest scores given by the panel throughout the listening sessions, averaging 7.9 out of 10.

The panel felt the Quad was smooth, dynamic and enjoyable, with a strong 'boogie' factor. "Good banjo tone and on-the-ball timing," wrote one of the Allison Krauss intro — "it all sounds easy and effective". On the Debussy track he commented on the "easy tempo which makes the others sound hurried". The Porgy & Bess track had "good instrumental contrast, clear vocals" and was "faithful to reality". This last point struck a common chord with the panel. "You can for-

get this amp when listening" wrote one, in evident relief. "It just communicates, adding nothing and subtracting nothing".

In the hands-on sessions this combo was equally sure-footed. Above all, it demonstrated a knack for delivering vivid and distinguished tonal colours without sounding overtly bright, and it was free of the subtle granularity that afflicted too many of the other contenders in this test. Dynamic markings were articulated with some slight loss of impact, though two power amps proved clearly superior to one in this respect.

## Conclusion

No longer the dinosaur that smart alocs like me once considered it to be, Quad has come back fighting with high-tech amps, at surprisingly reasonable prices, that beat most of the purist competition to a pulp. This combo is duly awarded a Best Buy! *AC*



**VERDICT**

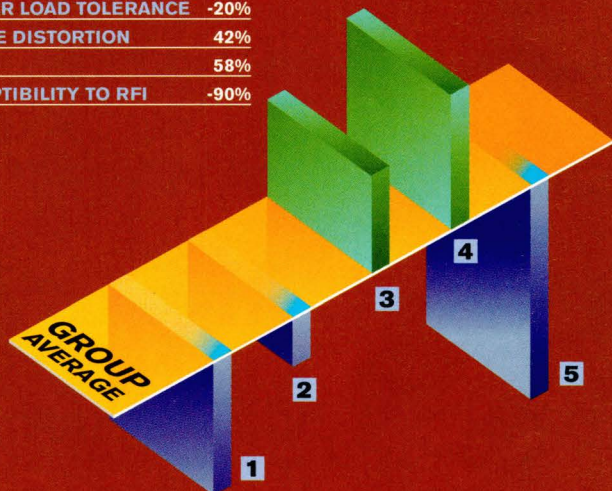
**SOUND** ★★★★★  
**VALUE** ★★★★★☆  
**PRICE** £1,450 AS TESTED (77 PRE WITH CONSOLE £849.95, POWER £599.95)

- ▲ Explicit and colourful amplifier, with excellent control and dynamics — and a control system that is a technological tour de force.
- ▼ Front panel and controls are an acquired taste; some suggestions of dynamic compression.

✉ Quad Electroacoustics Ltd, Stonehill, Stukeley Meadows Huntingdon PE18 6ED  
 ☎ (01480) 433777

## HOW IT COMPARES

1	DYNAMIC POWER OUTPUT	-57%
2	SPEAKER LOAD TOLERANCE	-20%
3	AUDIBLE DISTORTION	42%
4	NOISE	58%
5	SUSCEPTIBILITY TO RFI	-90%



## THE LAB REPORT

The 7767 power-amp shares a complementary output configuration with the 7701 integrated model, and thus delivers a similarly-bold 90-odd-W output into 8 Ohms, rising by a generous +1.9dB to 145W into 4 Ohms. Lower sensitivity and impedance speakers may start to encroach upon the amplifier's current-limiting circuitry, however, which progressively restricts its output. No more than 69W can be squeezed under dynamic conditions into 1 Ohm, for example. The 7767 is also inordinately susceptible to spurious RF noise, indicating a possibility of inconsistent performance in some systems.

Otherwise the 7741 (pre-amp)/7767 combination gives a fine account of itself, with Crystal's CS3310 chip being employed to yield a digital volume control with a good 86dB dynamic range (60dB or so is more common) in 32 unequal steps (steps 1-10 = 42dB, 10-20 = 69dB). Naturally, the channel balance is spot-on and, with its idealised gain structure, the combination has a sensible 375mV input sensitivity (for full output) together with a wide 87dB A-wtd S/N ratio (re. 1W/8 Ohms). Other amps in this test are a full 12dB behind this level of performance. *PM*

# Rega Hal/Exon

Sitting at the top of Rega's current range, the Hal preamplifier and twin Exon monoblok power amplifiers embody a number of novel ideas. The preamplifier, for example, is passive: all gain is provided by the power amplifiers. The preamp is still powered, though, as it contains an active, fully-symmetrical phono gain stage with a remote-control receiver and logic board. Pulling the plug actually triggers the mute relay, which means you'll hear nothing from any input.

The Hal is well endowed with signal sockets, which in addition to phono (dealer switchable between MM and MC settings), include four line inputs and two fully independent tape circuits, both capable of off-tape monitoring and bi-directional dubbing. All input switching is by relay.

The Hal pre-amp also has Neutrik XLR output connectors, of the kind normally used for balanced operation, but the output is unbalanced and at a low level (nominally 200mV, where most would operate at around 775mV). Although non-standard, this use of XLRs is at least practical, as it facilitates various system configurations: stereo power amp, dual monobloks (as here), and bi-amplifying with stereo power

amps or monobloks. Also it means that the interconnect cable (Klotz in this case) is a known quantity. All cable sets must be pre-wired for specific channel layouts, meaning standard prefabricated XLR leads will not work.

Power output is rated at 125 Watts into eight Ohms, and an impressive 220 Watts into four Ohms. However, although the amplifier may prove willing into two Ohms, its propensity to dissipate heat into such loads means this is not recommended. Output protection includes current and DC offset sensing, using an off-board monitor circuit which disconnects the output with relays where necessary. Build quality rates highly: the die-cast alloy casework has integrated heatsink fins (rather like Cyrus), and the remote control is helpfully laid out.

## Sound quality

With an average score of 5.7 out of 10, consistently scored by the members of the listening panel, the Rega combination was cited in terms of respect rather than love. There were few specific criticisms; indeed, it was described variously as offering good breadth and depth information, and as being rhythmically sound (Keb' Mo). However some felt it to be rather "matter of fact", "not gripping", "a little plain" and perhaps most harshly of all, "harmless" — each a different listener's comment, and each referring to a different piece of music. One summed up by suggesting "there's a lot in this amp worth

exploring, but it needs encouragement".

Post-listening panel, the Rega acquitted itself as a consistent performer which, while not perhaps the warmest or most organic in the group, always discharged its role with a wide range of speakers and musical types, often sounding crisp, vital and clear. It delivered a memorable and often exciting Janáček Sinfonietta (Serebrier/Czech State Philharmonic on XLO/Reference Recordings), whose complexities were particularly well resolved and separated. I suspect Rega's designers set out to produce a more literal, less romantic sounding amplifier than some: brief tests with an MC-equipped record player suggested it was particularly effective in this area, where others tended to sound soft or lacking in focus.

## Conclusion

This is a flexible, well-made and undeniably capable amplifier. If it is less immediately likable than some, its consistency, strong resolving ability and knack of organising the music credibly are reasons enough to award it a solid Recommended flag. **AG**



## VERDICT

**SOUND** ★★★★★  
**VALUE** ★★★★★  
**PRICE** £2,194 AS TESTED (HAL £998;  
 EXON MONOBLOKS £598 EACH)

▲ This Rega combination is strong on detail and stereo, and has a particular affinity for black vinyl.

▼ Occasionally seems to lack organic virtues of warmth and sonority.

✉ Rega Research Ltd, 119 Park St, Westcliffe On Sea, Essex SS0 7PD  
 ☎ (01702) 333071

## THE LAB REPORT

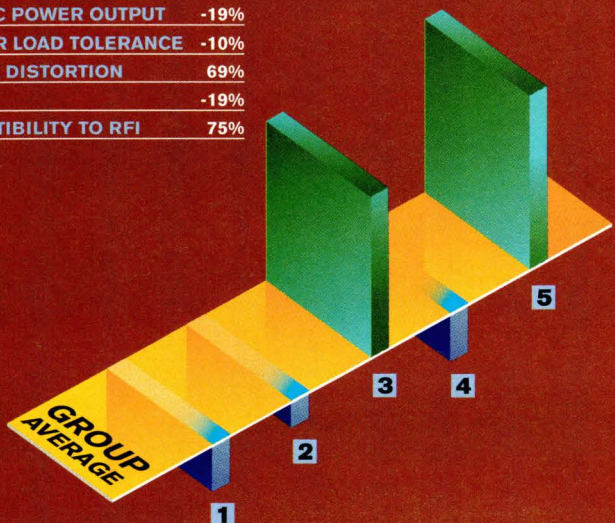
Connected to a pair of very easy-going loudspeakers, this combination will never get into difficulty thanks to the 120W output of the Exon monobloks. Nevertheless, the Hal/Exon is not without some distinguishing 'character'. For example, distortion is uniformly higher (though not high) than most solid-state designs, at around 0.07 per cent. On the other hand, this level of coloration remains startlingly consistent across audio and dynamic spectra.

Contrarily, there is an almost linear relationship between bursts of power into very low impedance loads and the distortion this generates, right up to the 140W or so the Exon can deliver under transient conditions, into loads as low as 1 Ohm. I'll cover this in greater detail in next month's *Oasis Of Sanity* column. The Exon's performance is not spectacular for what it is: notionally, a very powerful 120W/8 Ohm amplifier. Just look at the 800W delivered by NAD's combo under the same conditions.

Otherwise, the -0.5dB dip at 20kHz shouldn't exert any subjective influence; nor should the mild susceptibility to RFI in the low 1-10MHz band, which does not really compromise the 83dB 1W/8 Ohm S/N ratio. **PM**

## HOW IT COMPARES

1	DYNAMIC POWER OUTPUT	-19%
2	SPEAKER LOAD TOLERANCE	-10%
3	AUDIBLE DISTORTION	69%
4	NOISE	-19%
5	SUSCEPTIBILITY TO RFI	75%



# Conclusions

The candidates in this review were an eclectic collection, including just about every major variation on the pre/power amplifier theme, but excluding the US super amp, which is a breed (and a price) apart. In the introduction I hinted at the diversity of the design approaches on offer; now I must draw together these diverse strands to extract some overall home truths.

On the evidence of the test group, most amplifier designers more or less agree upon what they're trying to achieve. There are few wildly errant amplifiers with their own agendas any more — even the Naim pre/power amp, derived from the famously iconoclastic Nait integrated, comes across as disarmingly normal. Well, almost normal. There is evidence that amplifiers are voiced to fit particular stereotypes, or perhaps the 'voicing' is a measure of the designer's lack of competence — who knows? But there's less obvious tailoring than there used to be, and more interest in designing amplifiers that don't impose too much overt character on the music. Another design priority seems to be ensuring that modern-day units can cope with real-life electrical

obstacles that modern loudspeakers like to throw up. In almost every case the samples tested should provide moderately high (90dBa+) listening levels in fairly large rooms with speakers of average sensitivity. Some, of course, go a lot further. Just to make life interesting, there was a generous spread of sonic abilities on display: bluntly, some worked very well, and some didn't.

A couple of designs use integrated amplifiers instead of preamplifiers, which on one level could be seen simply as a cost saving exercise, avoiding the need to tool up for a model that's likely to sell only in limited numbers. However, this can mean real benefits for the consumer. The Myryad, for example, showed a real performance advantage in bi-amp mode, but the cost benefits were underlined by the Arcam, which quite simply provides a lot of good-quality grunt per pound.

This could be the start of a trend. Other popular ideas include the now almost universal provision of remote controls, once despised by the separates buyer — and let's not forget the real-panel links (e.g. Myryad) which allow unified operation from a single handset, or enable

remote on/off switching for power amps from the pre-amp controller, or the pre-amp itself.

The ability to use 'bridged' power amplifiers (to make a more powerful mono power amp by linking together two halves of a stereo unit) is a popular but not universal provision here. It's important not just because it offers an obvious upgrade path, but also because many amplifiers sound better bridged.

Musical Fidelity takes a different path, allowing its amplifiers to be 'monoed' to generate extra current rather than voltage, which should provide quality enhancements. Finally, Quad exemplifies the trend towards enhanced data communication between the pre and power amp (as well as other Quad components), and also between the system and its remote controller. This provides a range of benefits, including the ability to transform a simple pre/power amp into a fire-breathing, five-amp AV monster. On the whole, though, perhaps it is specious trying to identify emerging trends, when so many hi-fi fans are still content with simple two-box amps offering source switching and a volume control. In hi-fi, a 20-year-old convention isn't necessarily out of date...

## GROUP A (BELOW (£950)

<b>NAD 114 &amp; 214</b>	<b>£739.90</b>
<b>Arcam Alpha 9 &amp; 9P</b>	<b>£899.80</b>
<b>LFD Mistral Linestage &amp; Power</b>	<b>£898</b>
<b>Moth 30 Active/60 stereo</b>	<b>£948</b>

Four amplifiers and four very different products: there is a clear ranking order here, but no stinkers. The **LFD** is the purist one, aimed at the audiophile who puts sound first. It has neither tone controls nor negative feedback;

alas despite some good points, its sound doesn't quite cut the mustard. The **Moth** combo is also a bit of a curate's egg. Built into small cross-section extrusions with attractive wood facings, it'll attract those who can't face traditional techie hi-fi. Its sound quality was generally good, though the power amp was sometimes a little harsh.

The most impressive models here are the **NAD** and the **Arcam**. The **NAD** is a simply-pre-

ented but quite powerful design that works well despite a rather lean bass. Anyone who with experience of other **NAD** designs will find this one very much in character. The **Arcam** combination consists of an integrated amplifier and a separate power amp of similar design, and it is easily the top performer of those tested in this price group. Its colourful, vivid quality sets it apart, and it is also equipped for bi-amping as standard.

## GROUP B (£951-£1,300)

<b>Myryad MI120 &amp; MA120</b>	<b>£979.90</b>
<b>AMC CVT1030A &amp; CVT2100</b>	<b>£999.90</b>
<b>Naim NAC92R/NAP90</b>	<b>£1,026</b>
<b>Thorens TTP2000F &amp; TTA2000</b>	<b>£1,199.98</b>
<b>Talk Hurricane 2L &amp; Tornado 2</b>	<b>£1,249.90</b>
<b>Musical Fidelity F2 &amp; FX2</b>	<b>£1,300</b>

The **Myryad** is another integrated/power combination that, like the **Arcam**, can be used to bi-amp suitably endowed speakers. The power amp alone didn't emerge with flying colours from our tests, but when doubled up with the

integrated it performed better in mid to high frequencies and at high volumes. The **AMC** hybrid valve pre/power is among the least costly of its type, and has an engaging sound, but its coloration levels make it sound rather old-fashioned, and there were faults with the test samples that leave a question mark over build quality. The **Naim**, which is essentially an improved two-box Nait, lacks the latter's rather thin, raw quality, but can also sound coloured, and is probably happiest in Naim-branded systems.

The fabulous-looking **Thorens** can sound a bit coarse, and has limited power output, but is otherwise an extremely revealing and enjoyable design. Pay less than £50 more and you get to the **Talk Hurricane 2L** and **Tornado 2**, which have similar capabilities and limitations, and as a result look a little costly.

Best of this group is the **Musical Fidelity F2/FX2**, which despite some loss of absolute precision, had a generosity and open-ness of sound, and a dynamic ability that eluded others near the price.

## GROUP C (ABOVE £1,300)

<b>Quad 77</b>	<b>£1,449.90</b>
<b>Aura CA200 &amp; PA100</b>	<b>£1,399.90</b>
<b>Michell Argo/Alecto stereo</b>	<b>£1,800</b>
<b>Rega Hal/Exon</b>	<b>£2,194</b>

A great deal of effort has gone into making the **Quad** user-friendly, and although one might question the aesthetics of the front panel, this is a flexible, powerfully-endowed and highly individual tool that really makes music. It's

much more than just a slick-looking pair of boxes. The **Aura's** mirror front might also upset some sensibilities, and was certainly designed for Far Eastern markets, but is available in a more sober-looking black. It's a very flexible design as well as being powerful, and its crisp, bold sound is a revelation.

The **Michell Argo/Alecto** has a fluid and organic character which may suit it other products seem sterile. The power amp especially is

something of an objet d'art in its own right, while the preamplifier upgrade is said to offer disproportionate benefits.

Finally, the **Rega Hal/Exon** has a similar boldness on audition, and was also considered a success. The design is unusual in its use of a passive preamplifier and a custom interface between the pre and power amps, which precludes mixing and matching with other brands of pre or power amp.

## BEST BUYS



Three models were selected for their star quality and consequent Best Buy status. In ascending price order, the first is the **Arcam Alpha 9/9P** (above) which offers a clean, engaging sound, and the ability to bi-amplify suitable speakers, though there's no true

component preamplifier. Build quality and presentation are not especially impressive, but pricing certainly is, and everything worked properly. The **Quad 77 Pre** and **Power** amp (right) are set apart by their 'bus' interface system and sophisticated remote controller: mixing Quad with non-Quad components may not make much sense, but the



standard of musical performance is such that this amplifier is a consummate performer even without software-controlled ergonomics.

Finally, the new **Aura CA200/PA100** (left) is a technological tour de force because of its unprecedented number of inputs, and its powerful, authoritative musical attributes.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The **NAD 114/214** (below) is an excellent first rung on the pre/power amp ladder. It's surprisingly capable in its own right, in classic NAD tradition. It has adequate power for most circumstances, and includes tone controls and other basic features.

Moving smartly up the price scale, the **Musical Fidelity F2/FX2** (right) offers a



great deal of good engineering at the price, and can drive power-hungry systems to high volumes with an open, explicit yet smoothly-presented sound which only lacks the ultimate stereo focus.

The **Michell Argo/Alecto** (right) combination tested is the simplest expression of that family's basic design, which is available



also with a better pre-amp power supply, and in an alternative higher-performance version with the improved power supply. The power amp is also available in monoblok guise. Even in basic form, however, it has an attractively open, organic sound.



The **Rega Hal/Exon** (right) is

an unburstable, high-resolution amplifier which sounded consistently capable in all the systems we tried.



## BEST OF THE REST

Strong competition for the NAD and Arcam, or indeed any of the Group A combinations, comes from **Rotel** with the **RC980BX** preamplifier and the **RB-980BX** power amp (£850) which gives bags of power (120 Watts per channel) and a consistent sound. Also check out the entertaining and idiosyncratic (if scarcely neutral) **Alchemist Kraken** pre and power (£768).

Into the low four-figure territory, and a natural competitor for the Group B models is the **Cyrus Pre/Power**, which costs £1,100 and was described in our test (*HFC* 155) as a punchy, fleet-footed character.

Not all of the strongest competition

comes in the form of pre and power amps. There are some exceptional albeit costly integrated amps, of which the **Musical Fidelity A1000** (£1,399) and the **Copland CSA14** (£1,099) are fine examples. Check our Directory (p.106) for more options.



### THE LISTENING PANEL

Our blind listening tests were conducted by a team of 'golden ears' drawn from the ranks of the hi-fi industry. All donated their time in exchange for comestibles and repeated servings of coffee. Those to whom we pay our respect: **Geoff Hill** (GLL), **Russell Kaufmann** (Densen UK), **David Inman** (The Audio Marketing Department), **Robin Marshall** (Mission V-Labs), **Gary Mardell** (Mordaunt-Short), **Keith Haddock** (Gamepath), **Micky Thien** (Silverado), and **Jason Kennedy** (*Hi-Fi Choice*).

### WHAT MUSIC DID WE USE?

A wide variety of music was used for the hands-on listening, but only the following four titles were used for the panel tests:

**Keb' Mo:** *Perpetual Blues Machine* from the LP *Just Like You*. Okeh/Epic 484 117-2

**Debussy/Prelude Voiles:** Krystian Zimerman on Deutsche Grammophon 435 773-2

**Ella Fitzgerald & Louis Armstrong:** *Summertime* from *Porgy & Bess* on Verve 827 475-2

**Alison Krauss:** *I Will* from *Now That I've Found You* on Rounder

# Glossary

Baffled by hi-fi jargon? Confused by technical terms? Fear not: **Paul Messenger** has the answers to your lexicographical questing, in the all-new Choice glossary.

## A

**ACTIVE:** Loudspeaker systems that contain, or partner, dedicated electronics — power amplification plus electronic crossovers and equalisers.

**AFC:** Automatic Frequency Control. A feature found in audio and TV/video tuners to ease station tuning and stability.

**ALC:** Automatic Level Control. Used in audio recorder circuitry to avoid unwanted overload, usually by sacrificing much of the available dynamic range.

**AM:** Amplitude Modulation. This is a broadcasting technique used for medium- and long-wave radio transmissions, and for television pictures.

**AMP:** 1) Ampere. A unit that measures the amount of electrical current flowing. 2) Diminutive of amplifier.

**AMPLITUDE:** Size or magnitude, hence loudness or level.

**ANALOGUE:** Signal-modelling technique using a directly analogous and continuously varying medium.

**AV or A/V:** Audio Visual. Software/programming in which audio and visual content is of similar importance.

**AUTO REVERSE:** Audio cassette tape transport, which changes direction at end-of-side.

**AZIMUTH:** Alignment of (audio cassette) tape-head gap with respect to tape path; inter-deck variations compromise high-frequency performance.

## B

**BALANCE:** 1) The relative loudness of the left and right channels of a stereo system. 2) The relative loudness of different parts of the audio spectrum (for example, bass and treble) with respect to each other.

**BANDWIDTH:** The range of frequencies with defined upper and lower limits over which a system operates.

**BASS:** The lower part of the audible frequency range.

**BIAS:** 1) Lateral force applied to tonearms to assist tracking.

2) Electromagnetic preconditioning of audio tape recording; some cassette decks provide adjustable bias to 'fine tune' tape and machine co-performance.

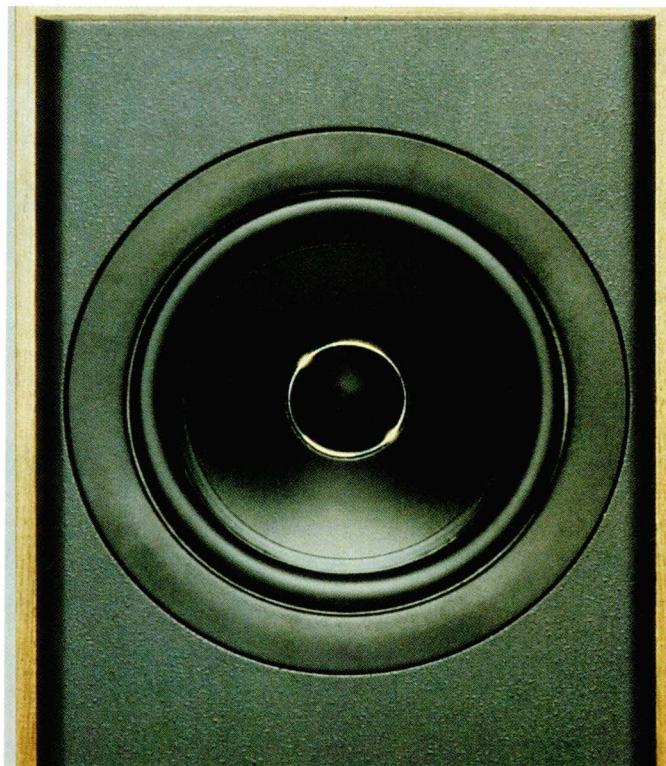
## C

**CASSETTE:** Convenient system of housing, protecting and using magnetic tape in a plastic case.

**CD:** see Compact Disc

**CD-R:** Relatively new, pricey, but rapidly growing recordable-CD system; discs record once only; particularly useful for personalised compilations

**CD-ROM:** High-capacity optical discs based on CDs but configured as flexible computer



**A coaxial KEF drive unit featuring a concentric treble unit.**

read-only software; many applications including some AV potential.

**CLIPPING:** The consequences of overdriving an electrical circuit, resulting in waveform distortion and loss of control; especially common in power amplifiers.

**COAXIAL:** Made symmetrical about a common core — for example, shielded aerial cable or loudspeaker drive units.

**COLORATION:** A general term used to describe the audible effects of a whole range of different distortions in various hi-fi components, but especially record decks and loudspeakers.

**COMPACT CASSETTE:** World standard for consumer tape recording/playback. Originated in the '60s and still going strong(ish).

**COMPACT DISC (CD):** World standard for laser-read digital-stereo music discs.

**COMPATIBILITY:** From the basic ability of different items of equipment to work together, to the subtleties of their interaction and optimisation of same.

**CONVERTER:** DAC, digital-to-analogue converter.

**CROSSOVER:** More precisely described as a dividing network, the electrical circuitry inside a loudspeaker that apportions the drive signal to the individual drive units.

## D

**DAC:** Digital-to-analogue converter. This is used to change digital-audio code to analogue, prior to amplification.

**DAT:** Digital Audio Tape. A digital cassette tape format that uses CD-type signals and is incompatible with compact cassettes.

Used by the music business, but rare in the consumer marketplace.

**DCC:** Digital Compact Cassette. A medium launched in the early Nineties to little effect.

**DECIBEL (dB):** A logarithmic unit used to express relative loudness.

**DIGITAL:** Digital audio uses a variety of approaches to represent the essentially analogue music signal in digital code, for storage and/or transmission — for example, CD, DAT, NICAM stereo, MD, Dolby Digital.

**DIN:** German standards body, responsible for a popular range of standard plug/socket specifications widely used in Europe.

**DISTORTION:** Literally any deviation from the original, though often specified to particular mechanisms. Hence, non linearities.

**DITHER:** Low-level noise added when digitally encoding a signal to randomise quantisation errors.

**DOLBY B:** Original domestic noise-reduction system for audio cassettes, now ubiquitous.

**DOLBY C:** More extreme but less popular extension of Dolby B.

**DOLBY DIGITAL (aka AC-3):** Multi-channel surround sound system for movie soundtracks. To date, software is only on imported laser discs.

**DOLBY S:** Complex 'smart' noise-reduction system, which should help the compact cassette survive beyond the millennium.

**DOLBY SX:** Record-only system that increases high-frequency headroom, especially with cheaper Type-1 tapes.

**DOLBY PRO-LOGIC:** Technique that extracts additional centre-front (dialogue) and surround channels from stereo movie soundtracks, for home cinema reproduction. Used almost universally on movies.

**DRIVE UNIT/DRIVER:** The sources of acoustic output in a loudspeaker; includes woofers, tweeters and so on.

**DUB:** Copy — for example, on tape.

**DVD:** Digital Video Disc. A nascent high-density optical disc format intended to squeeze complete movies onto compact-size discs, with potential for better-than-CD sound-only applications. Still to be launched (and it's taking a time).

**DYNAMIC RANGE:** The ratio (dBs) between the loudest and softest sounds a system or component can handle.

## E

**ELECTROSTATIC:** A principle employed in some exotic loudspeaker and headphone transducers.

## F

**FILTER:** An electrical circuit used to limit the bandwidth of a signal.

**FM:** Frequency Modulation. A widely used method of encoding signals for transmission or recording.

**FREQUENCY RANGE/SPECTRUM:** This can refer to any spread of frequencies, but most commonly the audio band of human hearing, from 20 cycles per second (20Hz) in the extreme bass to 20,000 cycles per second (20kHz) in the highest treble.

**FREQUENCY RESPONSE:** The variation in output across a specified range of different frequencies.

## G

**GAIN:** The amplification ratio of electrical signals.

## H

**HARMONIC:** Harmonics are the whole number multiples of a base frequency called a fundamental.

**HARMONIC DISTORTION (THD):** The addition of unwanted harmonics to a signal.

**HF:** High frequency, such as treble.



**HI-FI STEREO:** Name specifically given to stereo FM soundtrack system used on upmarket domestic VCRs.

**Hz (HERTZ):** Unit of frequency of vibration, 1Hz equals one cycle per second.

## I

**IMPEDANCE:** Measure of the electrical resistance (and reactance) of a component's inputs and outputs.

**INTERMODULATION (IMD):** A form of distortion whereby a high and a low frequency interact to produce sum and difference signals that are not harmonically related to either.

## J

**JACK:** Connector standard used for headphones and microphones; Walkmen begat mini-jacks.

**JITTER:** Perturbations in the timing clock used to reconstitute an analogue signal from digital data.

## K

**kHz (KILOHERTZ):** 1,000Hz or vibrations per second (1kHz actually corresponds to a tone nearly two octaves above middle C).

## L

**LED:** Light-emitting diode, usually a red indicator bulb.

**LF:** Low frequency, such as bass.

**LINEAR:** A linear device that produces an output that exactly mirrors the input over the required operating range, and so is distortion free.

**LONG WAVE (LW):** Low-quality AM radio band, loved by housewives, old dears and cricket fans.

**'LOUDNESS':** A switchable equalisation sometimes fitted to amplifiers, which boosts low and high frequencies. Intended for low-level listening but scorned by enthusiasts.

## M

**MD:** see Mini Disc.

**MINI DISC:** Sony-led compressed-digital audio record/replay format on tiny optical discs. Happening in Japan but not much UK activity yet.

**MEDIUM WAVE (MW):** Low-quality AM radio band loved by sports fans.

**MIDBAND, MIDRANGE:** The middle range of audio frequencies, where the ear is most sensitive.

**MODULATION:** In whatever medium, the variations or coding that describe the programme signal.

**MOL:** Maximum operating level, of audio tape, usually referred to five per cent mid-band distortion.

**MONITOR:** High-quality loudspeaker.

**MOVING COIL:** A transducer system, which changes mechanical energy into electrical energy or vice versa; used in high-quality pickup cartridges and in conventional loudspeaker drive units.

**MOVING MAGNET:** Inverting the moving coil technique, a transducer system whereby a magnet (or induced magnet) moves within a (relatively) static coil. Widely used in low-cost pickup cartridges.

**MULTIPLEX FILTER:** Device fitted to some cassette decks to avoid interference from stereo pilot tones when recording from stereo FM radio.

## N

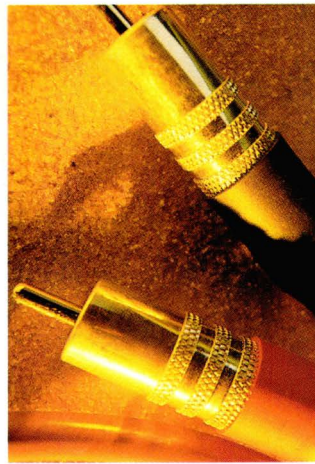
**NICAM:** Acronym for digital-stereo-sound-with-TV system, currently widely available in UK terrestrial TV broadcasts.

**NOISE:** Random, unwanted low-level signals.

## O

**OCTAVE:** Span of frequency or pitch that represents a doubling or halving of frequency.

**OHM ( $\Omega$ ):** Unit of electrical impedance or resistance.



Get plugged in with a phono.

## P

**PHONO:** The most commonly used plug/socket system for audio signals; also abbreviation for record deck.

**PICKUP (CARTRIDGE):** Device with cantilever and stylus at the end of a record-playing tone arm.

**PORT:** In reflex-loaded loudspeakers, the opening that is 'tuned' to the box size and main driver characteristics, to improve output at low frequencies.

**POWER AMPLIFIER:** The final stage of an amplifier, which provides the urge to drive the loudspeakers.

**PREAMPLIFIER:** The first part of an amplifier, which accepts, switches and routes the signals from and to other components, applying any equalisation and adjusting volume prior to feeding the power amplifier(s).

## R

**RF:** Radio Frequencies. Used for the transmission of radio signals. Sometimes cited as a cause of distortion within audio kit.

## S

**SENSITIVITY:** 1) In loudspeakers, the amount of output (loudness) for a given electrical input (usually one Watt).

2) The electrical signal input required by an amplifier or tape recorder to deliver full power output or recording level.

**SCART:** 21-pin Euroconnector standard widely used for audio/visual applications, especially the connection of television to peripheral devices (aka Peritel).

**SEPARATION:** The separateness of the left and right channels of a stereo audio system.

**SIGNAL-TO-NOISE, S/N:** The difference between the maximum level of a signal and the background noise left when the signal is removed.

**STEREO:** Literally 'solid' — a system that uses two loudspeakers (or a pair of headphones) to create solid, spatial sonic images.

**STYLUS:** Carefully shaped piece of diamond that rides the extracts information from a vinyl record's groove.

**SUBSONIC:** Below the audible-frequency range — for instance, below 20Hz.

**SURROUND SOUND:** Systems that go beyond stereo in attempting to envelope the listener in sound from all around (see Dolby Pro-Logic/Digital AC-3).

## T

**TREBLE:** The upper part of the audible frequency range.

**TWEETER:** Small loudspeaker drive unit used for higher-frequency (treble) sounds.

**TYPE I:** Basic ferric audio cassette tape.

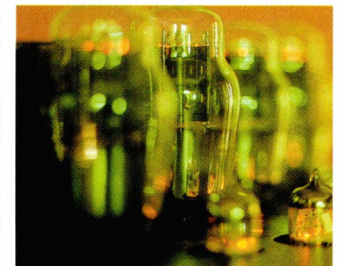
**TYPE II:** Premium chrome or superferric audio cassette tape.

**TYPE IV:** Upmarket metal-particle audio cassette tape.

## U

**ULTRASONIC:** Frequencies above the limit of human audibility — for instance, 20kHz.

**UNIT:** Loudspeaker drive unit.



The valve aka the vacuum tube.

## V

**VALVE:** Early thermionic electronic device, still highly regarded by many enthusiasts.

**VCR:** Video cassette recorder or video recorder; sometimes VTR (video tape recorder).

**VOLT:** Unit of electrical potential difference; a varying voltage is used to 'model' audio signals in transducers and electronic components.

## W

**WATT:** Unit of electrical power (the product of voltage and current).

**WEIGHTING:** Equalisation applied in measurement techniques to improve relevance.

**WOOFER:** Loudspeaker drive unit that handles lower-frequency (bass) sounds.

**WOW & FLUTTER:** Low- and high-frequency pitch variations due to poor mechanical performance in tape transports and turntables.



MiniDisc has its sights set on replacing the compact cassette as the mass market medium of choice.

*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**



We are at:  
**3 BRIDGE STREET, GUILDFORD**  
*(by the traffic lights –  
next door to Alfred Marks)*



**01483 504801 • 01483 304756**

Access • Visa • Switch Open Monday – Saturday 9am – 6pm (later by appointment)

**WIN!**

**COMPETITION**

# MARANTZ

## CD-63 'K I SIG' CD PLAYERS!



**FOUR PLAYERS MUST BE WON!**



**WORTH £500 EACH!**

**V**oted European CD Player Of The Year '96-'97 at Europe's prestigious EISA Awards, Marantz's £500 CD-63mkII Ken Ishiwata Signature has set new standards in affordable CD playback.

Based on the CD-63mkII SE, the 'K I Sig' incorporates 33 component changes, including an extra baseplate and copper-plated HDAM op-amp casings.

Acclaimed for its refined and effortless high-frequency reproduction, this player can still deliver impact when required.

We have four players to give away in our easy-to-enter competition – just follow the instructions and enter today!

### 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 (CHFC704B)  
Bradley Pavilions,  
Bradley Stoke North,  
Bristol BS12 0BQ

All entries must arrive by first post, Friday 18th April 1997.

### THE QUESTION

How many component differences are there between the Marantz CD-63mkII K I Signature and the mkII SE?

- a) 3
- b) 33
- c) 330
- d) 3,333,332.5

### YOUR DETAILS

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address (inc. postcode) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day-time Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

- 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 18th April 1997.
- Winners of the Marantz 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 Marantz Competition is not open to employees of Dennis Publishing Ltd., Marantz Hi-Fi UK 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 Marantz Competition, write, enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope, to: Hi-Fi Choice Winners, Dept 165/2, 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 704B

# Looking for the

**Paul Messenger explains why you should visit an independent**

Why use a specialist hi-fi dealer? The short answer is because he knows one hell of a lot more about hi-fi than you do. And if you've gone to the trouble of picking up a specialist magazine on the subject, you're obviously interested in something rather more than a mini system from the nearest electrical superstore.

You've probably bought this magazine for one of two reasons. You're looking for advice (presumably unbiased and good) on choosing and using your hi-fi system, and/or you're checking out the ads to decide where to go and buy it.

The independent specialist dealer doesn't know everything, and he doesn't know much about you, but if music's an important part of your life, he's the only guy around who's able (and hopefully willing) to help you choose the equipment which will give you the best long term satisfaction.

## **Power of the Press**

Dealers sometimes moan to me about the power of the press, and the disproportionate influence of its 'Best Buy' and multi-star ratings. Well, I've been in the press for twentysomething years, and still feel more ignorant than powerful.

The more I mess around with hi-fi gear, the more I become aware of our lack of real understanding of the subtleties involved, and the more I appreciate the importance of the dealer's skills and experience, in bringing together components so that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

We hacks get paid to write words, often about components in isolation, because

*"I appreciate the importance of the dealer's skills and experience, in bringing together components so that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts"*

individual product reviews are still the staple diet of the press. They can sometimes provide a useful guide to the way a product performs, but only under the particular circumstances in which the review was conducted.

The hi-fi reviewer attempts, with varying degrees of success, to evaluate a particular component, and find something interesting (and hopefully positive) to say about it. That's about the end of it, and it's on to the next product.

The magazine prints the review, and that very process magically confers a measure of authority. Experienced hi-fi

enthusiasts, who read reviews over a period of years and try out various products themselves, soon start to realise the limitations of that approach. Some reviews are better than others, but none can get to grips with the real heart of the problem - whether a given product will improve your musical satisfaction, in your system and your room.

## **The Role of the Dealer**

The dealer's role is very different, and potentially much more valuable. He has the chance to talk one-on-one. If he's good at his job, he'll use that opportunity to find out what you as an individual are looking (or listening) for.

His motivation is very different too. Sure he wants to make a sale. That's the lifeblood of any shop. But he also knows that if something he sells really does deliver long term satisfaction, there's a very good chance you'll come back again to see if he can repeat the trick some time in the future.

If you go into a shop and demand a particular CD player, on the basis that it got seven stars (out of five) in last month's magazines, the shop will probably simply take the line of least resistance and sell it to you. (Or switch-sell you to a similar price alternative, if he's fresh out of stock of that particular flavour-of-the-month.)

If you go in and say you're looking for a CD player, and want his advice on what to choose, things are liable to become more interesting. The onus is now on the dealer to show what he can do. His first task is to ask the right questions to try and get some idea of what you might be after.

Asking the questions is the easy bit. The real skill comes in using the information to come up with a shortlist of likely contenders, and then conducting a demonstration so that you have a real chance to play a central role in the decision making process.

Putting together a successful hi-fi

# real thing?



**specialist dealer if you are searching for real hi-fi satisfaction**

system might not be as difficult as it was twenty or thirty years ago, but it's just as easy to make a mess of things. Put the 'wrong' combination of components together and it'll still sound a lot better than any cute little mini system package. It might even rate a five star review. But it

*“if music is an essential ingredient in your daily diet, you owe it to yourself to become a member of the discriminating minority”*

won't match the potential of a carefully balanced and properly installed system, and it certainly won't cater for your own particular preferences and personality.

We British are notoriously indiscriminating consumers, at a mass market level at least. The majority of the population don't even bother to drive a car they're thinking of buying, never mind take the trouble to listen to hi-fi equipment.

The majority will therefore end up with hyperstore mediocrity, and hi-fi that's about as tasty as supermarket bread. But if music is an essential ingredient in your daily diet, you owe it to yourself to become a member of the discriminating minority.

You know full well that your music collection is as individual as your wardrobe, and just as precious too, so it's worth taking the time and trouble to search out the dealer and equipment that will make that collection come alive, and give you a new buzz every time you play your favourite discs.

The independent specialist may not beat the chain store on price, but he continues to thrive in a hostile environment because real hi-fi is so much more than a matter of price. The people who work in these shops are themselves enthusiasts, often with many years of experience in meeting customer's needs, and the very necessary expertise to ensure that the whole thing is properly set up to deliver the best results.

The better the hi-fi, the more important it is to get the fine details right at the installation end of things, but even the least expensive equipment can be made to sound a whole lot better if good care is taken over the fine details - the support furniture, the cabling, the positioning of speakers and so on.

Without expert assistance even high class hi-fi can give mediocre results. With it you'll stand a very good chance of ending up with something rather more than a consumer durable - something which will be a source of considerable pleasure and genuine emotional satisfaction for decades to come.

I agreed to write this signed piece, irrespective of the specific sponsors, because I believe the independent specialist dealer plays a vital role in giving customers long term hi-fi satisfaction. The views and opinions expressed here are my own and are not necessarily those of Hi-Fi Choice.

*Paul Messenger*

The specialist Dealers listed here are professional and enthusiastic. Give your nearest a ring for a demonstration.

## STAR QUALITIES

value for money  
service  
facilities  
verdict



## TOP 20 SPECIALIST 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

**WIN!**

**COMPETITION**

# QUALITY KIT FROM QUAD

## WIN THIS AMAZING SYSTEM WORTH OVER £3,600!



**REMOTE CONTROL INCLUDED!**



**WORTH £3,600**

**THE QUAD SYSTEM INCLUDES...**

QUAD 77 CD PLAYER	WORTH £699.95
QUAD 77 PRE-AMP	WORTH £849.95
QUAD 707 POWER AMP	WORTH £799.95
QUAD 77 TUNER	WORTH £699.95
QUAD 7710L SPEAKERS	WORTH £599.95
<b>TOTAL PRIZE VALUE £3,649.75</b>	

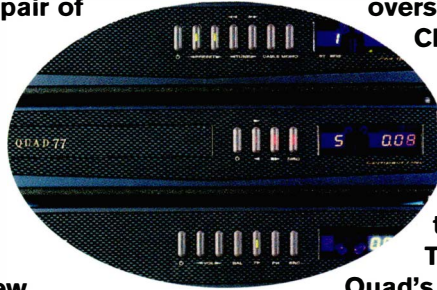
## COMPETITION

**T**o celebrate the launch of its new 707 power amp and 77 tuner, Quad has teamed up with Hi-Fi Choice to offer these fantastic new components in a system with the award winning 77 CD player and 77 pre-amp! This amazing outfit is completed with a pair of Quad's acclaimed 7710L speakers (offered in the snazzy new Yew finish) plus the talented System Console remote handset with its two-way infra-red system and upgradable software. Combined, these hi-fi jewels make a crowning glory of a prize worth over £3,600.

Offering 120 Watts output, the new £799.99 Quad 707 power amp has been based on the classic 606 of yore, but benefits from a revised power supply and Quad bus link. The £699.95 Quad 77 tuner is an RDS-equipped, FM-only model,

equipped with an expensive discrete front end, 25 presets and inputs for both aerial and cable feeds.

The £699.95 77 CD player was Recommended in *Hi-Fi Choice* issue 155. It's based on the Crystal 4328 Delta Sigma chip, with an 18-bit, 64-times oversampling filter and a top-spec CDM12.4 transport.



The 77 pre-amp is reviewed rather favourably on p.76 of this issue, in conjunction with the 707's baby brother, the 77. The 77 Pre not only sounds great, but will drive up to three power amps for AV.

The whole system is supplied in Quad's sophisticated Carbon finish, and will be awarded to the sender of the first correctly-answered postcard drawn from the hat. All it'll cost you is the price of a stamp, so fill in the entry form now and post it to us today!

### 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 (CHFC704A)  
Bradley Pavilions,  
Bradley Stoke North,  
Bristol BS12 0BQ

All entries must arrive by first post, Friday 18th April 1997.

### THE QUESTION

Which chip is the 77 CD player based on?

- a) Crystal Tips & Alistair
- b) Crystal 4328 Delta Sigma
- c) California Highway Patrol
- d) Mr Chips from hit ITV quiz show Catchphrase

### YOUR DETAILS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address (inc. postcode) \_\_\_\_\_

Day-time Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

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 18th April 1997.
- Winners of the Quad 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 Quad Competition is not open to employees of Dennis Publishing Ltd, Verity Group plc, nor their suppliers, agents or associates.
- We regret this competition is open to UK residents only.
- No cash alternatives will be offered.
- By entering the competition you agree to be bound by the rules.
- For a list of the winners of the Quad Competition, write, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, to: Hi-Fi Choice Winners, Dept 165/1, 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 704A



# Dealer Guide

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

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

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., WHARFEDEALE, 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

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, KORÄ, L.F.D, LUMLEY, MIRAGE, MUSE, NOTTINGHAM ANALOGUE, ORTOFON, TEAC, TRIANGLE, TRICHORD, TRILOGY, V.P.I, S.D. ACOUSTICS, STRAIGHTWIRE, V.A.C, WADIA.

CHESHIRE

4 West Street  
Alderley Edge  
Cheshire SK9 7EG  
Tel: 01625 582704 • Fax: 01625 586285

### APRIL FOOLS SALE

SPEAKERS:	Guide New Price:	Sale Price:
XD AURA SP50	399.00	199.00
XD CASTLE HARLECH	850.00	599.00
XD EPOS EN1 BLACK	445.00	299.00
XD EPOS ES22 CHERRYWOOD	1185.00	899.00
XD KEF 308 SUBWOOFER	500.00	379.00
XD KEF 608 SURROUNDS	200.00	149.00
XD KEF COIDA 9	300.00	229.00
XD KEF Q10	230.00	179.00
XD KEF Q30	380.00	289.00
XD KEF Q50	530.00	399.00
SH KEF Q80	800.00	299.00*
XD SOLID MONITOR	250.00	149.00
SH LINN INDIE PLUS	250.00	129.00*
XD MERIDIAN A500 MK1 R/W	815.00	599.00
XD MERIDIAN M2500 SUBWOOFER	1595.00	1199.00
XD MISSION 733	330.00	249.00
XD MISSION 734	130.00	99.00
XD MISSION 751 BLACK	300.00	240.00
XD MISSION 752 BLACK	500.00	399.00
XD MONITOR ALDIO MAH2	500.00	379.00
SH MUSICAL FIDELITY REFERENCE 4	400.00	199.00*
XD RUARK TEMPLA R/W	500.00	379.00
XD TDL RT.1.2 MK1	300.00	229.00
XD TDL RT.1.3 SERIES 2 R/W	400.00	299.00
XD TDL RT.1.4 B&W	650.00	489.00
XD TDL RT.1.4 R/W	650.00	489.00

AMPLIFIERS:	Guide New Price:	Sale Price:
SH MUSICAL FIDELITY BI AMPLIFIER	229.00	129.00
XD MUSICAL FIDELITY E200 PRE-AMP	600.00	449.00
XD NAIM NAC82 PRE-AMP	2060.00	1549.00
SH NAIM NAC 62 PRE-AMP	450.00	249.00*
XD ROTEL RC980 PRE-AMP	375.00	279.00
XD ROTEL RB980 POWER AMP	475.00	349.00
XD ROTEL RA930AX AMP	150.00	119.00
XD ROTEL RB930BX AMP	200.00	149.00
XD ROTEL RA935BX AMP	250.00	189.00
XD ROTEL RC970 PRE-AMP	175.00	129.00

COMPACT DISC PLAYERS:	Guide New Price:	Sale Price:
XD ARCAM Alpha 5 plus	470.00	349.00
XD ARCAM Alpha 6 Plus	600.00	449.00
XD ARCAM Delta BB50 DAC	500.00	349.00
XD ARCAM DELTA 270	800.00	599.00
XD CYRUS DDCMASTER/DACMASTER	1900.00	1399.00
XD MICROMEGA STAGE ONE	550.00	419.00
XD MICROMEGA STAGE THREE	890.00	749.00
XD MICROMEGA STAGE FOUR	600.00	449.00
XD MICROMEGA STAGE FIVE	750.00	559.00
XD MICROMEGA STAGE SIX	950.00	729.00
XD MUSICAL FIDELITY E60	300.00	199.00
XD MUSICAL FIDELITY E600	600.00	449.00
XD ROTEL RCD 930AX	200.00	149.00
XD ROTEL RCD 965BX	300.00	199.00

SYSTEMS:	Guide New Price:	Sale Price:
XD MICROMEGA MINIMUM SYSTEM: CD, AMP, TUNER, SPEAKERS	1300.00	999.00
XD DENON DP07 SYSTEM EX SPEAKERS	650.00	479.00

TUNERS:	Guide New Price:	Sale Price:
XD CYRUS FM17	400.00	319.00
XD MUSICAL FIDELITY E500	550.00	349.00

TURNTABLES:	Guide New Price:	Sale Price:
SH OAK C/W MISSION 774L C & GOLDRING ELEKTRA	150.00	75.00*

HOME CINEMA:	Guide New Price:	Sale Price:
XD ARCAM XETA ONE	1000.00	749.00
XD MERIDIAN 541 PROCESSOR	1100.00	829.00
XD NAIM AVI PROCESSOR	1600.00	1199.00

SH (secondhand) XD (Ex display) P (Private sale)  
ACCESSORIES/SWITCH. Three months guarantee on SH/XD  
(No guarantee on items marked\*) Demonstrations not available  
on items on this list E&OE

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

BATH/BRISTOL

36 Druid Hill  
Stoke Bishop  
Bristol BS9 1EJ  
Tel: 0117 9484005

ATC, AVI, Acoustic Energy, Alon, Audiomeca, AMC, Cadence Valve, Chord AMPS, Electronic Companion, Harmon Kardon, Heybrook, Jamo, Lyrä, Ortofon, Perception, Pink Triangle, Ruark, Michell, REL, Sansui, SME (inc. 20A), Sonic Link, Stax, Sugden, Sumiko, Townsend, Triangle, Wadia

CAMBRIDGE HI-FI

HOME CINEMA

A Sound Dealer With Vision

1-3 Hawthorn Way, Cambridge  
Tel: 01223 367773 Fax: 01223 353741  
9.30-5.30 Mon-Sat  
Free Parking

CUMBRIA

Demos and Part Exchange Welcome  
Advice, selection, sales, installation and service.

6 ABBEY STREET, CARLISLE (01228) 46756

BIRMINGHAM

## Norman H. Field Hi-Fi

Consultants for Home High Fidelity

■ B & W	■ Thorens
■ Denon	■ Tannoy
■ Castle	■ Yamaha
■ Dual	■ Kenwood
■ Mordaunt-Short	
■ Technics	

Two-year guarantee  
Private Listening Rooms

HURST STREET  
BIRMINGHAM B5 4BJ  
Telephone: 0121-622 2323



# Dealer Guide

## ESSEX



Akai • Alphason • Arcam\* • B&W • Bang & Olufsen • Bose • Celestion • Dual • Hamman 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

## GLASGOW



**Loud & Clear**

Glasgow's newest friendliest & best Hi-fi Store.

520 St Vincent St  
Finnieston, Glasgow  
0141 221 0221

Interest free credit - installation & service facilities - three comfortable demo rooms

\* Naim \* Systemdek  
\* Marantz \* Epos  
\* Exposure \* Royd  
\* Alchemist \* Kef  
\* Mordaunt Short \* Denon

## 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 • SONY
- MISSION • LINN • YAMAHA
- NAIM • REL • QUAD
- REGA • RUARK
- CYRUS • 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) 345975

## Hi-Fi City

Aiwa, Aura, Bose, B&W, Canon, Cerwin Vega, Denon, Jamo, JMW, Kenwood, Marantz, Mission, Mordaunt-Short, NAD, Pioneer, Rogers, Rotel, Sennheiser, Tannoy, Target, Technics, Thorens, Yamaha.

0% CREDIT AVAILABLE • FREE LOCAL DELIVERY  
15 YEARS SOUND ADVICE LASERDISC

FRIENDLY PROFESSIONAL ADVICE  
WATFORD (01923) 226 169  
15 CHARTER PLACE, HIGH STREET, WATFORD

## REL Acoustics subwoofers MAGNUM amplifiers

We stock the full range of these U.K. "Best Buy" products. Ten day home trial welcome. Visa, Mail Order. Ask about ex demo stock. Call Hertford Music 01992 442425

## HUMBERSIDE

## Lend us your ears and we'll blow your mind . . .

Audiolab, Arcam, B & W, Celestion, Denon, Kenwood, Kef, Marantz, Meridian, Michell, Mission, Mordaunt-Short, NAD, Pioneer, Panasonic, Quad, Rotel, Ruark, Sony, Tannoy, Technics, Yamaha and more.

Audition the very best at South Humberside's premier Hi-Fi dealer . . .

**MANDERS HI-FI LTD.**  
AUDIO • TV • VIDEO & SATELLITE SALES

2-4 EDWARD STREET (Off Pasture St.)  
GRIMSBY. TEL: (01472) 351391

## 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

## KENT

**FD C ELECTRICAL DISCOUNT CENTRE**

SALES & SERVICE

BRANCHES AT:  
The Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent. Tel: (0181) 298 7880. Fax: (01474) 535 937

JVC AKAI  
Technics  
PIONEER  
B&W jamo  
MARANTZ  
PRO-LOGIC  
plus many more . . .

138 Pelham Rd,  
Gravesend, Kent  
Tel: (01474) 326600  
(01474) 569601

## LEICESTERSHIRE

naim shahinian well tempered dynavec royd rega  
arcam musical technology  
because the best hifi deserves the best advice  
**sound advice**  
duke street, loughborough  
01509 218254

To find out more about advertising in the finest HiFi magazine in the world, call Gina Cady on (0171) 917 3935

## LONDON



THE INNOVATIVE AUDIO/VISUAL HI-FI RETAILER

SERVING LONDON FROM BATTERSEA

**ORANGES & LEMONS**

0171-924 2040  
61/63 WEBBS ROAD, SW11

Now in our third tangy year

0% Credit Finance available

ARCAM. B&W. CABLETALK. CHORD CO.  
DENON. EPOS. KEF. MARANTZ,  
MICROMEGA. M-SHORT. NAD. NAIM.  
NEAT. QUAD. REGA. ROTEL.  
ROYD. RUARK. SOUNDSTYLE  
STANDS UNIQUE. YAMAHA.

with more to come

**AUDIO CONCEPT**

27 BOND STREET, EALING W5 2 0181 567 8703

APOLLO, AUDIOLAB, AURA, BOSTON, B&O, B&W, CABLE TALK, CANON, CASTLE, CHORD, DENON, DUAL, EPOS, EVOLUTION, HARMON KARDON, KEF, MARANTZ, MICROMEGA, MISSION, MUSICAL FIDELITY, NAD, NAKAMICHI, ONIX, ONKYO, QUAD, REL, ROGERS, ROTEL, ROYD, SOUND STYLE, SYSTEMDEK, TARGET, THORENS, VAN DEN HUL

Two demonstration rooms. Free local delivery.  
Repairs & Service. Closed Wednesday

## NORFOLK



The Old School  
School Road  
Bracon Ash  
Norfolk NR14 8HG  
Tel: (01508) 570829

Basically Sound of Norfolk

STOCKISTS OF LEADING HI-FI



Acoustic Energy, Arcam, Audio Alchemy, Audiolab, Cable Talk, Chord Co. opera speakers, Denon, Epos, Heybrook, Micromega, Naim, Rotel, Royd, TDL, and others.

Classified



# Dealer Guide

## 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)

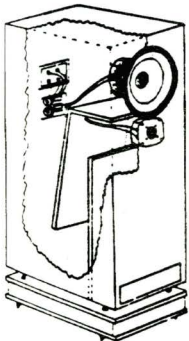
Very high quality --- very small. Banish mediocre extension speakers forever!

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.

### EX-DEMO

#### Audio Designs of East Grinstead

Mail Order and Export Service

#### AUDIO DESIGNS SPECIAL OFFERS

PRODUCT	STATUS	WAS	NOW	PRODUCT	STATUS	WAS	NOW
Arcam BB 500	xd/new	749.90	599.90	Naim Nait 3	xd	549.90	449.90
Arcam D250/BB50	xd	1279.90	999.00	Naim CD3	xd	977.60	799.00
Audiolab CDM/DAC	xd	2299.80	1719.80	Naim S2/90	xd	875.38	720.00
Audiolab 8000C	xd	549.90	459.90	Naim CD5	xd	3751.78	2799.00
CyrusII	xd/new	499.90	399.90	Naim DDI	new	1997.50	1647.00
Cyprus/Disc/Dec	xd/new	1500.00	1300.00	Naim NAC7z	xd	696.90	599.00
Epos ES11	xd	445.00	299.00	Naim NAP250	xd	1576.85	1340.00
Harman AVP2	xd	799.00	559.00	Naim NAP135	xd	1576.85	1199.00
Kef 100Centre	xd/new	359.00	299.90	Naim NAA70	xd	566.35	466.00
Kef Reference 1	xd	1299.00	1099.00	Naim NAAV1	xd	1600.25	1300.00
Kef Reference 2	xd	1499.00	1199.00	Naim SBL	xd	1743.70	1429.00
Linn Klout	xd	2400.00	1799.00	Quad ESL63	xd	3450.00	2760.00
Linn Majik Line	xd	6500.00	499.00	Quad System Console Nextel	xd	299.95	255.95
Linn Majik Phono	xd	800.00	599.00	Quad 77Cd (Bus) Nextel	xd	699.95	599.95
Linn L K100	xd	6500.00	449.00	Quad 77 Amp Nextel	xd	699.95	599.95
Linn Kremlin	xd	2600.00	1799.00	Quad 77 Amp Nextel shand	xd	699.95	349.95
Linn Numeric	xd	1500.00	1069.00	Quad 77 Pre-Amp Carbon	xd	849.95	724.95
Linn Kaim	xd	1700.00	1390.00	Quad 77 Power Amp	xd	599.95	509.95
Linn Kasilah Cherry	xd	9500.00	649.00	Quad 100 Loudspeakers	xd	599.95	509.95
Marantz CD63SE	xd/new	349.90	299.90	Rego XEL	xd	1040.00	649.00
Naim Flat Cap	xd	3266.95	266.00	Rel Stentor (Dak)	xd	1600.00	1355.00
Naim Hi-Cap	xd	669.75	549.00	Sony KV54112	xd	2799.00	1749.00
Naim Hi-Cap	Shand	669.75	399.00	Sony MDP850	xd/new	599.00	509.90
Naim Hi-Cap	Shand	669.75	369.00	Stax SR 34	xd	1700.00	1199.00

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

### 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
-----------------------	-------

#### \* LIMITED QUANTITIES

I ALSO SUPPLY: CARTRIDGES, TONEARMS, TURNTABLES, CD PLAYERS, CASSETTE DECKS, DAT, MINIDISC, DCC, CDR, AMPLIFIERS, TUNERS, CABLES, HI-FI FURNITURE, MICROPHONES, BLANK TAPES, TRANSFORMERS, CARTRIDGE ALIGNMENT GAUGES, TRACKING FORCE GAUGES, GENERAL ACCESSORIES.

\* PLEASE PHONE FOR SPECIFIC PRICES, DETAILS OR ADVICE.

HIFI NEWS TEST CD 3	13.00
DENON ANECHOIC ORCHESTRAL	30.00
SURROUND SOUND CD's	
TELARC 20 BIT	12.50
DELLOS 2CD	12.50

#### TEST RECORDS (VINYL)

HIFI NEWS TEST RECORD	15.00
-----------------------	-------

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

CALIFORNIA AUDIO LABS Alpha DAC balinput.....£1200	AVI S2000 MAPower Amplifier.....£350
MICROMEGA T-Drive CD Transport AES/EBU.....£895	AUDIO RESEARCH D-115 Mill Valve Power amp.....£995
STUDER A725 Pro CD Player balanced output.....£1250	ORTOFON MC2F5L phone cartridgeNEW.....£210
VAN DEN HUL. The Subzero Balanced 0.6mtr.....£150	SONUS FABER Elector speakers & Slate stands.....£1295
MUSE Model Eighteen Subwoofer.....£1995	SONY Espr. TA-9000 Pre-amp Excellent.....£995
MICRO SEIKI DDX-1000 turntable Excellent.....£595	APOGEE Centaur Minor Loudspeakers.....£595
KOETSU Onyx MC phono cartridge.....£495	ROYD A7 Series II Loudspeakers.....£75
VOYD Reference Turntable (Large Motors).....£4695	TRANSPARENT Ref. interconnect 15' st. pair.....£1595
TEAC P700 CD Transport MINT/Boxed.....£695	TRANSPARENT Ultra bi-wire sp. cable 12' set.....£2195
AUDIO NOTE DAC 4 MINT/Boxed.....£3995	GENESIS Model III stereo amp.....£2495
CLEARAUDIO Insider Cartridge (Low Hours).....£1995	JADIS Dely 7 stereo amp. mint.....£3695
B&W 808 Loudspeakers.....£1995	AUDIO RESEARCH DAC 1 MINT.....£995
ION SYSTEMS Nexus SP1 pre & X-PAK 2 psu.....£950	ACOUSTIC RESEARCH 2-ax Speakers (restored).....£195
ION SYSTEMS Nexus MA400 Mono Power Amps £950	PRO-AC Response One 'S' (ex demo).....£995
LINN Isotank Loudspeakers Teak Boxed.....£795	PRO-AC Tablette 50 (restored).....£615
LINN LP12 with Itok LVI tonearm.....£595	HARLER XL600 power amplifier.....£995
LINN Troika MC phono cartridge.....£395	MUSICAL FIDELITY 2A pre-amp with phono.....£250
STUDER A807 Pro. tape recorder MINT.....£3750	LUXMAN CL32 pre-amp with phono stage.....£395
CONRAD-JOHNSON Premier Eight valve Monos £8995	LUXMAN MQ 3600 KT88 stereo power amplifier £1295
AUDIO RESEARCH LS20 Hybrid Line Pre (E3380) £2250	MARK LEVINSON ML3 200 watt stereo amp.....£3195
SOLISTICE AAD speaker with stands.....£650	ROGERS LS77 speakers Black ash.....£395
MANDRAKE Cable Balanced 1.5mtr set.....£395	STANDESIGN Speaker stands new/used.....£50
CARRARO 401 turntable in Slate Plinth.....£395	

\*\*20% off new HEYBROOK Quartet speakers & stands (E840) E672\*\*  
THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL OFFER

NEW CLEARAUDIO CARTRIDGES - Signature (E1495) only £999 Gamma S (E550) 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) 660001 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

Classified

# Dealer Guide

## SALES & SERVICES

MAIL ORDER

EVENTS



**SOUND CONNECTIONS**

TEL/FAX: 01244 401280

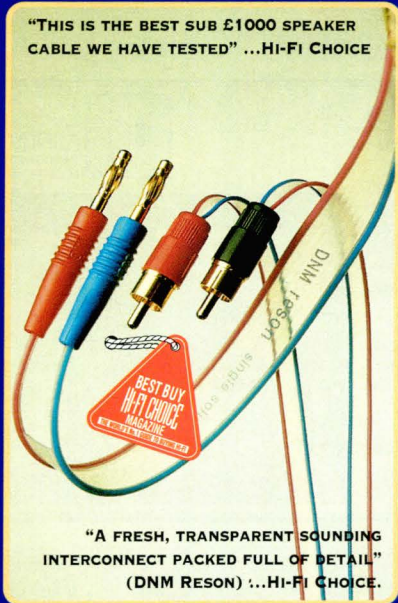
Tel/Fax/E-Mail  
For Our Latest  
Product & Price List.

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.

E-Mail: [sound.connections@dial.pipex.com](mailto:sound.connections@dial.pipex.com)  
Mon-Fri 9.30 a.m.-8.00p.m.(Sat to 1p.m.)

WE  
OFFER A  
HOME TRIAL  
SERVICE  
ON SELECTED  
RANGES OF  
CABLES &  
ACCESSORIES



"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.

*Silvernote*  
*Hertfordshire/North London*  
**AUDIO/RECORD FAIR on SUNDAY 23 March**  
ALWAYS WANTED VINTAGE AND MODERN  
EQUIPMENT RECORDS AND CD'S  
Next to Grundy Park, Leisure Centre, Wolsley Hall,  
Cheshunt, (M25 Junction 25 A10) **FREE PARKING**  
(5 mins from Cheshunt Station) at **10.30 -4.30**  
**Tables £20 Admission £1.50 Refreshments Available**  
For further information Telefax Steve on 01992 620905

**CABLES**

**HIGH INTEGRITY PRODUCTS LTD**  
Manufacturers of High Integrity Interconnect Cables  
~ ~ Make your system sound even better ~ ~  
Type K3... OFC, shielded, 5.0mm dia, gold plated connector.  
Type K4... OFC, Fully shielded, 8.0mm dia, hard gold plated connector.  
Type K5... Pure silver core, silver plated shield, hard gold plated high quality connector.  
Prices from £39.99 to £116.99 per metre pair, fast delivery.  
call us on 01799 542386 for more information

**To Advertise  
On These  
Pages Please  
Telephone Gina  
on 0171 917 3935**

**HI FI CHOICE** - *your No. 1 guide to buying Hi Fi*



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 •



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.

# Reader classified

## Advertise in Hi-Fi Choice for £5\*

- ATC 10 speakers £675. B&W CDM1s £390. Tunbridge Wells (01892) 536919.
- Audiolab 8000: CDM, DAC, T, Q, M x2. Monitor Audio Studio 50s. Mana Acoustics supports. Siltech inters. Flatline pure silver cables — all boxed as new, £9,400. Leics (01858) 432954.
- Audio Research Classic 120s power amps, silver, £4,000 ono. Audio Research SP14 pre amp, silver, £1,700 ono. Pink Triangle Anniversary with power supply, Series V Koetsu Urushi as new, £2,800 ono. KEF 105/3s, £1,300 ono. Mark (0121) 457 7922.
- Castle Chester MkII speakers, walnut, mint condition. £380 ono. Devon (01803) 865406.
- Grundig Fine Arts System 9000. Twin reverse tape, cross-mode amp, CD, RDS synthesizer tuner. Approx 7 yrs old, v. little used. Also new Grundig TT1 turntable and Standesign 5. £2,000 ono. Maggi (0171) 258 0224.
- Hi-Fi Choice issues 92-150 (March '92 to Jan '96) £60. Buyer collects/pays postage. Staffs (01889) 565277.
- JR speakers, metal cylinder type. 1970 vintage. Interested? Offers. Shrewsbury (01743) 741333.
- KEF 105/3 rosewood, mint, boxed £900. Monitor Audio 1800 Gold speakers, exc. cond, new £1,400, will accept £595. London (0181) 543 8625.
- KEF Centre speaker Mod 100 £250. Cambridge C100 pre-amp £135. Marantz CD50SE £135. Meridian stereo power amp Mod 226 £75. Denon am/fm tuner TU-215RD under guarantee, boxed £95. Watford (01923) 442210.
- Linn Kairn pre amp (phono-brilliant). VGC, boxed. £750. Barry, Basingstoke (01256) 882607.

**T**o 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 for Hi-Fi Choice subscribers, provided a subscriber number is enclosed.**

- Linn LK100 power amps £425 ea (£650 new) x 2. Boxed, excellent condition. Wilts (01793) 612640.
- Linn LP12 (affro), Ittok (black), Klyde cartridge, Cirkus, Valhalla. Fully boxed. Excellent condition, £1,100. Glos (01684) 772086.
- Linn LP12, black, Ekos, Lingo, Cirkus, Trampolin. 8 months to 3 years old, exc cond. £1,900 inc K18 cart. Glos (01684) 773387.
- Linn Sara speakers, black, excellent condition including stands and Naim A4 cable. £300. Glos (01684) 773387.
- Linn: Sondek (full monty), Karik/Numerik, Kairn, LK280 x3, Spark, Aktiv Kabers. All pristine. Can demonstrate. £6,500. May split. Essex (01787) 462940.
- Linn Sondek (walnut), Lingo, Cirkus, Ekos II, AT-OC7. Perfect. Can demonstrate. £1,600. Essex (01787) 462940.
- Marantz CD75 MkII SE, NAD 3130 amplifier, Yamaha K220 tapedeck with Monitor 7 speakers, stands and Linn Cable. All boxed with manuals. System cost £780, upgrade forces sale at £350. Cumbria (01539) 564353.
- Meridian 551 integrated amp, new MM, remote capable, £600 ono. Linn Index II with Ku-Stone stands, £150 ono. Taunton (01823) 664142.
- Meridian 563 DAC (new £795), will accept £350. Linn KAN IIs, bi-wirable (new £530) will accept £200. Chichester (01243) 773814.
- MS10i Classic — unwanted gift, sealed cartons, full g'tee £180 (RRP£280). London (0171) 724 9945.
- Musical Fidelity A1000, as new, £1,000, Superb sound, genuine reason for sale. (01296) 713311.
- Musical Fidelity A200 Class A integrated amplifier. 50WRMS per channel. Superb sound quality. Will demonstrate £450. Hereford (01544) 318189.
- Musical Fidelity E100 integrated amplifier, as new, boxed, new £600, sell for £350 ono. South Wales (01443) 408603.
- Naim NAC 92 serial no. 118173, new, full size, style £320 inc p&p. Audio Technica OC9 brand new, unused, guaranteed, £230. DPA 200/S pre/power amps. Mint condition, 6 months old. £700 inc p&p. Jules (01792) 280061.
- NAIM NAP 140 power amp. Old style case but latest electronics, £260 ono. Leicester (0116) 284 9218.
- NAIM system, CDS (£2,800), 82 (£1,300), Super Cap (£1,400), 135x2 (£2,300), latest SBLs, blk (£1,200). Divorce forces very reluctant sale. High Wycombe (01494) 459768.
- Project 1 turntable with Ortofon 510 cartridge, little used and in excellent condition. £110 ono. Bradford (01274) 501146.
- Quad 66 pre-amp, mint, boxed £400. DPA Enlightenment transport/DAC, 6 months old, £980 or swap for SP9 MkII, SP14 etc. (Audio Research). Linn Nexus speakers and stands £290. Arcam Delta 80 tuner £150. Swansea (01792) 280061.
- Rega Planar 2/Bias. NAD 3020i. Sherwood 5010R CD. Denon DRM07 Cassette. JPW Sonata's Target stands. All mint £420. (0161) 437 5819.
- Revox HS RDS tuner, new £380. Meridian 207 CD player and preamp £350 (£1,500). Cyrus One amp £135. Rotel tuner 850 £90. Neat Petite speakers £275 (£575), mint. London (0171) 837 8888 ex 2904.
- Roger LS33/AB33. New, will split. DPA 50S power

- amp (£300 worth White Slink cables/interconnects) all unmarked, and boxed. £350 (£1,600 originally) London (0181) 660 8147.
  - Rotel RTC950AX remote controlled pre-amp/tuner, (FM,AM,LW), phono (MM). Good condition, boxed with manual. £160 ono. Plymouth (01752) 251344.
  - Sony MZ-R2 Portable MiniDisc Recorder Walkman, full accessories. Boxed, as new. Complete cost £449, bargain at £249. Merseyside (01704) 833601.
  - TDL RTL 2 loudspeakers, boxed with spikes. Used less than one year. In new condition. Will demonstrate. £250 ono. Bucks (01753) 891629.
  - Technics SU-A700 Mk3 amp. Brand new, boxed (£250) £200 ono. Reading (01734) 508499. Evenings/weekends.
  - Trichord Research Pulsar DAC 1 & new Digital Turntable transport inc. Pulsewire digital cable (cost £2,300) Bargain £1,595. Michel Alecto Monos & Argo HR inc. latest Tom Evans model (cost £3,500) £2,595. London (0956) 169161.
  - Wilmslow Audio SPL transmission line speakers built and finished in black satin; spike-kit fitted. These speakers are the most stunning quality, £550. Manchester (0161) 643 5071.
  - Yamaha AV DSP-A500 amplifier £210. SW50 sub, C90 centre, SE10 surrounds £195. Heybrook Solos £75 (01753) 858619.
- WANTED**
- Denon D2500 series turntable, SME 309 arm, ProAc Mini-Towers. Tunbridge Wells (01892) 536919.
  - MiniDisc and DAT tape blanks wanted. Also Sony Data Discs for the Sony Data Discman. Prerecorded. (01704) 833601.

# Ahead Of The Flock

In Part Two of his series, **Dave Wiley** (proprietor of London dealership The Sound Organisation) reveals key strategies to help you buy the ideal hi-fi system.

**L**ast month I discussed the way most people buy a 'proper' hi-fi system — an all-too-common process of taking advice, reading magazines, visiting various dealers, having a demonstration and still ending up with a hi-fi system that fails to satisfy. When a hi-fi purchase is made in this way, the problem arises because all of the key choices have been made by third parties, not the person taking home the goods. Whether acquired on the advice of friends, magazines or dealers, hi-fi purchased purely on recommendation is more likely to suit the taste of the adviser than the buyer.

Listening to music is an individual experience. Different people want different things from reproduced sound, listen in different ways, take note of different details in each piece, and consider diverse hi-fi equipment characteristics the most important. An audio set-up that delights Person A is just as likely to leave Person B unmoved. For example, consider a good hi-fi that portrays music in a pacey, articulate manner, with a sharply-defined stereo image and plenty of detail. One listener would describe it as being "vivid, exciting and involving," but another might find the same system "forward, a bit hard and lacking in space and air".

Of course, many factors lead us to prefer one system over another, and these preferences, although very easy to hear, are difficult to explain or rationalise. Unfortunately, many people either don't trust their own judgement, or become confused when their own preferences fail to match those of the 'experts'. This lack of confidence often leads them to buy the heavily-promoted, high-profile system that is recommended, rather than a system they actually prefer. Arriving at a buying decision is a complex process and many factors come into play, but for a lot of people, being seen to buy the right thing is of paramount importance. Sadly, decisions made this way often lead to disappointment.

## Developing an opinion

So you're a discerning music lover and prospective hi-fi buyer: how do you choose a system that's quintessentially 'right'? Of course, by taking advice from friends and reading the specialist press, but treat intelligence gleaned this way as background information rather than specific recommendation. You should use this knowledge to formulate a *general* idea of the kind of system desired and, if necessary, how this ideal can be reconciled with funds available to purchase it.

The next part of the process is probably the most important of all — finding a helpful, knowledgeable dealer. It is critical that the customer and the dealer are 'on the same wavelength' and understand each other completely. To take another analogy, it would be difficult for a dance-music enthusiast to communicate in a meaningful way with a dealer who thinks that 'jungle' is the thick green stuff growing in the tropics. If possible, you should speak to more than one dealer: although there is no need to spend hours with each one, it's worth

spending a few minutes to explain the kind of system you're looking for. You'll soon find out whether the dealer is interested in taking the time and trouble to help you select the system of your dreams. If the vibes are positive give the retailer as much information as you can about your musical preferences, budget, room size and, if possible, the type of sound you're looking for. Describing a particular sound isn't easy, but if you're stuck try referring to different systems that you've heard — which ones did you like, and which were disappointing.

By this time you should be having a sensible dialogue with your dealer; by now he should be making suggestions and offering to demonstrate some of the options available. Picking the right dealer is very possibly the most important choice a hi-fi buyer can make, and it is worth taking a little time to get it right.

## Dealer demonstrations

Once you've found a couple of dealers who talk your language, arrange for demonstrations of possible systems, take a selection of music you know well, but let the dealer play some of his favourite demo discs as well. Relax, listen, and above all try to enjoy what's playing — exactly as you would do if you were at home. If you can do this, your automatic reactions will tell you more about the system than any amount of 'rational analysis'.

The trick is to remain cool and have confidence in your own judgement — if your dealer is doing his his job, all of the equipment will sound 'good' in a hi-fi sense. It only remains for the buyer to choose the equipment that makes the most sense musically. If your favourite dance tracks sound even more danceable, or your favourite female vocalist is even more seductive, clearly you are on the right track.

Some people find it helpful to play unfamiliar recordings, while others set more store by recordings whose music they find difficult to understand — to see if a good system helps them to 'make sense'. It's a good idea to let the dealer make a few changes to the system, then for you, the customer, to comment on the results. Just rating a change 'better' or 'worse' can give the dealer an insight into your preferences.

Whatever you play and however you listen, a good system should simply make music sound more interesting, involving and realistic. It will broaden your musical tastes and allow you to enjoy musical styles that you'd not thought interesting before. It's easy to become so music-oriented that you almost forget about hi-fi — you'll believe there's no need to change your system ever again! Unfortunately as your tastes broaden and develop, you'll need to upgrade in order to enjoy continued high levels of musical satisfaction. However, as this process takes time, you'll have plenty of opportunities to reflect on the unsurpassable value for money that a hi-fi system provides... ▲

*Views expressed are those of the author alone and do not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of Hi-Fi Choice.*



ILLUSTRATION BY BRETT RYDER

# 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 96). 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 106). Here you will learn which items have been singled out for our famous Best Buy and Recommended awards that 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 123) 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.

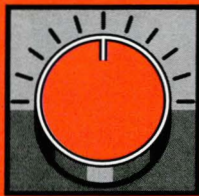
### Using Best Buys and Recommendations to buy hi-fi.

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
<b>NEW PRODUCT PRICES</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>LIST OF REVIEWED PRODUCTS</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>INTEGRATED AMPLIFIERS</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>PREAMPLIFIERS</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>POWER AMPLIFIERS</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>CABLES</b>	
<b>ANALOGUE INTERCONNECTS</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>DIGITAL INTERCONNECTS</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>LOUDSPEAKER CABLES</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>CARTRIDGES</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>CASSETTE DECKS</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>CD PLAYERS</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>CD TRANSPORTS</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>DACS</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>DIGITAL RECORDERS</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>HEADPHONES</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>HI-FI LOUDSPEAKERS</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>SUBWOOFERS</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>STANDS &amp; SUPPORTS</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>TO NEARMS</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>TUNERS</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>TURNTABLES</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>MANUFACTURER CONTACTS</b>	<b>121</b>
<b>FACTSBACK SERVICE</b>	<b>121</b>



**AMPLIFIERS**  
Integrated Amps  
Up to £250

Alwa XA-003	140
Arcam Alpha 7	250
Cambridge Audio New A1	100
Cambridge Audio A2	120
Cambridge Audio A3	200
Creek OBH-11	129
Denon PMA-350SE	200
Denon PMA-425R	230
Denon PMA-100M	240
Goodmans Delta 801	140
Grundig V11	160
Harman/Kardon HK610	200
JVC AX-V4BK	200
JVC AX-R5BK	200
JVC AX-V6BK	230
JVC AX-V6BK	230
Xenwood KA-3020SE	200
Luxman A-312	200
Luxman A-331	250
Marantz PM-47	150
Marantz PM-57	200
Marantz PM-66SE	230
NAD 310	100
NAD 312	200
Onkyo A-801	200
Pioneer A-105	130
Pioneer A-204R	160
Pioneer A-300R	200
Pioneer A-405R	250
Rega Brio	229
Rotel RA570BX	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
<b>£251 to £500</b>	
Alchemist Adom	289
Alchemist Maxim	319
Analogue Jupiter	330
Arcam Alpha 8	350
Arcam Alpha 9	500
Audio Innovations Alto	300
Audiolab 8000A	500
Aura VA-100 II	400
CR Developments Kalypso	499
Creek 4240	335
Creek 4240SE	420
Denon PMA-450SE	280
Denon PMA-725R	350
EMF Audio Sequel	450
Harman/Kardon HK620	280
Harman/Kardon HK1200	300
Harman/Kardon HK1400	400
Harman/Kardon HK640	450

JVC AX-VBK	350
Luxman A-353R	350
Luxman A-373	400
Magnum IA170	299
Mission Cyrus III	500
Moth 30 Integrated	320
Musical Fidelity E10	300
Musical Fidelity E101	500
Musical Fidelity A2	500
NAD 314	260
NAD 317	470
Onix OA32LE	479
Onix OA31	480
Onix OA32M/C	499
Onkyo A8210	260
Onkyo A921	349
Onkyo A922	350
Orelle SA-100	449
Pioneer A-400X	300
Pioneer A-605	400
Pioneer A-300R Precision	400
Pro-Ject Model 7	300
Rega Elex	398
Shearpe 2.5	489
Sony TAFA-3ES	400
Talk Electronics Storm 1	500
Technics SU-A8000	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
Denon AVC-1800	550
DPA Renaissance	595
Exposure XX Super	700
Fase Evoluzione Performance 2.0	570
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	700
Myrrad MI 120	530
Naim Audio Nait 3	549
Onix OA31LE	579
Quad 771A	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
Aura VA-150	800
AVI S2000MI	799
Copland CSA 8	950
CR Developments Romulus	998
Creo IMP702	938
Creo IMP703	1,000
Electrocompaniet ECI-2	990
Exposure XV Super	800
Fase Evoluzione Performance 1.1	790
Fase Evoluzione Performance 1.0	790
Harman/Kardon HK680	1,000
LFD 0 LE Integrated	799
Linn Majik (Phono)	800
Marantz PM-17	900
Meridian 551	795
Micromega Tempo 2	900
Minstrel Ultra Linear	900

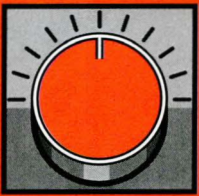
Monrio MC-200S	895
Naim Audio Nait 3 R	724
Pioneer A-07	1,000
Rega Elicit	730
Shearpe Phase 2 Reference	799
Sony TAFA-5ES	1,000
Stemfoort Audio SF100	849
Talk Electronics Storm 2 P	730
TEAC AB-X10	1,000
Thule IA100	949
Unison Research Simply Two	995

**£1001 to £2000**

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
Creo LIM 702	1,191
Creo LIM 703	1,249
EAR 859	1,595
EAR 834	1,599
Electrocompaniet ECI-2SF	1,173
Graaf Venticinque	1,995
LFD Integrated 1	1,099
Marantz PM-16	1,700
Meracuz Intrare	1,095
Minstrel Partridge	1,499
Monrio MC-205	1,545
Musical Fidelity A1000	1,500
Rogers E-20a	1,090
Rogers E-40a	1,900
Fase Evoluzione Phonodrive 1.0	1,795
Harman/Kardon AP2500	1,223
LFD L50 Linstage	1,399
Lumley Reference PP70	1,399
Lumley Reference PP1	1,555
Magnum MP330	1,595
Michell Iso	1,595
Moth 30 Passive	1,099
Moth 30 Active	1,249
Moth 30 RIAA	249
Moth 30 Active 100VA	349
Moth 30 RIAA 100VA	349
Musical Fidelity E20	399
Musical Fidelity F2	2,499
NAD 114	500
NAD 116	430
Naim Audio Prefix	334
Naim Audio NAC92	448
QED Vector	199
Rega Eos	398
Roksan Artaxerxes	395
Rose RV-23	450
Rotel RC970BX MkII	175
Talk Electronics Hurricane 1	500
Technics SU-C1000	350
Unison Research Simply Phono	500

**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
Meracuz 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/Pre	380
AMC AV81 Control	289
AMC 1030	379
AMC S84	479
AMC AV81 H.T. Control	499
Analogue Saturn	75
Analogue Saturn MC	75
Art Audio Minuet	499
Audio Innovations P1	369



**Audiolab 8000Q/M** The range-topping pre/power combo combines power and sophistication.

Audio Innovations L1	369
Audio Innovations T2	425
Creek OBM-8	99
Creek OBM-9	110
Creek P42	335
Crimson CS610C	450
DPA DSP 200S	495
EAR 834P	399
EAR 834L	449
Fase Evoluzione Phonodrive 1.0	445
Harman/Kardon AP2500	499
LFD L50 Linstage	499
Lumley Reference PP70	325
Lumley Reference PP1	325
Magnum MP330	475
Michell Iso	420
Moth 30 Passive	149
Moth 30 Active	249
Moth 30 RIAA	249
Moth 30 Active 100VA	349
Moth 30 RIAA 100VA	349
Musical Fidelity E20	399
Musical Fidelity F2	2,499
NAD 114	500
NAD 116	430
Naim Audio Prefix	334
Naim Audio NAC92	448
QED Vector	199
Rega Eos	398
Roksan Artaxerxes	395
Rose RV-23	450
Rotel RC970BX MkII	175
Talk Electronics Hurricane 1	500
Technics SU-C1000	350
Unison Research Simply Phono	500

**£501 to £2000**

Adyton Chorus	1,995
Alchemist Forsetti Pre	919
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 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	1,295
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
Creo CMP004	1,246
Creo 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 ECI-1	580
Electrocompaniet ECI-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
Fase Evoluzione Controlsourc 2.0	625
Fase Evoluzione Controlsourc 1.0	1,395
Gamma Acoustics Era Std	999
Graaf WFB Two	1,195
Graaf WFB One	1,895
Heybrook Signature II	1,600
Jadis DPL2	1,790
LFD MC1 PhonoStage	949
LFD L51 Linstage	999
LFD MC2 PhonoStage	1,499
LFD L52 Linstage	1,599
LFD L52P Linstage	1,750
LFD L5B Linstage	1,999
Linn Wakonda/L	750
Linn Wakonda	900
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 WAP1	1,150
Lumley Reference L/R PV1.5	1,350
Lumley Reference PV1.5	1,500
Lumley Reference PV1	1,700
Marantz AC-500	700
Marantz EC-500	900
Marantz SC-23	1,000
Mcintosh C712	1,479
Meracuz Ingredi	925
Meridian 501	695
Meridian 562	765
Meridian 501V	875
Meridian 562V	995
Meridian 502	1,295
Michell Iso/Hera	575
Michell Argo	730
Michell Argo/Hera	885
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	1,500
NAD 118	1,000
Naim Audio NAC32R	599
Naim Audio NAC72	690
Naim Audio NAC 102	998
Onix OA36L	999
Onix OA36	1,100
Quad 77PR	850
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

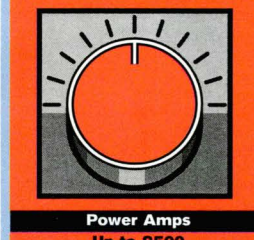


**Harman/Kardon HK610** This punchy little integrated amp is a great way to start a budget system.



Sonic Frontiers SFL-1	1,395
Sonic Frontiers SFP-1 Sig	1,495
Sonic Frontiers SFL-1 Sig	1,795
Sumo Ulisses II	629
<b>Sumo Athena II Line</b>	<b>767</b>
<b>Sumo Polaris III</b>	<b>950</b>
Sumo Athena IIB/II LS	987
Sumo Athena III	987
Sumo Artemis UP	1,595
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
Tesserac TAADA	1,500
Tesserac TALA	1,500
Tesserac TAHA	1,800
Thorens P-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 SC27 Line	1,557
YTC PRE-1	1,000
Xtreme CX-2	650
<b>Over £2000</b>	
Adyton Temper	2,495
Adyton Modus	2,695
Alchemist Control	4,995
ATC SCA2	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 SL1 Sig line	5,500
CAT SL1 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
Creo LPR 001	2,815
DNM 3B Twin E	3,050
DNM 3B Primos E	3,630
DNM 3B Six E	4,780
<b>EAR 802MC</b>	<b>2,599</b>
<b>EAR G88</b>	<b>6,999</b>
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
<b>Jadis JP-30MC</b>	<b>5,978</b>
Jadis JP-S2	7,900
Krell KRC3	3,198
Krell KSL-2	3,331
<b>Krell KRC-2</b>	<b>4,190</b>
Krell KRC-HR	6,949
Krell KRC	6,949
LFD Disc Preamp	4,499
Linn AV5103	4,950
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
Meracrus 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
Tesserac TAP-A	5,300
<b>Woodside SC26 Line &amp; Phono</b>	<b>2,233</b>



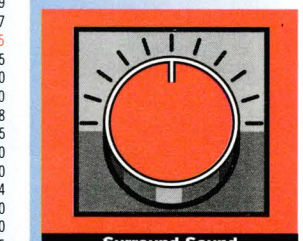
AMC 2445	299
AMC 2030	449
Arcam Alpha 9P	400
Arcam Delta 290P	400
Creek A42	335
Crimson CS620C	450
Denon PMA-250SE	160
Harman/Kardon PA2100	400
LFD PA0 Powerstage	499
Marantz MA-500	250
Marantz SM-500	400
Marantz MM-500	450

<b>Moth 30 Series Power</b>	<b>249</b>
Moth 30 Mono/40	469
Myrrad MA 120	450
NAD 912	199
NAD 214	370
NAD 916	500
Naim Audio NAP90/3	428
<b>Rotel RB9708X MkII</b>	<b>225</b>
<b>Rotel RB9808X</b>	<b>450</b>
Talk Electronics Tornado 1	450
Technics SE-A1000	400
<b>£501 to £2000</b>	
Alchemist Forsetti Pwr	1,309
<b>Art Audio Quintet</b>	<b>1,393</b>
Art Audio Quintet SE MB	1,500
Art Audio Concerto	1,669
<b>Audio Innovations Ser 800</b>	<b>999</b>
Audio Innovations First Audio	1,749
Audio Innovations Ser 1000	1,799
Audio Synthesis Desire	1,695
<b>Audiolab 8000P</b>	<b>750</b>
<b>Audiolab 8000M</b>	<b>800</b>
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 IEM	995
Counterpoint SA100E	1,495
Counterpoint Solid 1E	1,495
Counterpoint NPS-100E	1,995
Creo PMP 804	1,876
Crimson CS630C	800
Dawn Audio CMD 2 by 200	890
DNM PA1	1,750
DPA Enlightenment	995
<b>ECA Lectern S</b>	<b>880</b>
ECA Lectern HD	1,480
Electrocompaniet AW60B	1,185
<b>Exposure XVIII Super</b>	<b>850</b>
Exposure XVIII (pr)	1,599
Fase Evoluzione Powersource 2.0	860
Fase Evoluzione Powersource 1.0	1,670
Fase Evoluzione Powersource 1.0	1,670
Harman/Kardon PA2200	700
Harman/Kardon PA2400	1,000
Jadis DA5	1,997
LFD PA1 Powerstage	999
LFD PA2 Powerstage	1,599
LFD PA2M Powerstage	1,999
Linn LK100	650

Linn LK240	700
Lumley Reference ST40	1,250
<b>Lumley Reference ST70</b>	<b>1,950</b>
Lynwood Ruby	985
Magnum MF330	685
Marantz MA-23	1,800
Mcintosh MC7100	1,259
Meracrus Ciere	1,095
<b>Meridian 555</b>	<b>750</b>
Meridian 505	795
Meridian 557	1,400
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
<b>Moth 30 Stereo/60</b>	<b>599</b>
Moth 30 Mono/100	879
Musical Fidelity FX2	800
NAD 218THX	850
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
Rosa RP-190 (Dual Mode)	550
<b>Rotel RB9908X</b>	<b>625</b>
Shearpe Phase 3	619
Shearpe Phase 3 Reference	689
Shearpe Phase 5 Mono	879
Sonic Frontiers SFS-40	1,695
Sumo Ulisses	629
Sumo Polaris III	950
Sumo Andromeda III	1,975
Sumo Model Five	1,975
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
<b>Thorens TTA-2000</b>	<b>550</b>
Thorens TRA-3000	2,000
Thule PA200	1,798
Tube Tech Unisig Pwr Amp	1,099
Woodside SA240	1,199
Woodside MA100	1,733
Woodside STA50	1,870
YTC POW-1	2,000
Yamaha MX-2	750

<b>Over £2000</b>	
Adyton Cordis 1.6	3,495
Alchemist Stereo	3,995
Alchemist Mono	8,995
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
<b>Audio Research VT60</b>	<b>2,645</b>
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
<b>Copland CTA-505</b>	<b>2,099</b>
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
Creo LPO 804	2,456
Creo PMP 155	2,676
Creo LPO 155	3,714
Creo LPO 455	4,975
DNM PA2BE	4,250
DNM PA2BS	5,250

DNM PA2BS-1	5,650
DPA DPA500S	3,000
Dynavector HX75	2,195
Dynavector HX1.2	3,995
<b>EAR 509 Mk II</b>	<b>3,499</b>
EAR 519	4,699
EAR 549	6,999
Electrocompaniet AW100DMB	2,115
Electrocompaniet AW100DMB-SF	2,298
Electrocompaniet AW250DMB	3,983
Electrocompaniet AW250DMB-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	8,000
<b>Jadis JA-30</b>	<b>2,880</b>
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
<b>Krell KSA-50S</b>	<b>3,690</b>
Krell KSA-100S	5,843
Krell KSA-200S	7,987
Krell KSA-300S	9,500
Linn Klout	2,400
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	3,595
McIntosh MC300	3,765
McIntosh MC2600	5,395
McIntosh MC500	6,265
Meracrus Tentare	2,245
Meracrus Cantare	8,995
Musical Fidelity F16	2,500
Musical Fidelity F19	4,000
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
Sumo Model Ten	4,200
Tesserac TAMP-60	7,350
Tube Tech Genesis	2,599
Unison Research Smart 845	3,250



Arcam Xeta One	1,000
Audio Research SDA1	4,391
Denon AVC-1800	550
Denon AVC-2800	800
Exposure XXV	1,000
Grundig V1000DPL	360
Harman/Kardon AV100	300
Harman/Kardon AV1150	400
Harman/Kardon AVR-21	500
Harman/Kardon AV1200	500
Heybrook 806	1,495
JVC AX-V6BK	230
JVC RX-416VBK	270
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

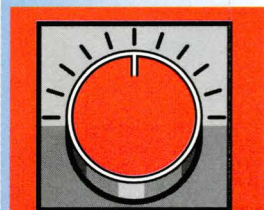




OFC Profile speaker cable looks nice enough to eat but is better suited to signal transmission.

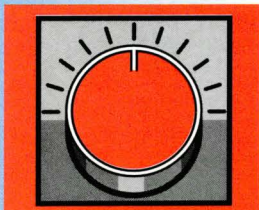
NAD ASV 620	700
Onkyo A-SV610	600
Onkyo ASV 620	700
Parasound 806	1,495
Pioneer VSA 303	300
Pioneer VSA 805S	450
Rotel RB956AX	350
Rotel RSP960AX	400
Sony TA-VE700	350
Sony TA VE 800G	400
Sony TA-AV590	400
Sony TA VA 8ES	700
Sony TA-AV790	800
Yamaha DSP-A590	349
Yamaha DSP-A780	599
Yamaha DSP-A970	799
Yamaha DSP-990	900
Yamaha DSP-A2070	1,099
Yamaha DSP 3090	1,700

Pioneer VSP-200	250
Pioneer SP-D07	800
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	70



Surround Sound Receiver

Denon AVR-600RD	300
Denon AVR-900	350
Goodmans Delta 801	200
Grundig R14DPL	280
Grundig R1000DPL	400
Harman/Kardon AVR-10	380
Harman/Kardon AVR-20	499
Harman/Kardon AVR-25	699
Harman/Kardon AV-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 AV713	400
NAD TXSV 424	450
NAD 917	550
NAD TXSV 535R	600
NAD TXSV 525R	600
NAD AV716	600



Surround Sound Processor

Arcam XETA 2	650
Audio Research SDPI	3,293
Exposure XX11	750
Exposure XX1	1,050
Heybrook 1000	995
Marantz AV-1030	330
Marantz AV1040	400
Marantz DP-870	600
NAD 117	470
NAD ED 901	700
Naim Audio NAV1	1,600
Onkyo SR211PRO	340
Onkyo ED 901	700
Parasound 1000	995

NAD TXSV 727R	800
NAD TXSV 828THX	1,300
Onkyo TXSV 434	400
Onkyo TX-SV424PRO	450
Onkyo TXSV 424	450
Onkyo TX-SV525PRO	600
Onkyo TXSV 525R	600
Onkyo TXSV 535R	600
Onkyo TXSV 636	800
Onkyo TXSV 727R	800
Onkyo TX-SV727PRO	900
Onkyo TXDS 838	1,300
Onkyo TXSV 828	1,300
Onkyo TX-SV919THX	2,000
Onkyo TXSV 939THX	3,000
Philips FR731	250
Philips FR751	300
Pioneer VSX-405RDS	250
Pioneer VSX-505RDS	300
Pioneer VSX-804RDS	399
Sherwood RV4050R	120
Sherwood RV5050R	300
Sherwood RV6030R	400
Sherwood RV7050R	400
Sony STRD E405	280
TEAC AG-V600	400
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

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	49.95
Ixos 104	19.95
Ixos 103	44.95
Ixos 102	59.95
Ixos 101	99.95
Ixos 100.X03	149.95
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
LAT International IC-50	37.00
LAT International IC-80	60.00
LAT International IC-100-D	89.00
LAT International IC-200-D	151.00
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 1.0M	85.00
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 Pulsewire 75	150.00

Chord Codac	33.00
Chord Prodac	50.00
DPA Digi-link	28.00
Ixos 105	24.95
LAT International DI-20-D	79.00
Monster Datalink 100	45.00
Moth Leyline Datalink	140.00
Nordost Moonglo	135.00
Nordost Moonglo-XLR	165.00
QED DigiFlex	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
DPA Cable Sixteen	345.00
Electrocompanion EC-K2	119.00
Gale XL315	2.00
Gale XL160-2	3.00
Grado 450CM	25.00
Ixos 607	1.99
Ixos 605	2.99
Ixos 606	7.99
Ixos 605/5	14.95
LAT International SS 80	21.00
LAT International BIWIRE	27.00
LAT International SS 1000	42.00
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
QED Qudos Bi-Wire	4.50
QED Profile 4x4	9.00
QED Profile Silver 12	15.00
Rega REGA	2.00
Silver Sound 12 Guage	15.00
Silver Sound 10 Guage	35.00
Silver Sound 8 Guage	75.00
SME S2LB-4	37.00
SME S3LB-4	42.00



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

Digital Interconnects

Art Yam Church 5000	275.00
Audioquest Video Z	50.00
Audioquest Digital PRO	90.00
Cable Talk Digital 2	75.00

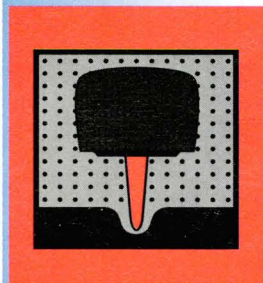


Sony CDP-XE900 CD player, NAD 314 amp and Jamo Model 38 speakers. Just one of the many interesting combinations available to the beginner.



**Pioneer CT-S830S** This impressive recorder is expensive but still great value for keen recordists.

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 Pulsewire 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 Elektra	19
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 ZFI+	82
Grado Prestige Red	99
Nottingham Analogue Tracer I	98
Ortofon VM52	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	27
Shure ME95ED	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



**Meridian 508 20-bit** Technological wonder that sets new standards for natural-sounding music.

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
Dynavector 50X	159
Dynavector 10X	189
Dynavector 23RS	375
Dynavector 17D2	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	125
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 OMNC 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+E	165
Ortofon Concord 2	170
Ortofon MC25E	180
Ortofon Concord 4	230
Ortofon MC25FL	249
Ortofon MC10 Supreme	300
Ortofon Concord 6	330
Ortofon MC20 Supreme	425
Ortofon MC30 Supreme	525
Ortofon MC2000II	750
Ortofon MC Rohman	1,000
Ortofon MC3000II	1,100
Ortofon MCS000	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
Reson Mica	150
Reson Aciore	199
Reson Recca	225
Reson Etille	299
Reson Lexa	899
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 IISLA	2,200
Van Den Hul Grasshopper IIGLN	2,999
Van Den Hul Grasshopper IIIGLA	2,999
Van Den Hul Grasshopper IIICMN	3,000
Van Den Hul Grasshopper IIICHN	3,400

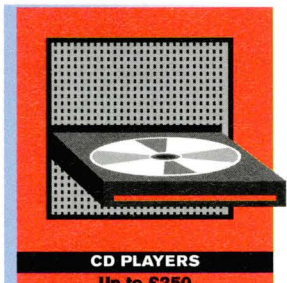
Van Den Hul Grasshopper IVGLA 3,450

**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
Goodmans Delta 801	130
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-555	200
NAD TARW 311	20
Pioneer CT-S250	150
Pioneer CT-W205R	160
Pioneer CT-W505R	180
Pioneer CT-S4500	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
Denon DRM650S	230
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-W18BK	250
JVC TD-V662BK	270
Kenwood KX-7060S	330
Luxman K-373	400
NAD TA 6210	230
NAD 613	230
NAD 614	270
NAD 616	299
NAD TARW 411	370
Onkyo TA6210	230
Onkyo TARW 211	270
Onkyo TARW311	320
Onkyo TA 6310	330
Onkyo KR-609	350
Onkyo K-W606	370
Onkyo TARW 411	370
Onkyo K-611	460
Pioneer CT-S555	250
Pioneer CT-W803RS	300
Pioneer CT-S830S	500
Pioneer CT-95	1,000
Sony TC-KE500S	230
Sony TC-WE80S	250
Sony TC-KE600S	300
Sony TCK-661S	300
Sony TC-KA6ES	550
TEAC W-850R	250
TEAC W-1030	250
TEAC W-6000R	450
TEAC W-6030S	550
TEAC W-8030S	650
Technics RS-TR474	220
Technics RS-AZ6	230
Technics RS-TR575	280
Technics RS-AZ7	300
Yamaha KX-W592	280
Yamaha KX-690	400
Yamaha KX-W952	599



**CD PLAYERS**  
Up to £250

Aiwa XC-300	150
Cambridge Audio CD4	150
Denon DCD-625	200
Denon DCD-715	235
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 CD101	80
Grundig CDII	170
Harman/Kardon HD710	250
JVC XL-V184BK	120
JVC XL-V284BK	140
JVC XL-F116BK	180
JVC XL-F216BK	200
JVC XL-V574BK	250
Kenwood DP-M5570	250
Kenwood DP-5060	250
Luxman D-322	200
Marantz CD-57	230
Marantz CC-47	250
NAD 510	199
NAD 512	200
Onkyo DX-710	250
Onkyo DX-703	240
Philips CD711	130
Philips CD721	130
Philips CDC751	180
Philips CD741	200
Pioneer PD-104	130
Pioneer PD-204	150
Pioneer PD-M603	200
Pioneer PD-S505	200
Pioneer PD-F605	230
Pioneer PC-F25	230
Rotel RCD-830AX	180
Sony CDP-XE200	120
Sony CDPM-303	130
Sony CDP-XE300	140
Sony CDPCE-105	160
Sony CDP-XE500	150
Sony CDP-CE405	180
Sony CDP-XE700E	200
Sony CDP-C325M	200
Sony CDP-761E	250
TEAC CD-P1800	130
TEAC CD-P3450	150
TEAC CD-P3450SE	200
TEAC PD-D2200	250
Technics SL-PG380A	140
Technics SL-PG480A	120
Technics SL-PG580A	160
Technics SL-PG570A	170
Technics SL-PS670A	200
Technics SL-PS770A	250
Yamaha CDC-555	199
Yamaha CDC-655	249

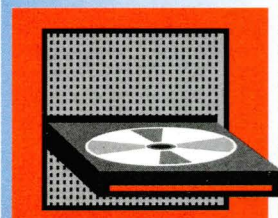
**£251 to £500**

Aiwa DX-C100M	500
AMC CD6	349
Arcam Alpha 5 Plus	480
Audio Innovations Alto	399
Aura CD100	450
Denon DCM-260	300
Denon DCD-1015	350
Grundig CDC14	300
Harman/Kardon HD7325	299
Harman/Kardon FL8450	300
Harman/Kardon HD730	300
Harman/Kardon HD7425	349
Harman/Kardon HD7525	400
JVC XL-Z674BK	300
Marantz CD-67	270
Marantz CD-63SE	350
Marantz CD67SE	350
Marantz CD-63IHK	500
Micromega Minium	350
Musical Fidelity E60	300
NAD 513	290
NAD 515	350
NAD 514	370
NAD 517	400
Onkyo DX-7210	260
Onkyo C721	290
Onkyo DX-7510	400



Mordaunt-Short MS10i Officially declared "a kickin' little box" in Hi-Fi Choice, issue 156.

Onkyo CM716	450
Pioneer PD-S705	300
Pioneer PD-F805	330
Pioneer PD-F905	400
Pioneer PD-S904	400
Rotel RCD-965BX	300
Rotel RCD-970BX	375
Sony CDP-XE900E	300
Sony CDP-CX-200	380
TEAC CD-5	350
<b>£501 to £1000</b>	
Arcam Alpha 8	520
Arcam Alpha 6	600
Arcam Delta 250	800
Creek CD42	600
Harman/Kardon HD7625	550
Harman/Kardon HD7725	800
Heybrook Signature II	989
Linn Mimik	875
Luxman D-373	550
Marantz CD-17	800
Meridian 563	795
Meridian 200	895
Monrio Privilege	995
Myrrad MC100	777
Naim Audio CD3	977
Orelle CD-100E A	649
Orelle CD100E S A	849
Orelle CD 100E V	999
Quad 77B	700
Quad 77M	900
TEAC VRDS-10SE	850
Technics SL-P2000	1,000
Thule CD100	849
<b>Over £1000</b>	
Audio Research CD1	3,290
Copland CDA-288	1,799
Copland CDA-277	1,800
Jadis JS-1	8,068
Krell CD-DSP MkII	5,000
Krell CD-DSPII 5000	5,000
Krell KPS-20i	9,990
Luxman D500XS	4,500
Marantz CD-17KI	1,300
Marantz CD-23	4,000
Mcintosh MCD7008	2,195
Mcintosh MCD7009	2,635
Meracus Auriga	1,295
Meracus Flagrante	2,495
Meracus Amago	3,995
Meracus Imagio	4,495
Meridian 506	1,100
Meridian 506	1,100
Meridian 606	1,350
Meridian 608	1,685
Micro-Seiki CD-M2DC	3,695
Micro-Seiki CDM-2000X	4,689
Mission Disc/Dacmaster	1,900
Music 1 Fidelity FCD	1,500
Naim Audio CD2	1,977
Naim Audio CDS	3,751
Roksan ATT-DP3P	1,595



<b>Transports</b>	
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	1,299
Audiomeca Kreatura SE	1,450
Audiomeca Talisman	1,850
Audiomeca Mephisto	2,100
Cambridge Audio New CD-4	200
Cambridge Audio Discmagic One	300
Cambridge Audio CD6	300
Counterpoint DA-11E	1,495
Jadis JD2	4,990
Jadis JCDT	8,000
Jadis JDI	9,950
Krell KSP-20/1	1,100
Krell MD-20	4,999
Krell MD-10	7,990
Krell KPS-20T	8,490
Krell DT-10	9,090
Linn Karik	1,850
Meridian 500	1,245
Meridian 602	1,750
Micromega Drive 1	700
Monrio Bitmatch	875
Orelle CD100E T1	549
Orelle CD100E T2	749
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-11E	1,250
<b>DACs</b>	
Arcam Black Box 50	480
Arcam Black Box 500	750

Counterpoint DA-10E	1,895
Linn Numerik	1,500
Pink Triangle Ordinal	837
Pink Triangle DaCapo	1,400
PS Audio UltraLink 2 HDCD	2,590
PS Audio Ref Link	4,550
TEAC D-T1	500
Trichord Pulsar Ser One	1,395

<b>DIGITAL RECORDERS</b>	
Meridian CDR	4,500
Philips DCC730	250
Philips DCC170	250
Pioneer D-05	900

Pioneer PDR-05	1,300
Pioneer D-C88	2,000
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-IA3ES	700
Sony MXD-D1	800
TEAC R-9	1,200



<b>HEADPHONES</b>	
<b>Up to £40</b>	
Aiwa HP-X201	13
Aiwa HP-A360	13
Aiwa HP-X301	20
Aiwa HP-VX303	25
Aiwa HP-X705	40
AKG Rox	30
Audio Technica ATH-P1	10
Audio Technica ATH-P3	15
Audio Technica ATH-P5	20
Beyer DT111 Alpha	15
Beyer DT111 Beta	20
Beyer DT111 Gamma	25
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 RH-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 RH-360CD	9
Ross RE-2060CD	9
Ross RMH-310TV	10
Ross RH-550	10
Ross RH-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	18
Sennheiser HD56	15
Sennheiser MX5	25
Sennheiser Vegas	30
Sennheiser Manhattan	30
Sennheiser HD60TV	40
Sony OPEN MDR-005EL	6
Sony MDR-E807	8
Sony MDR-007-MK2	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-W24V	15
Sony MDR-E837	18
Sony MDR-E846MP	20
Sony MDR-009TV	20
Sony MDR-A34L	20
Sony MDR-E848	20
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
<b>Over £41</b>	
AKG K301	80



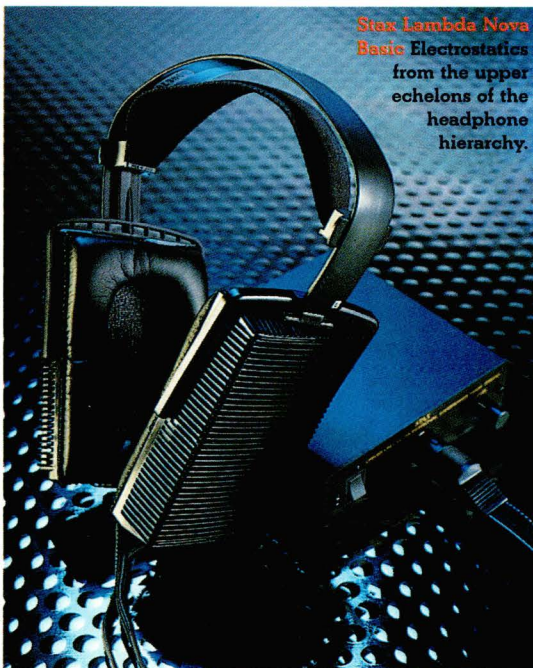
Roksan Attessa ATT-DP3 Proves that great hi-fi doesn't have to come in a plain black box.



**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.

AKG K222IR	100	Denon AH-D650	95
AKG K222IR	100	Denon AH-D750	130
AKG K401	120	Denon AH-D950	150
AKG K333IR	150	Ergo 1	120
AKG K501	150	Ergo Model 2	140
AKG K333IR	150	Grado SR80	110
AKG K444IR	180	Grado SR225	200
AKG K290S	250	Jecklin Float Model 1	79
AKG K1090	700	Jecklin Float Model 2	99
Audio Technica ATH910PRO	90	Jecklin Float ELS	399
Beyer DT311	57	JVC HA-D727	43
Beyer DT411	69	JVC HA-D910	65
Beyer DT331	82	JVC HA-D1000	250
Beyer IRH790	93	JVC HA-F25	699
Beyer DT431	98	Kenwood KH-5000	70
Beyer IRH 890	117	Sennheiser HD445	45
Beyer DT511	117	Sennheiser HD455 II	55
Beyer IRS790	130	Sennheiser HD465	65
Beyer DT531	135	Sennheiser IS360/UK	70
Beyer DT770 Pro	152	Sennheiser HD475	80
Beyer DT100	152	Sennheiser HD 480II-13	85
Beyer DT801	172	Sennheiser HD25SP	90
Beyer DT990 Pro	187	Sennheiser HD25 SP	90
Beyer DT811	200	Sennheiser HD535	105
Beyer IRS890	222	Sennheiser IS450	120
Beyer DT901	222	Sennheiser HD545 Ref	125
Beyer DT911	235	Sennheiser HD250II	150
Denon AH-D210	45	Sennheiser HD565 Ovrat'n	150
Denon AH-D350	65	Sennheiser HD285 Linear	150
Denon AH-D550	80	Sennheiser HD25-13	160



Stax Lambda Nova Basic Electrostatics from the upper echelons of the headphone hierarchy.

Sennheiser HD25	160
Sennheiser HD25	160
Sennheiser HDC 451-1	166
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 Nova Basic	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 SR1000IFL	110
Vivanco IR7100	120
Vivanco IR7600	140
Vivanco SR200IFL	140



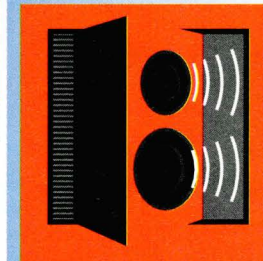
**EQUIPMENT SUPPORTS Speaker Stands**

Deadrock 903	60
Deadrock 902	60
Deadrock 901	60
Harbeth HL-Stands	249
QLN Signature	75
Revolver RS1	70
Royd Royd	99
Sound Organisation Z037	55
Sound Organisation Z027	55
Sound Organisation Z026	55
Sound Organisation Z040	72
Sound Organisation Z055	72
Sound Organisation Z010	82
Sound Organisation Z018	84
Sound Organisation Z024	86
Soundstyle X016	100
Soundstyle X012	100
Soundstyle X024	105
Soundstyle X020	105

**Equipment Supports**

Audiophile S4T120	280
Audiophile Furniture Base	480
Audiophile S4T120P	560
Deadrock 701	60
Deadrock 703	130
Deadrock 704	190
Deadrock 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
Man 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 Teir Amp Stand	700
QLN A3	125
QLN Modulux	125
QLN A4	165
QLN A5	205
QLN A6	245
Sound Organisation Z022	60
Sound Organisation Z230	70
Sound Organisation Z021	75
Sound Organisation Z030	95
Sound Organisation Z060	115
Sound Organisation Z550	125
Sound Organisation Z038	130
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	269
Stands Unique Sound Support 10	299
Stands Unique High	349
Stands Unique Ultimate	449
Stands Unique Ultimate High	549
Stands Unique Ultimate Tower	649
Target 85	175



**LOUDSPEAKERS**

Up to £130

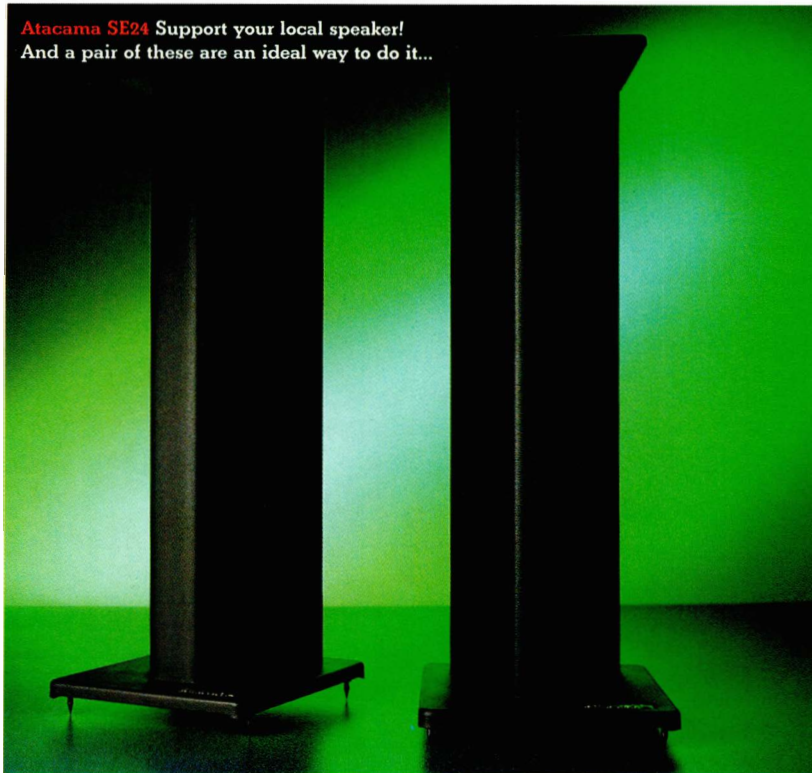
Allison Micro Monitors	95
Allison Black Gold Centre	99
Allison AL100	100
Allison Mini References	120
AMC WM50	120
B&W Solid HCM1S	125
B&W Solid HCM2	130
Bose XL1000	130
Celestion CC1	90
Celestion Little 1	99
Celestion Impact 10	129
Celestion CSC	129
Denon SC-M2	60
Gale Mini Monitors	60
Gale Centre 1	80
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.IV	100
Jamo SAT-170	110
Jamo Artina	120
Jamo D-115	120

Jamo Cornet 30.IV	120
Jamo 28	125
Jamo SAT-200.II	130
JBL Control One	115
JPW Sonata	120
JPW Sonata Vinyl	100
JVC SX-SC1VBK	60
JVC SP-V50	80
JVC SP-X220TBK	100
JVC SP-X550BK	130
KEF Coda 7	129
Mission 73	100
Mission 73Li	130
Mordaunt-Short MS05i	100
NAD 801	100
Pioneer CS-3030	120
Realistic Minimus 3.5	30
Realistic Minimus 21	30
Realistic Minimus 26	56
Realistic Minimus Pro-7	60
Realistic Minimus Pro-77	100
Revolver Beretta	100
Sony SS-E300	50
Sony SS-E500	80
Sony SS-86E	100
Sony SS-126E	130
TDL Nucleus 1	60
TDL NFM 1	120
TEAC LS-C78	80
TEAC LS-X8	80
Technics SB-CS55	80
Technics SB-CS75	100
Visionik 5202	129
Wharfedale Centre Cube	49
Wharfedale Modus CUBE	60
Wharfedale Valdis 100	79
Wharfedale Valdis Centre	100
Wharfedale Diamond 7.1	100
Wharfedale Diamond 6R	109
Wharfedale Valdis 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
B&W DM302	140
B&W CWM5	150
B&W DM601	199
B&W Solid Monitor	200
Bose 101 M'ble Monitor	190
Bose XL2000	200
Boston 325	139
Boston CR6	149
Boston Runabout	169
Boston 335	179
Boston Satellites	179
Boston 351	180
Boston CR7	199
Boston Runabout II	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	140
JPW P1 Vinyl	170
JPW P1	170
JPW AP2	200
KEF Coda 8	189
KEF 60S	199
Kenwood LS-200G	200
Mission 73C	150

Atacama SE24 Support your local speaker!  
And a pair of these are an ideal way to do it...



Mission 732	200
Mordaunt-Short MS10i	140
Mordaunt-Short MS20i	200
Mus Tec Kastrel SE	164
Naim Audio NA PX0	133
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
Revolver The 230	200
Richard Allan Minette2	199
Rogers LS1	149
Royd The Herald	198
Sequence 200	199
Sony SS-176E	200
Tannoy 631	149
Tannoy 632 ProfilePlus	199
TDL SBR	200
TDL RTL1	200
Technics SB-CS95	150
Technics SB-M20	200
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
<b>£201 to £300</b>	
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 CWM8i	300
Bandor Voice	270
Bandor Pictures	300
Bose XL3000	230
Bose 151 Environmental	270
Bose 161 Freestyle	275
Bose 201 Ser III	290
Bose XL4000	295
Boston 361	210
Boston CR8	239
Boston VR10	250
Boston 381	250
Boston CR9	279
Boston Voyager	299
Boston VRS	300
Boston VR12	300
Castle Isis	229
Castle Keep	249
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
Dali 150	300
Faraday FS1	245
Gale Model 5	220
GLL Imagio IC110	300
Heybrook HB1	269
Infinity SM85	250
Jamo 68	230
Jamo Art	270
Jamo Deco Art	300
Jamo D-265D	300
Jamo D-265C	300
Jamo Classic 4	300
Jamo 307A	300
JBL TLX50	250
JBL TLX60	300
JPW AP3	300
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
Monitor Audio Monitor 1	250
Monitor Audio Monitor 1 G	250
Monitor Audio Monitor 2	300
Micromega Minium MS1	300
Mordaunt-Short MS30i	275
Mordaunt-Short MS25i	300
NAD 802	279
Pioneer CS-7030	230
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 122	270
QLN A6	270
QLN Projekt B3i	285
Rega EL8	298
Revolver The 250	250
Richard Allan Dimension Five	299
Richard Allan Minette Gold	299
Richard Allan RA6M	299
Rogers LS33	249
Royd Minstrel	269
Royd Merlin	298
Sequence 300	249
Sequence FW120	249
Sony SS-176SEB	250
Spendor 2010	249
Tannoy Subs3	299
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
<b>£301 to £500</b>	
Acoustic Energy AE109	330
Allison CD7	380
Allison Model 2A	420
Allison AL120	420
Audio Innovations Alto	329
AVI Neutron	499
B & O Beovox CX50	325
B & O Beovox CX100	425
B & O Beovox RL6000	470
B&W 305	350
B&W CDM2	400
B&W AS6	500
B&W DM603	500
B&W Signature 7	500
Blue Room Mini Pod	400
Bose 301 VM	380
Bose 305	430
Bose A'mass AM3 II	500
Bose 401	500
Boston VR20	380
Boston SubSat 6	449
Boston VR500	450
Castle Tay	329
Castle Eden	449
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 104	370
Dali 104B	370
Dali Royal	500
Dawn Audio Chorus BS	482
DefinitiveTechnology Celsius	395
Epos ES12	499
Faraday SG	345
Faraday Siren	445
GLL Imagio IC120	420
Grundig BX3 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 Atmosphere	480
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
KEF RDM ONE	500
Keswick Audio Aria II	329
Keswick Audio Centrale	359
Linn Sekrit Passive	395
Lumley Reference LM4	375
Lumley Reference Premenade SP2	399
Lumley Reference LM5	499
Lumley Reference Premenade SP3	499
Monitor Audio Monitor 3	400
Mission 733	330
Mission 751 Freedom	348
Mission 734	499
Mordaunt-Short MS40i	450
Mus Tec Harrier	400
NAD 804	400
Neat Critique	445
Origin Live OL-1AS	399
Origin Live Monarch	399
Origin Live OL-2A	470
Pentachord A	469
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 D3ii	470
QLN Projekt D4	480
QLN Projekt CMULTI	500
Rega ELA	498
Revolver The 260	350
Richard Allan RA8M	349
Richard Allan Dimension Five 2	449
Rogers AB33	379
Rogers db101	399
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
Spendor 2020	399
Tannoy 635	450
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 Opera Duetto	395
Visonik TB1S	366
Wharfedale Modus MFM3	350
Wharfedale Modus Music Eight	360
Wharfedale Modus MSC1-6	460
<b>£501 to £800</b>	
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
B&W CDM1	600
B&W P4	675
Bandor Trident	720
Bose SE-5 Ser II System	760
Bose A'mass AM511	800
Boston VR30	600
Castle Severn	539
Castle Avon	699
Celestion Impact 35	529
Celestion 100	539
Celestion Impact 40	629
Celestion Impact 45i	670
Celestion A1	700
Cerwin Vega VS12	550
Cerwin Vega VS15	500
Clements 600si	795
Dali 107	600
Dali 350	600
Dali 450	700
Dali 109	800
Dawn Audio Chorus FS	698
DefinitiveTechnology BP6B	750
Epos ES14	675
Faraday FS10	795
GLL Imagio IC130	530
Harbeth 68C 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 Tulkan Passive	550



KEF 30B Packaged with the 60S surrounds and 80C centre, won two major awards last year.



Wilson benesch Turntable Deploys high-tech components in the name of harmonious sound.

Linn Keilidh Passive	750
Lumley Reference LM6	650
Lumley Reference Premenade SP4	650
Monitor Audio 700PMC	600
Monitor Audio Studio 2SE	600
Monitor Audio Studio 2	600
Monitor Audio MA700 PMC	600
Monitor Audio 702PMC	700
Monitor Audio 703PMC	800
Manticore Minaret	580
Meridian A500	750
Miller& Kresel S-85	700
Mission 752	578
Mission 735	650
Mission 753 Freedom	798
Mordaunt-Short MS50i	550
Naim Audio INTRO	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
Orelle Orator II	699
Origin Live Resolution	732
Origin Live Victory	750
Pentachord B	519
Pentachord Pentode	729
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
Richard Allan Dimension Five 3	579
Richard Allan Magnum LS1	589
Richard Allan Dimension Five 4	699

Rogers C6/20	533
Rogers AB1	549
Rogers LS3/5A	699
Rogers Studio 5	699
Rogers C6/25	763
Roksan ROKone 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 2030	599
Spendor LS3/5A	630
Spendor SP3/1	795
Tannoy 637 ProfilePlus	549
Tannoy 638 ProfilePlus	599
Tannoy D100	689
TDL T-Line 2	550
TDL RTL 4	650
TDL T-Line 3	750
Totem Rokk	695
Triangle Zephyr	749
UKD-Opera Opera II	595
UKD-Opera Operetta II	770
<b>£801 to £1500</b>	
Acoustic Energy AE2-II	1,095
Amb Mod. 4.0	1,185
ATC SCM10	1,000
ATC SCM20	1,500
Audio Physic Step	1,299
Audiovector 2X	850
Audiovector 3X	1,500
B & O Beolab 4500	1,300
B&W P5	875
B&W Matrix 805 V	995
B&W DM604	1,000

B&W P6	1,095
Bandor Bandora	1,140
Bandor Mora	1,260
Blue Room House Pod	895
Bose A'mass AM7	900
Boston VR40	1,000
Castle Harlech	849
Castle Howard S2	1,199
Celestion SL600si	820
Celestion 300	1,099
Celestion 700SE	1,435
Cerwin Vega 1515	1,300
Clements Reference 1	995
Dali 850	1,100
DefinitiveTechnology BP8B	1,000
DefinitiveTechnology BP10B	1,500
Epos ES22	1,185
Gamma Acoustics Epoch Five	1,499
Harbeth HL-K6	1,049
Harbeth HL-Compact 7	1,499
Harbeth BBC LS5/12A	1,499
Heybrook Sextet	1,159
Impulse Kora	1,250
Infinity Kappa 6.1i	995
Infinity Kappa 7.1i	1,195
Jamo 7071	900
Jamo Concert 8	1,300
JBL L20	850
JBL L40	1,100
JBL L60	1,200
JBL L80	1,300
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	895
Linn Tukan Aktiv	1,050
Linn Keilidh Aktiv	1,250
Living Voice Auditorium	1,300
Lumley Reference LM3	895
Lumley Reference L/M3.5	1,050
Monitor Audio Studio 12	1,000
Monitor Audio 705PMC	1,400
Magneplan SMG-C SE	990
Magneplan MG-0.6 SE	1,370
Magneplanar SMG-C SE	990
Magneplanar MG-0.6 SE	1,370
Manticore Matisse	1,390
Meridian Argent 1	995
Mission Freedom 5	1,298
Mordaunt-Short Perf 820	1,495
Naim Audio Credo	987
Origin Live Sovereign	975
Pink Triangle Ventral	990
Polk LS70	1,200
Proac Tablette 50 SIG	899
Proac Response 1 SC	1,199
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
Rogers C6/28	1,303
Roksan Ojan 3 Rosewood	995
Roksan Ojan 3X Black	1,195
Roksan Ojan 3X Rosewood	1,395
Royd The Albion	1,270
Ruark Broadsword II	899
Ruark Paladin	1,099
SD Acoustics SD5	1,395
Shahinian Compass	1,295
Sonus-Faber Minuetto	898
Sonus-Faber M Amator	1,498
Spendor 2040	899
Spendor 2040	899
Spendor SP2/3E	1,050
Spendor SP1/2E	1,390
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 II	950
UKD-Opera Opera III	999
UKD-Opera Callas Gold	1,050
UKD-Opera Divina II	1,500
Vandersteen 2Ce	1,395
Visonik LB1	935
<b>£1501 to £3000</b>	
Acoustic Energy AE1 Sig	1,695
Acoustic Energy AE2 Sig	2,695
Allison I.C. 10	2,500
Amb Mod 3.2	1,780
ATC SCM20 Tower	1,999
Audio Physic Spark 2	1,749
Audio Physic Tempo	1,999
Audiovector 5	2,500
B & O Beolab 6000	1,550
B & O Beolab 8000	2,100
B & O Beolab Penta 3	2,650
B&W Matrix 804	1,595
B&W Matrix 803s2	1,995
B&W Matrix 802s3	2,795
Bandor Bandora/Mora	2,800
Bose 901 V1	1,650
Boston Lynfield 300L	2,000
Bravura Virtuoso	2,995
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
Dali Grand Coupe	2,500
Dawn Audio Symphony	1,995
DefinitiveTechnology BP2002	2,400
ECA Servo A.2	2,450
Epos ES25	1,655
Gamma Acoustics Epoch Ref Five	2,999
Harbeth HL-S8	1,999
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 T1 1000	1,600
JBL L100	1,800
JBL T1 2000	2,000

JBL T1 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	2,000
Linn Kaber Aktiv	2,640
Lowther Fideio	1,999
Lowther Academy	2,399
Lowther Bel Canto	2,699
Lumley Reference LM2	2,500
Lumley Reference L/M 2	2,795
Monitor Audio Studio 20SE	2,200
Magneplan MG-10 SE	1,650
Magneplan MG-1.5 SE	1,780
Magneplan 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 Aeriuss	2,288
Martin-Logan Stylus	2,993
Mordaunt-Short Perf 860	1,895
Mordaunt-Short Perf 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
Posselt 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
Richard Allan Magnum System 1	1,589
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	2,099
Tannoy D590	1,999
Tannoy D700	2,199
Tannoy Sterling TW	2,200
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	2,350
<b>Over £3000</b>	
Acoustic Energy AE5	7,995
Allison I.C. 20	5,500
Amb Mod 5.0	9,550
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 Lynfield 500L	4,449
Bravura Accelerando	6,600
Chord LF5,12	3,620
Credo SPB 012	3,147
Credo SDP	5,353
Credo SDL 001	5,677
Dali Grand	4,000
DefinitiveTechnology BP2000	3,600
Fase Evoluzione Fase/Aria	3,100
Horning Agathon	3,555
Impulse Ta'us	3,100
Infinity ARS Epsilon	9,995
Jamo Oriel	7,000
JBL S2600	3,500
JBL T1 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 Zero 2	6,000
Linn Keilidh Aktiv	6,000
Living Voice RW24 Basebin	9,500
Lowther Delphic	3,999



You must listen to...Mission's 731i.



"A combatant truly worthy of the budget speaker challenge"  
 Alan Sircorn, Hi-Fi Choice,  
 July/August 1996  
 Call 01480 451777 for more  
 information or your nearest stockist.

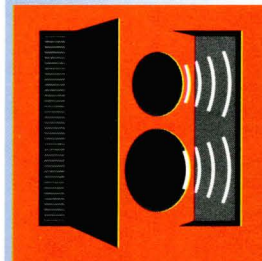
Marantz CD-17 Kl Signature CD player, Aura CA-200/PA-100 pre/power amps and Tannoy D-100 speakers One of the more harmonious combinations that have turned up in our systems tests.



Lumley Reference L/M 2 Signature	4,500
Lumley Reference LM1	8,500
Monitor Audio Studio 50	4,000
Monitor Audio Studio 60	6,000
Magnepan 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 IIP	8,730
<b>Meridian DSP6000</b>	<b>9,400</b>
Miller & Kreisel BP2000	3,600
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 MBI	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
<b>Quad ESL63</b>	<b>3,450</b>
Rehdeko RK145	4,250
Rehdeko RK175	7,750
Shahinian Hawk	4,950
Shahinian Diapason	8,350
Sonus-Faber Extrema	5,991
Spendor SP9/1	3,450
Tannoy Edinburgh TW	3,050
Tannoy GRFM TW	4,000
<b>Tannoy Westminster TW</b>	<b>6,600</b>
Tannoy Canterbury 15	7,720
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	8,888

B&W CC3	150
B&W CC6	200
B&W Matrix	500
Boston CR1	100
Boston Centre 6	130
Boston Centre 7	200
Celestion Centre 2	189
DefinitiveTechnology C1jr	275
DefinitiveTechnology C1B	395
DefinitiveTechnology CLR1000B	595
DefinitiveTechnology CLR2002	695
DefinitiveTechnology CLR2000	845
Harman Kardon SC305	150
Jamo Centre 50.II	80
Jamo Centre 40	100
Jamo Centre 18	150
Jamo Centre 160	180
Jamo Centre 200	200
JBL TLX103	
JBL MR	100
JBL MR Centre	100
JBL SC305	150
KEF 80C	129
KEF Model 90	259
KEF Model 100	359
KEF 200C	699
Kenwood CS-6	150
Mission 73C	1,125
Keswick Audio Centrali	359
Monitor Audio CC300	300
Monitor Audio CC900	400
Monitor Audio CC70	600
Martin-Logan Logos	1,949
Meridian M60C	1,125
Meridian M60C	1,125
Meridian DSP5000C	1,750
Meridian DSP5500C	3,095
Meridian DSP6000C	4,900
Miller & Kreisel S-85	400
Miller & Kreisel S-150C (THX)	800
Mission 73C	150
Mission 75C	248
NAD 808CC	170
Polk RM2500C	249
Polk CS250	250
Polk CS350	450
R A BG	95
Richard Allan Centre	59
Richard Allan Centre plus	99
Richard Allan Pod	149
Richard Allan Dimension Ctr Pod	199
Richard Allan Magnum Ctr Pod	299
Royd AV77	250
Sony SS CN15	40
Sony SS CN35	70

Sony SS CN65ES	130
Tannoy Profile 21	100
Tannoy Profile 622	179
Tannoy D750	999
Triangle Sat 1	375
Yamaha NS-C60	60
Yamaha NS-C105	80
Yamaha NS-C150	110
ZYP A1TAV	109

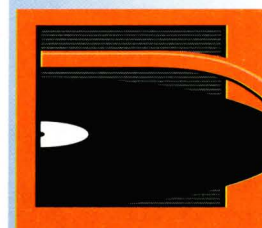


Dedicated Surround Speaker

B&W SCM8	550
Boston CRX	200
Boston 575X	349
DefinitiveTechnology BP1	395
DefinitiveTechnology BP2	595
DefinitiveTechnology BPX	1,095
Jamo Surround 40	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
Kenwood Omni 7	170
Martin-Logan Stylos	2,872
Miller & Kreisel SS-150 (THX)	750
Miller & Kreisel S-150	2,400
Mus Tec Merlin	200
Mus Tec HOBBY	250
Mus Tec Osprey	250
Polk M3 II	220
Polk M5	300
Polk LS f/x Surround	449
Richard Allan Satellites	99
Richard Allan Dimension Cubes	139
Sony SS SR65ES	170
Triangle SAT II	250

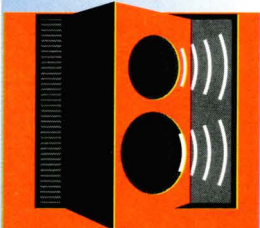
Subwoofer	
Aiwa TS-W9	170
B&W AS6	500
B&W PCS8	750
B&W 800ASW	1,500
Boston 595X	305
Credo SDC 001	3,054
Jamo SW25	140
Jamo SW170.II	240
Jamo SW200.II	300
Jamo SW400E	330
Jamo SW300.II	370
Jamo SW505E	400
Jamo SW600E	530
JBL P560	399
JPW Satellites	80
JPW Subwoofer	130
JVC SX-SC1VBK	60
KEF Model 20B	349
KEF 30B	499
KEF 40B	759
KEF AV1	2,499
Kenwood SW500	250
Linn AV5150	2,850
Monitor Audio ASW 7	700
Meridian Sub 1	1,500
Meridian M2500	1,595
Miller & Kreisel VX-7B	450
Miller & Kreisel VX-7MKII	450
Miller & Kreisel V-75 MKII	650
Miller & Kreisel V-125	800
Miller & Kreisel V-125 (THX)	800
Miller & Kreisel MX-70	900
Miller & Kreisel MX-100	1,500
Miller & Kreisel MX-150	1,500
Miller & Kreisel MX-200	1,800
Miller & Kreisel MX-300	2,500
Miller & Kreisel MX-5000	2,900
Mission 73PS	180
Mission 73AS	450
Mission 75AS	550
Polk PSW100	500
Polk PSW300	750
R A Reference	199
REL Q50	375
REL Q-100	475
REL Strata II	575
REL Storm	700
REL Stadium II	1,000
REL Stentor II	1,800
REL Studio II	4,000
Richard Allan Gold	149
Richard Allan Gold Subwoofer	199

Richard Allan Dimension Active	699
Richard Allan Magnum Active	999
Sony SA W101	230
Sony SA W301	330
Tannoy 625AIIe	595
Triangle SATII	650
Wharfedale Modus	180
Yamaha YST-SW40	140
Yamaha YST-SW80	180
Yamaha YST-SW150	280
Yamaha YST-SW200	400



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	500
<b>Linn Ekos</b>	<b>1,500</b>
Manticore Musician	425
Manticore Magician 1	750
Manticore Magician 2	850
<b>Moth Arm</b>	<b>109</b>
Moth MKIII Stainless	146
Moth MkII	174
Moth Moth 900	598
Naim Audio ARO	992
Nottingham Analogue Space	350
Nottingham Analogue Mentor	750
Nottingham Analogue Alien	1,200
Rega RB250	109
<b>Rega RB300</b>	<b>174</b>
Rega RB900	598
Roksan Tabriz	320
Roksan Tabriz Zi	420



Dedicated Centre Speaker

B&W Solid HCM1S	125
-----------------	-----



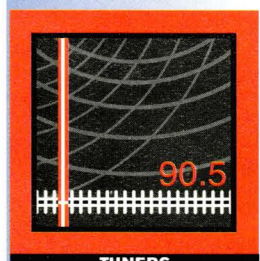


Pro-Ject 2. A lot of record player for the money.

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 300-9 Gold	642
SME Series 300-312	649
SME Series IV	796
SME 300-309 Gld Pltd	1,024
SME Series IV Gld Pltd	1,261
SME Series V Gld Print	1,361
SME Series V	1,391
SME Series V Gold Pltd	1,649
Townshend Excalibur	1,499
Wilson Benesch ACT1	975
Zeta AS	469

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 NAT03	566
Naim Audio NAT02	1,028
Naim Audio NAT01	1,645
Onix TU39	800
Onkyo T4210RDS	180
Onkyo T-409	230
Onkyo T-411RDS	260
Onkyo R-811RDS	420
Pioneer F-204RDS	140
Pioneer F-304RDS	190
Pioneer F-504RDS	250
Quad 77FM	700
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

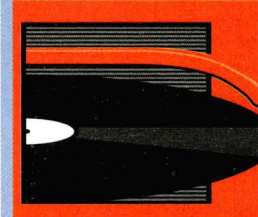
Dual CS750-1	400
Dual Golden II	500
Genexxa Lab-710	60
Genexxa Lab-810	70
Grundig TT1	180
Kenwood KD-492F	100
Michell Q.C Gyro Power	389
Michell Syncro	405
Michell Mycro	435
Moth Turntable	199
Moth Alamo	199
Moth Kanoot Mki Arm	279



TUNERS

Arcam Alpha 7	230
Arcam Alpha 8	280
Arcam Delta 280	399
Audiolab 8000T	800
Aura TU80	350
AVI S2000MT	599
Day Sequerra FM Ref	5,937
Day Sequerra S B'dcast Mon	14,640
Denon TU-260L	120
Denon TU-215RD	150
Denon TU-425RD	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

Dual CS750-1	400
Dual Golden II	500
Genexxa Lab-710	60
Genexxa Lab-810	70
Grundig TT1	180
Kenwood KD-492F	100
Michell Q.C Gyro Power	389
Michell Syncro	405
Michell Mycro	435
Moth Turntable	199
Moth Alamo	199
Moth Kanoot Mki Arm	279



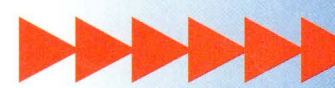
TURNTABLES

Up to £500

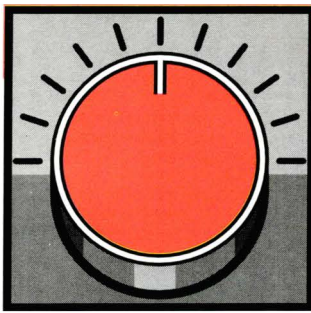
Akai AP A950	179
Ariston Pro-1200	160
Dual CS3700/3701	85
Dual CS435	130
Dual CS 435-1	150
Dual CS503-2	170
Dual 505-4 UK	250

Moth Kanoot MkIII Arm	329
NAD 533	220
Pioneer PL-J2500-C	80
Pioneer PL-990	130
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
Rega Planar 3	274
Rega Planar 3 Colour	289
Roksan Radius 3	470
Sony PS-LX56	70
Sony PSLX-150H	90
Sony PS-J10	90
Sony PSLX-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	210
Thorens TD-180 Stanton 500	219
Thorens TD-166 VI/UK/BC	300
Thorens TD-166 VI/UK/AT	370
Thorens TD-166 VI/UK/RB	400
Thorens TD-318 III TP50	500
<b>Over £500</b>	
Audiomeca Romance	1,675
Audiomeca J1	2,500
Audiomeca J1/SL5	4,250
Basis 2001	2,750
Basis Ovation II	4,800
Basis Debut Gold Std III	7,200
Basis Debut Gold Vacuum	9,250
DNM Rota 1	3,500
DNM Rota 2	4,800
Dual Silverstone	900
Dual Goldenstone	1,200
Impulse Moskito	695
Linn LP12 Basik	1,100
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 Gyro/arm	581
Michell Gyrodek	825
Michell Bronze Gyrodek	905
Michell Gyrodek/arm	971
Michell Orbe	1,950
Nottingham Analogue Spacedeck	600
Nottingham Analogue Illusion	600
Nottingham Analogue HyperSpacedeck	1,200
Nottingham Analogue Graphic	1,200
Nottingham Analogue Mentor	2,200
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-2001 TP90	700
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

Remember that all entries printed in **RED** refer to hi-fi products that we have reviewed. Turn to page 106 for a full summary of test results!



Rega Planar 3 A classic budget turntable (also available in black).



# 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.

**Best buy**

**Recommended**

**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

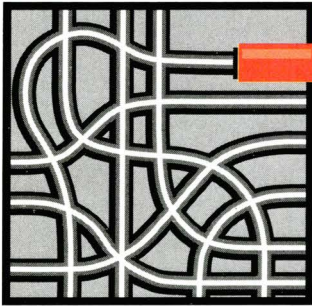
Product	Price(£)	Comments	LINE INPUTS	MM PHONO INPUT	MC PHONO INPUT	REMOTE CONTROL	HEADPHONE SOCKET	POWER OUTPUT(W)	RECEIVER	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
Alchemist Maxim APD30A	299	Vivid and colourful sounding amp that's just too bold and brassy	5	●				30		1737	154
AMC 3050	220	Low-price NAD-alike amplifier 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	
Arcam Alpha 9	500	Clear, colourful and well disciplined, the Arcam is a strong all-rounder which can compete with conviction. Tested with 9P	5	●	●	●	●	75		165	
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 III	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	
Myriad 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 its blend 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 some 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

INTEGRATED AMPLIFIERS

Product	Price(£)	Comments	MM	MC	PHONO	INPUT	LINE	RECEIVER	FACTS	BACK	NUMBER	ISSUE
Pioneer A-303R	200	Fresh and uncomplicated sound bests much of the audiophile competition	5	●	●	●	●	45	1129	134		
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		
<b>Preamplifiers</b>												
Alchemist Kraken/Pre	380	Quirky Class A design with an equally warm and colourful sound	4	●	●	●	●				124	
AMC CVT2030A	400	Budget valve preamp, modest build and a tad noisy, with fair sound	6	●	●	●	●				165	
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
Aura CA200	700	Flexible, well designed — can sound slightly aggressive, but it's fast, clean and dynamic, and makes compelling listening	10	●	●	●	●				165	
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 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	
LFD Mistral Linestage	499	Strong ergonomics, generally decent sound, but a little lacking in detail	6	●	●	●	●				165	
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	
Michell Argo	730	Open, well focussed imagery with natural, refined textures	6	●	●	●	●				165	
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 Line Stage	349	Excellent sounding ultra-simple miniature preamp	4	●	●	●	●				165	
Musical Fidelity F2	500	Subtle, sweet sounding preamp with strong presence	5	●	●	●	●				165	
NAD 114	270	Beer budget preamp, sounds focussed, detailed and consistent	6	●	●	●	●				165	
Naim NAC92R	599	Upgradeable preamp uses proprietary socketry etc. See NAP90 power amp for comments	5	●	●	●	●				165	
Quad 77 Pre	850	Sophisticated design with 2-way remote control console; open colourful sound and very flexible	4	●	●	●	●				165	
Rega Hal	998	Dedicated to Exon power amps — passive line stages.	6	●	●	●	●				165	
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 Polarix III. Big, natural and tidy sounding with very natural reproduction of acoustic and electric instruments	6	●	●	●	●				1305	145
Talk Hurricane 2L	649	Design of integrity which get to the heart, if not the soul, of the music	6	●	●	●	●				165	
Thorens TTP2000F	650	Glamorous shoebox format minimalist pre with fine detail and some granularity	3	●	●	●	●				165	
Woodside SC26 Phono	2,233	Synergistic with STA35, with a cool, controlled sound, good focus and transparency (tested with STA35)	5	●	●	●	●				100	
<b>Power amplifiers</b>												
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
AMC CVT2100A	600	Astonishing value valve/MOSFET hybrid with KT88 output, but lacks the magic of the best valves	1	●	●	●	●				80	165
Arcam Alpha 9P	400	Clear, colourful and well disciplined, the Arcam is a strong all rounder which can compete with conviction	1	●	●	●	●				165	
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
Aura PA100	700	Can sound slightly aggressive, but it's fast, clean and dynamic, and makes compelling listening	1	●	●	●	●				100	165
Audio Innovations S800 Anni	1475	Reviewed with L1 — Explicitly detailed, conveys the message of the music as a whole remarkably well	1	●	●	●	●				25	1300
Audiolab 8000M	750	Strong, controlled sound; confident bass, but colourless. Tested with 8000Q	1	●	●	●	●				125	1301
Audio Research VT60	2,395	Ranks as 'must try' American cultural item (tested in Statements). Tube design	1	●	●	●	●				35	1179
Copland CTA-505	2,099	Grown up amplifier with a refined, yet never over-civilised air	1	●	●	●	●				67	1630
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 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

## POWER AMPLIFIERS (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	MM PHONO INPUT	MC PHONO INPUT	HEADPHONE INPUT	REMOTE CONTROL	POWER SOCKET	POWER OUTPUT(W)	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
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
LFD Mistral Power	449	Infectious upper band vitality, but LF dynamics lacking, and lacks 'grip' and transparency	1					60		165
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
Michell Alecto	1150	Open, well focussed imagery with natural, refined textures	1					50		165
Moth 30 Stereo/60	549	Tested with 30 Passive. Modular system gives cracking results	1					60		109
Moth 60 Watt Stereo	599	Miniature power amp lacks control and finesse, not comfortable with difficult speaker loads	1					60		165
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 FX2	800	Quality build and imposing presentation is married to strong power yield, tonal colour and finesse	1					100		165
Musical Fidelity F18	3,999	Belongs to the rarified group of refined, high resolution amplifiers	1					220	1508	133
Myryad MA120	450	Based in MI120 integrated - see for comments, but sounds significantly better when biamped with MI120	1					60		165
NAD 214	370	A little lightweight, but detailed, consistent sound quality, and excellent value for money	1					80		165
NAD Monitor 208	1100	Truly a beefy amplifier, but no mad cow!	1					250		124
Naim NAP90	428	Power amp from a Nait integrated with some improvements.	1					30		165
Quad 77 Power	600	Open, bold and colourful, with mild compression.	1					85		165
Rega Exon	2194	Monoblock, priced each, dedicated for Hal preamp. Bold, outgoing, in command kind of sound	1					125		165
Rotel RB-970BX MkII	225	Tested with RC970BX MkII in Sessions (see preamp section)	1					60		144
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
Talk Tornado 2	599	Good, but slightly retiring sound which lacks the authority to stand out in a crowd	1					65		165
Thorens TTA2000	550	Low power shoebox format, but gutsy and surprisingly subtle and articulate	1					30		165
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



## 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

<b>SYMMETRICAL:</b> A twisted pair of conductors.	<b>SOLID CORE:</b> single or multiple individually insulated strands.	<b>FACTSBACK NUMBER:</b> The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback information page.	<b>BACK ISSUE:</b> The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.
<b>COAXIAL:</b> A central 'hot' conductor and a shield that carries the negative signal.	<b>COPPER:</b> Material used for conductor.		
<b>STRANDED:</b> Multiple strands with no intervening insulation.	<b>SILVER:</b> Material used for conductor.		
	<b>DIG CABLE TYPE:</b> O - optical digital, E - electrical digital.		

## CABLES

Product	Price(£)	Comments	SYMMETRICAL	COAXIAL	STRANDED	SOLID CORE	COPPER	SILVER	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER	
<b>Analogue Interconnects</b>											
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 entire 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 detiled performance, but gives the impression of looking down on the music					●	●		1694 131	

**CABLES (CONTINUED)**

Product	Price(£)	Comments	SYMMETRICAL	COAXIAL	STRANDED	SOLID CORE	COPPER	DIY CABLE TYPE	ISSUE NUMBER	FAYBACK NUMBER
LFD Spirolink II	70	Price for 0.7m length. Strong and confident sound enhancing bass depth and subtlety, concentrates of nthe 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 streble is trangelly 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 splodgy 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 imagewisew, 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
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 clean			●	●	●		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
<b>Digital Interconnects</b>										
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 Digi-flex	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 Digi-flex, 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
<b>Loudspeaker Cables</b>										
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
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



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

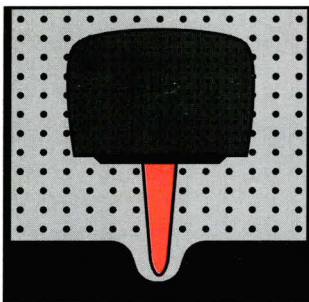
Contact us by phone, fax, or letter and we'll do our best to help you achieve your goal.  
 (Auditions may be subject to a handling charge)

**CONNECTIONS**

13 John Princes Street, London W1M 9HB (A division of Connection 90' Travel Ltd.)

## CABLES (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	SYMMETRICAL		STRANDED		SOLID CORE		COPPER		FAXBACK NUMBER		ISSUE NUMBER
			COAXIAL	COAXIAL	COAXIAL	COAXIAL	COAXIAL	COAXIAL	DIG CABLE TYPE	SILVER			
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 <sup>2</sup> 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
Kimber 4TC Double-wire	40	A variation on a Kimber classic which produces a rich and weighty sound, but isn't quite as transparent as single runs							●	●			133
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.

**Best buy**

**Recommended**

KEY	OUTPUT (MV):	MASS (g):	FACTSBACK NUMBER:	copy of the review.	BACK ISSUE:
MM: Moving magnet cartridge with a normal output suitable for all vinyl disc amplifier inputs.	Cartridge output in millivolts.	Cartridge mass can affect arm choice.	The Factsback reference for ordering a fax		The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.
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					

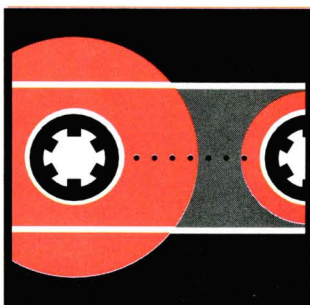
## CARTRIDGES

Product	Price(£)	Comment	REPLACEABLE STYLUS		OUTPUT (MV)	FAXBACK NUMBER	ISSUE 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
Dynavektor Karat 17D2 mk2	449	Clean and controlled sound with taut, tuneful bass. Detailed and musically cogent.		●	0.15	5.3	158

REPLACEABLE STYLUS  
MM MC  
OUTPUT (MV)  
FAXBACK NUMBER  
ISSUE NUMBER  
MASS (G)

# CARTRIDGES (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comment	REPLACEABLE STYLUS	OUTPUT (MV)	FAXBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
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	19	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	99	As with 1012, a touch harsh; detail and transient purity improved	●	6.5	7	85
Goldring Eroica LX	110	Not the most subtle cartridge in the world: can sound edgy at times, but lively and informative.	●	0.5	8	84
Goldring 1042	120	Not terribly subtle, and not such good value alongside 1012 and 1022. Quite lively though.	●	6.5	6	91
Goldring Elite	220	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 Basic's bodywork and adding a super stylus.	●	4.5	5	Col
London Decca Maroon	259	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
Lyra Clavis Da Capo	1,069	A stable tracker, and one of the finest cartridges we've heard	●	0.1	7	143
Ortofon 510/P	38	For the price, a good blend of virtues - weight, clarity and neutrality	●	3.0	5	85
Ortofon 520/P	65	Sensitive to load capacitance, the 520/P has a lively, effervescent sound.	●	3.0	5	6
Ortofon MC10 Super	100	'What a delightfully sweet-sounding cartridge this is....' we said.	●	0.3	7	48
Ortofon MC3 Turbo	130	The 3 Turbo is bright, cheerful and bouncy, but unsubtle - take it as it comes.	●	3.3	4	103
Ortofon MC15 Super II	130	A good all-rounder, with outstanding resolution, if slightly bright and clonky.	●	0.35	7	103
Ortofon MC25E	180	An excellent upgrade for a mid-price turntable	●	0.5	11	139
Ortofon MC25FL	249	A bit too stark and honest, but faithful to what's on the LP	●	0.5	11	139
Ortofon MC30 Supreme	525	Highly detailed and even-sounding cartridge that has a special affinity with female vocal recordings	●	0.5	10.7	158
Ortofon MC3000II	1,100	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	39	Difficult to mount in some arms due to its shallow build, the Bias offers a gentle, refined sound.	●	5	4	67
Rega Elys	85	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-II	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.

**Best buy**

**Recommended**

**KEY**

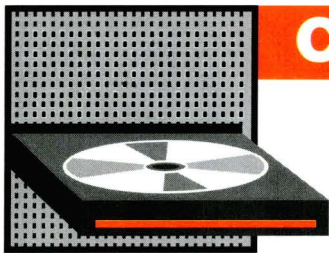
<p><b>DOLBY C:</b> A rather extreme noise reduction system not usually associated with high sound quality.</p> <p><b>DOLBY S:</b> A desirable derivative of the Dolby SR professional noise reduction system.</p> <p><b>DOLBY HX PRO:</b> System designed by B&amp;O to extend headroom</p>	<p>for cassette recording.</p> <p><b>3-HEAD:</b> If you want to monitor a recording whilst you are making it a third head is essential.</p> <p><b>TWIN DECK:</b> Contains two decks for dubbing and continuous play, in most instances only one deck will record.</p>	<p><b>AUTOREVERSE:</b> Automatically plays both sides of the cassette.</p> <p><b>AUTO CALIBRATION:</b> The deck will automatically set up bias and EQ for any tape.</p> <p><b>ADJUSTABLE BIAS:</b> Bias can be manually set to suit the tape being used.</p>
<p><b>FACTSBACK NUMBER:</b> The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback information page.</p> <p><b>BACK ISSUE:</b> The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.</p>		

Product	Price(£)	Comments	DOLBY C	DOLBY S	DOLBY HX PRO	3-HEAD	TWIN DECK	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.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	158	158
Denon DRS-640	200	Drawer loading deck, with simple facilities and smooth, well adjusted sound.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1591	140
Denon DRM-650S	230	An all-round improvement on predecessors, offers a wide ranging, disciplined sound, Dolby S is not the best feature.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	164	164
Denon DRM-740	270	Breathed-on DRM-710, with good external treatment offers good, if somewhat detached sonics.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1514	136
Denon DRS-810	310	Drawer loading deck, carefully designed yet lacking in subtlety on audition.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	127	127
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	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1592	140
Harman/Kardon TD450	350	Draw loader with poor tape navigation features; good midband but shallow bass	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	164	164
JVC TD-R472	200	Excellent auto-reverse deck which doesn't suffer the usual disadvantages and is very sharply priced	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	158	158
JVC TD-V562BK	220	Ultra-sophisticated transport at a silly price; sound quality is stable but slightly opaque.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	123	123
JVC TD-V662BK	270	Assured, clean and agile sounding recorder, if not quite the most refined in its class.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1380	146

# CASSETTE DECKS (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	DOLBY C	DOLBY S	DOLBY BX PRO	3-HEAD	TWIN HEAD	AUTO CALIBRATION	ADJUSTABLE BIAS	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
Kenwood KX-7060S	329	Although slightly dull sounding with prerecorded tapes, this is a well equipped and fine sounding deck.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1381	146
Luxman K-322	200	Gives best value results with lower bias tapes, helped by a successful Dolby C installation.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1382	146
Luxman K-373	400	Decent performance, but a little costly. Includes microphone inputs.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		158
Marantz SD-63	300	Poor pitch stability is a major snag in an otherwise nondescript design.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		158
NAD 613	230	Rough and ready, but enjoyable sound, though marred by mechanical motor noise.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		158
NAD 614	270	Not cheap, but as integrity build-wise and sound-wise	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		164
NAD 616	300	Double deck whose music sounded shut in and prosaic, as though its energy content had been ironed flat	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1648	152
Onkyo K-611	430	Cute drawer loading mini-size component with 3-heads and dual capstan transport.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1384	146
Pioneer CT-S500S	250	Great features, good with cheap low bias tapes, but slightly synthetic quality.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		164
Pioneer CT-S830S	500	High class mechanism, if lacking in battleship externals, and superb sound.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1385	146
Sony TC-KE550S	230	Warm, enjoyable music making, but assisted tape setup routine gives inaccurate results.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		164
Sony TC-KE600S	300	Mild setting-up problems notwithstanding, this UK-tweaked design has a smooth, open and un-cassette-like sound.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		158
Technics RS-AZ6	230	For those who can't afford the RS-AZ7; exquisite clarity over the widest bandwidth thanks to AZ thin film head.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		164
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.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		158
Yamaha KX-490	199	Electrifyingly transparent and capable deck, whos only flaw is a trace of audible wow and flutter.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		158

# CD Players brought to you in association with MISSION



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.

B Best buy

R Recommended

KEY	AT&T OPT DIG OUTPUT:	BAL ANALOGUE OUTPUT:	HEADPHONE SOCKET:	VARIABLE OUTPUT:	output.	MULTI-DISC:	DAC TYPE:	bitstream, PWM etc
ELECTRICAL DIGITAL OUTPUT: For electrical 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,	
AES/EBU ELEC DIG OUTPUT: Balanced digital output to be used with similarly equipped DACs.								FACTSBACK NUMBER: The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback information page.
OPTICAL DIGITAL OUTPUT: For optical connection to an outboard DAC.								BACK ISSUE: The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.

# CD PLAYERS

Product	Price(£)	Comments	AES/EBU ELEC DIG OUTPUT	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		
Arcam Alpha 7	320	Very detailed for a budget player with a slick and free sense of dynamics, needs careful ancillary matching	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Hyb	163		
Arcam Alpha 8	520	Refined, intricately detailed but a little cautious this should be broadly compatible with a variety of amps	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	163		
Audio Innovations Alto	399	Refreshing piece of audio sculpture belies inconsistent audio behaviour	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1635	151	
Audiolab 8000CD	1,000	Developed according to the Green cross code of digital audio with an elegant but safe musical presentation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS		163	
Audio Research CD1	3,290	Suspends disbelief with a frighteningly real yet obviously coloured sound. A rare proposition among CD players	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS		163	
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 CD4SE	200	Among the best players we have encountered at the price, considerably more refined and convincing than CD4	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS		163	
Cambridge Audio CD6	300	A sharp, lively and articulate player, a real thoroughbred in fact, perhaps too sharp and lively for some systems	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS		159	
Copland CDA-288	2,199	A gentle giant of a player that errs in favour of pastel shades rather than bold daubs of colour, one for refined tastes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB		163	
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	
Denon DCD-3000	1,000	Sings with the temperament of a huge orchestra under the baton of a timid conductor, but very agreeably at that	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB		163	
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		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-2574	250	Strong resolving power and good midband and dynamics, but slightly raw and thin	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1bit		159	
JVC XL-2674BK	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-7090	400	A lively and compelling performer with an even handed and coherent disposition	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB		163	
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
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 (20-bit)	1,685	Combines a delicate mid and treble with rich, opulent bass and has impressive low level resolution	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS		163	
Micromega Minium	350	Dynamically weak and some roughness offsets the pleasing tonal balance, articulate mid and strong bass	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1 bit		159	
Mission dAD3	598	This front loader has a relaxed style of delivery that convinces with guile and subtlety rather than orchestral ordnance	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS		163	
Mission dAD7	900	Pleasant but not particularly exciting, but this remains a classy, sharply etched performer	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB		145	
Musical Fidelity FCD	1,500	A forward disposition makes this perfect for Fenders but less appropriate to Guarneris	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS		163	
Myriad MC100	700	A little extra get up and go wouldn't go amiss but its sheer maturity and composure ensure listenability	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS		163	



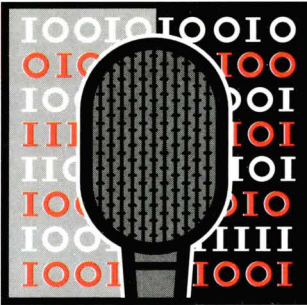
AES/EBU ELEC DIG OUT  
OPTICAL DIGITAL OUT  
AT&T OPT DIG OUT  
BAL ANALOGUE OUTPUT  
HEADPHONE SOCKET  
VARIABLE OUTPUT  
FACTSBACK NUMBER  
MULTI-DISC  
ISSUE NUMBER  
DAC TYPE

### CD PLAYERS (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	AES/EBU ELEC DIG OUT	OPTICAL DIGITAL OUT	AT&T OPT DIG OUT	BAL ANALOGUE OUTPUT	HEADPHONE SOCKET	VARIABLE OUTPUT	FACTSBACK NUMBER	MULTI-DISC	ISSUE NUMBER	DAC TYPE	
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
Naim Audio CD2	1,998	Provides bags of detail with a solid stereo focus but not all the romanticism we know to be possible										MB	163
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-S705	300	A dichotomy, this machine was loved by some for its articulacy and disliked by others for sounding too impressive!	●				●					BS	163
Pioneer PD-S904	400	Too much legato - literally - in sound, but a very smooth performer	●				●					1bit	1641 151
Quad 77	900	A true thoroughbred combining a penetrating insight into detail with poise rarely found at the price										Hyb	163
Roksan DP3P	1,595	Dramatic and compelling, classical listeners should be ready to 'air conduct' when auditioning this player	●									BS	163
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-970BX	350	A combination of solid build, useful facilities and an attention grabbing sound make this a winner	●									BS	163
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
Sherwood CD1	1,100	A very neutral, even handed sounding player with a rather flat, lifeless sound. Beautiful construction	●				●					BS	163
Sony CDP-XE300	140	Cost/performance ratio is pretty impressive and sound is clear, articulate and informative					●					BS	163
Sony CDP-XE900E	300	Refined and analytical disc scavenging tool, but there are some distinctive colourations making auditioning vital					●					BS	159
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
Teac VRDS-25	1,300	A solid player in all respects combining powerful sound with state of the art technology	●				●					MB	163
Technics SL-PG480A	140	Full driving sound, but somewhat uneven in balance with a unsubstle, slightly harsh top end										1 bit	159
Technics SL-PS770A	250	A mellow sounding player that never quite rouses from its slumber to really tackle the music at hand	●				●	●				BS	1278 147
Trichord Genesis	599	Modified Pioneer PD-S504 that's a bit like a Williams Renault Clio — astonishing at the price (tested in Sessions)	●				●	●				BS	1753 155
Yamaha CDX-490	170	Big, blowsy sound, is undermined by lack of precision and focus					●					1 bit	159
<b>TRANSPORTS</b>													
Arcam Delta 250	800	Arcam's best effort yet is a new design based on Philips CDM9 transport. Specification includes Sync Lock facility	●				●	●				-	1491 130
Audiolab 8000CDM	1,400	Super-slick transport and basically very honest sound, but lacking the last degree of fine detail	●			●	●					-	162
Audiomeca Kreatura SE	1,450	Superb combo for those who like the sound of valves (tested with Elixir DAC in Sessions)	●				●					MB	141
Audiomeca Mephisto	2,100	Tested with Trichord Pulsar, the duo provides a highly composed and tactile sound	●				●					-	1320 144
Linn Karik	1,750	Based on early Linn transport, the Karik is dry but very positive, detailed and engrossing	●				●					-	1323 144
Meridian 500	1,245	Used with the 563 DAC, the combination is thin, brash and uncomfortable	●				●					-	1103 133
Mission Discmaster	1,500	Powerful performance - large and beefy without sounding fierce or aggressive (price includes Dacmaster)	●									-	1104 133
Pink Triangle Cardinal	875	Sound quality is warm but over-polished compared to PT Ordinal (tested with DaCapo and DC PSU)	●									-	1324 144
PS Audio Lambda	2,250	With Ultralink Two, sound positively sparkles with colour and resonant detail	●	●	●							-	1106 133
Roksan Attessa ATT-DP3	1,295	Not the most detailed or refined but capable of good excitement with the right material	●				●					1 bit	162
Teac VRDS-T1	550	Superb quality engineering is mated to tidy and composed sound (tested with D-T1)	●				●					-	1325 144
Teac P-700	900	Tested with D-700, low resolution sound is warm, bubbly and entertaining	●				●					-	120
Teac P-2S	4,000	The latest version of Teac's luxury P-2 transport sounds as over-engineered as it looks	●				●					-	1493 130
Theta Data Basic II	2,298	Uses a Philips CDM-9 Pro mechanism a works a treat with more lively DACs	●									-	1494 130
Thorens TCD2000	900	Lively and up-front presentation not helped by rather loose bass and splashy treble.	●				●					-	162
Trichord Digital Turntable	699	Very detailed, precise, controlled yet involving; a first-rank performer.	●				●					-	162
Wadia 8	3,195	Budget version of Teac's VRDS mechanism in a fancy case; just too expensive for the performance on offer	●				●	●				-	1495 130
<b>DACS</b>													
Arcam Black Box 500	750	Sophisticated unit with Sync Lock and discrete DAC. Early samples sounded grubby and restrained										BS	1519 136
Audio Alchemy DAC-in-a-Box	230	This giveaway DAC may still rescue the oldest of players from obsolescence										MB	127
Audio Note DAC1	600	Oddball DAC with manual de-emphasis switch. Needs a high preamp input impedance or bass will suffer										MB	127
Audiolab 8000DAC	900	Basically very honest sound, but lacking the last degree of fine detail.										BS	162
Audiomeca Elixir	745	DAC was tested with Kreatura SE - see above										BS	141
Cambridge Audio DACMagic 2	200	Superb value DAC that makes the jump from good to outstanding if balanced outputs are used (tested in Sessions)								●		Hyb	1521 136
DPA PDM256	2,995	Highly advanced, with adjustable dither. but the different settings only lead to compromise										BS	133
Linn Numerik	1,400	A new 20 bit DAC and revised Karik transport have cleaned up; but sounds a tad dry and humourless.										MB	1323 144
Meridian 563	795	Warmer but no less detailed than the earlier 200-series, the 563 flies with a top rate transport										DS	1103 127
Mission Dacmaster	1,500	Powerful performance - large and beefy without sounding fierce or aggressive (price includes Discmaster)										MB	1104 133
Pink Triangle Ordinal	925	The cheapest dual-differential DAC7 converter available offers top-flight sound quality										BS	1524 136
Pink Triangle DaCapo	1,765	With Cardinal and DC PSU, the DaCapo is best with its 22bit option. It is warm but over-polished										BS	1324 144
Pink Triangle DC Supply	1,750	Battery power supply for Cardinal and DaCapo										-	1324 144
PS Audio UltraLink 2 HCD	2,590	With Lambda transport, the sound positively sparkles with colour and resonant detail										MB	1106 133
PS Audio Ref Link	4,550	Consolidates reputation of PS Audio for high performance digital electronics								●		MB	1069 132
QED Digit Plus	139	Bearing in mind its expensive but very forgiving performance, the Digit is almost embarrassingly cheap										BS	113
Roksan Attessa ATT-DA2/DSS	1,145	Not the most detailed or refined but capable of good excitement with the right material.										1 bit	162
Teac D-T1	500	Teamed with VRDS-T1 for test, this superb quality unit is tidy and composed.										BS	1325 144
Teac D-700	600	With P-700, the D-700 may lack the resolution, but is bubbly and entertaining										MB	120
Thorens TDA2000	700	Lively and up-front presentation not helped by rather loose bass and splashy treble.										BS	162
Trichord Pulsar Series One	1,395	Very detailed, precise, controlled yet involving; a first-rank performer. Switchable phase, dither etc										Hyb	162

You must listen to  For details of your nearest stockist, call 01480 451777. Or visit the company's WorldWideWeb site - <http://www.mission-cyrus.com>

# Digital Recorders



**D**igital recorders come in a variety of different guises, but have yet to make much of an impact on the domestic market. At present there are four types to choose from: DAT (digital audio tape), MD (Mini Disc), and DCC (digital compact cassette) and CD-R (CD Recordable). DCC is backwards compatible inasmuch as the machines can play regular audio cassette. MD's claim to fame is its optical disc format, which offers instant track access and can't be worn out like a tape. DAT has been on the market for quite some time now, but has never

really 'made it' as a consumer medium due to the dearth of pre-recorded material. However it has begun to carve itself a niche in the top end of the market, replacing reel-to-reel as the audiophile's tape based medium. Home CD-R is coming into its own with Pioneer's PD-R05 machine attempting to set a trend.

**B** Best buy **R** Recommended

KEY	ADC TYPE:	ELECTRICAL IN/OUTPUTS:	BACK ISSUE:
FORMAT: Type of recorder, see above for descriptions. DAC TYPE: Digital to analogue converter: BS - Philips Bitstream, MB - multibit, Hyb - hybrid of multibit and bitstream technologies, 1bit - single bit types such as MASH, bitstream, PWM etc.	ADC TYPE: Analogue to digital convertor types as per DACs. PORTABLE: Can be run off batteries but not necessarily personal stereo size. OPTICAL IN/OUTPUTS: Digital socketry for optical cable.	ELECTRICAL IN/OUTPUTS: Digital socketry for electrical cable. 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.

## DIGITAL RECORDERS

Product	Price(£)	Comments	FORMAT	DAC TYPE	ADC TYPE	PORTABLE	ELECTRICAL IN/OUTPUTS	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
Philips DCC170	250	Good sound quality for a portable that records as well, beating competition from MD in its group	DCC	BS	BS	●	●	●	1237 141
Philips DCC951	280	Offering 18-bit record and replay this does an impressive job in many ways but PASC is still a limitation	DCC	BS	BS	●	●	●	139
Pioneer D-05	800	Second generation 96kHz DAT recorder can offer startling realism with the right software - ie first generation	DAT	BS	BS	●	●	●	1652 152
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-JA3ES	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**

**T**here 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:	amplifier output.	ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback information page.
TYPE: Operating principle: D - dynamic, E - electrostatic. SUPRA-AURAL: Style where a flat pad presses on the outer ear. CIRCUMAURAL: Style which encloses the ear. OPEN BACK: Offers an open sound but lets in noise.	CLOSED BACK: Keeps out external noise. WEIGHT (G): Mass in grams IMPEDANCE (Ω): Load offered to the headphone amplifier. All else being equal, the lower the impedance the louder the sound for a given	3.5MM JACK ADAPTOR: Can be used with mini-jack-equipped components such as personal stereos. 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

## HEADPHONES

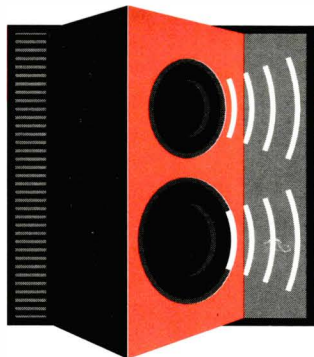
Product	Price(£)	Comments	CIRCUMAURAL TYPE	SUPRA-AURAL	OPEN BACK	CLOSED BACK	3.5mm JACK ADAPTOR	WEIGHT(G)	IMPEDANCE(Ω)	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
AKG K240 Monitor	82	Something of a classic, these AKGs are very user-friendly in all respects; sonically on the warm side of normal.	D	●	●	●	●	240	600	●	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
Grado SR225	200	Warm, dark tonal coloured and ultimately lacking in clarity, but it true to the spirit of the music: if not the letter	D	●	●	●	●	200	32	●	163
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
Precide Ergo Model 2	140	Still has much of the spaciousness and detachment of the Float from which it is derived, but has a coarse mid/top	D	●	●	●	●	380	100	●	163
Ross RDH-300CD	17	In-lead controls are the highlights of this shoddy, sometimes aggressive sounding design.	D	●	●	●	●	155	8	●	133
Sennheiser HD455	55	Inoffensive, if nondescript sound, modular, but can become dislodged from head.	D	●	●	●	●	185	60	●	1801 157
Sennheiser HD565 Ovation	150	Wide bandwidth design which is refined, expressive and extremely comfortable.	D	●	●	●	●	255	150	●	1801 157

## HEADPHONES (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	CIRCUM-AURAL TYPE	OPEN BACK	CLOSED BACK	3.5mm JACK ADAPTOR	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
Sennheiser HE-60/HEV70/UK	998	Very nearly a superb electrostatic, with an aching pure midband, but top end is sibilant and edgy	E	●	●	260	n/a	163
Sony MDR-CD770	100	Neutrality and comfort make the Sony easy to live with. Technically correct sounding too, yet musically unrewarding.	D	●	●	-	-	1801 157
Sony MDR-CD1700	199	Astonishingly detailed, uncoloured and free of the usual artefacts from a sealed back headphone. Tremendous value	D	●	●	325	32	163 Stax
Stax Lambda Nova Basic	449	Refined, articulate, yet with real presence – and a notable bargain by electrostatic standards	E	●	●	347	n/a	163
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 IR7100	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

**A**s 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.



### KEY

**SIZE WxHxD (cm):** Width by height by depth in centimetres.  
**FLOORSTANDER:** As opposed to requiring a dedicated stand.  
**SENSITIVITY (dB/W):** Efficiency: how much volume you get for a given input; the higher the louder.

**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.  
**BASS FROM (Hz):** The lowest frequency that a speaker can

reproduce, based on in-room measurements.

**FREE SPACE:** Speakers should be placed away from walls.  
**CLOSE TO WALL:** It is recommended that these speakers be placed close (between 3 and 12cm) to the rear wall.

**FACTSBACK NUMBER:** The reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback page.  
**BACK ISSUE:** The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.

## HI-FI LOUDSPEAKERS

Product	Price(£)	Comments	SIZE WxHxD(CM)	SENSITIVITY(DB/W)	IMPEDANCE(Ω)	BASS FROM (Hz)	FREE SPACE	CLOSE TO WALL	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
Acoustic Energy AE109	330	Lots of mass-loaded twin-driver speaker for the money, especially for loud, driving bass	18,90,25	●	88	4	25	●		164
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 Gem Emerald	540	Pretty compact floorstander with lively if lightweight sound	18,94,21	●	87	6	40	●		164
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-I/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 305	350	Ridged paper cone gives lively sound, clever box, but a little uneven	22,87,31	●	89	4	40	●		164
B&W P4	600	Strikes a nice balance between all-out studio monitor sound and bass-filled crowd pleaser (tested in Sessions)	20,81,25,6	●	88	8	50	●		156
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
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 Avon	700	Lovely box and lovely voices from carbon-fibre composite cone	22,91,28	●	85	8	22	●		164
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

HI-FI LOUDSPEAKERS (CONTINUED)

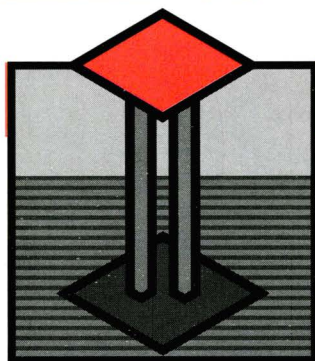
Product	Price(£)	Comments	SIZE WxHxD(CM)	SENSITIVITY(DB/W)	IMPEDANCE(S)	BASS FROM (Hz)	FACTSBACK CLOSE TO WALL FREE SPACE	ISSUE NUMBER	
Celestion 3 MKII	139	Smooth and polished by budget speaker standards, if a bit laid back for some tastes	21,31,18	88	8	45	●	1036 130	
Celestion Impact 23	300	Big, cheap 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
Celestion A1	700	Rich, warm and laid-back, but a true quality sound; lovely build	24,41,35	●	88	6	25	●	164
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	25,27,46	●	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
Heybrook Prima	139	Fine pace and timing, but balance is forward and bass is tight	20,29,18	●	87	6	50	●	110
Heybrook Heylios	339	Great all round performance in a pretty package at a sharp price	24,36,27	●	87	6	25	●	164
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 nicely 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	Pricy, 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 pricy 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 RDM One	500	Cute and tiny, nice midband but lack of bass warmth and weight	23,30,24	●	88	6	70	●	164
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 Airscout	14,750	You want dynamics, get a horn, get a very, very good horn. This, is a very, very good horn. Tested with RW24 horn sub	62.5,115,57	●	104	8	60	●	163
Living Voice Air Partner 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 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 Freedom	798	Great styling. New, more restrained tweeter reveals fine midband dynamics	21,90,31	●	89	4	40	●	164
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 pricy 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

HI-FI LOUDSPEAKERS (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	SIZE WxHxD(CM)	SENSITIVITY (dB/W/M)	FLOORSTANDER	BASS FROM (Hz)	IMPEDANCE(Ω)	FACTSBACK CLOSE TO WALL	FREE SPACE	ISSUE NUMBER
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
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 Kestrel SE	300	Brighter and drier-sounding than standard Kestrel (and not the better for it)	20,84,19	●	84	5	50	●	●	164
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 Intro	596	Great dynamic range and info retrieval, but thin, lacks warmth	24,89,27	●	89	6	30	●	●	164
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	Pricey 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	Invigorating 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
Silverado Raider	695	Beautifully built audiophile compact, neutral if bright, tough work for amps	20,40,25	83	3	30	●	●	●	164
Sequence 400	330	Clever hang-on-wall panel is well voiced, though bass isn't too great	25,100,7	86	8	45	●	●	●	164
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 637	550	Good value package but a rather heavy, thick, big-bass sound	17-29,84,27	●	90	3	20	●	●	164
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 T-Line 3	750	Plenty of bass and treble, but broad midband is rather repressed	20,97,38	●	86	8	20	●	●	164

# HI-FI LOUDSPEAKERS (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	SIZE WxHxD(CM)	SENSITIVITY(OB/W)	FLOORSTANDER	BASS FROM (Hz)	IMPEDANCE(Ω)	FREE SPACE	FACTSBACK CLOSE TO WALL	ISSUE NUMBER
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
Wharfedale MFM-3	350	Smooth broad midband gives fine voice rendition; bass could be better	22,89,28	●	87	8	40	●	●	164
Wilson benesch ACT1	6,400	Stylish, technically advanced and sonically as clean as a whistle this is a truly high end loudspeaker (Statements)	23,108, 37	●	89	6	40	●	●	162
ZYP AI	199	Cute metal cased micro-miniature is quite coloured but great fun	14,22,12	●	88	8	30	●	●	110
<b>SUBWOOFERS</b>										
B&W AS6	500	Good material value with a fair amount of low bass from 100W active design	45,51,45.5	●	●	●	30	●	●	1736 154
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
Living Voice RW24	9,500	The only horn subwoofer on the UK market brings new meaning to low frequency energy, speed and resolution	146,84,59	●	104	8	40	●	●	163
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**

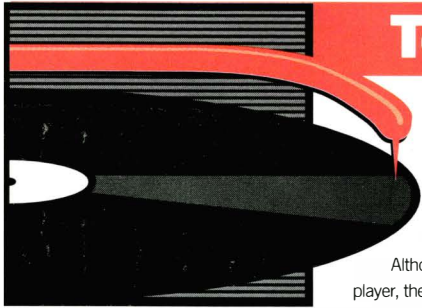
<p><b>HEIGHT (CM):</b> Height of stand or equipment shelf.</p> <p><b>TOP PLATE SIZE (CM):</b> Dimensions of top plate on speaker stand or equipment support.</p> <p><b>FILLABLE:</b> Some speaker stands can be filled with sand and/or</p>	<p>lead to increase mass, which affects sound.</p> <p><b>WELDED:</b> The better stands and supports are welded rather than bolted together.</p> <p><b>NUMBER OF SHELVES:</b> The amount of tiers on an equipment</p>	<p>rack or support.</p> <p><b>SHELF TYPE:</b> Material that shelves are made of on an equipment rack. Wood generally means MDF.</p> <p><b>FACTSBACK NUMBER:</b> The Factsback reference for ordering a fax</p>	<p>copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback information page.</p> <p><b>BACK ISSUE:</b> The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.</p>
---	--	--	---

## STANDS & SUPPORTS

Product	Price(£)	Comments	TOP PLATE SIZE(CM)	HEIGHT(CM)	FILLABLE	WELDED	NUMBER OF SHELVES	FACTSBACK SHELF TYPE	ISSUE NUMBER	
<b>Equipment Supports</b>										
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	
<b>Speaker Stands</b>										
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	

## STANDS & SUPPORTS (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	TOP PLATE SIZE(CM) HEIGHT(CM)	NUMBER OF SHELVES FILLABLE	WELDED	FAXBACK NUMBER SHELF TYPE	ISSUE NUMBER
Revolver RS1	70	A good blend of performance and appearance for the price	53	18,18	●		159
RMS/Stand Unique Vivus	550	Pricey 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 2024	100	Three pillar triangular based design with high gloss finish. Enthusiastic sound suited to better systems	61		● ●		1373 146
Stand 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

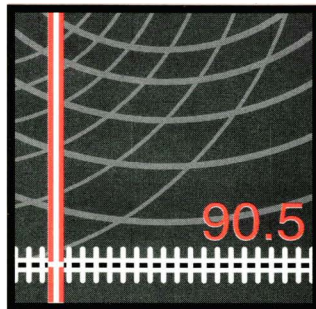
its construction and design have a significant bearing on sound quality. There are three basic types of arms listed in the key and each has its strengths, but pivoted designs are the most popular, for reasons both practical and economical.



KEY	FACTSBACK NUMBER:	BACK ISSUE:
<b>EFFECTIVE MASS:</b> This relates to cartridge compliance. Generally high mass arms are suitable for low compliance cartridges and vice versa.	The reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback.	The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.
<b>PARALLEL TRACKING:</b> An arm which allows the cartridge to track the disc in a linear fashion.	<b>PIVOTED:</b> Arms which allow the cartridge to describe an arc as they traverse the record.	<b>UNI-PIVOT:</b> Pivoted arms with a bearing that allows movement in two planes.
	<b>EFFECTIVE LENGTH (cm):</b> Length of arm from bearing to cartridge mounting.	<b>ADJUSTABLE HEIGHT:</b> Important for accurate cartridge set-up.

## TONEARMS

Product	Price(£)	Comments	PARALLEL TRACKING	EFFECTIVE LENGTH (cm)	ADJUSTABLE HEIGHT	FAXBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
Alphason HR100S	490	S-shaped arm sounds smooth, but nevertheless reproduces transients with fine attack.	Medium	●	229	●	86
Kuzma Stogi Ref	1,000	Large, solid and well made arm, gives exceptionally clear sound with just a hint of brightness.	High	●		●	79
Linn Ekos	1,297	Superb, state of the art design which builds significantly on predecessor's strengths.	Medium	●	229	●	6
Moth Arm	95	The ultimate budget arm? Refined, sweet, detailed and natural.	Low	●	237	●	60
Rega RB300	139	Despite its modest price it sets exceptional standards and could be used on many high end turntables.	Low	●	237	●	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
SME Series 300-309	657	Beautifully made and finished: fully adjustable and a highly neutral performer.	Low	●	238	●	79
SME Series IV	936	Superb engineering and finish with a finely balanced sound, impressive stereo focus and low colouration.	Low	●	233	●	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



## 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.



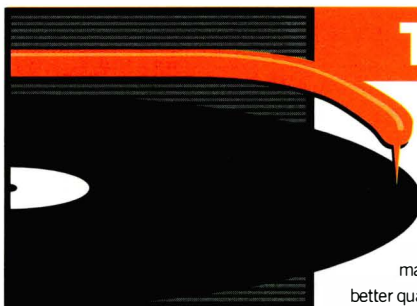
KEY	ROTARY TUNING KNOB:	FACTSBACK NUMBER:
<b>WAVEBANDS:</b> Only the FM (VHF) bands give stereo hi-fi sound, though AM (MW & LW) are useful for receiving certain transmissions in the UK.	The ergonomically attractive approach to dial-surfing.	The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Facts back information page.
<b>PRESETS:</b> Number of station frequencies that can be stored.	<b>ROTARY TUNING KNOB:</b> The ergonomically attractive approach to dial-surfing.	<b>BACK ISSUE:</b> The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.
<b>RDS:</b> (radio data system) was originally designed for in-car 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.	<b>ROTARY TUNING KNOB:</b> The ergonomically attractive approach to dial-surfing.	
	<b>ROTARY TUNING KNOB:</b> The ergonomically attractive approach to dial-surfing.	
	<b>ROTARY TUNING KNOB:</b> The ergonomically attractive approach to dial-surfing.	

## Tuners

Product	Price(£)	Comments	WAVEBANDS	PRESETS	RDS	ROTARY TUNING KNOB	FAXBACK 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
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
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

## Tuners (Continued)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	WAVEBANDS	PRESETS	SIGNAL STRENGTH METER	ROTARY TUNING KNOB	REMOTE CONTROL	RODS	ISSUE NUMBER
◀ 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.

**Best buy**

**Recommended**

KEY	MANUAL	SEMI-AUTO	SPEEDS	SUSPENDED SUBCHASSIS	EXTERNAL PSU	SUPPLIED WITH CARTRIDGE	FACTSBACK NUMBER	BACK ISSUE
<b>MANUAL:</b> You do it all: put the needle on the record and take it off.								
<b>AUTO:</b> The record player does it all.								
<b>SEMI-AUTO:</b> You share the work: you put it on, it takes it off.								
<b>SPEEDS:</b> In RPM to correspond with your platters.								
<b>SUSPENDED SUBCHASSIS:</b> Sprung suspension to minimise structural interference.								
<b>EXTERNAL PSU:</b> Outboard power supply; generally it indicates high quality.								
<b>SUPPLIED WITH ARM:</b> Many turntables require a separate arm to be fitted; if not, this tells you so.								
<b>SUPPLIED WITH CARTRIDGE:</b> Most turntables do not come supplied with a needle.								
<b>FACTSBACK NUMBER:</b> The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback information page.								
<b>BACK ISSUE:</b> The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.								

## TURNTABLES

Product	Price(£)	Comments	MANUAL	SEMI-AUTO	SPEEDS	SUSPENDED SUBCHASSIS	EXTERNAL ELECTRONIC PSU	SUPPLIED WITH CARTRIDGE	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
◀ Kuzma 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
Moth Kanoot	329	Rather coarse sounding deck that requires decent isolation and comes with a Rega RB300 arm	●					33/45	● ● ●	164
◀ 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 2	299	Remarkably effective at the price with decent timing and a generally well defined sound	●					33/45	● ● ●	164
◀ 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 sounds musical in a balanced and coherent manner, needs decent isolation and suffers a little pitch instability	●					33/45	● ● ●	164
◀ 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 substantial 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

# GET THE FULL STORY BY SUBSCRIBING TO HI-FI CHOICE

## SEE PAGE 28



## MANUFACTURER &amp; DISTRIBUTOR CONTACT NUMBERS

**A**  
 Acoustic Energy Ltd • tel 01285 654432 • fax 01285 654430  
 Acoustic Precision • tel 01443 816856  
 Acurus • Audio Illusion • 01753 542761 • fax 01753 542772  
 ADT • Aanvil Audio • tel 01359 240687 • fax 01359 240687  
 Advent • Entel Ltd • tel 01483 425702  
 Adayton • 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  
 Alon • Sound Image UK • tel 0181 255 6868 • tel 0181 255 6869  
 Alphason • tel 01942 678000 • fax 609913 • Dealers 700  
 Apollo Hi-Fi Furniture • tel 0121 520 5070 • fax 0121 522 2055  
 AMC • Campus International Ltd • tel 01494 431290  
 Analysis • Audio Spectrum • tel 01752 361852  
 Arcam • A&R Cambridge Ltd • tel 01223 440964 • fax 01223 863384 • Dealers 211  
 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 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 0113 2771441 • fax 0113 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  
 Bandridge • tel 0181 543 3633  
 Basis • Woodstock Music & Film Systems • tel 01865 883535 • fax 01865 881012  
 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  
 Boulder Amplifiers • Sound Image UK • tel 0181 255 6868 • tel 0181 255 6869  
 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 • Henley Designs • 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  
 Cerdin Vega • CSE Administration • tel 01423 359054 • fax 01423 359058 • Dealers 98  
 Chord • The Chord Company Ltd • tel 01722 331674 • fax 01722 411388 • Dealers 210  
 Chord Electronics • tel 01622 764874 • fax 01622 764874

Classé 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 • Audio Club • 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 861834 • fax 01480 432006  
 ECA Distribution • tel 0181 998 1086 • fax 0181 998 1086 • Dealers 5  
 Electrofluidics • tel 0171 247 0813  
 Electrocompaniet • Sound Image UK • tel 0181 255 6868 • tel 0181 255 6869  
 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 • tel 01753 526939 • fax 01753 526939  
 Genelec • Project • tel 0171 359 0400  
 Genexa • 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  
 Helius 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**  
 Infinity • Gamepath Ltd • tel 01908 317707 • fax 01908 322704 • Dealers 85

**E**ver 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

# CALL 0891 616518

# 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.

## MANUFACTURER &amp; DISTRIBUTOR CONTACT NUMBERS (CONTINUED)

Interaudio • Bose UK Ltd • tel 01795 475341 • fax 01795 427227  
Icos • Path Distribution • tel 0121 749 2240 • fax 0121 748 3838 • Dealers 700

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

KAL UK Ltd • tel 01303 245005 • fax 01303 221736  
KEF Audio Ltd • tel 01622 672261 • fax 01622 672939 • Dealers 240  
Kenwood • Tno-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

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

MAG Audio (UK) Ltd • tel 0181 555 1222  
Magneplanar • Woodstock Music & Film Systems • tel 01865 883535 • fax 01865 881012  
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 • Wilmslow Audio • tel 01455 286603 • fax 01455 286605  
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

NAD Marketing Ltd • tel 0181 343 3240 • fax 0181 346 4925 • Dealers 380  
Naim Audio • tel 01722 332266 • fax 01722 412034 • Dealers 70  
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

Onix Electronics • tel 01273 517358  
Onkyo UK • tel 0181 343 2082 • fax 0181 346 4925 • Dealers 120  
Optimum International 2000 • tel/fax 01274 583249  
Orelle Hi-fi • tel 0181 908 4126 • Dealers 30  
Origin Live • tel 01703 442183 • Dealers 25  
Ortofon • Henley Designs • tel 01753 889949 • fax 01753 889636 • Dealers 200

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  
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  
Platinum • Woodstock Music & Film Systems • tel 01865 883535 • fax 01865 881012  
Polk Audio • tel 01727 827311 • fax 01727 827284 • Dealers 104  
Posselt • GT Audio • tel 01895 833099  
Pro-ject • Henley Designs • 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

QED Audio Products Ltd • tel 01276 451166 • fax 01276 452211 • Dealers 150 +  
QLN UK Ltd • tel 01352 730251 • fax 01352 730251

Quad • Centralforce • tel 01480 52561 • fax 01480 413403 • Dealers 130  
Quadraspire Ltd • 01634 296615 • Dealers 50

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

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  
Shearne 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  
Spendor 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  
Stermfoot 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  
System • Systemdek Ltd • tel 01294 271251 • fax 01294 277095

Talk Electronics • tel 01252 378383 • fax 01252 371818  
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

UKD-Opera • UK Distribution • tel 01753 652669  
Unison Research • UK Distribution • tel 01753 652669

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  
Vivanco • 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

Wadia • Woodstock • tel 01865 883535 • fax 01865 881012  
Well Tempered • Pear Audio Ltd • tel 01665 830862 • 01665 830051  
Wharfedale Loudspeakers Ltd • tel 01480 431373  
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

Yamaha Electronics UK Ltd • tel 01923 233166 • fax 01923 244930  
Yoshino • tel 01480 467788

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.

**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-demos and mint used items. CD - Audio Synthesis, Copland, Enlightened Audio Design, Orelle, Wadia, XTC. Amps - CAT, Classé, Copland, Kora, Lumley, Michell, Orelle, Sirius, Sonneteer, Tube Technology, XTC. Speakers - Audio Artistry, Audio Physic, Harbeth, Magneplanar, Lumley, Mirage, NEAT, Spendor, 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, Shearman 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.

## BER SHIRE

**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.

## BIRMINGHAM

**GRIFFIN AUDIO**, 94 Bristol Street, Birmingham. Tel (0121) 692 1359/(0121) 622 2230. Please see full entry under West Midlands

**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. Appts 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 HJL. Tel (0121) 742 0254. 156-157 Lower High Str, Stourbridge, W Midlands D18 1TS. TEL (01384) 444184.

**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 in-store 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

## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

**NORTHWOOD AUDIO II**, 98 Cambridge St, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1BA. Tel (01296) 28790 (A/P). Selected sounds from Alchemist, Audio Mecca, Aura, Boston, B&W, Cabeltalk, 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.

**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.

## CHESHIRE

**ACOUSTICA**, 17 Hoole Rd, Chester CH2 3NH. Tel (01244) 344227. Arcam, Linn, Naim, Rega, Ruark, KEF, Micromega, Epos, Rotel, Royd, Teac etc. Full demonstration facilities, home dems and installation a pleasure. INTEREST FREE CREDIT (subject to status). Open Tuesday to Saturday, evenings by arrangement. For the best products and the best service, call ACOUSTICA.

**ACTION GATE AUDIO**, 4 Ruabon Rd, Wrexham. Tel (01978) 364500. Demonstration room, installation service. Easy parking and motorway access. Access, Visa etc. See main entry under CLWYD.

**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.

**AUDIO COUNSEL**, 14 Stockport Rd, Cheadle, Cheshire. Tel (0161) 428 7887. Please see entry under Greater Manchester.

**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.

**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\*\*\*\*

**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

**HALE HI-FI**, 2 Bold St, Hale Road, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 2ER. Tel (0161) 929 0834. Open Tues-Sat 10-6 and later by appointment. Specialising in equipment by: Castle, Marantz, NAD, Naim, Quad, Royd, Yamaha plus selected others. Large range of quality accessories. On site service department. Installation & delivery. We also install and service TVs and videos. 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.

**REPLAY AUDIO CONSULTANTS**, Tel/Fax CHESTER (01244) 401290 Cheshire's alternative hi-fi specialists. Honest advice and personal service. We can demonstrate Alchemist, AVI, Henley, Heybrook, LFD, Michell, Moth, Musical Fidelity, Neat, Origin Live, Ortofon, Pink Triangle, Royd, Sonneteer, Totem, Trichord, Yamaha. Demonstrations by appointment in Chester or in your own home. Delivery and installation available. Mastercard/Visa/Switch/Delta.

**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 Phylsopy Cables, Parasound, Project, REL, SME, Thorens, Triangle, Trichord. Demonstration facilities by app. Home trials, friendly service available 7 days anytime.

## 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.

**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.

## DORSET

**DAWSONS**, 23 Seamoor 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, Shearman 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.

**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.

**SUTTONS HI-FI**, 18 Westover Road, Bournemouth. Tel (01202) 555152. 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.

**WEYMOUTH HI-FI**, 33-35 Maiden Street, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 8BA. Tel (01305) 785729. Arcam, Aura, B&W, Denon, Kenwood, Marantz, Micromega, 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

## 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 25 years. Expert advice. Friendly service.



INDICATES MEMBERSHIP OF THE BRITISH AUDIO DEALERS ASSOCIATION

## 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, Shearman, 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, Michell & 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 A/V 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**

## 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 surround sound dem studios. Winner of Southern England Sony/Hi-Fi News Dealer Awards. Projection TV with 8ft Screen. Thurs late, closed Mon (except in Dec). 2yr guarantee, service dept. On site free parking, junctions 4 (M27/M3), 5 (M27), 12 (M3), 13 (M3) all within 3 miles. **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, Seleco, 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 Southern 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.

## 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, Shearman,

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 Moitor, 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. Hert's premier Hi-Fi/AV specialists est. 1946. Full Home Cinema demonstration suite. Whether your needs are large or small, we stock it all; Arcam, Yamaha, Quad, Denon, Sony, B & O, Pioneer, REL, JVC, KEF-Reference, Mission-Cyrus, Ruark, Celestion, Polk, and many more. Free delivery and installation. Open 9-6 Mon-Sat. **BADA**

**DAVID ORTON AUDIO VISUAL** 6-8 Bancroft, Hitchin, Herts, SG5 1JU Tel/Fax (01462) 452248. Stockists of Apollo, Arcam, B&W, Celestion, Denon, Marantz, Mission, Pioneer, Rotel, Ruark, Soundstyle, and many others. Hi-Fi listening room and A/V dem. room. Workshop off premises, free installation, home trial, Access, Amex, Visa, Diners, Interest free and instant credit. Open 9.30-5.30 Mon-Sat.

**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 MOSFETS), LD, CD 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** (Harpending) 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**

## KENT

**ASHFORD SOUNDCRAFT HI-FI**, 40 High Street, Ashford. Seeking music 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.

**HALKSWORTH WHEELER**, 34 Guildhall Street, Folkestone Tel (01303) 255688. See previous entry.

**LINN STUDIO**, 123 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent, CT17 9AP. Tel (01304) 201525, Fax: 01304 240135. Sondek LP12\*, Knekt\*, Karik\*, Kairn\*, 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.

**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.) **TM 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. Open Sundays. **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 9HB. 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 A/V 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

**CYMBIOSIS**, 6 Hotel Street, Leicester, LE1 5AW Tel (0116) 262 3754 Facsimile (0116) 262 3758. Arcam, Audiolab, Denon, Epos, KEF, Linn Hi-Fi, Linn AV51, Loewe Televisions, Micromega Stage, Micromega Classicline, Mordaunt Short, Myriad, Projekt Furniture, Rega, Rotel & Royd, Multiroom Design and Installation Service. 4 Listening Lounges. Finance available. Open 6 days 10 am-5.30pm **BADA**

**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**

**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

**ANALOG STUDIO**, 849 High Rd., London N12. Tel: 0181 445 3267. We stock Harman-Kardon, Rotel, Denon, Teac, Pioneer, Jamo, Boston, Thorens, JBL, Yamaha, Tannoy, Kenwood, TDL and many more. Access, Barclaycard etc welcome. We also specialise in car stereos and alarms.

**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. Appts 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.

**GRAHAM'S 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**



INDICATES MEMBERSHIP OF  
THE BRITISH AUDIO DEALERS  
ASSOCIATION

**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 -HX. 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, W1M 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, Acoustic 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.

## 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 AV 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 HARVEY HI-FI EXCELLENCE**, 163 Spon Street, Coventry. Tel (01203) 525200 Fax (01203)

631403. E-MAIL: frank@hiflex.demon.co.uk 4000sq feet on 3 floors of the very Best Hi-Fi. 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. **BADA**

**MUSIC MATTERS**, 351 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B17 8DL. Tel (0121) 429 2811. Tue-Thur 10.30-6, Fri 10.30-8, Sat 10-6. Branches also at: 93-95 Hobs Moat Road, Solihull, W Midlands B92 HJJ. Tel (0121) 742 0254. 156-157 Lower High Str, Stourbridge, W Midlands D18 1TS. Tel (01384) 444184. See main entry under Birmingham **BADA**

**SOUND ACADEMY**, 152a High Street, Bloxwich, Nr Walsall, W. Midlands Tel (01922) 493499/473499. Please see entry under BIRMINGHAM. **BADA**

## NORFOLK

**AUDIBLE DIFFERENCE**, 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. **BADA**

**BASICALLY SOUND**, The Old School, School Rd, Bracon Ash, Norwich NR14 8HG. Tel (01508) 570829. Audio Alchemy, Arcam, Audiolab, Beyer, Cabletalk, Chord Co, Opera speakers, 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-Fri 9.30-1, 2-5.30. All day Sat **BADA**

**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**

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

**AUDIOCRAFT**, 23-25 Dergate, 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, Hamon Kardon, Heybrook, JBL, KEF, Kenwood, Marantz, NAD, Oreille, Pioneer, Rogers, Rotel, Shearman, Suggden, Tannoy, Yamaha and many more. Home trial, free installation, service department. All major credit cards. Open 9.30-5.30pm. **BADA**

**LISTEN INN**, 32 Gold Street, Northampton. Tel (01604) 37871 Linn, Naim, Rega, Audiolab, Arcam, Mission, KEF, Epos, Royd, Nakamichi, Micromega, Minium, Myrrayd, 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**

**OUVERTURE**, 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. **BADA**

**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. **BADA**

**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, Suggden, 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. **BADA**

## 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 & C.D.'s stocked. **BADA**

**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, Audiolab, B&W, Cable Talk, Celestion, Cyrus, Denon, Dyaudio, 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 Bonded. Serious hi-fi shops - Silly prices! **BADA**

**OUVERTURE 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 apts nec, service dept, free install, home trial. Access/Visa, instant credit. Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 9.30-5.30. **BADA**

**OXFORD AUDIO CONSULTANTS**, Cantay Hse, Park End Street, Oxford OX1 1JE. Tel (01865) 790879 Fax (01865) 791665. Quad, Denon, Spendor, 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. **BADA**

**WESTWOOD AND MASON**, 46 George St, Oxford. Tel: (01865) 247783. Celebrating 50 years in high fidelity. In 1947 (it would probably sell well today) this year's landmark is the Rega Planet CD. Arcam, B&W, Denon, KEF, Klipsch, Marantz, Mission, Naim, Rega, Yamaha etc. Open 10-5pm. Dem room. Closed Thur. Mastercard/Visa. **BADA**

## SHROPSHIRE

**CREATIVE AUDIO**, 9 Dogpole, Shrewsbury. Tel (01743) 241924. One of the largest ranges of quality hi-fi/audiophile visual equipment outside of London. Arcam, Audiolab, 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, Shanhinian, 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)**

## 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, Audiolab, 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, Shanhinian, 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 9-9pm. Linn, Rega, ProAc, EPOS, Rotel, Audiolab, 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, Audiolab, 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, Audiolab, Audioquest, Beyer headphones, Bose, Cabletalk, Denon, KEF Reference, 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, Shanhinian, 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, Seico, 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**, 66/67 Upper North Street, Brighton BN1 3FL. Tel (01273) 775978 Fax (01273) 748419 Email: email@powerplant.co.uk Whatever your budget we can help you choose from our carefully selected range of today's finest hi fi and home cinema equipment. Recommended agencies include Arcam, Audiolab, AIC, B&W, B&O, Cyrus, Exposure, Epos, Linn, Marantz, Micromega, Mark Levinson, Pro Ac, Rega, QED Systemline, Yamaha. Excellent demonstration facilities, Knowledgeable and Friendly Staff. Multi Room specialist, CEDIA member. Open Tues - Sat 10am-6pm late evenings by appointment. All major Credit Cards. Full Credit facilities.

## 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, Audiolab, Cabletalk, Castle, Cyrus, Epos, KEF (inc. Reference), Linn (inc. AV51), Marantz, Mission, Naim, Pioneer (inc LaserDisc), Quad, Rel, Rotel, Sennheiser, 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. Matrx), 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, Shearman, Spondor, Tannoy, Thorens, Yamaha.

## WARWICKSHIRE

**SOUNDS EXPENSIVE**, 12 Regent Str, Rugby. Tel (01788) 540772. Arcam, Audiolab, 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

## WORCESTERSHIRE

**WEST MIDLANDS AUDIO**, 158 Ombersley Road, Worcester WR3 7HA. Tel (01905) 58046. Audiolab, 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 (EAST)

**ZEN AUDIO**, 35 George St, Hull. Tel (01482) 587397. Comfortable listening rooms; Home dems; Personal, friendly service; Free installations. Agencies include: Acoustic Energy, Arcam, Aura, Audiolab, Atacama, Audio Note, Audion, 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, NAD, NAIM, Pioneer, Pro-Ac, REL, Rehdeko, Rotel, Royd, Ruark, Shearman Audio, Stands Unique, Sugden, Spondor, Sonic Link, TEAC, Tube Technology, Unison Research... and many others.

## YORKSHIRE (SOUTH)

**HI-FI STUDIOS**, Sunnyfields, Doncaster, DN5 8SA. Tel (01302) 781387. TDL, Audio Alchemy, Sugden, Audiolab, Electrocompaniet, Proac, Ruark, Castle, Teac, Unison valves, Impulse Horns, Apogee, Stemfort, 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, Holif, 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, Audiolab, 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. Mastercard, Visa, Switch, Delta. Open 9-5.30.

**CLEARSTONE (FORMERLY ERICSSON)**, 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, Audiolab, 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.

**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. Lead's 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



INDICATES MEMBERSHIP OF  
THE BRITISH AUDIO DEALERS  
ASSOCIATION

# DEALER Directory

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

### 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

**GLASGOW ANALOGUE STUDIO**, 3 Boghead Road, Lenzie, Glasgow G66 4EG Tel (0141) 776 3642. Illusion of music systems for the vinyl enthusiast featuring turntables, arms and cartridges from Nottingham Analogue, amplifiers from Croft and loudspeakers from Dantax. Experience the beauty of music in our relaxed and friendly listening room. Demonstration by appointment only. Free installation anywhere in Scotland.

**LOUD & CLEAR**, 520 St Vincent St, Finnieston, Glasgow, G3 8XZ Tel (0141) 221 0221 - not just another hi-fi shop, combining friendly advice with specially selected products and the keenest prices. Three comfortable demonstration rooms, full service and installation facilities, interest free credit available on selected products. Naim, Exposure, Alchemist, Marantz, Denon, Rotel, Teac, Systemdek, Aiwa, Kef, Tannoy, TDL, Mordaunt Short, Royd, Epos. Mon-Sat 10am - 6pm. Thurs 10am - 7pm. Complimentary parking at PC World, Finnieston St.



**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 Bamton 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.

**ACTON 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, Sendor, 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

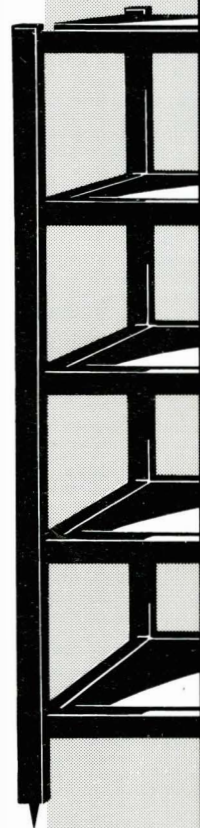
### DUBLIN

**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

**DUBLIN 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

APRIL 1997

£2.50

## **SUPERSTUD!**

Can the new designer drugs make you harder?

**'YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THIS DOC, BUT...'**  
Bizarre sexual accidents

**'HIPPIES? LOSERS!'**  
The dropouts who dropped back in

**HELL'S BELLES**  
Women to avoid at all costs

**HOW TO...**  
Lose a stone  
Land a plane  
Dance at a party  
Flog a dead car

## **OH, EMMA!**

We're ready for your close-up now, Miss Noble...

**PLUS!**  
THE  
GREATEST  
SPORTS  
PHOTOS  
OF ALL TIME



**AND...** Kate Winslet Jonah Lomu U2 Outdoor wear Juliet Binoche Hoovers Ostriches

*On sale now*

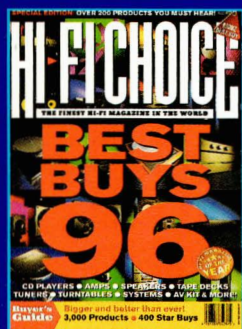


# BACK ISSUES

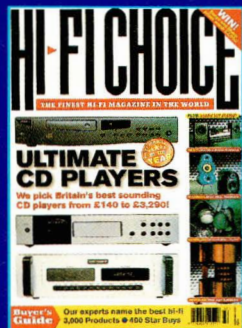
Missed *Hi-Fi Choice* the first time round? Don't worry! Selected back issues are available for just £4.00 (UK) or £6.95 (rest of world), including p&p. Stocks are limited, so place your order today!



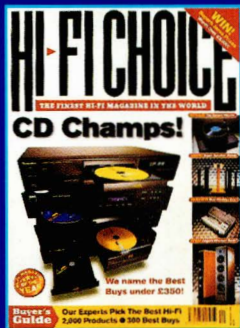
**OCT 1996/ISSUE 158**  
 ■ EISA European Hi-Fi Awards  
 ■ 5 Phono cartridges, £150 to £700  
 ■ 8 Cassette decks, £160 to £350  
 ■ Copland CDA-288 CD player



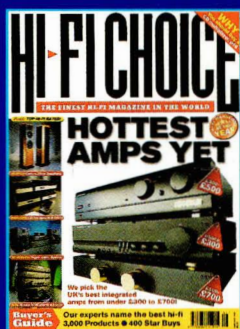
**BEST BUYS '96/ISSUE 161**  
 ■ Full listing of 1996 Best Buy, Recommended and Award-Winning equipment



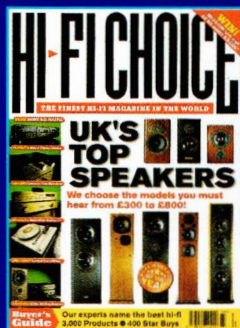
**FEB 1997/ISSUE 163**  
 ■ Free MiniDisc magazine  
 ■ 20 CD players, £140 to £3,300  
 ■ 5 Headphones, £140 to £1000  
 ■ 5 Designer speaker packages



**NOV 1996/ISSUE 159**  
 ■ 14 CD players, £100 to £350  
 ■ 10 Speaker stands, £40 to £550  
 ■ 5 Turntables, £500 to £1,400  
 ■ SD Acoustics SD-1E speakers



**JAN 1997/ISSUE 162**  
 ■ 14 Amplifiers, £200 to £700  
 ■ 5 Multi-CD players, £250 to £320  
 ■ 4 CD transport/DAC combos  
 ■ Meridian 502/557 pre/pwr amps



**MARCH 1997/ISSUE 164**  
 ■ 15 Loudspeakers, £300 to £800  
 ■ 6 Cassette Decks, £230 to £350  
 ■ 3 Turntables, £274 to £329  
 ■ conrad-johnson DR-1-D/A-2b

*Note: there are very limited numbers of some earlier editions. Call our hotline number for the latest availability info.*

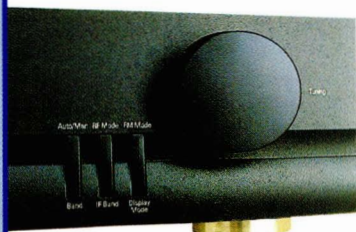
## HOW TO ORDER

It couldn't be simpler! Just call our credit-card hotline on  
**(01789) 490215.**

We accept AmEx, MasterCard and Visa credit-cards, plus Switch or Delta debit cards. An answering service is available outside office hours.

## NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE

### MAY'S HI-FI CHOICE — DON'T LEAVE THE NEWSAGENT WITHOUT IT!



#### TUNER SANDWICH

Sick of your CD collection? No shelf space to enlarge it? A whole new world of music and entertainment can be purchased for the price of a hot new tuner. Paul Messenger (listening test) and Paul Miller (lab test) take the radio challenge, checking out contenders from the likes of Arcam, Denon, Harman/Kardon (above) and Rotel. Mayonnaise, anybody?

#### SUPPORTING THE CAUSE

You've got your new sparkly hi-fi kit... now you need to supply the support it needs for maximum performance, and to keep the family pet at bay! Good equipment supports should be an integral part of even basic systems — Malcolm Steward susses out five of the latest, greatest racks on the scene.



#### DREAM CD PLAYERS

Don't miss our definitive survey of the sizzling £200 to £800 CD player market. Contenders include the long-awaited Pioneer PDS-505 Precision, Roksan's new Caspian, the highly-touted Marantz CD-67SE, TEAC's UK-tweaked CD-3450SE, Trichord's Revelation and the new CD-100 from Orelle (below)!



#### B&W NAUTILUS

We've been granted an audience with B&W's amazing Nautilus speaker (left), a no-compromise design that is unique in terms of style, technology, innovation — and sound quality. One of the hi-fi industry's leading CD player designers recently described the Nautilus as the world's ultimate speaker. Find out why in our exclusive report!

**HAVE HI-FI CHOICE DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR EVERY MONTH!**

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES START AT JUST £14.97 — SEE PAGE 28 FOR DETAILS!**

**THE MAY 1997 EDITION OF HI-FI CHOICE WILL BE ON SALE FRIDAY APRIL 4, 1997 — DON'T MISS IT!**

# Ultra Vivian Scene

David Vivian investigates a new black box in Musical Fidelity's X series: an HDCD DAC, it appears, for less than £300. The truth is out there...

**H**ere's how to produce a proactive audio accessory for the Mulder-and-Sculley-mad, hi-fi-sceptical late-'90s. First, kick off its name with a big, juicy 'X'. Next, make it look and feel like the living embodiment of 'technology': cylindrical, ribbed, weighty, sheen-smooth and nuclear-research-lab-expensive. (Under no circumstances must it be rectangular and black all over with a wobbly casing.) Third, keep it plug-in simple and set-up free; from zero to here-we-go in under a minute. Fourth, no matter how fascinating or innovative its design (and there are tweaky types who will need to know it uses a couple of valves, so don't conceal it), what really matters is that the widget improves the sound of the system. Ensure it does. And finally, sell it for a ridiculous, high-end mickey-taking £99.

It's the package that counts; the proficiency of the deal as perceived by the non-expert. See what you think, but apparently an off-the-peg upgrade for beer money has more appeal than a specified noise floor of -98dB (unweighted).

The Musical Fidelity X10-D, featured in issues 158 and 159, complies with all of the above criteria — and that's why it's cool. It's marketed not as some grubby, hair-shirt item of digital ephemera, but as the epochal "missing link", the component for which your hi-fi has been crying out all these years. It even comes in a shiny silver cardboard box with a flap, so the retailer can hang it on a rack like a toothbrush.

As such, it has sold to those people who, presumably, would cross to the other side of the road rather than converse with an earnest sales beard in a sweatshirt, about a valve line-stage buffer interface "that improves the performance of your CD player by presenting it with a theoretically perfect and absolutely consistent load thus allowing its output stage to realise its maximum potential".

Anyone who's held onto a CD player but changed amp and interconnects will know the dramatic effect these can have on the player's performance. The X10-D's job is to eliminate these potentially harmful variables and optimise the CD player's contribution to the overall sound. It's not quite that simple, of course — for reasons that Paul Miller explained in issue 158, the X10-D's effect can be as variable as those it's trying to purge. That said, our tests suggest it helps more

often than it screws up, and therefore — with the proviso that you audition with your system before you buy — the X10-D is definitely reckoned to be a force for good.

But there's more. Buoyed by positive reaction to that 'CD buffer', MF has now launched the matching X-DAC. And in months to come there'll be an X-rated phono stage, headphone amp and pre-amp; later, even monoblok power amps! In the X-DAC as in the X10-D, the main draws are cute looks, simplicity and implied paralysis of rival products' credibility through audacious

be gleaned by special circuitry, which reads a buried control channel hidden in part of the audio signal.

Most of the heavy-duty processing happens at the encoding (recording) stage, so obviously you need specially-encoded HDCD CDs to realise these advantages. At present these are few and far between, but the catalogue is growing, and the best place to start is by getting in touch with May Audio Marketing (UK) Ltd on ☎ (01535) 632700.

The decoding circuitry in the DAC is comparatively simple, and can be contained on a single chip. It isn't cheap, though, hence the £299 price-tag. The next DAC in the X-range, X-ACT, will be identical to the X-DAC, but will cost £100 less by omitting HDCD.

So what's the benefit of Musical Fidelity's new tubed tube? The proving ground was one perfectly likable £400 Pioneer PD-S904 CD player, untweaked, hooked up to a Pioneer A-300R Precision amp, and a pair of B&W CDM1 speakers secured to 24-inch Slate Audio stands. Perhaps because of the Pioneer's Legato Link S-DAC conversion technology, the PD-S904 is unerringly easy to listen to (a rare occurrence for CD). At the same time, however — and how should I put this? — it's a little placemat.

It's got to the point where I'm thinking of having it tweaked by Tom Evans, the man who helped Pioneer realise the potential of the A-300R amp. In short, I want it to sound more like the £549 Trichord Genesis I've been listening to recently. Essentially the latter's a "clocked" cheapo Pioneer player that's smoother still than the PD-S904, but with just the right amount of treble brilliance, an almost holographically-three-dimensional soundstage (strong synergy here with the A300R Precision), and a sense of musical ebb and flow that makes the 904 sound a trifle stilted and mechanical.

You know what comes next. Can 904 with factor X (or even XX) match the Genesis? As I write I can't be sure. In two days I've determined that the X10-D alone sharpens up the Pioneer's sound — it doesn't make it better, just different. Together with the X-DAC, though, the transformation is total and amazing. Possibly gobsmacking. I just need a little more time to be sure. We'll delve deeper into the X-Files next month! ▲

Musical Fidelity ☎ (0181) 900 2866



value. Especially value. I agree with the idea that the newer the technology, the better it's likely to be, largely irrespective of price. Even so, this tube's stuffed with goodies that apply a severe warp to the £299 rules. Principal attractions are an 18-bit Burr-Brown "co-phase" DAC (that claims to marry the low-level resolution and smoothness of bitstream with the bass and timing of multi-bit); and a High Definition Digital Compatible (HDCD) filter chip with eight times oversampling.

Offering HDCD on a £300 DAC is something of a coup for MF. HDCD's not a new process, but up until now, it has tended to be the preserve of exotic DACs (mostly American) with four-figure price tags. HDCD is a CD-encoding process developed by Pacific Microsonics Inc of California, that adds extra 'psychoacoustic' information about a recording to the standard 16-bit, 44.1kHz signal. Ordinary CD players extract a proportion of this 'added' information but the full benefit of the HDCD process can only



# With Cinema DSP, you'll be amazed at what comes out of the woodwork.

Bats screech overhead. Wolves howl in the distance. And footsteps crunch across your living room floor.

No, it's not your imagination. You're hearing sounds placed around the room, just as the director intended.

All courtesy of Yamaha Cinema DSP. The home theatre technology that gives dialogue more definition. Music, more dimension. And sound effects, more graphic detail.

Only Yamaha Cinema DSP creates phantom speakers that fully replicate the experience you get in multi-speaker movie theatres. It sounds so real, in fact, you'll swear you hear sounds in places that you don't even have speakers.

As you might imagine, a breakthrough like this is no small feat. It's accomplished by multiplying the effects of Digital Sound Field Processing and Dolby Pro Logic.<sup>®</sup>

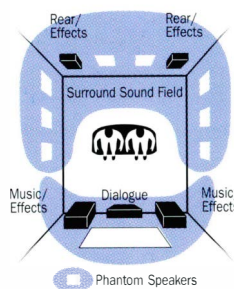
Digital Sound Field Processing is Yamaha's unique technology that electronically recreates some of the finest performance venues in the world. And Dolby Pro Logic is the technology responsible for placing sound around the room, matching the dialogue and sound effects with the action on the screen.

Together, these two technologies allow Yamaha to offer a complete range of home theatre components that outperform other comparatively priced products on the market.

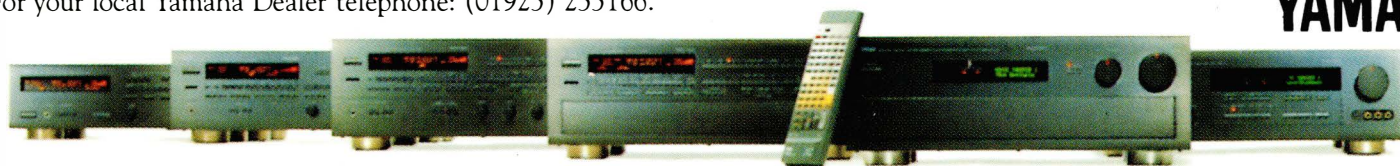
Stop by your local Yamaha dealer for what could be a very eerie demonstration. Maybe we can't talk you into a system, but that doesn't mean we can't scare you into one.

For your local Yamaha Dealer telephone: (01923) 233166.

**CINEMA DSP**<sup>™</sup>



*Only Yamaha Cinema DSP creates phantom speakers. It sounds so real, you'll swear you hear sounds in places you don't even have speakers.*



**YAMAHA**

Yamaha Electronics (UK) Ltd, 200 Rickmansworth Road, Watford, Herts. WD1 7JS. Dolby Pro Logic is a registered trademark of Dolby Laboratories Licensing Corporation.

**To: Yamaha Electronics (UK) Ltd, 200 Rickmansworth Road, Watford, Herts. WD1 7JS. Tel: (01923) 233166**  
Please send me full information on Yamaha Hi-Fi Components and A/V Range.

Name ..... Address .....

Tel. ....

Please state where you saw this advertisement .....

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 750 750  
<http://www.bwspeakers.com>



LISTEN AND YOU'LL SEE

