

BUMPER ISSUE! OVER 200 PRODUCTS YOU MUST HEAR!

**HI-FI CHOICE
BEST BUY**

HI-FI CHOICE

THE FINEST HI-FI MAGAZINE IN THE WORLD



**UK'S ONLY
INTERACTIVE
HI-FI BUYER'S
GUIDE p.33**



BEST BUYS 97



**WIN!
HI-FI SYSTEM
WORTH OVER
£3,000**

**CD PLAYERS ● AMPS ● SPEAKERS
TAPE DECKS ● TUNERS ● TURNTABLES
SYSTEMS ● CABLES ● HEADPHONES AND MUCH MORE!**

**Buyer's
Guide**

**Our experts name the best hi-fi
3,500 Products ● 400 Star Buys**



**ISSUE 173
CHRISTMAS
1997 \$2.99**

The B&W Nautilus has pioneered technologies which will shape the audio industry well into the next millennium.

Hollow pole magnets, exponentially tapered tubes and its characteristic shell eliminate cabinet resonances and make the Nautilus effectively a 'cabinetless' loudspeaker.



World players



Matrix™ 801

Gramophone

"Unequivocally a legend in its own lifetime."
Gramophone – Jan '96



CDM™ 1



"For a domestic loudspeaker that knows how to groove, our European Award is an honestly-bestowed plaudit."
EUROPE EISA – Aug '95



DM™ 601



★★★★★
"The 601s sound like the voice coils of God."
What Hi-Fi? – Nov '95



P™ 4

HI-FI CHOICE

"As a speaker that is all things to all people, the P™ 4 deserves a good long look. It sounds good and goes up to 11 on the volume control. Little wonder it won the British Hi-Fi award."
Hi-Fi Choice – Aug '96



Nautilus

"The B&W Nautilus is the most ideal speaker I have ever heard. It can be only limited or coloured by the sources, amplifiers and cables, without any coloration of its own. This is the best loudspeaker that money can buy."
Hi-Fi Review, Japan – 94/5

For more information contact
B&W Loudspeakers (UK) Ltd
on: +44 (0)1903 750 750
<http://www.bwspeakers.com>

B&W

Listen and you'll see...

At B&W, music is our very reason for being. In our search for the perfect music reproduction, we have pioneered loudspeaker technologies such as the separate tweeter housing, the Nautilus transmission pipes, the Matrix™ cabinet and the Kevlar® cone. These innovations symbolise all the dedication and love of music which have inspired B&W engineers ever since the company was established 30 years ago.

Today, B&W produce loudspeakers of class-leading performance through a unique blend of pioneering research, relentless pursuit of engineering excellence and traditional craftsmanship. Leaving you to enjoy your music exactly as it should be – with nothing added, nothing taken away.





B&W's Matrix construction uses sophisticated internal bracing to reduce both the amplitude and decay time of cabinet resonance, resulting in clear, coherent musical reproduction.



Matrix™ 801

The B&W Matrix™ 801 studio loudspeaker has been judged 'Speaker of the Year' by Audio/Video International for an unprecedented seven years in a row and is now used in more than 80 per cent of all recordings of classical music.

DECCA

*For more information contact
B&W Loudspeakers (UK) Ltd
on: +44 (0)1903 750 750
<http://www.bwspeakers.com>*

B&W







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.

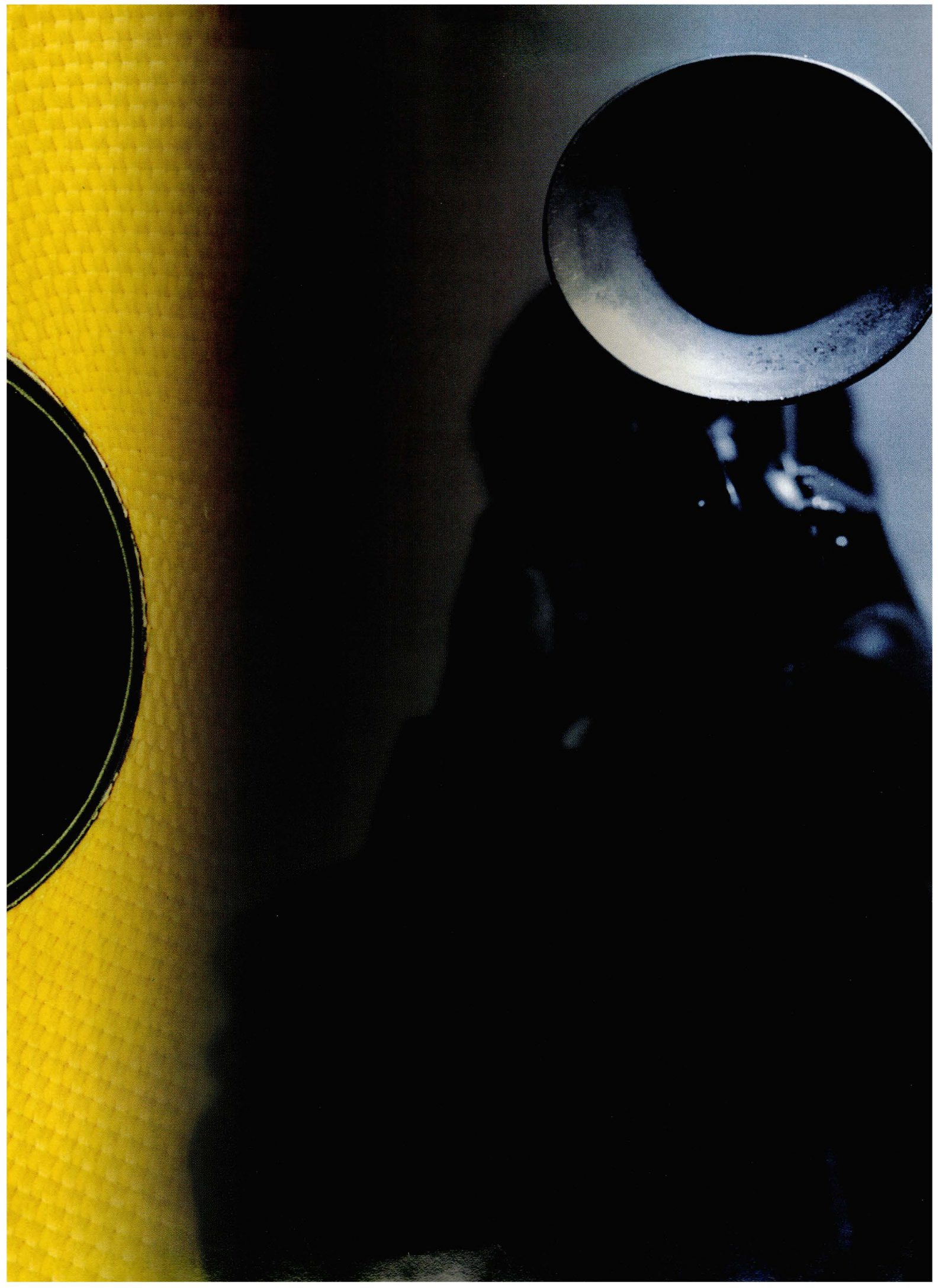


DM™ 601

"Soaring through the speaker market like a breath of fresh air, the DM™ 601's demand to be heard. Big and powerful sound with plenty of subtlety. Miss them at your peril."
What Hi-Fi? 5 Stars – Jun '96



*For more information contact
B&W Loudspeakers (UK) Ltd
on: +44 (0)1903750750
<http://www.bwspeakers.com>*



TEAC

You Could Always Get Brilliant Performance From A Mini.

The Mini was always synonymous with performance, whether it was the car or the fashion. And now there's another Mini which delivers unbelievable performance. The Reference 500 System from Teac. The sound quality of separates combined with the convenience of a Mini System. No other Mini comes even close!



"TEAC mini sets standards"
WHAT HI-FI, Jan 97

"All three sources sound big and confident, with an accuracy and delicacy more akin to separates than minis"
WHAT HI-FI, May 97

"In terms of its good looks, the system's asking price could just about be doubled"
Gramophone, Jan 97

Visit your TEAC Stockist for a demonstration or call TEAC on 01923 819630 for more information

500
TEAC



You Still Can.

DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES BEYOND THEIR CONTROL, OTHER MINI SYSTEMS WILL NOT BE DELIVERING THIS LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE

TEAC

Chief Musical Officers' Warning

EDITORIAL

● **Editor-in-Chief** ATW "Stan" Vincent
 ☎ 0171-917 7747 § e-mail: editor.hifichoice@dennis.co.uk
 ● **Deputy Editor** Jason Kennedy
 ☎ 0171-917 7746 § e-mail: deputy_ed.hifichoice@dennis.co.uk
 ● **Reviews Editor** Alan Sircom
 ☎ 0171-917 7751 § e-mail: reviews_ed.hifichoice@dennis.co.uk
 ● **Art Editor** Del Gentleman
 ☎ 0171-917 7748 § e-mail: art.hifichoice@dennis.co.uk
 ● **Production Editor** Christina Bunce
 ☎ 0171-917 7745 § e-mail: edprod.hifichoice@dennis.co.uk
Consultant Editor Paul Messenger • **Technical Editor** Paul Miller
Contributors Richard Black • Alvin Gold • Jimmy Hughes • David Vivian •
 Lynn Jones • **Assistant** Andrew Liasi • **Photography** Chris Foster

ADVERTISING

● **Group Ad Manager** Rob Debenham
 ☎ 0171-917 3834 § e-mail: ads.hifichoice@dennis.co.uk
Deputy Ad Manager Sean Gibson ☎ 0171-917 3932 • **Sales Executive**
 Clare Smith ☎ 0171-917 3935 • **Advertising Fax** 0171-917 5555 ☎

PRODUCTION

Manager Simon Maggs ☎ 0171-917 7676 • **Advertisement Controller**
 Robin Ryan ☎ 0171-917 3885 • **Production Fax** 0171-580 6430 ☎

CIRCULATION & MARKETING

Director Sean Farmer ☎ 0171-917 7654 • **Manager** James Burnay ☎
 0171-917 7810 • **Marketing Director** Alison Townsend ☎ 0171-917
 7675 • **Manager** Mary McGovern ☎ 0171-917 7768 • **Co-Operative**
Marketing Executive Paul Smyth ☎ 0171-917 3946 §
 e-mail: coop_marketing@dennis.co.uk • **Circulation & Marketing Fax**
 0171-917 7677 **List Rental Department** Simon McCay ☎ 0171-917 3943
 • **Neys Church** ☎ 0171-917 5663 ☎

MANAGEMENT

Publisher Simon Davies ☎ 0171-917 7718 § e-mail: publisher.hifi-
 choice@dennis.co.uk ☎ 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 ☎

Pre-Press Bureau Unidigital Elements, London W1 **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 7JH ☎

Company registered in England, number 1138891 ☎ Entire contents

of this issue © 1997 Felden Productions ☎ ISSN 09561115



● QUERIES (PAGE 24) AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Accepted by letter only to the fax number, e-mail or postal addresses given. We deeply regret we are unable to speak with readers or answer queries on the telephone.

● BACK ISSUES – SEE PAGE 151 FOR DETAILS.

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.

● SUBSCRIPTIONS – SEE PAGE 32 FOR DETAILS.

If you have a problem with an existing subscription, contact our fulfilment company on (01454) 620070, (01454) 620080 (fax), or e-mail 'cihot-line@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 we would request that manufacturers contact the editorial department first. 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. 142).

● 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 7JH. ☎ 0171-917 3946; e-mail 'coop_marketing@dennis.co.uk'.

● 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.

● OVERSEAS LICENSING ENQUIRIES

Hi-Fi Choice is available for licensing overseas. For details contact Bruce Sawford, International Licensing Director, on +44 171-917 5538; by fax on +44 171-917 7655; or by e-mail at 'licensdir@dennis.co.uk'.

Editor's Notebook



PHOTO BY SEAN BLOOMWORTH

Is hi-fi the last bastion of sanity in a world gone insane with electronic widgets? **Stan Vincent** invites you to find out . . .

By the time you read this, shops will be falling over themselves to sell you high-tech electronic toys in time for Christmas. I used to consider myself a gadget fan, but these days I'm bamboozled by the range on offer. Thank goodness for simple music and hi-fi!

This is our second annual Best Buys guide, which features all the best products we have reviewed in the past 12 months. Our swing-tags have singled out the finest hi-fi since this magazine was launched in 1975. Then, as now, sound quality is the criterion by which products are judged. Throughout this issue, you'll see small companies receiving their gongs on the same podium as the big guys.

What's special about Hi-Fi Choice?

No other magazine tests hi-fi as thoroughly as *Hi-Fi Choice*. First, a team of experienced listeners checks out CD players, amps or speakers under unsighted conditions — that is, without knowing which is which. Then, one of our highly experienced reviewers makes a longer acquaintance with every product, before every candidate undergoes a lab test in the hands of our Technical Editor, Paul Miller, using award-winning computerised equipment.

Our renowned testing régime is backed up by a comprehensive Buyers' Guide, which includes up-to-date prices for every

hi-fi product on the market, plus a listing of those we have reviewed. The fun begins on page 115. Meanwhile, our latest innovation is the *Hi-Fi Choice* Web site (www.hifichoice.co.uk), which offers an interactive hi-fi buyers' guide and buzzing chat areas. Full details on page 33.

I never knew there was so much in it

Every month we build on our review foundations with up-to-the-minute product and industry news, opinions, practical features and much more. Our list of subscribers is at an all-time high and our officially-audited circulation figure is also on the rise.

The DJ's Choice

With this issue UK readers have received a free copy of *DJ Choice*, which takes a broad look at the craze for home-grown music created with turntables, mixers and samplers. We regret we could not supply this supplement for overseas readers.

'Bedroom DJs' may be younger than the average *Hi-Fi Choice* reader, and their music may be hard to stomach for those of delicate sensibilities. But like it or not, they are the hi-fi enthusiasts of tomorrow. And guess what? Already they're having arguments about LP vinyl, CD and MiniDisc. Anyway, I reckon it's time armchair audiophiles wised up to the sounds of the street. *Enjoy your listening this month!*

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING WINNERS OF OUR SEPTEMBER COMPETITION!

IN THE POPE MUSIC COMPETITION THE CORRECT ANSWER WAS:

B) DYNAMIC FIDELITY. HERE ARE THE WINNERS:

15 First Prizes

(set of 10 CDs) to:

- M Arnold of London
- R Masterton of Tyne & Wear
- S Lyon of London
- J Beech of Oldham
- D Smith of Hull
- K Kibble of Dorset
- J Regueira-Fernandez of Herts
- P Baker of Barnstaple
- R Baines of Lancs
- R Robinson of E Yorks
- R Barnes of Nottingham
- S Mitchell of Nottingham
- M Gale of Dorset
- A Marsh of Kent
- D Noble of Hants

10 Second Prizes (Two CDs) to:

- J Ballard of London
- M Oakes of Essex
- S Ling of Middlesex
- J Snell of Kent
- P Kay of Penge
- M Collins of Lancaster
- J Hewett of Northumberland
- N Ferguson of Hants
- C Carrick of Bishop Auckland
- T Clarke of W Sussex

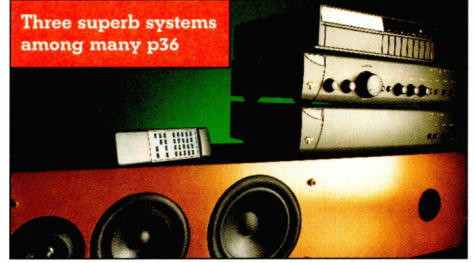
30 Third Prizes (Sampler CD) to:

- J Bannister of Warks
- G Beattie of Carloke
- A Shreef of Birkenhead
- N Pincott of Kent
- R Warden of Bristol
- I Burt of Surrey
- M Thomas of London
- L Thomas of Gwent
- P Watson of Cheshire

- Carl Hangsen of Berks
- D Latimer of Bristol
- E Wood of Gloucester
- J Weatheritt of Edinburgh
- H Platt of Cheshire
- M Taylor of Lancs
- Dr J Curran of Kingston-upon-Thames
- C Male of Wilts
- M Foscoe of Herts
- S Lopez of London
- M Winter of Midlothian
- P Nyles of Manchester
- A Turner of Lancs
- L Phillips of Glasgow
- N Yexley of Notts
- C Wakely of Wilts
- O Martin of Middlesex
- T Wrigglesworth of Surrey
- R Oldfield of E Sussex
- J Milne of Kincaldineshire
- S Mathieson of Tamworth



Three superb systems among many p36



CONTENTS

BEST BUYS 1997 ISSUE 173

Turntables p95



CD Players p48



Tuners p75



REGULARS

12 Best of Statements

A round-up of the sauciest products featured in the past 12 months' *Statements*.

24 Help!

Hi-Fi Choice's resident stereo shaman, Alan Sircom, is here to heal your audio ailments.

31 Ultimate Hints and Tips

Jimmy Hughes has words of wisdom for those just starting out in hi-fi.

36 Best of Instant Systems

Pass the Pick'N'Mix! Here are the highlights of the year's system reviews — tried and tested combinations of CD players, amps and speakers offering fully-formed hi-fi flavours.

OPINION & JARGON-BUSTER

9 From The Editor's Notebook

Stan Vincent gets the ball rolling and announces recent competition winners.

152 Choice Cuts

A year's worth of distilled wisdom and concentrated ideas from our esteemed columnists.

103 The Glossary

Amaze your friends! Astound them with your newly enhanced audio vocabulary using our comprehensive listing of hi-fi terminology.



Headphones p76



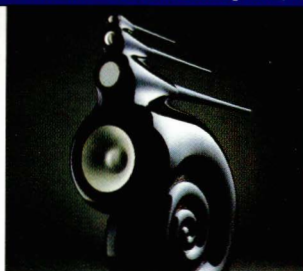
Cassette decks p77



Speakers p82



Amplifiers p62



PRODUCTS FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

Acoustic Energy AE 109.....86	Marantz PM-66SE.....69
Acoustic Precision Eikos.....13	Meracus Tanto.....56
Acoustic Precision Eikos FR1.....21	Meridian 502/557.....12
Acurus ACD11.....48	Meridian 506.....37
Alchemist Nexus ADP32A.....53	Meridian 518.....96
AMC 3025a.....41/65	Michell Argol/Alecto.....73
AMC 3050a.....65	Micromega Solo CDP.....23
AMC C08.....41	Mission 731 Pro.....83
AMC T7.....75	Mission 733i.....89
Amity HPA2.....73	Mission 753 Freedom.....36/84
Arcam Alpha 7.....53	Mission Cyrus dAD3Q.....49
Arcam Alpha 7 (tuner).....75	Mission Cyrus dAD3.....56
Arcam Alpha 8.....53	Muse Model 3/160.....15
Arcam Alpha 9.....65	Musical Fidelity A1001.....23
Arcam Alpha 9/9P.....37/64	Musical Fidelity A2.....50/69
Audio Gem Emerald.....86	Musical Fidelity A220.....71
Audio Note AN-Arm 1.....41	Musical Fidelity E1.....69
Audio Note AN-JL.....41	Musical Fidelity X-A50.....17
Audio Note Iq2.....41	Musical Fidelity X-CANS.....73
Audio Note OTD Phono SE.....41	Myryad MC-100.....56
Audio Note TT1.....41	NAD 114/214.....73
Audio Research CD2.....19	NAD 312.....63
Audio Research VT-100.....21	NAD 314.....36
Audiolab 8000CDM/DAC.....51	Naim CD2.....58
Audiolab 8000Q/M.....36	Naim CD3.....39
Aura CA200/PA100.....36/64	Naim Intro.....39/84
Avalon Avatar.....19	Naim Nait 3R.....39
AVI Positron.....43	NHT Superones.....84
AVI S2000 MC Ref.....43/53	Optimum Int. OPT 490.....81
AVI S2000MI.....43	Orelle CD-100ea.....58
B&W DM 305.....37/86	Philips CD 721.....37
B&W DM 603.....82	Philips Proscenar 4500.....99
B&W Matrix 804.....86	Philips SBC 3396.....76
B&W Nautilus.....15	Pioneer A-204R.....71
Beyerdynamic DT511.....77	Pioneer A-300R Precision.....63
Cable Talk Talk 3.1.....93	Pioneer CT-S550S.....79
Cambridge Audio A1 mk3.....37/39	Pioneer FX-Series.....97
Cambridge Audio A3i.....62	Pioneer PD-S505 Precision.....50
Cambridge Audio CD4SE.....37/48	Pioneer PDR-04.....21
Castle Isis.....86	Pro-Ject 2.....95
Celestion A1.....82	Proceed CDP.....15/97
Clarion VRX 8370R.....97	Quad 77 CD.....39/58
Conrad-Johnson A.R.T.....19	Quad 77 int.....39/71
Conrad-Johnson DR-1 D/A-2B.....13	Quad 77 Pre/Power.....64
Copland CSA8.....65	Quad 7710L.....39
Creek OBH-11.....73	Rega Hal/Exon.....73
Crimson CS610C.....43	Rega Planar 3.....95
Crimson CS630.....43	Rehdeko RK115a.....43/89
Cyrus SL.....67	Reson R51A.....43
Denon AVP-A1.....97	Rogers db101.....89
Denon DCD-3000.....55	Rogers Avanti C828.....89
Denon DCD-635.....48	Roksan AT-TP3P/DA2/DS5.....60
Denon DRM-650S.....79	Roksan Caspian int amp.....63
Denon PMA-250SE.....67	Roksan Caspian.....58
Denon PMA-350SE.....67	Roksan OJ3X.....89
Denon TU-425RD.....75	Roksan Attezza DP3P.....60
Densen Beat B-100.....67	Rotel RCD-970BX.....60
Densen DM-20/DM-30.....13	Ruark Crusader.....91
Dynaudio Contour 1.8 mkII.....87	Sennheiser HD545.....77
Frameworks H500/H175.....81	Sequence 400.....91
Gale 4i.....39/87	Solid Solutions.....99
Gale XL189.....93	Sonus Faber Concerto.....13
Goertz M2.....93	Sony CDP-X3000ES.....50
Grado SR225.....77	Sony CDP-XA50ES.....96
Harmon/Kardon HD 730.....55	Sony MDR-CD1700.....76
Harmon/Kardon HK 620.....37/62	Sony MDS-JA50ES.....96
Harmon/Kardon TU 950.....75	Sony SDP-EP9ES.....17
Heybrook Helios.....82	Sony TA-F448BE.....71
Jamo Concert 8.....97	Sound in Slate Sculpture 2.....23
Jamo Model 38.....36	Sound Organ Z560.....81
JBL L40A.....87	Stax Lambda Nova Basic.....76
JBL LX2.....83	Talk Electronics Storm 1.....73
JBL Simply Cinema ESC-300.....99	Tangent Monitor 3.....41
Jeff Rowland Concentra.....19	Tangent Monitor 9.....85
JPW ML1010.....87	Tannoy Definition D100.....36
JPW ML510.....83	Tannoy Definition D300.....91
JVC AX-SD1.....41	Tannoy Mercury M2.....85
JVC FX-SD1.....41	Tannoy Mercury M3.....85
JVC SX-SD1.....41	Teac CD-P3450SE.....51
JVC TD-SD1.....41	Teac P-30.....17
JVC XL-SD1.....41	Technics RS-AZ6.....77
JVC XL-V184.....55	Thomson DTH-1000.....15
Kenwood DP-4090.....49	Triangle Antal.....37
Kenwood DP-7090.....49	Triangle Zephyr.....43
Kenwood KX-W6080.....79	Trichord DT/PS1.....51
Keswick Audio Torino.....87	Trichord Genesis.....36
Kimber 4TC.....93	Wharfedale MFM-3.....91
Linn Linto/Arkiv.....21	Wilson Benesch ACT1.....12
Living Voice Aircscout/RW 24.....12	Wilson Benesch Actor.....17
Magnum IA120.....69	Yamaha CD-X890.....60
Marantz 63MkII KI SIG.....55	Yamaha KX-580SE.....79
Marantz CD-17 KI SIG.....36	YBA Integre CD.....43
Marantz CD-67SE.....56	YBA Integre DT.....43
Marantz PM-66 KI-SIG.....62/89	

READER SERVICES

32 Subscriptions

Why struggle through the winter weather to get your copy of *Hi-Fi Choice*, when you can get a postman to bring it for you instead? And you'll receive a free gift!

33 Hi-Fi Choice on the Web

Our Internet presence gains strength as our Web site becomes a must-see location. Find out how to join us in Cyberspace.

114 Reader Classified

Buy, sell or trade that fantastic bit of pre-loved hi-fi componentry in our highly-select portfolio of used hi-fi products.

142 FactsBack

The ultra-convenient and high-speed way to access classic *Hi-Fi Choice* Best Buy reviews and other stuff by return of fax.

151 Next Month & Back Issues

It's back to normal next month as we welcome in the New Year with a lump of coal, and find out how to get hold of any missed issues. Reserve your copy now!

THE BUYER'S GUIDE

115 The Price Guide/Directory

Our icon-driven listing of all things hi-fi includes an easy-to-use almanac of every product reviewed by *Hi-Fi Choice*.

BEST BUYS START HERE!

46 Best Buy Introduction

Welcome to our world-famous hi-fi tests, and this year's collected Best Buys and Recommendations.

48 Best Buy CD players

Full details of the hottest players we've reviewed this year — Best Buy and Recommended.

62 Best Buy Amplifiers

Our survey of today's best amplifiers is the essential jumping-off point for beginners and upgraders alike.

75 Best Buy Tuners

The ideal way to get music from the ether is to find a good quality tuner. We name the finest.

76 Best Buy Headphones

Our crop of class cans guarantees you the peak of in-head entertainment.

77 Best Buy Cassette Decks

MiniDisc may get the press, but the analogue cassette lives on — and here's why.

81 Best Buy Equipment Supports

Get rid of those breeze blocks, get that hi-fi off the floor and find the ultimate way to support your system.

82 Best Buy Loudspeakers

The year's crucial cones, best boxes and top tweeters are in these pages.

93 Best Buy Cables

Worried and waylaid by wrong wire? We weveal — sorry, reveal — the best speaker cables around.

95 Best Buy Turntables

Find out which of the latest, greatest turntables are worth spinning vinyl for.

96 EISA winners

Discover the brightest stars in 1997's European Constellation of hi-fi and home cinema equipment.

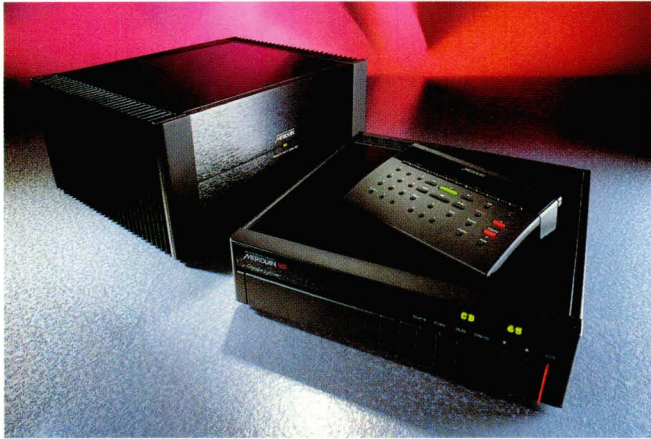
WIN!WIN!WIN!

34

Superb AVI system worth over £3,200!



Throughout the year in Statements, we investigate some of the more exotic and unusual products to arrive on the hi-fi scene. This special 'Best Of' compilation encapsulates a year's worth of glittering hi-fi prizes.



MERIDIAN 502/557 ISSUE 162

The new £1,295 502 Analogue Controller (preamp) and £1,400 557 stereo power amp have put Meridian's largely forgotten amplification back in the same league as its digital products.

The 502 Analogue Controller has four phono-plug and three balanced-line inputs, two pairs of single-ended tape outputs and a balanced and single-ended main output — many of these can be user configured. The 200 Watt 557 can even be adjusted for bridged mode operation. Once set up, the 502/557 is

remarkably user-friendly.

What makes it so good? Having 200 Watts or more on tap is a blessing when driving most loudspeakers, yet these Watts are not delivered with the sort of sluggishness often associated with big power. Likewise, the preamplifier — given a day or more of running in — has a remarkably fast and tidy persona that holds on to any style of music like a terrier.

It's far more transparent than you'd expect at the price. At any cost, this would be a good amplifier combination, but at this price, it is a true bargain.

Meridian Audio Ltd ☎ (01480) 434334

LIVING VOICE AIRSCOUT/RW24 ISSUE 163

Remarkable as it is (even by large domestic horn standards), the £19,500 Living Voice Airscout does have limited bass extension. Unsurprisingly, the only subwoofer that blends successfully with it is the £11,500 Living Voice RW24. The combination is expensive but very effective indeed.

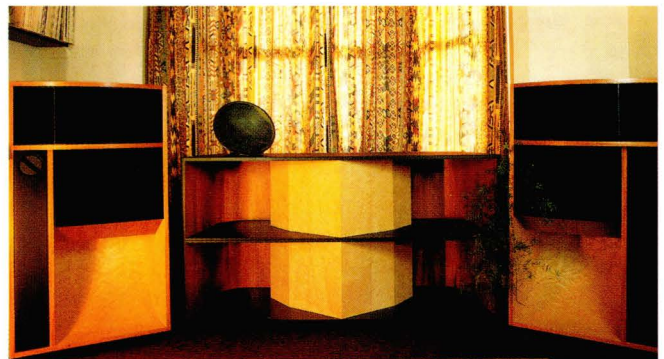
Efficiency is so high, a claimed 108dB broad-band for the combination, that a single (preferably valve) amp is perfectly capable of generating extreme volume levels.

What really strikes you about these speakers is their effortless

dynamics — regular speakers can't even begin to create this sort of power and scale without resorting to excessive levels or aggressiveness under duress. It's about energy. With these speakers you get an inherent strength out of the music, whatever level you listen at. Everything is there: full timbral colour, perfect timing, transparency without brightness and coherence like you wouldn't believe.

The RW24 is itself quite extraordinary. Only on substituting a box speaker do you realise how clean, uncompressed and natural it sounds. Don't expect to find a better speaker system than this one easily.

Living Voice ☎ (0115) 981 3562



WILSON BENESCH A.C.T. 1 ISSUE 162

The Wilson benesch A.C.T. One is an extremely elegant and remarkably compact three-way loudspeaker design. Its curved sides make it appear smaller than it is. In fact it stands over a metre tall and weighs in at 45 kilos. Wb's trademark carbon fibre is used for the curved side panels, giving the A.C.T. One a cross-section like the prow of a boat.

Build quality is first class, as it should be at this price (£6,857), and you'll be hard pressed to find speakers with the A.C.T. One's sonic capabilities

that are so attractive too.

These speakers excel in their lack of distortion. They can play John Zorn's *Naked City* at attack volume and come up smiling — partly a corollary of their outrageous transparency combined with clarity that's devoid of the slightest hint of glare. They got on very well with the Krell KAV 300i integrated amp which revealed their penchant for timing. This speaker will stop on a dime and start again exactly when it should, and has one of the cleanest presentations to emanate from a non-electrostatic design. Very fine.

Wilson benesch ☎ (0114) 285 2656





**CONRAD-JOHNSON
DR-1 CD TRANSPORT/
D/A-2B CONVERTER
ISSUE 164**

The £1,795 DR-1 CD transport and £1,995 valve-sporting D/A-2b (2b — 'tube', geddit?) converter aren't conrad-johnson's first venture into CD players, but they are among the company's more affordable efforts.

Both units are kitted out in classic c-j livery and have solid cases. Under both lids there is plenty of Philips componentry: a CDM12 mechanism sits inside the DR-1 for instance, but c-j has breathed heavily upon the entire transport package, having precisely adjusted the laser intensity and focus, as well as

adding a proprietary re-clocking circuit.

If a single word could describe the c-j equipment's performance, it would be 'real'. You get a real-world sense of scale to voices and instruments. The dynamics — both small and large scale — are palpable. Even the tonal balance makes for a natural and authentic performance.

Bass notes occur naturally without attracting the adverse attention that hampers musical enjoyment. If you can't live with the clinical nature of most CD players, but Krell and Wadia are out of your reach, conrad-johnson's DR-1 and D/A-2b combo may be the answer.

Audiofreaks ☎ (0181) 948 4153

DENSEN DM-20/DM-30

ISSUE 164

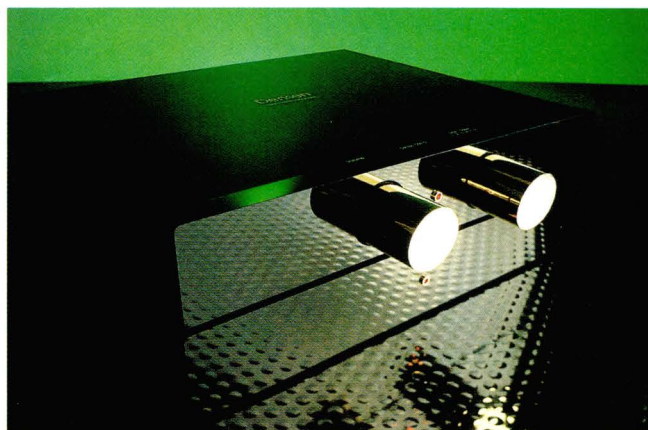
Three things you need to know about the Densen DM-20/DM-30 pre-power combo. First it is Danish; second, its styling is all gold knobs and stark minimalism; and third, its music making belongs to the 'rhythm and timing' school epitomised by Naim Audio. With added 'air guitar factor'. Nice!

The DM-20 preamp costs £1,250, has six inputs and four outputs and is accompanied by a separate £300 phono stage called the DP-01. The DM-30 power amp (also £1,250) pumps out 100 Watts, has two

inputs and two pairs of speaker outputs.

First impressions are of effortless resolution coupled with a slightly dark tonal balance. But you soon acclimatise to the tonal colour and begin to appreciate that the imaging is a lot better than with some highly-acclaimed kit at this price. Better still is that, above all, the Densens want to boogie. They manage to stop and start without emphasising the upper midrange. In fact, they resolve timbre very effectively. And they pass the air guitar test with flying colours. Most definitely amps to get down with.

Densen ☎ (01582) 561227



**ACOUSTIC
PRECISION EIKOS
ISSUE 165**

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, it emerges a thoroughbred.

The Eikos started life as a Pioneer PD-S904S, but underwent a transformation. There is now an Eliminator analogue output stage alongside an Acoustic Precision Superclock 3, and a host of components replace the line-fits, although the Legato-

Link S-DAC chip remains.

The Eikos pulls an astonishing amount of information off the disc. New-found lyrics emerged from discs; acoustics sprang up around recorded instruments; and underpinning everything was tight, quick bass.

This surfeit of resolution wrings intelligibility from difficult and dense material, yet enhances the joy of realism that a great recording can create.

So there you have it: the best source component we've heard to date and, at £1,850, it isn't silly money. This is definitely a can't-live-without-it product.

Acoustic Precision ☎ (01483) 267516

SONUS FABER CONCERTO

ISSUE 165

At £995 the Concerto is the middle model in Sonus Faber's Concert range. At 22kg and 15litres, it's no baby — but it is beautiful. At the heart of this two-way reflex design is a 20mm silk-dome tweeter, and a 180mm 'cellulose carbonium' woofer with a large dust cap.

Being a refined and transparent loudspeaker, the Concerto appreciates well-mannered partnering equipment. It excels

in the reproduction of refined music, making it sound natural and eloquent. Jazz ensembles, pianos, string quartets and solo voices are its forte.

By concentrating its talents, the Concerto is aiming for realistic reproduction; 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 alternatives at the price will sound crude or veiled by comparison.

And it looks the part, too!

Absolute Sounds ☎ (0181) 947 5047



All the best
from Ken Ishiwata



The CD-63MkII KI-Signature voted European CD Player of the Year



The PM-66 KI-Signature, voted European Amplifier of the Year



marantz®
PURE HIGH FIDELITY

TELEPHONE: 01753 680868
Visit our internet pages on
Internet: <http://www.marantz.com/marantz>

B&W NAUTILUS

ISSUE 166

What makes the B&W Nautilus cost £35,000? It's arguably the most elegant high-end loud-speaker available, but its extraordinary form results from an equally extraordinary function: the management of rearward radiation by means of exponentially-tapered transmission line pipes that protrude behind each of the four drive units.



In fact, the whole of the Nautilus is ingenuity personified. Its shape has incredibly low diffraction, allowing for maximum dispersion and thus a lot more 'in-room' sound than usual.

And what sound! It almost goes without saying that the sheer resolving power of the Nautilus will chew up and spit out less than the very best ancillaries, but get it right and the rewards are spectacular.

Or rather, they're not. What's so impressive is the sense of effortlessness, not slam or wow factor. It's more like the ease with which a racing car will corner compared to a regular car: understated and precise. Because of its transparency and the adjustability of its active crossover, the Nautilus almost transcends hi-fi. Anyone considering a Porsche should hear a pair of these first...

B&W Loudspeakers ☎ (01903) 750750

PROCEED CDP

ISSUE 167

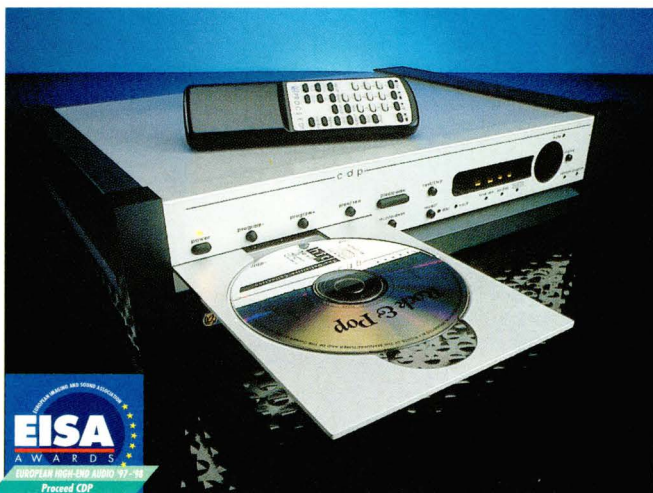
Proceed's £3,395 CDP integrated CD player, won this year's "European High End of the Year '97-'98" award from EISA. It's based around an 18-bit, dual-differential DAC, with an eight-times oversampling digital filter from the Pacific Microsonics HDCD stable. Words alone cannot describe the quality of this unit's construction. Well, perhaps one: awesome.

The CDP's sound holds true to family traits demonstrated in Mark Levinson CD players. In an odd way, however, it sounds even better than its stable-mates by demonstrating less overt 'character' than the more

up-market Levinson — less cerebral, more enjoyably musical. It still makes a good fist of gut-churning bass and treble clarity à la Levinson, but at the same time offers a sense of spontaneity lacking in the bigger components.

In tonal balance the Proceed is neutral to a fault, and this might be the stumbling block that debars its presence from unsuitable systems. But, in many ways, the CDP is the perfect high-end cure-all. It's a single-box CD player that provides almost everything you need from high-end audio, yet also retains the musicality more often found in less expensive players. In short, it is a star.

Path Premier ☎ (01494) 441736



MUSE MODEL 3/MODEL 160

ISSUE 166

If there's such a thing as a high-end bargain, the Muse Model Three/Model One Hundred Sixty pre/power combination is it. Even though the combined selling price of this combo is £4,285, it works out at under £27 per Watt. And these are big, scary American Watts. The £1,995 Muse Model Three is a

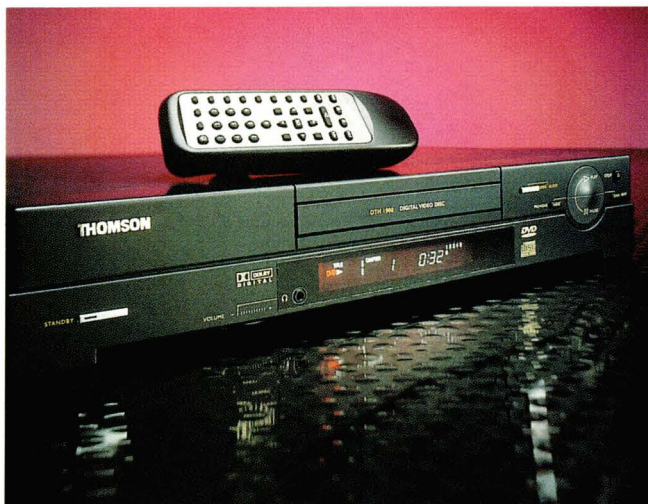


straightforward line preamplifier with three single-ended and two balanced inputs and exemplary build-quality. The case is solid aluminium. Inside, four circuit boards are virtually welded to the preamp.

The £2,290 Muse Model One Hundred Sixty power amplifier packs a pretty hefty 160 Watts with eight FET output devices aided by a massive toroidal transformer.

The Muse duo has remarkable transparency and grip. The preamp neither romanticises nor lays music bare. Its partner is one of the few big 'uns that can swing quicksilver dynamics like a three-Watt triode amp, while exercising the control and unforced power reserves of the serious behemoths. It even has rhythmic strengths to rival the best of British. A tasty duo that won't break the bank.

Audiofreaks ☎ (0181) 948 4153



THOMSON DTH-1000

ISSUE 167

DVD finally arrived on British shores in the guise of Thomson's £599.99 DTH-1000 player. One bugbear for audiophiles is that the DVD-Audio standard is still to be finalised. Many companies are keen that DVD-Audio should embody a 24-bit word length and 96kHz sampling rate (compared with CD's 16-bit word length and 44.1kHz sampling rate, which falls significantly short of perfection, according to some pundits.)

Meanwhile, Thomson's DTH-1000 uses more humble chips. With conventional CDs the player sounded thin, flat and pinched — below par even for a £100 CD

player. On this evidence the first DVD players will have to rely on their VHS-crushing picture-quality to part would-be buyers from their cash.

The audiophile jury is still deliberating DVD's potential for enhancing hi-fi music replay. But there is considerably less equivocation about the promise DVD holds for video and computer applications. There is so much potential in DVD that it would be a great shame if audiophiles missed out on the musical delights it promises. If DVD-Audio is allowed to reach its full potential, master tape quality will reach the home. But it's a big 'if'.

Thomson (c/o Ferguson) ☎ (0181) 344 4444

Do you really want just another Hi-Fi?



Or do you want NAD?



Big toy or big value?

If you're the sort of person who just likes to look at Hi-Fi, then we recommend the first option.

If, however, you demand the best possible sound at the best possible price, may we recommend your local AudioClub dealer who will be happy to give your eyes a rest and your ears a treat.

Contact us at the address below for more information on the complete NAD range.



15 Faraday Road, Dept. HW10
Aylesbury Buckinghamshire HP19 3RY
Telephone: (01296) 82017
E-mail: sales@nad.co.uk
Web: <http://www.nad.co.uk>

audioclub



SONY SDP-EP9ES ISSUE 168

With digital radio, satellite and terrestrial TV broadcasting waiting in the wings, a completely digital system could be a practical domestic proposition by the millennium. Such a system could easily be used with a single digital to analogue converter instead of one in each component.

Here it is. Sony's £599.99 SDP-EP9ES is a superb example of convergence: designed as an A/V processor preamp, it also blends the digital sources of hi-fi and home cinema.

The A/V part of the SDP-EP9ES is powerful and among

the most up-to-date available. It sports all the latest Dolby Digital and Dolby Pro-Logic surround processors and utilises digital-domain simulations of the sound fields found in Sony's Hollywood movie mixing theatres.

Being an all-digital system, with more or less the DAC section from the Sony CD player range, the SDP-EP9ES has all the smoothness and detail of these players. It also bestows a even-handedness and sense of consistency to all digital inputs.

Buy it now. When audio has matured into a full-bodied digital multimedia system, the SDP-EP9ES will be there waiting. Sony ☎ (0990) 111 999

TEAC P-30 ISSUE 168

No other Japanese CD manufacturer can match Teac's reputation for building epically-proportioned transport mechanisms. The new P-30, costing £2,499.95, serves only to fuel such a reputation. Built to near-military standards, the P-30 passes the beloved high-mass-audio tyre-kicking test with flying colours: weighing in at over 14 kilos, the P-30 is one of the heaviest CD transports around.

Behind the chunky, dark-champagne façade lurks a centre-mounted CD mechanism, the very latest heavy-duty Vibration-free Rigid Disc-clamp-

ing System (VRDS) transport designed by Teac itself.

Tried out with a selection of DACs, the P-30 performed seamlessly. Inevitably some pairings were more fortuitous than others: the Audio Note DAC-1 valve converter was a notable hit. There were dynamics aplenty and bass to keep any head-banger happy. The P-30 has almost no intrinsic character to colour the sound.

Only in the fabled 'boogie factor' stakes could the P-30 be marked down. This might be ascribed to its even-handedness, but it does seem to lack the raw, heads-down energy that the best players can do well.

Teac ☎ (01923) 819630



MUSICAL FIDELITY X-A50 ISSUE 169

Like all other offerings in Musical Fidelity's cylindrical X series, the £499.99 X-A50 monoblok power amps claim to give a performance out of all proportion to their size and price. Certainly the muscle-to-fat ratio is high: the claimed 50 Watt output is closer to 65 and the X-A50s can swing a terrific peak current of 23.9A. Difficult speakers are no obstacle.

Yet you'd never suspect their potential. Minimalist hardly describes it: a red LED, on-off switch, IEC socket, two sturdy

4mm binding posts and two phono sockets (one a line input, the other for bi-amplification via daisy-chaining).

From within those cylinders, however, the X-A50s perform magic. Hitched up to a pair of super-efficient speakers, the MF's have it all: amazing imagery, metronomic time-keeping and authentic dynamics. There's bass, there's treble — and there's music. It's a mark of good amps when the sound is not just a polite tableau but, instead, a three-dimensional entity barely contained by the speakers. At the price, these are a steal.

Musical Fidelity ☎ (0181) 900 2866



WILSON BENESCH ACTOR ISSUE 169

After Wilson benesch's very classy A.C.T. One (p12), comes the more affordable (£3,800) Actor. Shape, size and styling cues (curved sides, narrow back) are similar to the those of the ACT1 but simplified, with Wb's trademark carbon fibre composites nowhere to be seen. The effect is inevitably less luxurious. The three drivers are sourced from Scanspeak: the 130mm bass and bass-mid cones are made from a carbon-and-pulp-fibre plastic composite and the tweeter uses a 25mm doped-silk dome.

If build is beefy (each enclosure weighs 35kg), the sound is no less so. The Actor packs a real punch while also sounding lively, and driving the music along with gusto. It maintains exceptional control across a wide dynamic range. Bass is quick, weighty and well-timed and the slightly brighter-than-average balance lends an open-ness to the sound which is all the better for being exceptionally clean.

In the end, the Actor isn't as transparent and smooth as the

more expensive A.C.T. One, but it is a very fine speaker for the money, and can only enhance Wb's growing reputation.

Wilson benesch ☎ (0114) 285.2656



In five years' time,
your hi-fi could look like this.
But why wait five years?

At Kenwood, we see no reason why the ultimate hi-fi has to be, well... sci-fi.

So we invented Series 21.

It's every inch the home entertainment experience you'd expect from Kenwood.
But with a difference.

Because it's future ready, even formats that have yet to be established (like DVD)
will be able to be heard in six-channel Dolby Digital sound through those formidable
di-polar speakers.

Of course, set-up is simplicity itself - and operation even easier (thanks in the most part
to a bi-directional remote control).

And CD Text, Voice Activation and a motorised front panel make it great fun to live with.
Which means you're left with a choice.

Nip along to your local Kenwood dealer and view Series 21 today.

Or wait five years and see what our rivals manage to come up with.



Series 21 systems are available from around £499 to £1499, including
speaker packages. Model featured is the range-topping SE-A950S.

21
SERIES
Hear tomorrow, today.

KENWOOD
music to live for

AVALON AVATAR

ISSUE 170

In the US Avalon has long been one of the great high-end companies. Its most affordable floorstander is the £5,495 Avatar (£4,495 in black) which has a distinctive 'stealth' design finished in a rich, hand-sanded, book-matched, cherry or walnut veneer.

Each enclosure stands little more than a metre tall yet weighs a substantial 30kg. The driver complement comprises a



25mm titanium dome tweeter and a 200mm Nomex/Kevlar composite-cone woofer. It has a lowish claimed sensitivity of 85dB but a broad in-room frequency response of 45Hz-24kHz.

This speaker needs as many decent-quality Watts as you can throw at it. At least 100 will bring the speaker to life, but more is better. The Avatar possesses a unique ability to disappear sonically, which is a hard task for any speaker to perform, let alone a floorstander. It sounds effectively like one driver — treble, mid and bass blended seamlessly — and has that wonderful sense of naturalness that typifies the very best music. That's music and not just hi-fi, for the acoustic stuff begins to sound more natural than the electronic and makes you hungry for more.

Audiofreaks ☎ (0181) 948 4153

CONRAD-JOHNSON ART

ISSUE 170

The £15,000 Conrad-Johnson ART (Anniversary Reference Triode) line-level preamplifier is a celebration of c-j's 20 years at the high-end tiller, and is available only on a strictly limited (250-off), individually-numbered basis.

A single-ended design, it incorporates triode valves and a true dual-mono configuration. The control microprocessor is the only circuit shared between both channels: all other compo-



nents, even the mains leads, are duplicated on left and right. The microprocessor selects the necessary combination of Vishay resistor values for any desired volume level. Naturally, the ART preamplifier uses only the finest components throughout.

On first hearing the ART, the brain takes a while to compensate for the lack of coloration and blurring normally associated with preamplifiers. Soon it seems like a new reference point has been established. The ART transmits musical signals, unsullied, in a manner that many rivals claim to do — yet ultimately fail to deliver critical analysis. It's little wonder that those who've heard the true nature of the ART need little persuasion to buy it.

Unfortunately, if you want the very best, it might already be too late!

Audiofreaks ☎ (0181) 948 4153

AUDIO RESEARCH CD2

ISSUE 171

High-octane US CD players never used to equal home-brewed designs in our tests. But the CD1, from Audio Research Corporation (ARC), rewrote the rules by gaining Recommended status in HFC 163. Its replacement, the £3,399 CD2, looks a similarly classy act.

It has the same milled solid-aluminium fascia, the same big display and drawer, and the same big, bold styling. Audio Research classes the CD2 as a CD transport-player, believing it to be equally adept as a dedicated CD transport and a single-box

CD player, suffering less jitter than both the CD1 and the CDT1 transport it replaces. On the digital side, the built-in decoder is a differential 20-bit Delta-Sigma type.

The CD2's sonic skill lies in creating believable soundstage depth. In particular, jazz cuts from the early days of stereo manifested a deeply enjoyable visceral presence. In common with all of the world's finest CD players, the ARC CD2 is an elusive beast for a reviewer to describe, because it draws so little attention to its character. The sound has a 'rightness' that makes listening a pleasure.

Absolute Sounds ☎ (0181) 947 5047



JEFF ROWLAND CONCENTRA

ISSUE 171

Jeff Rowland's super-amps may not enjoy the high profile of those from Krell and Mark Levinson, but for construction quality and distinctive design, they're right on the money.

Which, in the case of the Concentra, a new integrated design, is £5,500. The bright alloy fascia is a minimalist delight, in all but the large, red LED volume display surmounting a solitary volume-control knob.

Outputs include balanced and regular pre-outs, and a pair of tape-out RCA phonos. Power output is quoted as 100 Watts

into eight Ohms or 150 Watts into four, and continuous current capability as 16 Amps.

The Concentra has the most delicate touch, and revels in nuances that previous amps have barely hinted at. It seems to exhibit almost fractal resolution: as you listen deeper and deeper into the mix, the music remains coherent throughout. And all this without resorting to a bright balance. Which means new insight into familiar material, and easier access to new or complex music.

Jeff Rowland's Concentra disproves the diminishing returns theory: in this case, more is most certainly more!

Musical Design Company

☎ (01992) 573030





THERE ARE SPEAKERS, AND THERE ARE GREAT ORATORS...

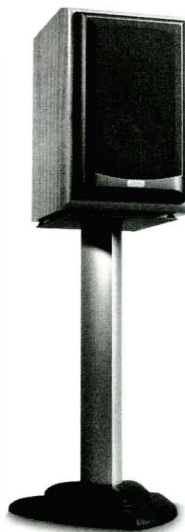
"In summary, the Concert 8 is one of the most advanced loudspeaker designs on the market today."

Hi-Fi World June 1997

"... the Jamos prove capable of wide open soundstaging, wonderfully free-breathing dynamics and a winning combination of glorious bass power with smoothly-integrated midband ambience and sweet, clear treble."

What Hi-Fi? April 1997 ★★★★★

"For the Classical listener, however, it can offer something that few other box loudspeakers



can: that insight into the music that we all desire but all too rarely experience."

GRAMOPHONE FEBRUARY 1997

"It is a true audiophile component that will bring out the best in high-quality partnering equipment."

EUROPEAN LOUDSPEAKER OF THE YEAR, EISA AWARDS 1997-98

A passion for music, technical excellence and attention to detail prove an irresistible combination in our Concert range of loudspeakers. Our engineers spend many painstaking hours of research to bring you the very best in hi-fidelity performance embodied in finely crafted cabinets.



To find out more, CALL FREE NOW on 0321 300316 (24 hours) for your FREE Jamo information pack.

<http://www.jamo.co.uk>

THE CONCERT 8 - A GREAT ORATOR FROM **Jamo**[®]



LINN LINTO/ARKIV
ISSUE 171

The Linn Sondek LP12 of the early '70s has become the Porsche 911 of turntables — perpetual and, to many, peerless. As Linn Products approaches its 25th anniversary it has chosen to celebrate by introducing two new products that will keep the turntable's flame burning bright.

The re-worked £1,200 Arkiv cartridge features a boron cantilever with a more highly developed stylus shape. And to get the most out of it there's the £850 Linto direct-coupled phono stage.

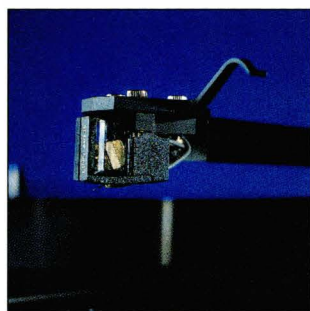
Used on a 1997 LP12 with Trampolin baseboard, Lingo power supply and Ekos arm, the new Linn cartridge approaches the accuracy of the classic

Ortofon moving coils, while combining the speed and timing of the original Arkiv with the naturalness of Linn's top '80s MC, the Troika.

The Linto phono preamp's sound is actually reminiscent of the Linn CD player and tuner: very dry, accurate and possessed of quicksilver treble detail and timing. In less than a minute you'll hear levels of detail hitherto unperceived from turntables through normal Linn electronics.

Both products offer a quantum-leap forward for those who are wedded to the Linn sound and want more of the same.

Linn Products ☎ (0500) 888909



ACOUSTIC PRECISION
EIKOS FR1
ISSUE 172

If you're into the philosophy of phase linearity as preached by Tom Evans, these speakers have your name written on them. The other names that matter are these: Ted Jordan engineered the 92mm broad-band metal cone driver; while Paddy Hanscombe, of Electrofluidics, designed the cabinet. Evans brought it all to fruition under the Acoustic Precision banner.

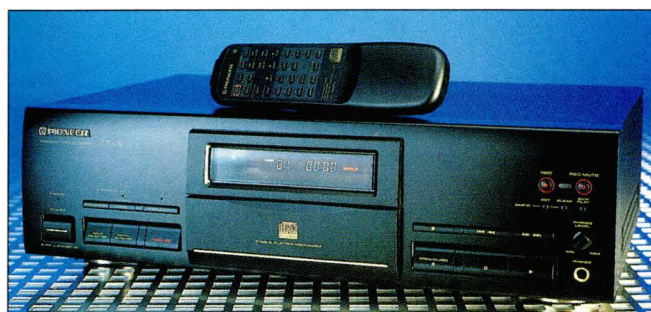
The £799 FR1 is an incredibly simple design. It has only two components: a controlled-flexure aluminium cone that requires no

crossover; and a compact high-density, low-mass cabinet. The finished speaker weighs only three-and-a-half pounds, yet its walls are 30mm thick.

Coloration and resolution are the key words here — the absence of the former and the unprecedented abundance of the latter. To describe this speaker is to describe the music and equipment playing through it. Within its frequency range and at normal listening levels, it knows no peer. It has speed, coherence, timing, imaging, dynamics and transparency.

With the Eikos FR1, you can hear more of the music.

Acoustic Precision ☎ (01483) 267516



PIONEER PDR-04
ISSUE 171

Despite MiniDisc, an affordable, recordable CD system has long been the Holy Grail for those who like to make up their own compilations of favourite tracks. So clearly a CD transcriber for £699.95 is big news — and that's exactly what Pioneer has supplied in the guise of the PDR-04.

Recording via a digital interconnect from another CD player is easy: the recorder automatically gets going when it 'hears' the signal come down the line. Levels are set automatically and you can burn in one track at a

time or all of them in one go. The sound quality of recordings is impressive. The PDR-04 recreates all the bandwidth, dynamics and subtleties of the originals.

As a CD player the PDR-04 is a smooth operator in the Pioneer-Japan style. It's as clean as a whistle if just a little relaxed for British tastes.

Is it possible for a £700 product to put CD-R on the map? Time and the market alone can tell. One thing's certain: it knocks cassette tape and MD for six in the coolness stakes.

Pioneer High Fidelity (GB) Ltd
☎ (01753) 789 500



AUDIO RESEARCH VT100
ISSUE 172

The mighty reputation of Audio Research Corp (ARC) of Minneapolis is built around top-class valve amplifiers. And the all-valve £4,390 VT100 power amp, which uses circuitry developed for the Audio Research Reference Series flagship products, carries the flag high.

As you would guess from the numbers in its name, the VT100 is claimed to be a 100 Watt design that delivers its power output in Class AB. It operates in true dual-mono operation back to the main power transformer.

The output transformers are said to be ultralinear and comfortable with difficult loudspeaker loads.

If you're of the opinion that valve amplifiers are warm-sounding and not exactly neutral, the VT100 will come as a bit of a shock. It seems content not to over-emphasise or exaggerate, yet neither does it underplay the life in the music. Play an album, and if it is well-recorded it will sound fantastic; but this amp will do nothing to glamorise a poor recording.

If you seek fidelity in your system, this is one of the power amps to beat.

Absolute Sounds ☎ (0181) 947 5047

This is not a quiet revolution.

This is a heart-thumping,

ear-crunching, blood-racing,

spine-tingling, hair-raising,

ground-shaking,

adrenalin-pumping kind of revolution.

This is the Mercury revolution.

This is Tannoy.



The new Mercury range. **TANNOY**

Call 01753 680868 or visit your local hi-fi specialist and hear the new Mercury range of speakers for yourself.



MICROMEGA SOLO ISSUE 172

In all respects, the new Micromega Solo (£2,750) is very different to its predecessor. Aficionados of the French brand will recognise the distinctive top-loading mechanism with clear acrylic cover, but the new model features a centrally-mounted CD mechanism and single-piece casework.

Customised Philips components take the major roles in the Solo. A die-cast CDM12 industrial-quality CD mechanism (fitted with a unique floating suspension) reads the disc, and a TDA1547 (DAC7) chipset beats at the heart of the machine. It's deployed in conjunction with an eight-times-oversampling digital filter and fourth-order noise

shaper, and uses Micromega's own 'low-phase-noise master clock' oscillator.

The Solo produces a mid-band bereft of digital unpleasantness with astounding transparency. There is a touch of fine granularity to the treble that might offend some classical tenderhearts, otherwise the sound is wonderfully musical with well-proportioned bass lines and a sense of charming naturalness. Add to this a bouncy, infectious sense of rhythm, and that expansive, lyrical mid-band, and you have CD sound of the highest order, brimming with character and musical integrity.

If you like that, you will love the Solo.

Musical Design Company
☎ (01992) 573030

MUSICAL FIDELITY'S A1001 ISSUE 172

Musical Fidelity's £2,499 A1001, like its A1000 predecessor, is essentially a big integrated amp with an off-board power supply: a 'pre/main' amplifier. There are two main differences: one, it trades the 1000's phono stage for a convenience-boosting remote-control handset (vinyl users will be steered towards MF's X-LP phono preamp); and two, the A1000's 50 Watt, pure-Class-A output has been abandoned in favour of a hefty claimed 200 Watts of high-bias Class AB.

The A1001 can play either

role in a two-box amplifier system — its rear-panel has pre-amp output and power-amp input sockets. But few users will need more grunt than this behemoth can deliver.

It tracks the pace of music in the manner of a lithe little 20 Watter, conveying a natural and infectious sense of rhythm. Yet there is also a sense of effortless proceeding from the prodigious power at its disposal (up to an astonishing 1kW in dynamic bursts). Only a slightly 'squeaky' treble reminds you that this is not a multi-thousand-pound high-end monster. All right, it is — and Krell's more expensive.

Musical Fidelity ☎ (0181) 900 2866



SOUND IN SLATE SCULPTURE 2 ISSUE 172

More and more companies are trying out alternative cabinet materials in the hope of making lower-coloration, higher-resolution loudspeakers. The Sculpture series from Sound In Slate is a perfect example of radical thinking in this department. Slate is an extremely dense and inert material, but cost and inherent constructional complications have prohibited its wider application in hi-fi.

Our candidate, the Sculpture Two, costs £2,937.50 per pair including slate stands. The high price premium is due to the high cost of sourcing and shaping the raw material into the eight-sided cabinets, according to Sound In Slate.

The drive unit complement comprises a 28mm Morel tweet-

er paired with a 180mm IPL mid/bass unit, both being rebated into the sealed cabinet. A decent 40Hz to 25kHz bandwidth is claimed for the arrangement, with a low-ish 85dB sensitivity and a reasonably tame impedance response.

The Twos are on the ball at all times, making light work of even complex musical rhythms. Bass tonality and general imaging improve if you pull the speakers further out into the room, and there is good bass extension for such a compact design; this is where the slate really makes its mark, and it never sounds less than musically coherent. The grilles are felt-lined and fit tightly, relaxing the overall balance when left on.

The Sculpture Two fulfils many of the criteria considered essential for hi-fi, but it faces serious competition at this price. Sound In Slate ☎ (01286) 830 242

Help!

SEND YOUR QUERIES TO
'Help', Hi-Fi Choice, 19 Bolsover Street,
LONDON W1P 7HJ • fax: 0171-917 5512
e-mail: editor.hifichoice@dennis.co.uk
Don't forget your postal address, too!
See our Web site: www.hifichoice.co.uk

Alan Sircom is here to answer your hi-fi queries this month.

Every letter published wins a TDK SA 90 tape worth approx. £2.39! Ten tapes for our Query of the Month!



Query of the month Brought to you in association with TDK



Kimber 4TC speaker cable
Designed to resist unwanted interference

Cable care

Like many people with surround-sound and hi-fi systems in one room, I have a preponderance of cabling around the walls. I plan to hide this cabling in a plastic conduit, but this will necessitate interconnects, speaker cables, TV aerial wires, mains cables etc all running together in parallel, which doesn't sound like a good idea! Are there combinations of cables that should not be sited close together, and are there any little tricks like ferrite rings or screening that might help?

Christopher E. Valder, via our Website

Running all cables side by side is not good for the sound of your system, especially if mains cables are involved. While this may not actually be a direct cause of hum, it will introduce a fair amount of RF interference into the signal, which is not good.

The big problem is the mains leads: you should run these as far as possible from the other cables, and if they cross the other cables make them do so at a 90 degree angle.

Additionally, make sure that the cables you use are woven to reduce RFI propagation.

If problems persist you may need to use screened interconnects. I would recommend Kimber throughout as these cables are adept at keeping cable-borne interference at bay.

Every issue, we're giving 10 of TDK's award-winning SA 90 tapes to the writer of the month's best query. When reviewed in Hi-Fi Choice, TDK's SA tape revealed the heart and soul of music with a graceful and transparent sound. We awarded Five Stars for Sound Quality and our coveted Recommended flag!



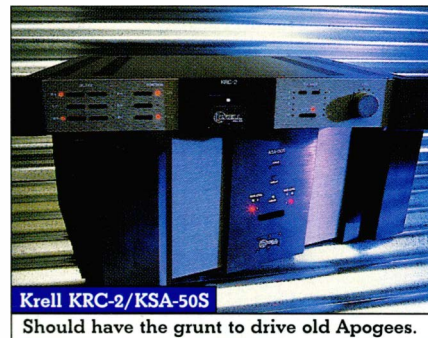
Powerful speakers

I own some Apogee Centaur Minor speakers, run by a Copland CSA14 amplifier and combined with a REL Strata 2 sub, Deltec T1 transport and PDM2 DAC. I'm pretty happy with the system, except for one thing. When pushed hard, the Minors get quite edgy and harsh. I thought this may have been due to the power amp, but have been told that generally these speakers don't play loudly because of their design. Do you think there would be any advantage in switching to a pre/power amp combination, or would I be better off changing speakers, say to Apogee's Slant 6 model, which I believe is of a different design? Unfortunately, I cannot audition equipment locally.

Mark McInerney, Australia, via the Internet

There is a quite fundamental mismatch between your Apogee speakers and the Copland amp. Older Apogee designs (including the Centaur) needed large amounts of solid-state power to get them running on song.

Either of your propositions should be a change for the better. I would suggest that an integrated amplifier, no matter how good, is outclassed when partnered with speakers this demanding. So I would recommend you opt for a decent, muscular solid state pre/power combo from the likes of AVI, Chord, ATC, Jeff Rowland, Mark Levinson or Krell. Alternatively, change the speakers for panels that will be less challenging to your amplifier.



Krell KRC-2/KSA-50S
Should have the grunt to drive old Apogees.

You get what you pay for

I am confused. I wanted to buy a reasonably high-end system, costing around £5,000. I have a friend with an expensive system, which is based around US valve products from America, and I think it sounds superb. But when I approached my local specialist dealership, it was hard-pushed to assemble a system worth more than about £700. The salesman also claimed that more expensive equipment was not worth the extra money. Is this true?

Peter Royce, via the Internet

Your local dealer is absolutely wrong, and his soubriquet 'specialist' seems entirely inappropriate. A £700 system is not going to compete with a true high-end system, costing in excess of £3,000. Instead, ask your friend where his system hailed from, and start your quest there. In addition, check out the pages of our Dealer Directory to find a more enlightened hi-fi purveyor, although you may have to cast your net slightly wider than planned to find a retailer who satisfies.

Long in the tooth

My present system comprises a Marantz CD63SE CD player, original Cyrus One amplifier and MS10i Classic speakers on Atacama SE24 stands. The cables are all Audioquest (F14 and Jade). I have also a Systemdek IIX900 turntable with Roksan Tabriz arm and Grado Prestige Red cartridge.

The amp is a bit long in the tooth and I was considering an upgrade — would the Audiolab 8000A, Marantz PM-66 KI-Signature or Arcam Alpha 8 be a good match, and would any of these offer a worthwhile improvement over my Cyrus? I listen mainly to rock and indie, and prefer a clean sound with a tight bass. A headphone socket is a must.

Incidentally, the remote-control convenience of CD has turned me into such a couch potato that I'd like to archive my extensive vinyl collection onto a more robust, convenient medium. Is MiniDisc worth considering or would it be worth waiting for CD-R to fall in price?

Paul Merrick, via our Website

While your amp could indeed do with some refreshing, the weakest link in the system would appear to be the loudspeakers. I would suggest that you find something better in this department before changing the Cyrus. Listen to a few of the following: B&W DM603, Heybrook Heylios, PMC TB1, Royd Doublet and Dali 104B.

MD is worth checking out, as long as you plump for one of the latest recorders from Sony or Kenwood. However, if you want the best sound quality, you will have to bite the bullet and go for CD-R. Pioneer's PDR-04 recorder costs £700, while the CDR 870 due soon from Philips is projected to be £500. Good quality CD-R blanks cost around £5 but prices are set to fall further. If I was archiving my records, I'd go for CD-R every time.



Pioneer PDR-04

Priced £700, currently the cheapest CD-R recorder you can buy.

Receive and decode

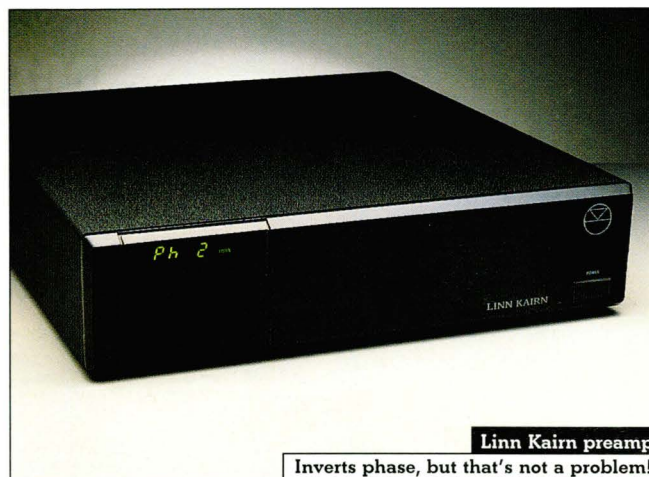
I'm looking to upgrade from a Dolby Pro-Logic receiver. Will I be able to keep it and use it as a decoder with a new amp, or will I need some kind of switching gear?

Also, regarding power amplifiers, can I get anything to sound like the Art Audio Tempo that I babysat last year? I have about £700 to play with and the system will be used through Mission 752F loudspeakers.

J Pluck, via our Website

If the receiver has a full set of preamp outputs then the answer to your first question is yes, and you could consider the five-channels-in-one Rotel RB985THX power amplifier (approx. £800) as the ideal upgrade.

The only thing that will sound like a valve amplifier is another valve amplifier. To get the Art Audio sound you will need five Tempos: one for each channel. Otherwise, set your sights a bit lower and try the Arcam Alpha 8/3x8P or 9/3x9P integrated and power amp combos.



Linn Kairn preamp

Inverts phase, but that's not a problem!

Opposites attract

I have been told that my Linn Kairn preamplifier inverts phase. What does this mean? Will it cause damage to non-Linn power amplifiers and speakers? Is there anything I can do to counteract this effect?

George Minton, Edgbaston, Birmingham

The Linn Kairn does indeed invert absolute phase at the loudspeaker terminals. This means that the cones travel in an opposite direction to the way they should at all times, so they push when they should pull and vice versa. While some people simply cannot hear the difference this makes, to most the sound is slightly watery or almost intangibly 'wrong'. It causes no problem to either amp or speaker, in mechanical terms, so do not worry about using your Linn preamp with non-Linn components, if you wish.

The way to correct this is simple. Take the positive and negative terminals of both speaker cables and invert them — at the amplifier only. This makes the positive speaker output of the power amplifier connect to the negative input at the speaker — and vice versa — thereby inverting the phase once more. Who says two wrongs don't make a right?

System mis-match

I have a Marantz CD-63mkII K I Signature CD player, a Marantz PM-66 K I Signature amplifier and a pair of second-hand ProAc Response One loudspeakers on Atacama stands. The system sounds too bright and hard for me. What cable should I buy to correct this? I listen mostly to '50s jazz and some classical.

Andy Dickson, Ipswich, E Anglia

The problem does not lie with cables. You have a mis-match between amp and speaker, and between speaker and stand. Though the Marantz K I Signature range is fine equipment, ProAc's Response One speaker was not designed to partner it. Especially if the One is not the later 'S' or 'SC' model.

You may be able to calm the sound from the speakers if you use Kudos S100 or Target R1 stands instead of the Atacamas. Ultimately, however,

either you'll have to sell the ProAc's and buy more humble speakers, like the B&W CDM1; or trade in the electronics for components with a less challenging sound. A good example of the latter would be the amp and CD player of Pioneer's Precision range.



ProAc Response 1
Sadly KO'd by KI.

UPGRADEABLE HI-FI.



WHATEVER WILL THEY THINK OF NEXT?

You've thought long and hard about choosing the right sound system. You think you've found what you're looking for. It looks great. It sounds even better. And it's within your budget. So how come you still have that niggling doubt in the back of your mind? Simple. Before you make your final decision, you want to be sure that a few years down the line, you're not going to regret it. Unlike most hi-fi manufacturers, we understand completely. We've already set the standard by offering legendary sound

quality in every price category. Now we've completely rewritten the rules. Because practically every piece of Arcam equipment now comes with something that will radically change the way you buy hi-fi. A set of pre-defined upgrade paths that allow you to upgrade your sound system just as soon as technology (or your wallet) allows. If you'd like to hear more about Arcam's revolutionary upgradeable components, call now on **(01223) 203203**.

ARCAM

HI-FI WITH A FUTURE

Please send me the name of my nearest authorised dealer and information on:

Arcam amplifiers **Arcam CD players & DACs** **Arcam tuners** **Arcam home theatre** **all Arcam products**

Title First Name(s)

Surname

Address

Postcode

In Australia: Stolmack Audio Pty. Ltd., P.O. Box 162, Lindfield, N.S.W., 2070. Tel: (612) 9416 4799.
In Canada: Emerald Audio Resources, R.R.1, Palgrave, Ontario, LON 1P0. Tel: (905) 880 7170.
In New Zealand: Avalon Audio, 587 Mount Eden Rd., Auckland. Tel: (09) 369 9000.
In South Africa: Hi-Fi Specialists, Durban Road 155, Bellville, 7535. Tel: (021) 946 1441.
In USA: Audiophile Systems Ltd., 8709 Castle Park Drive, Indianapolis, Indiana 46256. Tel: (317) 849 7103.

Next7Y(HFC 1997)

Clip the coupon and return to Arcam, Pembroke Avenue, Cambridge CB5 9PB, England. Or telephone: (01223) 203203 and quote our reference Next7Y.
Or e-mail us at: custserv@arcam.co.uk

Home cinema aspirations

I have a Denon D250 mini system. I want to upgrade the speakers and thought of the B&W CDM1. Would I get the best out of these speakers using the Denon? Eventually I want to add the AVC99 for home cinema.

Chris Marks, Australia, via the Internet

The D250 is good — but not that good. The CDM1 is a domestic monitor that at best will sound simply dreadful through the D250 — at worst, it will shorten the life of both system and speaker. This is a mis-match made in Hell. Don't do it!

Try either the B&W DM302 or the Tannoy Mercury M2 with the D250. The more up-market D-F10 system might warrant slightly better speakers, but even in this case I would exercise extreme caution in spending much more than £200 on a pair of partnering speakers.

That reservation expressed, the AVC99 blends ideally with the D250 in tone; and if you use DM302s at the front, buy another pair for the rear and add a B&W CC3 dialogue for a perfect match. Alternatively, try the Tannoy Mercury M2 for the main speakers, adding the M1 and M-series centre when the home cinema bug bites.



B&W DM302

Ideal mate for mini.

Pioneering the way

I intend to purchase a £2,000 system, based around Pioneer equipment. Could you please advise me on how to upgrade the Pioneer PD-F906 CD multi-player? Do I add a DAC, such as the Musical Fidelity X-ACT, the Cambridge Audio DACMagic 2 mkII or QED Digit Opto Plus? Alternatively, should I add a Trichord Clock 2? Should I add both — or neither?

Also, instead of using a graphic equaliser, I was wondering whether the Technics SH-GE90 Digital Sound Processor is worth considering over the Pioneer GR-777.

Finally, the speakers I will be using are Cerwin-Vega CT-40s. What speaker cables and interconnects do you recommend? Will Mana SoundBase speaker supports work well with these speakers? My musical tastes include Marvin Gaye and the deep serious bass of Abba Shanti-I.

Gary Webster, SW London

If you are already looking at upgrading the PD-F906 player before buying it you are either a) thinking ahead, or b) unsure about the sound. Either way, there is not a great deal you can do to improve a multi-play like this. You would be much better off with a single-tray player, like the similarly-priced Pioneer PD-S505 Precision. But if you have your heart set on a multi-disc unit I believe Trichord sells a ready-clocked version of a Pioneer multi-player.



Pioneer PDS-505 Precision

On the subject of equalisers, processors and the like — why? Unless you want a surround-sound system with five speakers, or are prepared to blow £10,000 or more on a room equalising computer, they're not worth the money.

The Cerwin-Vega speakers are not at all cable-fussy, as long as you use multi-stranded cable that is not too raucous in the treble. Ixos 603 speaker cable and 104 interconnects will work perfectly. Mana SoundBases work with almost any speaker, but should only be considered when the rest of the system is on Mana tables.

Lastly, I am concerned that this system will not provide the sort of high-quality sound you could expect for £2,000. Check out the alternatives in a proper demonstration room. Pick your two nearest dealers from our Dealer Directory and see what they have to offer.

Jitterbug

My system comprises an LP12/Ittok LVII/Valhalla/Koetsu Black (very old) turntable, a Marantz CD-12 CD player, a Naim 82/Hi-Cap/180 amplifier system and Neat Petite loudspeakers.

I need some advice about what to do next. Will a jitter reduction box benefit my CD-12? And if I want to keep my Neat Petites, will adding a second Hi-Cap or trading my 180 for a 250 make a good future upgrade?

Finally, which one out of the AT OC9, Sumiko BPS or Denon DL-304 would prove the better cartridge in the context of my system? My MC board is Naim 522 type K (560 Ohms).

Kozit Chongsathien, via the Internet

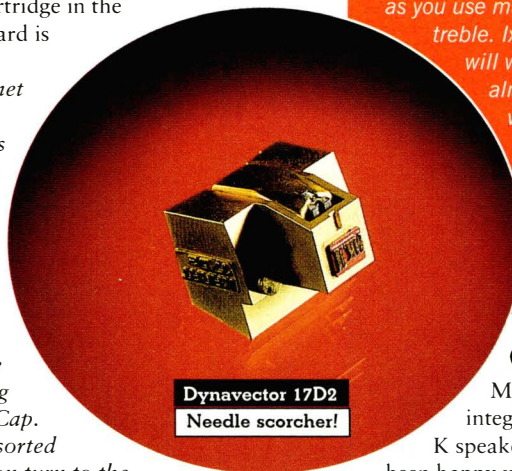
I have heard jitter-reduction boxes sounding effective on the CD-12, but the effect is minimised with Naim amplifiers. Ultimately, your system is crying out for a Naim CD2, a Meridian 508.20 or a Linn Karik III.

Upping the ante to a pair of Hi-Caps makes a big difference to the 82's performance. So does ditching the Hi-Caps in favour of a Super-Cap. Only when the 82 has a properly sorted power supply should your attention turn to the power amplifier.

I'd suggest a re-tip of your Koetsu rather than opting for one of the cartridges you suggest. These are cheaper cartridges than the Koetsu and will not sound as smooth and warm. If you have to adopt a new cartridge, go for a Dynavector 17D2.

There have been several recent modifications to the LP12, but those who favour the Naim sound prefer the Armageddon off-board power supply. You could consider buying a Linn Ekos or a Naim ARO arm. This system also cries out for Mana Acoustics tables, especially to support the turntable.

Lastly, the Gravitas subwoofer takes the Neat Petite a stage further, and would add a welcome sense of bass weight to an already accomplished system.



Dynavector 17D2

Needle scorcher!

Chicken/egg, egg/chicken?

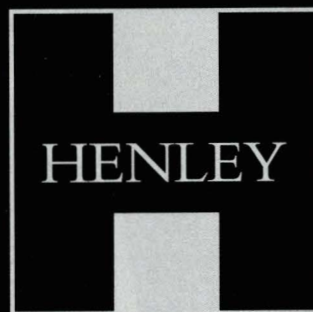
My current system comprises an Arcam Delta 60 integrated amplifier, Arcam Alpha CD and Snell Type K speakers biwired with Naim cable. Although I have been happy with the overall sound and reliability of this system, I am ready to upgrade and have recently auditioned an Audio Note Oto SE valve amplifier and Audiomeca Kreatura CD player (at different dealers). I was impressed with the Audio Note's smoothness and clarity but also by the Audiomeca. My dilemma is that I cannot afford to purchase both. Can you help?

Ultimately a better amplifier risks showing up your CD player, so we'd suggest putting something better at the front end and then upgrading the amp at a later date, if it proves necessary.

Your system would benefit from better speaker cable as well; see if you can find some Goertz or Electrofluidics Monolith wire. This is guaranteed to invigorate and open up the sound stage.

You could get, oh,
£1 each for
your records.

Or you could listen
to them.



HENLEY PHONO STAGE



HENLEY

01753-889949

DISTRIBUTED BY HENLEY DESIGNS LIMITED

Our products stand out from the crowd

Alphason Designs products are engineered to bring out the best in your Hi-Fi and Audio Visual systems.

This professional acoustic design approach to the construction of furniture allows clean reproduction of bass frequencies and accurate harmonic structures. Our range of furniture for your conventional Hi-Fi, Loudspeakers, Home Cinema, Mini or Midi systems is designed to fit easily into your home.

Alphason Designs products are available throughout the UK. For information of your nearest stockist or a free copy of the latest brochure, telephone 01942 678000 or write to us at the following address:

Alphason Designs Ltd.
Unit D2 Moss Industrial Estate,
St. Helen's Road,
Leigh,
Lancashire WN7 3PT

ALPHASON
Designs

foundations of clarity



Small is beautiful

I need help to shortlist prospective new speakers. I have a system comprising Philips CD721 CD player, harman/kardon HK610 amplifier and old Celestion DL6 speakers which I'd like to change. I listen to classical music and have £1,500 to spend. My room is 5.5m square.

B Ness, via our Website

Unfortunately, the constraints placed upon the speakers by the CD and amp restrict your choice of speakers. Both are superb components that sound better than their price suggests, but they are budget fare and likely to be outclassed by expensive speakers.

Instead spend your money on a complete new system that's balanced and will be able to fill such a 'comfortable' room. I'd suggest you find a Pioneer Precision dealer and get them to hook the PD-S505 and A-300R units to either Dali 104Bs or B&W DM602s. Compare that with alternatives from Arcam and Cyrus, and do this at home if at all possible.



Dali 104B

An efficient, dynamic loudspeaker with plenty of room-filling potential.

A heavy load to bear

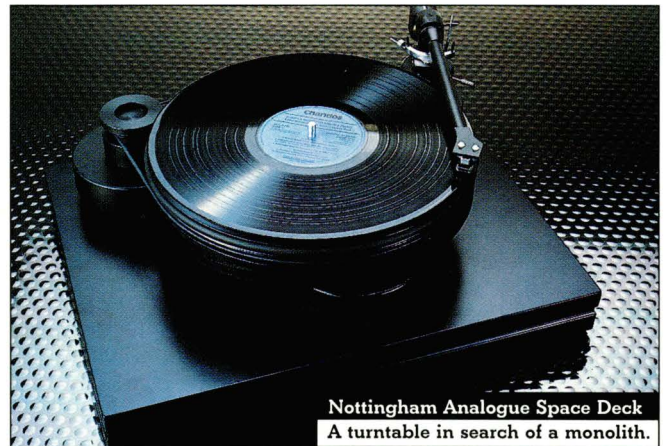
I have had a Nottingham Analogue Spacedeck for about a year now. Recently I decided to replace the granite-finish baseboard with the real thing. Now, of course, it looks absolutely fab. The trouble is that the whole set-up has a total weight of about 30kg and the only option I have is to place it on my carpeted floor (before it was standing on a freestanding Ikea shelf unit).

Obviously the time has come to invest in a turntable support suitable for the job. I would be grateful if you could advise me on this as I have two small children and thus cannot afford to take any risks with potential instability.

Warren Driffill, Neuilly-Plaisance, France

Normally, we would suggest a Mana table, but the Spacedeck is one of those rare beasts that doesn't seem bothered by its surroundings in normal guise. I'd imagine that this trait can only be enhanced by adding the amount of granite you mention.

Realistically, the choice of table is limited by the weight factor. I know that Target wall-shelves cope with high-mass turntables better than most, if they are properly bolted to a load-bearing wall. Otherwise, either the Townshead Seismic Sink Stand or even the VPI table should suit your needs perfectly.



Nottingham Analogue Space Deck
A turntable in search of a monolith.

Turning the tables back

I have a Rega Planar 3 turntable with an A&R C77 cartridge, an Arcam Alpha amplifier and CD player, and a pair of Heybrook HB1 speakers. I have recently inherited some 3,000 records and am wondering if it is time for a new cartridge, as the old one is no longer in production.

In addition, about 1,000 of these records are 78s. Is there any way the Rega can be modified to play these discs? I'd hate to be parted from them.

Rhiannedd Black, Cardiff, Wales

Rega Planar 3

Also available in 78rpm shellac-playing guise.

Your A&R cartridge is probably on its last legs, but if the arm on the Rega is silver and S-shaped, I'd suggest getting a replacement stylus or a Goldring moving-magnet cartridge. If the arm is straight and black (a Rega RB300), get a Rega Super Bias. Whichever cartridge you buy, have it fitted by an expert, as alignment of a cartridge in the arm is crucial.

Unfortunately, there is no change you can make to the Rega to make it into a 78rpm player. However, Rega does make a version of the Planar turntable specifically for 78rpm discs. This is a much better option than a three-speed turntable and will dig out hidden magic in those shellac grooves.





Immerse yourself

Pure enlightenment – courtesy of Sennheiser.

From string quartet to the heaviest metal,

from cannon blast to one hand clapping,

Sennheiser headphones reveal the truth.

Transparent sound in absolute comfort, the

ultimate contemplation for music lovers everywhere.

Now go meditate on that.

HINTS & TIPS

SYSTEM SET-UP SORTED

Jimmy Hughes explains the basics of system set-up and gets you started on the path to musical nirvana.

Clearly it's very important to choose the right equipment, but even a system made up of the finest components will disappoint if it's not set up and installed properly. So it's important to get this right. But what about your system? Are you obtaining maximum performance from it?

Perhaps you were on a tight budget when you bought your new system, unable to splash out on specialist cables and support stands. Or maybe you're just cynical about such things and find it hard to believe that putting your amp and CD player on a dedicated stand, or upgrading the cheap interconnect supplied with the CD player, will audibly improve the sound.

So why not listen? Listen first to your system as it is, and ask yourself if there are any areas in which it could be improved. Is the treble sweet and clean? Is the bass firm and extended? Does the music sound relaxed, yet sharp and exciting? Or is the sound strained and thin, with edgy treble and bloated bass? It's important to be clear about what needs improving: if you think your system sounds great as it is, spend the cash earmarked for upgrades on software!

However, if there are weak areas of performance which are in need of improvement, get to work. Begin by checking all audio connections are clean and tight — dirty, loose-fitting plugs and wires that aren't tightly attached will result in poorer sound and may lead to audible distortion. If you're still making do with the cheap cables that came with the system, investigate better speaker cable and higher quality interconnects.

Some dealers have a cable loan system allowing you to try better cables at home in your own time before splashing out. Clean, solid mains connections are vital too — make sure your mains plugs have clean pins and check that the wires inside are firmly connected.

Specialist equipment support stands can greatly improve clarity and focus, increasing tightness and control. Spiked feet tend to

enhance treble detail and dynamic contrast, firming-up boomy bass. CD players are especially sensitive to what they're sat on. So don't underestimate the importance of a good support stand.

If CD is your main source, it's worth listening to it via each of your amp's different line inputs: tape, tuner, aux. The CD input will usually sound best, but sometimes (due to board layout) you may find one of the other inputs gives a better sound. Amps with a tape monitor facility often give their best when fed through this input because it by-passes the main input selector and gives a clean, direct feed. Some integrated amplifiers have two sets of speaker outlets, and the lower set (often marked B) occasionally sounds better than the upper set. Quite a few amps and CD players have two-pin mains plugs. Try these both ways up because the difference may have an effect on the sound.

Where your speakers are bi-wired, but you only use one set of cables, make sure the connecting wires (or plates) that link upper and lower terminals make good solid contact. I

recently solved a friend's distortion problems by checking this point; the connection looked tight, but the connecting plate linking bass and treble drivers was actually loose.


Alternatively, try bi-wiring with two runs of cable per speaker. Speaker positioning can make or break a system, so if you have more than one placement option, do experiment.

Placing the speakers far apart increases stereo width, but too wide tends to weaken the central image. If the speakers are too close together, the sound will be narrow laterally. Height is important too; compact speakers placed on the floor will produce a small, squashed soundstage.

Aim to get the treble driver roughly in line with your ears when sitting down — though having the speakers a little lower can help reduce treble sting,

Toeing the speakers in, so their axes cross at an imaginary point in front of your listening seat, helps produce a smoother tonal balance and more cohesive and tightly-knit stereo imagery. Tilting the speakers back slightly can also help to diffuse the sound, making the treble less sharply directional. If you sit very close to the speakers and the system sounds harsh, it may be possible to sweeten the treble by angling the speakers upwards so they don't fire directly at you.

As always, listen carefully until you achieve a sound you like. And don't be afraid to experiment.



Make sure all of your components are connected properly and don't settle for any old cables and interconnects. Brands such as Cable Talk (illustrated) offer a range of value-conscious, good-sounding wires.

HI-FI CHOICE

FREE HEADPHONES

WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE TO HI-FI CHOICE



FREE

Subscribe to Hi-Fi Choice within 7 days and get these outstanding Philips SBC HP110 headphones, worth £16.99.

FREE Philips headphones quality listening guarantee:

- Amazing sound
- Full-size headphone
- Full-size leather-look ear-cushions
- Integrated volume control with Mono/Stereo option
- 40mm ferrite speaker
- 3.5 - 6.3 stereo adaptor



How to claim your FREE Philips Headphones

To guarantee your FREE headphones simply complete and return the subscription form below within 7 days.

Return the form to Hi-Fi Choice Subscriptions, FREEPOST WD7, Bristol BS12 OBR (no stamp required).

FREE Headphones Subscription Form

HI-FI CHOICE

YES! Please start my Hi-Fi Choice subscription from the next available issue and send me my **FREE Philips headphones**.

OR I am already a subscriber, please extend my Hi-Fi Choice subscription and send me my **FREE Philips headphones**. Subscriptions can only be extended by cheque or credit/debit card.



I'd like to subscribe by Direct Debit for just £14.97 every 6 issues (UK new subscribers only)

Your details

Mr/Mrs/Ms Forename Surname

Address

Postcode Daytime phone

Your Subscription

Direct Debit payment Only £14.97 every six issues (UK only)
Cheque or Credit/Debit Card payment 12 issues UK £29.97 Europe £43.99 World £56.99

Your choice of payment ① Cheque ② Credit/Debit card or ③ Direct Debit

① I enclose a cheque made payable to Dennis Publishing Ltd
② Please charge my VISA Access / Mastercard AMEX Switch (Issue No.)

Card Number

Expiry Date

Signed _____ Today's date _____

Dennis Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit **DIRECT Debit**

Please fill in the form and send to: Dennis Publishing Ltd, FREEPOST WD7, Bristol BS12 OBR.
Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

To the manager: Bank name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Originator's Identification Number

Office use Dennis Publishing reference number

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society
Please pay Dennis Publishing Ltd Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards approved by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Dennis Publishing Ltd and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Names(s) of account holder(s) _____

Branch sort code

Bank/Building Society account number

Signature(s) _____

Date _____

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account

Return your completed order form to:
Hi-Fi Choice Subs, FREEPOST WD7,
Bristol BS12 OBR. (No stamp required)

Overseas readers please post to: Hi-Fi Choice Subs,
Bradley Pavilions, Bradley Stoke North,
Bristol BS12 0BQ UK

In a hurry? Call the Credit Card Hotline on
01454 620070

Please indicate here if you do not wish to receive details of other special offers or products.

The finest hi-fi magazine in the world hits the web!

HI-FI CHOICE

- Search
- News
- Reviews
- Chat
- Classifieds
- Mail Order
- Links
- Win!
- The Mag
- Subscribe
- Feedback
- Contacts

THE MAG

CONTENTS

MAY 1997 ISSUE 166

REGULARS

Update
Election? Schmelection! We've been to Bristol and we got the news. All the latest from the show as well as locations further afield.

Instant Systems
Alan Sircom gets to grips with a pair of £300 separates systems. The question is, can you get real hi-fi for the price of a telly?

REVIEWS

- [Acurus ACD11](#)
- [Aeon Acoustics Linear](#)
- [AMC 3025a](#)

*Answers at the bottom of the page for those without web access.

Have you ever wondered...

- 1 Which is the most expensive amplifier in the World?
- 2 How many drive units in the Mission 753 Freedom?
- 3 What is the name of Benz-Micro's most expensive cartridge?
- 4 What is the best CD player for £350 or under?

Find answers NOW* at Hi-Fi Choice Online, the fact-packed NEW web-site from the makers of the Finest Hi-Fi Magazine In The World.

www.hifichoice.co.uk

1 The Audio Note Ekvall Ohm at a basic price of £159,500, is probably the most expensive commercially manufactured amplifier package in the world. And it's only a power amp. 2 Five drive units in total: four 130mm pastille paper, long throw mid-bass units, and a 27mm silk dome tweeter. 3 Benz Micro's most expensive cartridge is the Ribby Open Air moving coil, priced at £1,600 and available from Audiotek in the UK. 4 One of the best value CD players priced below £350 is the Cambridge Audio CD-FSE, which received an HFC Best Buy in issue 169. We'll assess the latest crop budget CDs in our December 1997 issue.

WIN!

COMPETITION

A VERITABLE INDULGENCE!

AVI CD player, amp and speakers worth £3,200!



As reviewed in Hi-Fi Choice last month!

AV International is a true-blue British hi-fi company. It has garnered an awesome reputation for ultra-neat equipment that sounds as good as it looks. Now there's an exclusive chance for one lucky *Hi-Fi Choice* reader to discover what makes AVI special. Up for grabs is a complete system incorporating the company's very latest components.

As you'd expect from its £3,300 price-tag, this is a seriously tasty set-up. Fronting the outfit is the S2000MC Reference CD player, tested and Recommended in *HFC* 169.

Like all AVI gear, this unit is built like a battleship. It employs twin Burr-Brown 20-bit DACs and exhibits very low rates of jitter. Its control systems have been tweaked by an ergonomist, and a very low output impedance should ensure it is compatible with a wide range of partnering amps.

You needn't worry on that account, however, as the prize includes AVI's

100-Watt S2000MI amplifier, a solid-state integrated model with remote-control. Under its hood you'll find extensive use of discrete components and the kind of precise board layout that is the trademark of the latest computer-aided design systems.

Putting the cherry on the cake, there's a pair of the new floorstanding, reflex-loaded, two-way Positron speakers.

In last month's review, Alan Sircom wrote: "This system is perfect for audiophiles with the most catholic musical tastes. Every album from my collection slipped effortlessly through this rig's components and wires."

If you'd like to subject your record collection to similar treatment, fill in the entry form 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 (CHFC713A)
Bradley Pavilions,
Bradley Stoke North,
Bristol BS12 0BQ

All entries must arrive by first post, Friday January 2nd, 1998.

THE QUESTION

What kind of DACs are found in the S2000MC CD player?

- a) Burr Walnut
- b) Burl Ives
- c) Burr-Brown
- d) Bert Brown

YOUR DETAILS

Name _____

Job Title _____

Company Name _____

Address (inc. postcode) _____

Day-time Telephone Number _____

- Please tick here if you are under 18
- Please tick here if you do not wish to receive any further information about other products or services

Please tick one only of the following:

- Are you a current subscriber? **OR**
- Are you a regular reader? **OR**
- Are you an occasional reader?

COMPETITION RULES

- The Closing Date for this competition is Friday January 2nd, 1998.
- Winners of the AVI competition will be judged from all correct entries submitted, and drawn at random after the Closing Date.
- Winners will be notified by post.
- The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- The AVI competition is not open to employees of Dennis Publishing Ltd, AVI Ltd, nor their suppliers, agents or associates.
- We regret this competition is open to UK residents only.
- No cash alternatives will be offered.
- We reserve the right to substitute alternative prizes with equivalent value to these shown, in the unlikely event of stock being temporarily unavailable.
- By entering the competition you agree to be bound by the rules.
- 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 713A



AVI S2000MC Reference CD player	£1,399
S2000MI integrated amplifier	£999
One pair of Positron speakers	£899

Instant Systems

Editor's Note: Due to the relentless march of technological progress, it is inevitable that some products have become defunct since we reviewed them. Where possible, we have indicated the manufacturer's suggested replacement product. We recommend that readers seek to audition the new component in the context of the system first reviewed, and seek the advice of a reputable specialist hi-fi dealer.

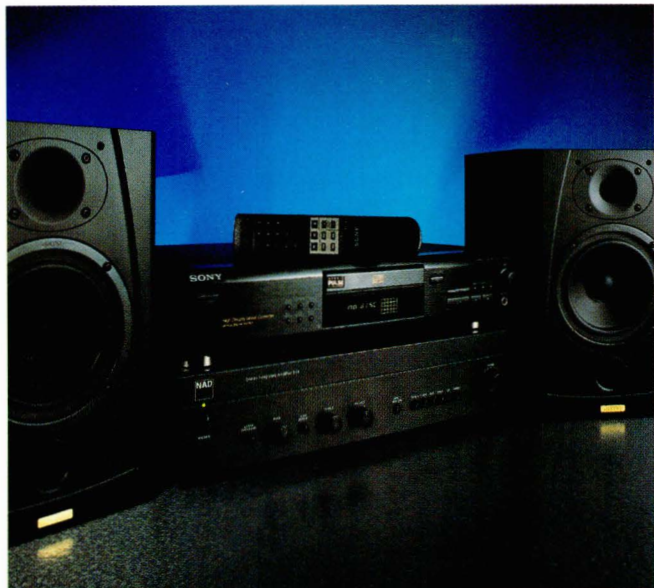
SONY/NAD/JAMO
ISSUE 162

This should work. First up the NAD 314 amplifier, descendant of the legendary 3020 giant-killer, only with a few more features and inputs. Soft clipping, 50 Watts a side: big hearted. Next up Sony's Best Buy CD player, the CDP-XE500 (since replaced by the CDP-XE510) which actually outperformed its bigger brother the CDP-XE900E. All we need now is a pair of speakers that will keep the price under £600. Jamo's diminutive Model 38 fits the bill. And with a claimed sensitivity of 89dB, it's easy to drive.

But how does it sound? Very good. Very good indeed. The clean honesty of the Sony, the earthy warmth of the NAD and the fresh bounciness of the Jamos produce a sound that's hard to fault at the price. An unexpected bonus is the way it projects into the room. Good dynamics and presence are two more corollaries of a distinctly open midband.

Despite a hint of over-vividness, this is a great system for the money. Its musical strengths mostly compensate for its presentational shortcomings.

Sony CDP-XE500	N/A
NAD 314	£259.95
Jamo Model 38	£150.00



MARANTZ/AURA/TANNOY
ISSUE 163

"What if?" dept. Let's take Aura's tasty CA200/PA100 pre/power combo, feed it with a signal from the Ken-Ishiwata-breathed-on Marantz CD-17, and use the whole caboodle to drive the D100 from Tannoy's 'Definition' range. Immaculate source, plenty of bangs (in practice about 120 Watts per channel) and charming Tannoy dual concentric single driver simplicity. Kind of radical, eh?

But sometimes radical pays

off. This unlikely partnership produced exceptionally pleasing results on a wide range of musical material. It's a bit special. Massed string tone is reproduced almost faultlessly, with a real feeling that there are a couple of dozen individual violins playing, rather than a chorused synthesiser. Similarly, a full symphony orchestra has the real presence of 70 players, while chamber music is suitably intimate and precisely imaged.

Ah, a classical-music-only system, you're thinking. How wrong! A favourite CD by Donald

TRICHORD/AUDIOLAB/MISSION
ISSUE 162

This fast lane outfit comprises a turbocharged Pioneer CD player (clocked and modified by Trichord), an Audiolab 8000Q preamplifier, two 8000M monoblok power amplifiers (now replaced by the new 8000MX), and a pair of Mission 753 Freedom loudspeakers. The £549 Trichord is to Pioneer CD players what Cosworth is to Ford Escorts. Audiolab's reputation stands on its amplifiers, and the line-only 8000Q preamplifier is no exception. Audiolab's 8000M monoblok power amplifiers whacked out 125 Watts have received praise for their strong, controlled sound.

The Freedom 753 costs £798 in standard black (£898 in other finishes) and offers more palpable, deeper bass than the original 753 could ever muster. As a package, this star-studded system should have everything going for it. In practice, it produces a tidy, controlled and rather dry sound strong on stereophonic imagery but short of musical coherence. No individual component is to blame, but the sound just wouldn't shine. The fault is most likely the Trichord Genesis/Audiolab 8000Q interface. Inserting any of Audiolab's own CD players should have a beneficial effect.

Trichord Genesis	£569.00
Audiolab 8000Q/M	£1,249.90/£799.90ea
Audiolab 8000MX (new)	£899.90ea
Mission 753 Freedom	£798.00

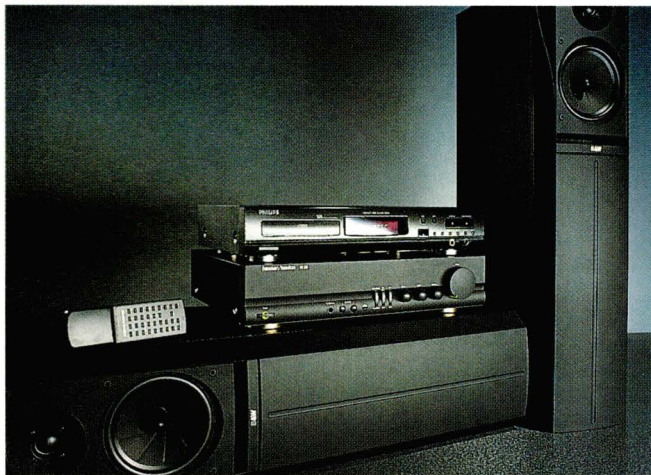
Fagen revealed new layers of information and even more grit on his voice, without losing an iota of rhythmic drive or precision. Evidently a marriage made

in heaven, this system will take some beating at its price.

Marantz CD-17 KI Sig	£1,099.90
Aura CA200/PA100	£750/£750 (chrome)
Tannoy D100	£689.90



Instant Systems



**PHILIPS/B&W
HARMAN/KARDON
ISSUE 163**

Philips' CD721 is a real beer-budget star and obvious 'Best Buy' (HFC 159). Its biggest virtue is that it demonstrably doesn't sound cheap in the way some £100-odd CD players do, so you can use it with confidence to build a decent starter system. That's what this is.

Another 'Best Buy' (HFC 162) is Harman/Kardon's HK620. It has six line-level inputs and enough grunt to drive B&W's DM305 floorstanders to wholesome levels.

If you want instant excitement, great impact, lots of up-

front energy, you may not care for this system. If, on the other hand, you value naturalness of tone, good detail, plenty of treble and bass extension and a perfect willingness to pump up the volume and have a good time now and then, you could spend £730 in far worse ways.

All right, there's some coloration and the treble can develop a slightly intrusive 'sheen'. Even so, the extent to which it is possible to hear 'through' the DM305s is really very good and certainly most creditable at the price.

Philips CD721	£129.99
Harman/Kardon HK620	£249.99
B&W DM305	£349.95



**MERIDIAN/ARCAM/
TRIANGLE
ISSUE 164**

Two Cambridgeshire classics — the £1,100 20-bit Meridian 506 CD player and the £500 Arcam Alpha 9 bi-amped with the £400 Alpha 9P — hook up with £1,099 Triangle Antal speakers from France for this sonic shindig.

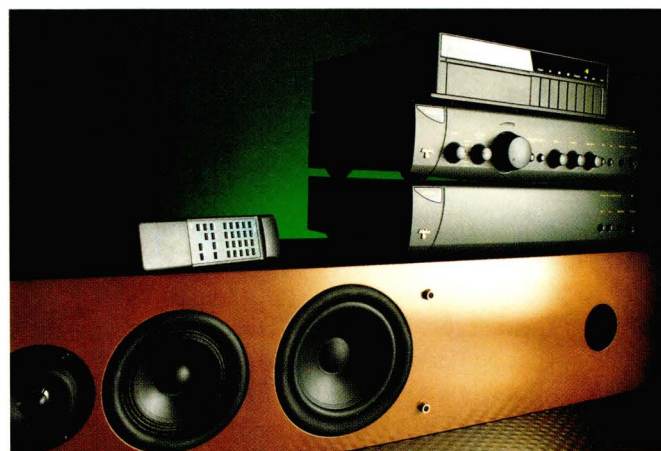
The Antal is typical of Triangle's distinctive designs. It's a highly efficient, ported, three-way design, with the majority of the sound produced through the mid-range unit, leaving the metal-dome tweeter and bass unit to act as fill-ins.

Although the speakers have a claimed efficiency in the early

90dBs, they are not easy to drive at high volumes. But it is possible for them to produce remarkably fluid sound. In particular, vocals have a close, detailed quality that makes you think the singer is stepping right up to the speaker. This superb mid-band clarity is enhanced by a great sense of speed, perhaps thanks to a lack of truly deep bass.

If you seek a system that digs deep into dub reggae, look elsewhere. If, instead, you crave deftly-handled rhythms, quicksilver sprightliness and mid-band to die for, put this on your shortlist.

Meridian 506 20-bit	£1,100.00
Arcam Alpha 9/9P	£499.90/£399.90
Triangle Antal	£1,099



**CAMBRIDGE/TANNOY
ISSUE 164**

Two of the three components in this system come from Audio Partnership, the manufacturing offshoot of Richer Sounds. They bear the name of Cambridge Audio, that well-loved but long-defunct Cambridgeshire-based manufacturer of CD players and amplifiers from the '80s. The third is from Tannoy.

Cambridge Audio's Best Buy £199.95 CD4SE may be a bit of a clunker compared to the slickest of Sony and Marantz players, but its heart is in the right place — with the music. Likewise the £99.95 Cambridge Audio A1mk3 amplifier, a 30 Watt

redesign of the highly-rated A1.

Teamed with Tannoy's Profile Plus 632 (since superseded by the Precision range), with its 150mm polypropylene bass cone and 25mm metal-domed tweeter, this is budget hi-fi at its best. Quite simply, it has that ability to convey a musical message, whatever that message may be. And with such ease that you keep coming back for more. There's a bouncy, exuberant character to this trio that outweighs any minor failings. The fact that this can be done at £500 is little short of amazing.

Cambridge CD4SE	£199.95
Cambridge A1mk3	£99.95
Tannoy Profile Plus 632	N/A



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.[®]

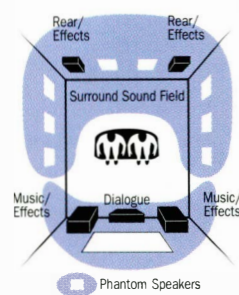
Digital Sound Field Processing is Yamaha's unique technology that electronically recreates some of the finest performance venues in the world. And Dolby Pro Logic is the technology responsible for placing sound around the room, matching the dialogue and sound effects with the action on the screen.

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[™]



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

Instant Systems

NAIM
ISSUE 165

An enticing £2,420 buys you Naim Audio's entry-level system. It starts with the CD3 CD player which uses Philips' trusty-but-rusty 16-bit D/A converter technology, albeit heavily modified by Naim.

The 35 Watt Nait 3R (R for remote control) has next to no frills, and should be used with Naim's NAC A5 speaker cable for best results. And, of course, the company's Intro loudspeakers. They're simple-looking, two-way black boxes, with the bass driver's cabinet perched on top of (but completely decoupled from) the treble unit and its floorstanding chamber. Natty.

When fully-cooked (run-in), this system transmutes its initial brightness into acute observation of detail and musical insight, putting the listener in the centre of attention. 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. And if you like it loud, so much the better. Break out the air Fender.

<i>Naim CD3</i>	£1,000.00
<i>Naim Nait 3R</i>	£760.00
<i>Naim Intro</i>	£660.00



QUAD
ISSUE 165

Even in an elegantly straightforward system such as this, the EISA-award-winning 77 amplifier is a paragon of simplicity. Gone are the tone-shaping controls of yore. Quad's line-only integrated comes complete with the 'intelligent' remote for £850 or without for £700. The matching 77 CD player keeps the button count low but with QuadBus connectivity and the amply-functioned remote, things are more versatile than they seem.

At the business end is Quad's first dynamic speaker, the 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 speaker 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 good for a small box loudspeaker and defines a much more exciting sound than previous Quad kit. But it still retains the tonal honesty and naturalness that made the company a household name. If you want to hear musical notes and are not content just to nod your head in time, the Quad combo is a little wonder.

<i>Quad 77 CD Bus</i>	£699.95
<i>Quad 77 Amp</i>	£699.95
<i>Quad 7710L</i>	£599.95



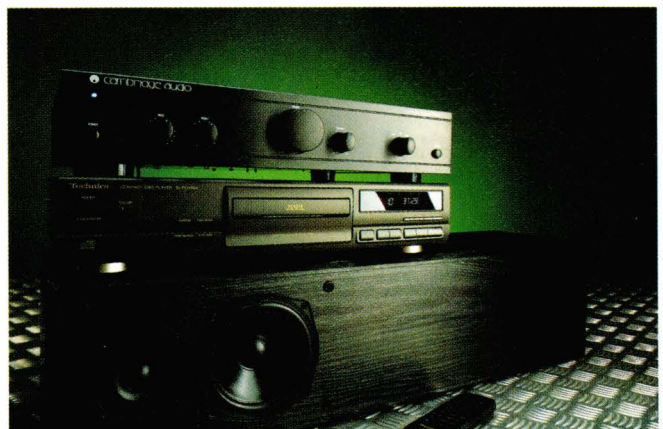
**TECHNICS/
CAMBRIDGE/GALE**
ISSUE 166

This is the classic Richer Sounds anti-micro/midi separates starter system. Two of the three components are from Julian Richer's house brands: the £119.95 Cambridge Audio A1 mk3 integrated amp and the £139.95 Gale 4i floorstanders. The feel-good bits of the A1's spec include 30 Watts a side, a toroidal transformer and high quality volume/balance pots. The Gales are beefed-up versions of the popular '4' with a modified bass port, new 25mm

tweeter as well as a better crossover. And, oh yes, 60 notes off the price.

Source duties fall to the Technics SL-PG480A CD player, available at the time from Richerland for £89.95, a remarkably lean price for such a reasonably-featured MASH-chipped machine. As a system it's all yours for £299.95.

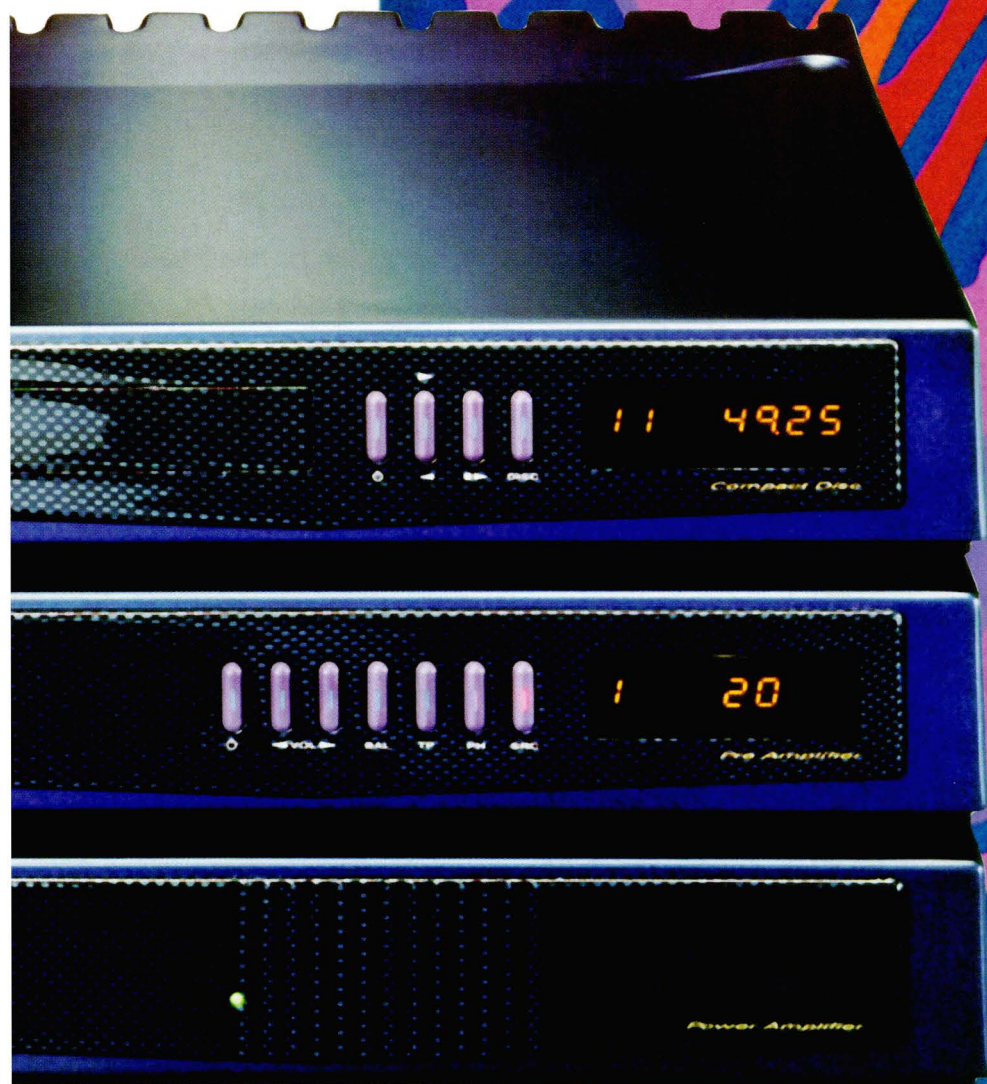
And, like, wow. Bass is big, full and powerful, and the treble simply soars. This is full-on hi-fi — as clean and punchy as the very latest chart material demands. True, the system isn't dripping with refinement but for those who like their



music fast and furious, each pound spent on this set-up punches above its weight.

<i>Technics SL-PG480A</i>	N/A
<i>Cambridge A1mk3</i>	£99.95
<i>Gale 4i</i>	£139.95

77 Carbon



telephone: 01480 433777
fax: 01480 431767

1936
QUAD
1996

Instant Systems

AMC/TANGENT

166

It's war out there on the high street between multiple specialist stores (Richer Sounds, Hyper-Fi etc) and micro-mid-mini system merchants like Dixons. The upshot is there has never been a better time to buy a budget hi-fi system. This entry-level solution breaks the £350 barrier by £10 yet, for sheer musicality, will take out any micro you care to name.

CD player and integrated amplifier are from the pan-global AMC empire. The AMC 3025a amp's hair-shirt price belies its remote control, and despite its modest 25 Watt out-

put world ability to drive difficult speakers. The £149.95 CD8 CD player is a one-bit MASH-based design with AMC's own filter module.

The responsibility for not mucking up falls squarely on the narrow shoulders of the £59.95 Tangent Monitor Three rosewood bookshelf budgeteers. They don't disappoint. Eschewing shiny digital hi-fi sounds, the AMC/Tangent combo is rich, warm and portrays an excellent sense of musical flow. It can be rough-edged and a little bass-light at times but there is a holistic rightness to the sound that's very alluring.

AMC CD8	£149.95
AMC 3025a	£129.95
Tangent Monitor Three	£59.95



AUDIO NOTE

ISSUE 167

Take a TT1 (née Systemdek IIX) turntable with rewired Rega RB250 arm and Audio Note Iq2 moving-magnet cartridge, built by Goldring. Add Audio Note's first-rung-on-the-ladder OTO SE single-ended valve integrated amplifier and a pair of Snell-J-type-derived Audio Note AN-JL speakers. What have you got? Simple deck, small amp (just 12 Watts per channel), big sensitive speakers and music in your life.

These components cut right through the artifice of so much hi-fi reproduction, especially with music that isn't over-produced, synthesised or heavily

processed. The Audio Note system conjures up a clear, natural sound that's free of brashness and harshness with acoustic instruments or voices to work with; yet it doesn't seem dull or dreary.

If truth be told there's a lack of dynamic headroom because of limited loudness — it's no head-banger. Yet this system possesses an inexorable 'rightness' that is absent from a whole host of equally-priced alternatives. It offers a unique blend of expansive yet natural sound without the top-dollar price ticket you'd expect.

Audio Note TT1/AN-Arm 1/Iq2	£725.00
Audio Note OTO Phono SE	£1,499.00
Audio Note AN-JL	£1,080.00



JVC SD1

ISSUE 168

Life-stylistically, the JVC SD1 is a cross between conventional hi-fi kit and the less conventional designs of B&O, Revox or Bose. For £5,000 you get the AX-SD1 amp, XL-SD1 CD player, TD-SD1 cassette deck, FX-SD1 tuner and SX-SD1 loudspeakers. Each unit is ultra-hefty, thanks to substantial alloy casework and colossal transformers inside. Each component has its own remote but all basic functions are actuated by the amp's zapper. The CD player incorporates JVC's K2 20-bit processing, while the cassette deck is a three-head design whose only



frill is bias calibration. Sonically, the SD1 system

seems to hit the mark. Its key strength is coherence, implying

good timing and transparency that combine to create palpable, fluent music. Inevitably it's not the most dynamic or bone-crunching system, but makes up for this by remaining unflappable up to decent volume levels, producing a clean, even balance that lets through music with the minimum of fuss.

It's not an edge-of-seat choice for ardent audiophiles, nor a European design classic by appointment to the Danish throne. But it is a sweet-sounding slicker.

JVC AX-SD1	£999.99
JVC XL-SD1	£899.99
JVC TD-SD1	£899.99
JVC FX-SD1	£699.99
JVC SX-SD1	£1,499.99

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 loop.

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®

Instant Systems

**RESON/CRIMSON/
REHDEKO**

ISSUE 170

Here's a system from the edge. Put together by Essex-based distributor Virtual Reality, it comprises the Reson RS1A turntable, a pair of Rehdeko RK115A speakers, the Crimson CS610C preamplifier and a pair of CS630 monoblok power amps. If mid-band accuracy is your bag, this rig is a virtuoso.

The 'baby' Rehdeko speakers typify the approach: single 190mm paper-cone full-range driver, high measured sensitivity of 97.3 dB, frequency response tailored to emphasise the 'information band'. The Reson deck is basically a Systemdek 1 with a

Rega RB250 and Goldring MC cartridge, while the Crimson pre-power combo is nothing if not clean and fast.

On first hearing there appears to be no bass, and high frequencies that swing between painful and almost inaudible. But this is as much to do with hi-fi preconceptions as the system's actual sound. Once you've adjusted, recordings come to life with a naturalness that is vibrant, occasionally unnerving, often breathtakingly close to the sound of real instruments. You'll either love it or hate it. But you'll never think about music the same way again.

<i>Reson RS1A</i>	£675.00
<i>Crimson CS610C/CS630</i>	£1,225.00
<i>Rehdeko RK115A</i>	£1,700.00



YBA/TRIANGLE

ISSUE 171

Northern-Irish distributor Kronos has a vision of the high-end and it's distinctly Gallic: CD and amplifier by Yves-Bernard André (YBA), speakers by Triangle. The £1,250 CD Intégré sports what YBA calls a 'Blue Laser' system which, it's claimed, aids disc tracking. The £1,650 Intégré DT amplifier's dual mono configuration is similarly radical, while the new £799 Zephyr Mark II floorstanders have been upgraded to mkII status with a larger cabinet, new drive units and claimed 91dB efficiency.

The YBA designs need skillful matching. They have a soft but charming sound that could



dimensional soundstage, with bass to catch you unawares. There's very little corruption of the sound. The 2000-series CD player and amplifier are the perfect match for these speakers. A complete lack of artificiality makes the music flow naturally.

It's very difficult to identify a weak link in this chain, except, perhaps, if you want to play it very loud. Because the Positron's mid/bass cones are small, and undergo long excursions to provide a decent quantity of bass, the speaker strains when you crank up the amp.

● *Win this system on page 34.*

<i>AVI S2000MC</i>	£1,399.00
<i>AVI S2000MI</i>	£999.00
<i>AVI Positron</i>	£899.00



AVI SYSTEM

ISSUE 172

Priced at £3,300, AVI's first complete system is set to be a big seller. It incorporates the £1,399 S2000MC Reference CD player; the £999, 100-Watt, solid-state, S2000MI integrated remote-control amplifier; and a pair of the new floorstanding, reflex-loaded, two-way Positron speakers, priced at £899.

This is a classic fit-and-forget system in the style of a Linn, Meridian or Quad — albeit without quite such a high degree of inter-component communication. Even though the Positron is a small, light speaker, it projects a surprisingly large, three-

easily seem bland and uninspiring with undynamic speakers. Yet they also have enough treble extension to make ragged speakers sound aggressive on music that has been mixed to sound up-front.

Thankfully, the Triangle Zephyr Mk II speakers are the perfect foil with clean top-end extension, exciting pace and good but not earth-shakingly-deep bass. Combined, these components give a sound that is weighty, with plenty of richness and a lot of detail. Kronos has succeeded in distilling the essence of the high end into a package that ordinary audiophiles can afford.

<i>YBA Intégré</i>	£1,250
<i>YBA DT</i>	£1,650
<i>Triangle Zephyr Mk II</i>	£799

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

WHAT HI-FI?

and only available from these authorised dealers...

ABERDEEN Sevenoaks Hi-Fi 01224 587070	BLACKPOOL Practical Hi-Fi 01253 300599	CHELTENHAM Audio T 01242 583960	EDINBURGH Bill Hutchinson 0131 220 0909	HUDDERSFIELD Huddersfield Hi-Fi 01484 544668	LONDON Audio T 0171 794 7848	MAIDSTONE Halksworth Wheeler 01622 756756	OTLEY Aston Audio 01943 467689	SEVENOAKS Sevenoaks Hi-Fi 01732 459555	TORQUAY Upton Electronics 01803 551329
ACCRINGTON Sound Academy 01922 473499	BLOXWICH Sound Academy 01254 391440	CHESTER Audio Excellence 01244 345576	HULL A Fanthorpe 01482 223096	HULL Bartletts Hi-Fi 0171 607 2148	LONDON Brians Hi-Fi 0171 631 1109	MANCHESTER Bill Hutchinson 0161 832 1600	OXFORD Oxford Audio 01865 65961	SHEFFIELD Audio Images 0114 273 7893	TRURO E.T.S. 01872 79809
AYLESBURY Northwood Audio II 01296 28790	BODMIN E.T.S. 01208 75579	CHIPPENHAM JD Stereo Centre 01249 654357	ENFIELD Audio T 0181 367 3132	ILFORD Audio T 0181 518 0915	LONDON Chelseas A.V. 0171 352 2596	MANCHESTER Francis of Streatham 0181 769 0466	OXFORD Consultants 01865 790879	WARRINGTON Moorgate Acoustics 0114 275 6048	TUNBRIDGE WELLS Sevenoaks Hi-Fi 01892 531543
BANBURY Blinkhorns 01295 259859	BOLTON Clearstone 01204 531423	CHORLEY Monitor Sound 01257 271935	EXETER Audio Excellence 01392 491194	IPSWICH Eastern Audio 01473 217217	LONDON Grahams Hi-Fi 0171 226 5500	MARKET V.J. Hi-Fi 01843 226977	PETERBOROUGH Audiovision 01733 352752	SHREWSBURY Creative Audio 01743 241924	TUNBRIDGE WELLS Sevenoaks Hi-Fi 01892 547003
BANGOR I & H Griffiths 01248 370655	BOURNEMOUTH Movement Audio 01202 529988	CONGLETON Hi-Fi Showrooms 01260 280017	EXMOUTH Exe Video 01302 255688	IPSWICH Eastern Audio 01473 217217	LONDON Hi-Fi Care 0171 637 8911	MARKET The Auditorium 0171 223 7225	PETERBOROUGH The Hi-Fi Company 01733 341755	SHREWSBURY Fraser's Hi-Fi 01753 520244	TUNBRIDGE WELLS Sevenoaks Hi-Fi 01892 547003
BARKING Hyper-Fi 0181 591 6961	BRACKNELL B&B Hi-Fi 01344 424556	COVENTRY Frank Harvey Hi-Fi 01203 525200	FALKIRK Hi-Fi Corner 01324 629011	KETTERING Classic Hi-Fi 01536 310855	LONDON Hi-Fi Surplus Store 0171 323 6712	MIDDLESBOROUGH The Hi-Fi Attic 01752 669511	PLYMOUTH Richer Sounds 01752 222256	SOUTHAMPTON Richer Sounds 01703 231311	WARRINGTON Doug Brady Hi-Fi 01925 828009
BARNSTAPLE J & A Video Centre 01271 24384	BRADFORD Erricks 01274 309266	CREWE Cloughs A.V. 01270 257030	FOLKESTONE Halksworth Wheeler 01303 256880	KINGS LYNN Martins Hi-Fi 01533 761683	LONDON KJ West One 0171 486 8262	MIDDLESBOROUGH Technosound 01908 604949	PLYMOUTH Movement Audio 01202 730865	SOUTHAMPTON Richer Sounds 01703 231311	WARRINGTON Doug Brady Hi-Fi 01925 828009
BASINGSTOKE Audio T 01256 24311	BRENTWOOD Hi-Spek Electronics 01277 226303	CROYDON Audio Tech 0181 680 1177	GATESHEAD Linton Audio 0191 460 0999	KINGS LYNN Martins Hi-Fi 01533 761683	LONDON Karco Electronics 0181 743 3698	MIDDLESBOROUGH Wilson's Hi-Fi 01282 612901	PLYMOUTH Now That's Hi-Fi 01705 811618	SOUTHAMPTON Richer Sounds 01703 231311	WARRINGTON Doug Brady Hi-Fi 01925 828009
BATH Moss of Bath 01225 465085	BRIGHTON Hill's Sound & Vision 01273 418006	CROYDON Audio Tech 0181 680 1177	GATESHEAD Linton Audio 0191 460 0999	KINGS LYNN Martins Hi-Fi 01533 761683	LONDON Martin-Kleiser 0181 547 0717	MIDDLESBOROUGH Wilson's Hi-Fi 01282 612901	PLYMOUTH Now That's Hi-Fi 01705 811618	SOUTHAMPTON Richer Sounds 01703 231311	WARRINGTON Doug Brady Hi-Fi 01925 828009
BATH Paul Green Hi-Fi 01225 316197	BRIGHTON Richer Sounds 01273 775978	CROYDON Audio Tech 0181 680 1177	GATESHEAD Linton Audio 0191 460 0999	KINGS LYNN Martins Hi-Fi 01533 761683	LONDON O'Brien Hi-Fi 0181 946 1528	MIDDLESBOROUGH Wilson's Hi-Fi 01282 612901	PLYMOUTH Now That's Hi-Fi 01705 811618	SOUTHAMPTON Richer Sounds 01703 231311	WARRINGTON Doug Brady Hi-Fi 01925 828009
BECKENHAM Musical Images 0181 663 3777	BRIGHTON The Powerplant 01273 775978	CROYDON Audio Tech 0181 680 1177	GATESHEAD Linton Audio 0191 460 0999	KINGS LYNN Martins Hi-Fi 01533 761683	LONDON M.O. Brien Hi-Fi 0181 946 1528	MIDDLESBOROUGH Wilson's Hi-Fi 01282 612901	PLYMOUTH Now That's Hi-Fi 01705 811618	SOUTHAMPTON Richer Sounds 01703 231311	WARRINGTON Doug Brady Hi-Fi 01925 828009
BEDFORD Richard's A.V. 01234 965165	BRIGHTON The Powerplant 01273 775978	CROYDON Audio Tech 0181 680 1177	GATESHEAD Linton Audio 0191 460 0999	KINGS LYNN Martins Hi-Fi 01533 761683	LONDON Myers Audio 0181 520 7277	MIDDLESBOROUGH Wilson's Hi-Fi 01282 612901	PLYMOUTH Now That's Hi-Fi 01705 811618	SOUTHAMPTON Richer Sounds 01703 231311	WARRINGTON Doug Brady Hi-Fi 01925 828009
BEDFORD Richard's A.V. 01234 965165	BRIGHTON The Powerplant 01273 775978	CROYDON Audio Tech 0181 680 1177	GATESHEAD Linton Audio 0191 460 0999	KINGS LYNN Martins Hi-Fi 01533 761683	LONDON Oranges & Lemons 0171 924 2040	MIDDLESBOROUGH Wilson's Hi-Fi 01282 612901	PLYMOUTH Now That's Hi-Fi 01705 811618	SOUTHAMPTON Richer Sounds 01703 231311	WARRINGTON Doug Brady Hi-Fi 01925 828009
BEDFORD Richard's A.V. 01234 965165	BRIGHTON The Powerplant 01273 775978	CROYDON Audio Tech 0181 680 1177	GATESHEAD Linton Audio 0191 460 0999	KINGS LYNN Martins Hi-Fi 01533 761683	LONDON PRC Hi-Fi & Video 0181 470 3499	MIDDLESBOROUGH Wilson's Hi-Fi 01282 612901	PLYMOUTH Now That's Hi-Fi 01705 811618	SOUTHAMPTON Richer Sounds 01703 231311	WARRINGTON Doug Brady Hi-Fi 01925 828009
BEDFORD Richard's A.V. 01234 965165	BRIGHTON The Powerplant 01273 775978	CROYDON Audio Tech 0181 680 1177	GATESHEAD Linton Audio 0191 460 0999	KINGS LYNN Martins Hi-Fi 01533 761683	LONDON Richer Sounds 0171 352 8496	MIDDLESBOROUGH Wilson's Hi-Fi 01282 612901	PLYMOUTH Now That's Hi-Fi 01705 811618	SOUTHAMPTON Richer Sounds 01703 231311	WARRINGTON Doug Brady Hi-Fi 01925 828009
BEDFORD Richard's A.V. 01234 965165	BRIGHTON The Powerplant 01273 775978	CROYDON Audio Tech 0181 680 1177	GATESHEAD Linton Audio 0191 460 0999	KINGS LYNN Martins Hi-Fi 01533 761683	LONDON Richer Sounds 0171 352 8496	MIDDLESBOROUGH Wilson's Hi-Fi 01282 612901	PLYMOUTH Now That's Hi-Fi 01705 811618	SOUTHAMPTON Richer Sounds 01703 231311	WARRINGTON Doug Brady Hi-Fi 01925 828009

1994

Best Speaker Cable



Best Interconnect & Highly Recommended Speaker Cable

1995

Best Interconnect & Best Speaker Cable



1996

Best Speaker & Highly Recommended Interconnect



1997

Best Speaker & Highly Recommended Interconnect



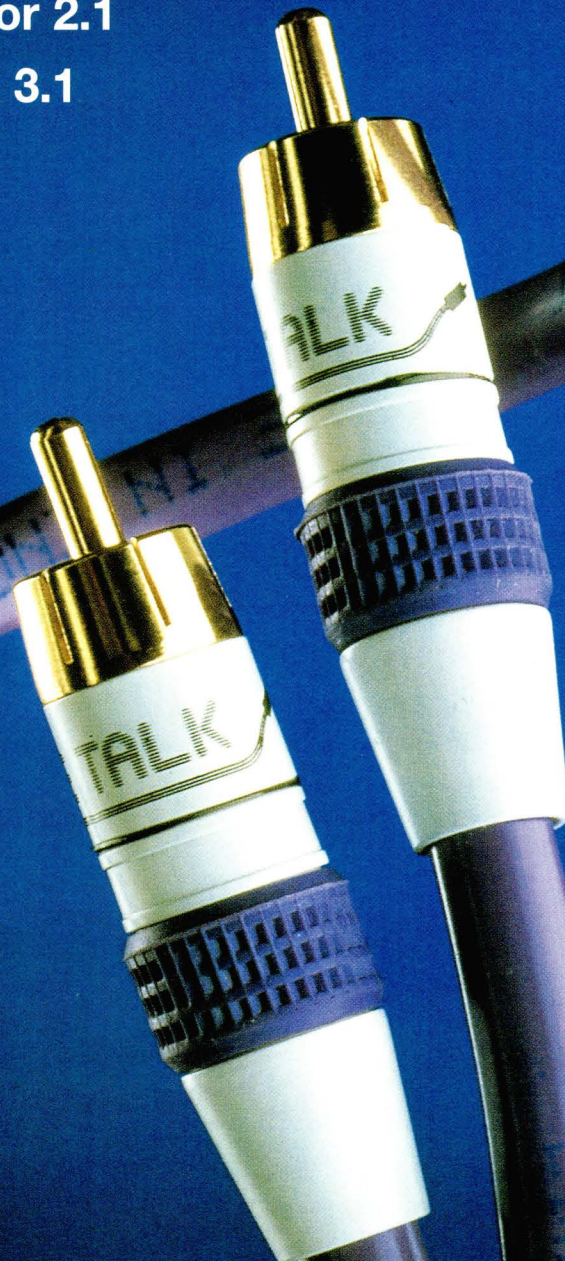
Cable
Interconnects

Cable Talk scooped the top honours for Best Speaker Cable and were Highly Recommended for Interconnects

Interconnects: Monitor 2.1

Speaker Cables: Talk 3.1

*Doesn't your system
deserve the best?*



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 BBG 97

e Talk

& Speaker Cables

BEST BUYS 1997



Hi-Fi Choice has reviewed thousands of products since arriving on the scene in 1975. Many components have received our renowned Best Buy or Recommended swing-tags. Naturally, you can stay abreast of hi-fi happenings by buying the magazine every month. But if your *Hi-Fi Choice* collection has a few gaps, this bumper Best Buys compilation will get you up to speed on the hottest hi-fi of the year.

Our detailed, comparative blind-listening tests have made *Hi-Fi Choice* one of the most respected hi-fi magazines in the world. Since last January we have discovered 44 Best Buy and 75 Recommended products — 20 per cent more swing-tags than last year. It's no mean feat to cram a year's worth of star buys into a magazine of this size, so we've trimmed two-thirds from the original review of each Best Buy. Recommended write-ups are summarised in a paragraph or two.

This year we have included all products awarded European Imaging & Sound Association (EISA) awards, as well as items tested in complete systems and noted in *Statements*, our monthly round-up of high-end masterpieces and other esoteric concoctions.

To obtain more information on any product, you may use our FactsBack service (see page 142) which will fax you a copy of most reviews printed in the last few months. Or you can order whole magazines from our Back Issue warehouse (see page 151). Meanwhile for Net-heads and Cyberphiles the world over, our new Web site (www.hifichoice.co.uk; and see p33) offers interactive review searches and hot chat areas. Hope you find what you're looking for!



LOUDSPEAKERS

As usual there are more Best Buy loudspeakers than any other hi-fi component. It's a simple fact that more loudspeakers are made in the UK than any other hi-fi product, and our reviews naturally reflect the great product diversity on offer.

Loudspeakers come in all manner of shapes and sizes, use myriad technologies and materials, and may be purchased at a vast range of prices. Any change in speaker design affects sound quality, so at any price level loudspeakers offer the greatest range of sonic differences.

As a manufacturer's interpretation of good sound can be highly subjective, so may a reviewer's, which is why we use blind listening panels to achieve a consensus of opinion.

Because of the variety of sounds on offer, you should use our citations as a guide, and make a short-list of products in your price range. Use our reviews to eliminate models that don't suit your tastes and system. Ideally, this will leave you with a maximum of three products. Then audition these products (in your system, if possible). This should prevent you wasting time listening to speakers that do not suit your taste.



CD PLAYERS

The latest CD players are at the pinnacle of the digital engineer's art. Pundits now talk of DVD or Super CD replacements for CD, but it will take many years before these future formats cease to be science fiction. Now's a great time to buy CD!

This is an ever-changing market in which entry-level prices are going down and quality is going up. At the high end prices have not decreased so much, but sound and design quality forge ahead. Even here there are exceptions: the new Micromega Solo is not cheap at £2,700, but it makes older Micromegas sound lacklustre by comparison.

While Best Buy products tend to be cheaper, you'll see more than a few up-market Recommendations. Add to this the spectacular high-end models we've tested and you can see why there has never been a better time to buy a CD player.

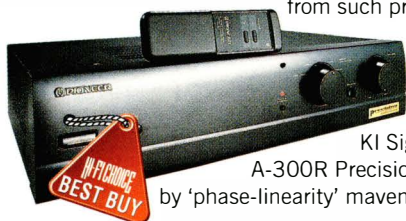


AMPLIFIERS

There is a great temptation to underplay the importance of an amplifier. Many people mistakenly believe that the loudspeakers or the source are most fundamental to good sound quality, and overlook the rôle of the amplifier completely.

Fortunately that situation is changing, as people begin to realise that every component in the hi-fi chain is equally important. This has catalysed a resurgence in good amplifier design at all prices.

We are particularly pleased to see more and more 'Cosworth' style amplifier products. This is where a pretty normal amplifier — usually a low-priced model — receives a thorough tweaking, and thus delivers much higher sound quality than one might expect from such prosaic raw material.



Perhaps the best known of this year's breed are Ken Ishiwata's award-winning Marantz PM-66 KI Signature, and the Pioneer A-300R Precision extensively modified by 'phase-linearity' maven Tom Evans.

CATEGORY	PAGE NUMBER
AMPLIFIERS	62
CASSETTE DECKS	77
CD PLAYERS	48
EISA AWARD WINNERS	96
HEADPHONES	76
LOUDSPEAKERS	82
SPEAKER CABLES	93
EQUIPMENT TABLES	81
TUNERS	75
TURNTABLES	95



AND THE REST

While the triumvirate of CD, amp and speaker represent the core of today's hi-fi system, numerous other products make the difference between good hi-fi and great hi-fi. Cables, tables, headphones and tuners all contribute to sonic satisfaction. Even older technology is not redundant. Sales of cassette tape decks and record players may not be as brisk as they used to be, but by no means are these formats about to retire. The joy of separates hi-fi is upgrading and adding components as you can afford them. Enjoy!



CD Players



ACURUS ACD11
£899

Distributed in the UK by the purveyors of Classe Audio, EAD and Mirage, the ACD11 is the only CD player in Acurus's eclectic but relatively affordable range. Build quality is good and the front panel is well finished. Below the display is the mysterious legend 'Air Constrained Dampening'. The digital heart of this player is a one-bit DAC with 32-times oversampling.

Bells and whistles aren't the name of the game at this price, but key playback features are all accessible from the crescent formation of front panel controls. The power switch is central, with buttons for play, stop, open/close, and next/previous track skip to either side. The remote control adds the usual ergonomic enhancements, including alternative display modes (such as display off), and track programming. Standard analogue output sockets are supplemented by a coaxial

digital S/PDIF, and the player offers a polished drawer action and rapid track access.

It was the highest-scoring model in its test group, and a resounding success in the context of the high-resolution system used. One panel member suggested the Acurus was ideal for owners of high-quality mini monitors: "What's there is very good indeed, but there's no substance to the bass," Others commented on a rather washed-out bass quality, but even the worst CD player has acceptable bass.

Elsewhere, it was variously described as "well defined", with "strong clarity", a "natural [tonal] balance", "secure" and presenting a "believable image" — or, as one put it, "stereo at last!". Adjectives like "seductive" cropped up, too. This is an excellent player that boasts a winning combination of refinement, resolving ability and naturalness. There's no hesitation in awarding a Best Buy. *AG Audio Illusion* ☎ (01753) 542 761
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 166

DENON DCD-635
£179.99

Pitched into the fray at £20 less than its predecessor the 625, Denon's DCD-635 keeps faith with multi-bit conversion technology by using what is claimed to be an 18-bit Burr Brown DAC, plus eight-times-oversampling 'LAMBDA filters' and 'Digital Noise Shaping'. The centre-mounted mechanism, nothing special to look at, is above the display, which is not too helpful, but on the whole clean and simple. The mechanism is quiet but positive, and the rather fussy display can be dimmed or switched off entirely.

The headphone feed has a rotary volume control and the remote provides a 12dB mute. User-convenience features include various disc-to-tape editing programme functions and a 'sync' socket for Denon cassette decks.

This player shows what can be done at a low price when resources are con-



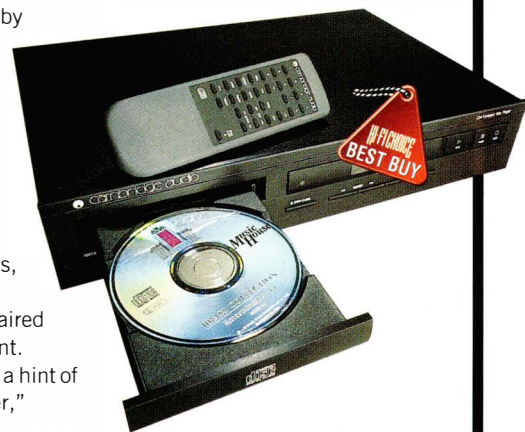
CAMBRIDGE AUDIO CD4SE
£199.95

When is a special edition not a special edition? When it's a completely different machine. Enter Cambridge Audio's £200 CD4SE which, despite appearances, bears no resemblance at all to the original CD4 reviewed so favourably in issue 147.

By the time you read this, CA is likely to have tarted up the rather dour front panel. Widgets like direct track access, intro search, repeat, random and program play are all retained. But why is the CD4SE one of the few players not to accept direct track selection with the drawer still open? A silly oversight.

Inside, it's all change. Out goes the Sanyo-based mechanism, with its sluggish track access, to be replaced by the crisper Philips CDM12. Gone, too, is Philips' TDA1305 DAC, in favour of the very different CS4327 from Crystal. This is a high oversampling/bitstream-style converter which, CA claims, offers close to 20-bit performance using a paired differential arrangement.

"There's more than a hint of valve amp in this player,"



centrated where they can do the most good.

"Bouncy and pretty lively," wrote one listener about the Joni Mitchell track. A choral piece showed "good clarity, with a nice listen-through character and good [vocal] articulation, and an even-handed tonal balance".

One listener felt the player

remarked one imaginative listener in response to the warm, rich and colourful sound of the CD4 SE.

It does emphasise midrange detail and 'lushness' ahead of extreme treble 'airiness' and yet, despite this merest hint of darkness, Cannonball Adderley's mute trumpet and sax still possessed realistic attack and bite, and the emotive strength of Rachmaninov's Third Symphony remained undiluted.

Aesthetic and ergonomic quibbles aside, this is among the very best players we have ever encountered, and it's certainly as good as a product as you are likely to trip over at this price. The heartiest of Best Buys. *PMI Cambridge Audio* ☎ (0171) 940 2240
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 163

was a little too laid-back to fully exploit the live feel of the song, but this was a minority view, and a high average score tells its own eloquent story.

This is a clean, accurate and expressive player, which was as good an advocate for the complex and unfamiliar material as the more homely.

It feels a little plasticky, but Denon's DCD-635 is a thoroughbred when it comes to musical performance, and holds its own with players that cost quite a bit more. The criticisms were mild and infrequent, so this CD player is an obvious Best Buy. *AG Hayden Labs* ☎ (01753) 888 447
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 172

CD Players



KENWOOD DP-4090

£229.95

The DP-4090 is in the middle of a range of five, and boasts CD Text. This system, which permits textual data to be stored with music on a CD, was first demonstrated 15 years ago, but now Kenwood, among others, has introduced players that can extract information such as album and track titles, plus artist and composer names, from encoded discs. On the DP-4090 messages scroll across a large dot-matrix panel.

Despite a minimalist front panel, the DP-4090 is not short of features. These include electrical and optical digital outputs, remote system-link terminals, and remote-control-operated headphone volume adjustment. Though bulky, the player is well made, with an extruded aluminium front panel and a thin loading drawer which is quieter and quicker than most.

It struck a chord with the listening panel, receiving a highly consistent endorsement. "This sounded pretty good," wrote one. Another said: "The player sounds full-bodied, rhythmic and detailed. Sometimes its treble is a little harsh, but on the whole it works really well."

The Kenwood is a colourful and articulate player which is more dynamic and less mechanical than most. It performed consistently with each system used on test and had the happy knack of drawing attention away from the mechanics of music reproduction and into the music itself.

The DP-4090 is a first-rate budget CD player, offering open, expressive sound quality with plenty of tonal colour, dynamic incident and dark spaces between the notes. A star performer and Best Buy. *AG*

Kenwood ☎ (01923) 816 444
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 172

KENWOOD DP-7090

£399.95

The unwieldy and unnecessary bulk of Kenwood's DP-7090 CD player flies in the face of today's cosmetic wisdom. Fortunately, our 'blind' listeners saw through its clumsy apparel to the beauty of the performance within. It's a truly cracking player as long as you don't dismiss it on the grounds of tasteless styling.

Comprehensive features include index and track selection, peak search, program and repeat play, plus digital volume control on the line-level outputs.

The most startling feature is its internal technology, in which a sealed and 'tuned' transport mechanism complements very elaborate associated digital electronics, known as 'Dynamic Resolution Intensive Vector Enhancement' (DRIVE). There are four of Burr-Brown's top PCM1702 20-bit DACs per channel, as you'd expect to find in a £2,000 player.

Though it was a little distant-sounding, our panel found the 7090's sound even-handed and fundamentally coherent. For a change, the complex vocal intonation of the late Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan captured our

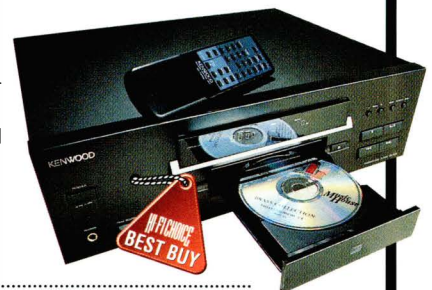
attention through emotive strength, not tonal forwardness. "It whisks you off to a land of sticky coffee and minarets," remarked one listener, who also had half a mind on lunch.

Cannonball Adderley's *Autumn Leaves* also possessed this same 'cuddly' quality, which was described as "neither adding to, nor getting in the way of, the essence of this original '50s recording". All in all, this proved to be a very enjoyable player throughout. Neither grey nor clinical, it was admirably natural and unmanipulative in disposition. It just plays great music, pure and simple.

The technology within the DP-7090 has never been available at such a low price; an involving player results. A Best Buy and a gentleman among digital ruffians. *PMI*

Kenwood ☎ (01923) 816 444

Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 163



MISSION CYRUS 3AD3Q

£898

Derived from the 3AD3 (see page 56), this 3AD3Q variation is a £300 upgrade of the base model. In this guise it features mono 18-bit DACs for each channel, with separate eight-times digital filters mounted on a small 'piggyback' PCB.

It sports the familiar Cyrus magnesium die-cast casework (non-ferrous, so non-magnetic, and very aesthetically pleasing) and the space-saving 'half-width' shoebox presentation. As well as the usual features, absolute phase may be switched and programmed on a track-by-track basis. Surprisingly, perhaps, the only

digital output is optical. The Q-Board already represents a major upgrade, but a further step is possible by adding an outboard PSX-R power supply in matching alloy casework.

The basic player (without PSX-R) was, on the whole, well-liked in the panel tests, thanks

to a smooth, easy-on-the-ear quality which makes the most of musical expression, tonal colour and timing (sometimes at the expense of musical architecture). There were a few complaints of mild coloration effects — one listener complained of a "creamy" string tone — but over-

riding everything was the way it brought articulation and vitality to the darkest reaches of the music without imposing its own character, and smothering the differences between the various pieces. This was one of just a few players able to re-invent itself with each piece of music.

The PSX-R-equipped version was also presented to the panel, which approved of the much bolder architecture, enhanced dynamic range and soundstaging, and superior detail resolution. Here's a very intelligently designed player that's always easy on the ear. Ultimately it's the upgrade flexibility that makes it a Best Buy. *AG*

Mission ☎ (01480) 451 777

Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 169



CD Players



MUSICAL FIDELITY A2
£499.99

While derived from the E60, Musical Fidelity's A2 is a direct counterpart of the more costly E601, styled to match the A-series amps.

The display is the familiar over-fussy component, but subtle highlighting around the controls is a bonus and the luxurious deep black fascia ensures the A2 is among the classiest-looking players in its price zone.

Digital electrical and optical outputs are fitted, but there's no head phone socket. The loading drawer is rather slow and sounds a little rough. Although the mechanism is quick, it suffered indigestion with some damaged CDs.

The Yamaha YDC-103 'CD-on-a-chip' handles most of the digital functions, fed by a Sanyo mechanism. Some component selection is involved, along with greater jitter reduction and a different Class A output stage.

Our first test sample failed mid-test and was replaced, but

this was the only significant blot on a player that achieved a uniformly solid score from the panel. "Best balance yet," wrote one. "[Good] image depth, dynamic without sounding harsh; there appear to be more instruments. The effect is more musical and foot-tapping."

This CD player has an infectious and euphonic charm with plenty of detail. About the worst criticism was of slightly soft and woolly bass, but the music was always enjoyable — especially when playing natural, acoustic recordings.

The first sample failure was probably an isolated event, and there are no complaints about build quality, fit or finish, though its sensitivity to the physical condition of the disc could concern those who are less than fastidious about CD care. Musically, the player achieves an all-but-clean bill of health, erring just slightly on the side of easy listening. *ag*

Musical Fidelity ☎ (0181) 900 2866
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 169

PIONEER PD-S505
PRECISION
£449.95

Pioneer's Precision series is designed by a UK-based team on a sound-priority ticket. All products are modified and tested at Pioneer's Yorkshire facility, naturally benefiting from the company's prodigious buying and manufacturing power.

The £450 PD-S505 'P' uses the transport mechanism from the PD-S705/904, and the house Legato Link digital filtering. However there are changes in the proprietary IC output stage, a master reference clock with its own dedicated supply, and a display driven from the main master clock. The circuit boards have been upgraded.

The player remains fully (if untidily) equipped, with a complete range of track access and trick-play modes, a 'display-off'

switch, variable-level head-phone monitoring and full CD-to-tape editing. The disc itself is supported by Pioneer's proprietary Stable Platter 'turntable'.

It evoked a variety of responses from the panel. But all agreed it had a big, open voice and a fluid, highly articulate delivery miles beyond the etched sharpness and sterility of some. It's up there with the better top-price players in the test group, and is superior even to the strongest low-price models.

The panel's lack of agreement shows this is a player you must try in your system before buying. There was a hint of amplifier dependency in the hands-on testing, with some amps failing to realise the player's potential. At its best, however, the PD-S505 offers unique Best-Buy-worthy strengths. *ag*

Pioneer UK ☎ (01753) 789 500
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 166

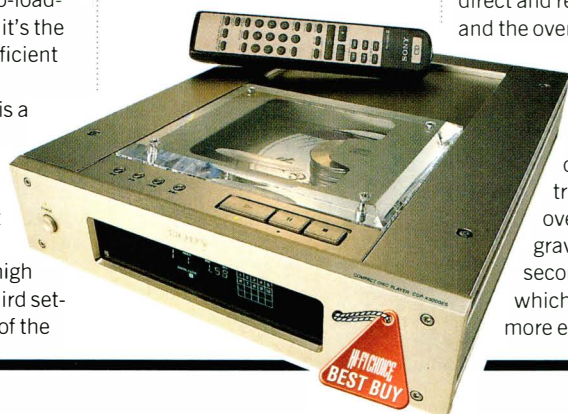


SONY CDP-X3000ES
£499.99

Trust Sony to keep re-inventing the wheel. The novelty here is not the champagne gold finish, the 280mm-wide shoebox presentation, or even the top-loading mechanism. Rather, it's the four setting variable coefficient digital filter.

The standard setting is a conventional arrangement, flat-in-band with brick wall filtering. Next there's a spline filter that reduces ringing on transients at the expense of high frequency output. The third setting combines elements of the

two before it, while the last one aims for an 'analogue' sound by combining the second mode with eight times oversampling, giving an impulse response with low pre-ringing, and characteristically mellow tonality. The



CDP-X3000ES offers every conventional feature and one of the best stick-type handsets ever.

The filters alter the proportions of the soundstage, the dynamic relationship between instruments, the mix between direct and reverberant energy and the overall sense of focus, often quite subtly. Preferences between second, third and fourth often seemed arbitrary at first, but clarify over time. This writer gravitated towards the second filter setting, which seemed to offer a more expressive quality

and better focus, especially compared to the first mode. Also, this setting seemed to give more consistent results than modes three and four — especially three.

Choosing filters may be intellectually unsatisfying, but it is pragmatically attractive. However, even though mode two gave the most consistent and often the most natural results, it was not obvious whether the filter itself represented the dominant factor.

Overall, a well-liked player with strong dynamics, solid bass and credible imagery. *ag*
Sony UK ☎ (0990) 111 999
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 169

CD Players



TEAC CD-P3450SE £199.95

Best known in Britain for high-end CD players and VRDS player mechanisms, Teac also produces budget machinery, of which the CD-P3450SE (a 'tweaked' version of the discontinued CD-P3450) is a good example. For once, here's a budget player free of gimmickry, and the result is a control layout that could hardly be bettered. It has a cheap plastic fascia moulding and a messy track calendar on an otherwise excellent display — but at £200, who cares?

The remote handset is simple but well-designed, and the control logic is intelligent. Track access is slow, but the tray action is neither as tardy nor as asthmatic as some. It has a headphone socket (but no volume control), basic tape support and an optical digital input. The UK design input is manifested in

the Burr-Brown op-amps of the output buffer, a DC-coupled, servo-controlled output and a new analogue filter to reduce ultrasonic and RF noise.

The panel voiced various mild, random gripes, but on the whole they approved of this player. The only consensual objection was to some lack of bass weight and presence.

This is an inexpensive unit, and its faults (typical of cheaper players) include a thin but still tuneful and articulate bass, some hardness and an erratic sense of image depth. But it turned in a consistent, amp-friendly performance in different systems with a clarity and refinement unusual at the price.

The best and worst thing about this player is its inability to surprise. Bearing in mind the giveaway price, a Best Buy seems the only fair verdict. *AG*
Teac ☎ (01923) 819 630
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 166

TRICHORD RESEARCH DIGITAL TURNTABLE/ PULSAR SERIES ONE £719/£1,395

Trichord's £719 Digital Turntable transport is actually a budget Pioneer CD player equipped with the 'Stable Platter' mechanism. This has been modified by Trichord, with two extra boards contributing to claimed low jitter performance.

The £1,395 Pulsar Series One DAC is all Trichord's own work. It's housed in a smart Medite sleeve, and is made with high-quality components and tweaks such as heatsinks on several ICs. It bears no visual resemblance to the transport.

This is a feature-rich combination, with Pioneer's programming and track-access features and Trichord's options of 18-bit or 20-bit filter mode, dither on or off, 'jitter-free' or 'synchronous'



operation, and phase inversion. It arrived set to 20-bit, dither off, jitter-free, phase normal, which seemed ideal for the most part.

The panel gradually warmed to this combo. One shifted from "competent yet uninspiring" on the first track to "open and clear" and "plenty of weight" by the fourth. Another said it was "very sweet-toned" and "quite dramatic". There was the odd voice of complaint. One listener felt the piano was "plodding along"; another that it was "a little flat and uninvolved".

Extended hands-on listening continued to increase the panel's respect. The most obvious feature of the sound is its solidity, which puts the performers squarely in front of the listener (or to the side as imaging demands).

More important in the long term is the player's lack of 'fatigue-factor'. Where others seemed, after a few minutes, to suffer from mild distortion on solo piano, this one remained perfectly clean.

It's no surprise, then, to find this review concluding with a Best Buy swing-tag. *RB*
Trichord Research ☎ (01684) 573 524
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 162

RECOMMENDED

CD Players

AUDIOLAB 8000CDM/DAC £1,399.90/£899.90

Audiolab's matching transport and DAC, slim, understated and immaculately finished, make a smart but pricey combo.

Design and workmanship are first-class, and the metal chassis contains one large PCB, generous toroidal transformer and screened critical circuits. Transport and DAC have inputs and

outputs galore. The only surprise was to find NE5534 op-amps, which are out of favour with many audiophiles.

The panel drew divided conclusions on the blind listening sessions. So reactions to this player will depend probably on the kind of sound cues that matter to the listener. The Audiolab's main characteristics are tonal honesty, slightly compromised by a mild veiling of fine



detail, but its politeness and unflappability are strengths. If you like Audiolab amps, you'll

probably love the CD combo. *RB*
Audiolab ☎ (01480) 415 600
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 162

MS

Mordaunt-Short



"The MS20i Pearls are outstanding speakers. The low-end is tight yet well extended, treble is crisp, and the mid-range sounds as open and natural as you could wish. Fast, revealing and seamlessly integrated from top to bottom, ... Get it right, and these are the best speakers £200 can buy."

WHAT HI-FI? October 1997 ★★★★★

A Little Gem

"Standmounters that sound simply huge - the most complete speakers you can get at the price."

WHAT HI-FI? Awards 1997

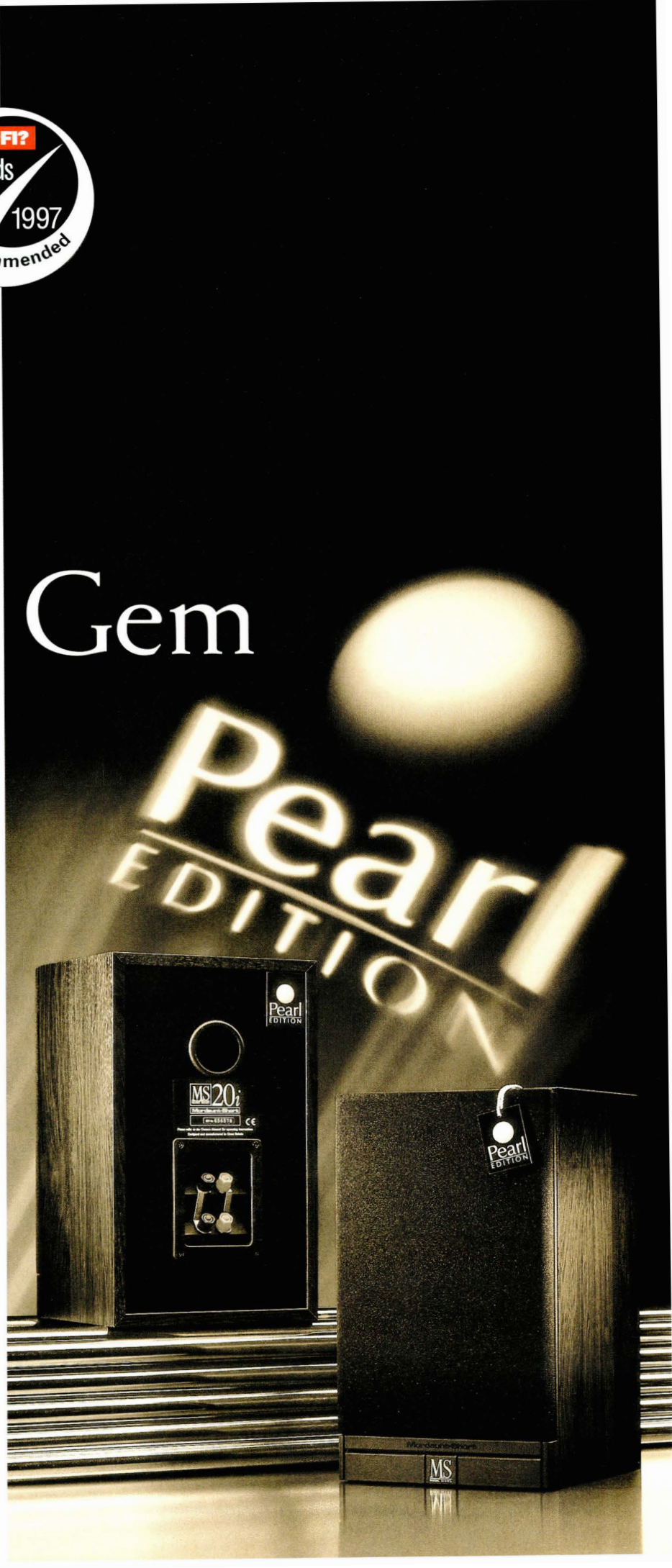
The MS20i Pearl is a further celebration of Mordaunt-Short's 30th Birthday and, like the MS10i Pearl and the MS25i Pearl, has been born from a lasting dedication towards new technology and a fearless, open minded approach towards original thinking and innovation. In short, the Pearl Series encapsulates all the ideals that have ensured Mordaunt-Short's success over the last 30 years.

Worthy of the 'Highly Recommended' accolade at the 1997 What Hi-Fi? Awards, the MS20i Pearl features a painstakingly developed moulded cone and surround using patented MCS₅ technology to ensure a clean, seamless transition to our acclaimed gold anodised aluminium tweeter. This provides the listener with stunning clarity and detail in both the mid-band and treble. The inclusion of a new, bi-wireable crossover with distributed component resonances reduces signal cross-talk and colouration at the normally troublesome cross-over frequencies, resulting in an impeccably realistic sound-stage image. In addition, the cabinet has been retuned to provide a deeper, cleaner, more forceful bass.

All this translates into a speaker that What Hi-Fi? describes as being "Taut, clean, weighty and above all highly musical", we like to describe it as "A Little Gem".

For your FREE copy of this review and a FREE Mordaunt-Short literature pack, including details on the Music Series *i* loudspeakers, Home Entertainment loudspeakers, Performance loudspeakers and the V Series loudspeakers, CALL FREE NOW on 0321 506550 (24 hours)

<http://www.mordaunt-short.com>



CD Players



ARCAM ALPHA 7

£329.90

For its latest Alpha CD players, Arcam has taken the added-value route. Upgradability is at issue: the Alphas 7 and 8 all feature interchangeable motherboards to prevent obsolescence. If you can only afford an Alpha 7 now, you can still upgrade to the 8 in future.

The 7 sports curvy, dark grey livery and a good range of features, though not remote volume or mute.

Described as a "dynamic and confident performer", the Alpha 7 is also significantly more refined than earlier Alpha CDPs.

It fared astonishingly well in our test system, with considerably more detail than the budget norm, aided by slick dynamics.

But lab tests indicate potential unpredictability with different amplifiers, so Arcam will have to settle for a Recommendation, rather than the Best Buy it might have won otherwise. *PM*

Arcam ☎ (01223) 203 200

Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 163

ALCHEMIST NEXUS ADP32A

£579

The Nexus, a chip off the old Nemesis amplifier, is the first digital product from Alchemist.

Its highly individual styling may not be in perfect taste, but it's a natural choice for existing Alchemist amp owners.

You'll find it a fairly heavy player, a consequence of its substantially-built innards. But some of the cosmetic detailing is open to criticism.

The player uses a Philips CDM12 mechanism and twin DACs with 92

times oversampling. Rather misleadingly, Alchemist describes this as a '19-bit' configuration.

The Nexus earned a solid score in the panel tests, with a powerful consistency between listeners. It's easy on the ears but no ace dynamically, and can sound too smooth. Even if it isn't the most sparkling player around, there's no trace of the rather screechy quality found elsewhere. The Nexus is a real sweetie, and well deserves a Recommended flag. *AG*

Alchemist ☎ (01707) 664 607

Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 169



AVI S2000 MC REF

£1,399

AVI's S2000MC may look austere, but it's built like the proverbial brick privy.

Inside is a double-sided, plated-through fibreglass PCB, with multiple ground planes and star earthing, a complex power supply system and a twin Burr-Brown 20-bit DAC with an eight times oversampling filter. A well-designed handset accesses most normal features.

The listening tests produced a solid score, but engendered a spread of opinions among the listeners. It lacks the sweetness or stereo depth of some players, but its vitality, resolving power and control stand it in good stead. The bass is dry, but there's no lack of bass extension, given a suitable system.

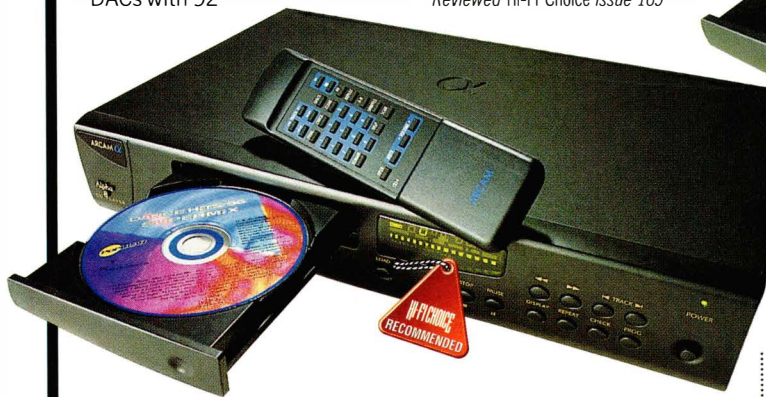
A lifelike, capable player, with a lean balance that must be factored in for effective system matching. Too good to escape Recommendation! *AG*

AV International ☎ (01453) 752

656

Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice

issue 169



ARCAM ALPHA 8

£519.90

If the Alpha 8 bears an uncanny resemblance to the cheaper Alpha 7 (above), it's because both share the same Philips CDM14 transport mechanism, chassis, contoured plastic fascia, yellow/green display and complement of function buttons.

An interchangeable motherboard allows the Alpha 7 to upgrade to an 8 or further, as and when Arcam releases a new product. Technically, the 8 is substantially removed from the 7, and is based only loosely on its Alpha 6 predecessor.

Despite appearances, the

Alpha 7 and 8 sound very different, though happily, the 8 is not merely a 7 drained of life.

The 8 sounds perfectly civil on occasions when the 7 might have let slip the odd, if realistic, brassy rasp. The 8's rendition is deeper, darker and more intriguing, peeling away layers of detail that might have been lost in a more exuberant performance. And it's more amp-friendly than the 7. *PM*

Arcam ☎ (01223) 203200

Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 163





"The ES30s Are Just Awesome"

"...floor shaking bass drive and a breathtaking presence in the treble and midband"



"...nothing much can touch the ES30s. Like all Epos speakers they have stunning drive and rhythmic ability, here allied to floor shaking bass drive and a breathtaking presence in the treble and midband. Even really complex mixes are handled with ease and their ability with the scale and power of a full orchestra is never in question, ...the ES30s are just awesome. Start saving now..."

WHAT HI-FI? AWARDS 1997

THE EPOS ES30S WERE THE ONLY HIGH-END LOUDSPEAKERS TO RECEIVE A "HIGHLY RECOMMENDED" AT THE WHAT HI-FI? AWARDS 1997

"The ES30 reproduces some gorgeous liquid treble... where the clarity is awesomely realistic, ...it wouldn't hang together without a great midrange, and it's beautifully coherent, presenting vocals very naturally."

WHAT HI-FI?, OCTOBER 1997 ★★★★★



If you'd like details of the ES30 and our full product range...
CALL FREE NOW on 0321 506550
(24 hours)

Epos Acoustics

3 Ridgway, Havant, Hampshire,
PO9 1JS Great Britain
Tel: +44 (0) 1705 407722
Fax: +44 (0) 1705 400099
<http://www.epos-acoustics.com>

CD Players



DENON DCD-3000 £999.99

A battleship among CD players. The DCD-3000 is stuffed with all the features you can think of — you can use it even as an out-board DAC!

Proprietary Alpha processing is the key techno-feature. Denon claims it reconstructs a 20-bit signal from the original 16-bit data, according to the direction and rate of change of successive bits, but in operation this proved a little erratic.

That said, our listening panel heard a graceful and consistent

performance. The balance is neutral and refined, and the DCD-3000 seems unflappable with the most arduous material, sounding smooth and subtly-detailed when required, but also massively powerful. Shame about the fire and passion.

A *tour de force* of engineering with an unusual quota of facilities and exceptionally agreeable sound, the DCD-3000 is Recommended. At press time this unit had just been discontinued, but you may find a few still in the shops. *PM*

Hayden Labs ☎ (01753) 888 447
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 163



JVC XL-V184 £119.99

JVC's entry-level XL-V184BK looks like good value at its remarkably low selling price of £120.

It has a very well-stocked front panel, plenty of facilities and an excellent display, which is rather bright but can be turned off. It may be linked with other JVC components and operated by a single remote control.

The loading drawer is slow and asthmatic, but the JVC tracked securely, even when presented with less-than-pristine 'problem' CDs.

There's a warmth and grace

to the sound which is often lacking in more costly machinery, though it is not totally transparent.

Spatial cues tend to be muddled, and there are latent steely and hard tendencies. Okay, so it's not the most exciting or analytical CD reproducer to have emerged from the Victor Corporation of Japan, but it represents exceptional value for money at the price. *AG*

JVC UK ☎ (0181) 450 3282
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 172

HARMAN/KARDON HD730 £299.99

The HD730 is a PDM Bitstream player with all mod cons: a sharp dresser with a contemporary feel.

Features include 30-track programming, multi-mode tape editing and a hard-wired CD-copy facility. It has an electrical digital output socket and a volume-controlled headphone socket. The player looks and feels good, the handset is well thought-out and the display is outstanding.

This player emerged fairly

well, if not totally unscathed, from the listening tests. It's a less-than-exciting model, with some loss of detail and a perceptibly 'dark' sense of tonal colour, but solidity distinguishes it from the lightweight-sounding competition in this price range.

Well-organised and powerfully equipped, the HD730's musical strengths outweigh its weaknesses. The bold dynamics and inherent spaciousness are very attractive, even though the player is not as neutral or explicitly detailed as some. *AG*

Gamepath ☎ (01908) 317 707
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 166



MARANTZ CD-63MKII K I SIGNATURE £399.90

Voted European CD Player of the Year '96-'97, Marantz's CD-63mkII KI Signature is physically almost identical to the CD-67SE.

The mechanism is the Philips CDM12.3 and the player uses an improved HDAM (Hyper Dynamic Amplifier Module), which claims a low output impedance, fast rise time and an enhanced power supply. KIS mods include extensive copper

better-quality components.

This player is imbued with the sound of Marantz, which means it's smooth and elegant, with a contained, even homogenised treble; warm, lucid bass; and lively, explicit midband. However, dynamics and authority are sacrificed on the altar of transparency and euphony.

Musically, it may be a bit of a lush, and some low-level detail doesn't get through, but its listenability quotient is high and it sings directly from the heart. *AG*

Marantz UK ☎ (01753) 680 868
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 169



plating, improved custom-designed toroidal transformer and a transplant of

CD Players



MARANTZ CD67SE

£299.90

The CD-67SE replaces the CD-63SE, the SE suffix indicating that the player is aurally tailored for the UK and has audiophile pretensions.

Based on the CD-67 (HFC 159), the SE sports a later-spec CD7 decoder IC, plus new servo and drive circuits. The transformer windings are now oxygen-free, plus there are new, discrete output modules, a more substantial base and extra internal bracing.

This player is low in col-

oration and generally easy on the ears, but uneven in its behaviour, with a noticeable 'loudness' contour. This results in a slightly over-cooked bass that leaves music sounding distant and vague at times.

Despite the warmth, the sound lacks authority, grip and some sparkle. Still, though it failed to excite on every disc, and sometimes sounded a little flat in top-class systems, it works well enough with moderately-priced equipment to earn a Recommended flag. *AG*

Marantz UK ☎ (01753) 680 868
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 166



MERACUS TANTO

£1,395

It's neither beautiful nor cheap, but this strictly functional German player has acquired a strong following on its home turf and enjoyed some success here.

Close attention to detail shows in the properly buffered digital electrical output, the use of a small heater to keep the master clock oscillator at a steady temperature, and the way the critical circuits are kept powered up in standby.

The Tanto sounded sweeter, more organic and less synthetic than most, coming alive with the best available partners and showing fine timing and drive.

Stereo imagery was well developed in all planes, but tonal colours could have been more distinctive.

It's a class act by any standards, and at this price there's plenty of solid competition, but this well-designed player is an excellent antidote to those who suffer a phobia about the sound of all things digital. *AG*
Aanvil Audio ☎ (01359) 240687
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 169

MISSION CYRUS 0AD3

£598

This small but perfectly formed CD player uses the distinctive mini-sized alloy cases unique to the Cyrus range. A modular design approach makes it possible to upgrade the 0AD3 with an outboard PSX-R power supply and/or retro-fittable 'Q-module' digital converter. (See p49 for the latter.)

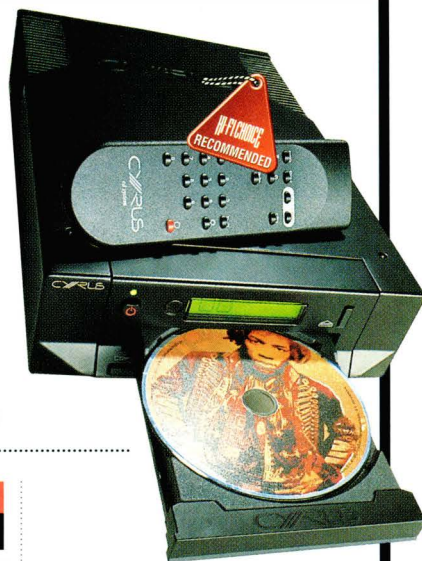
The 0AD3 has a slightly softer and less pointed style of delivery than some rivals, convincing our listeners with guile and subtlety rather than pure orchestral ordnance. But it certainly relishes a strong bass line, as we heard from a confident roll of timpani.

Bearing in mind the 'open-ended' nature of the product, with its PSX-R power supply and

Q-module upgrade options, the 0AD3 appears a most effective successor to the earlier 0AD7.

Though clearly orientated towards complete Cyrus systems, it comes Recommended for general use. *PM*

Mission ☎ (01480) 451 777
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 163



MYRYAD MC-100

£699.95

The MC-100 is a logical partner for Myryad's MI-120 integrated amp (issue 154), featuring the 'house style' solid, brushed-alloy fascia with blue-filtered display.

Behind the facade is a very individual selection of digital electronics, based on a CDM14 CD transport, with extra attention paid to control circuitry and power supply regulation.

Not a player to blow your socks off, the MC-100 is

about refinement and gentle elegance. It doesn't labour over the 'electricity' of the music, but won over our panel with grace and subtlety lacking elsewhere.

A bit more get-up-and-go would not go amiss, but the sheer maturity, composure and all-round compatibility of the MC-100 still ensure a Recommendation. *PM*

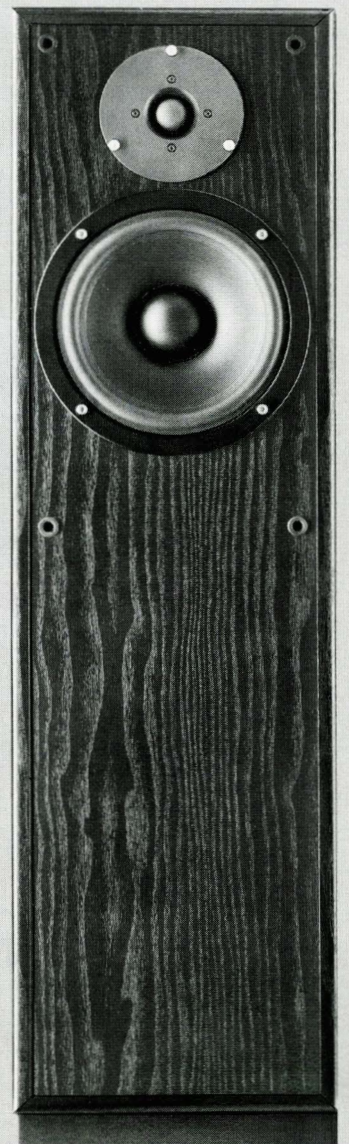
Myryad ☎ (01705) 265 508
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 163



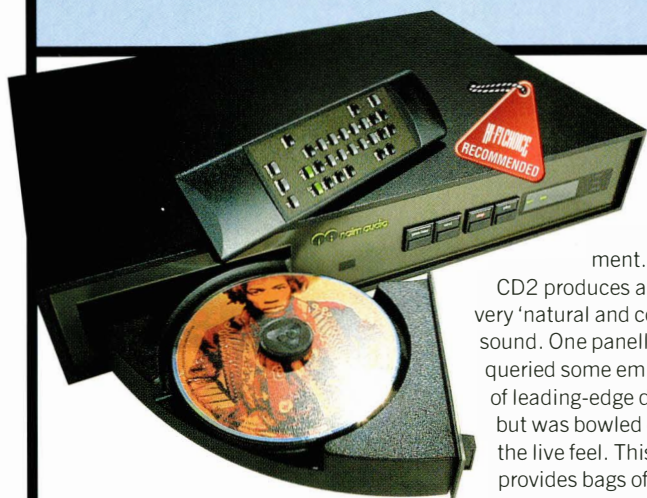
**WHAT HI-FI MAGAZINE
HAS GIVEN ITS TOP
AWARDS TO SONY FOR THREE
YEARS IN A ROW.
(THIS IS NOT A QUESTION.)**



In fact, it's an answer. An answer to the 'What make of separates do I buy?' question. Sony have been given five stars for their sets of separates by WHAT HI-FI? year in, year out and year in again. That includes the 1997 'Best Buy' for their MDS-JE510 Mini-Disc and 'Best Buy' for their ST-SE500 tuner. So, which one do you buy first? (This is a question.)



CD Players



NAIM CD2

£2,000

In many respects, Naim's CD2 is a fully-integrated version of the original two-box CDS, with trimmed-down on-board power supplies and the same four-times oversampling filter and 16-bit DAC. Spring suspensions isolate both drive and motherboard from external vibration.

"This player has a lot going for it," was one listener's com-

ment. The CD2 produces a big but very 'natural and correct' sound. One panellist queried some emphasis of leading-edge detail but was bowled over by the live feel. This player provides bags of detail and very solid focus, but not all the romanticism

we know to be possible.

The ergonomics are a bit tedious, features are minimal and many will require a DIN-to-phono adaptor, but these are minor inconveniences. They're a small sacrifice for a true reference point in detailing, sound-staging and uncompromising solidity — perhaps at the expense of some passion. *PM*

Naim Audio ☎ (01722) 332 266
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 163



ROKSAN CASPIAN

£895

Solid casework and substantial toroid-fed analogue and digital power supplies make the Caspian an unexpectedly hefty CD player.

It is distinctive also in its looks and operational ergonomics. Roksan's traditional penchant for considerable mechanical decoupling is maintained, despite the difficulties posed by the front-loading, slimline configuration. Great attention has been paid to power supply integrity and mains filtering.

An average listening test score reflected a general feeling

that it sounded "big and bold", but sometimes failed to extract some of the nuances that set the best apart from the rest. But there was general praise for its dynamics and image scale.

It proved to be a very enjoyable player in a wide range of systems: by highlighting the strengths of fine recordings and not holding back into good amplification and speakers. Its accomplishment is not easily

bettered at the price. *AG*

Roksan ☎ (01480) 451 777
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 169

ORELLE CD-100EA

£649

The CD-100ea is a modular player system. We tested it in basic form, but there are numerous upgrade options to follow.

There are a staggering 11 variations on the CD-100ea theme. Output impedance (65 Ohms) is low enough to drive most amplifier inputs properly, and you'll find all the features you'd expect, apart from a headphone socket and digital output.

This player scarcely put a

foot wrong. Only one listener felt it went over the top with its light and bright sound. Maybe the Orelle is not quite as fluid or tonally colourful as some players, but it has a bold, dynamic sound with superb stereo focus and well-articulated ambience.

Its almost Lego-like versatility is a major bonus for a player which exudes class, even in basic form, and it worked consistently well in a wide range of systems. *AG*

Orelle Hi-Fi ☎ (0181) 810 9388
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 166



QUAD 77 CD

£899.95

Quad's 77 is a highly specialised, system-orientated CD player, now available in two distinct flavours. For £700 it comes with a small remote control, but for the price quoted here you get the talk-back System Console remote commander, which has two-way comms.

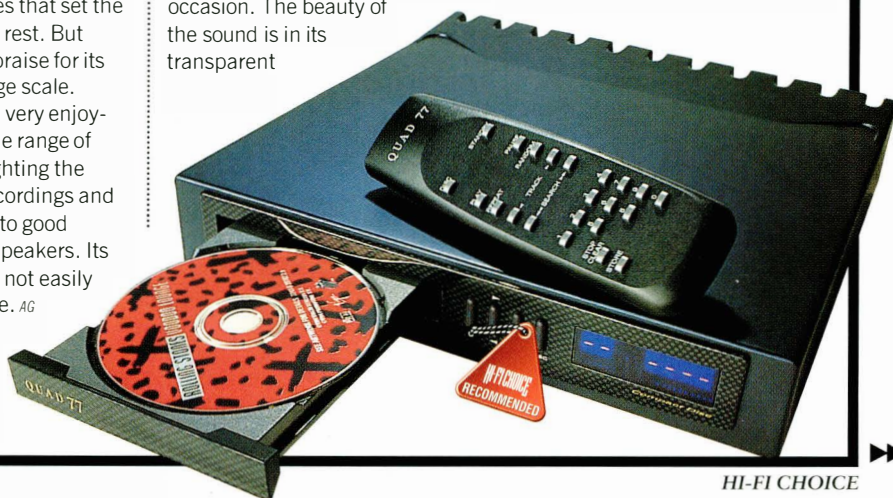
According to one panellist, the 77 "is one classy-sounding player", combining impressive even-handedness with a fresh, clean and sprightly sense of occasion. The beauty of the sound is in its transparent

honesty, with no sense of coercion, obvious coloration or straining for effect. There is some shortfall in the deepest bass, but the properly extended treble with sparkle, freshness and 'air' is arguably more important.

The 77 is a true thoroughbred, combining a penetrating insight into the minutiae of the music with a poise rarely entertained by its rivals.

Recommended — in or out of Quad's family home! *PM*

Quad Electroacoustics ☎ (01480) 433777
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 163



50



1947 · 1997



listen to 50 years of sound experience



- Avon**
Paul Roberts Hi-Fi, Bristol 01179 429370
- Bedfordshire**
Sevenoaks, Bedford 01234 272779
- Buckinghamshire**
The Sound Gallery
High Wycombe 01494 535910
- Cheshire**
Chester AV Centre
Chester 01244 320414
Sound of Music, Crewe 01270 214143
Warrington AV Centre
Warrington 01925 636215
- Cornwall**
Quarterdeck Music
Newquay 01637 851441
- Cumbria**
Sydney Bakewell
Penrith 01768 862319
Sevenoaks, Carlisle 01288 590 775
- Devon**
Hi-Fi Attic, Plymouth 01752 669511
- Dorset**
Salisbury Hi-Fi, Salisbury 01722 322119
- Gloucestershire**
TV and Hi-Fi Centre
Cirencester 01285 654756
- Hampshire**
Now That's Hi-Fi
Portsmouth 01705 811618
- Lancashire**
Clearstone Hi-Fi, Bolton 01204 531 423
- Leicestershire**
The Leicester Hi-Fi Co.
Leicester 0116 2539753
Cowlings, Leicester 0116 255 3232
- Lincolnshire**
Oldrids Downtown
Boston 01205 350 505
- London**
Hi-Fi Care, W1 0171 637 8911
Hi-Way Hi-Fi, W1 0171 636 1752
Nicholls Hi-Fi, SE12 0181 852 5780
Garland Electronics
Hendon NW9 0181 200 7676
- Middlesex**
Dades, West Drayton 01895 420898
- Norfolk**
Bennetts Retail, Norwich 01603 625955
- North Wales**
Acton Gate, Wrexham 01978 364500
- Oxfordshire**
Witney Audio, Witney 01993 702414
- Scotland**
Music Station, Inverness 01463 225523
R&B Music, Aberdeen 01224 210121
- Somerset**
Mike Manning, Taunton 01935 479 361
Mike Manning, Yeovil 01935 479 361
- Suffolk**
Bennetts Retail, Ipswich 01473 610801
- Warwickshire**
Leamington Hi-Fi Company
Leamington Spa 01926 888644
Stratford Hi-Fi
Stratford upon Avon 01789 414533
- West Midlands**
Music Matters, Solihull 0121 742 0254
Music Matters
Edgbaston 0121 429 2811
Empire Superstore
Birmingham 0121 643 0972
- Worcestershire**
Colorama Hi-Fi, Redditch 01527 597260
Downing & Downing
Stourbridge 01384 371747
- Yorkshire**
Clearstone Hi-Fi, Bradford 01274 309266
- Northern Ireland**
Zebra Distribution
Co Down 01247 822174



hand painted

ROX



£29.95



- Comfort light weight headband
- Unique hand painted design
- Ultra light weight 4.2oz
- Excellent musical reproduction

infrared

K311 IR



£79.95

- 10m (33ft) listening range
- Automatic battery charging system
- Rich detailed sound with powerful bass
- In headphone volume & balance controls

reference listening

K1000



£599.00

- Free floating binaural listening design
- Reference quality sound reproduction
- Spacious detailed imaging
- Leather headband & temple cushions for maximum comfort

Name

Address

Postcode

For further information and a 1997 AKG Catalogue please return the slip to Path Group Plc, Unit 2 Desborough Industrial Park, Desborough Park Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 3BG.

CD Players

ROKSAN ATTESSA DP3P

£1,495

The DP3P is a top-loader whose lid is only accessible once the player is powered up. Disc loading is further complicated by a very springy suspension, as well as a manual magnetic puck — all a bit of a fiddle.

Under the bonnet, the analogue section is like a stripped-down version of Roksan's ATT-DA2 DAC (below right), with modified output stage and simplified power supplies.

Sonically, this is a very open and

slightly 'loud'-sounding player that pushed its detail forward ever-so-slightly, but without ever incurring the wrath of our assembled listening panel. Voices kept an exceptional solidity and intensity of emotion without becoming aggressive.

The sound could be a little sharp at times, but the sheer animation of its performance clearly enthralled our panel. The DP3P is so full of musical beans that Recommendation is inevitable.

PMi
Roksan ☎
(01480) 451 777
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 163



YAMAHA CDX-890

£349.95

Thanks to its compact and solid build, the Yamaha CDX-890 feels physically taut. Apart from a rather rattly top, this unit appears unusually well-engineered and finished.

Good ergonomics combine with maximum features, thanks to a fold-down panel which hides minor functions. The ergonomically-shaped remote handset adds a display-off/dimmer switch and output level control, while the back has plenty of socketry.

All but one member of the

panel reacted favourably to this model. "Suddenly an extra layer of detail becomes audible," was one comment. The Yamaha also impressed with its precision and fluidity, though it was slightly more recessed and less three-dimensional than some rivals, and could sound a little brash.

This is a consistently refined and capable player, which generally serves the music well, is probably the best around its price point and deserves solid Recommendation. AG

Yamaha ☎ (01923) 233 166
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 166



ROTEL RCD-970BX

£349.95

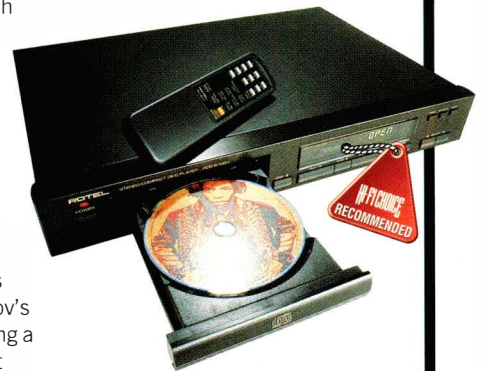
Though Rotel's RCD-975 made a disappointing showing in issue 155, its less expensive sibling, the RCD-970BX, has done rather well subsequently.

Though both look almost identical and have a great deal in common, the RCD-970BX scores in the relative simplicity of its internal circuitry, which now uses a single TDA1305 converter in a very thoughtful and elegant configuration.

The deliberate and structurally solid sound is a real contrast to the colder, harsher and coarser performance of its bigger brother. The young pretender strides boldly through Rachmaninov's Third Symphony, overlooking a little of the texture and quiet

subtlety of strings and woodwind, perhaps, but certainly capturing the gusto and majesty of the performance.

The RCD-970BX's flair is occasionally stilted, but its combination of solid build, useful facilities and an attention-grabbing sound make Recommendation a must. PMi
Gamepath ☎ (01908) 317 707
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 163



ROKSAN ATTESSA ATT-DP3/-DA2/DS5

£1,295/£695/£695

A strikingly-styled three-box combo, Roksan's complete Attessa package totals £3,335 and comprises a 'full-width' top-loading transport (actually a complete player with extra digital output), matching 'half-width' digital converter, and over-specified outboard power supply unit.

The disc-drive is spring-decoupled to avoid external vibration effects. Key electrical circuits also have some mechanical isolation, and the disc

is located by a manually applied magnetic puck.

Good detail and imaging were the striking features of a sound which was generally liked — with some reservations. The vigorous, up-front presentation has fine tonal accuracy, though a trace of distortion showed up on orchestral strings, and image depth portrayal wasn't the best.

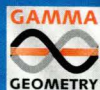
However, the Attessa combo player looks likely to be a hit with the 'rhythm and timing' brigade, and for this reason it warrants Recommendation. RB

Roksan ☎ (01480) 451 777
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 162



IXOS

connecting science to performance



6003 Gamma Series

"... boy does it work, bringing resolute dynamics and awesome bandwidth within reach of virtually anyone buying a separates system... it does seriously well against cables costing three and even four times its price." 10/97

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★

102 Master Connect

"A beautifully sweet sound is the reward for hooking up this green wire... Music flows smoothly and it has a big three dimensional sound." 01/97

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★



1002 Gamma Series

"This cable is a stunning performer. It sounds amazingly clear and focused, and boasts superb bandwidth... This is a sound buy." 10/97

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★



607 Low Profile Self Adhesive

"One of the cleverest ideas in ages... That it sounds clear, crisp and energetic is almost a bonus. A sticky bargain." 01/97

WHAT HI-FI? V.T.V

★★★★★

- Avon**
Audio Excellence, Bristol 01179 264975
Moss of Bath, Bath 01225 465085
Paul Roberts Hi-Fi, Bristol 01179 429370
- Bedfordshire**
Sevenoaks, Bedford 01234 272 779
- Berkshire**
Frazers Hi-Fi, Slough 01753 520244
- Buckinghamshire**
Sony Centre, High Wycombe 01494 521382
Techosound, Milton Keynes 01908 604 949
- Cheshire**
Peters Hi Fi, Chester 01244 319 392
Chester AV Centre, Chester 01244 320 414
Warrington AV Centre, Warrington 01925 636 215
- Cumbria**
Sevenoaks, Carlisle 01288 590 775
Searie Audio, Barrow-Furness 01299 821 233
- Devon**
Audio Excellence, Exeter 01392 491194
Upton Electronics, Paignton 01803 551 329
Hi Fi Attic, Plymouth 01752 669 511
- Dorset**
Movement Audio, Poole 01202 730 865
Weymouth Hi Fi, Weymouth 01305 785 729
- Essex**
Rayleigh Hi Fi, Rayleigh 01268 779 762
- Gloucestershire**
Photo Sight and Sounds, Gloucester 01452 503 691
Sevenoaks, Cheltenham 01242 241171
- Hampshire**
Now That's Hi Fi, Portsmouth 01705 811 618
Southampton Hi Fi, Southampton 01703 228 434
- Humberside**
Manders Hi Fi, Grimsby 01472 351 391
- Kent**
Musical Images, Beckenham 0181 663 3777
Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells 01892 531 543
E.D.C., Bexleyheath 0181 298 7880
- Lancashire**
Clearstone Hi Fi, Bolton 01204 531 423
Beaver Hi Fi, Liverpool 0151 709 9898
Bill Hutchinson, Manchester 0161 832 1600
Sevenoaks, Preston 01772 825777
- Leicestershire**
Sevenoaks, Leicester 0116 255 7518
Cowings, Leicester 0116 255 3232
- London**
Hi Fi Care, W1 0171 637 8911
Kamia, W1 0171 323 2747
Musical Images, Covent Garden 0171 497 1346
Nicholls Hi Fi, SE12 0181 852 5780
Hi-Spek, Finchley 0181 349 1166
- Middlesex**
Musical Images, Edgware 0181 952 5535
Musical Images, Hounslow 0181 569 5802
Dades, West Drayton 01895 420 898
- Norfolk**
Bennetts Retail, Norwich 01603 625955
Sevenoaks, Norwich 01603 767 605
- Nottinghamshire**
Forum Hi Fi, Nottingham 01159 622 150
- Oxfordshire**
Audio T, Oxford 01865 765 961
Sevenoaks, Oxford 01865 241773
- Scotland**
Sevenoaks, Aberdeen 01224 587 070
JD Brown, Dundee 01382 226 591
Bill Hutchinson, Edinburgh 0131 220 0909
Bill Hutchinson, Glasgow 0141 245 2857
Music Station, Inverness 01463 225 523
- Somerset**
Mike Manning, Yeovil 01935 479 361
- Suffolk**
Bennetts Retail, Ipswich 01473 610 801
- Surrey**
Sevenoaks, Kingston 0181 547 0717
Tru Fi, Redhill 01737 766 128
- Sussex**
Churchers, Hove 01273 324 616
Jeffenes Hi Fi, Eastbourne 01323 731 336
- Tyne and Wear**
Linton Audio, Newcastle 0191 460 0999
Bill Hutchinson, Newcastle 0191 230 3600
- Warwickshire**
Frank Harvey Hi Fi, Coventry 01203 525 200
Leamington Hi Fi Company, Leamington Spa 01926 888 644
- West Midlands**
Music Matters, Solihull 0121 742 0254
Music Matters, Edgbaston 0121 429 2811
Sevenoaks, Birmingham 0121 233 2977
Sound Academy, Bloxwich 01922 473 499
- Wiltshire**
Salisbury Hi Fi, Salisbury 01722 322 169
- Worcestershire**
Sevenoaks, Worcester 01905 612 929
Colorama Hi Fi, Redditch 01527 597 260
- Yorkshire**
Clearstone Hi Fi, Bradford 01274 309 266
Bill Hutchinson, Leeds 0113 242 7777
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi, Leeds 0113 245 2775

or contact IXOS directly on

01494 441736

www.ixos.co.uk

Please complete and return to IXOS, Unit 2 Desborough Industrial Park, Desborough Park Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 3BG for our new brochure

Name _____ Address _____ Postcode _____

Amplifiers



CAMBRIDGE AUDIO
A3i £199.95

The £200 A3i, from Audio Partnership plc, looks like a mildly modified version of its recent predecessors. It is slim, but not particularly elegant in a matt-black finish. Oval control knobs (with blue position indicators) are laid out symmetrically either side of a large, central volume control. Weight really sets this unit apart. It's heavy!

Controls are fitted for tone and bypass, balance, tape/ source monitoring and input selection. The volume control is supplemented by full and partial mute facilities. There are three line inputs, a single tape circuit (with monitoring) and a rather good moving-magnet (MM) phono input. High-quality internal components include glass-fibre circuit boards and an 'R-core' power transformer. Equipment levels, however, are

nothing special, and there's no headphone socket.

Sound quality ranked a straight excellent — in a budget amp context, that is. "A brassy sound — plenty of punch if slightly unrefined," and a "rich variety of tonal colours and dynamic contrasts" were among listeners' comments. However, it could become fatiguing in the wrong surroundings, and partnering equipment should be chosen with care. This is a dynamic amplifier which goes quite loud, with no change of timbre as it reaches the limit. It offers good grip and definition, and notably confident timing.

The Cambridge Audio A3i stands tall. It could offend in the wrong system, but sings songs with a good outfit, and can be described as a 'maximum information' design. Cliché or not, it brought the music to life. *AG Audio Partnership* ☎ (0171) 940 2240
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 167

MARANTZ PM-66
KI SIGNATURE
£399.90

Having achieved success with 'Special Edition' (SE) versions of its amps, Marantz has gone one stage further by adding further enhancements under the guidance and imprimatur of its European-based hi-fi guru, Ken Ishiwata.

The £400 PM-66 KI Sig is a 'stripped-down' integrated amp, devoid of tone controls, but it does include headphone drive, an MM vinyl input, three line inputs and two tape loops. Hands-off operation is available through a supplied system remote handset,

while a 'source direct' feature removes the balance control, tape switching and remote mute from the signal path.

Changes over the 'standard' SE spec include considerable power supply uprating, extensive copper plating, and improved component quality in key areas. Claimed power rat-



HARMAN/KARDON
HK620 £249.99

The £250 HK620 hardly represents a break with tradition, but successive generations of Harman/Kardon amplifiers have become simpler and more refined than their predecessors, and this is no exception. Bass, treble and balance controls have been retained, and two pairs of speakers can be connected and switched independently.

There are four line inputs and two tape circuits, with a tape copy mode. One of the tape circuits supports off-tape monitoring, useful for three-head tape-deck users and invaluable for those with Dolby Pro-Logic. A rather crowded system remote-control handset is included, while after-market options include a discrete MM/MC board (model PH601, cost £40).

It would be tedious to plough through panel comments which contain far too many phrases using the word

'good' to make good reading. Only one listener had any substantial criticism.

Just about every performance area was singled out for praise. The frequency extremes were thought tidy and in control; its bass was liked better than that of any other budget amp here; and there was also praise for its focus and coherence. Good timing was specifically mentioned several times by three of the listening panel.

The HK620 is presentable, does everything reasonably well (usually better), and is cheap, which makes it an obvious candidate for a Best Buy flag. We were particularly impressed by its ability to ride roughshod over taxing musical passages, and its apparent disdain for difficult speakers. All that's lacking is the power to drive low-sensitivity speakers in big rooms. *AG Gamepath* ☎ (01908) 317707

Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 162



ings remain the same at 50/70 Watts into eight/four Ohms, though measurement actually shows a worthwhile increase, as well as significant improvements in linearity.

Though sonically precise and articulate, the '66 knows how to rock and roll, sounding quick and rhythmic on difficult material, while at the same time generating close-to-holographic

stereo soundstaging. The down-side is that it doesn't have the weight or solidity of some competitors, which tends to undermine its gravitas on major orchestral works. There were a couple of complaints of 'spittiness', though these are believed to have been more the fault of the system than the amp.

As you'll read elsewhere, the PM-66 KI Sig has been honoured as this year's European Amp of the Year (see p96). In the test group it was certainly the most precise and articulate. Its excellence in both timing and stereo soundstaging far outweighed a slight lack of 'slam'. *AG Marantz* ☎ (01753) 680 868
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 168

Amplifiers



NAD

312 £199.95

Latest in a line of successors to NAD's 3020 and 302 (European Amplifier of the Year '93-'94), the 312 appears to be a thoroughly sensible reworking of the formula. Flexibility is a hallmark, with four line-level inputs, a moving-magnet phono input and two tape circuits, tone controls with bypass, and a 'Soft Clipping' feature.

There is a removable link between pre and power-amp sections to permit the preamplifier to be upgraded. At the same time it allows the internal power amp to be supplemented for bi-amplified applications. A headphone socket is fitted, but there is no remote control. Signal switching is performed near the inputs with long-rod-actuated controls, and the output devices are designed to drive most loads.

In sound quality the NAD

312 put in a stonking, panel-pleasing performance. Our panel repaid the favour with positive comments. One member, praising the NAD's euphony over its resolving ability, wrote that a song was "engaging once one adjusted to slight detail loss".

It sounds powerful beyond its rating, and worked consistently and confidently with the entire range of partnering speakers at our disposal. Just a hint of warmth reminded us that this is, after all, a budget design.

The NAD 312 is an object lesson in combining Best Buy elements. It will make music with a wide range of ancillaries, and approaches the task with great consistency, attractive audio manners, and an almost tactile sense of presence. Buy now! *AG Audio Club* ☎ (01296) 82017
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 171

ROKSAN

CASPIAN £695

Roksan's Caspian amplifier epitomises the ethos of purist, straight-line hi-fi design. It is built from top-quality materials and comes supplied with an elegant and practical remote-control that duplicates all hands-on functions. The grippy rotary-control surfaces and the carefully-designed display are a joy. The Caspian has a feeling of quality that is nor-

mally the province of more extravagantly-priced amplifiers. The only surprise, given Roksan's turntable heritage, is that the Caspian is supplied with line-level inputs only — the Artaxerxes 10 step-up amp/equaliser costs £395 extra.

Only one panellist dissented from what were generally impressive scores and comments: "natural with good plucked leading edges and nice vocal quality" (the Allison

PIONEER

A-300R PRECISION £399.95

The A-300R is the 'new' A-400. Once again Pioneer has grafted UK-optimised sound onto consistent mass-manufacturing techniques. It's less a redesign than a thorough reworking of the existing product, using exotic components where required. For once, the word 'exotic' is not misplaced, as some of its components cost 100 times the norm, and take six months to order. Making the A-300R involves labour-intensive component matching.

Apart from its Precision badge, the A-300R looks like the standard article, with an input selector (MM phono, three line and two tape circuits), a tape-monitor switch, a balance control and a headphone socket. Power output is quoted at 35 Watts/eight Ohms per channel.

Generally favoured among the panellists, it was welcomed for its strong percussion, good timing, well-projected vocals, realistic retrieval of ambience, and vivid, well-varied tonal colours with strong dynamics.

After extended listening we deemed this an exceptional amplifier, though not in immediately obvious ways. Use the Pioneer with a really vital recording, however, and the music takes off. No rival could match its fine discrimination, and none could keep up with the impassioned and compelling quality it brought to music.

The A-300R has 'instant classic' written all over it, though you'll need to use top-class ancillaries to find out just how good it is. Also, make sure it's up to temperature before each listening session. *AG*

Pioneer ☎ (01753) 789 500

Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 162



Krauss track); "very well-defined spatially — it does all the things it is supposed to" (Walton); and "the first instance of leading edges today, and without a forward balance to (falsely) enhance it" (Ry Cooder).

The Caspian was tested hands-on with a wide range of partnering equipment, and per-

formed well. It offers the system-to-system consistency of an Audiolab, but with an audio signature that is quite unique. This consists of a slightly warm bass, a gentle, refined mid/top plus very explicit and natural stereo imagery. The midrange has a special purity and invests complex recordings, with a sense of separation and space that few others achieve.

At its best with like-priced ancillary components that are strong on control and resolving power, the Caspian amplifier could set new standards below £700, and ranks as Best Buy material thanks to its combination of musical excellence and fine build quality. *AG*

Roksan ☎ (07000) 765 726

Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 168



Amplifiers

**ARCAM
ALPHA 9/9P
£499.90 / £399.90**

Arcam's Alpha 9/9P package employs an integrated amp where you might normally find a pre-amp. Arcam doesn't produce a pre-only version of the Alpha 9, but says that an integrated amp plus matching power amp enables bi-amp operation with significant performance advantages.

The remote-control Alpha 9 offers tone controls with a 'direct' bypass, switching for two pairs of speakers, a headphone socket, separate listen-and-record source selectors, a Tape 2 monitor/processor-loop facility with fixed or 'floating' gain, and an MM/MC phono input.

Both 9 and 9P are rated at 70 Watts per channel, but in bi-amp mode are claimed to equal a 100-Watter.

For practical reasons, the bi-amp facility was not used in the panel tests. The worst criticism of the

Arcam concerned its slightly inconsistent dynamics, which lacked the solidity and discipline of bigger amplifiers on test. No such criticisms in bi-amp mode: here the combo evinced improved separation of instrumental and vocal strands, and a relaxed consistency at higher volumes. Other comments concerned colourful, even vivid tonality, transparency and a lack of synthetic artefacts.

A clear Best Buy at £900, the Alpha 9/9P is the most exciting Arcam amp for some time. Bi-amping 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 A&R Cambridge* ☎ (01223) 203203
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 165



**QUAD 77 PRE/POWER
£849.95/£599.95 AS TESTED**

A cast-alloy chassis, high-quality packaging and excellent instruction book delineate the quality of Quad's 77 Pre/Power. The £1,450 cost includes a useful System Console remote controller. But the front panels will not suit all tastes.

Integral to the System Console concept is a proprietary computer-style data bus, which uses flat, ribbon cables fitted with 15-pin D-type connectors to carry audio signals, power for source components, and control data that informs a two-way infra-red link to the table-top Console. Non-Quad components can be connected to one of four phono-socket line or vinyl

(MM/MC) inputs. The preamp can drive up to three 77 power amps, which are rated at 85 Watts/eight Ohms.

The System Console relays status information such as CD track number and playing time. The most impressive feature is the smooth rotary volume control.



**AURA
CA200/PA100
£749.95/£749.95 AS TESTED**

A much more sophisticated and mature product than its predecessors, Aura's CA200/PA100 pre-/power combination totals £1,500. One key aim was to provide a high level of flexibility, so the remote-control CA200 has eight line inputs plus a small phono stage; two tape circuits, with independent monitoring and bi-directional dubbing; and a 'lock' facility to prevent a recording source being deselected. A comprehensive function display is included, with input descriptions that are retained in a non-volatile EPROM chip.

The PA100 has a heavily regulated power supply, and is rated at 100 Watts per channel (or 250 Watts in bridged mono). Power bandwidth is constrained, and output protection circuitry is designed

not to limit short-term power yield.

As one of the highest-ranking amplifiers in this panel listening test, the consensus view found the Aura assured with fine resolving ability, convincing perspectives and expressive, dynamic musical landscapes.

It presents music in an expressive yet hard-hitting way, with occasional signs of brashness and momentary sibilance, and with a light but well-extended, agile and highly-tuneful bass. Only if your ideal of an amplifier is lush or overtly valve-like are you likely to find the Aura less than musically edifying.

The new Aura range was 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. No doubts: a clear Best Buy. *AG B&W UK* ☎ (01903) 750 750
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 165

When listening" wrote one listener, in evident relief. "It just communicates, adding nothing and subtracting nothing". This combo was equally sure-footed in the hands-on sessions, with a knack for delivering vivid tonal colours without sounding overtly bright, and free of the subtle granularity that afflicted many members of the test group. Dynamics had some slight loss of impact.

Now no longer the dinosaur that it was once considered to be, Quad has come back fighting with high-tech amps, at surprisingly reasonable prices, which beat most of the purist competition to a pulp. This combo is duly awarded a Best Buy! *AG Quad Electroacoustics* ☎ (01480) 433777
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 165



Amplifiers

AMC

3050A £169.95

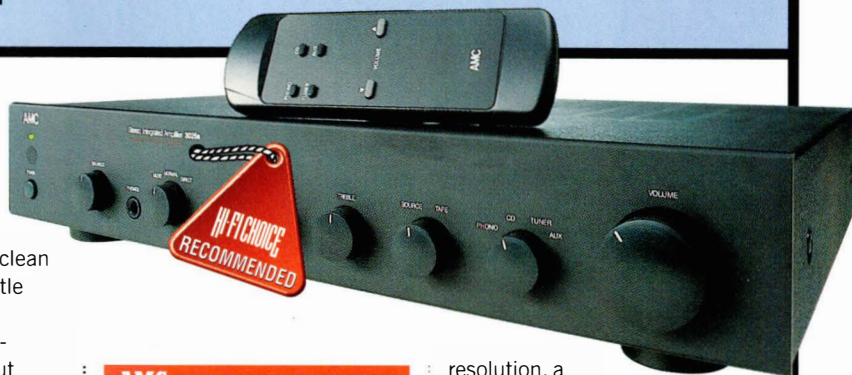
AMC might be made in the same factory as many NAD products, but many features distinguish the two marques. The 3050a has remote control, three line inputs, a tape loop, and an MM/MC phono input, plus bypassable tone controls and a mute button. The power specification claims 45 Watts into eight Ohms, or 80 Watts into four Ohms.

This amplifier elicited an almost unanimous positive response from the panel, though the author had reservations. We found common ground in a "big,

easy and generous" sound, but perhaps the most telling remarks were: "Complex orchestral sounds are even more complex with this amp. It is not particularly clean or light, and it can get a little confused".

The 3050a is a crisply-styled, svelte amplifier, but lacks true grit. However, it provides a remarkable amount of engineering for the price. Recommended for systems that require a smooth, easy-listening kind of amplifier that is also inexpensive. *AG*

Tangent Acoustics ☎ (0500) 828 620
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 167



AMC

3025A £129.95

As a lower-powered version of AMC's 3050a (*HFC 167*), the 3025a is rated at 30 Watts into eight and four Ohms. The ghost of NAD is almost palpable in the presentation, but the provision of a remote control, albeit a very simple one, is very unusual at this price. There are inputs for phono (MM/MC) and three line-level components, plus a tape monitor circuit.

The 3025a has a rather bland sonic character overall, with strictly limited midband

resolution, a shallow yet rich bass, and a soft, recessed treble. Marked down for its lack of positive virtues, no-one seemed to think it unpleasant in any way. Although the sound never becomes catastrophically aggressive, it does sag and become congested when the amplifier is stressed.

Whatever our sonic reservations, the 3025a offers a lot of usable power and some useful facilities, including a serviceable phono input and remote control, for a low price. *AG*

Tangent Acoustics ☎ (0500) 828 620
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 171



ARCAM

ALPHA 9 £499.90

As the top integrated amplifier in Arcam's current line-up, the £500 Alpha 9 is one of the more powerful integrated models, claiming 70 Watts output per channel into eight Ohms. It's a full-feature design, with record and listen source selectors, tone controls (with 'direct' option), a headphone socket, and connections for two pairs of speakers. A system remote handset is supplied, but vinyl disc input facilities are optional.

Listening test findings were positive: "Ry Cooder at his best; (this amplifier is) transparent to all the nuances of tempo and detail". Piano sounded realistically percussive, though timing seemed slightly slack. Stereo depth sometimes seemed somewhat curtailed too, but detail was always strong, and tonal colours vivid. This fine mid-market amplifier is well-equipped, powerful and sounds colourful and detailed. Recommended. *AG*

A&R Cambridge ☎ (01223) 203 203
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 168



COPLAND

CSA8 £899

The £899 CSA8 is the entry-level amplifier from a manufacturer with a carefully cultivated image as an entry-level high-end brand. Engineering standards are the highest, and from the outside the CSA8 couldn't be simpler. There are now five line inputs, but off-tape monitoring is not available. Scandinavian minimalism at its finest!

There were few major complaints from the panel, but at the same time little real enthusiasm

from some panellists. My own sympathies are with those who took a more positive view: of a neutral, transparent amplifier that rarely imposes its own character on the sound. Which is not to say it is bland.

This design's qualities only become apparent after extended use. Though one could argue it is a little too neutral and transparent to impress listeners in the short-term, its excellent musical manners and superb build quality make Recommendation mandatory. *AG*

Absolute Sounds ☎ (0181) 947 5047
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 168



**price
PROMISE**

Save cash
over Christmas



Musical Images
will match any authorised
dealer price or deal, or any
free goods offer*

AVD AWARDS '97
BEST DEDICATED HOME THEATRE

With Musical Images Price Promise, our unparalleled standards of service, 12 luxurious demonstration lounges, the convenience of 7 day opening and easy parking, you owe it to yourself to visit Musical Images this Christmas. The biggest choice, finest installation and the best prices. Happy Christmas from Musical Images.

Musical Images
173 Station Road,
Edgware,
Middlesex HA8 7JX
Tel: 0181 952 5535
Edgware Branch

Musical Images
45 High Street,
Hounslow,
Middlesex TW3 1RH
Tel: 0181 569 5802
Hounslow Branch

Covent Garden Branch
Musical Images
18 Monmouth Street,
Covent Garden,
London WC2H 9HB
Tel: 0171 497 1346

Beckenham Branch
Musical Images
126 High Street,
Beckenham,
Kent BR3 1ED
Tel: 0181 663 3777

all around the M25

MUSICAL IMAGES

e-mail: sales@musical-images.co.uk

Open Sundays

The finest Audio Visual dealer in the UK

MUSICAL IMAGES IS AN AUTHORISED MAIN DEALER FOR OVER 100 LEADING MANUFACTURERS

Acoustic Energy	B & W	Citation	Heybrook	Micell	NHT	Quad	Sharp	Technics
Aiwa	Barco	Cyrus	Infinity	Micromega	Onkyo	Quadraspire	Shure	Thorens
Akai	Projectors	Dali	Jamo	Mission	Ortofon	RCF Projectors	SME	Toshiba
Alchemist	Beyer Dynamic	Definitive	JBL	MIT	Orelle	REL	Sony	Trichord
Alphason	Bose	Denon	JVC	Mitsubishi	Panasonic	Rogers	Soundstyle	Tube
Apollo	Boston	DPA	KEF	Monitor Audio	Philips	Roksan	Spender	Technology
Arcam	Cabletalk	EPOS	Kenwood	Mordaunt-	Pink Triangle	Rotel	Stands Unique	Van den Hul
Atacama	Canon	Exposure	Lexicon	Short	Pioneer	Royd	Sumo	Wadia
ATC	Carver	GLL	Linn	Musical	Polk	Ruark	Systemdek	Wharfedale
Audio Alchemy	Castle	Goldring	Loewe	Fidelity	Proac	Samsung	Tannoy Prestige	XLO
Audioquest	Celestion	Grundig	M&K	NAD	Project	Seleco	Target	XTC
Aura	Cerwin Vega	Harbeth	Marantz	Nakamichi	Turntables	Projectors	TDL	Yamaha
AVI	Chord	Harman Kardon	Meridian	Naim	QED	Sennheiser	TEAC	and Many More

*Subject to availability. Offer not valid with any other promotions or offers. EEOE.



Amplifiers

**CYRUS
SL £398**

The entry-level Cyrus amplifier shares non-magnetic alloy body castings with integral heatsink fins like other Cyrus products, but offers simplified features and controls — a six-way input selector, a tape-monitor switch and a volume control. Forget about headphone sockets, phono inputs or remote controls. Good for 50 Watts into eight Ohms (70 Watts into four Ohms), it runs cool, and both build and finish rank as superb.

Although described as “forward and gritty” and “close”, this amplifier was

generally well-liked by the panel — there was a high level of consistency between different listeners’ opinions.

The SL marks a welcome return to affordability from the increasingly costly Cyrus range, but without any noticeable loss of musical performance. The sound can be a bit lean and sometimes forward, but within its power limits this is an extremely finely-controlled and highly-articulate design. Those who thirst for audio nirvana on a budget should ensure they do not miss out! *AG*

Mission ☎ (01480) 451777
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 168



**DENSEN
BEAT £650**

From a Danish company of five years’ standing, the heavy, solid and ultra-simple-looking Beat-100 costs £650. It consists of a passive preamplifier with the shortest possible signal path feeding a relatively massive power amplifier. Its 360VA transformer and massive reservoir supply a high-current amplifier said to be capable of 60 Watts into eight Ohms, and around 100 Watts into four Ohms. A moving-magnet phono stage costs £150.

The B-100 scored consistently well in the

panel tests. It’s forceful and dynamic, with strong musical architecture. There’s a slight lack of subtlety and finesse, but the temporal and spatial elements of the sound came in for great praise. It’s a bold, powerful and authoritative amplifier with strong pace and timing, and when it comes to ‘boogie factor’, the Beat is up with the best. Recommended, especially where pace and space take precedence over grace! *AG*

Densen ☎ (01582) 561 227
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 162



**DENON
PMA-250SE £159.99**

The £160 PMA-250SE succeeds the PMA-250III, but is junior to the ’350SE (see below). There are bypassable tone controls, but no remote control or tape-monitor facility. On offer are five line inputs, including one tape circuit, but a moving-magnet phono input will cost you £15 extra.

The panel responded quite favourably to the PMA-250SE, and clearly enjoyed listening to it, but harboured certain reservations. It’s lively and natural, well-integrated and open-sounding, but exhibits rather flat stereo

perspectives and some degree of congestion.

The predominant sonic impression is of a relaxed, easy-going and enjoyable amplifier. Fine detail is neither obscured nor emphasised, and the whole effect can be very easy and natural, especially with small instrumental forces, and at modest volume levels. This amplifier is no powerhouse, but if the tone controls are bypassed, it easily meets the requirements for *Hi-Fi Choice*

Recommendation at the price. *AG*
Hayden Labs ☎ (01753) 888 447
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 171



**DENON
PMA-350SE £199.99**

A modest change from mkII to SE suffix conceals a root-and-branch reworking of Denon’s middle-ranking amplifier.

Features are limited to volume, balance, source selection and a headphone socket — there are no tone controls or a tape monitor switch. However, the volume control is motorised, and can be driven by a remote control which, like a phono cartridge

output, costs an extra £15, raising the potential price to £230. Power output is rated at 50 Watts into eight Ohms and 80 Watts into four Ohms.

In terms of its sound quality this is a very competent amp, but it can seem insubstantial, with the impression of the music being realised better than its architecture.

Our panel had differences of opinion, but Recommendation is appropriate when the amp is matched with sympathetic components. Blousy or boomy sounding speakers may work well, especially in small rooms. Avoid bright speakers and sources. *AG*

Hayden Labs ☎ (01753) 888447
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 162

audio X

EXCELLENCE
WHERE THE MUSIC MATTERS

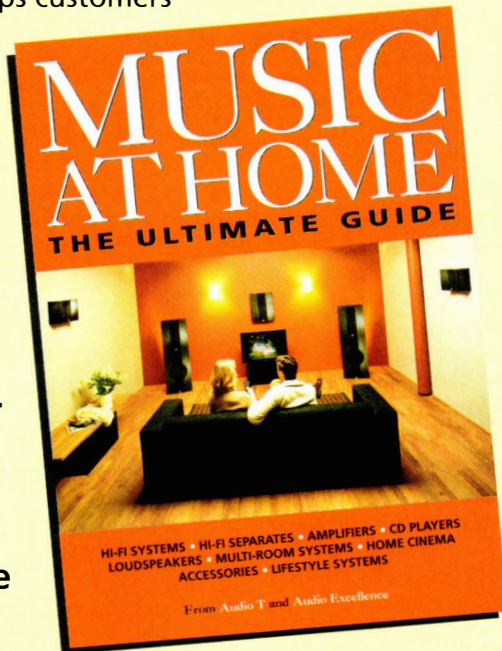
audio T

Great Value Sound & Vision

AUDIO T & AUDIO EXCELLENCE -

probably the two best specialist retailers of hi-fi and home cinema equipment - give independent advice, excellent deals and a level of after sales service that keeps customers returning year after year. We are not just the same as other dealers, so why not send for our full brochure to see why.

Ask for your free copy of **MUSIC AT HOME** The Ultimate Guide



FREEPHONE 0500 101501

8am - 10pm 7 days a week (UK only)
Or return the FREEPOST coupon below

- 47 years of experience
- authorised dealers
- full demonstration facilities
- 7 day exchanges
- 30 day no charge upgrades
- interest free credit
- part exchange
- 3 year guarantee on hi-fi separates and systems
- home loans and home dems



Please send me my FREE copy of
MUSIC AT HOME - The Ultimate Guide (UK only)

NAME

ADDRESS

POST CODE

Music at Home HFC1, Freepost LV1747, Abingdon, OX14 4YQ

AUDIO EXCELLENCE:

BRISTOL
65 Park Street
Tel: 0117 926 4975
Tues - Sat 9am - 5.30pm
Evening dems arranged by appointment

CARDIFF
134/136 Crwys Road
Tel: 01222 228565
Tues - Sat 9am - 5.30pm
Evening dems arranged by appointment

CHESTER
88/90 Boughton
Tel: 01244 345576
Tues - Sat 9am - 5.30pm
Evening dems arranged by appointment

EXETER
156 Sidwell Street
Tel: 01392 491194
Tues - Sat 9am - 5.30pm
Evening dems arranged by appointment

GLOUCESTER
58 Bristol Road
Tel: 01452 300046
Tues - Sat 9am - 5.30pm
Evening dems arranged by appointment

PRESTON
131 Friargate
Tel: 01772 253057
Tues - Sat 9am - 5.30pm
Evening dems arranged by appointment

SWANSEA
9 High Street
Tel: 01792 474608
Tues - Sat 9am - 5.30pm
Evening dems arranged by appointment

Sound & Vision
WORCESTER

WORCESTER
Independence House
The Trinity
Tel: 01905 619059
Tues - Sat 9am - 5.30pm
Evening dems arranged by appointment

All shops are closed on Mondays.

For the very latest information please check our web sites at www.audio-t.co.uk and www.audio-excellence.co.uk

AUDIO T:

BASINGSTOKE
4 Feathers Lane
Tel: 01256 324311
Tues - Sat 9am - 5.30pm
Evening dems arranged by appointment

BRENTWOOD
30 Crown Street
Tel: 01277 264730
Tues - Sat 9.30am - 6pm
Thurs eve open late 'til 8pm

CAMBERLEY
173-175 London Road
Tel: 01276 685597
Tues - Fri 10am - 6pm
Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm
Thurs eve open late 'til 8pm

CHELTENHAM
40/42 Albion Street
Tel: 01242 583960
Tues - Fri 9.30am - 6pm
Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm
Evening dems arranged by appointment

ENFIELD
159a Chase Side
Tel: 0181 367 3132
Tues - Fri 9.30am - 6pm
Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm
Evening dems arranged by appointment

GANTS HILL
442-444 Cranbrook Rd
Tel: 0181 518 0915
Tues - Fri 10am - 6pm
Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm
Thurs eve open late 'til 8pm

LONDON WEST HAMPSTEAD
190 West End Lane
Tel: 0171 794 7848
Tues - Sat 10am - 6pm
Thurs eve open late 'til 8pm

OXFORD
19 Old High Street, Headington
Tel: 01865 765961
Tues - Fri 10am - 6pm
Sat 9.30am - 6pm
Thurs eve open late 'til 8pm

READING
4 Queens Walk, Broad Street Mall
Tel: 0118 958 5463
Tues - Sat 9am - 5.30pm
Evening dems arranged by appointment

SWINDON
60 Fleet Street
Tel: 01793 538222
Tues - Sat 9.30am - 6pm
Thurs eve open late 'til 8pm

MAIN BRANDS STOCKED:

ACOUSTIC ENERGY
ACOUSTIC PRECISION
ALPHASON
APOLLO
ARCAM
ATACAMA
AUDIOLAB
AUDIOQUEST
B&W
CABLE TALK
CASTLE
CELESTION
CHORD
CYRUS
DENON
DENSEN
DYNAUDIO
DYNAVECTOR
EPOS
GRADO
KEF
LINN
LOEWE
MARANTZ
MAXELL
MERIDIAN
MICHELL
MISSION
MONITOR AUDIO
MORDAUNT-SHORT
NAD
NAIM
ONKYO
ORELLE / XTC
PANASONIC
PIONEER
PROAC
PRO-JECT
QED
QUAD
QUADRASPIRE
REGA
REL
ROKSAN
ROTEL
ROYD
RUARK
SENNHEISER
SHAHINIAN
SONY
SOUND STYLE
STANDS UNIQUE
TALK ELECTRONICS
TANNOY
TARGET
TDK
TEAC
TECHNICS
VAN DEN HUL
YAMAHA

Not all products are stocked by every shop so please check with your local branch before travelling

PRICE PROMISE

- ★ You won't find better service.
- ★ You won't find better sound.
- ★ But if you find a better deal, let us know and as long as we can verify it we'll be happy to match it.

Amplifiers

MAGNUM

IA120 FROM £265.00

A chromed front panel is the most striking feature of this integrated amplifier. Build quality is good, and the exterior panel-work is solid. It was tested as a line-level amplifier with six inputs (including one with off-tape monitoring); a vinyl disc stage is available for £20 extra.

The Magnum clearly impressed our listening-panel jury. Almost everyone acknowledged the solid, well-integrated and tuneful bass, though there was a feeling that

leading edges were slightly grubby. It's an easy and enjoyable amplifier, but performs at its best with relatively bright speakers.

It would be unjust not to Recommend the IA120. It is a bold and thoroughly capable design, with the added benefit of a handy integral mirror on the front! It can sound a little warm and loose, but makes up for this with a thoroughly musical manner that allows recordings to sing out. *AG*

Hailey Audio ☎ (01992) 442425

Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 171



MARANTZ

PM-66SE £229.90

Marantz's 'SE' suffix usually indicates a model enhanced to provide 'audiophile' quality at a still-affordable price. In fact, there was never a straight PM-66! The £230 PM-66SE is a bulky unit with limited facilities. Inputs are available for a record player (MM), three line sources and two tape decks. A remote handset actuates a range of facilities on other Marantz components, but works only volume and muting on the amp. Power is rated at 50 Watts.

This is a gentle, relaxed and

colourful amplifier: spacious, if not especially weighty. When pressed hard it veers towards hardness, and lacks some precision and dynamics, but there's an undeniable rightness too. It favours euphony over definition when push comes to shove, but this is a musically pleasing design at an affordable price. It appears well suited to the limitations of budget CD players and speakers. *AG*

Marantz ☎ (01753) 680868

Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 167



MUSICAL FIDELITY

A2 £499.99

The £500 A2 is an extensive update of the venerable Musical Fidelity A1, which was a hot-running, semi-Class-A, low-power amp with a giant slayer's reputation — but undeniable limitations. The A2's a little more powerful (25 Watts into eight Ohms), and better able to drive difficult loads. Stark simplicity equates to few features (no remote control) but attractive presentation.

On the whole, the A2 achieved fairly strong scores in the panel tests. While it is neither the sharpest nor the most analytical amplifier in its class, and can sometimes sound coloured, it's a supremely musical tool. It makes the most of good recordings and gives a helping hand to those that are less than perfect. An excellent antidote to the sterility of some machinery! Its mild valve flavour tends away from literal accuracy at all costs towards the musical side of the line. *AG*

Musical Fidelity ☎ (0181) 900 2999

Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 162



MUSICAL FIDELITY

E1 £199

Though it's a simple integrated amp with slimline casework, rated at 30 Watts into eight Ohms, the hands-on E1 looks and feels like a quality item. Its manufacturers claim pains have been taken to reduce asymmetry between channels. Output semiconductor devices are, allegedly, bipolar.

Apart from the power-on/off button, the only controls are for volume, six line-level source selection and a single tape-monitor switching circuit. There is no provision for headphones.

Unlike other Musical Fidelity products, it's available in the UK

only from the Richer Sounds retail chain.

The panel score was average, with little spread and almost complete unanimity. The E1 is imbued with the 'classic' MF sonic character: warm, even a little overblown at times, with a generous soundstage presence, good if slightly sweetened tonality and a slightly indistinct, one-note bass line. Rock music sounded a little short of adrenalin, but classical came across with an organic quality and bold tonality. Its sound will depend on the nature of the system you erect around it — listen carefully before buying. *AG*

Musical Fidelity ☎ (0181) 900 2999

Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 171

Amplifiers

MUSICAL FIDELITY
A220 £699.99

The A220 slots into Musical Fidelity's range above the A2, and delivers a claimed 50 Watts into eight Ohms, or 100 Watts into four Ohms. The design is biased strongly towards Class A, so it runs hot. But it soon gets up to speed for sound.

There are neither gimmicks nor remote control, and facilities are strictly minimalist: volume control, source selector and tape-monitor only. Inputs accommodate MM phono pick-up, three line-level sources and two tape decks. Build quality is a

highlight, as is the minute attention to detail.

The general view was: "a big sound, very sweet and tuneful, and very easy to enjoy the music rather than pick holes in the sound". The A220 tends to sound laid-back, but always exhibits good solidity and physical presence. The phono input was 'warmer' than the line stages, but again had tremendous clarity and transparency. It's an excellent product, with bags of civilised power on tap and authority to use it well. *AG Musical Fidelity* ☎ (0181) 900 2999 *Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 168*



PIONEER
A-204R £159.95

This classic budget integrated amp costs a relatively modest sum, yet includes system remote control, plus three line-inputs and a MM phono pickup input, two tape circuits with

tape monitor, plus tone and loudness controls and a worthwhile 'direct' switch to bypass the widgets. Quoted power output is a relatively modest 25 Watts.

Despite some criticism of the sound, the

Pioneer was praised for its overall balance and solid musical architecture, and good control in the bass. Real-life power is a little limited, and the sound is sometimes a little edgy with what is best described as a hollow coloration. It's easy to pick holes in inexpensive amplifiers, but the A-204R is a steal at £160, partly because it is so well equipped, but mainly because it doesn't sound like a cheap amplifier, at least when used at sensible volume levels with compact loudspeakers. *AG Pioneer* ☎ (01753) 789 500 *Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 171*



QUAD
77 INTEGRATED
FROM £699.95

The Quad 77 integrated can be used freestanding with a limited range of inputs (two, plus tape), or as part of the Quad 77 system with a fully-integrated interactive remote control (£150 extra). Technical highlights include multiple independently-regulated power supplies, and a 'highly optimised' class B output stage, which is claimed to yield low distortion and 84 Watts into eight Ohms.

The Quad 77 scored well on the listening tests, only marked down by one listener who regarded it as "a little cold". Its

sound resembles closely the 77 Pre/Power combo (see p64), in characteristically bold, vivid and colourful manner. It is almost as well suited to energetic rock music as classical music, and performed consistently well at different volumes. Indeed there was no identifiable change in tonal or dynamic performance at any setting. It's powerful beyond its dimensions, making a bold, clear musical statement without imposing too much electronic character of its own. *AG Quad Electroacoustics* ☎ (01480) 433777 *Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 168*



SONY
TA-F448BE £249.99

The BE suffix stands for 'Brooklands Edition', and indicates a souped-up version of the TA-F448E (HFC 157). Enhancements include an upgraded toroidal transformer, better power-supply capacitors, and improved earthing. Not in themselves a guarantee of radical sonic improvements, these changes can make a big difference in the hands of a skilled designer. Claimed power is 55 Watts into eight Ohms (85 Watts/four Ohms).

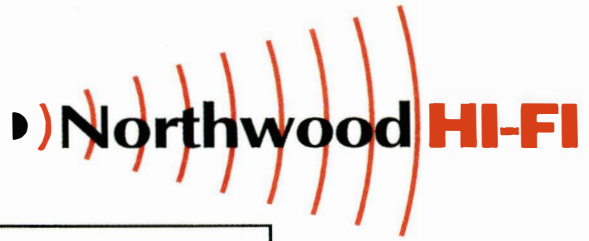
The TA-F448BE performed

much better than its predecessor, proving likable, neutral-sounding, consistent in its handling of dynamic and tonal nuances. However, its prodigious power output is not complemented by graceful behaviour in extreme circumstances, which are easy to provoke with certain musical styles and insensitive speakers. However, this doesn't detract from a leanly-carved and gimmick-free product that makes cool and finely-disciplined music. *AG Sony UK* ☎ (0990) 111 999 *Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 171*



NORTHWOOD HI-FI

**FULL RANGE
OF ACCESSORIES
IN STOCK**



8 High Street, Northwood,
Middx. HA6 1BM Phone: 01923 820877

**HI-FI / AUDIOVISUAL
SPECIALISTS & REPAIRS**

- ☀ HI-FI SEPERATES
- ☀ MINI SYSTEMS
- ☀ T.V. + VIDEO
- ☀ PORTABLES
- ☀ ACCESSORIES
- ☀ FREE INSTALLATION
WITHIN 10 MILE
RADIUS

**STOCKLIST OF: - MARANTZ,
DENSEN, ONKYO, NAD, KEF,
TANNOY, CASTLE, RUARK,
THORENS, BOSTON, HEYBROOK,
PANASONIC, SONY, CABLE TALK,
SONIC LINK,
PLUS MANY MORE**

**MARANTZ
CD63II KI SIG
£399**

**REPAIRS
TO MOST MAKES
OF T.V. VIDEO
+ HI-FI**

**2 DEMO
ROOMS**

**PART
EXCHANGE
WELCOME**

8 HIGH STREET NORTHWOOD • 01923 820877

MAKING FRIENDS WITH THE AWARD WINNERS

at Doug Brady Hi-Fi

NEW TO HI-FI? OR ARE YOU UPGRADING?

Either way you could do with a Friend in the Trade

We've been making friends with our customers for 34 years now. We're a family firm, much more concerned about a fruitful long term relationship with our customers than with hard selling.

Because you are the reviewer! What suits your ears, what fits your budget is yours to decide. After all, the menu card is no substitute for the meal, performance figures are no substitute for driving the car, and even an award is no substitute for hearing the equipment you want to test via your own ears.

So close your eyes, open your ears and make a hi-fi choice at Doug Brady Hi-Fi. We have systems from £500 to £50,000, a two-year guarantee, and after 30 years we are still a friendly family business.

I don't think you could make a better friend in the trade.

And our advertisements are our happy customers.

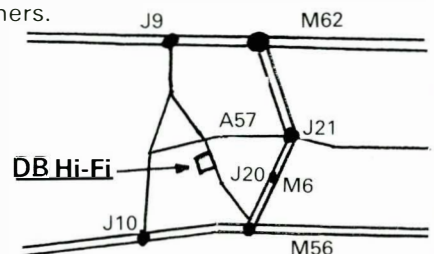
**0% FINANCE
AVAILABLE
Details on request**

**Kingsway Studios
Kingsway North,
Warrington, Cheshire
(01925) 828009
Open six days.
Fax: (01925) 825773**



**PHONE OR WRITE
FOR
DETAILED MAP**

PRIVATE PARKING



Amplifiers



TALK ELECTRONICS
STORM FROM £499.95

From the wholly-owned subsidiary of leading cable brand Cable Talk, the £500 Storm 1 accommodates four line sources and two tape decks. A vinyl-ready version is available for a £50 premium. There is no remote control in keeping with the minimalist presentation of a nominally 50 Watt design.

In sonic terms it proved an attractive and able performer, scoring above average in our listening tests. It's not a big-sounding amp, and can easily run out of steam if pressed, but within its envelope you're assured of an impressively bright, clean and airy performance that retains the edge of tension in any musical performance. There is a mild sense in which it underplays physical aspects of the sound. Talk Electronics is a brand to watch. The Storm 1 looks good, is easy to use, and if you don't need loads of power it sings with an accomplished voice. *AC*

Talk Electronics ☎ (01252) 373 434
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 162

MICHELL ARGO/ALECTO
£730/£1,989

Designed by Tom Evans (of Trichord, Pioneer Precision and Acoustic Precision fame), this amp combination consists of a simple, compact, wooden-cased Argo preamplifier (£730 plus £175 for basic outboard power supply), and the gorgeous Alecto power amp (£1,989). Argo has five line inputs and a tape circuit (Iso is the outboard vinyl option), while Alecto's MOSFET output stage is rated at 50 Watts into eight Ohms. Monoblok versions offer more power.

The design brief was to produce a transistorised amplifier that sounds like a valve amp, but without the latter's technical disadvantages. Michell seems to have achieved its goal in a combination that shows a well developed sense of soundstage focus, presence and scale, but lacks the hardness associated with solid-state amplifiers. Recommended, primarily for use with sensitive and easy-to-drive loudspeakers. *AC*

J.A. Michell ☎ (0181) 953 0771
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 165



NAD 114/214
£269.95/£369.95

The 114/214 combination is typical NAD, from the mid-grey paint job to the modest gadget count. At £640 it is one of the cheapest pre- and power-amp combinations on the market: not glamorous, but it is supremely practical. The preamplifier is a slimline design with bass and treble controls, tone bypass, and a headphone socket with its own dedicated amplifier. Seven inputs include one for MM/MC pickup, and two tape circuits, while the 214 is rated at 80 Watts (or a massive 240 Watts if used in bridged mono mode).

On audition it evinces strong dynamics and considerable detail-resolving ability, some loss of refinement, and a tonal balance that was consistently felt to be on the lightweight side of neutral. It lacks the sonority and vividness of more costly pre/power combos, but is a consistent and detailed amplifier at a bargain price. Heartily Recommended! *AC*
The Audio Club ☎ (0181) 343 3240
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 165

REGA HAL/EXON
£998/£598 EACH

The Hal preamplifier and twin Exon monoblok power amplifiers embody many novel ideas. The four-line-plus-two-tape pre-amplifier stage is passive, though power is needed for the MM/MC pickup input and remote control. Power output is 125 Watts into eight Ohms, and an impressive 220 Watts into four Ohms; build quality is high, the handset well thought-out.

The listening panel accorded respect to this combo. There were a few criticisms of what might not be the warmest sound around, but the amp handled a wide range of speakers and musical types with crispness, vitality and clarity, especially when dealing with orchestral complexities.

Though it may sound less immediately impressive than some, its consistency, high resolution and musical credibility are reasons enough for a Recommended flag. *AC*
Rega Research ☎ (01702) 333071
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 165



Headphone Amps

AMITY HPA2
(£249 INC. P&P)

Available by mail order, the HPA2 is constructed as a 'double-mono' amp, with two volume controls, DC-coupled Class-A super-linear amps, and two-Watt power supplies. Great resolution, deep bass, clean treble. Best Buy. *dv*

Amity Hi-Fi/Anderson Electronic, Germany
☎ +49-7138-32-25

CREEK OBH-11
£129.00

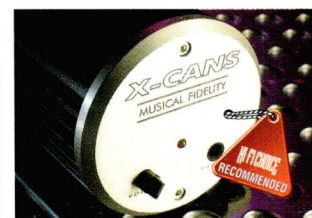
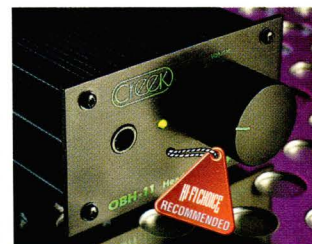
The OBH-11 is small and light, with a well-constructed ribbed black case and green graphics. It sounds fresh, incisive, musically adept and convincing, keying into up-tempo material with zest. Bass is solid, nimble and quite dry in character. Recommended. *dv*

Creek ☎ (0181) 361 4133

MUSICAL FIDELITY
X-CANS £129.95

The X-Cans is a bargain. Bass is warm and weighty, but goes soft on deeper notes. High frequencies are its shining glory — smooth, clean and extended with good inner detail. *dv*

Musical Fidelity ☎ (0181) 900 2866



THE REAL THING

Adding extra speakers to your audio system will never give you real home theatre and could spoil your music.

Meridian Theatre systems based around our award winning 565 and 541 Surround sound controllers have been designed from the start to provide the best music and a real home theatre experience. Starting from our 541 analogue controller you can build towards a Meridian DSP Theatre system, now recognised as the finest in the world.

All Meridian products from our CD players and FM Tuner to the new 586 DVD player work as a matched system controlled from one handset using our own software so you can always be sure to keep pace with new formats as they appear.



BOOTHROYD STUART
MERIDIAN

Meridian Audio Limited

Stonehill, Stukeley Meadows, Huntingdon, PE18 6ED

Tel (0) 1480 434334 Fax (0) 1480 432948

<http://www.meridian-audio.com>

WHAT DO
SEAL AND
MICK HUCKNALL
HAVE IN
COMMON?

THEY BOTH USE
AE LOUDSPEAKERS

(((AE)))
ACOUSTIC ENERGY

The ultimate sound experience

HI-FI LOUDSPEAKERS FROM £200 TO £8000.
FOR MORE INFORMATION TELEPHONE 01285 654432

Tuners



DENON
TU-425RD £199.99

A very pretty slimline package, the £200 TU-425RD has a generous feature count, especially with regard to its RDS implementation. But there are a couple of notable omissions, too. The TU-425RD is remote-ready, incorporating an infra-red sensor, but unless you've got one of Denon's recent amplifiers, the handset costs an extra £22. More seriously, there are only FM and medium wave AM bands.

The main benefits of RDS are directed at mobile listeners, and all those extra buttons and acronyms do add to the complexity, but the scrolling RadioText programme information can be handy for station-hoppers. Besides full RDS, the TU-425RD has 40 presets, while the combination of a

wide/narrow RF selectivity switch and an aerial attenuator gives good reception flexibility. There's no mono display flag as such, which can be a pain.

Four FM ceramic filters ensure fine 'front-end' selectivity, and the real-world sensitivity is good. So too is the sound quality, with a notably neutral balance and a very 'clean' delivery. It's not the liveliest sound around, but little is lost along the way, and the net result remains entertaining and informative.

Note that you don't get long wave; the remote handset is an optional extra; and that the ergonomics (with RDS) aren't the slickest and most intuitive around. But the TU-425RD still earns a Best Buy rating, as a fine all-rounder at the price, in a very neat and pretty package. *PMe Hayden Labs* ☎ (01753) 888447
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 166

HARMAN-KARDON

TU950 £199.99

For a simple device like a radio tuner, Harman/Kardon's £200 TU950 is unnecessarily bulky, but the feature count is generous. Highlights are the inclusion of long wave alongside medium wave AM, with basic RDS functions (but no RadioText). Also, there's no remote control, unless you happen to have one of H/K's partnering amps.

There's a proper rotary tuning knob, but this digital version is slow, has no flywheel action, and mutes everything. A three-stage 'front end' with four ceramic filters gave a fine combination of good sensitivity and high selectivity for long-distance reception, helped by fine metering and good internal line-up. AM sounds rather dull due to its

restricted pass-band, but the separate IC used does give a cleaner sound than usual, and even long wave was listenable.

FM sound quality is good, too, (in wide selectivity), with a crisp, clear midband, and a slightly bright but essentially sweet overall balance, bringing a welcome openness despite a touch of phasiness. Time-coherence and dynamics could be tauter and more explicit, but overall this unit has pretty good all-round sound for the money.

Since the only drawbacks are the lack of independent remote control and RadioText on RDS, and an unenlightened tuning knob, the TU950 deserves Best Buy status as a fine all-rounder, which combines decent sound with flexible radio reception. *PMe Gamepath* ☎ (01908) 317707
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 166



ARCAM
ALPHA 7 £229.90

This £230 Alpha 7 is the cheaper of two Arcam tuners — for an extra £50 the Alpha 8 is nearly identical, but features remote control. It's a good-looking unit, with sculptured front panel contours and a tidy, logical layout. The feature count is relatively low, but does include long wave as well as medium wave AM bands, while the sheer simplicity is itself refreshing.

A rather rudimentary 'front end' gives below-average performance on both sensitivity and selectivity.

While long wave is appreciated, it could have sounded cleaner and more effectively shielded from synthesiser interference. However, FM sound quality under favourable conditions does capture some audiophile flavour, and is commendably free from the slightly 'processed' quality that afflicts the budget tuner breed. *PMe*

Arcam ☎ (01223) 203203
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 166



AMC
T7 £129.95

Aimed squarely at the beer-budget sector, this £130 T7 tuner looks like standard budget fare. Features include FM and AM's medium wave, but no long wave reception. The biggest bonus is full remote control.

Radio reception proved adequate for most purposes, but not

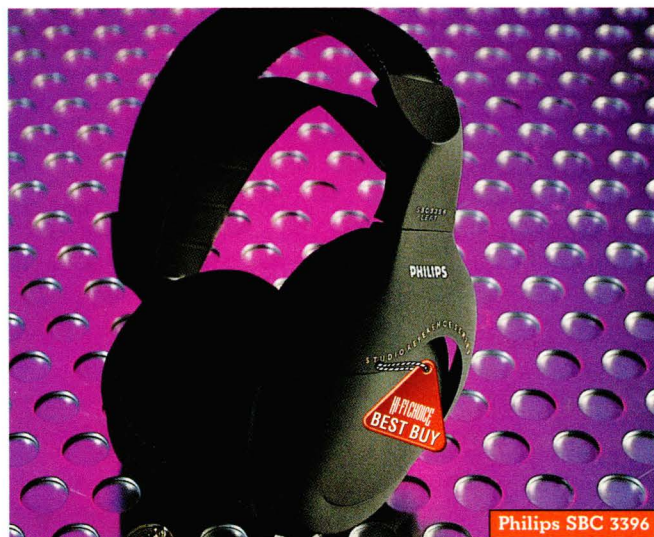
ideal for weak and distant signals, while the sound quality is adequate. The midband has slightly 'shut in' voices, while the balance is a bit

bright. It's not very tidy, or transparent, but for the most part passes muster on less demanding material. Mild mechanical transformer hum proved slightly irritating. However, although performance is a bit below par, the inclusion of remote control at this low price point justifies its Recommendation. *PMe*

Tangent Acoustics ☎ (0500) 828620
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 166

RECOMMENDED

Headphones



PHILIPS SBC 3396 £74.99

Philips might not be the biggest name in serious headphones, but the £75 SBC 3396 could change that. First, they look fab. Their long, ovoid, swept-forward

earpieces are as unusual as the dark-grey matt finish. Secondly, they're probably the most comfortable of the heavier models. The forward position of the headband and generous surface area of the large oval ear-pads no doubt help here.

SONY MDR-CD1700 £199.99

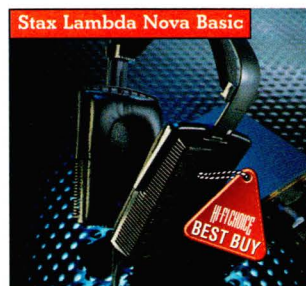
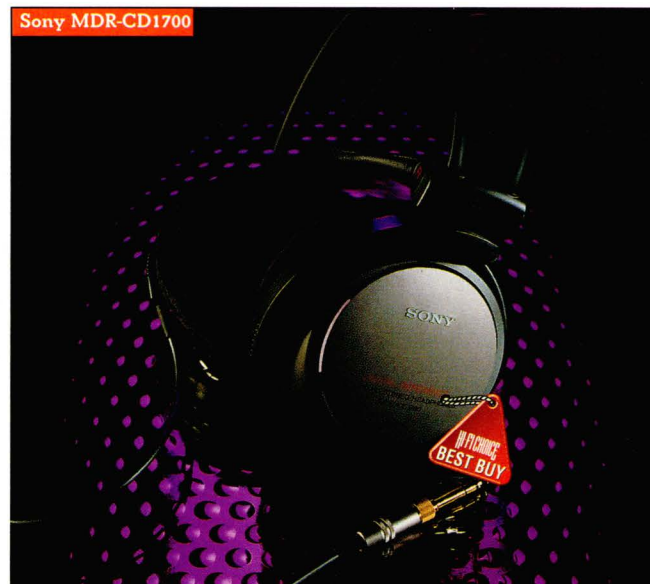
Derived from the flagship MDR-R10 King, the £200 MDR-CD1700 is another moving-coil headphone. It echoes its predecessor's shape and reprises the R10's biocellulose and 'Vectran' diaphragms. At first sight it looks dubious — bulky; the sealed-back construction associated with coloration and compressed dynamics. But the structure is very light and comfortable, with large circumaural earpads covered in soft felt, and low inward pressure with no stability sacrificed. The price paid is minimal attenuation of external sound.

For a dynamic headphone, sound quality is startlingly good, with the kind of exquisite clarity and delicacy normally found in top-class electrostatics. Bass is tuneful, well extended, and immaculately controlled, if lacking a little weight. Treble is on the bright side of neutral, lending music a lively feel. Imagery seems a little constrained in

scope and scale, though there's plenty of fine detail.

Even though the CD1700's balance is a little bright, it sings the cleanest, sweetest and most articulate treble of any dynamic headphone I've heard. Cymbal crashes have only the metallic quality that belongs, while drum brush strokes have a wholly tac-

tile quality with no suggestion of distortion at reasonable volume levels or well above. Voice quality is superb, a perfect miniature model of the real thing, and the absence of the colorations usually found in closed-back headphones is quite startling. *AG*
Sony ☎ (0990) 111999
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 163



STAX LAMBDA NOVA BASIC £449.95

Stax is by common consent the premier name in electrostatic headphones. Its products have long lifetimes, and are costly, keeping them away from the mainstream. The £450 Lambda Nova Basic is no exception.

It is ravishingly comfortable, both in the short and long term, with large leatherette-over-foam ear-cushions and a two-part headband. The power supply is a simple solid-state design with an on/off switch and volume control. There's no duplicated line output, though.

The body conceals an outsize electrostatic diaphragm standing a little proud of the ears, tilted slightly to the front to encourage a wide image forward of the head. The play works, though the Lambda's strong resolving power and lack of coloration are equally responsible. The sound has a bold, physical quality not unlike loudspeaker listening, but with the understated precision and fine detail that are special properties of good electrostatic headphones. It's the only headphone here that doesn't sound like a headphone, almost justifying Stax's 'earspeaker' epithet.

The first movement of Mahler's 9th (Karajan) blazed with ferocity and physical stature, and the quiet bars of the finale remained starkly audible against the ambient backdrop without any help from the volume knob. Any headphone doing justice to this masterwork is something special. *AG*
Path Premier ☎ (01494) 441736
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 163



Beyerdynamic DT511

BEYERDYNAMIC
DT511 £116.33

These semi-open-style headphones purport to deliver audiophile sound quality at an affordable price. The telephone-style coiled signal cord is a total nonsense, though — it will pull the 'phones off your head if you sit more than a metre away.

Exciting but odd is the easiest way to sum up the sound. The full, warm bass and fast, clinical treble give a unique character that's curiously seductive, if not entirely believable. A clear, informative mid-range has bags of ambience and terrific attack on strings and brass. Timing is in the atomic clock bracket from the mid-range up but the bass needs more speed and bite. The Beyers aren't the most balanced of designs, but they do motor. Sometimes spell-binding, sometimes a bit strange, they're never less than wholly entertaining. *DV*
Beyerdynamic ☎ (01444) 258258
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 172



Grado SR225

GRADO
SR225 £225.00

Priced at £225, Grado's SR225 is a suspiciously modest-looking affair, with compact capsules on swivelling yokes attached to the single hoop headband via steel rods. The ear cushions are made from a stiff reticulated foam which has a slightly rough feel.

The sound is rather good on the whole, with a powerful and authoritative bass, and a warm, lucid midband. Music flows through this headphone organically and believably, with irrepressible dynamics and bounce. But it is also coloured, especially in the upper midrange where the sound becomes shut-in; and at the frequency extremes, both of which sound cloudy and lacking in fine detail. For the simple communication of fine music, however, the romantic qualities of this Grado make good sense. *AG*
Goldring ☎ (01284) 701101
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 163



Sennheiser HD545

SENNHEISER
HD545 £124.95

For HD 545 read 475s with bulk, bass and more substantial build. Features include open-back operation, neodymium magnets, featherlight aluminium/copper voice coils and OFC copper cable. The absence of an inner band means there's some pressure on the ears.

Crucially, the 545s sound colourful and convincing. Bass guitar, while still far from forceful, has more weight, power and extension. Leading edges are subtly sharper, too, and cymbal work has a natural smoothness. What makes them special is the way they seem to handle all styles of music with equal assurance. You just want to keep listening. They're responsive to the subtlest nuance and represent a masterful mix of qualities at the price. Sennheiser at its best. *Recommended. DV*
Sennheiser ☎ (01494) 551551
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 172

BEST BUYS

Tape Decks

TECHNICS
RS-AZ6 £199.95

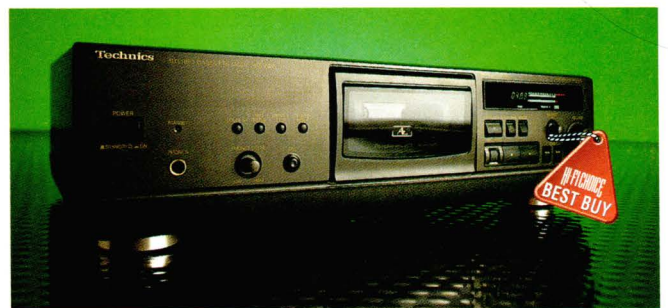
When we looked at cassette decks in *HFC 158*, the Technics RS-AZ7 was the star of the show. The £199.95 RS-AZ6 is a simplified version, with the same key selling point — the 'amorphous-Z' (AZ) thin-film playback head. This is a three-head deck with real-time off-tape monitoring. An automatic tape tuning system called ATC adjusts record bias, equalisation and sensitivity in about 30 seconds, and worked accurately with all three tape groups. There's a memory counter, a track search feature, and a headphone socket with volume control. The record level meters are good and wide-ranging.

Ostensibly, there are few differences between this model and the RS-AZ7, apart from the

omission of a timer standby facility and 'Direct Play'. On the senior model this connects the output of the AZ head preamplifier directly to the output sockets, without passing through the bias trap and Dolby noise reduction circuits that are otherwise always in circuit, whether Dolby is selected or not. Finally, where the RS-AZ7 uses some audiophile grade components in critical areas, the AZ6 does not.

The RS-AZ6 may look drab, and the minor controls are a little cramped, but it works well — although you need to select 'tape' source during playback. It takes about half the normal time to wind a C90, including a slowing-down period just before the end to avoid tape stress.

Output from this thin-film head machine is a couple of decibels below the norm. Sound is consistent before and after



recording: the deck is unusually transparent, even when monitoring while the recording was being made, which was assessed by switching between source and 'off tape' using the amplifier monitor switch. Metal tapes produced a noticeable 'loudness' contour off tape, with a slightly distant midband and prominent frequency extremes, but treble quality was detailed and refined, and the bass was an order of magnitude more tuneful

and extended than that of most other cassette decks, even though a conventional head is used in the record cycle.

The use of metal tapes is a pre-requisite if you want the best from this machine. Chrome bias tapes like TDK SA result in a greater performance hit than usual. Regrettably, ferric tapes fare less well, with a soft, rather inconsistent treble. *AG*
Panasonic/Technics ☎ (0990) 357357
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 164



Photos: Paul Hartley Studios



EQUIPMENT SUPPORT

Mana Equipment Tables

- ▲ Superb upgrade for any hi-fi system; like changing every component and buying a new music collection into the bargain.
- ▼ Dust-trap par excellence; more addictive than crack cocaine.

"Now, I can only say that until I had the Mana equipment table fitted, my hi-fi system was at best half-cooked."
 Alan Sircom
 Hi-Fi Choice March 1995



WHAT HI-FI? AWARDS '97
HI-FI CHOICE RECOMMENDED
 Mana Sound Bases



WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★
HI-FI CHOICE RECOMMENDED
 Mana Sound Frame
 "Witchcraft"
 Q Magazine, Robert Mills, May 1997



Verdict Mana Acoustics Reference

- ▲ **PROS:** Superb performance; great effects for a mere table
- ▼ **CONS:** A right royal pain to clean and dust

SOUND QUALITY
 ■■■■■
VALUE FOR MONEY
 ■■■■■

The Mana Reference Table
 ★★★★★1/2
 Listener Magazine (USA)

For information on MANA products please contact:

Mana Acoustics

59 Jubilee Close, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 3TB
 Telephone: 01753 655744 Fax: 01753 655766
 Telephone/Fax: 0181 429 0118

Exclusive US distributor:
FLAT EARTH AUDIO.

1 Bradley Road, Suite 506, Woodbridge, CT 06525
 Telephone: 203 387 0878. Toll free in US: 888 653 5454.
 Fax: 203 387 8338

STATIC RUINS THE SOUND
 FROM YOUR CDS

STATMAT

STOPS THE STATIC

Another innovative product from the designers of Ringmat



FIRST REVIEWS & CUSTOMER COMMENTS

"...Listening extensively myself, and trying the Statmat effect on others, ...I now instinctively use the device all the time... Indeed, the Statmat... makes the spoken word more articulate and clearer in inflections (and therefore instrumental sounds too), and gives phrasing and timing in music a more natural, non-fatiguing character..."
Christopher Breunig

(Hi-Fi News & Record Review, November 1997)

"...it definitely worked. What I heard was impressive...The sound isn't just smoother, sweeter or sharper. Rather, the music itself seems to change, becoming rhythmically more cohesive, and altogether more purposeful and coherent."
Jimmy Hughes (Hi-Fi choice, December 1997)

"Unbelievable how much difference a piece of plastic film... can make. Stereo imagery, depth and solidity all improved. I can no longer play a CD with STATMAT!"
Mr. A.C. Nottingham

"I'm always a little sceptical of so-called hi-fi tweaks, but in this case both my wife and I were stunned! Your claims are justified, voices particularly were affected, a more natural sound and intonation. Instruments are cleaner and better sorted. Everything sounded more relaxed and fluid. CD has just taken another step forward! ...Excellent product!"
Mr. N.M. Sleaford

"It works and betters 'mats' I've tried so far..."
Mr. R.E. Milton Keynes

STOP THE STATIC WITH

STATMAT

IT'S NEW ...

... IT'S ONLY £19.95

RINGMAT DEVELOPMENTS

P O BOX 200, BRENTWOOD, ESSEX, CM15 9FB GB
 T +44 (0)1277 200 210 F +44 (0)1277 201 225

Also available on mail order. UK p&p £1.95.
 Outside UK: Total cost £25, incl. p&p.

Tape Decks



DENON
DRM-650S £199.99

As if to underline the snail-like rate at which Dolby S has been adopted by the industry as a whole, this is the first Denon cassette deck to feature it. This £200 DRM-650S is a comparatively straightforward machine, with particularly well-judged ergonomics. Features include a display dimmer, adjustable-level headphone output, record return, and a quick automatic tape-tuning system. Also, it may be operated by remote control.

Dolby S recordings suffered occasional sibilance, and had an over-lit yet dynamically damped treble, which suggests that either the Dolby settings are in error or the player's frequency response is not quite right. Dolby B sounds more neutral.

The deck worked well with all high-bias tapes, with chrome proving the optimum choice for most situations. Type I ferrics sounded smooth, but lacked the bite of higher-bias tapes. Pitch stability is very good, even on sustained piano notes, and complex high-frequency passages remained transparent and well separated, indicating that flutter is well suppressed.

This an attractive, moderately-priced deck, which offers real musical integrity with good ergonomics and fine build quality. It has its limitations (in particular the Dolby S circuitry) but these only reflect the modest selling price, recently reduced from £230. *AG*

Hayden Laboratories ☎ (01753) 888447
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 164



KENWOOD
KX-W6080 £199.95

The £200 KX-W6080 is a gargantuan twin-transport deck which will record two tapes sequentially. Gadgets include 'skip play' (track search), single-track repeat, rewind and play, dash and play ('blank skip') and CCRS (Computer Controlled CD Recording System).

Tape tuning is limited to a slow-acting auto-bias adjustment on Deck B. It doesn't record on metal tape, and the meters cover a limited 23dB.

There is a zero stop feature, and remote control is available in a Kenwood-brand system.

Sound quality is competent, but headroom is limited. Bright-sounding material should not be allowed to peak much above OVU on the meters. It sounds clean and open once bias has been set up: there is a glassy, sharp presentation with strong detail resolution, though the bass was sometimes shallow.

Normal-speed Type II tape-to-tape dubs tended to be brash and metallic, with some loss of fine detail. High speed dubs resulted in loss of treble, a squeezing effect on stereo imagery, and a decline in stability, but these are average for a budget twin-mech machine. *AG*

Kenwood ☎ (01923) 816444
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 171

PIONEER
CT-S550S £249.95

A £250 three-header with real-time off-tape monitoring, the CT-S550S has Dolby S noise reduction, while Super Auto BLE XD circuitry sets bias, sensitivity, and equalisation. It also improves headroom. A FLEX (Frequency Level Expander System) gives a lift to poor quality recordings. Other features include a remaining time counter, multi-track search, and a level display with switchable range. Wind speed is slow.

The transport is clearly a high-class design; recordings sound sharp and clean. The XLE circuitry helps produce an accurate response with well-extended bass and treble; ferric tapes make an impressive showing thanks to BLE XD. The deck can sound rather mechanical and processed, with some loss of soundstage depth and scale, and treble transparency.

The Pioneer has its limits, but it is a natural for those with large or old tape collections, for those who want to use ferric tapes, or where higher bias tapes are not such a priority. *AG*
Pioneer ☎ (01753) 789500
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 164



YAMAHA
KX-580SE £249.95

A conventional £250 single-transport deck, the KX-580SE is relatively simple and straightforward, with useful extras like Dolby S (in addition to B, C and HX Pro), fine-bias adjust, a tape tuning feature, and 'play trim'. The tape tuning adjusts only bias and sensitivity, and must be adjusted manually. There's a headphone socket with level control, various repeat modes and an intro-scan feature.

The mechanism is not one of the quietest: transport modes slip in and out with strong clicks from the relays, and there is a muted, but high-pitched noise from the transport in play mode. The unique selling point here is the 'Special Edition' legend, indicating enhanced-quality passive components.

Once set up correctly, our review sample evinced a lightening of tone with Type II and IV tapes with Dolby C and S alike, and low frequencies lacked the fullness of the source. There was occasional dropout with metal tapes, and all tapes suffered some loss of air and space. A smidgen of additional bias helped to counteract this effect.

So the Yamaha KX-580SE is neither perfect, nor the closest approach to perfection available at the price. However, with appropriate source material, recordings sounded transparent, subtle and highly detailed. *AG*
Yamaha ☎ (01923) 233166
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 171



for the UK'S lowest prices

of any make of hi-fi, tv, video, camcorder
 save £££'s off high street prices
 buy direct and
 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

Guaranteed

SAVE £££'s... CALL EMPIRE DIRECT NOW

Just a small selection of our huge range of products.

AMPLIFIERS		HOME CINEMA	
ARCAM ALPHA 7	freephone	DENON AVC3800 AC3	freephone
ARCAM ALPHA 8	freephone	DENON AVC1800	freephone
ARCAM ALPHA 9	freephone	KENWOOD KR6690	freephone
ARCAM ALPHA 9P	freephone	KENWOOD KR688D AC3	freephone
DENON PMA250SE	freephone	NAD 910	freephone
DENON PMA350SE	freephone	PIONEER VSX806RDS	freephone
DENON PMA425R	freephone	PIONEER VSX906RDS	freephone
MARANTZ PM47	freephone	SONY TAFE800G	freephone
MARANTZ PM57	freephone	TECHNICS SAEX700K	freephone
MARANTZ PM66SE	freephone	TECHNICS SAEX700K	freephone
<p><i>I am writing to express my thanks to your Company, and all your staff, for their helpfulness and efficiency in dealing with my purchase. I have not used mail order before for such an expensive item, but would not hesitate to use your company again for a future purchase after the excellent way your staff conducted my purchase.</i> A M R - Somerset</p>			
MARANTZ PM66SE KI Sig	freephone	ARCAM ALPHA 7	freephone
NAD 312	freephone	ARCAM ALPHA 8	freephone
NAD 314	freephone	DENON DCD635	freephone
PIONEER A300R	freephone	DENON DCD825	freephone
PIONEER A405R	freephone	DENON DCD101L	freephone
PIONEER AG05R	freephone	KENWOOD DP1080	freephone
ROTEL RA920AX	freephone	MARANTZ CD17 KI Sig	freephone
ROTEL RA931	freephone	<p><i>I am writing to thank you for the excellent service and prompt delivery of the 33" Toshiba television, which I purchased from you recently. I shall certainly be pleased to recommend you and trade with you again.</i> D A - Skegness</p>	
ROTEL RA980X	freephone	MARANTZ CD63 II KI Sig	freephone
SONY TAF48E	freephone	MARANTZ CD67 Mk II	freephone
SONY TAF43E	freephone	MARANTZ CD67SE	freephone
TECHNICS SUA300K	freephone	PIONEER PDS505	freephone
TECHNICS SUV300K	freephone	PIONEER PDS904	freephone
TECHNICS SUV500K	freephone	ROTEL RCD930AX	freephone
YAMAHA AX390	freephone	ROTEL RCD970BX	freephone
YAMAHA AX492	freephone	SONY CDP325M	freephone
YAMAHA AX592	freephone	SONY CDPX510	freephone
<p>CASSETTE DECKS</p>			
DENON DRM650S	freephone	SONY CDPX510	freephone
DENON DRM740	freephone	TECHNICS SLP687K	freephone
DENON DRS810	freephone	TECHNICS SLP680AK	freephone
KENWOOD KX5080S	freephone	TECHNICS SLP480AK	freephone
KENWOOD KXW6080	freephone	YAMAHA CDX590	freephone
NAD 614	freephone	YAMAHA CDX890	freephone
PIONEER CTS450S	freephone	<p>LOUDSPEAKERS</p>	
PIONEER CTW806DR	freephone	KEF CODA 7	freephone
SONY TCKE400S	freephone	KEF CODA 8	freephone
SONY TCKE600S	freephone	KEF CODA 9	freephone
TECHNICS RSBX501K	freephone	KEF Q35	freephone
TECHNICS RSTR474K	freephone	KEF Q55	freephone
YAMAHA KX390	freephone	<p>CD PLAYERS</p>	
YAMAHA KX580 SE	freephone	MORLAUNT SHORT MS10i P	freephone
<p>MINI & MICRO HI-FI SYSTEMS</p>			
<p>MORLAUNT SHORT MS10i P</p>			
<p>MISSION 731 PRO</p>			
<p>MISSION 732i</p>			
<p>MISSION 733i</p>			
<p>MISSION 734F</p>			
<p>MISSION 753F</p>			
<p>MISSION 754F</p>			
<p>SONY SS176E</p>			
<p>SONY SS176EB</p>			
<p>TANNOY MERCURY M2</p>			
<p>TANNOY MERCURY M3</p>			
<p>IDL RTL2 SE</p>			
<p>IDL RTL3 SE</p>			
<p>HOME CINEMA SPEAKERS</p>			
<p>JBL MR CENTRE</p>			
<p>KEF 30B</p>			
<p>KEF 60S</p>			
<p>KEF 80C</p>			
<p>KEF 100</p>			
<p>MISSION 73</p>			
<p>MISSION 73C</p>			
<p>YAMAHA NSC105</p>			
<p>YAMAHA NSE105</p>			
<p>YAMAHA YTSW80</p>			
<p>YAMAHA YTSW150</p>			
<p>MINI & MICRO HI-FI SYSTEMS</p>			
<p>AIWA LCX330</p>			
<p>AIWA NSXAV75</p>			
<p>AIWA NSXF7</p>			
<p>AIWA NSXF9</p>			
<p>AIWA NSXS50</p>			
<p>AIWA NSXS70</p>			
<p>AIWA NSXS90</p>			
<p>AKAI XRM30</p>			
<p>AKAI TX520</p>			
<p>DENON D77W</p>			
<p>DENON D99W</p>			
<p>DENON DC30</p>			
<p>DENON DF07</p>			
<p>DENON DF10</p>			
<p>JVC D401T</p>			
<p>JVC D601T</p>			
<p>JVC UXD88</p>			
<p>KENWOOD XD550</p>			
<p>KENWOOD XD700</p>			
<p>PANASONIC SC-AK20</p>			
<p>PANASONIC SC-AK40</p>			
<p>PIONEER N170</p>			
<p>PIONEER N370</p>			
<p>SONY MHCX70</p>			
<p>SONY MHCX100</p>			
<p>SONY PMC303</p>			
<p>TECHNICS SC-EH50</p>			
<p>TECHNICS SC-HD50</p>			
<p>YAMAHA GX70</p>			
<p>MIDI HI-FI SYSTEMS</p>			
<p>AIWA ZR700</p>			
<p>AIWA ZD9500M</p>			
<p>KENWOOD M49MP</p>			
<p>KENWOOD M58M</p>			
<p>KENWOOD M97MG</p>			
<p>PIONEER J2500M</p>			
<p>SONY XB6</p>			
<p>SONY XBBAV</p>			
<p><i>Thank you for your kind attention and may I say how pleased I was with the speed and efficiency when you dealt with my order.</i> G M - Kent</p>			

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 (UK MAINLAND ONLY) ✓
- 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 ✓

any make . any model . any where . any make . any model . any where

EMPIRE direct (UK)

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

Orders & Quotes: 0800 454980
 All Other Enquiries: 0113 235 1770 Fax Number: 0113 249 6356
 E-Mail: EMPIRE @ LEGEND.CO.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, Girington
 THE NORTH'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL MEGASTORE
 Cleartone HiFi, Rawson Square, City Centre

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

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

Equipment Supports

FRAMEWORKS

H500/ H175
£265.00/ £139.00

Frameworks is not trying to plough any new aesthetic furrows with this combination, but neither is the H500/H175 a straightforward multi-tier support. As its double-barrelled name suggests, and the photograph confirms, this is a combination of two-shelf stand with a separate isolation platform perched on top, the bits costing £265 and £139 respectively.

Construction follows the pattern of light-but-rigid tubular and square-section steel, neatly welded together and finished in textured black, with spike-supported 10mm glass shelves. It is distinguished from less expensive supports of a similar type by the thin rods which provide triangulated bracing — improving rigidity without adding much mass. A simple and effective shelf support arrangement employs three spikes, with rubber rings around the spikes to prevent slip.

This table conforms more closely than most to currently accepted audiophile ideals, so it's gratifying to report that its sound quality stood out comfortably ahead of the pack too, by rocking, boogying and simply keeping



itself out of the music's path more effectively than its rivals. Its handling of leading edge information was clearly superior, bringing welcome clarity and precision to the proceedings. Detail abounded, but there was none of the information overload or muddle I've heard from some lighter tables. Bass lines were appropriately balanced, with a fitting mix of substance and agility, imparting a sense of drive and solidity that the other tables couldn't match.

Usually, because other tables provide more shelving real estate for less money, this Frameworks combo might be looking at a Recommended flag. Since its musical performance was well ahead of the competition, however, a Best Buy seems altogether more appropriate. *MS Arrow Consultancy* ☎ (01702) 611451
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 166

SOUND ORGANISATION

Z560 £160.00

Offering five shelves at a reasonable £160, the Z560 uses the familiar materials and self-assembly construction that typifies the Sound Organisation's business-like approach. This stand is designed to support your hi-fi, not to be a poor man's objet d'art.

Two inverted T pillars provide primary support, the inside faces pre-drilled to accommodate the fixings that hold the shelves in position at a variety of selectable heights. The shelves are glass and sit upon rectangular, tubular steel frames. Sticky domes, securely attached to the frames, prevent the glass from sliding with surprising efficiency. Spikes anchor the whole assembly to terra firma.

This unit isn't aesthetically spectacular but it is quite pleasing to the eye, the gloss paint job and darkened glass shelves giving a pleasant visual homogeneity. Setting up poses no problems, and overall structural integrity is good.

The absence of bits bending and rattling was evident on energetically recorded albums such as Reef's *Glow*. Compared to the reference Mana, the Z560 sounded less well controlled, but it resisted any temptation to sound ragged or confused. The music's verve came across clearly, and what appeared to be a lit-

tle added thrust in the mid and top-end imparted an appropriate sense of punch and enthusiasm.

However, this table did remove some edges from timing information. It didn't sound especially slow, but the drive of Reef's music was slightly diminished. A relaxed feel was also evident on The Fugees' reworking of Bob Marley's *No Woman No Cry*.

Ultimately, there's no question that the Z560 deserves a Best Buy rating. Its performance doesn't match that of the reference table, but it only costs about a quarter of the price of a five-tier Mana. At £160, the end result is excellent and the table represents outstanding value for money. *MS*

Sound Organisation ☎ (01284) 701101
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 166



RECOMMENDED



OPTIMUM INT'NATIONAL
OPT490 £299.00

Optimum's £299 OPT490 is rigid, and looks a bit like a coffee table (albeit one inflated by steroids), but that's where the resemblance ends. The four-tier tested here weighs about as much as a small child sitting astride a large horse, or 25 kilos. In this self-assembly design, the support shelves are sandwiched

between the tubular, screw-together sections that form the three uprights, of which, in this design, there are three. The support rods come in 60mm, 130mm and 150mm lengths, and in stainless steel or gold; the shelves are 8mm glass.

If your system is a little too revealing for comfort at times, this stand is well worth a listen. It tones down forwardness, and

takes the sting out of cymbals, albeit with a slight loss of detail. Tonally it adds or subtracts little: classical recordings have a very natural balance, and dynamic contrasts are convincing. Its ability to handle all manner of material with ease, and without inducing fatigue, is a strong selling point. *Recommended. MS*

Optimum Int ☎ (01274) 583249
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 166

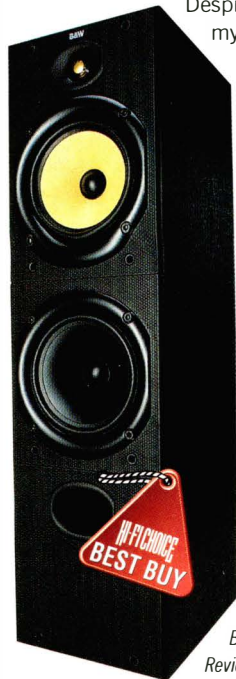
Speakers

B&W

DM603 £499.95

Third rung up the ladder of B&W's 'mainstream' 600-series range, the £500 DM603 owes much to the smaller bookshelf-format DM602. They've added a passive bass radiator, and extended the additionally-ported enclosure downwards to create a floorstanding configuration in which the whole box volume is acoustically active.

You don't get too many luxuries. Vinyl woodprint finish is inevitable, along with conventional front-panel-mounted tweeters. There isn't even a proper bass unit, just something that operates as a 'slave', analogous to a reflex port. But you do get a cast-frame main driver with a generous 135mm Kevlar cone. The shape is rather dumpy, but it allows the inclusion of a much larger main drive unit than you'll find in the competition. The bass receives further assis-



B&W ☎ (01903) 750 750
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 170

tance from a conventional reflex port and two bungs of different density foam, which allow three levels of bass reinforcement.

It's hard to argue with a speaker that topped the lists on both 'blind' listening days. There's always room to criticise budget speakers, but the fact that no-one marked down the DM603 in any respect is a testament to the fine balance of qualities the engineers have achieved.

Despite a slightly 'thrummy' quality and some lack of weight and scale, the bass actually works rather well, with good tonal and dynamic discrimination, impressive speed and timing, plus the sort of headroom, drive and authority that can kick when necessary. The mid-to-treble balance might be a little too restrained, but that pays dividends with budget price electronics. All told this is a very impressive Best Buy floor-stander. *PMc*

CELESTION

A1 (FROM £899)

The A1 is the smallest and least expensive of three new A-series models, with an £899 price tag pitching it well above the budget sector. At around 20 litres' internal volume, it's one of the larger stand-mounts around. Its 13kg weight is greater than that of many floorstanders, and further evidence of solid build. Our rosewood sample carried a £100 premium, but the workmanship is truly exceptional.

Finite element analysis helped create the 25mm titanium dome tweeter, while laser interferometry was used to place the internal box bracing for best effect. The main driver has a cast chassis and 125mm injection-moulded cone, with Faraday rings to stabilise magnetic flux.

As its size suggests, the A1 should be kept clear of walls, and it can still sound heavy and laid-back. But this obvious character can't hide a great deal of underlying class. Some of the listeners would have preferred a more up-front and immediate

presentation, but most were happy to relax into the A1's warm and expansive sound.

Its trick is to sound big and weighty, yet avoid becoming grumbly. The mid-bass drives along with fair speed and good headroom, the treble is sweet, while the sound as a



whole is quite transparent, giving good stereo depth and detail.

Despite an almost fruity balance, there's good scale, dynamic range and low coloration. The laid-back presentation ensures the sound will never offend, yet the speaker is good enough to avoid becoming bland. *PMc*
Celestion ☎ (01622) 687 442
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 164

HEYBROOK

HEYLIOS £389

This £389 stand-mount model from Heybrook would be described best as 'classic' or 'traditional'. The nostalgic feel comes from a shape that is wider than deep, from a sombre and anonymous though indisputably real rosewood finish, and from the beading which softens and picture-frames the edges.

The main driver uses a moulded plastic frame and a doped-paper cone of about 120mm diameter, while the tweeter has a 25mm soft-fabric dome. Twin rear ports reflex-load the enclosure, which is internally damped by three different techniques — bituminous

damping pads on the box walls, a lining of polyester fibres, plus a fill of long-hair wool.

Sonically this is an excellent speaker, and one that helps to reinforce my belief that good bookshelf-type loudspeakers will tend

to outperform floorstanders of equivalent price. It delivers bass as deep as anything in its class, and manages to make it sound quick and clean at the same time.

Character is a little on the thin and forward side of neutral — a little cold perhaps. Some might prefer more warmth and richness, but voices are very expressive. It partnered low-cost components well, sounding lively, quick and dynamic in the midband, despite some coloration. A little bright but also open, it seems to work well at whatever level you choose to play. Not the height of current speaker fashion, but classic proportions and presentation continue to make a great deal of sense, delivering fine sound quality from a compact and attractively finished enclosure — at a Best Buy price! *PMc*



Heybrook ☎ (01579) 342 866
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 164

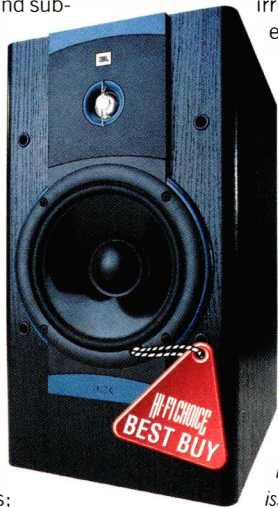
Speakers

JBL

LX2 £249.99

The LX Series is the mid-priced range in the JBL hierarchy, between the cheaper TLXs and the more expensive Ls. Among the LXs, the £250 LX2 is the not-so-small baby, and the only stand-mount. Internal volume is around 17 litres, while the combination of a 125mm plastic-cone main driver and large 60mm rear port promises plenty of bass oomph. Treble is handled by one of JBL's traditional 25mm titanium domes, but single speaker terminals preclude bi-wire or bi-amp possibilities. Build seems solid and substantial, and the baffle is enhanced by post-formed edges and restrained turquoise trim. Room measurements made it quite clear that this speaker should be mounted on 60cm stands well clear of walls.

The JBLs were my personal favourite in their blind listening tests;



other panellists were not quite so convinced. There was, however, general agreement about the strengths and weaknesses. On the plus side there is a degree of dynamic capability which is unusual at this end of the market. The LX2 kicks (when the music so requires), and manages to serve up a vivid and colourful portrayal of what's going on, with tight timing, plenty of verve, and genuine grip and authority.

However, it's not the smoothest sound, and may prove too colourful for some. Overall balance is good, but a touch of boom'n'tizz character

irritated our experienced panellists slightly. Extended hands-on listening revealed a fine match with 'budget' components, and confirmed that this JBL brings some rather special qualities to the art of music making, especially in the dynamic domain. *PMe*

Gamepath ☎ (01908) 317 707
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 170



JPW

ML510 £130

Of the nine models in JPW's new Millennium Series, the £130 510 sits on the fourth rung up the ladder. The company still believes in particle board for the front panel, but accepts that plastic mouldings offer extra styling flexibility. Accordingly, the 510 has an ultra-thick front panel with separate layers of chipboard and MDF. Styling embellishments are machined into the MDF layer, which is then laminated to give a 'genuine plastic texture effect'. The 'cherry' vinyl woodprint is one of the more impressive examples.

A plastic-frame main driver has a 100mm doped-paper cone, while the tweeter uses a small 19mm doped-fabric

dome. Twin terminals permit bi-amping/bi-wiring. The underlying class of this speaker was obvious as soon as it was connected to our reference system: its relatively smooth and enticingly open balance maintained fine clarity even at very low listening levels.

There's no real bass weight or grip, though what's there balances up pretty well, if the speaker is mounted a foot or two from a wall.

Dynamics are a little unexciting, though the dynamic range through the broad midband has a real touch of class and coherence, with good basic timing. Voices are a bit forward and shiny — slightly pinched and nasal — so the sound can get a bit aggressive at higher levels. Though open, invigorating and communicative, the sound might be a little too upfront and 'in-yer-face' for some tastes, and when partnered with the wrong combination of components.

Nonetheless, it remains a clear Best Buy. *PMe*
JPW ☎ (01752) 607 000
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 169

MISSION

731 PRO £139.90

Though Mission's 731 has been through several revisions, it has spent most of its time near the top of the best-sellers' chart. The £140 731 PRO may sacrifice some bass to its forbears, but it looks more compact and discreet, the surface area radiating unwanted sound is reduced, smaller panels are stiffer for the same thickness, and the small internal volume assists power handling by controlling cone excursion. A pretty good trade-off, especially as the main driver magnet is 90mm.

Following the 'upside down' driver pattern Mission pioneered years ago, the main driver is

actually mounted onto the back of the enclosure, via hollow struts on the back panel moulding, helping to isolate the tweeter from vibrations generated by the driver. Construction feels

solid, while radiused edges combine with subtle baffle and grille mouldings to give an attractively 'softened' appearance.

On the end of an upmarket 'reference' system, the 731 PRO

sounded dull, small, shut-in and boxy, but after adjusting to a conservative balance, the subtle voicing and evenhandedness began to create a better impression. Connecting up a 'budget' source and amp wrought a transformation: the 731 PRO achieved a good balance between two contrasting classical recordings, retaining enough 'edge' to stay interesting, but without becoming aggressive.

Assessed by absolute standards on a top-quality system, the 731 PRO might be a bit of an under-achiever, but in the world of budget audio equipment and modest-sized rooms, it makes a whole lot of sense. *PMe*
Mission ☎ (01480) 451 777
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 169



Speakers

**MISSION
753 FREEDOM £798**

It's nearly five years since Mission's 753 first burst onto the market and became an instant hit. Though the 753 Freedom is a revised version, it looks very similar. The most impressive feature is the row of four identical drivers taking up most of the front panel. In fact they're used as two pairs: the upper pair covers bass and midrange from a small sealed sub-enclosure, while the lower pair and ports supply bass grunt.

Four drivers and a narrow cabinet, which is very

much in the modern fashion with heavily chamfered edges and beautifully veneered sides, create a stylish masterpiece. The most obvious change from the original 753 is a silk fabric dome tweeter in place of its plastic predecessor. The overall balance is richer and duller than before.



Our panellists had their nigglings — the restrained treble was the favourite — but still gave the 753 F consistently good marks. It isn't the last word in transparency and air, or bottom-end weight, but the broad midband is dynamically lively and attractively coherent, with a fine sense of timing, and precise stereo image focus. It accepts power and responds with gusto, bringing real dynamic tension to the proceedings, and never sounding short of headroom.

Still the best-looking example

of the stereotype it virtually created, this Freedom variation on the 753 should keep Mission busy for years. It may not have the delicacy of purist two-way designs, but its blend of dynamic authority and balance suits modest systems well. *PMc*

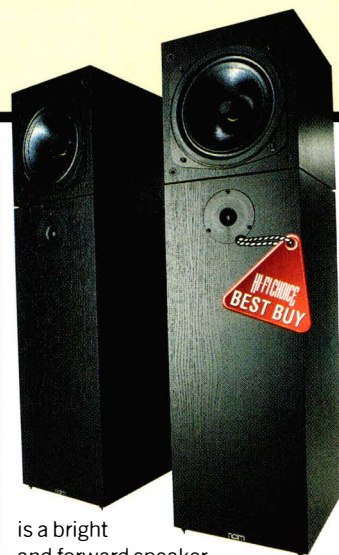
Mission ☎ (01480) 451 777
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 164

**NAIM
INTRO £660**

At £660, Naim's new 'entry-level' Intro is pitched well above the budget sector — inevitably with its complex separate-box construction. In essence it is a low-cost version of Naim's £1,060 Credo, with vinyl finish, a less elaborate crossover and less costly main driver. Both designs are unusual for housing the vibration-creating main driver in its own compact enclosure, mechanically isolated from a larger floorstanding enclosure accommodating the tweeter.

The two boxes are acoustically connected through large holes in the adjacent faces. A precisely dimensioned gap between the two acts as a small reflex port. A metal strip provides secure spike attachment and a measure of controlled decoupling (to avoid exciting the floor). The fairly large cast-frame main driver results in a rather boxy-looking shape, and a single pair of terminals is fitted, though the speaker may be easily upgraded to active drive.

Despite a decidedly forward balance, the panel showed enthusiasm for the Intro's strengths, and willingness to put up with its idiosyncrasies. This



is a bright and forward speaker, and the whole experience may be too edge-of-seat for some, especially since the light bass doesn't provide any disguise. But its ability to create realistic dynamic tension and a seriously wide dynamic range proved seductive. "A dose of gritty realism," one panellist said, "live balance — as in dangerous."

This speaker does accept some compromise in natural timbres and tonal balance, and the strong forwardness won't be to every taste. But a wide dynamic integrity and range makes for a vivid and exciting experience. While it benefited, naturally, from 'Naim system symbiosis', it should work with other components. *PMc*

Naim ☎ (01722) 332 266
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 164

**NHT
SUPERONE £338**

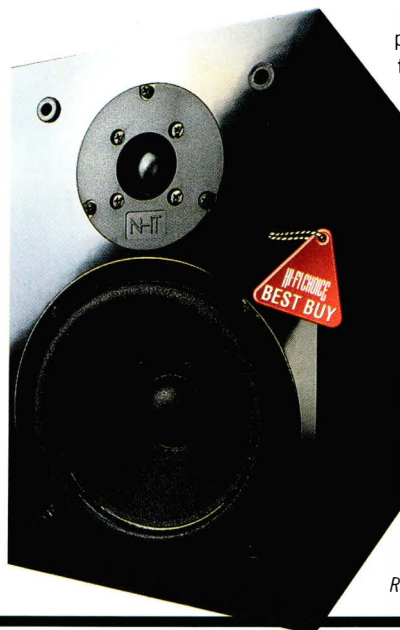
Californian for 'Now Hear This!', NHT has spent 10 years growing into a significant player on the US scene, and deserves due respect for such an achievement. The £338 SuperOne is just a little larger than the 'typical' miniature, and has a main driver with a 120mm (paper) cone — significantly larger than the 90-100mm used by most miniatures. Also, it operates in sealed-box mode, which is relatively unusual these days.

The box is a tough, mitre-jointed affair with black (or white) laminate finish. Not quite in the genuine hand-polished-

lacquer class perhaps, but smartly effective nonetheless. Room measurements indicate a little, but not too much, wall reinforcement will be beneficial.

Considering its size, this speaker did well in the listening tests. It wasn't anyone's outright favourite, but nobody took a particular dislike, and results proved consistent. The overall evenhandedness is its most obvious strength: "Warm, easy, unforced and involving. Works well on all types of music".

It tries hard to sound like a bigger speaker, only half succeeding, but it does manage to pack significantly more



punch and deliver more scale than competitors of a similar size, and that in itself is an achievement. It never managed to sound genuinely big or dynamic, but worked well with budget kit, and handled complex material without serious clogging.

Its low sensitivity might be offputting, but if (lack of) size is important, NHT's SuperOne is well worth checking out. I haven't been able to come up with anything smaller and less expensive that can match this model's all round capability. Best Buy. *PMc*

Sound Department ☎ (01235) 555 622
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 170

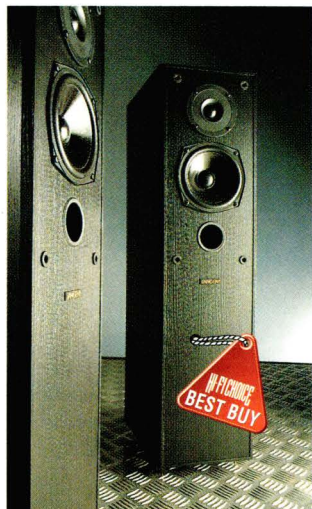
Speakers

TANGENT ACOUSTICS MONITOR 9 £149.95

A substantial meat'n'two veg speaker from Tangent's low-price range, the Monitor 9 is a two-way, rear-ported floorstander, super-competitively priced at £150, and beefier than its closest rival (the Gale 4i). Slightly bigger than the latter in every dimension, the Tangent is considerably heavier when filled to its boots with lead-shot substitute. Tangent's aim is to offer an intrinsically more expensive speaker for less cash, and that claim seems to hold water when you consider the solid build quality and the chunkiness of the twin gold-plated binding posts round the back.

The sound is remarkably big-boned and hard-hitting. With Steve 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 reasonable control, but it can boogie. The forceful, up-front sound was a solid, rhythmic bass, lightning transients and a scarily explicit mid-range presentation.

A 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.

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. A lot of speaker, and it gives a very confident sound. *dv*

Tangent ☎ (0500) 828 620
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 165

TANNOY MERCURY M2 £139.90

The Mercury M2 may be the least expensive model in the Tannoy portfolio, but by no means is it the smallest one around. This 15-litre enclosure is considerably larger and heavier than most of its obvious competitors in the marketplace.

Thanks to its construction by a very reputable Eastern-European manufacturer, the M2 certainly looks like good value. The main diaphragm is roughly 120mm in diameter and the driver has a moulded-plastic frame, though the magnet is a modest 80mm affair. The tweeter has a 25mm plastic dome,

and both are fed via cheap cabling from a pair of rear terminals. Cosmetics are sober and restrained, with an attractive 'bird's-eye' decorative laminate over the front panel and edging.

Extra bass extension is the M2's most obvious plus when compared to its commercial rivals. This speaker simply generates a greater sense of scale and weight than anything known to the author at the price, though it does not have the fastest or best controlled bass around, and doesn't overload too gracefully.

The character of the sound is a bit dark and laid-back, which is wise bearing in mind the low cost equipment with which it's likely to be installed. Some

TANNOY MERCURY M3 £229.90

Few floorstanders are cheaper than Tannoy's £230 Mercury M3, and none at the price is so large, elegant, or blessed with such a reputable brand name. Overseas assembly seems to be the key to competitiveness these days, but the crucial design work is tightly specified from base camp in Scotland.

There's relatively little difference between the stand-mount M2 and floor-standing M3, apart from the size of the box. The M3's main driver shares the same 120mm cone and injection-moulded plastic frame, though naturally, low-frequency alignment and port-tuning differ. Only part of the enclosure is acoustically active; the bottom section is there to be filled with ballast. A single terminal pair limits wiring options, but thanks to an attractive 'cherry' vinyl front, cosmetics are good.

The listening panels gave the M3 a comprehensive thumbs-up. The

balance is just a little bright, so the overall impression is attractively open, especially at modest listening levels, though it's too busy-sounding for complete comfort. The midband is particularly well-judged, with impressive detail, a generous soundstage and fine stereo perspectives. On the debit side there's some lack of substance and solidity. Dynamics are rather flat, and the bottom-end response would benefit greatly from more drive and authority.

It's a pretty obvious Best Buy. This compact floorstander looks better than many, costs less than most, and turns in a thoroughly impressive all-round performance for the price. It favours the mid-band over the bass, and could do with more grip, drive and dynamic excitement. But you're never going to get everything for £230! *PMc*

Tannoy
☎ (01236) 420 199

Reviewed
Hi-Fi Choice issue 170



might find it a little short of punch and drama, but the overall perspectives are beautifully even and naturally balanced. The midband has a measure of boxiness, voices sound a little pinched, and the top-end could be sweeter, but all things considered it's a beautifully balanced all-rounder which is bigger — and goes deeper — than you're entitled to expect at

the £140 price-point. *PMc*
Tannoy ☎ (01236) 420 199
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 169



Speakers



**AUDIO GEM
EMERALD £570**

The Emerald is among the prettier and more compact floorstanders on the market. The veneer and finish are attractive, and radiused edges soften the lines most effectively. A matching plinth with hunky 8mm spikes terminates the quarter-wave tuning system used to load the main driver's 90mm cone.

Essentially a small loudspeaker, it's also a classy one, if a bit of a lightweight. It invests music with plenty of life, dynamic vigour and tension, but lacks some of the weight, warmth and richness that bring body and scale to loudspeaker reproduction. The bass is tight, agile and goes deep, and while voices can have a slightly nasal and pinched character, they are also attractively clear and airy. Treble is open and detailed. *PMe*
May Audio ☎ (01535) 632700
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 164



**ACOUSTIC ENERGY
AE109 £349.95**

The AE109 is an attractively slim and compact floorstander. Its 'rosewood' vinyl looks better than many, and you get a second small main driver to deliver some extra low-end punch and headroom. A fixed plinth improves appearance, spike retention and overall stability, and the whole thing feels immensely solid. Thanks to factory-installed mass-loading, each enclosure weighs in at a massive 22kg.

A rather dull and shut-in character worked against the '109 at the relatively modest levels used during the panel tests, but winding up the volume brings the sound to life, and reveals the positive side of this speaker's character. It enjoys being driven hard, and delivers the kind of solid, powerful bass that's hard to find at twice the price. It is unquestionably fine material value for money, and one of the better-looking compact floorstanders. *PMe*
Acoustic Energy ☎ (01285) 654 432
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 164



**B&W
DM305 £349.95**

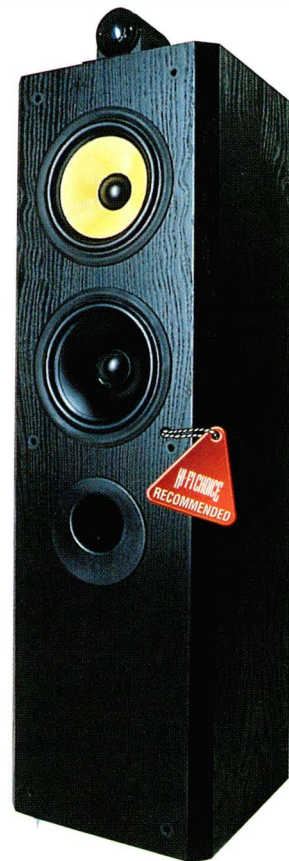
This isn't the cheapest compact two-way floorstander around, nor has it the prettiest skin, but it does look very sleek. The main driver has cast-frame metal-work and a 120mm paper cone. This has ridges to improve the stiffness, forming a spiral pattern to block both axial (bell) and radial break-up modes. Two separate ported chambers boost the bass, and a honey-comb-shaped Prism moulding helps disperse internal energy.

Obvious plus points were the good blind listening test results it evoked, plus a finely-judged balance and decent bass extension, but the 305 wasn't always consistent. Though beautifully open at modest levels, it tends to become edgy when driven hard. On the whole a good sound, but treble could be sweeter and bass more threatening. Nevertheless, it's remarkable just how much performance B&W has managed to squeeze out of this budget floorstander. *PMe*
B&W ☎ (01903) 750 750
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 164

**B&W
MATRIX 804 £1,695**

The floorstanding Matrix 804 is stuffed with advanced features. There's the internal enclosure-stiffening system code-named Matrix, the tweeter sitting in its own nacelle on the top, and the very classy main and bass-only drivers. The box is clothed in good-quality real-wood veneer, and the net result is more purposeful than elegant, but neat and discreet.

A 'best of the day' listening-test rating arose from the 804's impressive combination of serious weight and grunt, with a measure of real authority underpinning considerable subtlety, lovely, open spaciousness, and freedom from boxiness. The presentation is a bit cautious, and voices have a slightly 'shut-in' quality, but those are minor criticisms of what is essentially a very fine all-rounder indeed. *PMe*
B&W ☎ (01903) 750 750
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 167



**CASTLE
ISIS (FROM £249.90)**

Available in several real-wood veneers at prices from £250, the Isis is slightly larger than most miniatures, and elegantly slim with it. Its main drive unit is small in keeping with the slender dimensions, but a 100mm plastic cone will never move a lot of air, even with port assistance. But the cast metal frame is a welcome luxury at this price.

Considering its small size and relatively modest cost, the Isis did rather well in the listening tests. Lack of serious bass extension and authority is one limiting factor, and the Isis isn't the last word in dynamic expressiveness and grip either. But the bass it produces is exceptionally even



and well integrated, and the overall bass-to-mid balance is smoother, flatter and more coherent than most. It looks good, sounds fine and responds well to budget components. *PMe*
Castle ☎ (01756) 795333
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 170

Speakers

DYNAUDIO

CONTOUR 1.8II £1,842

Dynaudio is best known for its unusual and expensive drive units, which turn up in some of the best places. The company's own Contour 1.8II is more compact than most upmarket floorstanders, and looks discreet and gorgeous in an understated way, with some of the best-finished woodwork on the planet. Port-loaded twin main drivers operate in tandem up to the tweeter.

Even though the bass was a little too full under our conditions, the midband was particularly classy. Though it sounded a little 'under-projected' on first acquaintance, it succeeded through subtlety. Rivals struggle to match its natural transparency; voices have a freedom from nasality. A relaxed, easy-going naturalness combines with a considerable ability to define programme quality. Not cheap — but the 1.8 justifies its price with a classy finish and delicate vocal reproduction. *PMc*

Dynaudio ☎ (01732) 451938
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 167



GALE

4i £139.95

The Gale 4, a Richer Sounds stalwart, was the benchmark for budget floorstanders a couple of years ago — and that's when it cost £200! Stiff competition has forced the price down and the quality up, which means a £60 price downgrade to £140 and an 'i' performance boost. The latter comprises an improved 25mm tweeter, modified bass port and tweaked crossover.

Gale's budget champ reputation is more or less intact. On the whole, the 4i sounded great but not entirely consistent. Bass was full to over-ripe, and went deep for such a slim box, with good timing and integration. But there was a samey quality about it too. And like other budget floorstanders, the Gale seemed to be let down by imaging anomalies — much rarer with budget bookshelf speakers mounted on sturdy stands. *DV*

Richer Sounds plc ☎ (0171) 940 2240
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 165

JBL

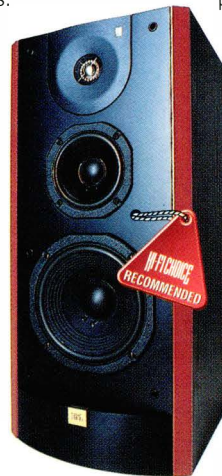
L40A £1,000

The size and shape of JBL's L40A follow the classic 'two-by-one-by-one-foot' model established 30 years ago by compact BBC monitors.

However 'large bookshelf' designs are so rare today that finding a suitable support (under 400mm high) might be a problem. Hefty construction uses a 27mm 'sandwich' front panel and attractively executed two-tone real-wood finish, while the three-way configuration uses high-class bass, mid and treble drivers, with cast frames and generous magnets.

Our panel's reactions varied according to individual tastes. One panellist correctly identified the JBL sound, and went on to admit: "It's quite fun to listen to; quite dynamic." Indeed, that's the main strength here. The L40A is too uneven to deliver the most refined or subtle sounds, but it goes about music-making with an honesty and gusto that bring their own rewards. *PMc*

Gamepath ☎ (01908) 317707
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 167



JPW

ML1010 £399.99

Considering the sheer size and weight of this behemoth, its £400 pricetag is remarkably modest. However, I suspect that many potential buyers attracted by the high perceived value may blanch at the bulk. It's a true three-way design with twin bass drivers and a large rear port. The midband driver has a 75mm paper cone; the treble a 19mm dome. A double-thickness front panel aids structural integrity, and the 'cherry' woodprint vinyl wrap is quite pretty.

Sonically the 1010 packs quite a thump in the bass, but it knows also how to carry a tune and supply decent weight with scale. The balance is open and neutral, if a little bright, brash and forward, but best of all are generous headroom and a lack of strain. High sensitivity and loudness capability complete the package. *PMc*

JPW ☎ (01752) 607 000

Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 170



KESWICK AUDIO

TORINO £999

Here's an attractive and unusual variation on the floorstanding theme. The Torino's enclosure is narrower at the top than at the bottom, which looks good but also promotes physical stability, and de-focuses some internal standing-wave modes. Most of the speaker is covered in textured black leatherette, with a real-wood-veneered panel deco-

rating the front. The two main drivers work in tandem through the bass region (in conjunction with the reflex port). The upper unit handles the upper midband to integrate with the tweeter.

Though it combines high sensitivity with serious bass extension in a most

impressive manner, this isn't the smoothest or least coloured model around. But it does have plenty of basic honesty and integrity thanks to its essential simplicity. It's a good all-round performer in most respects. Slightly hollow, nasal-voice coloration and some hardness are offset by lively and communicative dynamics. *PMc*

Keswick Audio ☎ (01977) 671 823

Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 167



UNLIKE MOST SPEAKER COMPANIES, WE BUILD SPEAKERS. WE DON'T BUY THEM.

My, my. Things nowadays are not always what they're cracked up to be. We're almost positive it all started with the egg-free egg. Yum. Then came caffeine-free coffee, with the taste gone, too. In a matter of days, the conscience-free politician followed, who within moments was justly run over by his own badge-engineered car. And now, here comes the ultimate horror: The Dynaudio-free Dynaudio speaker.

No way! Just kidding! In fact, it's just the other way around; 90% of all other high-end manufacturers do not painstakingly develop and build their own speakers at all. Instead, their designers tend to use our justly famous Esotar and Esotec tweeters, only to sell them to you, the truth-loving English public, as their own most expensive creations. We, being true

Danes, still believe in a 100% in-house production.

Every single part of our beloved Contour 1.8 (the one our works raccoon Knudsen is just checking for alien intruders) is still meticulously hand built by our dedicated Danish master craftsmen.

With our legendary oversized voice-coils, our incomparable first-order crossovers, the flat driver membrane geometry and the minimization of phase problems. From truly superior materials, in extremely limited numbers. To create beautiful, true music. And nothing else.

If you want to experience the original (!) Dynaudio effect, please call us at (0171) 37 89 750 or fax us at (01732) 451 938 for a free copy of our inimitable "Book of Truth". You'll love it. Because unlike most speaker companies, not only do we build our own

speakers. We write our own ads and brochures, too.



DYNAUDIO[®]
AUTHENTIC FIDELITY

DANES DON'T LIE.™

Speakers

MISSION

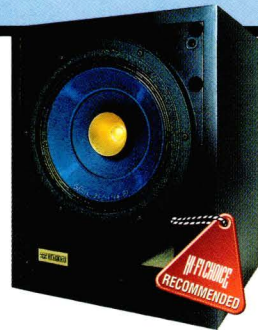
733i £329.90

The 733i has replaced the 733, whose style, for many years, has been most influential in speaker circles. The 'i' version resembles its predecessor in most respects, including price-tag, but benefits from a new tweeter. Though effectively a 'large bookshelf-size' two-way, it is packaged as a floorstander, with decent spikes and stability footprint.

It was not every listener's cup of tea, but did sway the majority of panellists in its favour, with praise for the tweeter from one of them. A lack of deep bass is a little disappointing, but essentially this is a good-hearted, even-handed and very well-balanced speaker. It worked consistently well in both of our test systems, at most levels and with the vast majority of material played. The 733i is brighter, sweeter and more open than its predecessor, and covers its tracks rather well.

PMe

Mission ☎ (01480) 451 777
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 170



REHDEKO

RK115A £1,750

Rehdeko's defiantly anachronistic speakers have almost nothing in common with contemporary hi-fi. This 'entry level' RK115A is a compact stand-mount size, and is beautifully finished in real-wood veneer. Its port-loaded 'full-range' drive unit has a cast frame and a stiff 190mm paper cone with a centrally-mounted 'whizzer' horn.

It is a high-sensitivity design, with a frequency balance so different from the norm it proved impossible to 'blind-test' successfully. It has an exceptional freedom from time-smear, and vivid dynamics by way of compensation for limited bandwidth and a rainbow of coloration. Most listeners will reject it out of hand, but this Rehdeko has an exceedingly addictive magic that's entirely unique. *PMe*
Virtual Reality Systems ☎ (01277) 227355
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 167



ROGERS

AVANTI C628 £1,299

This decidedly substantial floor-standing speaker costs £1,299 in 'rose-ash' real-wood veneer, and although it appears rather nondescript in shape and styling, it looks like good material value. The C6 of the title refers to a new carbon-fibre composite-dome tweeter, which operates above a 120mm cone main driver and a port-loaded 140mm bass unit.

Sonically the C628 is not strictly neutral, but its balance is cunningly effective: a smooth, even and quite lively midband has sufficient projection to take the lead. Bass is deep, fairly even, quite dry and nimble too, if a little lacking in drive and urgency. Some lack of treble energy leaves the presence a bit shut in, and if the top end is a little over-restrained, it's also

sweet. The package adds up to a confident Recommendation at the price. *PMe*
Rogers ☎ (0181) 640 2172
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 170



ROKSAN

OJ3X £1,195

You have only to look at the photograph to appreciate just how comprehensively Roksan has jettisoned the style book. Similar in volume to much taller floor-standers, the OJ3X is actually quite discreet in appearance, and suffers from only well-distributed box resonances. The tweeter, mounted on a large paddle, is decoupled from the mechanical energy generated by the main driver.

Bass reproduction is the OJ3X's most notable strength. Its fine weight and depth proved a little too rich and juicy for some, but there was also good dynamic range, purposeful timing and considerable tunefulness. The midband and top-end might be sweeter, meaning that voices are slightly hard. And there is some potential for listener fatigue, so choose ancillaries with care. The sound hangs together well when you wind up the volume, but we recommend you use a big amp. *PMe*
Roksan ☎ (01480) 431 577
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 167

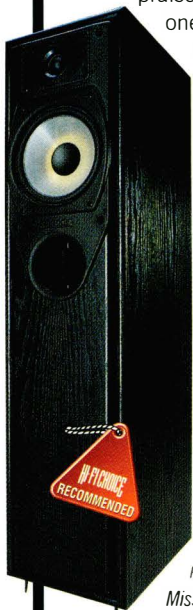
ROGERS

dB101 £199.90

This high-class 'designer-miniature' now sells at £200. The dB101 makes a curvaceous virtue out of the plastic dies from which it sprung, and is available in a bewildering kaleidoscope of finishes. The moulded ABS cabinet is strong and light, minimises energy storage and avoids parallel sides. The small-but-tasty main driver has a 95mm aerogel cone and operates over a wider range than usual.

Though its sound is of mixed quality, an underlying charm always shone through. There's

not enough bass if truth be told, and the midband is decidedly strong: the result is both lightweight and edgy, with sufficient coloration to alienate some listeners. But superb mid-band coherence delivers female voices to spine-shivering effect. Rogers' candy-coloured, tangerine-flake streamline baby is an entertaining experience, despite its limitations! *PMe*
Rogers ☎ (0181) 640 2172
Reviewed
Hi-Fi Choice issue 170



TREAT YOUR HI-FI AND YOUR EARS TO THE SOUND OF GOLD

AUDIOPHILE GOLD COMPACT DISCS PRODUCED USING 20-BIT ANALOG-TO-DIGITAL TRANSFERS FROM ORIGINAL MASTER TAPES

GOLD CD OF THE MONTH

ELVIS PRESLEY – ELVIS IS BACK. AN ORIGINAL 1960 RCA LIVING STEREO RECORDING MASTERED BY STEVE HOFFMAN AND REISSUED BY DCC. TERRIFIC SONIC QUALITY AND THE UNIQUE SOUND OF EARLY ELVIS (INCLUDING HIS BRILLIANT VERSION OF 'FEVER') MAKE THIS DISC A MUST.



GZS 11111. PRICE: £19.95

HERE IS A SELECTION OF OLD AND NEW RELEASES:

LOUIS ARMSTRONG – I'VE GOT THE WORLD ON A STRING. VERVE VSCD 4035: £17.95
 JOHN COLTRANE–SOULTRANE. GZS 1046: £19.95
 PAUL DESMOND–DESMOND BLUE. RCA LIVING STEREO LSP 2438. SALE PRICE: £12.95
 THE DOORS–STRANGE DAYS. GZS 1026: £19.95
 ELLA FITZGERALD–CLAP HANDS HERE COMES CHARLIE. VERVE VSCD 4053: £17.95
 SHIRLEY HORN–HORN WITH HORN. MERCURY LIVING PRESENCE SRCO 60835: £17.95
 PAUL McCARTNEY & WINGS–BAND ON THE RUN. GZS 1030: £19.95
 CHARLIE MINGUS–TIJUANA MOODS. RCA LIVING STEREO LSP 2533. SALE PRICE: £12.95
 SONNY ROLLINS–THE BRIDGE. RCA LIVING STEREO LSPCD 2527: £17.95
 DEBUSSY–IBERIA/ARGENTA & SUISSE ROMANDE. LONDON CSCD 6013. SALE PRICE: £12.95
 TCHAIKOVSKY–1812 OVERTURE/ALWYN & THE LSO. LONDON CSCD 6038: £17.95
 STRAVINSKY–PETRUSHKA/ANSERMET & SUISSE ROMANDE. LONDON CSCD 6009: £17.95

OUR GOLD CD CATALOGUE CONTAINS OVER 200 JAZZ, ROCK AND CLASSICAL TITLES. TO RECEIVE YOUR COPY, OR TO PLACE AN ORDER CONTACT:

VIVANTE LONDON

UNIT 4, 600 HIGH STREET, HAMPTON WICK, SURREY KT1 4DB
 TEL: 0181 977 6600 / FAX: 0181 977 4445

EUROPE'S PREMIER AUDIOPHILE MAIL ORDER COMPANY

Infidelity

indecently good hi-fi



Buying hi-fi should be a delight.

If you would rather chose your new hi-fi in a civilised and relaxed atmosphere from a well-chosen selection of genuine performance equipment, then we are for you. Bring along your own records or CDs, we'll provide the coffee, and hear the difference we can make to your enjoyment of music.

9 High Street, Hampton Wick, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 4DA

Telephone: 0181-943 3530

CEDIA

Open: Tues - Fri 10.30am - 7pm, Saturday 10am - 6pm.



The **PRISMA**
Phono Amplifier

The **VISTA**
Line Amplifier

The **LECTERN**
Power Amplifier

The **ECA A.2**
True Ribbon Speakers



The Naturally Neutral Chain

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 Contour 1.8 mkII

is available at the following Dynaudio Dealers

Adams & Jarrett, 10-14 Norman Rd, St. Leonards on sea, Hastings, 01424 437165
 Audio Excellence, 156 Sidwell St, Exeter, 01392 491194
 Audio T, 19 Old High St, Headington, Oxford 01865 65961
 Audio T, 4 Queens Walk, Broad Street Mall, Reading, 0118 9585463
 Audio T, 442-444 Cranbrook Rd, Gants Hill, London, 0181 5180915
 Audio T, 40-42 Albion St, Cheltenham, 01242 583960
 Comflake Shop, 37 Windmill St, London, 0171 6310472
 English Audio, 37 Whitecross Rd, Hereford, 01432 355081
 Glasgow Audio, 135 Gt. Western Ave, Glasgow, 0141 3324707

Hi-Fi Experience, 17 Coniscliffe Rd, Darlington, 01325 481418
 Holburn Hi-Fi, 441 Holburn St, Aberdeen, 01224 585713
 Music Matters, 93-95 Hobs Moat Rd, Solihull, Birmingham, 0121 7420254
 Music Matters, 351 Hagley Rd, Edgbaston, Birmingham, 0121 4292811
 Nichols Hi-Fi, 1-5 Elton Rd, Lee, Lewisham, 0181 8525780
 Practical Hi-Fi, 33 Knowsley St, Bolton, 01204 395789
 Practical Hi-Fi, 65 Bridge St, Deansgate, Manchester, 0161 8398869
 The Sound Of Music, 93-95 Nantwich Rd, Crewe, Cheshire, 01270 214143
 Worthing Audio, 20 Terville Gate Precinct, Worthing, 01903 212133



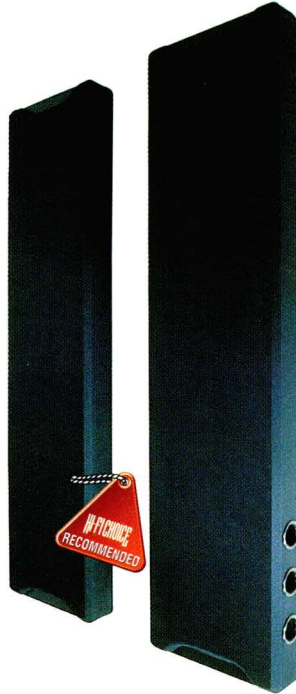
Danes don't lie

Speakers

RUARK CRUSADER £1,599

Already established as a favourite upmarket loudspeaker, the Crusader follows the classic three-way floorstanding pattern with elegance and individuality. Unusual 'two-tray' construction combines good structural properties with considerable visual discretion. The bass unit has a 115mm paper cone, the tweeter a 25mm dome, but the unusual part is a large, soft-dome midrange driver, with 80mm diaphragm.

On both listening test days, the Crusader was placed at the top of the class, or near it. There was consistent praise for its even-handed and neutral balance, its natural tonal perspectives, a lovely sense of space and air, and a general freedom from boxiness. However, sensitivity is modest and the sound is not the liveliest or most transparent you will encounter. Nevertheless, it will always be easy to live with this smooth performer, and it will tolerate a wide range of ancillaries. *PMc*
Ruark ☎ (01702) 601 410
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 167



SEQUENCE 400 £329.99

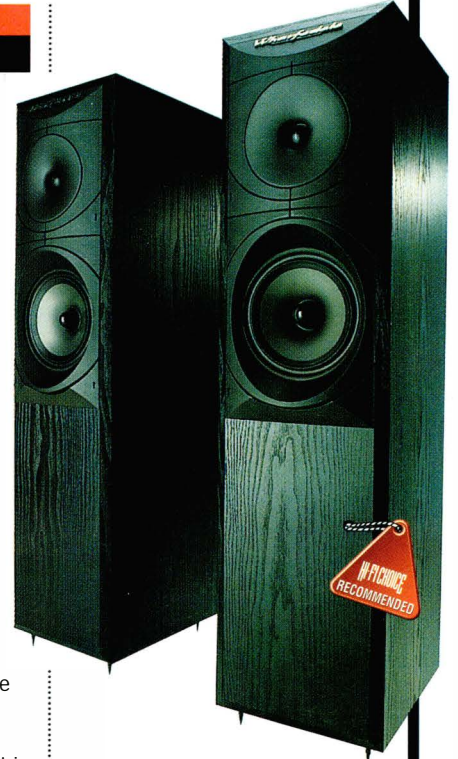
This speaker, perhaps the ultimate 'hang-on-the-wall' design, is a metre tall, tolerably narrow (25cm), and amazingly slim (7cm). Its bass-alignment has been conceived with wall-mounting in mind. In essence, the £330 Sequence amounts to clever re-packaging of a two-way miniature configuration, with around 10 litres of internal volume and a port-assisted 90mm diameter main driver.

The 400's naturally easy and open balance gave it a head start in the listening tests, even though there was an obvious lack of any real bass weight. "A bit mid-forward, but the only thing that really spoils this is the lack of low-end. Easy-going, comfortable and listenable," said the panel. Speaker design is an art of compromise, and the challenge is to fit loudspeakers into our increasingly cluttered lifestyles. For both reasons Sequence's bold initiative deserves several bonus points and a Recommended flag. *PMc*
May Audio ☎ (01535) 632 700
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 164

TANNOY D300 £999.90

Beautiful real-wood finish, very compact dimensions and an interesting hexagonal shape combine to make this £1,000 floorstander a lounge-friendly proposition. The shape confers certain acoustic advantages, and the box port-loads one of Tannoy's dual-concentric drivers. The latter is two drivers in one: the tweeter fires through a horn at the centre of the main cone.

One panellist described "an overwhelming sense of relief in the 'rightness' of the sound." The even, extended, and slightly forward broad midband is a major strength; while the bass hangs in pretty well, even if the end result is slightly limited in ambition and scale. This evidence suggests that perhaps this speaker is better suited to smaller rooms. Though it could sound a little more transparent, you're left with a very nice sense of intimacy from this very pretty package. *PMc*
Marantz ☎ (01753) 680868
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 167



WHARFEDALE MFM-3 £349.95

Dubbed a 'Mid-Field Monitor' by Wharfedale, the MFM-3 is a compact, near-budget floorstander with striking looks, and a large elliptical flare around the silk-dome tweeter. The main driver has a 125mm mineral-filled plastic cone, loaded by a large diameter rear port. A spike kit is supplied, with large washers to maintain good mechanical integrity.

The MFM produced good listening test results, with only one dissenter in the ranks. It's appealing for not giving offence. "Pleasant balance, nothing obtrusive, a bit laid back... good all-rounder syndrome," was how one listener summed it up. Treble is smooth and slightly conservative, which should help to mask the worst limitations of budget-priced ancillaries. And though the bottom end is less well-founded ("a bit flabby and inarticulate"), the excellent mid-band makes up for it. *PMc*
IAG/Wharfedale ☎ (01480) 431 737
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 164

Billy Vee

SOUND • SYSTEMS

248 LEE HIGH RD, LONDON, SE13 5PL

PHONE: 0181 318 5755 FAX: 0181 318 0909

OPEN: 10AM - 6.30PM MON - SAT (CLOSED THURS)

THE CHOICE IS YOURS

We carry the finest range of Hi-Fi in London and you can 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 - Lots of new goodies from Arcam, Linn, Naim & Pioneer - come and have a listen!

THE PRODUCTS

ARCAM

New Range

AVI Products

B & O

New 6 play CD

B & W

CHORD COMPANY

DENON

EPOS



The new Linto phono preamp

LINN

MARANTZ

MORDAUNT SHORT

MISSION



NAIM The new CD3.5

ProAc

PIONEER

REL



The new **REGA** Planet CD

ROTEL

SENNHEISER
SOUNDSTYLE

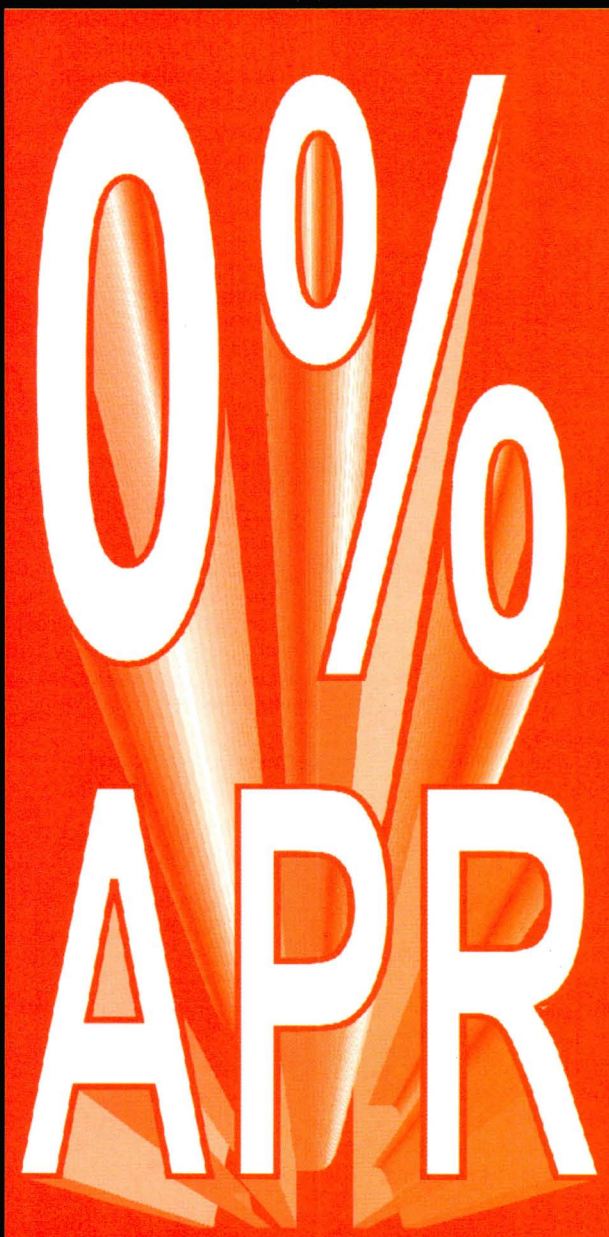
TANNOY

YAMAHA

website: <http://www.billyvee.demon.co.uk>

email: sales@billyvee.demon.co.uk

**YOU CHOOSE YOUR DEPOSIT
TIME AND AMOUNT***



***MIN LOAN £350 - MIN DEPOSIT
10% PLEASE CALL FOR DETAILS**

GOODS PRICE	£1000	GOODS PRICE	£2500	GOODS PRICE	£5000
DEPOSIT	£100	DEPOSIT	£500	DEPOSIT	£1400
BALANCE	£900	BALANCE	£2000	BALANCE	£3600
12 MTHS @	£75	20 MTHS @	£100	24 MTHS @	£150

**NEW ARRIVALS
& FIRM FAVOURITES**

complete - SYSTEMS

Denon D-F07 System £649.00

Denon F10CD/TunerAmp/Cass £899.00

source - COMPONENTS

Arcam Alpha 7 CD £329.00

Arcam Alpha 8 CD £519.00

AVI S2000MC CD Player £1399.00

Linn Karik Player £1850.00

Marantz CD48 (NEW!) £189.00

Marantz CD 67se £299.00

Marantz CD63KI Signature £399.00

Naim CD 3.5 Player £1000.00

Naim CD2 Player £2000.00

Rega Planet CD Player (NEW!) .. £399.00

Rega Planar 3 T/T inc arm £274.00

Yamaha CDX 890 Pro-Bit CD £349.00

Linn LP12 - combination from . £1488.00

selected - AMPLIFIERS

Arcam Alpha 8 (NEW!) £359.00

AVI S2000MI (line) Amp £799.00

Linn LINTO phono preamp (NEW!) £850.00

Linn Majik (line level) £650.00

Linn Kairn Pro Preamp £1400.00

Marantz PM66se amplifier £229.00

Marantz PM66KI amplifier £399.00

Naim Nait 3 Amplifier £575.00

Naim NAC 82 Preamp £2160.00

Naim NAP 180 Power Amp £1060.00

Pioneer A300R Precision (NEW!) .. £399.00

Rotel RA 931ax Amplifier £149.00

Rega Brio Amplifier £229.00

am/fm - TUNERS

Arcam Alpha 7 Tuner £229.00

Linn Kremlin FM Tuner £2600.00

Naim NAT 03 FM Tuner £566.00

Rega Radio Tuner £229.00

selected - RECORDERS

Denon DRM 550 Cassette £159.00

Pioneer CT-830S Cassette £499.00

Pioneer PDR-05 CD-R (NOW!) ... £999.00

Pioneer PDR-04 CD-R (NEW!) ... £599.00

Pioneer CTW806 Double (NEW!) £299.00

Yamaha KX390 Cassette £149.00

Yamaha KX580 Cassette £249.00

loud - SPEAKERS

B&W DM 302 £129.00

B&W DM 601 £199.00

B&W DM 602 £299.00

B&W CDM 2 £400.00

B&W P4 Speakers £675.00

Epos ES12 (NEW!) £499.00

Linn Tukon Mini Monitor £550.00

Linn Keilidh Speakers £750.00

Mission 751 Freedom (NEW!) ... £348.00

Mission 752 Freedom (NEW!) ... £578.00

Mordaunt Short MS0.5 (NEW!) ... £99.00

Mordaunt Short MS10i Pearl ... £149.00

Naim INTRO (NEW!) £660.00

Naim CREDO (NEW!) £1060.00

ProAc Response 2.5 £2700.00

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

audio - ESSENTIALS

Chord Chrysalis Intercon £25.00

CableTalk Monitor 2 Int £49.00

Rega Couple Int (NEW!) £65.00

Chord Rumour Spkr Lead/mtr £8.00

& large selection of tables & stands from:

TARGET- STANDS UNIQUE - SOUNDSTYLE

ALL PRICES CORRECT AT PRESS E&OE

Cables

GALE

XL189 £0.99/M MONO

This simple wire, highly reminiscent of some Monster Cable types of years gone by, is sold exclusively by Richer Sounds' shops at a budget 99p/m. It is still attractively (if malodorously) insulated in transparent polyurethane, but actually it incorporates rather less copper in its construction than first appears, thanks to the lens effect of the insulation. It is still fairly chunky, however, with about 1.5mm sq of conductor. It is very flexible and easy to strip, and was supplied unterminated.

We fitted cheap gold-plated banana plugs similar to those used on the majority of other cables in the test group.

At this price a cable needs to have no pretensions, and the Gale basically did an honest job without disgrace. It didn't have anything like the refinement and detail of the best cables in the test (at 20 times the price, mind), but beyond a certain rather bright and harsh quality, there was little to criticise. Everything's there: bass seems to go pretty deep and treble goes reasonably high, and it is perfectly possible to listen for long



periods without distress. In the sort of system where any individual component will only cost as much as the most expensive cables here, this Gale is clearly a

perfect choice and very cheap for its type. Which makes it, I think, an inevitable Best Buy. *RB*
Audio Partnership ☎ (0500) 101112
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 168

RECOMMENDED

Cable Talk Talk 3.1



CABLE TALK

TALK 3.1 SINGLE £2.25/M,
BI-WIRE £4.50/M

A classic variation on the standard 'figure-eight' type, this cable has two quite thick-stranded conductors (3mm sq or thereabouts) insulated with thick PVC and spaced apart by some 5mm. It is moderately flexible, and was supplied fitted with cheap but nonetheless good-quality Deltron gold-plated banana plugs.

Initial impressions were of a slightly harsh and brittle sound, but this was a relatively minor effect to which one became quite accustomed after extended listening. Indeed, it's perhaps more of a sin of omission, as bass here seems rather subdued, and this tends to emphasise midrange and treble. It's not that low frequencies are missing, but with busy music bass lines somehow tend to recede. Likewise solo piano lacks some weight, although basic tonal qualities are well preserved. Elsewhere the sound is quite well balanced and moderately detailed with fair imaging. It's not up with the most expensive, but is very respectable at this relatively low price. *RB*

Cable Talk ☎ (01252) 373434

Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 168

Goertz M1



GOERTZ

M2 £32.00/M MONO

The M2 features two flat strips of copper some 20mm wide, spaced apart only by a thin layer of polyester insulation. This gives a claimed characteristic impedance of four Ohms (I found it nearer two Ohms), and very high capacitance which may give strange results with a few amplifiers (Naim users avoid at all costs!). Although fine for 'fit-and-forget' use, beware of kinking and splitting the insulation or even cracking the conductors. Special banana plugs clamp directly on to the copper.

This cable certainly sounds the business, clearly giving the widest, deepest and most clearly defined soundstage. Hitherto incognito instruments suddenly had important lines to play, and the general tonal balance seemed to relax into place. A full orchestra clearly consisted of 70 or so players in a large space. It really does appear to justify its price — but do check with your amplifier's manufacturer (or dealer), to ensure M2's eclectic character will not upset your amp. *RB*

Townshend Audio ☎ (0181) 979 2155

Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 168

KIMBER

4TC £19.60/M

Kimber has been making cables like this for a number of years, and they are clearly successful. Eight individually-insulated strands, each beneath Teflon insulation, are twisted together to give quite high capacitance in a sort of Litz construction. Flexible and rugged, the cable was fitted with good-quality rhodium-plated banana plugs.

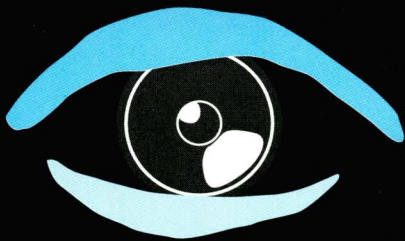
Capable of fine sonic performance, 4TC gives a solid, three-dimensional image with no obvious tonal aberrations. In a Chandos/Grainger orchestral recording, it allowed listeners to hear all the subtle changes in orchestration that characterise Grainger's writing, and also presented the positioning of the instruments well. Ultimately, it was not quite as extended in the bass as the Goertz cable, and although it certainly did go down pretty deep there was still some more weight to be brought out in various piano recordings I used. Overall, however, it's a very satisfactory cable of wide applicability, and accordingly deserves Recommendation. *RB*

RATA ☎ (0800) 373467

Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 168

Kimber 4TC





UNILET
sound & vision

Arcam at Unilet...



Alpha 7 System

The **What Hi-Fi?** Award-winning system from Arcam -

- Alpha 7 Cd Player **What Hi-Fi?** Award Winner 1996 & 1997
- Alpha 7 Tuner **What Hi-Fi?** Highly Recommended 1997
- Alpha 7 Amplifier **What Hi-Fi?** 5* Review 1997

Three of the best you can buy from Arcam.



Arcam Alpha AV50 Home Cinema Amplifier

A **What Video?** Best Buy, Nominated for **What Hi-Fi?** And **Home Entertainment** awards 1997. The essential Hi-Fi Home Cinema amplifier



Alpha MCD Player

The first British multi-disc CD player, the new Arcam Alpha MCD, plays up to six discs at once in any order and gives excellent Hi-Fi performance.

Award winning British-Built Hi-Fi at affordable prices, only from Arcam.

ARCAM

HI-FI WITH A FUTURE

Most leading brands • Friendly trained staff • 6 Home cinema & 4 Hi-fi demonstration rooms in 2 stores

Home design and installation • Part exchange • End of line & ex-demonstration offers
Full credit facilities (inc. interest free, subject to status)

Unilet Sound and Vision

35 High Street, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4BY
Tel: 0181 942 9567 Open Sundays 10am-4pm

Unilet Sound and Vision

24-26 Union Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1ED
Tel: 01622 676703 Open Sundays 10am-4pm

Arcam Atacama Audiolab Boston Canon Cerwin Vega Cyrus Denon Harbeth harman-kardon
Infinity KEF Marantz Meridian Micromega Mission Mordaunt-Short NAD Onkyo Polk Proac
Quad REL Rotel Ruark Stands Unique Spendor Tannoy Target Thorens Yamaha

BADA

Turntables



PRO-JECT 2
£299.95

Hailing from the Czech Republic, this deck comes in the middle of a range extending from £160 to £450. Typical of its genre, it's built on a single slab of particle board — not Medite, but ordinary chipboard, which actually tends to have rather better resonance-damping proper-

ties. The usual small mains motor is suspended on rubber bands and drives the plastic sub-platter via a flat belt. Speed change is effected by removing the platter and moving the belt to the other position on the motor pulley. The captive bearing seems secure enough.

Unusually, a combination of metal platter and glass mat is used, with an additional felt mat

on top. The arm is apparently Pro-Ject's own, with sapphire gimbal bearings. Operation is fully manual. Instead of a captive arm lead, Pro-Ject has fitted a pair of phono sockets at the rear of the deck, allowing the user to upgrade the modest supplied lead at a later date. Vibration isolation comes courtesy of four very compliant feet which give quite good decoupling both vertically and horizontally.

As the Pro-Ject turntables are distributed by Henley Designs, which also represents Ortofon, it's no surprise to find an Ortofon cartridge supplied as standard. In fact there is the choice of a 520 moving magnet or MC1 Turbo high output moving coil. The deck arrived with an MC1 and since I had a 520 handy I was able to try both options. The MC1 is certainly a very strong, up-front and indeed at times bright performer, but I preferred the more civilised tones of the 520. It's certainly a comparison worth trying if your local dealer will oblige.

However, with either car-

tridge the Pro-Ject 2 comes across as a very capable deck. Give it some complex details and it will make a creditable job of sorting them out; give it a distinctive tone, as of piano or a singer, and it will reproduce faithfully with only a little of that coloration that is the true bugbear of turntable design. In a track from Prokofiev's *Love of Three Oranges* suite, the bass drum was clearly defined and believably integrated with the rest of the orchestra, while in Ronald Center's *Dona Nobis Pacem* the organ could be more clearly distinguished from the voices. I also noticed that surface noise was less obvious than with other decks. As for rhythm and drive, it certainly kept up with the Bhundu Boys with alacrity. On the debit side there was still some woodenness to the sound, and imaging and 'air' were not truly first-rate. On the whole, though, a fine performance, especially considering the price — hence a Best Buy swing-tag to go. *RB*

Henley Designs ☎ (01491) 834700
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 164

REGA
PLANAR 3 FROM £274.00

One of the stalwarts of the UK hi-fi scene, this turntable is based on a slab of laminated board, onto which is mounted a high-precision main bearing, as well as the Rega RB300 tonearm. A suspended motor provides belt-drive to a sub-platter, while the platter is thick glass, covered by a felt mat. A smart lid is made of 'smoked' acrylic. The silver finish sample (from a range of colours) costs £15 extra over black. Available without a cartridge, it came with a Rega Elys (£85) fitted; I also used an Ortofon 520.

The Planar 3's sound is quite good on impact and immediacy, less so on subtlety; and I quickly became aware of some pitch instability on piano recordings.

The most successful track was from the Bhundu Boys, which seemed vigorous and enthusiastic, though I would have preferred a little more insight into an often complex sound.

Surface noise was more obvious than usual on a rather aged copy of Shostakovich's second piano concerto, and although the orchestra had good body, imaging was rather one-dimensional. Solo operatic tenor seemed a trifle sibilant, while a violin and piano record became a little muddy and indistinct.

Rega Planar 3s have sold in vast quantities over more than two decades. Build quality is exemplary — a reference among budget decks — so Recommendation is assured. *RB*

Rega Research ☎ (01702) 333071
Reviewed Hi-Fi Choice issue 164

RECOMMENDED



EISA AWARDS 1997

EISA, the European Imaging & Sound Association, exists to promote photography, video, hi-fi and home cinema products in Europe and beyond. At present, its membership comprises 35 specialist consumer magazines, based in 18 European countries stretching from Portugal to Russia.

All of EISA's Awards — as reported this year in the October 1997 issue of Hi-Fi Choice — are decided by a democratic process of nomination and voting. Hi-Fi Choice is the only hi-fi magazine in the UK qualified to be a member of this prestigious organisation.



EUROPEAN AUDIO INNOVATION OF THE YEAR '97-'98
MERIDIAN 518

This is one of those products that leaves reviewers speechless. When *HFC* contributor Jimmy Hughes wrote about the 518, he was smitten and ended up buying the review sample.

Paul Miller's April 1997 test of the 518 concluded that its ability to act as mastering processor, resolution enhancer, digital preamplifier and all-round multi-media workstation was something rather special. Employing myriad noise-shaping algorithms, dither modes and recording-studio-class digital signal processing, the Meridian 518 takes digital audio to new heights. It offers audiophiles technological benefits previously restricted to professional recording studios.

Meridian 518

Price: £925.00

Reviewed in April 1997 issue (#165)

☎ (01480) 434 334

EUROPEAN AUDIO RECORDER OF THE YEAR '97-'98
SONY MDS-JA50ES

Sony's MDS-JA50ES is the premium MD recorder in Sony's extensive range. Initially it was not planned for this model to be sold in the UK, but now Sony assures us it is available to special order.

We've yet to play with the JA50ES and its latest ATRAC 4.5 data compression system, but our EISA colleagues on the German magazine *Stereo* have checked it out, and they say: "It's the best-sounding MD recorder we've ever tested!" It features a variable coefficient filter like the latest Sony CD players, and its 20-bit D/A and A/D circuits can handle either 16 or 20-bit data. Time/curve adjustable fading allows you to make very slick compilations.

Sony MDS-JA50ES

Price: approx. £1,500

To be reviewed in a forthcoming issue

☎ (0990) 111 999



EUROPEAN CAR AUDIO SYSTEM OF THE YEAR '97-'98
CLARION VRX 8370R

The new VRX 8370R in-car unit from Clarion has a 130mm LCD colour screen concealed within its DIN-size fascia. The screen flips into place at the touch of a button, and can be used to replay TV pictures, radio text, video recordings and computer games. Before long it will be able to display route maps and directions, in conjunction with a forthcoming navigation system that Clarion is designing with Bosch.

The VRX 8370R comes complete with an RDS/EON-equipped AM/FM tuner and CD changer control.

A credit-card-sized remote control adds a touch of luxury, while a detachable front panel aims to foil thieves. To aid parking, it can be used with a rear-view camera.

Clarion VRX 8370R

Price: £1,199.00

To be reviewed in a forthcoming issue

☎ (01793) 870 400

EUROPEAN CD PLAYER OF THE YEAR '97-'98
SONY CDP-XA50ES

The CDP-XA50ES tops Sony's European range for 1997/1998, and like the MDS-JA50ES, Sony has decided that it will be sold in the UK to special order only. More readily available is a specially-tuned version of Sony's CDP-XA20ES CD player, whose £450 price-ticket works out at around half that of the Sony XA50ES.

The German magazine *Stereo* said of the CDP-XA50ES: "It is immaculately crafted and luxuriously equipped; and, thanks to variable-coefficient digital filters, offers sound quality previously unavailable in players of this class."

Sony CDP-XA50ES

Price: approx. £1,000

To be reviewed in a forthcoming issue

☎ (0990) 111 999





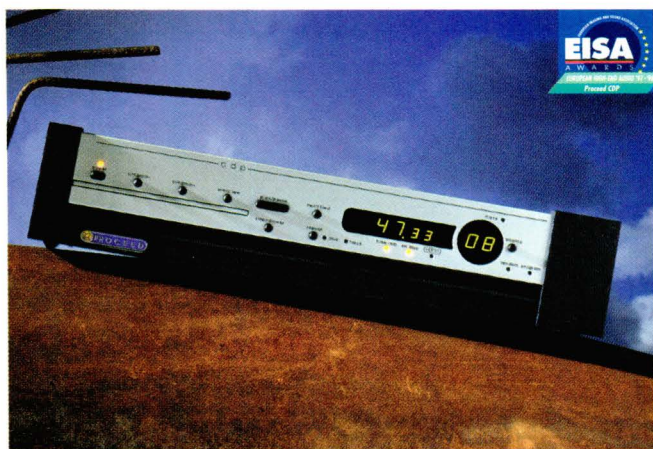
EUROPEAN COMPACT SYSTEM OF THE YEAR '97-'98 PIONEER FX-SERIES

They say less is more, but in the case of the Pioneer FX-Series more can be less — when it comes to size. The FX combines stylish design with numerous high-tech touches. There are three basic FX-Series packages. The FX-1 (£499.95) includes the SX-F21 RDS receiver with built in Legato Link DACs, and the PD-F21 CD transport. An extra £150 adds the T-F21 horizontal loading cassette recorder, making up the FX-1T package; while for a premium of £400 you can have the MJ-F21 MD recorder, making up the FX-1MD package. Extras include the small but effective 'Power Bass' S-F21 two-way speakers (£100 per pair) and the B-F21 (£99.95) equipment rack.

The FX-Series' unique optical digital interconnection allows all components to 'talk' to one another — and promises future upgradability.

Pioneer FX Series

Price: £499.95 (FX-1, excl. spkrs)
To be reviewed in a forthcoming issue
☎ (01753) 789 500



EUROPEAN HIGH END AUDIO OF THE YEAR '97-'98 PROCEED CDP

The Proceeed CDP CD player blends technologies from Madrigal Audio Laboratories' renowned Proceeed and Mark Levinson digital products. With such a strong blood-line, this player is guaranteed to be a thoroughbred. As much is apparent from inspecting the superb casework and prodding the ultra-slim, ultra-tough disc drawer. Just try to lift this substantial component!

The CDP uses dual Analog Devices 18-bit converters and a combination of proprietary and HDCD digital filters to produce a technically and sonically impressive result with very low jitter. It has a much more natural, 'organic' sound than many top CD players, allowing it to create musically satisfying and engaging results without recourse to clichéd high-end showmanship.

Proceeed CDP

Price: £3,395.00
Reviewed in June 1997 issue (#167)
☎ (01494) 441 736



EUROPEAN LOUDSPEAKER OF THE YEAR '97-'98 JAMO CONCERT 8

Jamo's Concert 8 uses a 25mm-thick cabinet, which in turn supports a quartz-sand-filled front baffle. This composite material is designed to be as acoustically inert as possible. Drive units are both custom made SEAS units: the partially-horn-loaded tweeter is made of silk, while the copper-phase-plugged mid/bass unit is fabricated in die-cast magnesium.

This speaker is bi-wirable; we recommend configuring it thus to hear an almost electrostatic midband, which is the Jamo's real strength. The lack of boxiness, the fast, dynamic sound and detail in this frequency region — all qualities guaranteed to captivate listeners. It is a true audiophile component that will bring out the best in high-quality partnering components.

Jamo Concert 8

Price: £1,300.00
Reviewed December 1996 issue (#160)
☎ (01327) 301 300

EUROPEAN HOME THEATRE DECODER OF THE YEAR '97-'98 DENON AVP-A1

The golden-coloured Denon AVP-A1 was the first AV preamplifier to successfully satisfy LucasFilm's demanding standards for the THX 5.1 qualification. This adds five separate channels (and a subwoofer channel) of Dolby Digital to the conventional Dolby Pro-Logic/THX specification. The AVP-1A has been designed to match Denon power amps — POA-T2 (two-channel) and POA-T3 (three-channel) — at the heart of a top-class AV system. It uses graphical on-screen menus for user convenience, and will accept 10 line inputs, a Dolby Digital RF input, three digital inputs and one optical in/output, as well as a full selection of AV-ready outputs.

Denon AVP-A1

Price £2,999.99
Reviewed in Home Entertainment, September 1996 issue (#39)
☎ (01753) 888 447





CHOOSING A HI-FI IS EASY ISN'T IT?

IF YOU THINK BUYING GOOD HI-FI IS SIMPLY A MATTER OF PICKING 'FIVE STAR' PRODUCTS FROM MAGAZINES, THEN THINK AGAIN. AT BEST, REVIEWS CAN ONLY EVER OFFER A ROUGH SKETCH OF THE MARKETPLACE - FOR THE FULL PICTURE IT PAYS TO VISIT A SPECIALIST DEALER. WITH 15 YEARS EXPERIENCE UNDER OUR BELTS, WE KNOW THAT EACH CUSTOMER HAS A

UNIQUE SET OF REQUIREMENTS - THERE IS SIMPLY NO SUCH THING AS A BLANKET "BEST BUY" SYSTEM. IT TAKES TIME AND SKILL TO PUT TOGETHER A HI-FI WHICH WILL THRILL YOU FOR YEARS - BUT THAT'S OUR SPECIALITY!

SO BEFORE YOU TAKE THE PLUNGE, WHY NOT GIVE US A CALL - WE MIGHT JUST SAVE YOUR LIFE.

Creative Audio

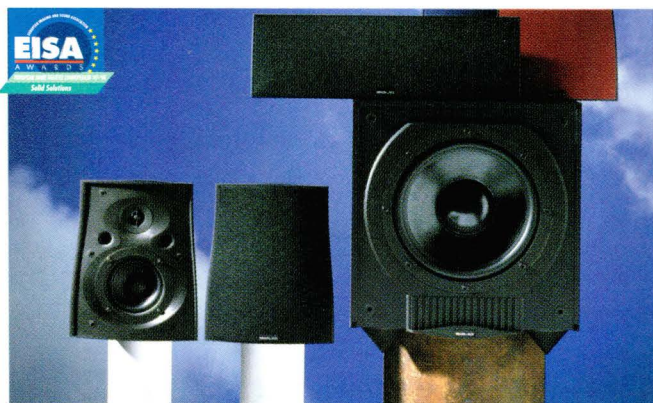


HI-FI SPECIALISTS

9 DOGPOLE · SHREWSBURY · SHROPSHIRE · TEL 01743 241924

AUTHORISED RETAILER FOR:

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



EUROPEAN HOME THEATRE LOUDSPEAKER OF THE YEAR '97-'98
SOLID SOLUTIONS

Thanks to its smart industrial design, the modular Solid Solutions AV speaker package can be configured in all manner of ways without sacrificing aesthetics or sound quality. A complete home cinema outfit would normally begin with two pairs (£129.95 each) of the 258mm-high S100 satellite speakers, for the front left/right and surround channels. The satellite enclosures are purpose-designed for corner positioning. The C100 centre speaker (£129.95) is for dialogue reproduction, while the £349.95 PB100 active subwoofer brings up the bass with a built-in 70 Watt power amplifier and 250mm drive-unit. The C100 and 'flow ported' sub are available in black only, while the S100 satellites are available in black and white with black, white, blue or red grilles.

Solid Solutions

Price: £739.80 (package)

To be reviewed in a forthcoming issue

☎ (01903) 750 750



EUROPEAN HOME THEATRE SYSTEM OF THE YEAR '97-'98
JBL SIMPLY CINEMA ESC-300

JBL's Simply Cinema systems have been designed as complete home cinema solutions for people who don't have the time to install a full-scale separates system. The heart of the system is a combined subwoofer, Dolby Pro-Logic processor unit and 200 Watts of amplification, within a bass-reflex subwoofer cabinet just 38 cm high. This is complemented by five 11cm-high satellite speakers, each using titanium tweeters and neodymium magnets.

This rig is certainly easy to use. The supplied speaker cables, for instance, have colour-coded connectors to prevent the speakers being wired out of phase. And the powerful credit-card remote control needn't be pointed directly at the subwoofer enclosure and its incorporated electronics in order to operate.

The ESC-300's performance may be modest compared with that of separates home cinema kit, but how else can a novice get started in home cinema with

such panache and so little fuss? Thanks JBL!

JBL Simply Cinema ESC-300

Price: £599.99

Reviewed in *Home Entertainment*

September 1997 issue (#49)

☎ (01908) 317 707

EUROPEAN AMPLIFIER OF THE YEAR '97-'98
MARANTZ PM-66
KI-SIGNATURE

Marantz's PM-66SE acquired K I Signature status and hit the big time with a *Hi-Fi Choice* Best Buy in issue 168. Marantz design guru, Ken Ishiwata, uses selected components in the amp's dual-mono circuitry to boost its performance.

The amplifier is an integrated design with remote control, a toroidal transformer, increased power-supply reservoir capacity and on the inside, acres of copper plating to keep eddy currents at bay (Marantz claims). Power output has increased to almost 80 Watts (eight Ohms). The resulting sound-quality is in a different league to much of the competition: the amp majors on articulation and timing, endowing its music with a secure sense of pitch and integrity.

Marantz PM-66 K I-Sig

Price £399.90

Reviewed in *July/August issue* (#168)

☎ (01753) 680 868



EUROPEAN HOME THEATRE PROJECTOR OF THE YEAR '97-'98
PHILIPS PROSCREEN 4500

Philips ProScreen LCD projectors are designed to be fully compatible with both video and data-grade computer signals. This highly portable, plug-and-play design features high brightness, thanks to a new long-lasting high-efficiency lamp, and contrast control, to permit straightforward use of the projector in all kinds of conditions. There are three signal inputs, one for video and two for data, from which the unit automatically senses the signal supplied. An infrared handset doubles as a wireless mouse pointer, and there is an on-screen menu system to fine-tune important parameters such as colour temperature. The high pixel count and keystone correction (used when adjusting the angle of the projector's lens relative to the projection screen, and rare in LCD projectors) ensure fine viewing.

Philips ProScreen 4500

Price: £5,516.63

To be reviewed in a forthcoming issue

☎ (0181) 689 2166



AND THE OTHER EISA AWARDS WERE...

Compact Camera	Olympus Mju II
APS Camera	Canon EOS IX
Colour Film	Kodak Royal Gold 100, 200, 400
Lens	Tamron SP 90mm f2.8 Macro
B&W Product	Ilford Multigrade FB Warmtone
Digital Camera	Fujix DS-300
Digital Printer	Epson Stylus Photo
Scanner	Olympus ES-10
Television	JVC AV-32WP2
Digital Camcorder	JVC GR-DVX
Family Camcorder	Canon UC-X15Hi
Video Recorder	Philips VR 969
Satellite Receiver	Nokia MediaMaster 9500S
Multimedia Product	Hitachi MPEG Camera
Video Innovation	Sony FD Trinitron Wide

30 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.



BADA
BRITISH AUDIO DEALERS ASSOCIATION
the symbol of security



WE ONLY SELL PRODUCTS FOR WHICH WE ARE AUTHORISED DEALERS

30 SEVENOAKS HI FI BRANCHES NATIONWIDE

-
- SEVENOAKS
01732 459555
109-113 London Road
 - ABERDEEN
01224 587070
491 Union Street
 - BEDFORD
01234 272779
29-31 St Peters Street
 - BIRMINGHAM
0121 233 2977
12 Queensway Arches,
Livery Street
 - BRIGHTON
01273 733338
55 Preston Street
 - **new** BRISTOL (NOVEMBER)
0117 929 7779
92B White Ladies Road,
Clifton
 - BURY ST EDMUNDS
01284 753776
47 Churchgate Street
 - **new** CARDIFF (NOVEMBER)
01222 472899
104-106 Albany Road
 - CARLISLE
01228 590775
3 Earls Lane
(Next to Bus Depot)
 - 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 536666
73b North Street
 - HULL
Opening Shortly
 - KINGSTON
(LATE NIGHT THURSDAY)
0181 547 0717
43 Fife Road
 - LEEDS
(OPEN SUNDAY)
0113 245 2775
112 Vicar Lane
 - MAIDSTONE
01622 686366
96 Week Street
 - **new** NEWCASTLE
0191 221 2320
19 Newgate Street
 - NORWICH
01603 767605
29/29A St Giles Street
 - OXFORD
(OPEN SUNDAY)
01865 241773
41 St Clements
 - PETERBOROUGH
(LATE NIGHT THURSDAY)
01733 897697
36 Park Road
 - **new** PRESTON
01772 825777
40-41 Lune Street
 - READING
0118 959 7768
3 & 4 Kingswalk
 - **new** SHEFFIELD
0114 255 5861
Old Sheffield Savings
Bank, Heeley
 - **new** SOUTHAMPTON
01703 337770
33 London Road
 - TUNBRIDGE WELLS
01892 531543
28-30 St Johns Road
 - WATFORD
(OPEN SUNDAY)
01923 213533
478 St Albans Road
 - WORCESTER
01905 612929
2 Reindeer Court

Mail Order 01732 458985

NAIM AUDIO NOW AVAILABLE IN BIRMINGHAM

The renowned range of Naim Audio hi fi separates and loudspeakers is now available in our Birmingham branch. To experience the quality of this superb British product please telephone 0121 233 2977.

Quality Range at



PLEASE NOTE NOT ALL PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL BRANCHES. PLEASE TELEPHONE TO VERIFY PRICE AND AVAILABILITY BEFORE TRAVELLING.

CD PLAYERS

Arcam Alpha 7 (latest spec)	£ 329.95
Arcam Alpha 8	£ 519.95
Audiolab 8000 CD	£ 999.95
Cyrus DAD3	£ 599.95
Cyrus DAD3Q	£ 899.95
Denon DCD425	£ 149.95
Denon DCD635	£ 179.95
Denon DCD825	£ 239.95
Kenwood DP3080 MKII	£ 129.00
Marantz CD46	£ 119.00
Marantz CD48	£ 199.95
Marantz CD675E	£ 299.95
Marantz CD63IIKI Signature	£ 399.95
Marantz CD17KI Signature	£ 1099.95
Meridian 506 20 Bit	£ 1099.95
Meridian 508 24 Bit	£ 1994.95
Micromega Stage 4	£ 599.95
Micromega Stage 5	£ 749.95
Micromega Stage 6	£ 949.95
Pioneer PDS505 Precision	£ 459.95
Quad 77 Bus	£ 629.00
Quad 77 Powered	£ 799.00
Roksan Caspian	£ 894.95
Rotel RCD930AX	£ 179.95
Rotel RCD950	£ 249.95
Sony CDPXE310	£ 99.00
Sony CDPXE510	£ 139.00
Sony CDPXE900E	£ 209.00
Technics SLPG580A	£ 109.00

CD MULTIPLAYERS

Arcam MCD	£ 449.95
Kenwood DPR3090	£ 99.00
Kenwood DPR4090	£ 119.00
Kenwood DPR7090	£ 219.00

CD TRANSPORTS

Audiolab 8000CDM	£ 1399.95
Meridian 500	£ 1244.95
Micromega Drive 3	£ 999.95

DACS

Audiolab 8000DAC	£ 899.95
Meridian 566	£ 1094.95
Micromega DAC	£ 749.95
Musical Fidelity X-ACT	£ 129.95

DIGITAL RECORDERS

Philips CD Recorder	P.O.A
Pioneer PDR04 CD Recorder	£ 699.95
Pioneer PDR05 CD Recorder	£ 999.95
Sony MDSJE510 Minidisc	£ 199.00

CASSETTE DECKS

Denon DRM550	£ 159.95
Denon DRW580 Twin	£ 199.95
Denon DRM650S	£ 229.95
Kenwood KXW4080 Twin	£ 119.00
Sony TCKE400S	£ 129.00
Sony TCKA6ES	£ 429.00
Technics RSTR474 Twin	£ 149.00
Technics RSBX501K	£ 139.00
Yamaha KX390	£ 149.95
Yamaha KX580SE	£ 249.95

TURNTABLES

Michell Gyrodec/RB300	£ 1020.95
NAD533	£ 199.00
Project 0.5	£ 159.95
Project 1	£ 199.95

TUNERS

Arcam Alpha 7	£ 229.95
Arcam Alpha 8	£ 279.95
Audiolab 8000T	£ 799.95
Cyrus FM7	£ 399.95

Denon TU260L	£ 119.95
Denon TU215RDS	£ 149.95
Denon TU425RDS	£ 199.95
Kenwood KT2080RDS	£ 89.00
Meridian 504	£ 694.95
Quad 77	£ 629.00
Sony STSE200	£ 79.00
Sony STSE500	£ 119.00
Sony STSE700	£ 139.00
Yamaha TX480L	£ 99.95

AMPLIFIERS

Arcam Alpha 7 (latest spec)	£ 259.95
Arcam Alpha 8 (latest spec)	£ 359.95
Arcam Alpha 9	£ 499.95
Arcam Alpha 10	£ 799.95
Audiolab 8000LX	£ 469.95
Audiolab 8000A	£ 499.95
Audiolab 8000S	£ 699.95
Cyrus SL	£ 399.95
Cyrus MR3	£ 499.95
Cyrus III i	£ 599.95
Denon PMA250SE	£ 159.95
Denon PMA350SE	£ 199.95
Marantz PM57	£ 199.95
Marantz PM66SE	£ 229.95
Marantz PM66KI Signature	£ 399.95
Meridian 551	£ 794.95
Pioneer A300R Precision	£ 399.95
Quad 77 Inc Remote	£ 759.00
Roksan Caspian	£ 694.95
Rotel RA920AX	£ 99.95
Rotel RA931	£ 149.95
Rotel RA930BX	£ 199.95
Sony TAF24BE	£ 159.00
Sony TAF44BE Brooklands	£ 199.00
Talk Electronics Storm 2L	£ 649.95

PREAMPLIFIERS

Arcam Alpha 9C	£ 399.95
Audiolab 8000C	£ 579.95
Audiolab 8000PPA	£ 999.95
Audiolab 8000Q	£ 1249.95
Cyrus Pre	£ 649.95
Meridian 501.2	£ 694.95
Meridian 502	£ 1294.95
Musical Fidelity X-Pre	£ 199.95
Quad 77 Inc Remote	£ 759.00
Rotel RC971	£ 149.95
Talk Electronics Whirlwind PSU	£ 649.95
Talk Electronics Hurricane 4LP	£ 899.95
Talk Electronics Hurricane 3L	£ 899.95
Talk Electronics Hurricane 4L	£ 1099.95

POWER AMPLIFIERS

Arcam Alpha 8P	£ 249.95
Arcam Alpha 9P	£ 399.95
Arcam Alpha 10P	£ 599.95
Audiolab 8000SX	£ 549.95
Audiolab 8000PX	£ 849.95
Audiolab 8000MX Mono (each)	£ 899.95
Cyrus XPA	£ 299.95
Cyrus PSXR Power Supply	£ 329.95
Cyrus Power	£ 499.95
Meridian 505 Mono (each)	£ 794.95
Meridian 556	£ 894.95
Meridian 557	£ 1399.95
Musical Fidelity X-A50 Mono (pair)	£ 499.95
Quad 77	£ 539.00
Quad 707	£ 719.00
Rotel RB971	£ 199.95
Rotel RB981	£ 299.95
Talk Electronics Tornado 2	£ 599.95
Talk Electronics Tornado 4 M (pair)	£ 1099.95

LOUDSPEAKERS (Pair)

Acoustic Energy AE100i	£ 199.95
Acoustic Energy AE109	£ 349.95
Acoustic Energy AE120	£ 499.95
B&W DM302	£ 149.95
B&W DM601	£ 199.95
B&W DM602	£ 299.95
B&W DM603	£ 499.95
B&W CDMI	£ 599.95
B&W P4	£ 674.95
Castle Isis II (Deluxe Extra)	£ 229.95
Castle Tay (Deluxe Extra)	£ 329.95
Castle Severn MK I (Standard Finish)	£ 399.00
Castle Severn MKII (Deluxe Extra)	£ 579.95
Castle Avon (Deluxe Extra)	£ 699.95
Castle Harlech (Deluxe Extra)	£ 849.95
Castle Howard MKII (Deluxe Extra)	£ 1199.95
Epos ES12	£ 499.95
Epos ES22	£ 184.95
Epos ES30	£ 2384.95
Kef Coda 75E	£ 149.95
Kef Q15	£ 199.95
Kef Q35	£ 349.95
Kef Q55	£ 499.95
Mission 731 Pro	£ 139.95
Mission 733i	£ 329.95
Mission 750LE	£ 249.95
Mission 751f (Deluxe Extra)	£ 349.95
Mission 752f (Deluxe Extra)	£ 579.95
Mission 753f (Deluxe Extra)	£ 799.95
Mission 754f (Deluxe Extra)	£ 1299.95
Monitor Audio Monitor 1 (Blk)	£ 249.95
Monitor Audio Monitor 2 (Blk)	£ 299.95
Monitor Audio Monitor 3 (Blk)	£ 399.95
Monitor Audio Monitor 4 (Blk)	£ 499.95
Monitor Audio 700PMC	£ 599.95
Monitor Audio 702PMC	£ 699.95
Monitor Audio 703PMC	£ 799.95
Monitor Audio 705PMC	£ 1399.95
Monitor Audio Studio 25E	£ 599.95
Monitor Audio Studio 12	£ 999.95
Monitor Audio Studio 205E	£ 2199.95
Monitor Audio Studio 50	£ 3999.95
Monitor Audio Studio 60	£ 5999.95
Mordaunt Short MS10i Pearl	£ 149.95
Mordaunt Short MS20i Pearl	£ 199.95
Mordaunt Short MS25i Pearl	£ 329.95
Mordaunt Short MS10i Classic	£ 279.95
Polk RT3	£ 199.95
Polk RT5	£ 249.95
Polk RT8	£ 399.95
Quad 10L	£ 539.00
Ruark Epilogue (Deluxe Extra)	£ 239.95
Ruark Icon (Deluxe Extra)	£ 359.95
Ruark Templar II (Deluxe Extra)	£ 559.95
Ruark Sceptre (Deluxe Extra)	£ 599.95
Ruark Talisman II (Deluxe Extra)	£ 749.95
Ruark Prologue One (Deluxe Extra)	£ 799.95
Tannoy Mercury M2	£ 139.95
Tannoy Mercury M3	£ 229.95

SYSTEMS

Denon DB3 inc spks	£ 299.95
Denon DC1 inc spks	£ 379.95
Denon DM03 inc spks	£ 499.95
Denon DC30 inc spks	£ 499.95
Denon DM7 ex spks	£ 579.95
Denon DF07 ex spks	£ 649.95
Denon D99W ex spks	£ 899.95
Denon DF10 ex spks	£ 999.95

Teac Ref 300 ex spks	£ 599.95
Teac Ref 500 ex spks	£ 799.95
Yamaha CLAVIO ex spks	£ 899.95
Yamaha CLI0 ex spks	£ 949.95

LASER DISC PLAYERS

Pioneer CLDD515-1	£ 379.00
Pioneer CLDD925	£ 499.00

SURROUND AMPLIFIERS

Arcam AV50	£ 699.95
Sony TAVA8ES	£ 489.00
Yamaha DSPA492	£ 249.95
Yamaha DSPA592	£ 329.95
Yamaha DSPA1092	£ 849.95
Yamaha DSPA3090	£ 1499.95

SURROUND RECEIVERS

Denon AVR3200	£ 999.95
Kenwood KRV5090	£ 149.00
Yamaha RXV392	£ 249.95
Yamaha RXV592	£ 399.95

SURROUND PROCESSORS

Arcam Xeta Two	£ 649.95
Cyrus AV Master	£ 699.95
Meridian P.O.A	
Sony SDPEP9ES	£ 479.00
Yamaha APD1 Demodulator	£ 99.95
Yamaha DSPE492	£ 249.95
Yamaha DDP2 AC3 Decoder	£ 349.95
Yamaha DSPE1000	£ 699.95

CENTRE SPEAKERS

Acoustic Energy AE107C	£ 149.95
B&W CI00	£ 129.95
B&W CC6	£ 229.95
Kef 80C	£ 129.95
Kef Q95C	£ 199.95
Kef Model 100	£ 359.95
Mission 75C (Blk)	£ 249.95
Mordaunt Short T1000	£ 239.95
Polk CS250	£ 249.95
Ruark Dialogue One	£ 299.95
Yamaha NSC60	£ 59.95
Yamaha NSC105	£ 79.95

SURROUND SPEAKERS (Pair)

B&W S100	£ 129.95
Boston P.O.A	
Kef 60S	£ 199.95
Kef 70S	£ 299.95
Mission 73S	£ 99.95
Polk M2	£ 179.95
Polk RTFX	£ 349.95
Polk LSFX	£ 449.95
Yamaha NSE60	£ 79.95
Yamaha NSE105	£ 109.95

SUB WOOFERS

Acoustic Energy AE108S	£ 299.95
Kef 20B	£ 349.95
Kef 30B	£ 499.95
Mission 75AS	£ 549.95
Rel Q50	£ 374.95
Rel Q100E	£ 494.95
Rel Strata II	£ 574.95
Rel Storm	£ 694.95
Yamaha YSTSW40	£ 139.95
Yamaha YSTSW80	£ 179.95

SPEAKER PACKAGES

Boston P.O.A	
Kef Q Series P.O.A	
Mission AV2i	£ 359.95
Polk RM5300	£ 999.95

Advertisement valid until at least the end of November 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.



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.

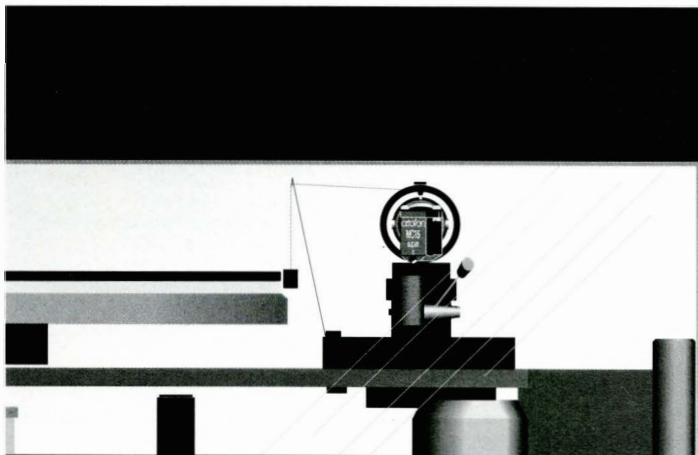
35 years combined experience.
Two Fully equipped listening rooms.
Home installation service.
Multi-room design and installation.
2 years Parts and Labour guarantee.
Home cinema surround-sound.
Export and Credit facilities.



• 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 • MUSIC FIDELITY X SERIES • NAKAMICHI • NEAT PETITE • PINK TRIANGLE • PIONEER • PROAC • QUAD • REL • ROGERS • SME • SONUS FABER • STAX • SYSTEMDEK • TANNO • THETA • WILSON AUDIO • YAMAHA •

 **THE** listening
rooms

161 Old Brompton Rd. London SW5 0LJ. Tel: 0171- 244 7750/59. Fax: 0171-370 0192.
Monday - Saturday 10am - 6pm. Nearest Tube: South Kensington or Gloucester Road.



One day
CD's will sound OK.
In the meantime...

 **PRO-JECT**
AUDIO SYSTEMS

01753-889949

DISTRIBUTED BY HENLEY DESIGNS LIMITED

Glossary

Baffled by hi-fi jargon? Confused by technical terms? Fear not: **Paul Messenger** has the answers to your lexicographical questing, in the Hi-Fi 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) Ampère. 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.

ATRAc: Psychoacoustics-based perceptual coding data reduction system used in MiniDisc.

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: Rapidly growing recordable-CD system; discs record once only; particularly useful for personalised compilations



Audiolab's 8000 series transport and DAC splits the CD player in two.

CD-ROM: High-capacity optical discs based on CDs but configured as flexible computer read-only software; many applications including some AV potential.

CD-RW: Imminent Philips re-writable CD recording format that's incompatible with existing CD players

CLIPPING: The consequences of over-driving 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 (see under D, below).

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 used widely in Europe

DISTORTION: Literally any deviation from the original, though often specified to partic-

ular 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 Laserdiscs.

DOLBY S: Complex 'smart' noise-reduction system, which might help the compact cassette survive beyond the millennium.

DOLBY HX: 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. (qv)

DUB: Copy — for example, on tape.

DVD: Digital Versatile Disc. A high-density optical disc format intended to squeeze complete movies onto compact-size discs, and introduce 96kHz sampling and 24-bit wordlength with multi-channel to audio discs. Still to make its mark on the European market.

DYNAMIC RANGE: The ratio (dB) 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

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

PHONE
NOW FOR
DISCONTINUED
AND
EX-DEM
BARGAINS

We are at:
3 BRIDGE STREET, GUILDFORD
*(by the traffic lights –
next door to Alfred Marks)*

01483 504801 • 01483 304756

NEW!
LINN
AV51 SYSTEM
MERIDIAN
DIGITAL THEATRE
&
YAMAHA
DSP
all on permanent
demonstration

Access • Visa • Switch Open Monday – Saturday 9am – 6pm (later by appointment)

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 (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 pick-up 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 pick-up cartridges.

MULTIPLY 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 (Ω): Unit of electrical impedance or resistance.

P

PHONO: The most commonly used plug/socket system for audio signals; also abbreviation for record deck.

PICK-UP (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 RATIO OR 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 and 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

TONEARM: The part of a record player that holds the cartridge and allows it to trace the grooves in a record. Available in pivoted and parallel tracking varieties.

TRANSDUCER: A device which turns mechanical, magnetic or acoustic energy into electrical energy. For instance pick-ups (cartridges) and loudspeakers.

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

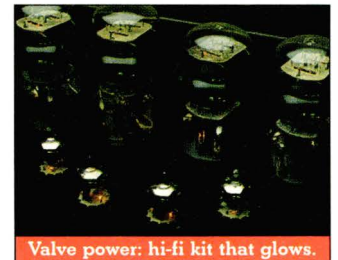
ULTRASONIC: Frequencies above the limit of human audibility — for instance, 20kHz.

UNIT: Loudspeaker drive unit.

V

VALVE: Early thermionic electronic device, still highly regarded by many enthusiasts.

VCR: Video cassette recorder or video



recorder; sometimes VTR (video tape recorder).

VOICE COIL: A wire wound around a circular former that's attached to the cone of a dynamic loudspeaker.

VOLT: Unit of electrical potential difference; a varying voltage is used to 'model' audio signals in transducers and electronic components.

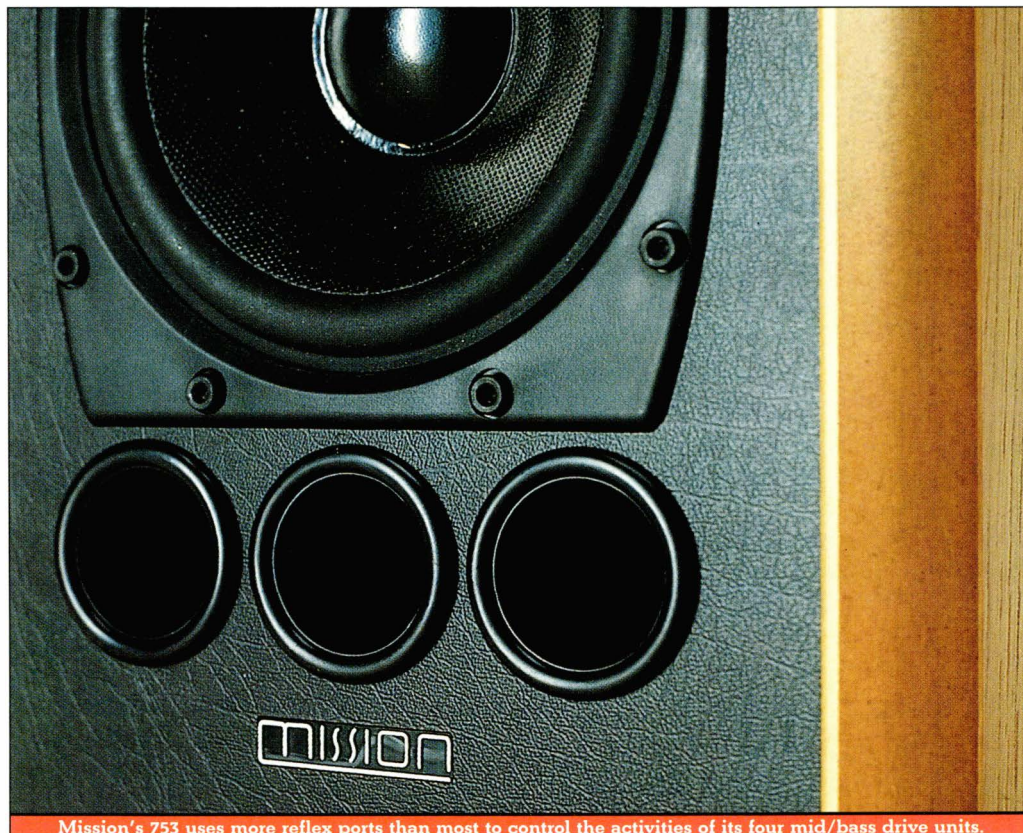
W

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.



Mission's 753 uses more reflex ports than most to control the activities of its four mid/bass drive units.

Five Stars

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



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

For Value

specialist dealer if you are searching for real hi-fi satisfaction

decision making process.

Putting together a successful hi-fi 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 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 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
109 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

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.



INTEREST FREE CREDIT ON SELECTED ITEMS
APR 0%. Written details on request.
Licensed Credit Broker.
VISA • ACCESS • SWITCH • AMEX • DINERS

363 HAGLEY ROAD, EDGBASTON,
BIRMINGHAM B17 8DL.
TEL: 0121-429 2811 FAX: 0121-434 3298

93-95 HOBSMOAT ROAD, SOLIHULL,
WEST MIDLANDS B92 8JL
TEL: 0121-742 0254 FAX: 0121-742 3471

9 Market Street, Stourbridge,
West Midlands DY8 1AB
Tel: 01384 444184 Fax: 01384 444968

OPENING TIMES
Tues-Sat 10.00-5.30
Thursday 10.00-7.00

BERKSHIRE

Technics

AUTHORISED HI-FI SPECIALIST

- Full range of Technics products on display
- 3 demonstration rooms (dedicated home cinema room)
- Free on-site car park
- Friendly knowledgeable service
- Established over 25 years
- Panaservice dealer



P. DOGRA & SONS

6-8 HIGH STREET, SLOUGH

Tel: 01753 521706 / 535689

LAKES

FOR BETTER HI-FI IN THE THAMES VALLEY

Agents for:

TECHNICS, KENWOOD, ROTEL, NAKAMICHI, B&W, MORDAUNT SHORT, SONY, PANASONIC, MITSUBISHI, PHILIPS, AIWA, J.V.C., WHARFEDALE, INFINITY

FREE DELIVERY • DEM ROOMS AT*


37 Stoke Road, Slough SL2 5AH	(01753) 538287
252/254 High Street, Slough SL1 1BN	(01753) 538288*
117/119 Oxford Road, High Wycombe HP11 2DN	(01494) 528605*
9 Market Street, Aylesbury HP20 2PN	(01296) 25119*
11 West Street, Marlow, Bucks SL7 2LF	(01628) 483555
83 High Street, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 1JX	(01628) 778611
11 Princess Square, Bracknell, Berks RG12 1LS	(01344) 869898

BIRMINGHAM

Norman H. Field Hi-Fi

Consultants for Home High Fidelity

- B & W
- Denon
- Castle
- Dual
- Mordaunt-Short
- Technics
- Thorens
- Tannoy
- Yamaha
- Kenwood



Two-year guarantee
Private Listening Rooms

HURST STREET
BIRMINGHAM B5 4BJ
Telephone: 0121-622 2323

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

HAZLEMERE AUDIO

We offer music lovers the chance to increase your enjoyment of music. Objective advice, comfortable listening rooms, home demonstrations, free installations, exceptional customer service, and some of the world's finest equipment (sound, value & reliability).

Air-Tangent, Alchemist, A.T.C., Audio Analogue, Audiomeca, Basis, B.K.S., Classé, E.A.D., Fanfare, Henley, Mirage, Monrio, Muse, Opera, Notts. Analogue, Ortofon, S.D. Acoustics, Sirius, Straight Wire, Teac, Tice, Triangle, Trichord, Trilogy, Unison Research, V.P.I.

FOR AN APPOINTMENT (DAY OR EVENING) CALL
HIGH WYCOMBE (01494) 437892

CHESHIRE



High quality Hi-Fi Systems from:

AVI • Heybrook • LFD • Michell
Musical Fidelity • Neat • Origin Live
Pink Triangle • Roksan • Sonneteer
Totem • Trilogy • Trichord • etc

Phone for our product guide

01244 401290
e-mail replay@dial.pipex.com

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

University Audio

HI-FI SPECIALISTS

MAIN AGENTS FOR:

A.T.C. • CYRUS • DENON • LINN
MARANTZ • MERIDIAN • MISSION
MONITOR/AUDIO • MYRYAD
QUAD • YAMAHA

3 DEMO ROOMS

TELEPHONE: 01223 354237
FACSIMILE: 01223 322079

Fraser's

HI-FI VIDEO

Independent Audio Visual Specialists for over 16 years

Demo Room Available

Brands include:

- MISSION • DENON • (DENON GOLD)
- CASTLE • KEF • JAMO • JVC
- NAD • PIONEER • QUAD • SONY
- TASK ELECTRONICS • TDL
- TEAC • YAMAHA

Unit 35, Observatory Centre, High Street,
Slough, Berkshire SL1 1LE
Tel: (01753) 531785

BRISTOL


V'AUDIO

36 Druid Hill
Stoke Bishop
Bristol BS9 1EJ
Tel: 0117 9686005


Alchemist, Alon, Arion, ATC, Audiomeca, AVI, Cadence, Chord AMPS, Electrocompaniet, Harman Kardon, Heybrook, Jamo, Lyra, Michell, Origin Live, Ortofon, Pink Triangle, Project, Ruark, REL, Shear Audio, SME, Sonic Link, Stax, Sugden, Sumiko, Townsend, Triangle



Demos by appointment only. Home trial facilities.
Free installations. Servicing facilities.
We are not a shop.



Technics



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

SOUND



MUSIC

RETAILERS OF FINE HI-FI

95 NANTWICH ROAD
CREWE, CHESHIRE
CW2 6BA
TEL: 01270 214143

To Advertise On These Pages Please Telephone
Clare on
0171 917 3935

Classified

Dealer Guide

CHESHIRE

BADA the symbol of security

Doug Brady Hi-Fi EST 37 YEARS

Serving the North West with the very best in specialist Hi-Fi.
Demonstrations and delivery.

CD - VYNIL - HOME CINEMA - SYSTEMS £300-£60,000

Most leading makes

0% Finance on Selected Items

KINGSWAY NORTH, WARRINGTON
TEL: 01925 828009 FAX: 01925 825773
2miles J21-M6 - Private Parking - Send for map

BADA the symbol of security

ASTON AUDIO

HI-FI & HOME CINEMA SPECIALISTS

4 WEST STREET ALDERLEY EDGE CHESHIRE

01625 582704

DEM ROOMS & INSTALLATION SERVICE

BANG & OLUFSEN, ARCAM, CYRUS, DENON, KEF, MERIDIAN, MICROMEGA, MISSION, EPOS, TDL + OTHER LEADING BRANDS

NAIM
ARCAM
REGA
MISSION
RUARK
EPOS

ACOUSTICA
The Hi-Fi Specialists

Listen to the difference . . .

01244 344227

17 Hoole Road CHESTER CH2 3NH

HERTFORDSHIRE

ESTD OVER 10 YEARS

ATC, AR, APOEE, AUDIOLAB, AUDIO RESEARCH, B&W, CASTLE, CELESTION, CHORD, COPLAND, DENON, D.P.A., DENSON, JADIS, KEF, KRELL, MARANTZ, MARTIN LOGAN, MICHELL, MICROMEGA, NAKAMICHI, ORFELLE, ROKSAN, RUARK, SME, SONUS FABER, STAX, TDL, TANNNOY, TEAC, THETA, THORENS, WILSON

AcousticArts

ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S LEADING SPECIALIST HI-FI & CINEMA SOUND CENTRES

- COMFORTABLE STUDIOS FOR HI-FI & HOME CINEMA. MULTI ROOM / INSTALLATION SERVICE
- WE CATER FROM THE AFFORDABLE TO THE STATE OF THE ART
- FIRST CLASS ADVICE AND SERVICE
- CREDIT FACILITIES AVAILABLE (WRITTEN DETAILS ON REQUEST)
- OPEN TUES-SAT 10-5.30PM (LATE NIGHT THURS BY APPT)

(01923) 245250

101 ST ALBANS ROAD, WATFORD, HERTS (5 MINS JUNCTION 19 M25)

The Audio File
AWARD WINNING DEALER

COME AND EXPERIENCE HI FI AND HOME CINEMA AT ITS BEST

THE AUDIO FILE, 27 HOCKERILL STREET, BISHOP'S STORTFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE CM23 2DH
TEL: 01279 506576 FAX: 01279 506638

THE AUDIO FILE, 41 VICTORIA ROAD, CAMBRIDGE CB4 3BW
TEL: 01223 368305 FAX: 01223 345975

ARCAM
DENON
CYRUS ■ REGA
LINN ■ NAIM
SONY
PIONEER
MISSION
LOEWE
YAMAHA
KEF ■ CASTLE
KRELL
COPELAND
MARTIN LOGAN
SONUS FABER
MARANTZ
PRO AC ■ REL
SOUNDSTYLE
QED

CORNWALL

CARLISLE

Peter TYSON THE NAME IN THE TRUST

...Setting new standards in Hi-Fi retailing!

If you want to see the best brands - want a great deal with the best service and demo included - pay us a visit.

6 ABBEY STREET, CARLISLE (01228) 46756

Sounds Perfection

Cornwall's Premier Retailer

Audio Consultancy Home Demonstrations Tel/Fax 01326 221372 Mobile 0469 554357

THE VERY BEST IN AUDIO ENTERTAINMENT QUALITY SERVICE TO YOUR DOOR

FOR A FULL LIST OF BRANDS, FIND US IN DEALER DIRECTORY

AVAILABLE 7 DAYS A WEEK FOR FRIENDLY SERVICE AND ADVICE

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
Naim
Sony
REL

ESSEX

Chew & Osborne

Akai • Alphason • Arcam • B&W • Bang & Olufsen • Bose • Cable Talk • Celestion • Dual • Harman Kardon • Kenwood • Quad • Marantz • Mordaunt-Short • NAD • Pioneer • Philips • Ruark • Sennheiser • Sony • Yamaha

148 HIGH STREET • EPPING • TEL: (01992) 574242
26 KING STREET • SAFFRON WALDEN • ESSEX • TEL: (01799) 523728

HERTFORDSHIRE

Radlett Audio ESTD 1978

THE HIGH-END SPECIALIST SINCE 1978

AE, ATC, Audiolab, AVI, Aura, B+W, Bow Technologies, Chario, Copland, Denon, Lyra, Marantz, Mark Levinson, MIT, Myryad, NottsAnalogue, Primare, Proceed, Pro-Ac, Ruark, Sonus Faber, Stax, Sumiko, Teac, Theta, Trichord and more.

9 Holywell Hill, St. Albans, Herts. AL1 1EU
Tel: 01727 855577

KENT

BADA the symbol of security

UNILET sound & vision

Best place in town for Hi-Fi and Home Cinema

- Three superb demonstration rooms
- Interest Free Credit
- All Leading Brands
- Open Sundays 10-4

UNILET SOUND & VISION
24-26 Union Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14
Tel: (01622) 676703 Fax: (01622) 676723

GRAYSTON sound&vision

Comfortable demo rooms
Free delivery/installation
Home trials
Musical evenings
Excellent credit facilities available

LINN QUAD
MERIDIAN
ARCAM B&W
BOSTON
HARMAN KARDON
PHILIPS/MICHELL
THORENS
DENON
ROTEL/MUSICAL FIDELITY
HARBETH
KEF REFERENCE
PIONEER PRECISION
INFINITY

33 Sir Isaac's Walk, Colchester. Tel 01206 577682

BADA the symbol of security

studio 82
HARPENDEN LTD

HI-FI & TV
82 The High Street, Harpenden, Herts AL5 2SP
Tel: 01582 764246 Fax: 01582 467022

ARCAM, ATACAMA, ATC, AUDIOLAB, AURA, AVI, B&W, BOSE, CASTLE, DENON, KEF, MARANTZ, MUSICAL FIDELITY, MUSICAL TECHNOLOGY, MYRYAD, NAD, NAIM, PANASONIC, PHILIPS, QUAD, SENNHEISER, TANNNOY, TARGET AUDIO, TDL, TEAC, ETC

FD ELECTRICAL DISCOUNT CENTRE

SALES & SERVICE

BRANCHES AT

The Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent.
Tel: (0181) 298 7880.
Fax: (01474) 535 937

JVC AKAI

PIONEER
B&W jamo
PRO LOGIC
plus many more . . .

138 Pelham Rd, Gravesend, Kent
Tel: (01474) 326600
(01474) 569601

Classified

Dealer Guide

LIVERPOOL & WIRRAL

Better Hi-Fi
The Essence of music.....
16 Cook Street
Liverpool L2 9RF

email info@hi-fi.dealer.co.uk
Compare 100060.551

Sales 0151 227 5007
Fax 0151 236 1403

Low Rate & 0% Finance
All Cards Accepted

Audiolab Arcam Kef B&O Royd B&W
Naim Marantz Mission Micromega Linn
Teac Rega Rotel Castle Chord TDL
Denon Epos Cyrus Sony Nakamichi etc

Call now and speak to the switched on hi-fi team

REAL HI-FI BADA
THE ULTIMATE IN SOUND ADVICE

If you live in the following areas :-)
Liverpool, Wirral,
Cheshire, Lancashire
or North Wales.
Then you really must call now. We can help

LINCOLNSHIRE

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 Humber'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

LANCASHIRE

MS MONITOR SOUND HI-FI SPECIALIST

TECHNICS ■ SONY ■ PIONEER
PANASONIC ■ KENWOOD ■ DUAL
AIWA ■ CASTLE ■ QUAD ■ B&W ■ MARANTZ
KEF ■ SPENDOR ■ THORENS ■ ROTEL ■ TEAC
DENON ■ YAMAHA ■ TANNOY ■ ROGERS ■ GLL
CELESTION ■ TDL ■ CABLE TALK ■ VIVANCO
AND MANY MORE

BIG DISCOUNT • TWO YEAR GUARANTEE ON HI-FI •
FREE HOME INSTALLATION • EXCELLENT COMPARATOR DEMONSTRATIONS • PRIVATE LISTENING ROOM •

CHORLEY (01257) 271935

54 CHAPEL STREET, CHORLEY

LONDON

GRAHAMS HI-FI "One of the five best hi-fi shops in the world"

Hi-Fi - Home Cinema - Multi-Room Installations
0171 226 5500

Grahams Hi-Fi, Canonbury Yard, 190a New North Road, London N1 7BS
Tel: 0171 226 5500 Fax: 0171 359 7620
E-mail: choice@grahams.co.uk Web site: http://www.grahams.co.uk

LONDON

Central Radio
MANCHESTER LTD. Est. 1946

30-32 SHUDEHILL, MANCHESTER M4 1EZ OPEN 9.00-5.30 MON-SAT

STOCKISTS OF: BEYER, BOSE, B&W, CERWIN-VEGA!, KENWOOD, MISSION, PANASONIC, PIONEER, SENNHEISER, SONY, TECHNICS, THORENS, ETC. Call us if it's not listed above.

DEMONSTRATION ROOM 'MINIDISC SPECIALIST'
CALL US NOW WE'LL BE PLEASED TO HELP

0161 834 6700

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

LEICESTER

Cymbiosis In harmony with music lovers everywhere
Audio & Visual Solutions

Arcam-Audiolab-Chario-Denon-Epos-KEF-Linn Hi-Fi
Linn AV51-Loewe TV-Micromega-Mordaunt Short
Myryad-Naim Audio-Projekt-Rega-Rotel-Royd
6 Hotel Street - Leicester - LE1 5AW
Telephone 0116 262 3754 Facsimile 0116 262 3758

NORFOLK

The Old School School Road
Bracon Ash
Norfolk NR14 8HG
Tel: (01508) 570829

Basically Sound of Norfolk
STOCKISTS OF LEADING HI-FI
Naim Audio, Arcam, Audio Alchemy, Audiolab, Cable Talk, Chario, Chord Co. Opera Speakers, Denon, Densen, Epos, Heybrook, Micromega, QED, Rogers, Rotel, Royd, Soundstyle, TDL, Unison Research and others.

LONDON

AUDIO CONCEPT

27 BOND STREET, EALING W5 2D 0181 567 8703

APOLLO, AUDIOLAB, AUDIO ALCHEMY, AURA, BOSTON, B&O, B&W, CABLE TALK, CASTLE, CHORD, DENON, EPOS, HARMON KARDON, KEF, MARANTZ, MISSION, MUSICAL FIDELITY, NAD, NORDOST, ONKYO, ORELLE, QUAD, REL, ROKSAN, ROGERS, ROTEL, SONICLINK, SOUND STYLE, TALK ELECTRONICS, TARGET, TEAC, THORENS, VAN DEN HUL

Two demonstration rooms. Free local delivery.
Repairs & Service. Closed Wednesday

Northwood HI-FI & Audio Visual Specialist
Open 9.00am-6.00pm Mon-Sat

10% WORTH OF ACCESSORIES FREE WITH EVERY PURCHASE OVER £200
We have 2 separate Demonstration Rooms

ALL REPAIRS UNDER-TAKEN MAIL ORDER ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED SALE ON EX-DEMONSTRATION EQUIPMENT

To Add to Our Excellent Range of Systems We Now Stock All Accessories

*Video Tapes *Remote Control *Portable Radios
*Personal Stereos *Headphones *Audio Tapes
*Scart/Scart Plugs and much more

8 High Street, Northwood
Tel. 01923 820877

To Advertise On These Pages Please Telephone Clare on 0171 917 3935

"WHERE DREAMS COME TRUE"
EXPERIENCE THE BEST IN HOME THEATRE

starting DTS and AC3 supported by
ANGSTROM, DWIN, DENON, HARMAN, KRELL, LEXICON, MARTIN LOGAN, NHT, ONKYO, PIONEER, REL, RCF, YAMAHA.

other participants include
AUDIO RESEARCH, ARCAM, AUDIOLAB, BOSE, B&W, B&O, CASTLE, COPLAND, DENON, JADIS, MICHELL, MICROMEGA, MARANTZ, MERIDIAN, MONITOR AUDIO, MUSIC FIDELITY, PROJECT TURNTABLES, QED ROOMLINK, ROTEL, SONUS FABER, SONY, TANNOY, TDL, WILSON.

interconnect cables, hi-fi stands, speaker cables, headphones all supporting the above brands stocked, please call.

422 RICHMOND ROAD
EAST TWICKENHAM
MIDDLESEX TW1 2EB
at the foot of Richmond Bridge
Tel: 0181 892 7613
Fax: 0181 892 7749

visit our site on the worldwide web
http://www.riversidehifi.co.uk/
email us on
soundadvice@riversidehifi.co.uk

OPENING HOURS MON-SAT 10am - 5.30pm
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

LOW COST AND 0% FINANCE AVAILABLE SUBJECT TO STATUS WRITTEN DETAILS ON REQUEST
PERSONAL OVERSEAS ORDERS WELCOME. COMPETITIVE SHIPPING QUOTES. UK MAIL ORDER AVAILABLE (£8 PER ITEM, MAINLAND ONLY)

Classified

Dealer Guide

SALE

ELECTRO-TRADER HI-FI - SALE NOW ON -

YAMAHA * Rotel * NAD * TEAC
Tannoy * KEF * Musical Technology
Jamo Concert 8&11 Monitor Speakers

Contact JOHN HODKINSON for
expert advice. All equipment
available for home demonstration

19 Colwyn Crescent, Rhos-on-Sea, Colwyn
Bay, N.Wales Telephone 01492 548932

MAIL ORDER

Records at Cost

NOW YOU CAN BUY YOUR CDs AT DEALER'S COST PRICE

As a member of the WSL Records at
Cost Service you can buy any brand new
CD at trade price + postage and a small
handling charge from only 50p. Write,
phone, fax or e-mail us now and we'll
send you full details of the Records at
Cost Service and how to join.

WSL P.O. BOX 32 ST. LEONARDS EAST SUSSEX TN38 0UZ
TEL: (01424) 718254 (24 HOURS) FAX: (01424) 718262
E-MAIL: WILSONSTEREOLIBRARY@COMPUSERVE.COM

PLUS! WE INVITE YOU TO CASH IN ON A MASSIVE CD WAREHOUSE

Clearance Sale!

MAIL ORDER



SOUND CONNECTIONS

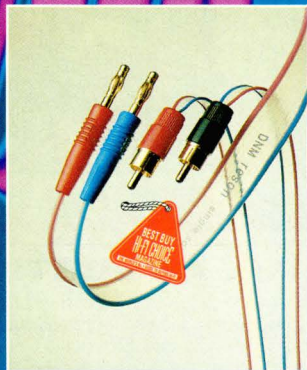
TEL / FAX : 01244 401280

E-mail : sound.connections@dial.pipex.com

MAIL ORDER SUPPLIERS OF QUALITY
HI-FI ACCESSORIES

We offer a popular HOME
TRIAL SERVICE which enables
you to evaluate cables in your
own system, therefore
ensuring you purchase the
right cable.

PLEASE TEL / FAX / E-MAIL FOR OUR
LATEST PRODUCT AND PRICE LIST



DNM Reson Audio Cables

VAN DEN HUL ♦ DNM RESON ♦ SONICLINK
NORDOST ♦ CHORD CO ♦ AUDIO QUEST
KIMBER ♦ SENNHEISER ♦ STAX ♦ ORTOFON
SUMIKO ♦ LYRA ♦ MICHELL ♦ STANDS UNIQUE
TARGET ♦ SOUNDSTYLE ♦ TOWNSHEND ♦ LAT
IXOS ♦ MUSICAL FIDELITY ♦ XLO

52 Green Lane ♦ Great Sutton
South Wirral ♦ Cheshire ♦ L66 4LE

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 Xeta 1 AV Amp	new	999.90	499.90	Linn Ekos	xd	1500.00	1125.00
Audiolab CDM/DAC	xd	2299.80	1499.00	Linn Klout	s/h	2400.00	1560.00
Aura VA100/II	xd	399.90	259.00	Linn Numerik	s/h	1500.00	999.00
Cyrus Disc/Dac	xd	1300.00	1229.00	Linn Keilidh	s/h	850.00	680.00
Cyrus Disc/Dac	new	1300.00	1229.00	Linn Kelik New	s/h	6000.00	3200.00
Cyrus III	xd	598.00	50.00	Linn Kelik Walnut	s/h	6000.00	3200.00
Cyrus P-SX-R	xd	328.00	278.00	Linn Kremlin	s/h	2600.00	1560.00
Cyrus D AD3	xd	598.00	50.00	Linn Kairn Photo	xd	1750.00	1299.00
Cyrus DAD3 Q	xd	898.00	763.00	Linn Kairn Photo	xd	1750.00	1190.00
Cyrus AV Master	xd	698.00	598.00	Linn Wakonda Photo	xd	900.00	765.00
Cyrus Power	xd	498.00	425.00	Marantz DD 635E	xd/new	3490.00	2699.00
Cyrus Pre	xd	648.00	550.00	Mission T3 II	new	129.90	99.00
Cyrus Pre - mc Remote Commander	s/h	648.00	437.00	Mission T3 LE	new	149.00	119.00
Cyrus FM7	xd	398.00	338.00	Naim NA AV 1	xd	1680.00	1386.00
Epos ES-25	xd	165.00	139.00	Naim SBL	xd	1970.00	150.00
Exposure Aetas Dual 47 & PS6	s/h	699.00	499.00	Pioneer PDR-05 Recordable CD	xd	1299.00	899.00
Heybrook Sextet	s/h	499.00	499.00	Pioneer CTW 803 Cass	xd	299.90	249.00
KEF Reference 2	xd	1599.00	1359.00	Quad 77 Amp	xd	699.90	599.00
KEF Qada 9	xd	299.90	199.90	Ref Stentor	xd	1095.00	1055.00
Linn Arkiv	xd	1000.00	700.00	Thorens TD168UK	xd	399.00	339.00
Linn Klipsch	xd	500.00	390.00	Yamaha KX580	new	249.90	219.00
Linn Lingo	s/h	750.00	565.00				

AudioQuest Loudspeaker Cables - Various Sets Special Prices
Authorised Stockists of: ARCAM, ADDIOLAB, 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

KIT LOUDSPEAKERS

KLIPSCH

Horn loudspeakers

- a legend in sound for over 50 years,
KLIPSCH hi-efficiency speakers are used
in many studios, top hi-fi and stage systems.

FOR DETAILS CALL

(0121) 430 7817

PRE-OWNED

HEATHERDALE AUDIO LTD HEATHERDALE PRE-OWNED GUARANTEED EQUIPMENT. EXPORT FACILITIES AVAILABLE

FORSELL Ltd EDITION AIR REFERENCE TURNTABLE AND AIR BEARING TONEARM	£4995	KEF 104 Loudspeakers	£450
FORSELL AIR REFERENCE CD TRANSPORT AND DAC ON 3 MONTHS HIRE	£1580.00 new offered for £895	AUDIO NOTE M7 Silver Signature pre-amp	£7000
KRELL KSA 2008 Balanced Power Amp	£2495	ARC AM Delta Black Box II DAC Based	£175
THIEL CS2 2 Loudspeakers MINT	£1995	AUDIO NOTE DAC 4 MINT/Used	£3995
MAR LEVINSON No 26 Pre-amp	£2995	AUDIO NOTEDAC 4 MINT/Used	£3995
CONRAD JOHNSON Premier 8 mono-blocks	£8995	STUDEER A807 Pro tape recorder MINT	£3750
MAR LEVINSON No 29 Power Amplifier	£1995	HEYBROOK Quartets 8 Stands Ex Dem (E940)	£395
ELECTROCOMPANET 2 Channel Audio Power Amp	£2750	AUDIO RESEARCH LS25 Hybrid Line Pre (E3390)	£1995
MARK LEVINSON No 39 CD Player MINT	£2495	SONISTICE A40 speakers with stands	£495
VOYD Standard Turntable MINT	£1495	GENESIS Model III speakers MINT	£3695
BEW Master 802 Series II	£1995	JADES Dely 7 stereo amp	£2495
HELIUS Silver wired tonearm	£995	LUXMAN MQ 3600 KT88 stereo power amplifier	£1295
SONUS FABER Fixed Stone/Wood Stands	£250	Q.E.D. Digit Dicks Position PSU	£125
MAR LEVINSON M3 200 Watt Dual Mono Amp	£3195	PIONEER PD-A001 Integrated Amplifier	£250
KRELL K15 Reference six box pre-amp	£3995	LUMILEY Promenade SPT Loudspeakers (NEW)	£120
AUDIO NOTE 10 Limited cartridge & PSU	£2750	TECHNICS SLQ30 Turntable	£125
LUXMAN D-5000's CD Player MINT/Used (E3495)	£1795	KISSEK Backbeat Used/Boxed (E1995) Special Offer	£1500
NARAKACHI ZX1000 Tape Deck - B&W Serviced	£2195	YAMAHA CDX880 CD Player	£195
AUDIO NOTE ANS 7 3tap-up Transformer	£3000	AUDIO LAB 8000C Pre-amplifier	£295
ARCAM Alpha 3 Integrated Amp with phono	£755	MACCHARAN 400 2a Panel Loudspeakers	£950
CANARDIACE P50 Integrated Amplifier	£735	ARCEC Stage speakers with stands	£1495
AUDIO NOTE Kansas Silver Amplifier	£1995	B&W JORN BOWERS Active 1 Speakers	£395
MISSION 7 R2 Loudspeakers with stands	£250	MAR LEVINSON S85 pre-amp ex-demo	£4850
		ROTEL RC09658X CD player	£195

JUST AVAILABLE FULL CELLO SYSTEM PLEASE ASK FOR DETAILS
EX-DEM EXPOSURE EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE PLEASE TELEPHONE FOR LIST
MAIN UK DEALERS FOR THEL SPEAKERS

FOR AN UP-TO-THE-MINUTE LIST VISIT OUR NEW WEB SITE:
<http://www.hifi-stereo.com>

ALL USED CARTRIDGES ARE CHECKED UNDER A
MICROSCOPE BEFORE BEING OFFERED FOR SALE.
VISA SWITCH-MASTER CARD-DINERS CLUB WELCOME
WE TAKE PART EXCHANGE ON NEW AND USED STOCK & BUY IN FOR CASH
202 Fiddon Road, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 0EJ
TEL: (01903) 872288 after hours number (0800) 660001 FAX: (01903) 872234
e-mail: heatherdale@hifi-stereo.com

GOOD QUALITY PRE OWNED EQUIPMENT BOUGHT SOLD PX			
AMPS	£	£	
Mark Levinson 26/29	3,700	Linn Axis /Akita/K9	250
Clonon 725	100	SPEAKER STANDS	
Pioneer A400	100	Atacama 24	35
Yamaha 401 P.C.	125	Target	35
Pioneer V.S.P. 200	500	TUNERS	
Yamaha GSP 100	750	Sony 730 ES	100
Naim 180 Power Amp	1,500	Nad	80
Naim 135 Newer Chassis	250	TAPE DECKS	
Monoblocks	250	Yamaha K390	80
Naim Nac 62 Old Style	250	Denon DPM 10x	80
Naim Hi Cap Old Style	650	Denon 800	80
Exposure 11/8	650	Sony ES 700	100
PSU 12	650	CD's	
SPEAKERS	£	Rega Planar 2	65
Heybrook HB1	1,000	Technica 770A	125
Kef 105/3 R/V	175	Arcege LS2/2A Bk	225
Kef 105 C/S	40	Linn Kelik R/W	1500
Kef Celeste	175	Arcege Stages	2,500
Mission 72.1 Bk	65	Castle Winchester	
Mission 762	65		
Mission 768	65		
Infinity C/S	60		
Revolver Furley Teak	65		
JBL Control 3	750		
Naim SBL Bk	50		
NAD 801 Bk	125		
Rega Kyles Bk	150		
Roger LS2/2A Bk	150		
Linn Kelik R/W	1500		
Arcege Stages	1500		
Castle Winchester	850		

Mon-Sun 10am-8pm VISA Switch - Mastercard
For further details Phone/FAX 01844 260182 - Mobile: 0973 233380

HI-FI ACCESSORIES

Wilmslow Audio

WIDE RANGE OF HIFI EQUIPMENT
Drive units and Kit loudspeakers

ATC, Coles, Dynaudio, KEF, Morel, Peerless, R.C.L.,
Scanspeak, Seas, SpectraDynamics, Volt.

Over 30 kits. 4 demonstration rooms.

No appts necessary. Closed Mondays

Send for free catalogue. Major Credit Cards accepted

50 Main St, Broughton, Astley
Leicester LE9 6RD, Dept HFC
Tel (01455) 286603 • Fax (01455) 286605

REVOX

STUDEER - REVOX SALES - SERVICE - SPARES

Service & Repair of A77, B77,

A700, PR99 & 36 series

HiFi Spares to order

Serviced Machines in Stock

E.M.A.S.

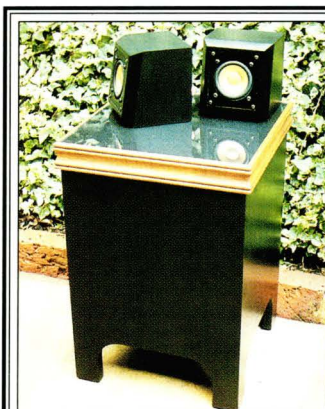
TEL: 01246 275479

Fax: 01246 550421

Classified

Dealer Guide

LUXURY SPEAKERS



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 £707.35p
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.

LUXURY SPEAKERS

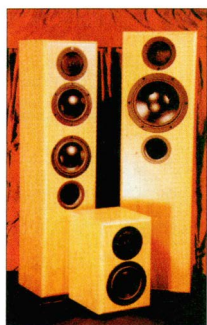
FURNITURE

Classified

ETHOS acoustics

Loudspeakers
to suit your
Luxury Lifestyle

Call Graham on
01895 441177
for a brochure
and your local
specialist.



TITAN MINI T/2 HI-FI LOUDSPEAKERS

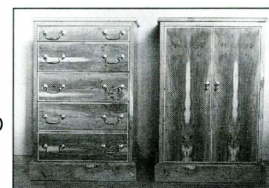


TITAN LOUDSPEAKERS
16 Folly Lane
Hockley
Essex SS5 4SE, England

*"You can hear
the difference"*
Tel/Fax: 01702 206870

The Bee's Knees in Hi-Fi and CD Storage Units

For brochure of our
wide range, send to:



IAN EDWARDS
282 Skipton Road, Harrogate HB1 3HB
or phone: 01423 500442

FURNITURE

Frame Works

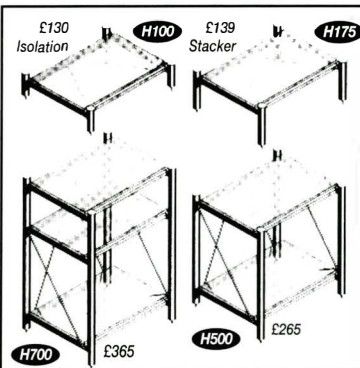
Hi-Fi and Audio Visual Support Systems

*One of the best supports I've heard in a
long time, outstandingly communicative*
Malcom Steward - Hi Fi Choice

Lively, excellent clarity and separation...
confidently recommended.
Jimmy Hughes, Audiophile.

arrow consultancy ltd

Unit 1 Priory Works, Priory Crescent, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 6LD
Tel 01702 611451 Fax 01702 469078



OVERSEAS

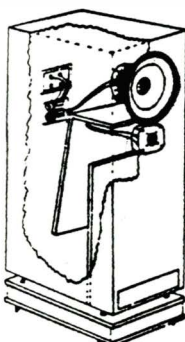
SPEAKER KITS



Especially recommended stereoplay, Germany
Class 'A' symmetrical amplifiers
We manufacture high end: 50W monoblocks,
stereo cinch cable and headphone amplifiers.
All amps are dc coupled,
full symmetrical,
class A circuits and
have pure-sound reproduction.
Help wanted: Sales person for our products in
England, hi-fi fan, serious and honest person.

Anderson Electronics, Amity HiFi,
Brahmstraße 12, D-74193 Schwaigern-2
Tel. 0049-713-3225, Fax-3325

SPEAKER KITS FROM I.P.L. ACOUSTICS



The IPL range now includes six superb biwired Transmission Lines using top quality drive units and components to achieve sound quality and bass extension equivalent to speakers costing in the range of £700-£2500. The Plus Kits include all that is required apart from the woodwork.

Total kits are available with plain or veneered MDF cabinet kits. Please phone for details.

KIT	SPEAKER UNITS	CAB SIZE mm	PLUS KIT	P&P
M3TL	5" Morel bass. 1" Audax treb	810x186x210	£177.00	£6.50
S3TL	Custom IPL 6.5". 1" Seas treb	903x230x350	£187.00	£6.50
S3TLM	Metal IPL 6.5". 1" Seas treb	903x230x350	£224.00	£6.50
S3TLM RIB	Metal IPL 6.5". A&R Ribbon	903x230x350	£382.25	£6.50
S4TL	Kevlar 8" bass. Morel 1" treb	960x320x400	£204.00	£7.50
S5TL	Audax 10". Morel 6" mid. 1" treb	1080x320x400	£383.00	£7.50

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.

Reader Classified

Advertise in Hi-Fi Choice for £5!

- 25 Blues LPs, all mint, £65. Ixos 101 interconnects, new, boxed: cost £100, sell for £50. Somerset (01278) 782622.
- Arcam Alpha 8 CD, a few months old, mint condition, boxed, little used. £480. Brighton (01273) 749304.
- Arcam Delta 290 and 290P, with Audioquest Emerald interconnect. Two years old, absolutely perfect. £495 the lot. London (0181) 575 5656.
- Arcam One dedicated speaker stands, inc free speakers needing attention £15. A&R A60 amp, factory converted for bi-amping £55. Chelmsford (01245) 226842.
- ATC SCM20 speakers, gloss black, boxed. Excellent condition. £1,250 including Epos ES14 stands. Roy, Herts (01442) 822707.
- Audiolab 8000A power amp, mint condition, little used. Fully boxed with instructions etc. £400 ono. Newmarket (01638) 577506.
- Audiolab 8000 DAC £350. PS Audio 4.6 preamp. Separate power supply, mint, boxed £350. London (0181) 543 8625.
- Audiolab 8000S, 6 months old, boxed, £529. Clear transparent sound. Also, Audioquest Quartz interconnect £60. Nottingham (0115) 952 1820.
- Audio Synthesis DAX-2, excellent condition £1,525. Audio Synthesis Pro Passion Vishay attenuator, mint £315. Co. Antrim (01960) 372845.
- B&W Matrix 804 speakers, £895 (new £1,695). Musical Fidelity F16 power amp, £1,650 (new £2,500). All mint condition, may p/ex. Avon (01225) 404431.
- Castle Chester Twos, mahogany, with cable. Superb sound, mint condition, boxed etc. Upgrading. £350 no offers. Leics (01664) 66362.
- Castle Harlech, cherry wood finish, hardly used, £650. Micromega Stage 6 CD player £650. Bow (0181) 983 0041.
- Castle Howard speakers, dark oak, upgraded by RATA, mint condition, £500. Devon (01803) 855321.
- Cyrus III amplifier, PSX-R power supply and FM7 tuner, all boxed, as new. £750 the

To advertise on this page, write your advert in block capitals and send it to: **Hi-Fi Choice, Reader Classifieds, 19 Bolsover St, London W1P 7HJ.** Include a cheque for **£5*** made payable to Dennis Publishing Ltd. The advert will appear in one issue only and must be no more than 20 words (or five lines) long, including all spaces and your phone number. Reader Classifieds are for the use of private individuals only. All Reader Classified adverts will be printed on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to available space, and Dennis Publishing Ltd accepts no liability for the accuracy of the information contained therein, nor any consequence arising from it, nor for any typographical errors. We reserve the right to amend or refuse adverts at the Editor's discretion and cannot guarantee that an advert will appear in any specific issue.

***This service is FREE for Hi-Fi Choice subscribers, provided a subscriber number is enclosed with the advert details.**

set. Derbyshire (01773) 824851.

- DAC-In-The-Box, A'Quest Optic/Co-Ax digital cables, as new (£280) £100. Aiiwa HS-P747 remote rechargeable personal (£150) £60. Shropshire (01746) 716627 eves.

- Denon midi plus AVC-77 Pro-Logic amp, five speakers and cables. Ex cond. £1,100. May split. Jason, London (0181) 898 0527 eves.

- Exposure VII preamp, two V1 PSUs. Absolutely mint £250. Linn Klyde 24 months light use £75. Lancs (01942) 818752.
- Heybrook Quartet loudspeakers, including matching stands. 6 months old, £350. Taunton (01823) 412004.

- Ion Obelisk 3 integrated amp, RATA full upgrade £250. Royd 7 speakers, black £70. Foundation stands, black, £50. All boxed. Goodmans twin cassette GSW 600 £55. All vgc. Lancs (01254) 830359/(0468) 131339.

- JBL L90 speakers, excellent sound, good condition, boxes, manual. Serious offers, please. Darren, London (0171) 971 8756 day/(0958) 679115 eves.

- Krell KSA-50 stereo power amp. Class A double mono. Fan cooled, superb. £950 ovno. Bath area (01225) 865588, eves.

- Linn Ekos arm £650, Linn LP12 £300, Linn Lingo £350. All in excellent condition with boxes. Staffs (01543) 425426.

- Linn K9 cartridge, two months' usage, boxed, £80. Linn K9 stylus, unused, boxed, £50. James Glasgow (0141) 552 2479 eves/ e-mail: ldp95172@ccsun.strath.ac.uk

- Linn Kairn, LK100, Karik, Keilidh, 2 x 7m LK100, as new £2,850 ono. 2 x 12m terminated NACA5 £75. Nick, Birmingham (0121) 602 7329.

- Linn Karik Mk II CD player. Ex cond, has box and remote. £650. Julian, London (0181) 558 6431 after 6pm.

- Linn Karma moving coil cartridge, good condition, little use. New price £500, will accept £150 ono. Leeds (0113) 252 4931.

- Linn Keilidh speakers, as new and boxed, complete with composite stands. £500. Birmingham (0121) 706 5374.

- Linn Keilidh speakers, walnut, inc plinths, boxed with 2.5m bi-wired K20. £550. Glos (01453) 756933 (after 6pm).

- Linn Keilidh, plinths and 8m of K-400 cable (£1,000) £495. Chameleon Ruby power amp (£1,000) £395. Will sell both for £695 for very quick sale. Birmingham (0121) 705 4859.

- Linn LP12, ARO, Troika Avondale, PSU £1,150. Mana Phase Four £450. IBLs, cable £300. London (0181) 462 2097.

- Linn LP12 (walnut), Lingo, Cirkus, Eikos, OC7, mint. £1,400 or offers. Full Linn Kaber Aktiv system. Interested? Phone for details,

may split. N Essex (01787) 462940.

- Marantz CD67SE, genuine, new, boxed and unused. £200. Northants (01604) 721734 after 7pm.

- Michell Alecto mono power amps, £1,325. Michell Argo HR preamp, £1,000. Ruark Equinox speakers, £1,200. Trichord Digital Turntable, £475. Trichord Pulsar S1, £950. Hampshire (01703) 643880.

- Mission 73PS subwoofers, stereo pair, mint, boxed. £95. Bucks (01296) 339979.

- Musical Fidelity A1 amp, Pioneer PD-8500 CD player, Rogers LS4A speakers and Foundation stands. Mint condition, £495. Cheshire (01270) 874291.

- Naim 250 amp and NAC 32-5 preamp, both boxed and mint with instructions. £875 no offers. Luton (01582) 456730/490463.

- Naim 32.5 Hi-Cap 250. Ex cond, manuals, MC and MM boards. Can demo. £1,250 ono. Northants (01933) 318823 eves.

- Naim Nait 1 amp, in vgc. Beautiful, detailed, warm sound. True audiophile quality at budget price, only £160. London (0171) 272 1246.

- Nakamichi 1000 ZXL cassette deck, the Rolls Royce of them all, ex cond throughout, collectors item. £1,995. Herts (01923) 442210.

- Neat Petite speakers, £275 (£575), Meridian 207 CD and

preamp, £280, Rega Kytes £120. London (0171) 837 8888 ext. 2904. email: efoxell@lbs.ac.uk

- Oracle Alexandra mk3/SME 309/AT OC5/Mana Soundframe £750. Also, Fons mk1/Rega RB250/OM-10-78 stylus £100. London (0181) 554 6199.

- Quad 33/303 overhauled by Quad, converted to phono by Academy Sound. Superb sound quality, vgc, manuals, boxes. £295. Sussex (01903) 247779.

- Quad 44 preamp/Quad 405 power amp £350. Dual 1120 CD player with remote control £60. Tannoy Mercury (originals), black ash £70. Shrewsbury (01743) 874232.

- Rotel RB970BX mkII power amp. One year old, unmarked, boxed with instructions. £80. Essex (01255) 675115.

- Royd Doublet speakers, black, excellent condition £225. Bristol (0117) 941 1729.
- Sony CDP-XA50ES European CD player of the year '97-'98, top of the range model, brand new, £895. London (0181) 905 6331.

- TDL Transmission Line speakers and stands, bi-wire upgraded and serviced. Excellent condition, superb sound, awesome bass. Very reluctant sale. £350. Staffs (01543) 577577.

- Technics SL-P2000 Reference CD player, little use, boxed. £500 ono. Pioneer A-400 amp, vgc, boxed £130 ono. Brighton (01273) 305176.

- Thorens TD160mk2 t/table. SME 3009 Series 2 improved arm. Shure V15 ERAIV Supertrack cartridge £200 ono. Norfolk (01284) 755840.

- Trichord Revelation CD player, as new, boxed £600 ono. Nakamichi cassette deck DR-3 £300 ono. Brighton (01273) 305176.

- Wadia 15 DAC, 21 bit resolution, 6 digital inputs, remote, volume, mint. £1,795 (£4,500 new). Suffolk (01449) 676335.

WANTED

● Good quality transport and DAC. Will pay up to £900 (total). Any make considered. Shropshire (01952) 406759.

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 the next page). This listing is updated bi-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 after the Price Guide). 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 (at the end of the 'reviewed product' directory) to book a demonstration of the products you are interested in.

Best Buys and Recommendations

If you see a Best Buy (**red**) or Recommended (**blue**) flag at the beginning of an entry in our Directory of reviewed products, the item concerned is particularly deserving of your attention.

B **Red** signifies the Best Buy swing-tag, which indicates products of the best quality and superb value for money in their price category.

R **Blue** Recommended products offer excellent quality and value, but not the same cost-effectiveness as a Best Buy.

Please note that an expensive Recommended product will nearly always perform better than an inexpensive Best Buy.

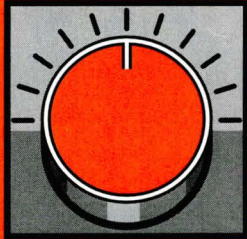
Using Best Buys and Recommendations to buy hi-fi.

Do not commit the cardinal sin of dashing into your local dealer, magazine in hand, demanding to purchase Best Buy CD player A, Best Buy amplifier B and Best Buy speakers C. This is unlikely to result in your long-term satisfaction. Our belief at *Hi-Fi Choice* is that you must consider the hi-fi system as a complete entity, not as a collection of components. While a superb system might well contain Best Buy and Recommended components, one cannot lump together Best Buys and Recommendations in the hope that they will automatically perform superbly. These ratings make a useful guideline for short-listing components worth trying, but only by hearing them for yourself can you draw meaningful conclusions about what suits your taste. Furthermore, don't panic if the dealer offers you equipment that we have not tested. At the end of the day, what matters most is that your hi-fi system fits your tastes like a glove, and it is the dealer's challenge to ensure your satisfaction by any means – and components – necessary!



DIRECTORY INDEX

ITEM	PAGE NUMBER
NEW PRODUCT PRICES	116
LIST OF REVIEWED PRODUCTS	128
INTEGRATED AMPLIFIERS	128
PREAMPLIFIERS	129
POWER AMPLIFIERS	129
CABLES	
ANALOGUE INTERCONNECTS	130
DIGITAL INTERCONNECTS	131
LOUDSPEAKER CABLES	131
CARTRIDGES	132
CASSETTE DECKS	133
CD PLAYERS	134
CD TRANSPORTS	135
DACS	135
DIGITAL RECORDERS	136
HEADPHONES	136
HI-FI LOUDSPEAKERS	137
SUBWOOFERS	139
STANDS & SUPPORTS	140
TONEARMS	141
TUNERS	141
TURNTABLES	142
FACTSBACK SERVICE	142
MANUFACTURER CONTACTS	143



AMPLIFIERS
Integrated Amps

KEY

Ⓢ - number of line-level inputs.
'20W' - output power per channel
into nominal load of 8 Ohms.

Up to £250

Aiwa XA-003	Ⓢ	40W	140
AMC 3020	Ⓢ	20W	100
AMC 3025A	Ⓢ	30W	130
AMC 3050A	Ⓢ	45W	170
Arcam Alpha 7	Ⓢ	40W	250
Cambridge A1	Ⓢ	35W	80
Cambridge A1 Mk III	Ⓢ	40W	120
Cambridge A3i	Ⓢ	60W	200
Denon PMA-250SE	Ⓢ	30W	160
Denon PMA-350SE	Ⓢ	50W	200
Denon PMA-425R	Ⓢ	45W	230
Denon PMA-100M	Ⓢ	80W	240
Goodmans Delta 801	Ⓢ		140
H/K HKG10	Ⓢ	30W	180
H/K HKG20	Ⓢ	40W	250
JVC AX-V4BK	Ⓢ	30W	200
JVC AX-R5BK	Ⓢ	45W	200
Kenwood KA-1080	Ⓢ	60W	140
Kenwood KA-3080R	Ⓢ	70W	170
Kenwood KA-3020SE	Ⓢ	50W	200
Marantz PM-47	Ⓢ	40W	150
Marantz PM-57	Ⓢ	50W	200
Marantz PM-65SE	Ⓢ	50W	230
Marantz SR-47	Ⓢ	40W	250
Musical Fidelity E1	Ⓢ	30W	199
NAD 310	Ⓢ	100	
NAD 312	Ⓢ	25W	200
Pioneer A-105	Ⓢ	30W	130
Pioneer A-204R	Ⓢ	25W	160
Pioneer A-300R	Ⓢ	45W	200
Pioneer A-405R	Ⓢ	60W	250
Rega Brio	Ⓢ	30W	229
Rotel RA-931	Ⓢ	35W	150
Rotel RA970BX	Ⓢ	60W	250
Sherwood AX-7030R	Ⓢ	95W	250
Sony TA-FE210	Ⓢ	45W	130
Sony TA-FE310R	Ⓢ	45W	150
Sony TA-F248E	Ⓢ	40W	200
Sony TA-F448EB	Ⓢ	55W	250
TEAC A-R300	Ⓢ	45W	200
TEAC A-R500	Ⓢ	90W	250
Technics SU-V300	Ⓢ	25W	150
Technics SU-V500	Ⓢ	30W	180
Technics SU-A600 Mk3	Ⓢ	60W	200
Technics SU-V620	Ⓢ	70W	230
Technics SU-A700 Mk3	Ⓢ	45W	250
Unison Simply 845	Ⓢ	24W	24
Yamaha AX-390	Ⓢ	60W	170
Yamaha AX-492	Ⓢ	85W	220

£251 to £500

Alchemist Axiom	Ⓢ	30W	289
Alchemist Maxim	Ⓢ	30W	319
AMC CVT 3030A	Ⓢ	30W	400
Arcam Alpha 8	Ⓢ	50W	350
Arcam Alpha 9	Ⓢ	70W	500
Audio Analogue Puccini	Ⓢ	40W	450
AudiInnov Alto	Ⓢ	35W	300
Audiogram MB1	Ⓢ	35W	493
Audiolab 8000LX	Ⓢ	60W	470
Audiolab 8000A	Ⓢ	60W	500
Aura VA-100 II	Ⓢ	70W	350
CR Dev CR324	Ⓢ	100W	499
Creek 4330	Ⓢ	35W	279
Creek 4340	Ⓢ	35W	279
Creek 4330R	Ⓢ	35W	355
Creek 5250	Ⓢ	50W	450
Denon PMA-725R	Ⓢ	65W	350
EMF Audio Sequel	Ⓢ	50W	450
H/K HKG40	Ⓢ	55W	400
Kenwood KA-5090R	Ⓢ	65W	300
Kenwood KA-7090R	Ⓢ	85W	400
Magnum IA120	Ⓢ	65W	265
Magnum IA170	Ⓢ	90W	330
Magnum IA170SE	Ⓢ	90W	430
Marantz PM-68	Ⓢ	90W	300
Marantz PM-66 Kt Sig.	Ⓢ	90W	400
Micromega Minium	Ⓢ	40W	350
Mission Cyrus SL	Ⓢ	50W	398

Monrio Asty	Ⓢ	60W	440
Musical Fidelity E11	Ⓢ	60W	300
Musical Fidelity A2	Ⓢ	25W	500
NAD 314	Ⓢ	35W	260
NAD 317	Ⓢ	80W	470
Onkyo A9210	Ⓢ	40W	260
Onkyo A921	Ⓢ	50W	350
Onkyo A922	Ⓢ	70W	400
Orelle SA-100	Ⓢ	50W	499
Pioneer A-400X	Ⓢ	50W	300
Pioneer A-605R	Ⓢ	80W	400
Pioneer A-300R Precision	Ⓢ	35W	400
Pro-Ject Model 7	Ⓢ	40W	300
Rega Elex	Ⓢ	50W	398
Shearne 2.5	Ⓢ	35W	489
Sony TA-FA3ES	Ⓢ	70W	400
Sony TA-F3000ES	Ⓢ	60W	500
Talk Electronics Storm 1	Ⓢ	50W	500
TEAC A-H500	Ⓢ	50W	280
Technics SU-A800D	Ⓢ	55W	400
Technics SU-A900 Mk2	Ⓢ	90W	450
Technics SU-A900D	Ⓢ	70W	500
Yamaha AX-592	Ⓢ	100W	280

£501 to £700

Alchemist Kraken Integrated	Ⓢ	55W	579
Alchemist Nemesis	Ⓢ	80W	700
Audio Analogue Puccini SE	Ⓢ	50W	595
Audio Note Kanji Line SE	Ⓢ	9W	699
Audio Note First integrated	Ⓢ	40W	699
Audiogram MB2	Ⓢ	60W	599
Audiolab 8000S	Ⓢ	60W	700
CR Dev Kalypso	Ⓢ	15W	599
CR Dev CR325	Ⓢ	175W	699
Creek 5250R	Ⓢ	50W	575
Creek 5250SER	Ⓢ	60W	665
Densen Beat B-100	Ⓢ	60W	600
DPA Renaissance int.	Ⓢ	40W	595
Exposure XX Super	Ⓢ	55W	700
Fase Evoluzione Performance 2.0	Ⓢ	40W	570
Gamma Gemini	Ⓢ	12W	699
H/K HKG60	Ⓢ	65W	700
JoLida 202	Ⓢ	40W	695
LFD Integrated 0	Ⓢ	50W	549
Linn Majik (Line)	Ⓢ	33W	650
Lynwood Opal	Ⓢ	80W	685
Magnum IA200	Ⓢ	100W	599
Magnum Class A	Ⓢ	85W	690
Mission Cyrus III	Ⓢ	50W	598
Musical Fidelity A220	Ⓢ	50W	700
Myrrad MI 120	Ⓢ	60W	530
Naim Nait 3	Ⓢ	30W	575
Orelle SA-100RX	Ⓢ	75W	649
Quad 77 Integrated	Ⓢ	100W	650
Prime Design A-100	Ⓢ	85W	700
Roxsan Caspian	Ⓢ	70W	695
Rose Scion	Ⓢ	65W	615
Shearne Phase 2	Ⓢ	50W	649
Stemfoort SF60	Ⓢ	60W	549
Talk Electronics Storm 2	Ⓢ	65W	650
TEAC A-BX7R	Ⓢ	50W	700

£701 to £1000

Alchemist Forseti Integrated	Ⓢ	100W	949
Audio Note Oto Line PP	Ⓢ	12W	950
AVI S2000MI	Ⓢ	100W	999
Copland CSA8	Ⓢ	60W	945
Credo IMP702	Ⓢ	70W	938
Credo IMP703	Ⓢ	70W	1,000
Electrocompaniet ECI-2	Ⓢ	50W	995
Exposure XV Super	Ⓢ	55W	800
Fase Evoluzione Performance 1.1	Ⓢ	70W	790
Fase Evoluzione Performance 1.0	Ⓢ	60W	790
Golden Tube Audio SI-50	Ⓢ	50W	995
H/K HK680	Ⓢ	85W	1,000
LFD 0 LE Integrated	Ⓢ	60W	799
Linn Majik (Phono)	Ⓢ	33W	800
Magnum Class A SE	Ⓢ	85W	815
Marantz PM-17	Ⓢ	60W	900
Meridian 551	Ⓢ	55W	795
Micromega Tempo 1	Ⓢ	50W	750
Micromega Tempo 2	Ⓢ	75W	950
Minstrel Ultra Linear	Ⓢ	26W	900
Naim Nait 3 R	Ⓢ	30W	760
Pioneer A-07	Ⓢ	80W	1,000
Rega Elicit	Ⓢ	70W	730
Shearne Phase 2 Reference	Ⓢ	50W	799
Sonneteer Alabaster	Ⓢ	50W	900
Stemfoort SF100	Ⓢ	100W	849
TEAC AB-X10	Ⓢ	100W	1,000
Thule IA100	Ⓢ	100W	949
Unison Simply Two	Ⓢ	12W	895

£1001 to £2000

Art Audio Integra	Ⓢ	30W	1,499
AudiInnov Classic 25	Ⓢ	25W	1,099
AudiInnov S500	Ⓢ	25W	1,199
Audio Note Soro Line PP	Ⓢ	20W	1,200
Audio Note Oto Line SE	Ⓢ	12W	1,200
Audio Note Oto Phono SE	Ⓢ	12W	1,500
Audio Note Soro Line SE	Ⓢ	18W	1,699
Beam-Echo SA-50	Ⓢ	50W	1,950
Bryston B-60	Ⓢ	75W	1,280
Bryston B-60R	Ⓢ	75W	1,468
Copland CSA14	Ⓢ	70W	1,199

Experience unrivalled realism!



"This pre/power combo gets behind the recording and hi-fi... it simply makes music!"
Alan Sircom, Hi-Fi Choice, November 1994

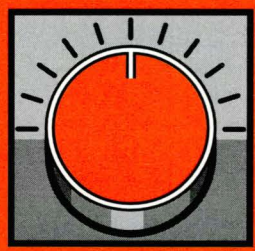
For more information or your nearest stockist, ☎ (0181) 947 5047, or e-mail 73064.1710@compuserve.com

audio research
HIGH DEFINITION

Copland CSA28	Ⓢ	1,299
Copland CTA401	Ⓢ	25W 1,699
CR Dev Romulus V3	Ⓢ	35W 1,198
CR Dev Remus V3	Ⓢ	60W 1,989
Credo LIM 702	Ⓢ	1,191
Credo LIM 703	Ⓢ	1,249
EAR 834	Ⓢ	40W 1,999
Graaf Venticinque	Ⓢ	20W 1,995
Heybrook Signature II	Ⓢ	120W 1,600
LFD Integrated 1	Ⓢ	65W 1,099
Marantz PM-16	Ⓢ	90W 1,700
Meracur Intrare	Ⓢ	60W 1,095
Minstrel Partridge	Ⓢ	26W 1,499
Monrio MC-205	Ⓢ	80W 1,545
Musical Fidelity A1000	Ⓢ	50W 1,500
Primare 301	Ⓢ	80W 1,800
Rogers E-20a	Ⓢ	20W 1,229
Rogers E-40a	Ⓢ	40W 1,900
Sonic Frontiers Anthem Integrated	Ⓢ	25W 1,295
Unison Simply Four P	Ⓢ	24W 1,555
Unison Simply Four T	Ⓢ	11W 1,595
Woodside ISA230 Line	Ⓢ	30W 1,249
Woodside ISA230 Disc	Ⓢ	30W 1,249

Over £2000

Adyton Opera	Ⓢ	50W 2,595
Audio Note Meishu Line	Ⓢ	9W 2,750
Audio Note Ongaku	Ⓢ	26W 56,000
Audio Research CA50	Ⓢ	3,990
Cary CAD-300SEI	Ⓢ	11W 3,495
EAR 859	Ⓢ	13W 2,499
Electrocompaniet ECI-1	Ⓢ	100W 2,195
Gamma Rhythm	Ⓢ	18W 2,499
Jadis DA30	Ⓢ	30W 3,490
Jadis DA60	Ⓢ	60W 5,750
Krell KAV300i	Ⓢ	150W 2,550
Meracur Onesta	Ⓢ	75W 2,595
Pioneer A-09	Ⓢ	45W 4,000
Tube Tech Unisig Sig. Int.	Ⓢ	30W 2,300
Tube Tech Synergy PPS	Ⓢ	150W 6,900
Unison Performance One	Ⓢ	25W 4,500
Unison Absolute 845	Ⓢ	40W 11,995



KEY

Ⓢ - (etc) number of line-level inputs.
Ph - phono input fitted as standard
(may be an option on some other models).

Up to £500

AMC CVT 1030A	Ⓢ	400
Art Audio Minuet	Ⓢ	499
Audio Alchemy Vac-in-the-box	Ⓢ	250
Audio Analogue Bellini	Ⓢ	475
AudiInnov L1	Ⓢ	369
AudiInnov L1	Ⓢ	369
Audio Note The M	Ⓢ	350
Beam-Echo PP-21	Ⓢ	499

Bryston BP1	Ⓢ	438
Carver CT-24	Ⓢ	499
CR Dev Themis	Ⓢ	349
Creek P43	Ⓢ	399
Creek P52	Ⓢ	499
Crimson CS610C	Ⓢ	450
EAR 834P	Ⓢ	349
EAR 834L	Ⓢ	449
Electrocompaniet ECP-1	Ⓢ	495
Fase Evoluzione Phondrive 1.0	Ⓢ	445
Henley HMC50	Ⓢ	200
Henley HMC100	Ⓢ	450
LFD Mistral Linestage	Ⓢ	449
LFD LSO Linestage	Ⓢ	499
Lumley PP70	Ⓢ	345
Lumley PP1	Ⓢ	345
Magnum MP120	Ⓢ	330
Magnum MP660	Ⓢ	500
Magnum MP330	Ⓢ	500
Moth 30 Passive	Ⓢ	149
Moth 30 RIAA	Ⓢ	249
Moth 30 Active	Ⓢ	349
Musical Fidelity X10-D	Ⓢ	120
Musical Fidelity X-LP	Ⓢ	130
Musical Fidelity X-PRE	Ⓢ	200
Musical Fidelity E20	Ⓢ	400
Musical Fidelity F2	Ⓢ	500
NAD 114	Ⓢ	270
NAD 116	Ⓢ	430
Naim Prefix	Ⓢ	350
Naim NAC92	Ⓢ	470
Rega EOS	Ⓢ	398
Roxsan Artaxerxes 10	Ⓢ	395
Rose RV-23	Ⓢ	450
Rotel RC970BX MkII	Ⓢ	175
Talk Electronics Hurricane 1	Ⓢ	500
Technics SU-C1000	Ⓢ	350
Trilogy 905	Ⓢ	375
Trilogy 904	Ⓢ	375
Trilogy 900	Ⓢ	499
Unison Simply Phono	Ⓢ	500

£501 to £2000

Adyton Chorus	Ⓢ	1,995
Alchemist Kraken Pre	Ⓢ	519
Alchemist Forseti 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 Note M1 Line	Ⓢ	550
Audio Note M1 RIAA	Ⓢ	550
Audio Note M2 Line	Ⓢ	999
Audio Note Discovery	Ⓢ	999
Audio Note M2RIA	Ⓢ	1,099
Audio Research LS7	Ⓢ	1,750
Audio Research LS3	Ⓢ	1,997
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		

Bryston 4B-ST PRO	1,756
Cary SLP-74	1,495
Cary PH-301	1,795
Chord CPA 1800	1,774
Concordant Exhilarant	900
Concordant Exquisite	1,950
Conrad-Johnson PV-10AL	995
Conrad-Johnson PV-10A	1,295
Conrad-Johnson PV-12AL	1,990
Conrad-Johnson EF-1	1,990
Conrad-Johnson PF-2	1,990
Copland CSA303	1,199
Copland CT301 MkII	1,399
CR Dev Carmenta	659
CR Dev Argento	699
Creco CMP004	1,246
Creco CMP005	1,876
Densen DM-20	1,200
DNM 3 Start	1,000
DNM 3A Start	1,650
DPA Enlightenment pre	795
DPA DSP500S	2,000
Dynavector L200	1,195
Dynavector P100	1,495
Dynavector L100	1,995
Earmax Earmax Pre	1,895
ECA Vista S	760
ECA Vista HD	880
ECA Prisma	880
Electrocompaniet EC-4.5	1,195
Electrocompaniet EC-4R	1,495
Exposure XIX	800
Fase Evoluzione Controlsources 2.0	850
Fase Evoluzione Controlsources 1.0	625
Golden Tube Audio SEP-1	1,395
Graaf WFB Two	890
Graaf WFB One	1,195
Henley HMC200	1,895
Hi Q Sound MCB2	750
Hi Q Sound MCL2	545
Jadis DPL2	645
LFD MC1 Phonostage	1,790
LFD LS1 Linestage	949
LFD MC2 Phonostage	999
LFD LS2 Linestage	1,499
LFD LSB Linestage	1,599
Linn Wakonda	1,999
Linn Linto	750
Linn Linto	850
Linn Kairn	1,400
Lumley LV1.5	895
Lumley LV1	1,150
Lumley PV1.5	1,700
Lumley PV1	1,700
Marantz AC-500	700
Marantz EC-500	900
Matisse Atom	1,000
Meracur Ingredi	925
Meridian 501	695
Meridian 562	765
Meridian 562V	995
Meridian 502	1,295
Michell Argo	730
Michi RHC-10	795
Michi RHC-10	1,150
Michi RHA-10	1,150
Micromega Tempo P	1,250
Mission Cyrus Pre	648
Monrio ADN	625
Monrio Pluri-L	960
Muse Model 3	1,990
Musical Fidelity F25	1,500
NAD 118	1,000
Naim NAC92R	630
Naim NAC72	725
Naim NAC102	1,050
Quad 77 Pre	850
Rega Hal	998
Roksan ROK-L2.5	1,250
Rose RV-23S	525
Shearne Phase 6 Pre	899
Shearne Phase 1 Pre Ref	1,399
Sonic Frontiers SFP-1	1,095
Sonic Frontiers SFP-1 Sig	1,495
Sonic Frontiers Anthem Pre 1	1,495
Sonic Frontiers Line 1	1,995
Sonographe SC26	995
Sumo Athena II Line	767
Sumo Athena IIB/II LS	987
Sumo Athena III	987
Sumo Artemis UP	1,595
Talk Electronics Hurricane 2	650
Talk Electronics Hurricane 3	900
Talk Electronics Hurricane 4	1,100
Technics SU-C2000	700
Tesserac TAADA	1,500
Tesserac TALA	1,500
Tesserac TAHA	1,800
Thorens TTP-2000F	699
Thule PR200	699
Trilogy 901	750
Trilogy 906	995

Ph	1,756
Ph	1,495
Ph	1,795
Ph	1,774
Ph	900
Ph	1,950
Ph	995
Ph	1,295
Ph	1,990
Ph	1,990
Ph	1,990
Ph	1,990
Ph	1,199
Ph	1,399
Ph	659
Ph	699
Ph	1,246
Ph	1,876
Ph	1,200
Ph	1,000
Ph	1,650
Ph	795
Ph	2,000
Ph	1,195
Ph	1,495
Ph	1,995
Ph	1,895
Ph	760
Ph	880
Ph	880
Ph	1,195
Ph	1,495
Ph	800
Ph	850
Ph	625
Ph	1,395
Ph	890
Ph	1,195
Ph	1,895
Ph	750
Ph	545
Ph	645
Ph	1,790
Ph	949
Ph	999
Ph	1,499
Ph	1,599
Ph	1,999
Ph	750
Ph	850
Ph	1,400
Ph	895
Ph	1,150
Ph	1,700
Ph	1,700
Ph	700
Ph	900
Ph	1,000
Ph	925
Ph	695
Ph	765
Ph	995
Ph	1,295
Ph	730
Ph	795
Ph	1,150
Ph	1,150
Ph	1,250
Ph	648
Ph	625
Ph	960
Ph	1,990
Ph	1,500
Ph	1,000
Ph	630
Ph	725
Ph	1,050
Ph	850
Ph	998
Ph	1,250
Ph	525
Ph	899
Ph	1,399
Ph	1,095
Ph	1,495
Ph	1,495
Ph	1,995
Ph	995
Ph	767
Ph	987
Ph	987
Ph	1,595
Ph	650
Ph	900
Ph	1,100
Ph	700
Ph	1,500
Ph	1,500
Ph	1,800
Ph	699
Ph	699
Ph	750
Ph	995

Trilogy 902	1,595
Tron Retro	1,000
Tron Nucleus Phono	2,000
Tron Nucleus	2,000
Tube Tech Seer Line	935
Tube Tech Mac Phono	1,150
Tube Tech Prophet	1,970
Unison Mystery One	1,750
Unison Phono One	1,995
Van Den Hul Pre-amp	2,000
Wilson Bonesch Stage One	995
Woodside SC27 Line	949
Woodside SC26 Line	1,557
XTC PRE-1	1,250
Yamaha CX-2	650
Over £2000	
Adyton Temper	2,495
Adyton Modus	2,695
Alchemist The Alchemist pre	4,995
ATC SCA2	2,499
Audio Note M3Line	2,650
Audio Research LS15	3,399
Audio Research LS22	4,391
Audio Research LS5 MKII	6,435
Audio Research REF 1	9,900
Boulder L3AE	2,100
Boulder L5AE	3,400
Boulder L5M	3,800
Boulder 2010	26,000
Cary SLP-94L	2,095
Cary SLP-98L	2,295
Chord CPA 2200	2,355
Chord CPA 2800	3,246
Chord CPA 3200	3,320
Chord CPA 4000	6,210
Conrad-Johnson PF-R	2,490
Conrad-Johnson PV-12A	2,590
Conrad-Johnson Premier 15	3,995
Conrad-Johnson Premier 14	3,995
Conrad-Johnson Art	14,995
CAT SL1 Sig. Mk2	6,500
CR Dev Kastor	2,995
Creco LPR 001	2,815
DNM 3C Primus	2,550
DNM 3C Twin	3,800
DNM 3C Six	5,050
EAR 802MC	2,599
EAR G88	9,999
EAR P52	15,999
Gamma Era Phono	2,499
Gamma Era Ref	2,499
Gamma Era Sig	19,999
Graaf GM13.5B	3,950
Jadis DP60L	2,800
Jadis DPL	3,190
Jadis DPMC	3,190
Jadis JPL	4,720
Jadis JPP200	4,998
Jadis JP30MC	5,978
Jadis JPS2	7,900
Jadis JP80MC	11,989
Krell KRC3	3,250
Krell KRC-HR	6,949
LFD Disc Preamp	4,499
Marantz Model 7	3,500
Mark Levinson 25S	2,950
Mark Levinson 38	3,995
Matisse Fantasy	2,500
Matisse Reference	3,500
Meracur Pretare	2,195
Naim NAC82	2,160
Naim NACS2	3,350
Roksan ROK-L1.5	2,250
Sonic Frontiers Line 2	2,995
Sonic Frontiers Line 3	4,995
Tesserac TAP-A	5,300
Trilogy 918	2,775
Unison Dream	11,995
Woodside SC26 Line & Phono	2,233


Ph	1,595
Ph	1,000
Ph	2,000
Ph	2,000
Ph	935
Ph	1,150
Ph	1,970
Ph	1,750
Ph	1,995
Ph	2,000
Ph	995
Ph	949
Ph	1,557
Ph	1,250
Ph	650
Over £2000	
Ph	2,495
Ph	2,695
Ph	4,995
Ph	2,499
Ph	2,650
Ph	3,399
Ph	4,391
Ph	6,435
Ph	9,900
Ph	2,100
Ph	3,400
Ph	3,800
Ph	26,000
Ph	2,095
Ph	2,295
Ph	2,355
Ph	3,246
Ph	3,320
Ph	6,210
Ph	2,490
Ph	2,590
Ph	3,995
Ph	3,995
Ph	14,995
Ph	6,500
Ph	2,995
Ph	2,815
Ph	2,550
Ph	3,800
Ph	5,050
Ph	2,599
Ph	9,999
Ph	15,999
Ph	2,499
Ph	2,499
Ph	19,999
Ph	3,950
Ph	2,800
Ph	3,190
Ph	3,190
Ph	4,720
Ph	4,998
Ph	5,978
Ph	7,900
Ph	11,989
Ph	3,250
Ph	6,949
Ph	4,499
Ph	3,500
Ph	2,950
Ph	3,995
Ph	2,500
Ph	3,500
Ph	2,195
Ph	2,160
Ph	3,350
Ph	2,250
Ph	2,995
Ph	4,995
Ph	5,300
Ph	2,775
Ph	11,995
Ph	2,233

Arcam Alpha 8P	50W	250
Arcam Alpha 9P	70W	400
Arcam Delta 290P	75W	400
Carver TFM-6CB	65W	399
Creek A43	50W	399
Creek A52	70W	499
Crimson CS620C	50W	450
Earmax Earmax Headphone	0.1W	375
LFD Mistral Power	60W	449
LFD PAO Powerstage	50W	499
Magnum MF120	85W	365
Marantz MA-500	125W	250
Marantz MA-700	200W	400
Mission Cyrus XPA	50W	298
Mission Cyrus Power	50W	498
Moth 30 Series Power	30W	249
Moth 30 Mono/40	40W	469
Musical Fidelity X-CANS	0.1W	130
Musical Fidelity E30	100W	500
Musical Fidelity X-A50	50W	500
Myryad MA 120	60W	450
NAD 912	30W	200
NAD 214	80 W	370
NAD 216THX	125W	470
Naim NAP90/3	30W	450
Rotel RB970BX MkII	60W	225
Rotel RB980BX	120W	450
Shearne 3.5	35W	469
Talk Electronics Tornado 1	50W	450
Technics SE-A1000	70W	400
£501 to £2000		
Alchemist Krakon pwr	55W	529
Alchemist Forseti Pwr	150W	1,309
AMC CVT 2100A	80W	600
Art Audio Quintet	15W	1,393
Art Audio Quintet SE MB	-W	1,500
Art Audio Concerto	50W	1,669
Audio Analogue Donizetti	60W	575
Audiolinn Series 800	25W	999
Audiolinn First Audio	7.5W	1,749
Audiolinn Series 1000	50W	1,799
Audio Note The P	40W	550
Audio Note P0	9W	599
Audio Note P1	12W	750
Audio Note P1SE	12W	999
Audio Note P2	20W	1,000
Audio Note P2SE	18W	1,499
Audio Note Conqueror	8W	1,599
Audio Synthesis Desire	100W	1,695
Audiolab 8000SX	60W	550
Audiolab 8000P	100W	750
Audiolab 8000PX	100W	850
Audiolab 8000M	125W	1,600
Audiolab 8000MX	125W	1,800
Aura PA-100	100W	700
Aura PA-200	110W	1,200
Aura PA-200 C	100W	1,250
AVI S2000MM	150W	1,399
Bryston 2B-LP	75W	750
Bryston 3B-ST PRO	150W	1,160
Bryston 3B-ST	150W	1,160
Bryston THX3B	150W	1,262
Bryston 7B-ST PRO	500W	1,545
Bryston 4B-ST	300W	1,756
Bryston 7B-ST	500W	1,815
Bryston THX4B	300W	1,850
Bryston THX7B	500W	1,886
Carver TFM-15CB	100W	599
Carver A-500X	250W	949
Carver A-760X	380W	1,299
Cary SLA-70 II	30W	1,495
Chord SPM 400	100W	1,325
Chord SPM 600	130W	1,720
Conrad-Johnson MV-55	50W	1,995
Copland CTA501	30W	1,750
CR Dev Amphion	12W	1,949
Creco PMP 804	1,876	
Creek A52SE	80W	599
Crimson CS630C	100W	800
Densen DM-30	100W	1,200
DNM PA Start	45W	1,000
DNM PA1 Start	45W	1,650
DPA Enlightenment pwr	100W	995
Earmax Earmax Power	25W	1,895
ECA Lectern S	50W	880
ECA Lectern HD	50W	1,480
Electrocompaniet AW60FTT	60W	1,095
Exposure XVIII Super	70W	850
Fase Evoluzione Powersource 2.0	65W	860
Fase Evoluzione Powersource 1.0	100W	1,670
Golden Tube Audio SE-40	40W	1,000
Golden Tube Audio SE-300B MkII	8W	1,490
Golden Tube Audio SE-100	100W	1,995
Graaf Venticinque P	25W	1,250
Jadis DA5	40W	1,997
Lexicon 212	120W	1,850
LFD PA1 Powerstage	60W	999
LFD PA2 Powerstage	75W	1,599
LFD PA2M Powerstage	90W	1,999
Linn LK100	50W	650
Linn LK240	120W	750
Linn AV5105	100W	1,200

Lynnum Ruby	120W	985
Magnum MF330	150W	685
Magnum MF660	125W	825
Magnum A500SE	200W	1,485
Magnum A50SE	200W	1,595
Meracur Ciere	60W	1,095
Meridian 555	60W	750
Meridian 557	200W	1,400
NAD 208THX	50W	1,150
Michi Alecto Mono	100W	1,989
Michi RHB-05	100W	1,100
Michi RHB-10	200W	2,000
Micromega Amp	100W	1,

Conrad-Johnson Premier 8A	275W	17,000
CAT J11	200W	15,500
Copland CTA505	67W	2,099
CR Dev Artemis	35W	4,995
Crede LPO 804		2,456
Crede LPO 155		2,676
Crede LPO 455		4,975
Crede LPO 155		6,983
DNM PA3	50W	2,500
DNM PA35	23W	3,750
DPA DAP500S	250W	3,000
Dynavecor HX75	75W	2,195
Dynavecor HX1.2	130W	3,995
EAR 861	32W	3,299
EAR 509 Mk II	100W	3,699
EAR 519	100W	4,699
EAR 549	200W	6,499
Electrocompaniet AW100DMB	100W	2,095
Electrocompaniet AW250DMB	250W	3,995
Electrocompaniet AW180MB	180W	4,595
Exposure IV	80W	2,199
Exposure XVI	125W	4,000
Gamma Rhythm Ref	35W	3,999
Gamma Aeon	20W	4,999
Gamma Space Ref	18W	7,999
Gamma Aeon Sig	90W	78,600
Graaf 5050	50W	2,150
Graaf GM20	60W	2,750
Graaf GM100	100W	4,490
Graaf GM200	200W	8,000
Jadis DA8	80W	3,333
Jadis DA7	100W	5,290
Jadis JA30	30W	5,980
Jadis JA300B	10W	9,000
Jadis JA80	60W	9,912
Jadis JA200	160W	15,518
Jadis JA500	400W	21,500
Krell KAV500/2	100W	3,485
Krell FPB200	200W	6,490
Krell FPB300	300W	9,500
Krell FPB600	600W	12,900
Krell KAS2	200W	20,000
Lexicon 225	250W	2,500
Lexicon 501	500W	5,000
Linn Klout	80W	2,400
Lumley ST70	70W	2,225
Lumley M125	120W	3,750
Lumley M250	250W	7,500
Magnum Class A mono	180W	2,450
Magnum A200SE	275W	3,750
Marantz Model 8	35W	3,500
Marantz Model 9	70W	4,000
Mark Levinson 331	100W	4,495
Mark Levinson 332	200W	6,495
Mark Levinson 333	300W	8,495
Mark Levinson 33H	150W	19,395
Matisse Ref Monoblocks	180W	8,000
Meracus Tentare	75W	2,245
Meracus Cantare	W	8,995
Muse Model 160 Ser. II	160W	2,290
Muse Model 150	125W	2,690
Muse Model 175 Ser. II	175W	3,490
Muse Model 300 Ser. II	300W	3,990
Musical Fidelity F16	200W	2,500
Musical Fidelity F19	300W	4,000
Papworth M100	100W	2,645
Papworth M200	200W	3,825
Roksan ROK-M1.5	160W	2,250
Shearane Phase 1 Pwr Ref	100W	2,199
Sonic Frontiers Power 1	55W	2,495
Sonic Frontiers Power 2	110W	4,995
Sonic Frontiers Power 3	220W	9,995
Sumo Model Ten/M	240W	4,200
Sunfire Sunfire	300W	2,500
Tesserae TAMP-60	60W	7,350
Trilogy 958	100W	3,395
Tube Tech Genesis Sig.	100W	4,700
Tube Tech Synergy DMA	150W	6,400
Unison Smart 845	24W	3,250
Unison Palladio	32W	11,995
Van Den Hul Power amp	60W	3,000

CABLES
ANALOGUE INTERCONNECTS




KEY
⊗ - stranded construction.
● - solid-core construction.

Prices for interconnects are for a one-metre terminated pair.

Apertura Model B	⊗	260.00
Apertura Model A	⊗	469.00
Art Yam Church 5000	⊗	515.00
Audio Note AN-A	⊗	18.00
Audio Note AN-C	⊗	35.00
Audio Note AN-S	⊗	99.00
Audio Note AN-V	⊗	179.00
Audio Note AN-Yx	⊗	450.00
Audioquest Jade	⊗	30.00
Audioquest Turquoise 2	⊗	40.00
Audioquest Topaz 2	⊗	60.00
Audioquest Ruby 2	⊗	80.00
Audioquest Quartz	⊗	120.00
Audioquest Opal	⊗	189.00
Audioquest Emerald	⊗	249.00
Audioquest Lapis	⊗	399.00
Audioquest Diamond	⊗	549.00
Cable Talk Improved 2/CD	⊗	26.00
Cable Talk Advanced 2	⊗	35.00
Cable Talk Monitor 2	⊗	50.00
Cable Talk Improved 2/T	⊗	50.00
Cable Talk Studio 2	⊗	65.00
Cable Talk Professional 2	⊗	85.00
Cable Talk Broadcast 2	⊗	100.00
Cable Talk Reference 2	⊗	150.00
Cable Talk Signature 2 Gold	⊗	300.00
Cambridge Atlantic	⊗	10.00
Cambridge Arctic	⊗	20.00
Cambridge Pacific	⊗	30.00
Cambridge Studio Reference	⊗	40.00
Cardas Audio 300B-Microtwin	⊗	115.00
Cardas Audio Quadlink-Five	⊗	200.00
Cardas Audio Cardas Cross	⊗	360.00
Cardas Audio Hexlink-Five C	⊗	530.00
Cardas Audio Hexlink Golden-5 C	⊗	600.00
Cardas Audio Golden Cross	⊗	700.00
Connections UK Ultra	⊗	28.00
Connections UK Midas	⊗	39.00
Connections UK HD	⊗	46.00
DNM-Reson TCC75	●	34.00
DPA Slink	●	41.00
DPA White Slink	●	75.00
DPA Black Slink	●	245.00
Expressive Tech IC-1	⊗	700.00
Gamma Wow Balance	⊗	799.00
Goertz Interconnect	⊗	148.00
GT Audio Intercon	⊗	130.00
Henley HSP10	⊗	20.00
Henley HSP50	⊗	35.00
Henley HSP100	⊗	65.00
Henley HSP200	⊗	95.00
Haybrook Black Flash	⊗	49.95
Ixos 104	⊗	20.00
Ixos 103	⊗	45.00
Ixos 102	⊗	60.00
Ixos 101	⊗	100.00
Ixos 100.X03	⊗	150.00
Kimber PBJ	⊗	68.00
Kimber KC1	⊗	96.00
Kimber Hero	⊗	110.00
Kimber Silver Streak	⊗	180.00
Kimber KCAG	⊗	390.00
Kimber KCTG	⊗	720.00
Kronos Konnekt 3	⊗	49.00
Kronos Konnekt 2	⊗	99.00
Kronos Konnekt 1	⊗	99.00
LAT International IC-50	⊗	37.00
LAT International IC-80	⊗	60.00
LAT International IC-100-D	⊗	89.00
LAT International IC-200 Mk II	⊗	151.00
Lieder Chanson	⊗	340.00
Lieder Lek	⊗	420.00
Lieder Het Lied	⊗	420.00
Lieder Song	⊗	580.00
Lieder Maas	⊗	620.00
Lieder Rijn	⊗	1,000.00
Lieder Waal	⊗	1,400.00
Lumley Silver 12/2	⊗	115.00
Lumley Silver 14/4	⊗	175.00
Moth Leyline Black	⊗	100.00
Moth Leyline Grey	⊗	200.00
Nordost Magic	⊗	30.00
Nordost Black Knight	⊗	55.00
Nordost Blue Angel	⊗	90.00
Nordost Blue Heaven	⊗	135.00
Nordost Red Dawn	⊗	260.00
Nordost SPM	⊗	825.00
Ortofon 7N interconnect	⊗	250.00
Precious Metals Silver Signal 35	⊗	40.00
Precious Metals Silver Signal 50	⊗	50.00
Precious Metals Silver Signal 52	⊗	70.00
Precious Metals Silver Signal 53	⊗	90.00
Precious Metals Silver Signal 100	⊗	100.00
Precious Metals Silver Signal 102	⊗	130.00
Precious Metals Silver Signal 103	⊗	160.00
Precious Metals Silver Signal 104	⊗	190.00
Precious Metals Silver Signal 200	⊗	220.00
Precious Metals Silver Signal 202	⊗	290.00

Precious Metals Silver Signal 203	⊗	360.00
Precious Metals Silver Signal 204	⊗	430.00
QED P2 Gold	⊗	20.00
QED Incon P2 Screened	⊗	23.00
QED Incon P1 Screened	⊗	26.00
Roksan ROK-Intercon	⊗	75.00
Siltech MC2-12	⊗	308.00
Siltech MC4-24S	⊗	400.00
Siltech FTM-3S	⊗	730.00
Silver Sounds SS2	⊗	99.00
Silver Sounds SS1	⊗	199.00
Silver Tone Ex-Static	●	35.00
Silver Tone Sci-Fi	⊗	95.00
SME S2LB-4	⊗	46.18
SME S3LB-4	⊗	52.06
SME 4900A	⊗	76.83
SME 5900A	⊗	102.57
Sonic Link Bonus	⊗	15.00
Sonic Link Red	⊗	25.00
Sonic Link Silver pink	⊗	35.00
Sonic Link Black	⊗	49.00
Sonic Link White	⊗	65.00
Sonic Link Brown	⊗	70.00
Sonic Link Violet	⊗	85.00
Sonic Link Blue Nickel	⊗	140.00
Sonic Link Vermillion	⊗	195.00
Sonic Link Red earth	⊗	300.00
Sonic Link Black earth	⊗	450.00
Sonic Link Blue earth	⊗	695.00
ChordCo Chrysalis	⊗	30.00
ChordCo Cobra	⊗	49.00
ChordCo Siren	⊗	65.00
ChordCo Chameleon	⊗	68.00
ChordCo Solid	●	99.00
Transparent Cable Musichord Int	⊗	48.00
Transparent Cable The Link	⊗	92.00
Transparent Cable Music Link	⊗	119.00
Trichord Pulsewire 75	●	169.00
Vampire Wire CC	⊗	24.00
Vampire Wire CCC/II	⊗	58.00
Vampire Wire SC/II	⊗	98.00
Vampire Wire SC/IV	⊗	144.00
Vampire Wire AI/2	⊗	259.00
Vampire Wire SL	⊗	412.00
Van Den Hul Storm	⊗	25.00
Van Den Hul Source HB	⊗	50.00
Van Den Hul D102 IIIHB	⊗	70.00
Van Den Hul Thunderline HB	⊗	130.00
Van Den Hul First	⊗	210.00
Van Den Hul Second	⊗	240.00
Van Den Hul MC Gold	⊗	400.00
Van Den Hul MC Silver IT	⊗	1,475.00
XLO Type 150	⊗	50.00
XLO Type 0.1	●	180.00

DIGITAL INTERCONNECTS



KEY
⊗ - stranded construction.
● - solid-core construction.

Prices for interconnects are for a one-metre terminated pair.

Apertura Model B	⊗	139.00
Apertura Model A	⊗	255.00
Art Yam Church 5000	⊗	275.00
Audioquest Digital/video 1	⊗	30.00
Audioquest Digital/video 2	⊗	60.00
Audioquest Optlink X	⊗	90.00
Audioquest Digital PRO	⊗	100.00
Audioquest Optlink Pro	⊗	149.00
Audioquest Optlink Z	⊗	179.00
Cable Talk Digital 2	⊗	75.00
Cardas Audio Lightning	⊗	190.00
DNM-Reson DIG100	●	26.00
DPA Opti-link	⊗	20.00
DPA Digi-link	⊗	28.00
Ixos 105	⊗	25.00
Kimber Opti-link	⊗	50.00
Kimber Illuminati DV-30	⊗	55.00
Kimber Illuminati D-60	⊗	215.00
Kimber Illuminati DX-50	⊗	350.00
Kimber Illuminati Orchid	⊗	750.00
LAT International DI-20-D	●	79.00
Moth Leyline Datalink	⊗	140.00
Nordost Moonglo	⊗	145.00

Precious Metals Silver Dig 35	⊗	20.00
Precious Metals Silver Dig 100	⊗	50.00
Precious Metals Silver Dig 200	⊗	110.00
Precious Metals Silver Dig 202	⊗	145.00
QED Digiflex	⊗	20.00
QED Optiflex	⊗	25.00
Roksan ROK-Intercon	⊗	45.00
Siltech HF-6	⊗	145.00
Sonic Link Blue/black	●	10.00
Sonic Link Green	●	60.00
Sonic Link Green Earth	●	150.00
ChordCo Codac	⊗	33.00
ChordCo Prodac	●	50.00
Transparent Cable PDL	⊗	199.00
Trichord Pulsewire 75D	●	75.00
Trichord Pulsewire 110D	●	145.00
Vampire Wire DI/1	●	150.00
Van Den Hul Source HB	⊗	30.00
Van Den Hul Videolink	⊗	60.00
Van Den Hul AES-EBU 110	⊗	65.00
Van Den Hul First	⊗	125.00
Van Den Hul Second	⊗	130.00

SPEAKER CABLES

KEY
⊗ - stranded construction.
● - solid-core construction.

Price per mono metre unterminated.

Apertura Silver	⊗	82.50
Art Yam Church M2000	⊗	470.00
Art Yam Church 5000	⊗	795.00
Audio Note AN-D	⊗	4.50
Audio Note AN-B	⊗	16.50
Audio Note AN-L	⊗	29.50
Audio Note AN-SP	⊗	150.00
Audio Note AN-SPx	⊗	450.00
Audioquest Type 2	⊗	3.50
Audioquest F-16	⊗	3.60
Audioquest Type 6	⊗	7.50
Audioquest Indigo 2	⊗	12.00
Audioquest Crystal	⊗	18.00
Audioquest Forest	⊗	65.00
Audioquest Argent	⊗	95.00
Audioquest Clear 3	⊗	150.00
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 The Flat One	⊗	2.00
Cable Talk Theatre 2	⊗	2.00
Cable Talk Talk 3.1	⊗	2.25
Cable Talk Overture 2.1	⊗	4.00
Cable Talk Talk 3.1 Biwire	⊗	5.00
Cable Talk Talk 4.1	⊗	5.00
Cable Talk Concert 2.1	⊗	7.00
Cable Talk Talk 4.1 Biwire	⊗	9.00
Cable Talk Symphony 3	⊗	13.00
Cable Talk Concert 2.1 Biwire	⊗	14.00
Cardas Audio 300B-Microtwin SC	⊗	35.00
Cardas Audio Quadlink-Five SC	⊗	59.00
Cardas Audio Cross SC	⊗	99.00
Cardas Audio Hexlink-Five SC	⊗	109.00
Cardas Audio Hexlink Golden5 SC	⊗	175.00
Cardas Audio Golden Cross SC	⊗	239.00
DNM-Reson LSC	●	6.95
DNM-Reson LSCB	●	11.95
DPA Black Sixteen	●	100.00
Electrocompaniet EC-K2	⊗	30.00
Gale XL189	⊗	1.00
Gale XL315	⊗	2.00
Gale XL160-2	⊗	2.50
Gamma Wonder Line	⊗	60.00
Goertz M1	●	16.00
Goertz M2	●	32.00
Goertz Big Boy	●	64.00
GT Audio Speaker	⊗	50.00
Ixos 607	⊗	2.00
Ixos 605	⊗	3.00
Ixos 606	⊗	8.00
Kimber APR	⊗	8.00

Kimber 4VS	12.00
Kimber 4TC	19.68
Kimber 8TC	40.00
Kimber 4 G	394.00
Kimber 8AG	656.00
LAT International SS 800	21.00
L T International BIWIRE	27.00
LAT International SS 1000	42.50
Lieder Pad	460.00
Lieder Bel Canto	500.00
Lieder Spoor	660.00
Lieder Straat	1,080.00
Lieder Weg	1,400.00
Linn K20	4.00
Linn K400	10.00
Linn K600	15.00
Lumley Silver 12/2	35.00
Lumley Silver 14/4	40.00
Mission Duet	1.90
Mission Quartet bi-wire	3.90
Naim NACA 5	5.50
Nordost Octava	3.00
Nordost 4-Flat	10.00
Nordost Blue Heaven	50.00
Nordost Red Dawn	100.00
Nordost SPM	325.00
Ortofon SPK100	3.00
Ortofon SPK200	5.00
Ortofon SPK300	8.00
Precious Metals Silver L'r 32	7.50
Precious Metals Silver L'r 102	10.00
Precious Metals Silver L'r 34	15.00
Precious Metals Silver L'r 104	20.00
Precious Metals Silver L'r 106	30.00
Precious Metals Silver L'r 108	40.00
Puresonic OFC 7892	1.20
Puresonic OFC 7844	1.65
Puresonic 7845	1.95
Puresonic 7891	2.85
Puresonic OFC 7816	3.75
Puresonic OFC 7832	3.75
Puresonic OFC 7812	3.75
Puresonic OFC 7834	3.75
Puresonic OFC 7825	6.95
Puresonic PSOCC 7801	9.50
Puresonic PSOCC 7802	18.00
Puresonic PSOCC 7803	27.00
QED Qudos Micro	1.25
QED Qudos Bi-Wire	4.50
QED Profile 8	6.50
QED Profile 4x4	9.00
QED Profile Silver 12	15.00
Rega REGA	2.00
Roksan ROK-Speaker	6.00
Siltech LS2-45	109.00
Siltech FT-12 MkI	240.00
Siltech LS4-120	549.00
Silver Sounds 12 Gauge	15.00
Silver Sounds 10 Gauge	35.00
Silver Sounds 8 Gauge	75.00
Silver Tone Silver-Sonic	10.00
Silver Tone Silver-Sonic MC	15.00
Silver Tone Silver-Voice	55.00
Silver Tone Silver-Voice Ultra	85.00
Sonic Link AS150	1.95
Sonic Link AS175	3.00
Sonic Link AS1200	5.95
Sonic Link AS1200x2	10.00
Sonic Link S300	18.00
Sonic Link S300x2	35.00
Sonic Link S900	50.00
Sonic Link S600x2	70.00
Sonic Link RE3.1	90.00
Sonic Link RE3.4	330.00
Tech + Link SPC 79	1.20
ChordCo Myth	5.95
ChordCo Legend	15.00
Transparent Cable Musichord Spkr	11.00
Transparent Cable The Wave	23.00
Transparent Cable Music Wave Spkr	25.00
Vampire Wire SC-384	11.00
Vampire Wire SC-554	15.00
Vampire Wire ST-I	30.00
Vampire Wire SC-1108	30.00
Vampire Wire ST-II	48.00
Vampire Wire ST-III	73.00
Van Den Hul Snowline	5.00
Van Den Hul Skytrack HB	5.50
Van Den Hul Clearwater	7.00
Van Den Hul Snowtrack	10.00
Van Den Hul CS122 HB	12.00
Van Den Hul Cleartrack	13.00
Van Den Hul D352 HB	20.00
Van Den Hul Teatrac HB	22.00
Van Den Hul SCS12	34.00
Van Den Hul Magnum HB	38.00
Van Den Hul The Wind HB	40.00
Van Den Hul Revolution HB	76.00
Van Den Hul Revelation HB	120.00
Van Den Hul Skyline HB	350.00
Van Den Hul The Third	1,000.00
XLO Pro 625	4.00

XLO Pro 600 16.60

KEY
MM - moving-magnet type.
MC - moving-coil type.
 Up to £100

Audio Note IO1	MM	99
Audio Technica AT-91	MM	13
Audio Technica AT-95E	MM	19
Audio Technica AT-110E	MM	24
Benz-Micro MC20EII	MC	70
Denon DL110	MC	70
Denon DL160	MC	90
Denon DL103	MC	100
Goldring Elan	MM	19
Goldring Elektra	MM	29
Goldring 1006	MM	59
Goldring 1012GX	MM	79
Goldring 1022GX	MM	99
Grado ZTE+1	MM	27
Grado ZCE+1	MM	37
Grado ZF3E+1	MM	48
Grado Prestige Black	MM	49
Grado Prestige Green	MM	59
Grado Prestige Blue	MM	69
Grado ZF1+	MM	83
Grado Prestige Red	MM	99
N'ham Tracer I	MM	98
Ortofon VMS2	MM	14
Ortofon OM 5E	MM	20
Ortofon OM 10	MM	30
Ortofon 510	MM	38
Ortofon OM DJ	MM	50
Ortofon 520	MM	65
Ortofon OM 20	MM	70
Ortofon MC1 Turbo	MC	70
Ortofon Concorde DJ	MM	80
Ortofon OM 30	MM	90
Ortofon MC10 Super	MC	100
Ortofon 530	MM	100
Pickering TE-15	MM	20
Pickering VE-15	MM	25
Pickering T-E	MM	25
Pickering V15-DJ	MM	28
Pickering TL-E	MM	35
Pickering TL-2E	MM	45
Pickering XV15-625E	MM	50
Pickering XV15-150-DJ	MM	50
Pickering TL-2-S	MM	55
Pickering XV15-757S	MM	60
Pickering XV15-625DJ	MM	60
Pickering XV15-1800S	MM	70
Pickering TL3S	MM	80
Pickering XEV-3001E	MM	95
Pickering XLZ-3500	MM	100
Pickering TL-4-S	MM	100
Rega Bias	MM	39
Rega RB78	MM	39
Rega Super Bias	MM	59
Rega Elys	MM	85
Shure SC35C	MM	29
Shure ME95ED	MM	38
Shure M708X	MM	38
Stanton 500AL II	MM	34
Stanton 500EL	MM	37
Stanton 680AL X	MM	56
Stanton 680EL/X	MM	70
Sumiko Oyster	MM	30
Sumiko Black Pearl	MM	50
Sumiko Pearl	MM	70
Sumiko Blue Point	MC	100

Over £100

Audio Note IO2	MM	139
Audio Note Soara	MC	795
Audio Note IO1V	MC	1,095
Audio Note IO2V	MC	1,695
Audio Note IO1Ltd	MC	4,500
Audio Technica AT-OC9	MM	245
Audio Technica ART-1	MC	944
Benz-Micro The Glider	MC	650
Benz-Micro M090	MC	700
Benz-Micro L040	MC	700
Benz-Micro H200	MC	700

Benz-Micro Reference	MC	1,100
Benz-Micro Reference Ruby	MC	1,500
Benz-Micro Ruby Open Air	MC	1,600
Clearaudio Aurum-Alpha	MM	135
Clearaudio Aurum-Beta	MM	195
Clearaudio Aurum-Beta/S	MM	265
Clearaudio Gamma-S	MM	745
Clearaudio Signature	MC	1,595
Clearaudio Accurate	MC	2,950
Clearaudio Insider	MC	5,500
Denon DL304	MC	200
Dynavector 10X4II	MC	189
Dynavector 23RS	MC	375
Dynavector 1702	MC	450
Dynavector XX-1L	MC	998
Dynavector XX-1	MC	998
Dynavector Te-Kaitora	MC	1,698
Goldring Eroica LX	MC	110
Goldring Eroica	MC	110
Goldring 1042	MC	120
Goldring Elite	MC	220
Goldring Excel VX	MC	495
Grado Prestige Silver	MM	119
Grado Signature Junior	MM	149
Grado Signature 8M2	MM	150
Grado Signature MCZ	MM	250
Grado Signature TLZ	MM	375
Grado Signature XTZ	MM	650
Koetsu Red T	MM	975
Koetsu Red K Sig	MC	1,550
Koetsu Urushi	MC	1,998
Koetsu Signature	MC	2,297
Koetsu Gold PR	MC	3,218
Linn K9	MM	5,498
Linn Klyde	MM	125
Linn Arkiv	MC	500
London Decca Maroon	MC	1,000
London Decca Gold	MM	259
London Decca Maroon Dp	MM	299
London Decca Gold Dp	MM	339
London Decca S Gold	MM	379
London Decca S Gold Dp	MM	399
London Decca Jubilee	MM	479
Lyra Lydian	MC	999
Lyra Clavis Da Capo	MC	649
N'ham Tracer II	MM	995
N'ham Tracer III	MM	310
N'ham Tracer IV	MM	410
Ortofon MC3 Turbo	MM	660
Ortofon MC15 Super II	MC	130
Ortofon 540	MC	130
Ortofon MC25E	MC	180
Ortofon MC25FL	MC	250
Ortofon MC10 Supreme	MC	300
Ortofon SPU mono	MC	350
Ortofon MC20 Supreme	MC	425
Ortofon SPU Classic	MC	450
Ortofon MC30 Supreme	MC	525
Ortofon MC2000I	MC	750
Ortofon MC Rohmann	MC	1,000
Ortofon MC3000 II	MC	1,100
Ortofon MC5000	MC	1,500
Ortofon MC7500	MC	2,000
Pickering TL-3003	MM	145
Pickering XLZ-4500	MM	150
Pickering TL-4004	MM	175
Pickering XSV-5000U	MM	200
Pickering XLZ-7500	MM	200
Pickering TLZ-7500-S	MM	200
Reson Mica	MM	185
Reson Recca	MM	250
Reson Aciore	MC	299
Reson Etile	MC	455
Reson Lexe	MC	1,300
Roksan Corus Black	MM	130
Roksan Shiraz	MC	970
Stanton 890AL/X	MM	118
Sumiko BPS	MC	250
Transfiguration Spirit	MC	1,000
Transfiguration Temper	MC	1,950
Van Den Hul MM-1	MM	250
Van Den Hul MM-2	MM	300
Van Den Hul DDT-II	MC	300
Van Den Hul MC-10	MC	700
Van Den Hul MC-ONE	MC	800
Van Den Hul MC-ONE Super	MC	1,000
Van Den Hul MC-Two	MC	1,150
Van Den Hul The Frog	MC	1,350
Van Den Hul The Frog	MC	1,700
Van Den Hul Grasshopper IISLA	MC	2,200
Van Den Hul Grasshopper IIGLN	MC	3,000
Van Den Hul Grasshopper IIIGLA	MC	3,000
Van Den Hul Grasshopper IIICMN	MC	3,000
Van Den Hul Grasshopper IIICHN	MC	3,400
Van Den Hul Grasshopper IVGLA	MC	3,450
Wilson Benesch Matrix	MC	786
Wilson Benesch Hybrid	MC	1,068
Wilson Benesch Carbon	MC	1,586
Wilson Benesch Analog	MC	1,850

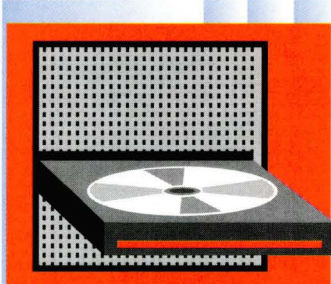
CASSETTE DECKS

KEY
 ⇌ - Autoreverse - no need to remove and turn round the tape.
3-H - 3 heads, i.e. separate record and replay heads.
 Up to £200

Aiwa AD-F450		120
Aiwa AD-WX727		170
Denon DRM-550	⇌	160
Denon DRW-580	⇌	200
Denon DRS-640	⇌	200
Goodmans Delta 801		130
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
Marantz SD-555		200
Onkyo K 185	⇌	200
Pioneer CT-S250		150
Pioneer CT-W205R	⇌	160
Pioneer CT-W505R	⇌	180
Pioneer CT-S450S	⇌	200
Sony TC-KE200		120
Sony TC-WE405	⇌	150
Sony TC-KE400S	⇌	180
Sony TC-WE505	⇌	180
TEAC W-416	⇌	100
TEAC V-610		100
TEAC W-780R	⇌	170
TEAC R-560	⇌	180
TEAC R-H500	⇌	200
Technics RS-BX501	⇌	170
Technics RS-TR373	⇌	200
Yamaha KX-380	⇌	150
Yamaha KX-W392	⇌	180
Yamaha KX-490	⇌	200

Over £200

Aiwa AD-F850		750
Aiwa AD-S950		1,000
Carver TRD-1550	⇌	629
Denon DRM-650S		230
Denon DRM-740	⇌	270
Denon DRS-810	⇌	310
H/K TD420		250
H/K TD450		350
JVC TD-V562BK	⇌	220
JVC TD-V682BK	⇌	270
JVC TD-W718BK	⇌	300
Marantz SD-57	⇌	249
NAD 613		230
NAD 614		270
NAD 616		300
Onkyo TA 6210		230
Onkyo TARW 211	⇌	270
Onkyo TARW 311	⇌	320
Onkyo TA 6310		330
Onkyo KR 609		350
Onkyo KW 606	⇌	370
Onkyo TARW 411	⇌	370
Onkyo K 611		460
Pioneer CT-S550S	⇌	250
Pioneer CT-W806DR	⇌	300
Pioneer CT-SB30S	⇌	500
Pioneer CT-95	⇌	1,000
Sony TC-KE500S	⇌	230
Sony TC-WE805S	⇌	250
Sony TC-KE600S	⇌	300
Sony TC-KA6ES	⇌	550
TEAC W-850R	⇌	250
TEAC V-1030	⇌	250
TEAC W-6000R	⇌	450
TEAC V-6030S	⇌	550
TEAC V-8030S	⇌	650
Technics RS-TR474	⇌	220
Technics RS-AZ6	⇌	230
Technics RS-TR575	⇌	280
Technics RS-AZ7	⇌	300
Yamaha KX-580SE	⇌	250
Yamaha KX-W592	⇌	280
Yamaha KX-690	⇌	400



CD PLAYERS

KEY

⇒ - multiplayer, can be loaded with more than one disc.
 1010 - electrical (coaxial) digital output.
 Many players also include an optical (Toslink) output.

Up to £250

Aiwa XC-300		150
AMC CD9		120
AMC CD8	1010	150
AMC CD6	1010	250
AMC CD7	1010	250
Cambridge CD4	1010	150
Cambridge CD4SE	1010	200
Cambridge CD6	1010	250
Denon DCD-625	1010	200
Denon DCD-715	1010	235
Denon DCD-825	1010	240
Eclipse CD30		50
Eclipse CD50		60
Eclipse CD101		80
H/K HD710	1010	200
JVC XL-V120BK		110
JVC XL-V184BK		120
JVC XL-V284BK	1010	140
JVC XL-F116BK	⇒	180
JVC XL-F216BK	⇒	180
JVC XL-Z574BK	⇒	250
Kenwood DP-1080		110
Kenwood DP-2080		130
Kenwood DP-R3090	⇒	140
Kenwood DP-R4090	⇒	160
Kenwood DP-3080		170
Kenwood DP-R6090	⇒	200
Kenwood DP-4090		230
Marantz CD-46		150
Marantz CC-38		200
Marantz CD-48	1010	200
Marantz CD-57	1010	230
Marantz CD-67II	1010	250
Marantz CC-47	⇒	250
NAD 510	1010	200
NAD 512	1010	250
Philips CD711		120
Philips CD721		130
Philips CD751	1010	150
Philips CD751	⇒	180
Pioneer PD-104		130
Pioneer PD-204		150
Pioneer PD-M603	⇒	200
Pioneer PD-S505	1010	200
Pioneer PD-F805	⇒	230
Pioneer PD-F25	⇒	230
Rotel RCD-930AX	⇒	180
Sherwood CD-4030R		180
Sony CDP-M205		110
Sony CDP-XE210		120
Sony CDP-M305		130
Sony CDP-XE310		140
Sony CDP-CE105	⇒	150
Sony CDP-XE510	⇒	180
Sony CDP-CE315	⇒	200
Sony CDP-C325M	⇒	200
TEAC CD-P1800		130
TEAC CD-P3450SE		200
TEAC PD-H500	1010	240
TEAC PD-D2200	⇒	250
Technics SL-PG380A		100
Technics SL-PG480A		130
Technics SL-PG580A		150
Technics SL-PD687	⇒	160
Technics SL-PD887	⇒	180
Technics SL-PS670D	1010	200
Technics SL-PS770D	1010	250
Yamaha CDX-390		130
Yamaha CDC-565	⇒	170
Yamaha CDX-490		170
Yamaha CDC-665	⇒	220
Yamaha CDX-590	1010	230

£251 to £500

Aiwa DX-C100M		500
Arcam Alpha 7	1010	320
Arcam Alpha MCD	1010	450
Audio Alchemy ACD II	1010	490

Audiolinn Alto	1010	399
Aura CD100	1010	400
Carver SDA-400		299
Carver MV-5	⇒	469
Denon DCM-260	⇒	300
Denon DCD-1015	1010	350
H/K HD730	1010	300
H/K FL8300	1010	300
JVC XL-Z674BK	⇒	300
Ke wood DP-R7080	1010	300
Kenwood DP-9090	1010	300
Kenwood DP-7090	1010	300
Marantz CD-67	1010	400
Marantz CD-67SE	1010	270
Marantz CC-870	1010	350
Marantz CD-63I/II	⇒	400
Micromega Minium	1010	500
Musical Fidelity E60	1010	400
Musical Fidelity A2	1010	300
NAD 513	1010	500
NAD 515	⇒	290
NAD 514	1010	350
NAD 517	⇒	370
Onkyo DX 7210	⇒	400
Onkyo C721	1010	260
Onkyo DXC 320	1010	290
Onkyo DX 7510	⇒	380
Onkyo CM 716	1010	400
Pioneer PD-S705	⇒	450
Pioneer PD-F805	1010	300
Pioneer PD-F905	1010	330
Pioneer PD-S904	⇒	400
Pioneer PD-S505 Precision	1010	460
Rotel RCD-965BK	1010	300
Rotel RCD-970BK	1010	375
Sony CDP-XE900E	⇒	300
Sony CDP-CX200	1010	380
Sony XA20 ES	1010	449
Sony CD-XA20ES	1010	450
Sony CDP-X3000ES	1010	500
TEAC CD-5	1010	350
Technics SL-MC400	⇒	350
Yamaha CDX-890	1010	350

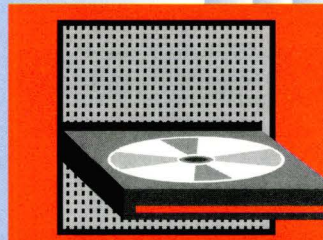
£501 to £1000

Acurus ACD11	1010	899
Alchemist Nexus	1010	597
Arcam Alpha 8	1010	520
Audiolab 8000CD	1010	1,000
AVI S2000MC2	1010	895
Creek CD42	1010	599
Denon DCD-3000	1010	1,000
DPA Renaissance int CD	1010	950
Fase Evoluzione Laserdrive 1.0	1010	995
Helios Model 3	1010	650
Helios Model 2	1010	950
Heybrook Signature II	1010	989
Linn Mimik	1010	875
Marantz CD-17	1010	800
Micromega Stage 4	1010	600
Micromega Stage 5	1010	750
Micromega Stage 6	1010	950
Mission dAD3	1010	598
Mission dAD3Q	1010	898
Monrio Privilege	1010	995
Myrrad MC100	1010	700
Naim CD3	1,000	700
Orelle CD100eA	1010	649
Orelle CD-100eSA	1010	999
Pink Triangle Numeral	1010	999
Quad 77 Bus	1010	700
Quad 77 Malins	1010	900
Roksan Caspian	1010	895
TEAC VRDS-7	1010	599
TEAC VRDS-9	1010	700
TEAC VRDS-10SE	1010	850
Technics SL-P2000	1010	1,000
Thule CD100	1010	849
Trichord Genesis	1010	549
Trichord Digital Jukebox 25	⇒	599
Trichord Digital Jukebox 50	⇒	649
Trichord Digital J'box 100	⇒	699
Trichord Revelation	1010	799

Over £1000

Alchemist Forseti	1010	1,950
Audio Alchemy ACD Pro	1010	1,395
Audio Research CD1	1010	3,290
Audio Research CD2	1010	4,100
Audiomeca Talisman	1010	2,150
Audiomeca Talisman SE	1010	2,300
AVI S2000MC	1010	1,399
Cary CD-301	1010	2,495
Copland CD277	1010	1,800
Copland CDA288	1010	2,199
Helios Model 1	1010	1,250
Helios Stargate	1010	2,250
Krell KPS30i	1010	5,490
Krell KPS-20i	1010	9,990
Marantz CD-17KI	1010	1,300
Marantz CD-23	1010	4,000
Mark Levinson 39	1010	5,995
Meracus Tanto	1010	1,395
Meracus Imago Player	1010	4,495

Meridian 506	1010	1,100
Meridian 508	1010	1,685
Meridian 800	1010	4,995
Micromega Solo	1010	2,750
Musical Fidelity FCD	1010	1,500
Myrrad MCD500	1010	1,300
Naim CD2	1010	2,000
Naim CDS		3,940
Orelle CD100eV	1010	1,149
Pink Triangle Litaural	1010	2,099
Primare 302	1010	1,800
Roksan Attesa-DP3P	1010	1,495
Sherwood CD1	1010	1,100
Sonic Frontiers SFCD-1	1010	3,495
TEAC VRDS-25	1010	1,300
XTC CDP-1	1010	1,250



CD TRANSPORTS

KEY

1010 - electrical (coaxial) digital output.
 Many players also include an optical (Toslink) output.

Arcam Delta 250	1010	800
Audio Alchemy DDS III	1010	700
Audio Alchemy DDS Pro	1010	1,550
Audio Research CDTI	1010	3,290
Audio Synthesis Transcend	1010	1,395
Audiolab 8000CDM	1010	1,400
Audiomeca Damnation	1010	999
Audiomeca Damnation SE	1010	1,100
Audiomeca Kreatura SE	1010	1,400
Audiomeca Mephisto	1010	2,350
Cambridge Dismagic One	1010	300
Conrad-Johnson DR-1	1010	1,795
DPA Enlightenment Drv	1010	725
Jadis JD3	1010	4,850
Jadis JD2	1010	4,990
Jadis JDI	1010	12,500
Krell KPS-20t	1010	8,490
Linn Karik	1010	1,850
Mark Levinson 37	1010	3,995
Mark Levinson 31.5	1010	9,295
Meracus Imago	1010	3,995
Meridian 500	1010	1,245
Micromega Drive 3	1010	750
Micromega Data	1010	2,250
Monrio Bitmatch	1010	950
Muse Model 5	1010	1,800
Orelle CD100eT1	1010	699
Orelle CD100eT2	1010	799
Pink Triangle Cardinal II	1010	875
PS Audio Lambda TR	1010	2,250
PS Audio Lambda AT&T	1010	2,778
Roksan Att:ssa-DP3	1010	1,295
Sonic Frontiers SFT-1	1010	2,295
TEAC VRDS-T1	1010	550
TEAC P-30	1010	2,500
Theta Digital Data Basic II	1010	2,397
Theta Digital Data III NTSC/PAL	1010	5,455
Thorens TCD-2000	1010	999
Trichord Digital Turntable	1010	699
Tube Tech Fulcrum	1010	1,000
Wadia 8	1010	3,195
Wadia 20	1010	4,370

DIGITAL TO ANALOGUE CONVERTERS (DACs)

AMC CDM7DAC	100
AMC DAC8	130

AMC CDM7VAC		200
Arcam Black Box 50		480
Arcam Black Box 500		750
Audio Alchemy DAC Man		150
Audio Alchemy DDE v1.2		596
Audio Alchemy DDEv3.0		699
Audio Note DAC1		675
Audio Note DAC2		1,099
Audio Note DAC3		1,750
Audio Research DAC5		2,148
Audio Research DAC5		2,335
Audio Research DAC3		4,195
Audio Research DAC3		4,555
Audio Synthesis DAX-2		2,195
Audiolab 8000DAC		900
Audiomeca Eltix		799
Audiomeca Ambrosia		1,850
Boulder 2020		25,000
Cambridge Dacmagic 2 Mk II		150
Chord DSC1100		2,575
Chord DSC1500		3,850
Conrad-Johnson D/A-3		1,195
Conrad-Johnson D/A-2b		1,990
Denon DCD-425		150
DPA Little Bit 3		325
DPA Renaissance DAC		570
DPA Enlightenment DAC		825
DPA SX128		2,000
DPA SX256		4,000
DPA SX512		8,000
Jadis JS3		2,129
Jadis JS1		8,068
LFD DAC2		1,950
LFD DAC3		3,000
Linn Numerik		1,500
Mark Levinson 36		3,995
Mark Levinson 35		7,995
Mark Levinson 30.5		15,950
Meracus Auriga		1,295
Meracus Flagrare		2,495
Meridian 566		1,095
Micromega DAC 2		750
Micromega Dialog		2,000
Monrio 18B2		795
Muse Model 2		2,190
Muse Model 2 Plus		2,500
Musical Fidelity X-ACT		200
Musical Fidelity X-DAC		300
Onkyo DX 7310		330
PS Audio DL3		777
PS Audio SL3		1,449
PS Audio UltraLink 2 HCCD		2,590
PS Audio Ref Link		4,550
Roksan Attesa-DA2		595
Sonic Frontiers SFD-1 Mk 2		2,495
Sonic Frontiers SFD-2 Mk 2		5,295
Sumo Theorem II		945
Sumo Theorem IIB		1,155
TEAC D-11		500
TEAC D-700		600
Theta Digital Chroma Std		849
Theta Digital Pro Prime		1,145
Theta Digital Pro Geny II		1,800
Theta Digital Pro Basic III		2,990
Theta Digital Gen V SE		4,300
Theta Digital Casablanca LS		5,910
Thoren TDA-2000		700
Trichord Pulsar Ser One		1,395
Tube Tech Fulcrum		1,400
Wadia 12		1,530
Wadia 15		3,790
Wadia 64.4		4,750
Wadia 16		7,395
Wadia 7		9,995
Wadia 9		12,790
Woodside DVAC-18		1,499



DIGITAL RECORDERS

KEY

MD - minidisc
 DAT - digital audio tape
 1010 - Portable

Denon DMD-1300	MD	500
Kenwood DM-7090	MD	500

SENNHEISER



THE ESSENTIAL ACCESSORY - SENNHEISER'S HD565

"Sound quality is exceptionally good... easily the best all-round model tested".

Alvin Gold, Hi-Fi Choice, September 1996.

Call (01494) 551551 for more information or your nearest stockist.

Meridian CDR		4,500
Onkyo MD 122		700
Pioneer D-05	MD DAT	900
Pioneer PDR-05		1,300
Pioneer D-C88		2,000
Sharp MD-R1E	MD	300
Sharp MD-MS200H	MD	350
Sharp MDXV300H	MD	1,000
Sony MZ-E20	MD	180
Sony MDS-JE510	MD	250
Sony MZ-E30	MD	280
Sony MDS-S38	MD	300
Sony MZ-R30	MD	300
Sony MDS-JA30ES	MD	699
TEAC MD-H500	MD	650
TEAC MD-10	MD	950

Kenwood KPM-410		25
KLH KHP-201TW		21
KLH KHP-300V		25
KLH KHP-420V		33
Maxell HP-1000		20
Maxell HP-2000		25
Maxell HP-3000		30
Pioneer SE-A40		20
Pioneer SE-A20V		23
Pioneer SE-M250		25
Pioneer SE-M350		30
Sennheiser HD56		18
Sennheiser HD433		20
Sennheiser HD435 Vegas		30
Sennheiser HD435 Manhattan		40
Sennheiser HD60TV		18
Sony MDR-W20G		18
Sony MDR-E837		18
Sony MDR-P70		18
Sony MDR-ED238		20
Sony MDR-009TV		20
Sony MDR-A34L		20
Sony MDR-E848		20
Sony MDR-P1TV		25
Sony MDR-CD270		30
Sony MDR-E868		35
Sony MDR-CD370		40
Sony MDR-D11		40
Technics RP-HT280		30
Technics RP-HT300		40
Vivanco SR250		19
Vivanco SR150		20
Vivanco SR200		25
Vivanco SR300		30



HEADPHONES

KEY

'D' - dynamic type, compatible with virtually all normal headphone sockets.

'E' - electrostatic type; generally includes a separate power supply.

☉ - open-back construction.

☼ - closed-back construction.

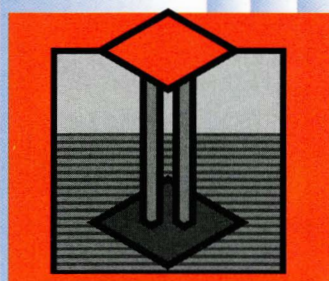
Up to £40

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 Beta		20
Beyer DT111 Gamma		25
Beyer DT211		34
JVC HA-CD88		18
JVC HA-D525		20
JVC HA-F65		20
JVC HA-D626		25
Kenwood KPM-310		18

Over £41		
AKG K301		80
AKG K2221R		100
AKG K401		120
AKG K501		150
AKG K3331R		150
AKG K4441R		180
AKG K290S		250
AKG K1000		700
Audio Technica ATH910PRO		90
Beyer DT311		57
Beyer DT411		69
Beyer DT331		82
Beyer DT431		98
Beyer IRH890		117
Beyer DT511		117
Beyer DT331		135
Beyer DT770 Pro		152
Beyer DT100		152
Beyer DT801		172
Beyer DT990 Pro		187
Beyer DT811		200
Beyer IRS890		222
Beyer DT901		222
Beyer DT911		235
Denon AH-D210		45
Denon AH-D350		65

Denon AH-D550		80
Denon AH-D650		95
Denon AH-D750		130
Denon AH-D950		150
Grado SR40		45
Grado SR60		79
Grado SR80		100
Grado SR125		150
Grado SR225		200
Grado SR325		300
Grado RS1		695
Jacklin Float Model 1		79
Jacklin Float Model 2		99
Jacklin Float ELS		399
JVC HA-D727		43
JVC HA-D910		65
JVC HA-D1000		250
JVC HA-F25		699
Precide Ergo Model 1		120
Precide Ergo Model 2		140
Sennheiser HD445		45
Sennheiser IS 380		55
Sennheiser HD455		65
Sennheiser HD465		80
Sennheiser HD475		80
Sennheiser HD25 SP		90
Sennheiser HD535		105
Sennheiser IS450		120
Sennheiser HD545 Ref		125
Sennheiser HD250II		150
Sennheiser HDC 451-1		150
Sennheiser HD565 Ovat'n		150
Sennheiser HD265 Linear		150
Sennheiser HD25-13		160
Sennheiser HD25		160
Sennheiser HD 580 Precision		200
Sennheiser HD600		250
Sennheiser Lucas		280
Sennheiser IS850		859
Sennheiser HE60/HEV70		998
Sennheiser Orpheus		9,652
Sony MDR-IF50K		50
Sony MDR-IF120K		50
Sony MDR-CD470		50
Sony MDR-E888		55
Sony MDR-IF125RK		60
Sony MDR-CD570		70
Sony MDR-IF420RK		100
Sony MDR-CD770		100
Sony MDR-D77		130
Sony MDR-NC20		150
Sony MDR-NC10		150
Sony MDR-IF520RK		150
Sony MDR-CD1700		200
Stax SR-0001		280
Stax SR-Lambda Nova C		370
Stax SR-Lambda Nova Basic		449
Stax SR-Lambda Nova S		450
Stax Omega		1,695
Stax SR-Omega Ref		1,700
Technics RP-HT400		50
Technics RP-HT600		60
Technics RP-HT700		70
Vivanco IR5700		50
Vivanco IR5000		50
Vivanco SR850		50
Vivanco SR650		50
Vivanco SR750		60
Vivanco IR6000		70
Vivanco SR909		70
Vivanco IR6500		90
Vivanco SR10001FL		110
Vivanco IR7100		120
Vivanco IR7600		140
Vivanco SR200IFL		140

Atacama BD25		60
Atacama SE16		65
Atacama SE12		65
Atacama SX500		67
Atacama F2		70
Atacama F1		70
Atacama SX600		70
Atacama SL200		70
Atacama SE24		70
Atacama SE20		70
Atacama SX700		73
Atacama SL300		73
Atacama TP600		75
Atacama TP500		75
Atacama SE615		75
Atacama SE515		75
Atacama SE415		75
Atacama SL400		76
Atacama SE1000S		80
AVF tower		40
BCD Model 1010		495
Chord CEL 01		387
Crado STD 001		284
Custom Design CD 500		35
Custom Design AS 130		35
Custom Design Tri 100		50
Custom Design RS 200		50
Custom Design R/S300		70
Custom Design Tri 300		85
Custom Design SCS 24		85
Custom Design C 20		109
Custom Design H1		275
Deadrock 903		60
Deadrock 902		60
Deadrock 901		60
Dynaudio Trophy		120
Dynaudio Master		200
Dynaudio Ultima		290
Harbeth HL-Stands		249
Heybrook Stand-ULT		55
Heybrook Stand-S6		59
Heybrook Stand-S4		59
Heybrook Stand-S1		119
JPW MS2		45
JPW MS3		55
JPW MS1		80
JPW HS1		120
JPW HS2		120
Kudos Audio Arrow		50
Kudos Audio S-50		100
Kudos Audio S-100		270
Mission Micrometer		70
Mission Entasis		98
Opera S1		345
Pioneer CP-7		50
Pioneer CP-8		80
Projekt Signature		80
Revolver RS1		70
Royd Royd		99
SD Acoustics SD Alexandra		369
Silverado Silverado 1 Stand		350
Sonus Faber Ironwood		475
Sonus Faber Stonewood		497
Sound Org Z037		55
Sound Org Z027		55
Sound Org Z026		55
Sound Org Z524		65
Sound Org Z518		65
Soundstyle X6118		100
Soundstyle X6124		100
Soundstyle X020		105
Stands Unique Speaker support		159
Stands Unique Tuned Spkr Support		220
Stands Unique Tuned Carbon Fibre		299
Stands Unique Vivas CF Spkr Supp		349
Target TR60		68
Target R1		280



EQUIPMENT SUPPORTS

Alphason NCI		47
Alphason RS1		49
Alphason NCIII		84
Alphason Titan S		125
Apollo AZ6		80
Arcici Q-1		299
Arcici Q-2		299
Atacama BD21		55
Atacama BD17		55

Equipment Supports

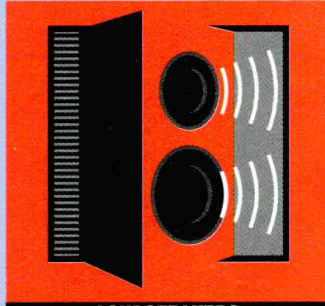
Alphason SM17		49
Alphason GSM17		75
Alphason VSM17		85
Alphason R17/17		120
Alphason GR17/17		150
Alphason VR17/17		190
Audiophile Base 01		79
Audiophile S4T120		280
Audiophile Furniture Base		480
Audiophile S4T120P		560
BCD Model 1006/8		795
BCD Model 1000		1,250
Custom Design CD-1		70
Custom Design WMB		100
Custom Design G5		160
Custom Design CD-3		200
Custom Design Aspect 650		230
Custom Design Aspect 850		250
Custom Design Aspect 500AV		270
Deadrock 701		60
Deadrock 802		90
Deadrock 703		130
Deadrock 704		190

Deadrock 705	£	230	Projekt A5	£	320
Fi-Rax R4	£	399	Projekt B4	£	340
Frameworks H175	£	130	Projekt B Multi	£	345
Frameworks FS1	£	150	Projekt B3ii	£	345
Frameworks FT2	£	285	Projekt C3	£	375
Frameworks FT3	£	350	Projekt D3	£	420
Frameworks H700	£	355	Projekt C3i	£	420
Frameworks H900	£	389	Projekt B5	£	425
Frameworks H500/H175	£	404	Projekt C3iii	£	465
Heybrook Stand-Signature	£	249	Projekt C3ii	£	465
Impulse Iso-plate	£	190	Projekt D3i	£	500
JPW 3 Tier	£	80	Projekt C4	£	500
JPW 5 Tier	£	100	Projekt C3iv	£	510
Kudos Audio Corinthian	£	600	Projekt D3ii	£	545
Linn K3000	£	85	Projekt C Multi	£	555
Mana Sound Frame	£	125	Projekt D4	£	560
Mana Mini Table	£	150	Quadraspire Q4 mini shelf	£	60
Mana Power supply table	£	150	Quadraspire Q4 shelf	£	60
Mana Reference flat top	£	150	Quadraspire Cabinet shelf	£	80
Mana Sound Shelf	£	175	Quadraspire AV shelf	£	120
Mana Sound Base	£	175	Quadraspire Q4 mini table	£	200
Mana Sound Stage	£	200	Quadraspire Q4 table	£	200
Mana Sound Table	£	235	Quadraspire AV table	£	300
Mana Ref Shelf	£	325	Quadraspire Cabinet	£	400
Mana Reference Table	£	350	Reson DOMOPS	£	195
Mana 2 Tier Amp stand	£	375	Reson DOMOWS	£	195
Mana 3 Tier Amp Stand	£	450	Sound Org Z022	£	65
Mana 4 Tier Amp Stand	£	500	Sound Org Z021	£	78
Mana 5 Tier Amp Stand	£	600	Sound Org Z030	£	100
Mana 6 Tier Amp Stand	£	700	Sound Org Z060	£	120
Mission Hark	£	298	Sound Org Z038	£	135
Optimum G2	£	55	Sound Org Z540	£	140
Optimum G2/Pedestal	£	85	Sound Org Z545	£	140
Optimum G4/Pedestal	£	130	Sound Org Z560	£	160
Optimum OPT 3406	£	149	Sound Org Z530	£	170
Optimum G5/Pedestal	£	150	Soundstyle X300	£	180
Optimum OPT 4906	£	199	Soundstyle X305	£	210
Optimum OPT 6606	£	199	Soundstyle X053	£	210
Optimum OPT 340	£	249	Soundstyle X050	£	210
Optimum OPT 490	£	299	Soundstyle X6300	£	215
Optimum OPT 440	£	299	Soundstyle X100	£	220
Optimum OPT 10206	£	299	Soundstyle X058	£	240
Optimum AV 300	£	299	Soundstyle X310	£	250
Optimum OPT 660	£	349	Soundstyle X105	£	250
Optimum OPT 610	£	399	Soundstyle X6053	£	255
Optimum OPT 1020	£	399	Soundstyle X6100	£	265
Optimum OPT 700	£	450	Soundstyle X6310	£	275
Optimum OPT 1190	£	450	Soundstyle X6058	£	290
Projekt A3	£	145	Soundstyle X6105	£	300
Projekt A4	£	190	Soundstyle Finewoods W105	£	320
Projekt B3	£	255	Stands Unique Isolation Platform	£	52
Projekt A6	£	280	Stands Unique Sound Support	£	249
Projekt B3i	£	300	Stands Unique Sound Tower	£	289

Stands Unique Compact Sound Supp	£	315	Tangent Monitor 5	£	80
Stands Unique Sound Support 10	£	315	Tangent Monitor 7	£	100
Stands Unique Sound Twr Cabinet	£	369	Tannoy Mercury M1	£	120
Stands Unique Ref Wall Support	£	550	TDL Nucleus 1	£	60
Stands Unique Ultimate Tower	£	689	TDL NFM 1	£	120
Stands Unique Ultimate Tower	£	689	TEAC LS-X8 Mk II	£	80
Stands Unique Ref Floor Support	£	799	Technics SB-CS55	£	80
System Tripod Z053	£	135	Technics SB-CS75	£	100
System Tripod Z050	£	135	Visionik 5202	£	129
System Tripod Z058	£	155	W'dale Valdis 100	£	80
Target B5	£	175	W'dale Diamond 7.1	£	100
Townshend Seismic Sink 1-CD	£	110	W'dale Valdis 200	£	110
Townshend Seismic Sink 1-3D	£	400	W'dale Modus Micro	£	110
Townshend S/Sink Stand 1-4	£	999			
Townshend Seismic Sink 3-4	£	1,250			
Wilson Benesch Asside	£	720			
Wilson Benesch Triptych	£	990			

£131 to £200

Acoustic Energy AE100	£	200	JBL TLX121	£	150
Allison Model 4A	£	170	JPW ML510	£	140
B&W DM302	£	150	JPW ML610	£	170
B&W CWM5	£	170	JPW SS551	£	200
B&W DM601	£	199	KEF Coda 8	£	189
Bose 101	£	199	KEF Q15	£	199
Bose 141	£	200	KEF Model 60S	£	199
Boston CR6	£	149	Kenwood LS-200G	£	200
Boston 325	£	149	KLH Model 21	£	155
Boston Micro 80 Sat	£	169	KLH Model 11	£	155
Boston Runabout	£	169	KLH Model 31	£	185
Boston 335	£	179	Mission 731i Pro	£	140
Boston 351	£	189	Mission 732i	£	200
Boston CR7	£	199	Mordaunt-Short MS10i	£	140
Boston Runabout II	£	200	Mordaunt-Short VS-200	£	150
Celestion 15i	£	199	Mordaunt-Short MS20i Pearl	£	200
Carwin-Vega CT-165	£	200	Mordaunt-Short VS-300	£	200
Denon SC-E313	£	160	Mordaunt-Short MS20i	£	170
Gale 2iB	£	140	Pioneer CS-5030	£	170
Gale 4i	£	140	Polk M2	£	180
Gale 3s	£	150	Polk RT3	£	200
Genexa GX650	£	140	Polk AB610	£	200
GLL Arena SW	£	139	QLN Qubic111	£	200
GLL Imagio IC100	£	170	Rega Kyte	£	198
Heybrook Prima	£	139	Revolver Colt	£	139
Infinity SM65	£	150	Revolver The 230	£	169
Infinity Reference 1i	£	150	Revolver Purdey MkII	£	199
Infinity Reference 11i	£	200	R Allen Minette 3	£	159
Interaudio XL2000	£	200	R Allen Dim'n 5/1 Compact	£	179
Jamo 38	£	150	R Allen RA6	£	199
Jamo 525	£	150	Rogers GS1	£	179
Jamo 560	£	170	Sequence 200	£	199
Jamo 660	£	170	Solid Monitor	£	200
Jamo Cornet 65	£	170	Sony SS-126EB	£	150
Jamo Studio 180	£	180	Sony SS-176E	£	200
Jamo D165	£	200	Tangent Monitor 9	£	150
Jamo 68	£	200	Tangent Monitor 11	£	180
JBL TLX121	£	150	Tannoy Mercury M2	£	140
JPW ML510	£	140	Tannoy Profile 631	£	149
JPW ML610	£	170	Tannoy Profile 631SE	£	169
JPW SS551	£	200	Tannoy Profile Plus 632	£	199
KEF Coda 8	£	189	TDL RTL 1	£	200
KEF Q15	£	199	Technics SB-CS95	£	150
KEF Model 60S	£	199	Technics SB-M20	£	200
Kenwood LS-200G	£	200	Visionik 6003	£	143
KLH Model 21	£	155	Visionik 5001	£	170
KLH Model 11	£	155	W'dale Diamond 7.2	£	140
KLH Model 31	£	185	W'dale Valdis 300	£	150
Mission 731i Pro	£	140	W'dale Modus Music Two	£	200
Mission 732i	£	200	W'dale Valdis 400	£	200
Mordaunt-Short MS10i	£	140	W'dale Diamond 7.3	£	200
Mordaunt-Short VS-200	£	150			
Mordaunt-Short MS20i Pearl	£	200			
Mordaunt-Short VS-300	£	200			
Mordaunt-Short MS20i	£	170			
Pioneer CS-5030	£	170			
Polk M2	£	180			
Polk RT3	£	200			
Polk AB610	£	200			
QLN Qubic111	£	200			
Rega Kyte	£	198			
Revolver Colt	£	139			
Revolver The 230	£	169			
Revolver Purdey MkII	£	199			
R Allen Minette 3	£	159			
R Allen Dim'n 5/1 Compact	£	179			
R Allen RA6	£	199			
Rogers GS1	£	179			
Sequence 200	£	199			
Solid Monitor	£	200			
Sony SS-126EB	£	150			
Sony SS-176E	£	200			
Tangent Monitor 9	£	150			
Tangent Monitor 11	£	180			
Tannoy Mercury M2	£	140			
Tannoy Profile 631	£	149			
Tannoy Profile 631SE	£	169			
Tannoy Profile Plus 632	£	199			
TDL RTL 1	£	200			
Technics SB-CS95	£	150			
Technics SB-M20	£	200			
Visionik 6003	£	143			
Visionik 5001	£	170			
W'dale Diamond 7.2	£	140			
W'dale Valdis 300	£	150			
W'dale Modus Music Two	£	200			
W'dale Valdis 400	£	200			
W'dale Diamond 7.3	£	200			



LOUDSPEAKERS

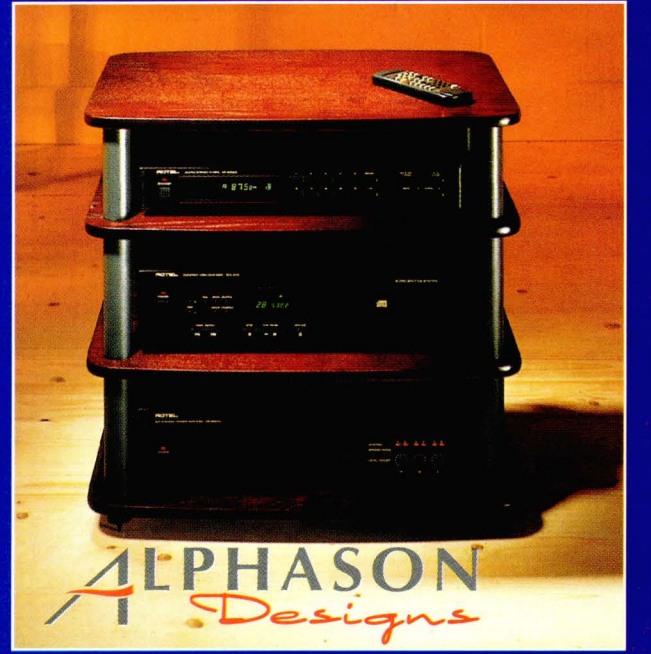
KEY

- ⌵ - floorstander; larger models requiring no separate stand.
- ⌵ - stand mount; smaller models designed to be raised above the floor.
- ⌵ - wall mount; designed to be hung on the wall or mounted in-wall.
- ⊠ - box type, including infinite baffle, reflex and transmission line types.
- ⊠ - horn type; mostly large and very efficient.
- ⊠ - panel type, including electrostatic and planar magnetic types.

Up to £130

Allison Micro Monitors	£	95	JPW Mini Monitor	£	60
Allison Mini References	£	120	JPW Gold Monitor	£	80
Celestion 12i	£	119	JPW IW51	£	80
Denon SC-M2	£	80	JPW ML210	£	80
Gale Mini Monitors	£	70	JPW ML310	£	90
Genexa GX300	£	80	JPW ML410	£	100
Genexa GX330	£	80	JPW IW61	£	100
GLL Arena HF	£	99	JPW IW81	£	130
Goodmans Active 75	£	65	JVC SX-SC1VBK	£	60
Interaudio XL1000	£	130	JVC SP-V50	£	80
Jamo Studio-80	£	70	JVC SP-X220TBK	£	100
Jamo SAT-90	£	90	JVC SP-X550BK	£	130
Jamo Cornet 25	£	100	KEF Coda 7	£	129
Jamo D-110	£	100	Kenwood LS-90UK	£	130
Jamo SAT-170	£	110	Mission 731i	£	130
Jamo Studio-110	£	110	Mordaunt-Short VS-100	£	100
Jamo Cornet 35	£	120	Mordaunt-Short MS05i	£	100
Jamo Artina	£	120	NAD 801	£	100
Jamo D-115	£	120	Pioneer CS-3030	£	120
Jamo 28	£	125	Polk AB410	£	100
JBL TLX111	£	120	Realistic Minimus 26	£	56
JPW Mini Monitor	£	60	Realistic Minimus Pro-77	£	100
JPW Gold Monitor	£	80	Revolver Beretta	£	100
JPW IW51	£	80	R Allen Minette 2	£	129
JPW ML210	£	80	Solid HCM2	£	130
JPW ML310	£	90	Sony SS-86E	£	100
JPW ML410	£	100	Tangent Monitor 3	£	60
JPW IW61	£	100			
JPW IW81	£	130			
JVC SX-SC1VBK	£	60			
JVC SP-V50	£	80			
JVC SP-X220TBK	£	100			
JVC SP-X550BK	£	130			
KEF Coda 7	£	129			
Kenwood LS-90UK	£	130			
Mission 731i	£	130			
Mordaunt-Short VS-100	£	100			
Mordaunt-Short MS05i	£	100			
NAD 801	£	100			
Pioneer CS-3030	£	120			
Polk AB410	£	100			
Realistic Minimus 26	£	56			
Realistic Minimus Pro-77	£	100			
Revolver Beretta	£	100			
R Allen Minette 2	£	129			
Solid HCM2	£	130			
Sony SS-86E	£	100			
Tangent Monitor 3	£	60			

“Enhancing the Sound-Supporting the Vision”



ALPHASON
Designs

“VR17/17 base module rigidly coupled to VSM12 shelf module with Alphason Designs’ unique tension rod structure”

For more information or your nearest stockist, ☎ 01942 678000

ZYP A1		£201 to £300		199	
Audio Gem Opal	230	Pioneer S-LC1	300		
B&W CWM6i	280	Polk AB505	220		
B&W DM602	300	Polk M3 II	220		
Bose 151	270	Polk RT5	250		
Bose 161	275	Polk RT7	300		
Bose 201	290	Polk M5	300		
Boston 361	219	Promenade SP1	299		
Boston CR8	239	QLN Qubic 122	270		
Boston 381	259	Rega EL8	298		
Boston CR9	279	Revolver The 250	250		
Boston Voyager	299	R Allen Dimension Five 1	239		
Castle Isis	230	R Allen RA8	249		
Celestion 23i	299	R Allen RA8M	249		
Cerwin-Vega VS-8	250	R Allen Dimension Five 2	269		
Cerwin-Vega CT-330	300	Rogers db101	250		
Chario Syntar 100	250	Rogers GS3	279		
Dali 102B	260	Royd The Envoy	249		
Dali 150	300	Royd Minstrel	269		
Faraday FS1	245	Sequence 300	249		
Gale 5B	220	Solid HCM1	250		
GLL Imagio IC110	300	Sony SS-176EB	250		
Heybrook Optima	259	Tannoy Mercury M3	230		
Heybrook Heylette	269	Tannoy Profile Plus 633	299		
Heybrook HB1	269	TDL RTL 2	280		
Infinity SM85	250	Visonik 7003	203		
Interaudio XL3000	230	Visonik SUB5	259		
Interaudio XL4000	295	W'dale Modus Music Four	230		
Jamo 892	220	W'dale MFM1	250		
Jamo Classic 4	250	W'dale Valdus 500	300		
Jamo Art	270	Yamaha NS10M	300		
Jamo Deco Art	280	ZYP A1T	219		
Jamo D265	300	ZYP A2S	275		
Jamo 307A	300	ZYP A2ST	295		
JBL LX2	250	£301 to £500			
JBL TLX151	300	Acoustic Energy AE109	350		
JPW ML710	230	Acoustic Energy AE120	500		
JPW ML810	260	Allison Model 2A	420		
JPW ML910	300	AudioInnov Alto	329		
JVC SX-SW10	300	B&O Beovox CX50	325		
KEF Coda 9	300	B&O Beovox CX100	425		
KEF Model 70S	299	B&W CWM8i	350		
KLH 83A	205	B&W DM305	350		
KLH 183A	265	B&W DS6	400		
KLH Soundbites System	275	B&W CDM2	400		
KLH Model 81	280	B&W DM603	500		
KLH Model 41	290	B&W Signature 7	500		
M-A Monitor 1	250	Bandor Pictures	352		
M-A Monitor 2	300	Blue Room Mini Pod	400		
Mordaunt-Short MS30i	275	Bose 301	380		
Mordaunt-Short MS10i Classic	280	Bose 171	386		
Mordaunt-Short MS25i	300	Bose A'mass AM3 II	500		
Mus Tec Kestrel SE	300	Boston Micro 90 Sat	369		
NAD 802	280	Boston Micro 80 Sys	369		
NHT SuperZero	238	Boston VR20	380		
Pioneer CS-7030	230	Castle Tay	329		
Pioneer CS-9030	280	Castle Eden	449		
		Celestion 25i	399		
		Celestion 30i	449		
		Celestion 35i	300		
		Cerwin-Vega VS-10	220		
		Clements 300si	220		
		Dali 104B	250		
		Dali Royal	300		
		Def Tech Celsius	300		
		Epos ES12	299		
		Faraday SG	270		
		Faraday Siren	270		
		GLL Imagio IC120	298		
		Heybrook Heylios	250		
		Heybrook Heylo	239		
		Infinity SM105	249		
		Infinity SM115	249		
		Infinity SM125	269		
		Jamo Classic 6	250		
		Jamo Cornet 75	279		
		Jamo BX-100A	249		
		Jamo 98	269		
		Jamo 407A	249		
		Jamo D365	249		
		Jamo Cornet 95	250		
		Jamo Classic 8	250		
		Jamo Graphic	250		
		Jamo 128	300		
		Jamo BX-150A	280		
		Jamo Atmosphere	203		
		Jamo 477A	259		
		JBL LX6	230		
		JBL TLX161	250		
		JBL PS8	300		
		JBL TLX171	219		
		Jordan Watts JHFLG	275		
		JPW SS553	295		
		JPW ML1010	380		
		JPW Ruby 1	400		
		JPW Ruby 2	400		
		KEF Q35	400		
		KEF Q55	349		
		KEF RDM One	499		
		Keswick Aria II	499		
		KLH 283A	379		
		KLH 383A	310		
		KLH Model 51	335		
		KLH Model 71	375		
		KLH Model 62T	420		
		Linn Sekrit	486		
		Mission 733i	395		
		Mission 751f	330		
		Mission 734i	348		
		M-A Monitor 3	400		
		M-A Monitor 4	499		
		Mordaunt-Short MS40i	400		
		Mus Tec Harrier	400		
		NAD 804	500		
		Neat Critique	400		
		NHT SuperOne	385		
		NHT Model 1.5	358		
		Opera Duetto	450		
		Origin Live OL-1AS	350		
		Origin Live Monarch	395		
		Pentachord A	370		
		Pioneer S-LC2	500		
		Polk AB705	395		
		Polk RT8	499		
		Polk RT10	345		
		Polk AB805	445		
		Prof Monitor Co TB1S	420		
		Prof Monitor Co TB1SM	389		
		Prof Monitor Co TB1	439		
		Prof Monitor Co TB1M	350		
		Prof Monitor Co XB1	400		
		Promenade SP2	500		
		Promenade SP3	330		
		QLN Qubic 222	330		
		Rega ELA	350		
		Revolver The 260	350		
		R Allen Dimension Five 3	350		
		R Allen Dimension Five 4	400		
		Rogers GS5	400		
		Rogers GS6	400		
		Rogers GS8	400		
		Rogers C6/20	450		
		Royd The Squire	450		
		Royd Minstrel SE	480		
		Royd Doublet	500		
		Ruark Icon	350		
		Sequence 400	400		
		Solid Verticale	400		
		Spondor S2	500		
		Spondor 2020	380		
		Spondor S1	400		
		Tannoy Profile Plus 635	400		
		TDL RTL 3	400		
		Technics SB-M300	500		
		Technics SB-M500	349		
		Totem Mite	499		
		Triangle Titus TZe	499		
		Visonik TB1S	379		
		W'dale Modus Music Six	310		
		W'dale MFM3	335		
		W'dale Modus Music Eight	375		
		W'dale MFM5	420		
		W'dale Modus Music 1/6	486		
		£501 to £800			
		Acoustic Energy AE1-II	795		
		Allison Model 3A	525		
		Audio Gem Emerald	540		
		Audio Note AN-K/D	620		
		Audio Note AN-J/B	799		
		B&O Beolab 2500	750		
		B&W CDM1	600		
		B&W P4	675		
		Bose 501	700		
		Bose SE-5 Ser II System	760		
		Bose A'mass AM5 II	800		
		Boston VR30	600		
		Boston Micro 90 Sys	669		
		Castle Severn	539		
		Castle Avon	699		
		Celestion 45i	599		
		Cerwin-Vega VS-12	550		
		Cerwin-Vega VS-15	700		
		Chario Syntar 100T	550		
		Clements 600si	595		
		Dali 107	600		
		Dali 350	600		
		Dali 450	700		
		Dali 109	800		
		Def Tech BP6B	750		
		Diapason Micra II	695		
		Epos ES14	675		
		Faraday FS10	795		
		GLL Imagio IC130	530		
		Harbeth BBC LS3/5A	699		
		Harbeth HL-P3ES	799		
		Heybrook Ultima	649		
		Heybrook Quartet	649		
		Infinity SM155	550		
		Jamo BX-200A	530		
		Jamo Classic 10	600		
		Jamo 507A	700		
		JBL LX7	550		
		JBL TLX181	700		
		JBL L20	600		
		JBL PS12	750		
		Jordan Watts JH200	510		
		Jordan Watts JH400	565		
		JPW Ruby 3	800		
		KEF LS3/5a	649		
		KEF RDM Two	699		
		KEF Q65	799		
		Keswick Volante	729		
		KLH Model 82Ta	690		
		Linn Tukan Passive	550		
		Linn Keilidh Passive	750		
		Manticore Minaret	690		
		Meridian A500	750		
		M&K S-85	700		
		Mission 752f	578		

You must listen to...Mission's 731i.

mission

"A combatant truly worthy of the budget speaker challenge".

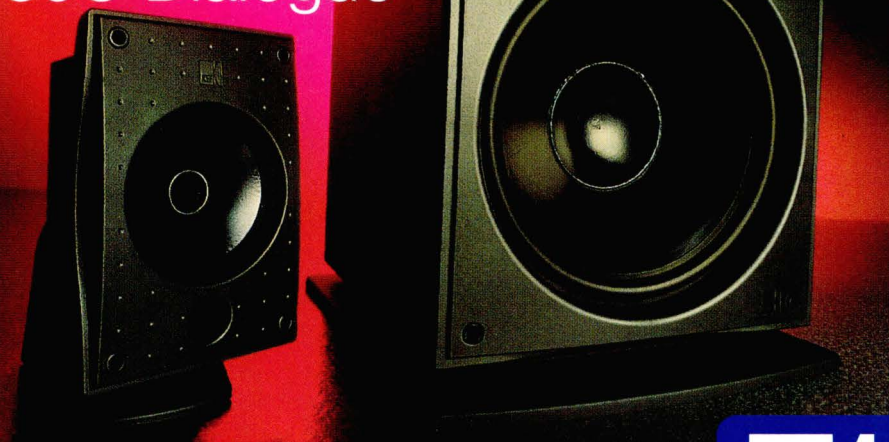
Alan Sircom, Hi-Fi Choice, July/August 1996.
Call (01480 451777) for more information or your nearest stockist.

395
399
399
469
450
330
400
500
500
366
403
410
447
499
399
499
330
350
349
429
379
429
479
499
350
399
450
359
329
400
399
399
499
449
400
350
495
450
379
366
330
350
430
450
500

795
525
540
620
799
750
600
675
700
760
800
600
669
539
699
599
550
700
550
595
600
600
700
800
750
695
675
795
530
699
799
649
649
550
530
600
700
550
600
750
510
565
800
649
699
799
729
690
550
750
690
750
700
578

AWARD WINNERS!

30B Subwoofer
60S Effects
80C Dialogue



BRITISH HI-FI AWARDS AV Speaker Above £750, 1996
EISA AWARDS European Home Theatre Loudspeaker of the Year '96-'97
To discover how you can enjoy the "experience of sound"
☎ (01622) 672261 ✉ FREEPOST ME15 6BR © <http://www.kef.com>



Mission 735i	£	650	Acoustic Energy AE2-II	£	1,095	JBL L90	£	1,500
Mission 735f	£	798	Acoustic Solutions Eight	£	1,200	Jordan Watts JH1+1	£	995
M-A Studio 2SE	£	600	Ambience Mod. 4.0	£	1,185	JPW Ruby 4	£	1,000
M-A 700 PMC	£	600	Apertura Prima	£	920	KEF Q75	£	999
M-A 702PMC	£	700	Apertura Agora	£	1,095	KEF Ref. Model One	£	1,199
M-A 703PMC	£	800	Apertura Nova	£	1,295	Kelly KT3	£	1,200
Mordaunt-Short MS50i	£	550	ATC SCM10	£	999	Keswick Torino	£	999
Mus Tec Falcon	£	575	Audio Note AN-I/D	£	930	Keswick Figaro Evolution	£	1,099
Naim Intro	£	660	Audio Note AN-K/SPx	£	1,060	Keswick Milano	£	1,199
Neat Mystique	£	575	Audio Note AN-E/B	£	1,299	Keswick Legato	£	1,199
Neat Petite II	£	745	Audio Note AN-I/SPx	£	1,415	Keswick Amber	£	1,499
Opera Seconda	£	595	Audio Physic Step	£	1,299	Linn Tukan Aktiv	£	1,050
Opera Operetta II	£	770	Audiovector 2X	£	850	Linn Keilidh Aktiv	£	1,250
Opera Platea	£	795	Audiovector 3X	£	1,500	L Voice Auditorium	£	1,300
Origin Live Resolution	£	732	AVI Positron	£	899	Lowther Accolade 2	£	1,199
Origin Live Victory	£	750	B&O Beolab 4000	£	1,100	Lumley L/M3.5	£	1,050
Pentachord B	£	519	B&W P5	£	875	Magneplanar SMG-C SE	£	990
Pentachord Pentode	£	729	B&W DM604	£	1,000	Magneplanar MG-0.6 SE	£	1,370
Polk RT12	£	600	B&W P6	£	1,095	Meridian Argent 1	£	995
Polk RT16	£	799	B&W Matrix 805 V	£	1,095	M&K S-125	£	1,150
Polk LS50	£	800	Bandor Trident	£	846	Mission 754f	£	1,298
Proac Tablette 50	£	599	Bandor Mora	£	1,260	M-A Studio 12	£	1,000
Proac Studio 100	£	699	Bandor Bandora	£	1,340	M-A 705PMC	£	1,400
Promenade SP4	£	650	Bose A'mass AM7	£	900	Mordaunt-Short Perf 820	£	1,495
QLN Classic One	£	800	Bose 701	£	1,000	Mus Tec Condor	£	845
Quad 10L	£	600	Boston VR40	£	1,000	Mus Tec Hawk	£	1,250
Rogers GS9	£	579	Castle Harlech	£	849	Mus Tec Eagle	£	1,500
Rogers LS3/5A	£	699	Castle Howard S2	£	1,199	Naim Credo	£	1,060
Rogers C6/25	£	799	Celestion A1	£	899	NHT VT-1.2	£	999
Roksan ROKone 1	£	595	Celestion A2	£	1,499	Opera Callas II	£	950
Roksan Ojan 3	£	795	Cerwin-Vega AL-1000	£	1,100	Opera Terza	£	999
Royd The Sorcerer	£	595	Cerwin-Vega 1515	£	1,300	Opera Callas Gold	£	1,050
Royd Abbot	£	665	Chario Academy 1	£	1,300	Opera Divina II	£	1,500
Ruark Templar II	£	599	Clements Reference 1	£	995	Origin Live Sovereign	£	975
Ruark Sceptre	£	599	Dali 850	£	1,100	Pink Triangle Vertical	£	999
Ruark Talisman II	£	749	Def Tech BP8B	£	1,000	Polk LS70	£	1,200
Ruark Prologue One	£	799	Def Tech BP10B	£	1,500	Polk RT20p	£	1,500
SD Acoustics SD3R	£	649	Diapason Prelude II	£	875	Proac Tablette 50 SIG	£	899
Silverado Raider	£	695	Dynaudio Contour 1.1	£	879	Proac Response 1 SC	£	1,199
Sonus Faber Concertino	£	599	Dynaudio Contour 1.3	£	1,198	Proac Studio 150	£	1,399
Spendor 2030	£	599	Electrocompaniet EC-Qube	£	1,195	Prof Monitor Co LB1	£	935
Spendor LS3/5A	£	630	Electrocompaniet EC-Qube SE	£	1,495	Prof Monitor Co AB1	£	1,496
Spendor SP3/1P	£	795	Epos ES22	£	1,185	QLN Signature	£	1,000
Tannoy Profile Plus 637	£	549	Gamma Epoch	£	1,499	QLN Reference HDII	£	1,200
Tannoy Profile Plus 638	£	649	Harbeth HL-K6	£	1,049	QLN Prestige	£	1,500
Tannoy Definition D100	£	689	Harbeth HL-Compact 7	£	1,499	QLN Sig. Splitfield	£	1,500
TDL T-Line 2	£	550	Harbeth BBC LS5/12A	£	1,499	Rega XEL	£	1,040
TDL T-Line 3	£	750	Heybrook Sextet	£	1,299	RMS Revelation S 1	£	1,299
Totem Rokk	£	695	Impulse Kora	£	1,250	Rogers C6/28	£	1,399
Triangle Comete TZe	£	525	Jamo 7071	£	900	Roksan Ojan 3X	£	995
Triangle Lunn	£	550	Jamo Concert 8	£	1,300	Royd The Albion	£	1,270
Triangle Zephyr	£	799	JBL L40	£	1,000	Ruark Broadwords II	£	899
W'dale MFM7	£	650	JBL PS15	£	1,000	Ruark Paladin	£	1,099
			JBL L80	£	1,250	Shahinian Super Elf	£	875

Shahinian Compass	£	1,395
Sonus Faber Minuetto	£	898
Sonus Faber Concerto	£	1,098
Spendor 2040	£	899
Spendor SP2/3E	£	1,050
Spendor SP1/2E	£	1,390
Tannoy Definition D300	£	999
TDL Studio 1M	£	899
Technics SB-M1000	£	1,500
Totem Model One	£	1,195
Triangle Antal	£	1,099
Vandersteen 2Ce	£	1,395
Visonik LB1	£	935

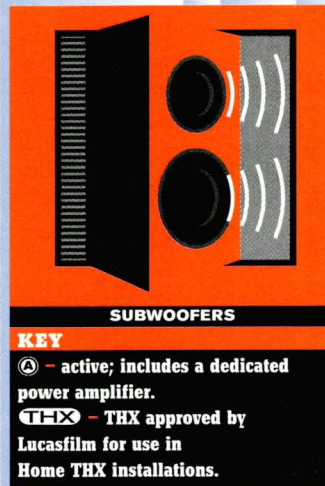
£1501 to £3000

Acoustic Energy AE1 Sig	£	1,695
Acoustic Energy AE2 Sig	£	2,695
Ambience Mod 3.2	£	1,780
Apertura Tanagra	£	1,895
Apertura Tanagra Sig.	£	2,295
ATC SCM20	£	1,599
ATC SCM20 Tower	£	2,099
Audio Note AN-E/D	£	1,520
Audio Note AN-E/SPx	£	2,250
Audio Physic Spark 2	£	1,749
Audio Physic Tempo	£	1,999
Audiovector 5	£	2,500
Avalon Monitor	£	2,995
B&O Beolab 6000	£	1,550
B&O Beolab 8000	£	2,100
B&O Beolab Penta 3	£	2,650
B&W Matrix 804	£	1,695
B&W Matrix 803s2	£	2,495
B&W Matrix 802s3	£	2,995
Bose 901 VI	£	1,650
Boston Lynfield 300L	£	2,000
Bravura Virtuoso	£	2,995
Carver AL-111P	£	1,999
Cary SP-301	£	2,295
Celestion A3	£	2,399
Celestion Kingston	£	2,500
Chord LS5/12A	£	1,595
Chord CEL 201	£	2,130
Chord CEL 202	£	2,375
Chord CEL 301	£	2,840
Clements Reference 7	£	1,995
Credo SPB 003	£	1,820
Credo SPB 009	£	2,453
Dali Grand Coupe	£	2,500
Def Tech BP2002	£	2,400
Diapason Adamantes II	£	1,895
Dynaudio Contour 1.8	£	1,842
Dynaudio Crafft	£	2,598
ECA Servo A.2	£	2,450
ELS Res'ch Vision	£	2,800
Epos ES25	£	1,655
Gamma Epoch Ref Five	£	2,999
Hales Revelation Three	£	2,200
Dynaudio Crafft	£	2,598
ECA Servo A.2	£	2,450
ELS Res'ch Vision	£	2,800
Epos ES25	£	1,655
Gamma Epoch Ref Five	£	2,999
Hales Revelation Three	£	2,200
Hales Concept Two	£	2,250
Harbeth HL-S8	£	1,999
Helius Syrius II	£	2,395
Helius Syrius I	£	2,850
Hi Q Sound SM108	£	2,000
Horning Aristophane	£	2,600
Impulse Lali	£	1,850
Jamo Concert 11	£	2,000
JBL L100	£	1,750
Jordan Watts JH2K	£	2,820
KEF Ref. Model Two	£	1,599
KEF Ref. Model Three	£	1,999
Linn Kaber Passive	£	2,000
Linn Kaber Aktiv	£	2,640
Lowther Fidelio	£	1,999
Lowther Academy	£	2,399
Lowther Bel Canto	£	2,699
Lumley L/M2 Mk3	£	2,995
Magneplanar MG-10 SE	£	1,650
Magneplanar MG-1.5 SE	£	1,780
Magneplanar MG-2.7 SE	£	2,650
Manticore Matisse	£	1,890
Martin-Logan Aerius i	£	2,299
Meridian M60	£	2,150
M-A Studio 20SE	£	2,200
Mordaunt-Short Perf 860	£	1,895
Mordaunt-Short Perf 880	£	2,795
Naim SBL Active	£	1,830
Naim SBL Passive	£	1,970
Neolith NEO 1	£	2,999
NHT VT-2	£	1,600
Opera Caruso II	£	2,350
Origin Live Conqueror	£	1,650
Paragon Jubilee	£	1,995
Pentachord P'column	£	1,649
Polk LS90	£	1,700
Posselt Albatross	£	2,500
Proac Response 2S	£	2,000
Proac Studio 250	£	2,249
Proac Response 2.5	£	2,700
Prof Monitor Co IB1S	£	2,099
QLN Reference	£	2,000
QLN Reference HDII	£	2,500
Rehdeko RK115	£	1,700
Rogers LS5/9	£	1,549

£801 to £1500

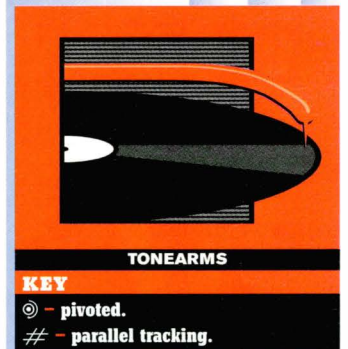
Ruark Crusader II	↕	□	1,599	Fase Evoluzione Aria	□	□	3,100
Ruark Equinox	↕	□	1,849	Genesis 400	↕	□	4,000
Ruark Accolade	↕	□	2,699	Genesis V	↕	□	15,000
SD Acoustics SD5	↕	□	1,549	Genesis 300	↕	□	27,500
SD Acoustics SD1E	↕	□	2,995	Hales Concept Three	↕	□	4,350
Shahinian Arc	↕	□	1,875	Hales Concept Five	↕	□	6,350
Shahinian Obelisk	↕	□	2,695	Horning Agathon	↕	□	3,555
Silverado Silverado 1	↕	□	1,995	Impulse Ta'us	↕	▷	3,100
Sonus Faber Minima Amator	↕	□	1,566	Infinity Sigma	↕	□	5,995
Sound-Lab Quantum	↕	□	2,150	Infinity Epsilon	↕	□	9,995
Spendor SP7/1	↕	□	1,990	Jamo Oriol	↕	□	7,000
Spendor SP100	↕	□	2,099	JBL S2600	↕	□	3,500
Tannoy Definition D500	↕	□	1,999	JBL S3100	↕	□	4,000
Tannoy Stirling TW	↕	□	2,200	Jordan Watts JH5K	↕	□	3,950
Tannoy Definition D700	↕	□	2,500	Jordan Watts JH10K	↕	□	7,570
TDL Studio Monitor-m	↕	□	2,449	KEF Ref. Model Four	↕	□	3,299
Totem Mann-2	↕	□	2,795	Keswick Zero 2	↕	□	7,000
Triangle Zays	↕	□	1,750	Linn Keltik Aktiv	↕	□	6,000
Triangle Altinis	↕	□	2,250	L Voice Air Scout	↕	▷	19,500
Triangle Extran	↕	□	2,950	L Voice Air Partner S	↕	▷	37,200
Over £3000				Lowther Delphic	↕	▷	3,099
Acoustic Energy AE5	↕	□	7,995	Lowther Opus One	↕	▷	4,999
Ambience Mod 5.0	↕	□	9,550	Lumley L/M 2 Sig. MK3	↕	□	4,500
Apertura Athena	↕	□	4,395	Magneplanar MG-3.5SE	↕	□	3,800
Apertura Atlanta	↕	□	6,995	Magneplanar MG-20 SE P	↕	□	10,300
ATC SCM20A	↕	□	3,049	Magneplanar MG-20 SE A	↕	□	11,000
ATC SCM50	↕	□	3,750	Martin-Logan SL3	↕	□	3,499
ATC SCM100	↕	□	4,499	Martin-Logan CLS Ilz	↕	□	4,555
ATC SCM50A	↕	□	5,250	Martin-Logan Re-Quest	↕	□	8,875
ATC SCM100A	↕	□	5,999	Martin-Logan Monolith S	↕	□	7,440
ATC SCM200A	↕	□	12,999	Martin-Logan Monolith S	↕	□	8,550
ATC SCM300A	↕	□	14,999	Martin-Logan Monolith IIIXP	↕	□	11,900
Audio Note AN-JSE Silver	↕	□	7,900	Meridian DSP5000	↕	□	3,295
Audio Note AN-ESE Silver	↕	□	9,600	Meridian DSP5500	↕	□	5,950
Audio Physic Virgo 2	↕	□	3,399	Meridian DSP6000	↕	□	9,400
Audio Physic Avanti 2	↕	□	6,699	M-A Studio 50	↕	□	4,000
Audio Physic Caldera	↕	□	10,599	M-A Studio 60	↕	□	6,000
Audio Physic Medea	↕	□	24,999	Naim DBL Active	↕	□	7,414
Audiovector 6	↕	□	4,600	Neolith NEO 2	↕	□	3,499
Avalon Avatar	↕	□	4,495	Neolith NEO 3	↕	□	4,999
Avalon Arcus	↕	□	6,000	NHT Model 3.3	↕	□	3,500
Avalon Eclipse	↕	□	6,495	Paragon Regent	↕	□	3,490
Avalon Radian	↕	□	10,995	Proac Response 3.5	↕	□	4,250
Avalon Osiris	↕	□	72,000	Proac Response 4	↕	□	12,000
B&W Matrix 801s3	↕	□	3,995	Prof Monitor Co MB1P	↕	□	4,370
B&W Silver Signature	↕	□	5,500	Prof Monitor Co BB5/P	↕	□	6,270
B&W Nautilus	↕	□	35,000	QLN Artec 1600	↕	□	4,500
Bandor Bandoline	↕	□	3,290	Quad ESL63	↕	▷	3,450
Bandor Bandora/Mora	↕	□	3,290	Rehdeko RK125	↕	□	3,200
Boston Lynfield 500L	↕	□	4,449	Rehdeko RK145	↕	□	4,800
Bravura Virtuoso Silver	↕	▷	3,195	Rehdeko RK175	↕	□	8,800
Bravura Virtuoso Gold	↕	▷	3,395	Revel Gem	↕	□	5,295
Bravura Accelerando	↕	▷	6,600	Rockport Syzygy	↕	▷	15,000
Chario Academy 3 Junior	↕	□	6,000	Rockport Procyon	↕	□	32,500
Chario Academy 3	↕	□	9,000	Shahinian Hawk	↕	□	4,995
Credo SPB 012	↕	□	3,147	Shahinian Diapason	↕	□	8,895
Credo SDL 001	↕	□	5,677	Shun Mook Bella Voce	↕	□	5,500
Dali Grand	↕	□	4,000	Sonus Faber Electa Amator	↕	□	3,293
Def Tech BP2000	↕	□	3,600	Sonus Faber Extrema	↕	□	6,500
Dynaudio Contour 2.8	↕	□	3,198	Sound-Lab Dynastat	↕	□	3,790
Dynaudio Contour 3.3	↕	□	4,815	Sound-Lab Aura	↕	□	6,490
Dynaudio Confidence 3	↕	□	4,846	Sound-Lab Pristine III+	↕	□	7,990
Dynaudio Confidence 5	↕	□	5,924	Sound-Lab A-3	↕	□	11,990
Dynaudio Consequence	↕	□	14,566	Sound-Lab Ultimate II	↕	□	13,950
ELS Res'ch Vista	↕	□	3,900	Sound-Lab A-1	↕	□	13,990
ELS Res'ch Illusion MkII	↕	□	9,000	Sound-Lab Ultimate III	↕	□	18,950

Sound-Lab Ultimate I	↕	□	23,950
Spendor SP9/1	↕	□	3,450
Tannoy Edinburgh TW	↕	□	3,250
Tannoy Definition D900	↕	□	3,999
Tannoy GRF Memory TW	↕	□	4,000
Tannoy Westminster TW	↕	▷	6,600
Tannoy Canterbury 15 TW	↕	▷	7,720
Tannoy Westminster Royal	↕	▷	14,920
TDL Ref Standard-m	↕	□	4,999
Triangle Nemo Altair	↕	□	4,250
Wilson Audio Cub	↕	□	5,495
Wilson Audio WATT 5	↕	□	8,750
Wilson Audio WITT	↕	□	8,888
Wilson Benesch Actor	↕	□	3,800
Wilson Benesch ACT1 spkr	↕	□	6,400

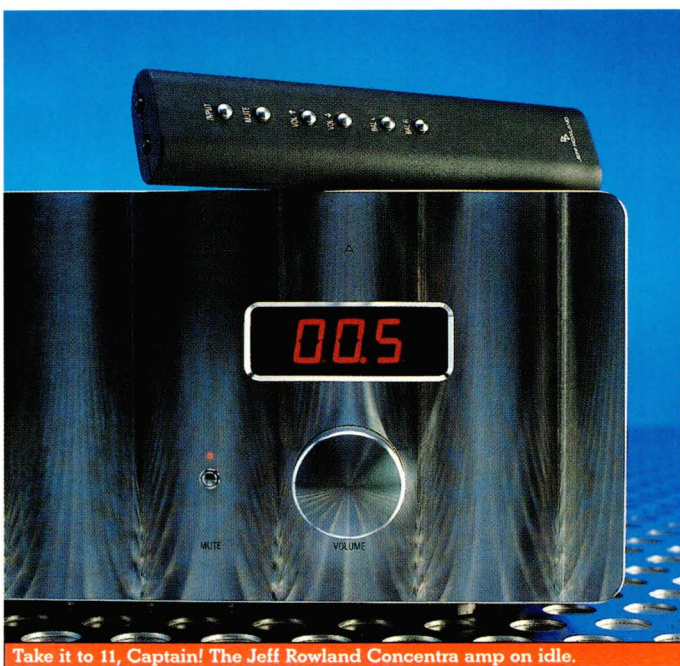


Aiwa TS-W9	ⓐ	170
Allison Mini Ref Sub	ⓐ	210
AMC B1-20	ⓐ	350
ATC SCM 0.1/15	ⓐ	2,750
Audio Physic Terra	ⓐ	3,499
B&W AS6	ⓐ	500
B&W Matrix 800ASW	ⓐ	1,500
B&W Matrix 800ASW	ⓐ	1,500
Boston CR400	ⓐ	300
Boston VR500	ⓐ	450
Boston VR2000	ⓐ	800
Celestion CS135	ⓐ	139
Celestion CSW MkII	ⓐ	329
Celestion S11	ⓐ	349
Cerwin-Vega HT-10D	ⓐ	200
Cerwin-Vega HT-12D	ⓐ	250
Credo SDC 001	ⓐ	3,054
GLL LE Bass	ⓐ	350
Hales Concept Zero	ⓐ	2,950
H/K Citation 7.4	ⓐ	875
Infinity SSW-10	ⓐ	500
Jamo 860SW	ⓐ	110
Jamo SW303E	ⓐ	220
Jamo SW400E	ⓐ	330
Jamo SW505E	ⓐ	400
Jamo Sub One	ⓐ	400
Jamo SW600e	ⓐ	530
JBL CM6	ⓐ	200
JBL PSW800	ⓐ	275
JBL Sub 10	ⓐ	300
JBL PSW1000	ⓐ	325
JBL PSW1200	ⓐ	375
JPW Subwoofer	ⓐ	130
JPW SW60	ⓐ	350
JPW SW-120	ⓐ	500
KEF Model 20B	ⓐ	349
KEF Model 30B	ⓐ	499
KEF Model AV1	ⓐ	2,499
Kenwood SW500	ⓐ	250
Keswick Alto	ⓐ	1,299
KLH ASW10-100	ⓐ	350
KLH ASW12-120	ⓐ	380
Linn AV5150	ⓐ	2,850
L Voice RW24	ⓐ	11,500
Meridian Sub 1	ⓐ	1,500
Meridian M2500	ⓐ	1,595
M&K VX-7MkII	ⓐ	450
M&K V-75 MkII	ⓐ	650
M&K V-125	ⓐ	800
M&K V-125 (THX)	ⓐ	800
M&K MX-70	ⓐ	900
M&K MX-150 (THX)	ⓐ	1,500
M&K MX-200	ⓐ	1,800
M&K MX-300	ⓐ	2,500
M&K MX-5000 (THX)	ⓐ	2,900
Mission 73AS	ⓐ	450
Mission 75AS	ⓐ	548
Mordaunt-Short T2000	ⓐ	500
Mus Tec Sub	ⓐ	650
Muse Model 22	ⓐ	1,890

Muse Model 18	ⓐ	3,790
Neat Gravitas	ⓐ	1,095
NHT SW2PI	ⓐ	609
Polk PSW50	ⓐ	350
Polk PSW150	ⓐ	500
Polk PSW300	ⓐ	750
REL Q50	ⓐ	375
REL Q-100E	ⓐ	495
REL Strata II	ⓐ	575
REL Storm	ⓐ	695
REL Stadium II	ⓐ	995
REL Stentor II	ⓐ	1,795
REL Studio II	ⓐ	3,995
Revel Sub-15	ⓐ	2,195
Reveler The Recoil	ⓐ	100
R Allen Gold Sub	ⓐ	149
R Allen Dim'n Active	ⓐ	499
R Allen Magnum Active	ⓐ	699
Rogers AB1	ⓐ	549
Rogers Sub-bass	ⓐ	679
Roksan Ojan 3S	ⓐ	795
Sequence FW120	ⓐ	249
Solid PB100	ⓐ	350
Sony SA-W101	ⓐ	230
Sunfire True Sub	ⓐ	1,600
Tannoy 625ALFie	ⓐ	600
TDL Nucleus SBR	ⓐ	200
Triangle SATHI	ⓐ	650
Velodyne VA-68XII	ⓐ	399
Velodyne VA-79XII	ⓐ	499
Velodyne VA-810XII	ⓐ	599
Velodyne VA-1012XII	ⓐ	700
Velodyne VA-1215XII	ⓐ	999
Velodyne FSR-12	ⓐ	1,099
Velodyne FSR-15	ⓐ	1,299
Velodyne F-1800II	ⓐ	1,999
Wdale Modus Sub Bass	ⓐ	180
Wdale Modus Powered Sub	ⓐ	350
Wilson Audio Puppy 5.1	ⓐ	8,450
Wilson Audio Whow III	ⓐ	12,500
Yamaha YST-SW40	ⓐ	140
Yamaha YST-SW80	ⓐ	180
Yamaha YST-SW150	ⓐ	280
Yamaha YST-SW300	ⓐ	350



Air Tangent IC	#	3,333
Air Tangent 10B	#	7,777
Air Tangent Ref. Sig.	#	11,000
Audio Note AN-ARM 1	ⓐ	169
Audio Note AN-0s	ⓐ	795
Audio Note AN-1s	ⓐ	995
Audiomeca SL5	#	2,500
Clearaudio TQ-1 Improved	ⓐ	1,950
Dynavector 507	ⓐ	1,995
Graham 1.5 Basic	ⓐ	1,695
Graham Mk 2.0	ⓐ	2,650
Helius Orion 4 Copper	ⓐ	549
Helius Cyalene 2	ⓐ	1,495
Kuzma Stogi	ⓐ	750
Kuzma Stogi Reference	ⓐ	1,250
Linn Akito	ⓐ	500
Linn Ekos	ⓐ	1,500
Manticore Musician II	ⓐ	595
Manticore Musician II	ⓐ	895
Manticore Musician 12	ⓐ	995
Moth Mk I	ⓐ	109
Moth MkIII Stainless	ⓐ	146
Moth Mk III Tungsten	ⓐ	174
Moth Moth 900	ⓐ	598
Naim ARO	ⓐ	1,040
N'ham Space	ⓐ	450
N'ham Paragon 3	#	550
N'ham Paragon 2	#	800
N'ham Mentor	ⓐ	800
N'ham Foot	ⓐ	1,100
N'ham Paragon 1	#	1,600
Rega RB250	ⓐ	109
Rega RB300	ⓐ	174
Rega RB900	ⓐ	598
Rockport Series 7000	#	6,000
Roksan Tabriz	ⓐ	320
Roksan Tabriz Zi	ⓐ	420
Roksan Artemiz	ⓐ	895



Take it to 11, Captain! The Jeff Rowland Concentra amp on idle.



Acoustic Precision Eikos CD player — £1,800 worth of digital dreadnought.

SME 3009 Ser II Imp	⊙	309
SME 3009 S2 Ser II Imp	⊙	338
SME Series II 3009-R	⊙	514
SME Series II 3010-R	⊙	526
SME Series II 3012-R	⊙	565
SME 309	⊙	668
SME 310	⊙	705
SME 312	⊙	802
SME Series IV	⊙	983
SME Series V	⊙	1,461
Wheaton Music Tri-Planar 4i	⊙	3,000
Wheaton Music Tri-Planar 5i	⊙	3,250
Wilson Benesch ACT1 Std	⊙	950
Wilson Benesch ACT2	⊙	1,350
Zeta AS	⊙	469
Zeta VDH	⊙	549

Denon TU-425RD	P40	RDS	200
H/K TU930	P30		150
H/K TU950	P30	RDS	200
Kenwood KT-2080	P20	RDS	130
Kenwood KT-3080	P30	RDS	180
Linn Kudos	P50		775
Linn Kremlin	P80		2,600
Magnum Dynalab FT11			550
Magnum Dynalab FT-101A			825
Magnum Dynalab Etude			1,250
Magnum Dynalab 108			4,500
Marantz ST-57	P59	RDS	150
Marantz ST-65	P59	RDS	200
Marantz ST-17	P60	RDS	600
Meridian 504	P30		695
Meridian 604	P30		1,350
Michi RHT-10	P16		895
Micromega Minium FM Mk2	P39		329
Micromega Tuner	P39		750
Mission Cyrus FM7	P29		400
Musical Fidelity E50	P20		300
NAD 412	P24		190
NAD 414RDS	P30	RDS	250
NAD 710	P24		270
NAD 712	P24		330
Naim NAT03			595
Naim NAT02			1,080
Naim NAT01			1,730
Onkyo T 4210RDS	P30	RDS	180
Onkyo T 409	P30		230
Onkyo T 411RDS	P30	RDS	260
Pioneer F-204RDS	P30	RDS	140
Pioneer F-304RDS	P40	RDS	190
Pioneer F-504RDS	P40	RDS	250
Quad 77FM	P25	RDS	700
Rega Radio	P24	RDS	229
Roksan Caspian	P50		495
Rotel RT-935AX	P20		160
Rotel RT-990BX	P16		500
Sony ST-SE200	P30		100
Sony ST-SE300	P30	RDS	120
Sony ST-SE500	P30	RDS	140
Sony ST-SE700	P30	RDS	180
Sony ST-SA3ES	P30	RDS	250
TEAC T-R400	P20		120
TEAC T-H500	P30	RDS	170
TEAC TB-X10	P20	RDS	400
Technics ST-GT350L	P30		150
Technics ST-GT550L	P39	RDS	200
Technics ST-GT650L	P39	RDS	250
Thorens TRT-2000	P59	RDS	499
Yamaha TX-480L	P40		100
Yamaha TX-492RDS	P40	RDS	130
Yamaha TX-590RDS	P40	RDS	180

TURNTABLES

KEY

⊙ arm included.

☐ cartridge included.

Up to £500

Audio Note AN-TT 1			349
Dual CS435-1	⊙	☐	150
Dual CS455	⊙	☐	190
Dual 505-4 UK	⊙	☐	250
Eclipse TT430	⊙	☐	70
Genexxa Lab-710	⊙	☐	60
Genexxa Lab-810	⊙	☐	70
Kenwood KD-492F	⊙	☐	100
Michell Mycro	⊙	☐	435
Moth Alamo	⊙	☐	199
Moth Kanoot Mk1 Arm	⊙	☐	279
Moth Kanoot Mk3 Arm	⊙	☐	329
NAD 533	⊙	☐	220
N'h'am Interspace	⊙	☐	500
Pioneer PL-J2500-C	⊙	☐	80
Pioneer PL-990	⊙	☐	130
Pro-Ject 0.5/OM10	⊙	☐	160
Pro-Ject 1/510	⊙	☐	200
Pro-Ject 2/520	⊙	☐	300
Pro-Ject 6/MC15	⊙	☐	450
Rega Planar 78	⊙	☐	214
Rega Planar 2	⊙	☐	214
Rega Planar 3	⊙	☐	274
Roksan Radius	⊙	☐	470
Sherwood PM8550	⊙	☐	130
Sony PS-LX150H	⊙	☐	90
Sony PS-LX300H	⊙	☐	150
Systemdek I/920	⊙	☐	136
Systemdek IIX/900	⊙	☐	230
Systemdek I/920/Moth	⊙	☐	235
Systemdek IIXE/900Ap	⊙	☐	388
Systemdek 960	⊙	☐	500
Systemdek 2X2	⊙	☐	500
Technics SL-J110D	⊙	☐	120
Technics SL-BD20	⊙	☐	160
Technics SL-BD22	⊙	☐	180

TUNERS

KEY

'P20' — (etc.) number of presets.

RDS — Radio Data System; receives text information on station, programme type etc.

AMC T7	P30		130
Arcam Alpha 7	P24		230
Arcam Alpha 8	P24		280
Arcam Delta 280	P20		399
Audiolab 8000T	P39		800
Aura TU80	P30		350
AVI S2000MT	P16		599
AVI S2000MT2	P60	RDS	799
Carver TX-8R	P20		469
Creek T43	P68		399
Day Sequerra FM Ref			5,937
Day Sequerra S B'dcast Mon			14,640
Denon TU-260L	P20		120
Denon TU-215RD	P40	RDS	150

Technics SL-1210MKII	⊙		400
Technics SL-1200MKII	⊙		400
Thorens TD-180 AT91	⊙	☐	190
Thorens TD-280 IV/UK	⊙	☐	210
Thorens TD-166 VI/UK/RB	⊙	☐	400
Thorens TD-318 III TP50	⊙	☐	500
Over £500			
Audio Note AN-TT 2			995
Audio Note AN-TT 3			1,995
Audiomeca Romance	⊙		1,895
Audiomeca J1			3,500
Basis 2001			2,750
Basis Ovation II			4,800
Basis Debut Gold Std III			7,200
Basis Debut Gold Vacuum			9,250
Chantry QT Level 2	⊙		705
Clearaudio Evolution	⊙	☐	1,790
Clearaudio Reference			4,500
DNM-Reson Rota 1	⊙	☐	3,900
DNM-Reson Rota 2	⊙	☐	5,600
Impulse Mosquito	⊙		695
Kuzma Stabi			1,950
Kuzma Stabi Reference			3,750
Linn LP12 Basik			1,100
Linn LP12 Lingo			1,750
Manticore Mantra 97			595
Manticore Mantra			895
Manticore Magister			4,400
Marantz TT-1000			6,000
Michell Gyrodek			825
Michell Orbe			1,950
N'h'am Spacedeck			750
N'h'am Graphic			1,200
N'h'am HyperSpacedeck			1,500
N'h'am Mentor			2,600
N'h'am Anna Log			5,500
Oracle Paris			1,100
Oracle Delphi			3,370
Oracle Delphi 15th Anniv			3,800
Pink Triangle Tarantella			579
Pink Triangle Anniversary			2,500
Pro-Ject 6/Sumiko	⊙	☐	850
Rega Planar 9	⊙	☐	1,598
Reson RS1M	⊙	☐	600
Reson Rota 1	⊙	☐	3,900
Rockport Capella II			7,000
Rockport Sirius III	⊙		50,000
Roksan Xerxes 10			1,295
Roksan TMS			2,750
SME Model 20/2			3,403
SME Model 20/2A	⊙		4,836
SME Model 30/2			10,675
SME Model 30/2A	⊙		12,135
Stratosphere ST1	⊙		6,500
Technics SL-1200LTD	⊙		700
Thorens TD-146 VI TP50	⊙		550
Thorens TD-2001 TP90	⊙		700
Thorens TD-520 SME			1,050
Well Tempered Record Player	⊙	☐	1,850
Well Tempered Classic	⊙		2,980
Well Tempered Super	⊙		3,900
Well Tempered Reference	⊙		5,300
Wilson Benesch WB Turntable			1,775

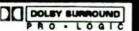
Remember that all entries printed in RED refer to hi-fi products that we have reviewed. Turn to page 128 for a full summary of test results!



A C A D E M Y

for the midlands

AWARD winning PRODUCTS...



BEST BUY...CD. Arcam Alpha...**AMPLIFIER.** Marantz PM-66 KI Signature...**RECORDER.** Sony MDS -JE510 Minidisc...**TUNER** Sony ST-SE500...**HOME CINEMA SOURCE.** Panasonic NV -H0625B...**AV STARTER PACKAGE.** JBL Simply Cinema ESC200...**AMPLIFIER.** Yamaha DSP -A592...**PROCESSOR** Yamaha DSP - E492...**LOUDSPEAKERS.** REL Q100E Subwoofer...**SPEAKER PACKAGES.** Mission AV21...**SPEAKER CABLE.** Cable Talk 3.1...

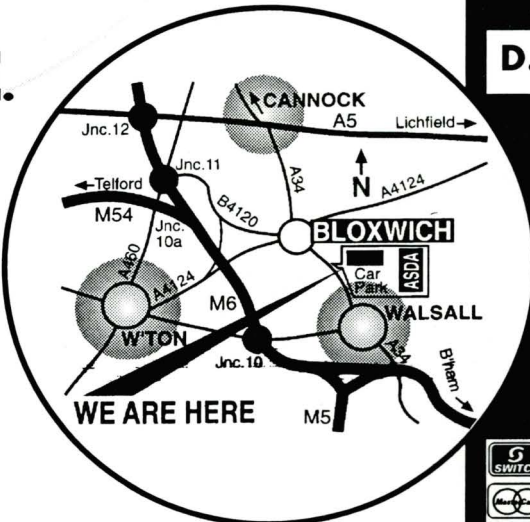
AWARD winning SERVICE...



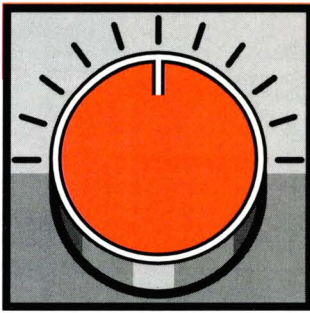
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED...CD Sony CDP - XE310 • Marantz CD - 48 • Marantz CD - 63 MkII K1-s • Audiolab 8000CD...**AMPLIFIER.** Rotel RA - 931 Sony TA - F248E • Talk Electrics Hurricane 4L/Wirlwind/Tornado 4s...**LOUDSPEAKERS** .Tannoy Mercury M2 • Tannoy Mercury M3 • KEF Q35 • EPOS E530...**RECORDER.** Yamaha KX - 580SE cassette • Pioneer CT-W806DA twin cassette...**TUNER.** Yamaha TX-480L • Arcam Alpha 7 • Audiolab 8000T...**ONE MAKE SYSTEM.** Marantz CD - 48/PM-57/Tannoy Mercury M2 Linn Mimik/Majik/Tukan...**AV SOURCE.** Pioneer CLD - D925.AV STARTER PACKAGES. JBL Simply Cinema ESC -300...**AV AMPLIFIER.** Arcam AV50...**AV PROCESSOR.** Meridian 565 7.1...**AV LOUDSPEAKERS.** KEF 80C • Yamaha NS - E105 • B&W DS6 • M&K V - 125THX...**AV SPEAKER PACKAGES.** KEF Q-Series Package • Definitive Technology Package...**AV SPEAKER CABLE.** IXOS Gamma 6003 • Nordost Flatline Gold • Audioquest Indigo +...**AV INTERCONNECTS.** Chord Company Chrysalis • Cable Talk Monitor 2.1 • Audioquest Topaz II... **AV ACCESSORIES & ESSENTIALS.** Creek DBH - 11 headphone amp • Atacama SE24 speaker stands • Sound Organisation Z580 • Equipment rack.

AWARD winning VALUE.

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT
 from September 1st - end November
 Available on all products above and other selected items.
 Written Quotations available on request. Subject to status



01922 493499/473499



Amplifiers Brought to you in association with **audio research** HIGH DEFINITION™

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	MC PHONO INPUT:	POWER OUTPUT (W):	ISSUE NUMBER:
LINE INPUTS: Amount of input sockets for non-vinyl sources such as CD players, tuners and cassette decks.	If an amp has a vinyl phono input for moving coil (low output) cartridges.	Lab tested power output in Watts per channel. RECEIVER: If an amp has a built in radio tuner.	The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.
MM PHONO INPUT: If an amp has a vinyl phono input for moving magnet (normal output) cartridges.	REMOTE CONTROL: If an amp is couch potato ready.	FACTSBACK NUMBER: The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback	
	HEADPHONE SOCKET: If an amp is can friendly.		

INTEGRATED AMPLIFIERS

Product	Price(£)	Comments	LINE INPUTS	MM PHONO INPUT	MC PHONO INPUT	REMOTE CONTROL	HEADPHONE SOCKET	POWER OUTPUT(W)	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
Alchemist Maxim	319	Vivid and colourful sounding amp that's just too bold and brassy	5	●				30	1737	154
Alchemist Nemesis	700	Good if ultimately undistinguished amplifier whose strengths include warmth, authority and distinctive aesthetics	6					80		168
AMC 3025a	130	Surprisingly potent and easy on the ear, if not especially analytical. Classic bargain basement material in fact.	4	●	●	●	●	30		171
AMC 3050a	170	Tremendous value for money, and a full, big, if rather uninformative sound	4	●	●	●	●	45		167
AMC CVT3030a	400	Beer-budget valve amp, with quintessentially valve-like virtues (euphony with dynamics) and vices (system dependency, noise)	6				●	30		168
Arcam Alpha 7	250	Decent, if slightly system-fussy amplifier that generally pulls all the right strings	5	●				40		167
Arcam Alpha 8	350	Enjoyably soft-centred amp, won't frighten the animals. Upgradeable via preamp output, and R/C (not supplied)	5	●			●	50	1853	162
Arcam Alpha 9	500	Not quite as much a star as the Alpha 9/9P combo, the solo integrated is nevertheless colourful and explicitly detailed	7			●	●	70		168
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 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	1,200	Transparent, dynamic, clear and subtle, but limited power	4					24		126
Audiolab 8000A	550	The 8000A remains a highly disciplined and mature-sounding amp	5	●	●		●	60	1581	140
Audiolab 8000S	750	Informative in every sense, only a slight lack of bite detracts. Perhaps Audiolab's best yet!	6			●	●	60	1740	154
Aura VA100 II	350	Big and smooth, yet slightly disjointed sound was equally familiar	5	●			●	70	1541	138
Cambridge Audio A3i	200	Maximum information design, with plenty of usable and reasonably refined power. A snip	4	●				60		167
Copland CSA8	945	Sophisticated yet transparent, this is one of those amplifiers that sounds good even when the gloss has worn off	5					60		168
Copland CSA14	1,199	Great sound and looks, but watch out for high capacitance cables	4	●				60	1416	148
Creek 4330	279	Compact, even pretty, but sounds dark and uninviting, with coarse treble and woomy bass	5					40		171
Denon PMA-250SE	160	This amp can sound rough when extended, but within its limits it is open, detailed and likeable	5				●	30		171
Denon PMA-350SE	200	Reinvented in the minimalist tradition, the new SE model is a control freak, but can sound wonderful	5				●	50	1856	162
Denon PMA-425R	230	Well-equipped and generally enjoyable but slightly ragged performer. You can do better	3	●		●	●	45		167
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	1855	162
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	450	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
Harman/Kardon HK610	180	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	1858	162
Harman/Kardon HK640	400	Breezy, nimble sounding amp, lacks grip and fortitude – it can sound artificial and insubstantial	6				●	55	1542	138
JoLida 202	695	Well-built and technically accomplished, affordable valve integrated with subtle and refined, if not quite gripping sonic performance	4					40		168
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-5090R	300	Large, well equipped and high tech integrated, but TRAITR output still gives a harsh, unsubtle performance	5	●	●	●	●	65		171
Krell Digital KAV-300i	2,550	EISA Award winner with balanced inputs and AV friendly outlook, sound is confident and three-dimensional (Statements)	5					150	1825	160
LFD Integrated Zero	549	Lively and brisk, but at the same time cold and unsympathetic	6					50	1584	140
Linn Majik (Phono)	800	The cornerstone of Linn's modular hi-fi system is innovative, but sounds vague and confused	5	●	●		●	33	1013	129
Magnum IA120	265	Mirror finish amplifier with a bold, colourful delivery, but needs careful system matching to avoid loss of focus and clarity	6				●	65		171
Magnum IA170	330	Gives a realistic sense of instruments playing within a very believable acoustic, preserves colour and dynamics well	6				●	96	1260	142
Magnum IA-200	495	Sweet, valve-flavoured solid state amplifier flatters where it doesn't cast light. Note: power output listed is peak	7					100	1860	162
Magnum Class A	690	Lashings of rich and compelling music, but the Class A trades lushness for accuracy	4	●	●			60		116
Marantz PM-57	200	Well equipped but ultimately anodyne amplifier which lacks for nothing but star quality	5	●		●	●	50		171
Marantz PM-66SE	230	A bit lush, and power output is limited, but it communicates well and gives airy, large-scale music. An excellent budget buy	5	●		●	●	50		167
Marantz PM66 KI-Signature	400	An amplifier that knows how to rock and roll with holographic detail and stereo, but prefers small/medium scale acoustic material	5	●		●	●	50		168
Micromega Minium Amp	350	Excellent musical performance but doesn't like high levels or low impedance speakers	6	●		●	●	40	1806	157
Mission Cyrus III	500	Beautifully presented, but mid-dominated balance and other anomalies were not liked. Upgradeable using PSX unit PSU	6	●		●		50	1854	162
Mission Cyrus SL	398	Sharp, articulate amplifier, and superb, outgoing midband with lean though well-extended bass – and build quality to die for	6					50		168
Musical Fidelity A2	499	Lucid, transparent midband and a full upper bass are provided by this highly proficient A1 replacement	5	●				25	1862	162
Musical Fidelity A220	700	Powerful, authoritative and well turned-out amplifier that is easy to match with comparably priced speakers and source components.	5	●				50		168
Musical Fidelity E1	199	Vivid, richly flavoured tonality and realistically scaled imagery distinguish this new entry level Richer Sounds special	6					30		171
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 312	200	Another great budget price NAD, and a worthy all-round successor to the 302	6	●			●	25		171
NAD 314	260	Lively if coloured presentation that is musically engaging and easy on the ear	6	●			●	53	1807	157

INTEGRATED AMPLIFIERS

Product	Price(£)	Comments	MM PHONO INPUT				MC PHONO INPUT				HEADPHONE CONTROL				POWER SOCKET		FACTSBACK (W)		ISSUE NUMBER			
			LINE	INPUT	RECEIVER	RECEIVER	RECEIVER	RECEIVER	RECEIVER	RECEIVER	RECEIVER	RECEIVER	RECEIVER	RECEIVER	RECEIVER	RECEIVER	RECEIVER	RECEIVER	RECEIVER	RECEIVER		
Naim Nait 3	575	Distinctive and highly musical sounding integrated amp. Perhaps too distinctive for some tastes	5														30	1748	154			
Orelle SA-100	449	A musically rewarding amplifier that grows on you. Trace of coarseness in treble	5														50	1749	154			
Pioneer A-204R	160	The A-204R makes no special claims beyond being well equipped and cheap, but it displayed unexpected talent on test	5	●													25		171			
Pioneer A-300R	200	Its bright and breezy sound is a natural tonic to those of us worn down by the ongoing stress of life	5	●													50	1469	149			
Pioneer A-400X	300	On second audition, this amp was tonally unchanged but less compelling	6	●	●												50	1545	138			
Pioneer A-300R Precision	400	Sophisticated, breathed-on variant of the A-300R. Not an obvious winner, but will slowly win you over with its subtle charms	5	●													35	1863	162			
Pioneer A-605R	400	Intriguing technology, but execution is certainly impeded by excessive gadget count	5	●													80		168			
Prime Design A-100	650	Dynamic but somewhat aggressive powerhouse with limited stereo interest (either MM or MC phono)	4	●	●												100		168			
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 Integrated	700	Compact and sophisticated Quad system amp, limited range of inputs when used with 'foreign' components (optional system remote)	3														84		168			
Rega Elex	398	Minimalist amplifier derived from Elicit, is a little uninspiring, though at least it is not badly behaved	4	●													50	1865	162			
Roksan Caspian	695	Well-built, open and articulate amplifier, which is also consistent from system to system, and well built	6														70		168			
Rose Scion	615	Unique two-box integrated gives real subtlety and low level resolution, but the sound lacks scale and weight	5	●	●												65		168			
Rotel RA-931	150	Rather dry and unforgiving sound from this internally well specified and attractively priced amplifier	4	●													35		171			
Rotel RA970BX	250	Lively, fresh and perky with plenty of power, but not so clever with complex recordings	6														60	1546	138			
Sony TA-F246E	200	Relaxed quality that seduces with its guile and subtlety, MM input is a bit laconic but CD is very tidy and composed	3	●													40	1471	149			
Sony TA-F448BE	250	Classic minimalist interface is matched to carefully considered circuit to broadly satisfactory effect - but keep the volume in check	5	●													55		171			
Talk Electronics Storm 1	500	Good soundstaging and strong detail are provided by this unassuming and not especially powerful model	6														50	1868	162			
TEAC A-BX7R	700	Characterful balance mars an otherwise meticulously designed amplifier. Includes a balanced input, optional MM/MC stage	5														50	1869	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	1870	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-592	280	Fine, middle ranking amplifier, with a detailed, dynamic midband, and some performance falloff at the frequency extremes	5	●	●	●	●										100		171			
Preamplifiers																						
Acurus RL11	899	Well-featured US preamp with plenty of grunt and depth when used with the A150 power amp (Sessions)	6															1624	151			
AMC CVT1030A	400	Budget valve preamp, modest build and a bit 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	550	Distinctive, stark neutrality that will not appeal to all. Good value engineering	5	●	●														97			
Audiolab 8000Q	1,100	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	1,295	Beautiful imaging, superb detail, plenty of gain on the phono input, classy build too. Tested in Sessions	4	●															1560	139		
Copland CTA-301MkII	1,399	Sweet sounding - but never gets bogged down in audio treacle	4	●															1630	151		
Cyrus Pre	650	Tested with Cyrus Power. High-tech design, punchy, light-footed character with a sense of substance and natural warmth	5	●																155		
Densen DM-20	1,200	Stylish Danish preamp with a pair of huge knobs and effortless resolution and a slightly dark balance (Statements)	6																	164		
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 bit 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		
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 six digital inputs	9	●																140		
Meridian 502	1,295	Extremely sophisticated analogue controller with tremendous flexibility and a fast and tidy presentation (Statements)	7																	162		
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		
Muse Model Three	1,990	Natural sounding tranny preamp with useful audiophile features. Works beautifully with 160 power amp (tested in Statements)	5																	166		
Musical Fidelity F2	500	Subtle, sweet-sounding preamp with strong presence	5	●	●															165		
NAD 114	270	Beer-budget preamp, sounds focused, 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 RB970BX MkII power amps	5																	144		
Sumo Athena IIB	767	Tested with Polaris III. Big, natural and tidy-sounding with very natural reproduction of acoustic and electric instruments	6																	1305	145	
Talk Hurricane 2L	649	Design of integrity which gets to the heart, if not the soul, of the music	6																	165		
Thorens TTP2000F	699	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		
Power amplifiers																						
Acurus A150	899	Tested with RL11 preamp. Powerful remote-control US combo with a slightly forward inclination	1															150	1624	151		
Alchemist Kraken/Pwr	529	Hardly accurate, but entertaining nevertheless	1																	124		
AMC CVT2100A	600	Astonishing 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 that 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	
Audiolab 8000M	800	Strong, controlled sound; confident bass, but colourless. Tested with 8000Q	1																	125	1301	145
Audio Research VT60	2,395	Ranks as 'must try' American cultural item (tested in Statements). Tube design	1																	35	1179	136
Copland CTA-505	2,099	Grown-up amplifier with a refined, yet never over-civilised air	1																	67	1630	151
Cyrus Power	498	Tested with Cyrus Pre. Punchy, light footed character with a sense of substance and natural warmth (bridgeable)	1																	50	155	
Densen DM-30	1,200	Fluid, valve-like power amp with effortless resolution and a slightly dark balance (Statements)	2																	100	164	
EAR 509 Mk II	3,699	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	145
Exposure XVIII Super	849	Slight dullness and hardness, but great 'boogie factor'	1																	70	142	
Jadis JA-30	5,980	French tubes, JP-30MC has beautiful build, nostalgic styling and delightful midrange (tested with £5,978 JP30)	1																	30	60	
LFD Mistral Power	449	Infectious upper band vitality, but LF dynamics lacking, and lacks 'grip' and transparency	1																		60	165

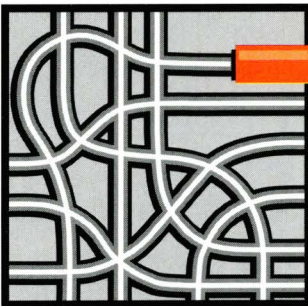
POWER AMPLIFIERS (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	MM PHONO INPUT	MC PHONO INPUT	HEADPHONE CONTROL	POWER SOCKET	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
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
Meridian 557	1,400	Hefty British lump with balanced inputs and a transparent, nimble sound with no shortage of power (Statements)	1				200	162
Michell Alecto	1,150	Open, well focused imagery with natural, refined textures	1				50	165
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
Muse Model 160	2,290	Transparent muscle amp with minimal character and a natural performer in both scale and tone (tested in Statements)	1				160	166
Musical Fidelity FX2	800	Quality build and imposing presentation is married to strong power yield, tonal colour and finesse	1				100	165
Myryad MA120	450	Based in M1120 integrated – see for comments, but sounds significantly better when bi-amped with M1120	1				60	165
NAD 214	370	A little lightweight, but detailed, consistent sound quality, and excellent value for money	1				80	165
Naim NAP90	450	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	2,194	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	950	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	599	Low power shoe-box format, but gutsy and surprisingly subtle and articulate	1				30	165

EXPERIENCE UNRIVALLED REALISM!

For more information or your nearest stockist,
 ☎ (0181) 947 5047 or e-mail 73064.1710@compuserve.com

audio research
 HIGH DEFINITION®



Cables

Cables are not just 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 10 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 un terminated metre. Termination (plugs and soldering) costs vary with brands.

B Best buy **R** Recommended

KEY	SOLID CORE:	FACTSBACK NUMBER:	ISSUE NUMBER:
SYMMETRICAL: A twisted pair of conductors.	Single or multiple, individually insulated strands.	The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback information page.	The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.
COAXIAL: A central 'hot' conductor and a shield that carries the negative signal.	COPPER: Material used for conductor.		
STRANDED: Multiple strands with no intervening insulation.	SILVER: Material used for conductor.		
	DIG CABLE TYPE: 0 - optical digital, E - electrical digital.		

CABLES

Product	Price(£)	Comments	SYMMETRICAL	COAXIAL	STRANDED	SOLID CORE	COPPER	SILVER	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER	
Analogue Interconnects											
Audio Note AN-A	29.50	Not especially impressive, warm but well-rounded balance that restricts 'air' but is not unclear	●			●				108	
Audio Note AN-C	59.50	Neutral but lacking in subtle texture and unable to distinguish fine detail					●	●		1687 131	
Audio Note AN-S	139	Up-beat and enthusiastic sound with satisfyingly deep and grumbly bass	●				●			1687 131	
Audio Note AN-V	219	15 individually insulated silver strands make up this very clean and dynamically unchallenged cable	●			●		●		1687 131	
Audioquest Turquoise	40	A 'fit and forget' cable that sounds distinctly lazy	●			●				160	
Bandridge AL421	5	Light and airy sound lacks authority, splashy treble			●	●		●		1688 131	
Bandridge AL426G	10	Gold-plated plug OFC version of AL421 with same ineffectual sound quality			●	●		●		1688 131	
Bandridge SG AL4720	13	4N OF copper, full smooth balance but a little plodding and relentless, lacks panache			●	●		●		1688 131	
Bandridge SG+ AL4820	25	4N OF copper, distinctly teutonic, thrusting detail forward but still plodding and relentless			●	●		●		1688 131	
Bandridge ProfiGold PG301	65	A perfect cable for enlivening a system, but too cold for most systems			●	●		●		160	
Cable Talk Studio 2	65	A first-class performer from tonal, dynamic and rhythmic standpoints	●			●		●		160	
Cambridge Audio Studio Ref	40	Dynamic cable with strong soundstaging and only a slight lack of detail			●	●		●		160	
Chord Chameleon	68	Anomalous treble with a dry but vaguely sibilant quality, sometimes sounds smooth, sometimes harsh!				●		●		108	
Chord Solid	99	Thin but very stiff with excellent resolution of subtle timbral detail and fine dynamics			●		●	●		108	
Connections Midas HD	39	Canary yellow cable with excellent plugs and an open sound. Slight treble glare	●			●		●		160	
DNM TCC75	34	Price for 0.75m length. High resolution cable, but best in short runs due to higher than average series impedance					●	●		1690 131	
DPA Slink	41	Slightly bright and zingy sound with flat soundstaging and hollow sounding bass, vocals and strings sound convincing though					●	●		1690 131	
DPA White Slink	75	Highly expressive, very easy on the ear and attractively detailed though not entirely characterless at high frequencies					●	●		1691 131	
DPA Black Slink	220	Initially dark and meaty but becoming lucid and transparent with running in. Quad geometry, Gore-tex dielectric	●				●	●		1691 131	
Ixos 104	20	Open and detailed presentation, full bass and silky if overly smooth treble			●	●		●		1692 131	
Ixos 103	40	Even-handed and generous sound, bass has a well-rounded, bouncy quality			●	●		●		1692 131	
Ixos 102	60	A bit bright and undynamic, this cable is nevertheless a good all-rounder, whose faults are largely subtractive			●	●		●		160	
Ixos 101	100	A cable with personality, its veiled and shut in quality brings an earthiness to vocals and rhythm guitar alike			●	●		●		1693 131	
LFD Spirolink I	35	Price for 0.7m length. Dynamic but smoothly detailed performance, but gives the impression of looking down on the music					●	●		1694 131	

CABLES (CONTINUED)

SYMMETRICAL
COAXIAL
STRANDED
SOLID CORE
COPPER
SILVER

Product	Price(£)	Comments	SYMMETRICAL	COAXIAL	STRANDED	SOLID CORE	COPPER	SILVER	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
LFD Spirolink II	70	Price for 0.7m length. Strong and confident sound enhancing bass depth and subtlety, concentrates on the meat of the music	●				●		1694	131
LFD Trilink	150	Price for 0.7m length. Warm and luxurious sound but a little too fruity in balance, treble is a little subdued, bass detached	●				●		1695	131
Linn Phono to Phono	47	Encourages a delicate performance underpinned by a strong and authoritative bass			●	●	●		1695	131
Monster Interlink 200	20	Colourful in an appealing rather than contrived sense, bass is slightly over-blown, large and ingratiating sound stage			●	●	●		1696	131
Monster Interlink 300	30	Richer, smoother more civilised sound than 200 with improved articulation and reduced sibilance			●	●	●		1696	131
Monster Interlink 400	40	Compromised by a grainy top end, treble and vocal range sound particularly sharp and untidy	●		●	●	●		1697	131
Monster Interlink 500	50	Sounds rather good, providing a livelier and more interesting account of music than most sub £100 cables	●		●	●	●		108	
Monster Interlink 800	80	Not as bright or aggressive as the 400 but treble is strangely lumpy, muted and manipulated - odd cable	●		●	●	●		1697	131
Monster Interlink Reference 2	100	Easy on the ear but rather contrived, slightly clanky treble fails to integrate with the smoother but splotchy midband			●	●	●		1697	131
Moth Ley Line Black	100	Offers a full and big sound, neutral yet very solid and confident in delivery. Expansive imaging retains music's energy	●		●	●	●	●	108	
Moth Ley Line Grey	200	Detailed enough but there's a sense of distance between the music and the listener, vox are coarse rather than liquid	●		●	●	●	●	108	
Nordost Black Knight	55	Flat black cable that is distinctive but slightly coloured - but not in a wholly negative manner	●		●	●	●		160	
Panasonic RP-CA910	50	Uncongested and even handed balance if slightly flat imagewise, retains impact but has a vaguely untransparent quality			●	●	●		108	
Silvertone Ex-Static	35	Pleasantly unfatiguing and competitively priced cable that lacks detail and insight			●	●	●		160	
SonicLink Silver Pink	35	Dynamically sensitive and muddle-free. Unsure about the flesh-coloured finish though...	●		●	●	●	●	160	
SonicLink Black	49	Encourages an upbeat and snappy sound that's driven by leading edges, full and rumbustious bass maintains an even tempo			●	●	●	●	1699	131
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	Price for 0.8m length. Hybrid carbon-fibre/copper cable that is a paragon of naturalness. Airy and well controlled			●	●	●		160	
van den Hul The First	210	Using 12,000 carbon fibres, a gentle and subtle sounding cable that conveys oodles of information but lacks dynamic punch			●	●	●		1702	131
van den Hul The Second	225	Wonderfully open and relaxing but also intimately detailed, slightly softens percussive dynamics	●		●	●	●	●	1702	131
XLO Type 150	50	A restrained but useful cable for taming lively CD players, dynamics lack freedom, treble lacks clarity			●	●	●		1703	131
XLO Type 0.1	180	Unusual but highly expressive and detailed with a hint of graininess on powerful vocals					●	●	1703	131
Digital Interconnects										
Audio Note AN-V	110	Ostensibly an analogue cable but gives a meaty and natural performance when used for digital duty	●				●	●	E 1704	131
Audioquest Optilink Z	120	Good level of midband detail but frequency extremes lack depth and extension							0	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
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
DPA Opti-link	20	Very similar to Bandridge AL560; sound is lacklustre							0	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
Kimber Kable Opti-link	50	Appears to be a bog-standard PMNA fibre, yet sounds a little brighter and livelier than most							0	108
LFD DigiLink Copper	30	Slightly grainy highly compatible cable with coherent and forward dynamic quality			●	●	●		E	1708
Moth Leyline Datalink	140	A thin, coaxial version of Leyline Black with a rather hard and unforgiving character. Too expensive	●		●	●	●		E	108
QED DigiFlex	20	A top performance, low-loss 750hm 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
SonicLink Green	60	Spacious, positive and engaging if a bit over crisp at times, very compelling however			●	●	●	●	E	1709
van den Hul MC Videolink 75	48	An AV-cum-digital cable that nearly beats QED's DigiFlex, but emphasises sibilants			●	●	●		E	108
van den Hul The First	120	Exceptionally natural albeit slightly dark or cautious compared to some, plenty of subtle information and beautiful integration	●		●	●	●		E	1710
Loudspeaker Cables										
Audio Note AN-D	4.50	Supplied in linear, non-polarised lengths that should be twisted into stereo pairs. Sounds rather grippy and forward					●	●		109
Audio Note AN-B	16.50	Well suited to valve systems, elastic bass, methodical but unintrusive and musical				●	●		1711	133
Audio Note AN-L	29.50	Fruity bass and expressive vocal rendition was appreciated by the panel which was happy to accept its foibles	●			●	●		1712	133
Audio Note AN-SP	125	A calm and civilised presentation, very quiet in the way it reveals subtle low level detail. Great poise and clarity	●			●	●		109	
Audioquest F-14	1.95	Ideal for laying under carpets, F-14 encourages a slightly warm and vibrant sound				●	●	●	109	
Audioquest Type 4	4.95	Four 18-gauge OFHC copper conductors wound in a Litz-type fashion increases capacitance but restrains the cable's 'bite'	●		●	●	●		109	
Audioquest Cobalt 2	45	A rather polite and anaemic sound that bubbles gently with detail and is largely uncoloured and cautiously spacious	●		●	●	●		133	

MS

Mordaunt Short

<http://www.mordaunt-short.com>

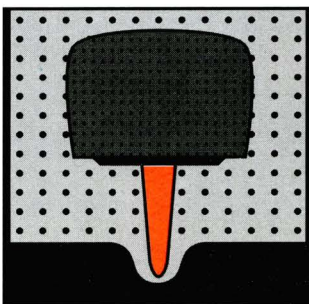
L O U D S P E A K E R S

MS

Mordaunt Short

CABLES (CONTINUED)

Product	Price (£)	Comments	SYMMETRICAL		COAXIAL		STRANDED		SOLID CORE		COPPER		FACTSBACK NUMBER	
			MM	MC	MM	MC	MM	MC	MM	MC	MM	MC	MM	MC
Audioquest Crystal	18	Neutral balance is spoiled by some graininess and smearing	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	168
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 6mm2 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 Talk 3.1	2.25	Quite well-balanced but tends to lose bass lines in complex music	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	168
Cable Talk 4.1	4.25	Smooth and cultured sound that lacks fine detail and is a bit too restrained	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1800 157
Chord Myth	5.95	Light and airy tonality may please, but bass is recessed and detail not outstanding	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	168
DNM LSC350	6.95	Majors on midband and lower treble lucidity at the expense of bass and extreme treble extension	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	168
DNM LSC8500	6.95	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 XL189	0.99	Slightly bright and not that subtle, but a perfectly acceptable cable for any starter system	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	168
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. Can be slightly manipulative	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1800 157
Goertz M2	20	Remarkably detailed, smooth, neutral and with excellent bass; check amplifier compatibility	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	168
Heybrook Heywire	4	This well-meaning facsimile of earlier ribbon cables ends up sounding lumpy and uneven	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	109
Ixos 803	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	19.68	A well-balanced cable with good performance in all areas	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	168
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
Nordost Octava	2.95	Fair bass but confused treble and some coloration	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	168
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	9	Good midrange and treble balance, but bass is rather slack and detail not outstanding	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	168
QED Profile 8	5	Sophisticated flat cable that lacks decent bass and get up and go	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1800 157
Silver Sounds 12 gauge	12	Basic 'homemade' construction gives fairly neutral sound, though not outstandingly competitive	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	168
Sonic Link S300	18	Happiest with simple music; tends to smudge detail in complex pieces	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	168
SonicLink AST50	1.95	It may look like bell-wire, but AST50 sounds detailed, ordered and balanced	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1800 157
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
XLO Pro 600	16.60	Basically neutral tonality but can become aggressive and two-dimensional	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	168



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

MM: Moving magnet cartridge with a normal output suitable for all vinyl disc amplifier inputs.
MC: Moving coil cartridge with a low output only suitable for high-

sensitivity vinyl disc amplifier inputs.
REPLACEABLE STYLUS: Most MM cartridges have a stylus that can be removed and replaced.

OUTPUT (MV): Cartridge output in millivolts.
MASS (g): Cartridge mass can affect arm choice.
FACTSBACK NUMBER: The Factsback reference for ordering a fax

copy of the review.
ISSUE NUMBER: The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.

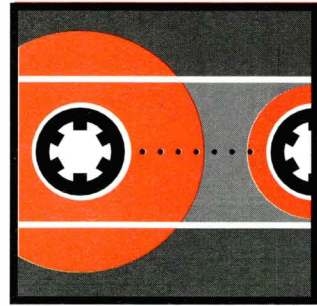
CARTRIDGES

Product	Price (£)	Comment	REPLACEABLE STYLUS		OUTPUT (MV)		FACTSBACK NUMBER		ISSUE NUMBER		
			MM	MC	MM	MC	MM	MC	MM	MC	
Audio Note Io IIV	1,695	One of the best, giving an extraordinarily relaxing midrange clarity. Needs a transformer	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100
Audio Technica AT-95E	19	Clear and dynamic, though richly balanced	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	48
Audio Technica ART-1	944	This is a delicate and very fluid-sounding MC that tracks well	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	72
Denon DL110	70	A fine all-rounder, this high output MC model is likely to perform well	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	48
Denon DL160	90	Although listeners just preferred the 110, its brother here survived lab tests and is still 'thoroughly competent'	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	43
Denon DL103	100	Good performance in bass and good 'life'. Is seriously let down by its spherical stylus which kills subtle detail	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	103
Denon DL304	200	Uncoloured, detailed, tracks superbly. Top notch altogether and a bargain too	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	103

REPLACEABLE STYLUS
MM MC
OUTPUT (MV)
FACTSBACK NUMBER
ISSUE NUMBER

CARTRIDGES (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comment	MM	MC	Output (MV)	FB Num	Issue
Dynavector Karat 17D2 mk2	449	Clean and controlled sound with taut, tuneful bass. Detailed and musically cogent	●		0.15	5.3	158
Dynavector XX-1L	998	Very clear, very detailed; a response lift around 20kHz seems to do no harm	●		0.25	12	84
Dynavector XX-1	998	Good, but not immensely competitive at the price, and not helped by comparison with the low output version	●		2.0	12	84
Goldring Elan	19	A lightweight and frisky-sounding MM apparently based on Nagaoka MM4 body	●	●	5.0	7	67
Goldring 1012GX	79	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 K9	125	Linn improved this model by beefing up the Basik'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	649	Superbly capable all-round musical performer that improves markedly when its body cover is removed		●	0.3	7	158
Lyra Clavis Da Capo	995	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	67
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 close up		●	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 more detailed, accurate and convincing	●	●	5.0	5	67
Roksan Corus Black	130	Recognisably related to the Corus Blue, but smoother and more civilised	●	●	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 IIIGLA	2,999	Undoubtedly one of the finest cartridges available, it has tremendous bandwidth, energy and finesse		●	0.4	6	122
Wilson benesch Matrix	786	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. Useful facilities include tape monitor switching and Dolby S.

Best buy

Recommended

KEY

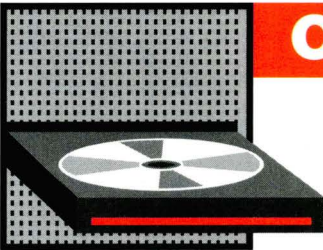
<p>DOLBY C: A rather extreme noise-reduction system not usually associated with high sound quality.</p> <p>DOLBY S: A desirable derivative of the Dolby SR professional noise-reduction system.</p> <p>DOLBY HX-PRO: System designed by B&O to extend headroom for cassette recording.</p>	<p>3-HEAD: If you want to monitor a recording while you are making it, a third head is essential.</p> <p>TWIN DECK: Contains two decks for dubbing and continuous play. In most instances only one deck will record.</p>	<p>AUTOREVERSE: Automatically plays both sides of the cassette.</p> <p>AUTO CALIBRATION: The deck will automatically set up bias and EQ for any tape.</p> <p>ADJUSTABLE BIAS: Bias can be manually set to suit the tape being used.</p>	<p>FACTSBACK NUMBER: The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback information page.</p> <p>ISSUE NUMBER: The issue of <i>Hi-Fi Choice</i> in which the original review appeared.</p>
---	--	--	--

CASSETTE DECKS

Product	Price(£)	Comments	DOLBY C	DOLBY S	DOLBY HX-PRO	3-HEAD	TWIN DECK	AUTO CALIBRATION	ADJUSTABLE BIAS	FACTSBACK NUM.	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
Denon DRW-580	200	Twin deck: OK for casual use, but will quickly pall with more quality critical applications	●				●	●			171
Denon DRS-640	200	Draw-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
Denon DRM-740	270	Breathed-on DRM-710, with good external treatment, offers good, if somewhat detached sonics	●							1514	136
Denon DRS-810	310	Draw-loading deck, carefully designed yet lacking in subtlety on audition	●				●				127
Harman/Kardon TD420	250	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
JVC TD-R472	200	Excellent auto-reverse deck which doesn't suffer the usual disadvantages and is very sharply priced	●								158
JVC TD-V562BK	220	Ultra-sophisticated transport at a silly price; sound quality is stable but slightly opaque	●								123
JVC TD-V662BK	270	Assured, clean and agile sounding recorder, if not quite the most refined in its class	●							1380	146
JVC TD-W718	300	Twin deck. Good for creative live recording, but no timer standby. Respectable though not earth-shattering performance	●				●	●			171

CASSETTE DECKS (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	DOLBY C	DOLBY S	DOLBY B	DOLBY HX PRO	3-HEAD	TWIN HEAD	AUTO CALIBRATION	ADJUSTABLE BIAS	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
A Kenwood KX-W6080	200	Modestly decent sounding twin deck, with some transport instability and ragged bass. The features list is also strong	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	171	171
NAD 613	230	Rough and ready, but enjoyable sound, though marred by mechanical motor noise	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	158	158
NAD 616	300	Primitive twin deck with basic features. No Dolby setting memory, transports are too unstable for serious quality first use.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	171	171
A Onkyo K-611	460	Cute drawer loading mini-size component with 3-heads and dual capstan transport	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1384	146
A Pioneer CT-S550S	250	Great features, good with cheap low bias tapes, but slightly synthetic sound quality	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	164	164
Pioneer CT-W806DR	300	Had it not been for the iffy transport quality, this ultra-sophisticated twin would have been recommended.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	171	171
A Pioneer CT-S830S	500	High-class mechanism, if lacking in battleship externals, and superb sound	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1385	146
A Sony TC-KE600S	300	Mild setting-up problems notwithstanding, this UK-tweaked design has a smooth, open and un-cassette-like sound	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	158	158
A 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	164
A 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	158
A Yamaha KX-490	199	Electrifyingly transparent and capable deck whose only flaw is a trace of audible wow and flutter	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	158	158
A Yamaha KX-580SE	250	Subtle, engaging and transparent sounding deck, with a lightweight tonality, but good stability and strong detail	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	171	171



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 converter, or DAC. Although most players are contained in a single box, expensive players are usually two-box affairs.

Best buy

Recommended

KEY	AT&T OPT DIG OUTPUT	BAL ANALOGUE OUTPUT	HEADPHONE SOCKET	VARIABLE OUTPUT	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
ELECTRICAL DIGITAL OUTPUT: For electrical connection to an outboard DAC.	AT&T OPT DIG OUTPUT: High-speed optical output to be used with similarly equipped DACs.	BAL ANALOGUE OUTPUT: Balanced analogue output for amplifiers equipped with balanced inputs.	HEADPHONE SOCKET: For can users.	VARIABLE OUTPUT: Remotely adjustable, volume-controlled output.	FACTSBACK NUMBER: The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback information page.	ISSUE NUMBER: The issue of <i>Hi-Fi Choice</i> in which the original review appeared.
AES/EBU ELEC DIG OUTPUT: Balanced digital output to be used with similarly equipped DACs.	MULTI-DISC: Equipped with a carousel or multi-tray system for continuous play of multiple discs.	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,				
OPTICAL DIGITAL OUTPUT: For optical connection to an outboard DAC.						

CD PLAYERS

Product	Price(£)	Comments	AES/EBU ELEC DIG OUT	OPTICAL DIGITAL OUTPUT	AT&T OPT DIG OUT	BAL ANALOGUE OUTPUT	HEADPHONE OUTPUT	HEADPHONE SOCKET	VARIABLE OUTPUT	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER	
A Alchemist Nexus APD32A	597	Refined treble, constrained yet capable bass and attractive all-round presentation distinguish this player from the crowd	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Hyb	169	
A Acurus ACD11	899	First-rate if costly player from the US, which combines a delightful transparency with an uncontrived naturalness	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1bit	166	
A Arcam Alpha 7	320	Very detailed for a budget player with a slick and free sense of dynamics, needs careful ancillary matching	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Hyb	1872	163
AMC CD8A	150	Has balanced output, but is otherwise rather grey and unremarkable	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1531	172
A Arcam Alpha 8	520	Refined, intricately detailed but a little cautious, this should be broadly compatible with a variety of amps	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1873	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	1874	163
Audio Research CD1	3,290	Suspends disbelief with a frighteningly real yet obviously coloured sound. A rare proposition among CD players	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1875	163
A AVI S2000MC Reference	1,399	Lean, dry, high resolution player, built to outlast most of us, and a fine performer in a sympathetic system	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1561	169
A Cambridge Audio CD4	150	Basic appearance and sluggish track access/track search belies its up and at 'em sound quality	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Hyb	1268	147
A Cambridge Audio CD4SE	200	Among the best players we have encountered at the price, considerably more refined and convincing than CD4	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1877	163
A Cambridge Audio CD6	250	A sharp, lively and articulate player, a real thoroughbred in fact, perhaps too sharp and lively for some systems	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	159	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	1880	163
Denon DCD-625	200	DCD-615 replacement is generously equipped but lacks sophisticated sound of its forebear	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1269	147
A 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
A Denon DCD-1015	350	Excellent, mid-range player - fast, fluid and lean	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1599	141
A Denon DCD-3000	1,000	Sings with the temperament of a huge orchestra under the baton of a timid conductor, but very agreeable at that	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1881	163
A Denon DCD-635	180	Modest presentation gives little clue to the thoroughbred electronics ticking away inside	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	172	172
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	144
Harman/Kardon HD710	200	A player of integrity, but can sound a bit hard and rough when extended, and is somewhat amplifier fussy	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1bit	159	159
A Harman/Kardon HD730	300	Competitive at the price, with a coloured but dynamic and outgoing sound supported by a raft of user features	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	166	166
A JVC XL-V184BK	120	Excellent budget player, well presented, a tad opaque but its heart is in the right place.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1bit	172	172
A JVC XL-V284BK	140	Featuring a new set of bitstream innards, this flexible player has a refined, if occasionally unpredictable sound	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1bit	1270	147
A JVC XL-Z574	250	Strong resolving power and good midband and dynamics, but slightly raw and thin	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1bit	159	159
A JVC XL-Z674BK	300	Even-handed, but glosses over the most intimate moments	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1bit	1637	151
A Kenwood DP-3080	170	Bold, dynamic and outgoing sound, though somewhat aggressive. Poor build quality and finish	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1bit	159	159
A Kenwood DP-4090	250	Focuses a clear, wide aperture lens on the music - and has CD Test too	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1bit	172	172
A Kenwood DP-7090	400	A lively and compelling performer with an even-handed and coherent disposition	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1885	163
Krell KPS 20i	9,990	Forthright, edge-of-the-seat sound with outstanding bass performance (tested in Statements)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1734	155
Linn Mimik	875	Useful multi-room features matched to strong bass, but poor imagery and transparency	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Hyb	1762	155
A Marantz CD63MKII KI Sig	500	It's the quintessential sound of Marantz - warm, open, and smooth almost to a fault	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Hyb	169	169
Marantz CD-67	270	Dynamic, authoritative, and wide tonal response, but also shut-in and mid-forward balance	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1bit	159	159
A Marantz CD-67SE	350	Refined, enjoyable player, though ultimately a little soft-centred	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	166	166
Marantz CD-48	200	Somewhat inconsistent, middle ranking player which hints at better things	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1bit	172	172
A Marantz CD-17	800	Fabulous packaging and an excellent all round performer: smooth, detailed and consistent	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1763	155
A Meracus Tanto	1,395	Fabulous tonal colours and textures, refinement takes preference over dynamics - but it's not cheap	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	DS	169	169
Meridian 508 (20-bit)	1,685	Combines a delicate mid and treble with rich, opulent bass and has impressive low-level resolution	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1886	163
Micromega Minium	400	Dynamically weak and some roughness offsets the pleasing tonal balance, articulate mid and strong bass	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1bit	159	159
Micromega Stage 6	960	Lucid, open sound quality with some dynamic limitations with certain discs. Upgradeable from lesser Stage models	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	169	169

CD PLAYERS (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	AES/EBU ELEC DIG OUT	OPTICAL DIG OUT	AT&T OPT DIG OUT	BAL ANALOGUE OUTPUT	HEADPHONE OUTPUT	VARIABLE OUTPUT	MULTI-DISC	FACTSBACK DAC TYPE	ISSUE NUMBER
▲ Mission Cyrus dAD3	598	This front loader has a relaxed style of delivery that convinces with guile and subtlety rather than orchestral ordnance								BS	1887 163
▲ Mission Cyrus dAD3Q	898	Lucid, transparent and uncontrived sound quality, superb build, and readily upgradeable						●		MB	169
Monrio Privilege	995	Costly and well-engineered, but ultimately rather heavy-handed and dull, if refined player				●				MB	166
Musical Fidelity E60	299	This entry-level player lacks proper stereo localisation and clarity				●	●			BS	166
▲ Musical Fidelity A2	499	Warm (too warm), attractive and open player, a great improvement on (related) E60				●	●			BS	169
Musical Fidelity FCD	1,500	A forward disposition makes this perfect for Fenders but less appropriate to Guarneris				●		●		BS	163
▲ Myryad MC100	700	A little extra get-up-and-go wouldn't go amiss, but its sheer maturity and composure ensure listenability				●				BS	1889 163
NAD 510	200	Pale version of NAD's senior CD players with a stripped down feature count								1bit	172
NAD 512	250	Simple, well-focused presentation, and articulate with it, though hard-nosed quality is not everyone's cup of tea				●				1bit	159
▲ NAD 514	370	Boisterous sound, but undeniably attractive				●			●	BS	1639 151
▲ Naim Audio CD3	1,000	The idiosyncratically packaged CD3 is solid and highly articulate. Always has its feet on the ground though								MB	1765 155
▲ Naim Audio CD2	2,000	Provides bags of detail with a solid stereo focus but not all the romanticism we know to be possible								MB	1890 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
▲ Orrelle CD-100EA	649	Excellent imagery, timing and transparency, and readily upgraded or reconfigured				●	●			MB	1066
▲ Philips CD-721	130	Surprisingly well-sorted, articulate if slightly glossy and attractively presented sound. Captive signal lead								1bit	159
Philips CD751	150	Inconsistent and occasionally opaque and scrawny sounding cheapie				●				1bit	172
Pioneer PD-204	150	Generally easy on the ear, but can bite back, especially with complex high-frequency music content. Well endowed								1bit	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	1891 163
Pioneer PD-S904	400	Too much legato – literally – in sound, but a very smooth performer				●	●			1bit	1641 151
▲ Pioneer PD-S505 Precision	460	Assured, fluid-sounding player, with great spatial coherence				●			●	1bit	166
▲ Quad 77	900	A true thoroughbred combining a penetrating insight into detail with poise rarely found at the price								Hyb	1893 163
▲ Roksan DP3P	1,495	Dramatic and compelling, classical listeners should be ready to 'air conduct' when auditioning this player				●				BS	1896 163
▲ Roksan Caspian	895	Solid, articulate, and fundamentally well-engineered player, but with some subtle low-level limitations				●				Hyb	169
▲ Rotel RCD-970BX	375	A combination of solid build, useful facilities and an attention grabbing sound make this a winner				●				BS	1897 163
▲ Sherwood CD-4030R	180	Easy on the ear, smooth-sounding player, with limits set by the slightly soft, compressed quality – and messy fascia					●		●	BS	159
Sherwood CD1	1,100	A very neutral, even handed sounding player with a rather flat, lifeless sound. Beautiful construction				●	●			BS	1899 163
Sony CDP-XE510	180	Souped up CDP-XE500 which tells a rather bland and unengaging story								1bit	172
▲ Sony CDP-XE900E	300	Refined and analytical disc scavenging tool, but there are some distinctive colourations making auditioning vital								BS	159
▲ Sony CDP-X3000S	500	Shoobox format player, with looks to die for, and switchable digital filters to tweak the already excellent sound				●	●			BS	169
▲ Teac 3450SE	200	For once a budget player where the gadgets take second place to respectable, budget amplifier-friendly sonics				●			●	1bit	166
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 in fine detail				●	●			BS	1769 155
Teac VRDS-10SE	850	Superbly built and presented, but rather leaden bass, with an over-prominent and not ideally refined mid/top				●	●			BS	169
Teac VRDS-25	1,300	A solid player in all respects combining powerful sound with state-of-the-art technology				●	●			MB	1903 163
Technics SL-PG480A	140	Full driving sound, but somewhat uneven in balance with a unsubtle, slightly harsh top end								1bit	159
Technics SL-PS770D	250	High tech and well built technology battleship which smooths the rough edges off the music					●		●	BS	172
Trichord Genesis	549	Breathed-on Pioneer is warm and mellifluous, but ultimately lacks drive and authority.				●				Hyb	169
Trichord Revelation	799	Well-ordered and clean sound that may be a little too refined for some, images well				●				1bit	166
Yamaha CDX-390	130	Well endowed entry level unit, with inconsistent sound that can be harsh in extremis								1bit	172
Yamaha CDX-490	170	Big, blowsy sound, is undermined by lack of precision and focus								1bit	159
▲ Yamaha CD-X890	350	Clearly a quality product in every sense, the Yamaha provides a spacious, refined and tuneful account of the music				●	●		●	BS	166
TRANSPORTS											
▲ 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	1,400	Superb combo for those who like the sound of valves (tested with Elixir DAC in Sessions)	●	●						MB	141
▲ Audiomeca Mephisto	2,350	Tested with Trichord Pulsar, the duo provides a highly composed and tactile sound	●	●						-	1320 144
Linn Karik	1,850	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
▲ 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	●	●						1bit	162
Teac VRDS-T1	550	Superb quality engineering is mated to tidy and composed sound (tested with D-T1)	●	●						-	1325 144
Theta Data Basic II	2,397	Uses a Philips CDM-9 Pro mechanism and works a treat with more lively DACs	●	●						-	1494 130
Thorens TCD2000	999	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
DACS											
▲ Arcam Black Box 50	480	Measured and sophisticated sound from a DAC that leaves plenty in reserve for future upgrades								Hyb	1506 133
Arcam Black Box 500	750	Sophisticated unit with sync lock and discrete DAC								BS	1519 136
Audio Note DAC1	675	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	799	DAC was tested with Kreatura SE – see above								BS	141
Linn Numerik	1,500	A new 20-bit DAC and revised Karik transport have cleaned up; but sounds a bit dry and humourless								MB	1323 144
▲ PS Audio UltraLink 2 HDCD	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
Roksan Attessa ATT-DA2/DSS	1,145	Not the most detailed or refined but capable of good excitement with the right material								1bit	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 TDA 2000	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 **MISSION** For details of your nearest stockist,
 ☎ 01480 451777. Or visit the company's WorldWideWeb site – <http://www.mission-cyrus.com>

Digital Recorders



Digital 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 three types to choose from: DAT (digital audio tape), MD (MiniDisc), and CD-R (CD Recordable). 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:	ISSUE NUMBER:
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 converter 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.	ISSUE NUMBER: The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.

DIGITAL RECORDERS

Product	Price(£)	Comments	FORMAT	DAC TYPE	ADC TYPE	ELECTRICAL IN/OUTPUTS	OPTICAL IN/OUTPUTS	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
Pioneer D-05	900	Second generation 96kHz DAT recorder can offer startling realism with the right software - ie first generation	DAT	BS	BS	●	●	1652	152
Pioneer PDR-05	1,000	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
Sony MDA-JA3ES	700	Full-width MD recorder that makes a decent job of recordings but is less impressive with pre-recorded material	MD	BS	BS	●	●	1216	152



Headphones

Brought to you in association with **SENNHEISER**

There are a variety of different approaches to headphone design. Among the more expensive models, electrostatic drivers are used in open-backed phones. Most models feature dynamic (moving coil) drivers in circular, open or closed-back designs. The advantage of open backs seems to be a correspondingly open sound, but one can also hear external noise, of course. Closed-back designs are useful in situations where it is necessary to block out noise.

There are three styles of headphone: circumaural models enclose the ear; supra-aural designs feature a flat pad which presses on the outer ear; and intra-aurals (in-ear) rest inside the ear itself, à la personal stereo. 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	ISSUE NUMBER: The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.

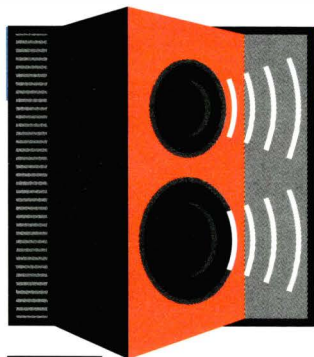
HEADPHONES

Product	Price(£)	Comments	CIRCUMAURAL TYPE	SUPRA-AURAL	OPEN BACK	CLOSED BACK	WEIGHT(g)	3.5mm JACK ADAPTOR	IMPEDANCE(Ω)	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
AKG K1000	700	One of the best dynamics on the market, hooks directly into speaker outputs	D	●	●	●	270	120	120	●	99
Audio Technica ATH910PRO	90	The closed back 910s are an improvement on the 909s, with a nice rhythmic quality rarely found with headphones	D	●	●	●	280	40	40	●	55
Beyer DT100	152	Rugged, modular professional design, but bass is woolly and treble lacks detail	D	●	●	●	350	600	600	●	157
Beyer DT311	571	Uncharacteristically tight, unrefined sound quality from this otherwise well engineered 'phone	D	●	●	●	124	40	40	●	1098
Beyer DT331	82	Tonally bright and deficient in bass, but exceptionally comfortable, articulate, detailed and refined	D	●	●	●	210	40	40	●	1801
Beyer DT411	69	A reasonable but not very thrilling headphone that doesn't really offer enough at the price	D	●	●	●	120	250	250	●	111
Beyer DT511	117	Superb midband clarity and speed slightly at odds with soft bass. High tingle factor even so	D	●	●	●	200	250	250	●	172
Beyer DT531	135	A good buy for serious, heavy-duty music making	D	●	●	●	245	250	250	●	144
Beyer DT911	235	Probably too revealing for many headphone amps, these are very subtle and fine, if expensive cans	D	●	●	●	275	250	250	●	111
Denon AH-D550	80	A competent 'phone with integrity, but little panache or charisma. Hard headband causes brain strain	D	●	●	●	200	35	35	●	1801
Denon AH-D750	130	Loud and gutsy, meaty bass, good with rock and dance. Can sound thick and clumsy	D	●	●	●	250	30	30	●	172
Grado SR-40	45	Cheap and nasty appearance largely redeemed by cheerful, up-beat sound. Very comfortable	D	●	●	●	120	32	32	●	172
Grado SR-80	100	Clear, open and dynamic with pedantically open mid-band. Crude physical design, rough frequency extremes	D	●	●	●	60	8	8	●	1801
Grado SR-225	200	Warn, darkly-coloured tonally and ultimately lacking in clarity, but true to the spirit of the music if not the letter	D	●	●	●	200	32	32	●	1883
Jacklin Float Model 1	79	While very unusual in appearance, the Floats give remarkable sound quality and openness at a reasonable price	D	●	●	●	400	200	200	●	55
Jacklin Float Model 2	99	Helmet shaped, but open sounding and comfortable in the long term, despite lack of adjustment	D	●	●	●	400	200	200	●	63
JVC HA-D910	65	Broadly acceptable if unexciting design with low level losses and some colourations	D	●	●	●	220	32	32	●	121
JVC HA-W60	49	Remarkably lack of interference and hiss makes adequate sound seem even better than it is	D	●	●	●	165	I/R	I/R	●	172
Kenwood KH-1000	20	First step-up from a true mini: a near miniature which is cheap, comfortable and inoffensive	D	●	●	●	30	32	32	●	121
Maxell HP-3000	30	Solid, smooth-sounding supra-aural headphone, but congested and undynamic. Includes in-lead controls	D	●	●	●	120	32	32	●	1099
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	100	●	1892
Philips SBC 3396	70	Remarkably airy for closed-back designs. Fine tonal balance, punchy delivery. Amazing for money	D	●	●	●	255	32	32	●	172
Philips SBC HP900	90	Sharper, snappier midrange than 3396 initially impressive but blows the balance and listenability	D	●	●	●	200	32	32	●	172
Ross RDH-300CD	17	In-lead controls are the highlights of this shoddy, sometimes aggressive-sounding design	D	●	●	●	155	I/R	I/R	●	133
Sennheiser IS 380	55	As close as you'll get to real hi-fi with IR phones at this price. Inevitable hiss spoils the illusion	D	●	●	●	192	I/R	I/R	●	172
Sennheiser HD 455	55	Inoffensive, if nondescript sound, modular, but can become dislodged from head	D	●	●	●	185	60	60	●	1801
Sennheiser HD 475	80	Elegant, uncluttered sound and very comfortable but lean bass saps satisfaction	D	●	●	●	120	60	60	●	172
Sennheiser HD 545	125	Fine all rounder that takes all styles of music in its stride. Ear-clamping headband	D	●	●	●	255	150	150	●	172

HEADPHONES (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	TYPE	CIRCUMFURAL SUPRA-AURAL	OPEN BACK	CLOSED BACK	WEIGHT(g)	3.5mm JACK ADAPTOR	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
Sennheiser HD 565 Ovation	150	Wide bandwidth design which is refined, expressive and extremely comfortable	D	●	●	●	255	150	●	1801 157
Sennheiser HE 60/HEV70/UK	998	Very nearly a superb electrostatic, with an achingly pure midband, but top end is sibilant and edgy	E	●	●	●	260	n/a	●	1898 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	●	1901 163
Sony MDR-F1	100	Natural, easy-going sound teamed with great looks and comfort. Shame about the lightweight bass	D	●	●	●	300	12	●	172
Technics RP-DJ1200	130	Functional design with head-pulping bass and muggy tonal balance. Good job they're sweat-proof	D	●	●	●	230	32	●	172
Stax Lambda Nova Basic	449	Refined, articulate, yet with real presence – and a notable bargain by electrostatic standards	E	●	●	●	347	n/a	●	1902 163
Technics RP-HT700	70	Well-finished but physically crass and grubby sounding	D	●	●	●	255	-	●	1801 157
Vivanco IR5800	50	Consistently musical and easy going. Doesn't reach for sonic heights so hiss is less bothersome	D	●	1/2	●	226	I/R	●	172
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
Vivanco Cyberwave FMH3000	80	The only cordless headphone that offer genuine walkabout freedom. But it sounds like a cheap FM tuner	D	●	●	●	210	FM	●	172

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

Brought to you in association with **KEF**

As the last item in the hi-fi chain, the loudspeaker is merely the slave of what has gone before; it is only as good as the signal it is fed. Nevertheless, the distortions introduced by loudspeakers (and rooms) tend to be the most obvious. The average loudspeaker consists of an enclosure plus a couple of drive units behind a removable grille. Inside the box lurks a simple electrical circuit known as a crossover, which divides the incoming (full range) signal into the right bits for the drivers to handle. The designer's primary task is to balance the 'sensitivity' of the loudspeaker (how loud it goes

for a given electrical input) against the bass extension (how low it goes), for the given box size. Subwoofers augment the bass and come in passive and amplified active form. They are less sensitive to placement than regular speakers.

B Best Buy **R** Recommended

KEY

SIZE WxHxD (cm): Width by height by depth in centimetres.
 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.
 ISSUE NUMBER: 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)	FLOORSTANDER	CLOSE TO WALL	FREE SPACE	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
Acoustic Energy AE109	350	Lots of mass-loaded twin-driver speaker for the money, especially for loud, driving bass	18,90,25	●	88	4	25	●	●	1904	164
Acoustic Energy AE120	500	Attractive presentation and good sonic headroom, but a heavy, uneven overall balance, and a difficult amp load too	18,98,28	●	89	4	25	●	●	170	
ATC SCM20	1,599	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	●	●	1905	164
Audio Note AN-I/D	930	Light damping and local unevenness add some colouration, but don't spoil the speaker	38,58,25	●	93	8	25	●	●	110	
Audio Note AN-E/D	1,520	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	150	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	152
B&W 305	350	Ridged paper cone gives lively sound, clever box, but a little uneven	22,87,31	●	89	4	40	●	●	1908	164
B&W 603	500	Squat floorstander with decent dynamics and well-judged, restrained balance; bass could go deeper	23,5,88,29	●	89	7	45	●	●	170	
B&W P4	675	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	●	●	1818	160
B&W Matrix 805 V	1095	Stylish, remarkable imaging, good balance and low colouration	33,33,21	●	87	8	30	●	●	98	
B&W Matrix 804	1695	A great all-rounder which combines exceptional bass extension with fine sensitivity	26,96,26	●	88	4	20	●	●	167	
B&W Matrix 801S3	3,995	Lacks transparency and the drama of the best dynamics, but acoustically a tour de force	44,100,56	●	87	8	20	●	●	81	
B&W Nautilus	35,000	Radical design results in one of the finest loudspeakers available. Active x-over needs 4 power amps (Statements)	42,105,90	●	87	4	10	●	●	166	
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	
Cadence ES	3,500	Hybrid electrostatic/dynamic design from India that excels with classical material (Statements)	33,108,37	●	91	8	35	●	●	1798	157
Castle Isis	230	A great miniature at a very competitive price. Sound is lightweight but very coherent, with a fine overall balance	17,35,5,21	●	87	8	45	●	●	170	
Castle Severn	539	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	●	●	1909	164
Castle Harlech	849	Handsome big-sounding floorstander, great value and dynamic midrange	20,96,33	●	88	8	28	●	●	1820	160
Castle Howard S2	1,200	Able to fill the gap between Chester and Winchester; has a rich, laid-back balance	26,104,41	●	90	8	40	●	●	1078	132
Celestion A1	899	Rich, warm and laid-back, but a true quality sound; lovely build	24,41,35	●	88	6	25	●	●	1910	164
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

HI-FI LOUDSPEAKERS (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	SIZE WxYxD(CM)	SENSITIVITY(dB/W)	IMPEDEANCE(Ω)		BASS FROM		FACTS CLOSE TO WALL	ISSUE NUMBER
					FLOORSTANDER	FREE SPACE	(Hz)			
Chario Syntar 100	250	Pretty with a pleasantly easygoing balance, but not the most communicative or exciting sound around	18,32,27		87	6	45	●		170
▶ Dali 104B	370	Lively, rich sounding and communicative. Shame about bland styling and dull balance	22,86,27	●	93	4	28	●	1657	152
▶ Dynaudio Contour 1.8	1,842	Wonderful voice-band delicacy and loads of deep bass from a very elegant and compact box	21,95,29	●	85	4	20	●		167
Electrofluidics Sonolith 2.2xi	5,999	Polymer concrete cabinet with aluminium cones produces world class imaging and very serious bass (Statements)	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	●	1823	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 2i	140	Unspectacular sound and appearance fail to help this solid little miniature stand out from the crowd	22,40,27		88	7	40	●		170
GLL Imagio IC130	530	Lots of speaker for the money, but sound is decidedly dull and shut in	22,112,29	●	88	4	20	●	1824	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 Heylette	269	Attractive traditional-style near-miniature has fine bass-to-mid integrity, but dull and shut-in top end	19,5,30,20		89	6	45	●		170
▶ Heybrook Heylios	389	Great all-round performance in a pretty package at a sharp price	24,36,27	●	87	6	25	●		164
Heybrook Heylo	439	Good vocal reproduction, but sounds thin and bass seems an afterthought	23,73,19	●	88	8	30	●	1658	152
▶ Heybrook Quartet	649	Solidly large bookshelf model with good sensitivity and a lively, forward sound	24,41,22		90	8	48	●		122
▶ Heybrook Sextet	1,299	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
Jamo BX100A	350	A cracking output for their size, these rock boxes can be a bit bright but have decent bass	31,5,54,28		91	8	40	●	1758	155
Jamo Classic 8	400	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 477A	500	Very prettily styled, but build and sound quality are disappointing at the price	19,77,28	●	88	4	40	●	1549	138
Jamo Concert 8	1,300	Employing a die cast magnesium cone with a charming open and detailed midband (Statements)	24,5,38,31		90	4	38	●	1822	160
▶ JBL LX2	250	Lively and invigorating, if a touch crude, this good-hearted speaker reproduces music with considerable enthusiasm	22,40,27	●	87	8	40	●		170
▶ JBL L20	700	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 L40	1,000	Classic, large, stand-mount 3-way is full of vim and vigour, with a superb sense of balance	30,65,31		88	4	23	●		167
▶ JBL L90	1,500	A classic monitor which communicates with gusto and enthusiasm, though it can sound a bit crude	24,94,35	●	91	6	23	●	1348	143
▶ Jordan Watts JH400	565	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 ML510	140	Lots of good-quality speaker for the price, but not an ideal match for cheap budget components	20,34,22		88	5	50	●		169
▶ JPW MS1010	400	A seriously substantial speaker for the price, and an obvious choice for those who like their music loud	22,5,115,40	●	91	6	25	●		170
▶ JPW Ruby 1	400	Very pretty but pricey luxury metal-cone miniature has good, if slightly edgy balance	19,32,21		87	6	55	●	1572	139
▶ KEF Coda 7	130	Lovely open voice reproduction, but bass could be tauter; build tougher	18,30,23		88	6	50	●	1783	156
▶ KEF Coda 8	190	Outstandingly well-balanced, bass is deep but a little vague	20,32,5,29		86	6	28	●	1784	156
KEF Coda 9	300	Uneven budget 3-way floorstander with poor bass definition	20,86,28	●	89	6	30	●	1785	156
KEF RDM One	500	Cute and tiny, nice midband but lack of bass warmth and weight	23,30,24		89	4	70	●		164
KEF Reference Model 2	1,599	Classy, large floorstander that has massive headroom and clean mid-to-treble, but limited deep bass for size	23,103,34	●	89	6	30	●		167
▶ Keswick Audio Aria II	329	Confident and dynamic sound, if a little crude and shut in	21,42,24		89	8	20	●	1405	148
▶ Keswick Audio Torino	900	Good value, lively contender with distinctive shape and styling. Goes loud and deep but could be smoother	18-26, 93,28	●	90	4	20	●		167
▶ Linn Keildh Passive	750	Stunning timing and coherence, and awesome bass drive	20,83,28	●	87	4	22	●	1552	138
▶ Linn Kaber Passive	2,000	Dry, bright balance emphasises dynamics and transients, but can sound unforgiving	20,90,28	●	87	4	25	●		118
Living Voice Airscout	19,500	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	37,200	Outstanding transparency and dynamics from remarkably solid and fast mega horn	64,160,90	●	108	8	40	●		138
Meridian DSP6000	9,400	Sophisticated digital design, with a wide-ranging, refined and detailed sound. Has on-board amplification	28,133,43	●	-	-	35	●	1226	140
▶ Mission 731 PRO	140	Cautious balance makes a fine match with budget equipment. A classy baby for smaller rooms	17,5,31,5,20		89	8	55	●		169
▶ Mission 733i	330	New tweeter gives this floorstander a more open sound; a good all-rounder that doesn't sound as big as it looks	20,5,88,30	●	88	8	45	●		170
▶ Mission 753 Freedom	798	Great styling. New, more restrained tweeter reveals fine midband dynamics	21,90,31	●	89	4	40	●		164
Mission 754 Freedom 5	1,298	Tall but exceptionally elegant floorstander gives fine midband projection; goes loud but limited deep bass for size	22,111,31	●	88	4	40	●		167
Monitor Audio Monitor 3	400	An exceptionally discreet floorstander; sonically uneven, it's capable of fine results if used in a sympathetic system	16,91,21	●	88	5	30	●		170
▶ Monitor Audio MA700 PMC	600	Good-looking luxury compact with all-metal diaphragms, lovely midrange, but occasionally edgy	22,35,26		89	8	45	●	1661	152
▶ Monitor Audio MA703 PMC	800	Lovely but pricey floorstander has up-front, coherent 'shiny' sound	20,89,27	●	88	8	50	●	1826	160
Monitor Audio Studio 12	1,000	A real looker, but sound and content are a bit on the small side for the price	17,92,20	●	90	8	28	●	1349	143
▶ Mordaunt-Short MS10i	140	Up front, bouncy and a whole lot of fun	18,5,30,5,20		86	8	50	●	1789	156
▶ Mordaunt-Short 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	1,895	Although a very neutral loudspeaker it can, with the right ancillaries, pack a serious punch (Statements)	26,86,35	●	90	6	35	●	1367	146
Musical Technology Kestrel SE	300	Brighter and drier-sounding than the 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	660	Great dynamic range and info retrieval, but thin, lacks warmth	24,89,27	●	89	6	30	●		164
▶ Naim SBL Passive	1,970	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 all-round sound and value	20,85,18	●	84	8	25	●	1827	160
▶ Neat Petite II	745	Compact design now tilising ribbon tweeter with a fine sense of timing and surprising musicality (tested in Sessions)	20,30,18		86	8	33	●		160
▶ Neat Petite II/Gravitas	2,000	Beautifully presented miniature/subwoofer combo with ribbon tweeter gives smooth, laid-back sound	23,105,40	●	85	6	25	●		167
▶ NRT SuperOne	358	A fine compromise between size and performance, though sensitivity and loudness capability is modest	18,5,29,5,23		85	8	30	●		170
Origin Live Conqueror	1,650	Chunky floorstanding 3-way has lovely cabinetwork and lively sound, but limited deep bass	24,94,27	●	88	8	30	●		167
Pink Triangle Ventral	999	If you are after Quad Electrostatic-type transparency but can't afford the price... (Sessions)	15,80,32		86	11		●		142
▶ PMC TB1	410	Superb transparency, subtle laid-back sound, well worth seeking out	20,40,31		87	8	45	●	1830	160
▶ PMC LB1	935	Delightful smoothness and transparency, though bass and treble are both limited	18,53,25		89	4	33	●		110
▶ PMC AB1	1,496	Lovely panel-like transparency, slightly shut-in balance, needs a big room	26,79,43		89	6	22	●		114
▶ Polk LS50	800	No enthusiast tweaks here, but powerful and beautiful balance	27,83,29	●	89	8	25	●	1155	138
▶ Polk RT16	800	Bass rich, lively and powerful, but suspect top end; big and not very pretty	22,105,39	●	91	4	22	●	1831	160
▶ 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

HI-FI LOUDSPEAKERS (CONTINUED)

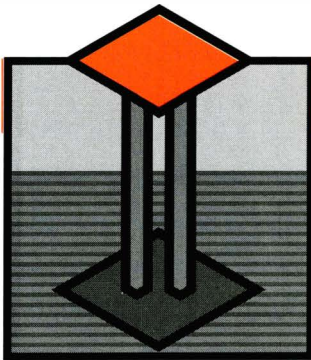
Product	Price (£)	Comments	SIZE WxHxD (CM)	SENSITIVITY (dB/W)	IMPEDANCE (Ω)	BASS FROM (Hz)	FACTS CLOSE TO WALL	ISSUE NUMBER
Proac Response 2.5	2,700	For aspirant high-enders looking for seriously good conventional boxes, this speaker should be first port of call	22,107,25	● 86	8 30	●	1457	149
QLN Qubic 222	400	Ugly but good value floorstander with loads of bass and a smooth balance	21,87,29	● 88	6 25	●	1832	160
QLN Signature	1,000	Attractive pyramidal stand-mount with heavy, laid-back balance but remarkably unboxy sound; superb stereo	27,37,36	● 83	4 25	●		167
Quad ESL-63	3,450	Classic electrostatic lacks punch, but has strengths some can't live without	66,93,27	● 86	8 34	●		60
Rega Kyle	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
Rehdeko RK 115a	1,700	Single-driver system has limited bandwidth and obvious coloration, but wondrous dynamic and temporal coherence	34,42,27		95 8 55	●		167
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 250	250	A nice price for a floorstander, but over-bright sound balance has potentially fatiguing consequences	21,85,5,25	● 87	8 22	●		170
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
RMS Revelation Series 1	1,300	Innovative metal-box compact with integral port/stand – clean with good timing but very laid-back balance	20,99,24	● 81	8 22	●		167
Rogers LS1	149	High grade miniature	20,20,30		87 6	●	1408	143
Rogers dB101	250	Style par excellence, this shapely sub-miniature is fast and agile but lightweight and forward: great voices; lacks bass	20,26,20		88 6 45	●		170
Rogers Studio 3	499	Pricely 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
Rogers C6/28	1,303	Large floorstander with carbon-fibre tweeter. Sounds much better than it looks, especially through the midband	25,103,29	● 88	6 20	●		167
Roksan ROKone	595	Large stand-mount is musically very communicative if a little coloured	21,45,33		89 6 30	●	1834	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
Roksan O13X Black	995	Innovative low-line, 2-way floorstander with decoupled tweeter; great bass and fine dynamic range	28,79,46	● 84	8 20	●		167
Royd Minstrel	269	Not much wellie or loudness but fine coherence and timing, a bit bright	18,69,12	● 86	8 30	●	1167	135
Royd Doublet	450	Great value compact floorstander; lively and very informative, if a little uneven	18,93,19	● 90	4 28	●	1835	160
Royd The Sorcerer	595	Extremely musical and communicative speaker that's 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 Talisman II	749	Less ideologically committed than some, strength lies in fine all-round coherence	23,84,32	● 88	8 30	●		118
Ruark Crusader	1,600	Elegant luxury 3-way with wonderfully even-handed, if rather laid-back balance	24,94,31	● 85	6 22	●		167
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	649	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	1,549	Bass suspect but forward midband is delightfully smooth. Has ribbon tweeter	20,110,30	● 88	8 30	●	1081	132
SD Acoustics SD1E	2,995	Two-part design with four rear firing bass drivers that has vibrancy, transparency and energy (Statements)	25,120,40	● 90	6 25	●		159
Sequence 400	330	Clever hang-on-wall panel is well voiced, though bass isn't too great	25,100,7		86 8 45	●		164
Shahinian Arc	1,875	Occasionally wonderful small floorstanding omni; bright but coherent and revealing	35,69,25		88 6 24	●		110
Silverado Raider	695	Beautifully built audiophile compact, neutral if bright, tough work for amps	20,40,25		83 3 30	●		164
Sonus Faber Concerto	1,098	Beautiful Italian bookshelf design with superb midrange but limited loudness capabilities (Statements)	22,5,36,34		87 8 45	●		165
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	599	Discreet slimline floorstander with delicately coherent, laid-back sound	18,89,27	● 87	8 30	●	1836	160
Tangent Monitor 5	80	An uneven performer best suited to small rooms and generous volume levels	17,52,17		83 8 55	●		169
Tangent Monitor 9	150	Budget floorstander that can motor when the music demands with a solid bass but occasionally raw treble	19,5,75,5,22,5	● 90	6 45	●		165
Tannoy Mercury M2	140	A fine all-rounder with big box and deep bass for the price; could be sweeter and tighter	20,5,38,28		87 8 25	●		169
Tannoy Profile 631	150	Balanced, open, unboxy and quite lively, but lacks muscle	19,34,15		87 6 60	●	1616	141
Tannoy Profile 631SE	170	Very refined midband; maybe too laid-back for some	13-19,34,16		86 7 45	●	1791	156
Tannoy Mercury M3	230	Good-looking fine value floorstander is very neutral and evenhanded, with fine midband but weak dynamics and drive	20,5,87,28	● 87	7 20	●		170
Tannoy Profile 633	300	Impressive bass and balance from very compact floorstander. Upper midband could be cleaner	29,75,28	● 89	85 20	●	1665	152
Tannoy Profile 635	450	Beefy low-line floorstander packs real bass punch and an up-front balance	17-29,85,27	● 90	6 22	●	1665	160
Tannoy Profile 637	550	Good value package but a rather heavy, thick, big-bass sound	17-29,84,27	● 90	3 20	●		164
Tannoy D300	1,000	Gorgeous-looking compact floorstander. And a fine all-round performer too	16-24,85,23	● 87	6 26	●		167
Tannoy D500	1,999	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	6,600	These awesome horn-loaded speakers are remarkably controlled and impressive	large	● 99	8 38	●		C93
TDL Near Field Monitor	120	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	280	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 T-Line 3	750	Plenty of bass and treble, but broad midband is rather repressed	20,97,38	● 86	8 20	●		164
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
Totem Model One	1,195	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
Wharfedale Diamond 7.2	140	A good-hearted, lively and up-front performer that's a little lacking in subtlety and smoothness	19,29,5,23		88 4 45	●		169
Wharfedale Valdis 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 Valdis 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 truly a high-end loudspeaker (Statements)	23,108, 37	● 89	6 40	●	1852	162
ZYP AI	199	Cute metal cased micro-miniature is quite coloured but great fun	14,22,12		88 8 30	●		110

TO DISCOVER HOW YOU CAN ENJOY THE "EXPERIENCE OF SOUND" **KEF** (01622) 672261 FREEPOST ME15 6BR @ http://www.kef.com **KEF**

HI-FI LOUDSPEAKERS (CONTINUED)

ISSUE NUMBER
FACTSBACK NUMBER
CLOSE TO WALL
FREE SPACE
BASS FROM (Hz)
IMPEDANCE(Ω)
SENSITIVITY(dB/W)
FLOORSTANDER
SIZE WxHxD(CM)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	SIZE WxHxD(CM)	SENSITIVITY(dB/W)	IMPEDANCE(Ω)	BASS FROM (Hz)	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
SUBWOOFERS								
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
Celestion CS135	139	Compact hideaway passive sub lacks deep bass for high sensitivity speakers	52,19,34	●	86	8	45	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	2,500	Works well, looks great, shakes the windows but costs a lot and is bulky	56,43,50	●		45		128
Living Voice RW24	11,500	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
Rogers AB1	549	Subwoofer-cum-stand designed as partner for LS3/5a or similar miniatures	19,57,16	●	82	8	1354	143



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

a 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.

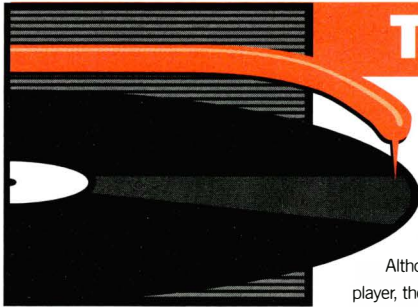
B Best buy **R** Recommended

KEY	HEIGHT (CM):	TOP PLATE SIZE (CM):	FILLABLE:	lead to increase mass, which affects sound.	WELDED:	NUMBER OF SHELVES:	rack or support.	SHELF TYPE:	FACTSBACK NUMBER:	copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback information page.	ISSUE NUMBER:
	Height of stand or equipment shelf.	Dimensions of top plate on speaker stand or equipment support.	Some speaker stands can be filled with sand and/or		The better stands and supports are welded rather than bolted together.	The amount of bers on an equipment		Material that shelves are made of on an equipment rack. Wood generally means MDF.	The Factsback reference for ordering a fax		The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.

STANDS & SUPPORTS

Product	Price(£)	Comments	TOP PLATE SIZE(CM)	HEIGHT(CM)	FILLABLE	WELDED	NUMBER OF SHELVES	SHELF TYPE	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER	
Equipment Supports											
Audiophile Furniture Base	480	Easy to set up, well-ordered sound	40				4	Wood	1633	151	
Custom Design Classic Four	270	Glass-shelved stand with octagonal wooden uprights with upward facing spikes isolating the top shelf, adjustable shelf height	81	46,37			4	Glass		166	
Fi-Rax R4	250	Lively, exuberant sound, slightly weak bass					5	Glass	1633	151	
Frameworks H500/H175	404	Two-shelf stand and isolation platform combo in tubular steel that made a spectacular impression on audition	70	52,34	●		3	Glass		166	
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 5 Tier Sound Table	600	Infinitely upgradeable. Persuasive and thrilling glass and angle iron design that adds speed and bandwidth to components upon it					5	Glass	1633	151	
Optimum Int 2000 OPT490	350	25kg stand with shelves sandwiched between variable height tubular uprights. Sounds smooth and relaxed with sturdy bass	50	60,40			4	Glass		166	
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	84,40	●		5	Wood	1633	151	
Sound Organisation Z560	150	A mix of welded and bolted members gives good structural integrity. While performance is not up with the best, it's great value	90	46,36	●		5	Wood		166	
Soundstyle Select 6105	280	Respectable sonics, structurally solid and smart					5	Glass	1633	151	
Soundstyle Finewoods W105	320	Veneered shelves clamped between tubular uprights that delivers with classical material	82	48,27			4	Wood		166	
Stands Unique Sound Tower	249	Wooden uprights combine with glass shelves to provide a fresh, forward sound, but bass could be quicker	81	72,42			5	Glass	1633	151	
Target B5	175	Free of colorations, fine grip and good value					5	Wood	1633	151	
Speaker Stands											
Alphason NC I	45	Filled single-column design without threaded spike holes that's appropriate for non-critical applications	40-60	16,16	●				1373	146	
Alphason NCII	80	Tall, slim and elegant, though sound and value are unexceptional	40-60	17,17	●					159	
Alphason Titan	120	Excels in the midband and allows voices to come across in a detailed and expressive fashion	40-60	16,16	●	●			1373	146	
Apollo AZ6	80	Fine engineering value, but sound unexceptional and top-plate small	66	15,13	●	●				159	
Atacama BD21	55	Good-looking and good value but doesn't match the SE24's sound quality	56	15,17	●					159	
Atacama SE24	70	Stands 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 stand's performance seemed remarkably muscular but musical rendering lacked a little precision					●	●		1373	146
Partington Discovery	80	The depth and substance of the presentation truly added to the convincing nature of the system's portrayal					●	●		1373	146
Partington Trophy	100	Four-column design with damped top and base plates, sound is tight and cogent with smoothly integrated detail					●	●		1373	146
Revolver RS1	70	A good blend of performance and appearance for the price	53	18,18	●					159	
RMS/Stands Unique Vivus	550	Pricy carbon fibres give ultra-clean sound with exceptional voices	50	N/A						159	
Soundstyle 124	100	Big, shiny and solid, with fine midband projection	65	17,16	●					159	
Stands Unique HP	220	Real wood disguises high performance tuned technology	59	22,23						159	
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	68	Lively, dynamic midrange and detailed treble from a less-than audiophile oriented twin column design	60	15,15	●					1373	14

Tonearms



Turntables at the cheaper end of the market tend to be supplied with a matching tonearm, and often include a 'starter' cartridge. Still better quality is found at higher prices among the separate motor units and tonearms. Careful partnering and set-up is essential for these components.

Although the turntable is the most important part of a record player, the tonearm is the second most important, and the quality of

its construction and design have a significant bearing on sound quality. There are three basic types of arms listed in the key and each has its strengths, but pivoted designs are the most popular, for reasons both practical and economical.

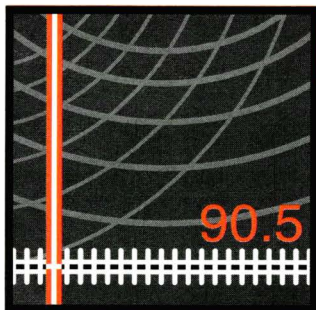
B Best buy **R** Recommended

KEY

EFFECTIVE MASS: This relates to cartridge compliance. Generally high mass arms are suitable for low compliance cartridges and vice versa.
PARALLEL TRACKING: An arm which allows the cartridge to track the disc in a linear fashion.
PIVOTED: Arms which allow the cartridge to describe an arc as they traverse the record.
UNI-PIVOT: Pivoted arms with a bearing that allows movement in two planes.
EFFECTIVE LENGTH (cm): Length of arm from bearing to cartridge mounting.
ADJUSTABLE HEIGHT: Important for accurate cartridge set-up.
FACTSBACK NUMBER: The reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback.
ISSUE NUMBER: The issue of *Hi-Fi Choice* in which the original review appeared.

TONEARMS

Product	Price(£)	Comments	PARALLEL TRACKING	EFFECTIVE MASS	PIVOTED	UNI-PIVOT	EFFECTIVE LENGTH (cm)	ADJUSTABLE HEIGHT	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
Alphason HR100S	490	S-shaped arm sounds smooth, but nevertheless reproduces transients with fine attack	Medium	●	●	●	229	●	86	
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	Targeted 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 coloration	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.

B Best buy **R** Recommended

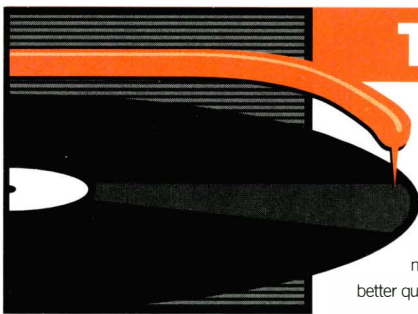
KEY

WAVEBANDS: Only the FM (VHF) bands give stereo hi-fi sound, though AM (MW & LW) are useful for receiving certain transmissions in the UK.
PRESETS: Number of station frequencies that can be stored.
RDS: (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.
REMOTE CONTROL: Couch-potato friendly.
SIGNAL STRENGTH METER: Indicates strength of signal from aerial, useful for aligning your 'twig' during installation.
ROTARY TUNING KNOB: The ergonomically attractive approach to dial-surfing.
FACTSBACK NUMBER: The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback information page.
ISSUE NUMBER: The issue of *Hi-Fi Choice* in which the original review appeared.

Tuners

Product	Price(£)	Comments	WAVEBANDS	PRESETS	RDS	ROTARY TUNING KNOB	SIGNAL STRENGTH METER	REMOTE CONTROL	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
AMC T7	130	Performance adequate but price is sharp, especially with remote control. Some hum	FM, M	30	●	●	●	●		166
Arcam Alpha 7	230	Indifferent RF performance but a touch of audiophile sound quality with clean, strong signals	FM,M,L	24						166
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	Unusual 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
Denon TU-425RD	200	A fine all-rounder with advanced RDS, good RF performance and decent sound. Remote extra	FM, M	40	●					166
Harman/Kardon TU950	200	Bulky but effective, delivering fine RF performance and good sound for the price	FM,M,L	30	●			●		166
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
Micromega Tuner	700	Has digital output but even without the Micromega DAC, this provides exceptional sound quality. Looks good too	FM	39	●	●				1810
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
Naim NAT01	1,645	There may be better sounding tuners in the world, but we have yet to hear one	FM							1254
Pioneer F-504RDS	250	Cable-friendly with advanced RDS and excellent RF performance, slightly disappointing sound	FM,M	40	●	●	●	●		166
Rotel RT-935AX	160	Good ergonomics and sound quality at a realistic price, but limited features and RF selectivity	FM,M	20						166
Sony ST-SA3ES	250	Clean, lean presentation but needs a quality aerial to perform at its best	FM,M,L	30	●	●	●	●		1810
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

Turntables



Specialist turntables are what high fidelity sound is all about. CD players may offer silent backgrounds and flat frequency responses, but they can't match the dynamics and superlative timing that serious turntable users take for granted. Turntables at the cheaper end of the market tend to be supplied with a matching tonearm, and often include a 'starter' cartridge. Still better quality is found at higher prices among the separate motor units

and tonearms. Careful partnering and set-up is essential for these components, but many so-called 'sympathetic' combinations exist.

Because turntables are mechanical devices that are designed to retrieve modulations as small as a micron, engineering quality is of paramount importance. It is also the reason why turntables cost as much as they do, and require high quality support systems.



KEY		SUPPLIED WITH CARTRIDGE:	ISSUE NUMBER:
MANUAL: You do it all: put the needle on the record and take it off.	structural interference.	Most turntables do not come supplied with a needle.	The issue of <i>Hi-Fi Choice</i> in which the original review appeared.
AUTO: The record player does it all.	EXTERNAL PSU: Outboard power supply, generally it indicates high quality.	FACTSBACK NUMBER: The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback information page.	
SEMI-AUTO: You share the work: you put it on, it takes it off.	SUPPLIED WITH ARM: Many turntables require a separate arm to be fitted; if not, this tells you so.		
SPEEDS: In RPM to correspond with your platters.			
SUSPENDED SUBCHASSIS: Sprung suspension to minimise			

TURNTABLES

Product	Price (£)	Comments	MANUAL	AUTO	SEMI-AUTO	SPEEDS	SUSPENDED SUBCHASSIS	EXTERNAL ELECTRONIC PSU	SUPPLIED WITH ARM	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
Alphason Sonata	835	Good sound in all areas - bass, clarity and neutrality all in top class (tested with HR100S MCS)	●							33	79
Clearaudio Reference	2,500	Opulent beast tested with Souther TQ-1 arm. Tends to gloss over detail with a fizzy character but is quite bold	●							33/45	1328 144
DNM Rota 2	4,800	Tonally slightly bleached, but extracts detail like few others. Works well on own table	●							33/45	1328 144
Dual 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 Gyrodec	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 simplify 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. Up-tempo, 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-focused 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
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
Wilson-benesch TT/Act 2 arm	3,249	Carbon fibre is extensively used in this neutral and well-resolved turntable with its fabulous unipivot tonearm (Statements)	●							33/45	1775 156

Ever wanted to look back at a *Hi-Fi Choice* review or needed some sound independent advice to make up that 'Best Buy' system? Factsback is a personal service designed to help you navigate the ever-increasing list of available products. Now, our reprints are instantly available to you via your fax (or fax/modem) 24 hours a day. You get the review you need, just when you need it. International readers can order copies of reviews (£1.50 per page with a credit card) by calling Starcomm on +44 1132 940600.

How much will it cost?

The cost of our easy-to-use service is 39p per minute off-peak and 49p per minute at all other times. The pages you will receive have been designed to keep user costs to a minimum. The Factsback system was put together by Starcomm Ltd (01132) 940600.

Factsback



How Hi-Fi Choice Factsback works

- 1 Call the Factsback system from the handset of your fax machine. The handset must be switched to 'tone'.
- 2 Following voice prompts, select either an index of documents or specific documents by a known document number from the keypad of your fax machine.
- 3 Factsback delivers your choice of documents to your fax machine complete with coversheet.

CALL 0930 110118

MANUFACTURER & DISTRIBUTOR CONTACT NUMBERS

A

Acoustic Energy Ltd • tel 01285 654432 • fax 01285 654430 • E-mail info@acoustic-energy.co.uk
 Acoustic Precision • tel 01483 267516 • fax 01483 267516
 Acurus • Audio Illusion • tel 01753 542761 • fax 01753 772532
 ADT • Aanvil Audio • tel 01359 240687 • fax 01359 240687
 Adyton • Aanvil Audio • tel 01359 240687 • fax 01359 240687
 Air Tangent • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962 • E-mail 73064, 1710@compuserve.com
 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 • fax 01234 742028 • Dealers 50
 Alchemist Products • Henley Designs • tel 01753 889949 • fax 01753 889636
 Allison Acoustics Ltd • tel 01484 603333 • fax 01484 607774
 Alon • Sound Image UK • tel 0181 255 6868 • fax 0181 255 6869
 Alphason • tel 01942 678000 • fax 609913 • Dealers 700
 Apollo Hi-Fi Furniture • tel 0121 520 5070 • fax 0121 522 2055
 AMC • tel 0181 591 6961 • fax 0181594 3996
 Analysis • Audio Spectrum • tel 01752 361852 • fax 01752 361852
 Arcam • A&R Cambridge • tel 01223 203203 • fax 01223 863384 • E-mail custserv@arcam.co.uk
 Ariston • Hi-fi Direct • tel 0500 333500 • fax 0171 4035152
 Art Audio • tel 0115 965 3604 • fax 0115 963 7795
 Atacama • Sambell Engineering • tel 01455 283251 • fax 01455 283908
 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 0500 333500 • fax 0171 4035152
 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 • E-mail sales@audiotechnica.co.uk
 Audiolab • Cambridge Systems Technology Ltd • tel 01480 52521 • fax 01480 52159
 Audiomeca • Kronos Distribution • tel 018687 48632 • fax 018687 48281 • E-mail aron@dia.pipe.com
 Audiophile Furniture • tel 01342 826262 • fax 01342 824845
 Audioquest • A&R Cambridge • tel 01223 203203 • fax 01223 863384 • E-mail custserv@arcam.co.uk
 Audiostatic • Audiofreaks • tel 0181 948 4153 • fax 0181 948 4250 • E-mail info@audiofreaks.i-way.co.uk
 Audiovector • The Chord Company • tel 01722 331674 • fax 01722 411388
 Aura • B&W Loudspeakers • tel 01903 750750 • fax 01903 750694 • E-mail bwuk@compuserve.com
 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 • fax 0181 543 3300
 Basis • RT Services • tel 01235 810455 • fax 01235 810455
 Benz-Micro • Audiofreaks • tel 0181 948 4153 • fax 0181 948 4250 • E-mail info@audiofreaks.i-way.co.uk
 Beyerdynamic • tel 01444 258258 • fax 01444 258444 • Dealers 300 • E-mail sales@beyerdynamic.co.uk
 Bose UK Ltd • tel 01795 475341 • fax 01795 427227 • Dealers 496
 Boston Acoustics • Portfolio Marketing • tel 01489 795519 • fax 01489 795775
 Boulder Amplifiers • Sound Image UK • tel 0181 255 6868 • fax 0181 255 6869
 Bravura • Thomas Transducers • tel 01732 851408 • fax 01732 850315
 Bryston • Professional Monitor Co • tel 01707 393002 • fax 01707 393536 • E-mail sanes@promonitor.co.uk

C

Cable Talk • tel 01252 373434 • fax 01252 371818
 Cadence • Henley Designs • tel 01753 889949 • fax 01753 889636
 Cambridge Audio • Hi-fi Direct • tel 0500 333500 • fax 0171 4035152
 Castle Acoustics Ltd • tel 01756 795333 • fax 01756 795335 • Dealers 264
 CAT • Audio Reference • tel 01483 575344 • fax 01483 301412
 Celestion International Ltd • tel 01622 687442 • fax 01622 687981 • Dealers 200
 Cerwin Vega • CSE Administration • tel 01423 359054 • fax 01423 359058 • Dealers 98
 Chario • MDC • tel 01992 573030 • fax 01992 574030 • E-mail mdc.hifi@virgin.net
 Chord • The Chord Company Ltd • tel 01722 331674 • fax 01722 411388 • Dealers 210
 Chord Electronics • tel 01622 764874 • fax 01622 688480
 Classé Audio • Audio Illusion • tel 01753 542761 • fax 01753 688480
 Clearaudio • Audiofreaks • tel 0181 948 4153 • fax 0181 948 4250 • E-mail info@audiofreaks.i-way.co.uk
 Clements • Wollaton Audio • tel 0115 928 4147 • fax 0115 9280625 • E-mail audio@wollaton.demon.co.uk
 Concordant • Sambell Engineering • tel 01455 283251 • fax 01455 283908
 Conrad-Johnson • Audiofreaks • tel 0181 948 4153 • fax 0181 948 4250 • E-mail info@audiofreaks.i-way.co.uk
 Copland • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962 • E-mail 73064, 1710@compuserve.com
 Credo • Townshend Audio • tel 0181 979 21255
 Creek Audio Ltd • tel 0181 361 4133 • fax 0181 361 4136 • Dealers 40 • E-mail mcreek@ibm.net
 CR Developments • CR Developments Ltd • tel 01702 469055 • fax 01702 601883
 Crimson • Virtual Reality Audio Systems • tel 01277 227355 • fax 01277 224103
 Croft • tel 01902 656517 • fax 0121 6818772
 Custom Design • tel 0191 262 4646 • fax 0191 262 4646

D

Dali • Audio Club • tel 01296 82017 • fax 01296 86331 • E-mail sales@nad.co.uk
 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
 Definitive Technology • The Mafia Trading Co • tel 01794 519599 • fax 01794 519599
 Denon • Hayden Laboratories Ltd • tel 01753 888447 • fax 01753 880109 • Dealers 350
 Densen • Russell Kauffman Distribution • tel 01582 561227 • fax 0045 75453928

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 • fax 01665 830051

E

EAD • Audio Illusion • tel 01753 542761 • fax 01753 772532
 EAR • Yoshino • tel 01480 861834 • fax 01480 453971
 ECA Distribution • tel 0181 998 1086 • fax 0181 998 1086 • Dealers 5
 Electrofluidics • tel 0171 247 0813 • fax 0171 247 7382
 Electrocompaniet • Sound Image UK • tel 0181 255 6868 • fax 0181 255 6869
 Electrostatic Research • Audusa & Co • tel 0181 942 6241 • fax 0181 241 0999
 EMF Audio • tel 0181 361 6734 • fax 0181 361 4136 • E-mail mcreek@ibm.net
 Epos Acoustics • tel 01705 407722 • fax 01705 407722 • Dealers 68
 Exposure Electronics • tel 01273 423877 • fax 01273 430619

F

Fanfare • RT Services • tel 01235 810455 • fax 01235 810455
 Faraday Sound • tel 01603 762967
 Fi-Rax • JEM Distribution • tel 01924 277626 • fax 01924 270759
 Forté Audio • Acoustic Energy Ltd • tel 01285 654432 • fax 01285 654430 • E-mail info@acoustic-energy.co.uk
 Frameworks • Arrow Consultancy Ltd • tel 01702 611451 • fax 01702 469078

G

Gale • Hi-fi Direct • tel 0500 333500 • fax 0171 4035152 • Dealers 23
 Gallo • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962 • E-mail 73064, 1710@compuserve.com
 Gamma Acoustics • tel 01753 526939 • fax 01753 532262
 Genesis • MDC • tel 01992 573030 • fax 01992 574030 • E-mail mdc.hifi@virgin.net
 Genexxa • Intertan Ltd • tel 01922 434000 • fax 01922 710789 • Dealers 346 • E-mail ash39@aol
 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 391000 • fax 01705 391077
 Grado • Goldring Products Ltd • tel 01284 701101 • fax 01284 750040 • Dealers 50
 Graham • Audio Reference • tel 01483 575344 • fax 01483 301412
 Grant Amplifiers • tel 01705 837392 • fax 01705 871263
 Grundig International Ltd • tel 01788 577155 • fax 01788 562354
 GT Audio • tel 01895 833099 • fax 01895 833099

H

Harbeth Acoustics Ltd • tel 01444 440955 • fax 01444 440688 • E-mail sound@harbeth.com
 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/fax 0115 981 3562

I

Infinity • Gamepath Ltd • tel 01908 317707 • fax 01908 322704 • Dealers 85
 Interaudio • Bose UK Ltd • tel 01795 475341 • fax 01795 427227
 Ixos • Path Distribution • tel 0121 749 2240 • fax 0121 748 3838 • Dealers 700

J

Jadis • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962 • E-mail 73064, 1710@compuserve.com
 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 01535 632700 • fax 01535 632887
 Jeff Rowland • MDC • tel 01992 573030 • fax 01992 574030 • E-mail mdc.hifi@virgin.net
 John Shearner • tel 01438 740953 • fax 01438 221690
 Jordan Watts Acoustics Ltd • tel 0181 985 1646 • fax 0181 986 0112
 JPW Loudspeakers Ltd • tel 01752 607000 • fax 01752 607001 • Dealers 200
 JVC UK Ltd • tel 0181 450 3282 • fax 0181 208 3038 • Dealers 5000

K

KEF Audio Ltd • tel 01622 672261 • fax 01622 750653 • Dealers 240
 Kenwood • Trio-Kenwood UK • tel 01923 816444 • fax 01923 819131 • Dealers 1000
 Keswick Audio • tel 01977 671823 • fax 01977 671823 • Dealers 13
 Kimber Cable • RATA Ltd • tel 01539 823247 • fax 01539 823317
 Kiseki • Presence Audio • tel 01444 461611 • fax 01444 461510 • Dealers 10 + direct
 Koetsu • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962 • E-mail 73064, 1710@compuserve.com
 Koss • HW International • tel 0181 808 2222 • fax 0181 808 5599 • E-mail hwinternational@dia.pipe.com
 Krell • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962 • E-mail 73064, 1710@compuserve.com
 Kronos Distribution • tel 018687 48632 • fax 018687 48281
 Kudos • B&W Loudspeakers • tel 01903 750750 • fax 01903 750694
 Kuzma • Audiofreaks • tel 0181 948 4153 • fax 0181 948 4250 • E-mail info@audiofreaks.i-way.co.uk

L

LAT International • Audusa & Co • tel 0181 942 6241 • fax 0181 241 0999
 LFD • tel 01255 422533 • fax 01255 221069 • 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 • fax 0115 981 3562
 London • Presence Audio • tel 01444 461611 • fax 01444 461510 • Dealers 10 + direct
 Lowther Voight Ltd • tel 0181 300 9166 • fax 0181 3080778 • E-mail sales@lowtherloudspeakers.co.uk
 Lumley Reference • Reference International • tel 01892 547003 • fax 01892 547004
 Luxman • Hi-fi Direct • tel 0500 333500 • fax 0171 4035152 • Dealers 25
 Lynwood Electronics • tel 01709 873667 • fax 01709 873408 • Dealers 25
 Lyra • Path Premier • tel 01494 441736 • fax 01494 440360

MANUFACTURER & DISTRIBUTOR CONTACT NUMBERS (CONTINUED)

M

M&K • The Mafia Trading Co • tel 01794 519599 • fax 01794 519599
 MAG Audio (UK) Ltd • tel/fax 0181 555 1222
 Magneplanar • Woodstock Music & Film Systems • tel 01865 883535 • fax 01865 881012
 Magnum • Hailey Audio Ltd • tel 01992 442425 • fax 01992 448387 • Dealers 6
 Magnum Dynalab • Audio Reference • tel 01483 575344 • fax 01483 301412
 Mana Acoustics • tel 01753 655744 • fax 01753 655766
 Manticores Audio Visual • tel 01767 318437 • fax 01767 318462 • E-mail manticores@dial.pipex.com
 Marantz Hi-fi UK Ltd • tel 01753 680868 • fax 01753 680428 • Dealers 200+
 Mark Levinson • Path Premier • tel 01494 441736 • fax 01494 440360
 Martin-Logan • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962 • E-mail 73064.1710@compuserve.com
 Matisse • GT Audio • tel 01895 833099 • fax 01895 833099
 Maxell UK Ltd • tel 01923 777171 • fax 01923 777170 • burgessc@eu.maxell.com
 McIntosh • MPI Electronic UK Ltd • tel 01483 454993 • fax 01483 454992
 Meridian Audio Ltd • tel 01480 434334 • fax 01480 432948 • E-mail admin@meridian-audio.com
 Metaxas • UK Distribution • tel 01753 654531 • fax 01753 652669
 Michi • Gamepath Ltd • tel 01908 317707 • fax 01908 322704
 Micro-Seiki • Absolute Sounds • tel 01819475047 • fax 01818797962 • E-mail 73064.1710@compuserve.com
 Micromega • MDC • tel 01992 573030 • fax 01992 574030 • E-mail mdc.hifi@virgin.net
 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 652 669 • fax 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 • fax 01234 742028 • Dealers 30
 Musical Fidelity Ltd • tel 0181 900 2866 • fax 0181 900 2983 • Dealers 145
 Musical Technology • tel 01494 793137 • fax 01494 793345
 Myriad Systems Ltd • tel 01705 265508 • fax 01705 231407 • E-mail sales@myriad.force9.net

N

NAD Marketing Ltd • tel 01296 82017 • fax 01296 86331 • E-mail sales@nad.co.uk
 Naim Audio • tel 01722 332266 • fax 01722 412034 • Dealers 70
 Neat Acoustics • tel 01833 631021 • fax 01833 630022 • E-mail johncarrington@neat.octacon.co.uk
 Nottingham Analogue • tel 01773 762947 • fax 01773 533566 • Dealers 4
 NVA • tel 01763 272707 • fax 01763 271594

O

Onkyo UK • Audio Club • tel 01296 82017 • fax 01296 86331
 Optimum International 2000 • tel/fax 01274 583249
 Oreille Hi-fi • tel 0181 8109388 • fax 0181 8109365 • Dealers 30
 Origin Live • tel 01703 442183 • fax 01703 398905 • Dealers 25
 Ortofon • Henley Designs • tel 01753 889949 • fax 01753 889636 • Dealers 200
 Panasonic UK Ltd • tel 0990 357357 • fax 0541 580550 • E-mail customersupport@Panasonic.co.uk
 Partington • tel 01322 383712 • fax 01322 381117
 Philips Consumer Electronics Ltd • tel 0181 689 4312 • Dealers 5000+
 Pickering Cartridges • tel 01904 642463 • fax 01904 652225
 Pink Triangle Projects • tel 0171 703 5498 • fax 0171 2526746 • Dealers 47
 Pioneer High Fidelity (GB) Ltd • tel 01753 789564 • fax 01753 789500 • Web. www.pgb.pioneer.co.uk
 Platinum • Woodstock Music & Film Systems • tel 01865 883535 • fax 01865 881012
 Polk Audio • tel 01727 827311 • fax 01727 827284 • E-mail sreed@polkaudio.com
 Posselt • GT Audio • tel 01895 833099 • fax 01895 833099
 Primare • MDC • tel 01992 573030 • fax 01992 574030 • E-mail mdc.hifi@virgin.net
 Prime Design • tel 0181 906 0181 • fax 0181 959 5008
 Pro-ject • Henley Designs • tel 01753 889949 • fax 01753 889636 • Dealers 70
 ProAc • DNA Marketing • tel 01798 343414 • fax 01798 343424 • Dealers 19
 Professional Monitor Co • tel 01707 393002 • fax 01707 393536 • E-mail sales@promonitor.co.uk
 PS Audio • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962

Q

QED Audio Products Ltd • tel 01276 451166 • fax 01276 452211 • Dealers 150+
 QLN UK Ltd • tel 01352 730251 • fax 01352 731273
 Quad • Centralforce • tel 01480 433777 • fax 01480 431767 • E-mail info@quad-hifi.co.uk
 Quadraspire Ltd • tel 01634 296615 • fax 01634 720269 • Dealers 50

R

RCF Electronics • tel 01268 570808 • fax 01268 570809 • E-mail sales@rcf-uk.com
 RA Labs • RDL Acoustics • tel 01484 603333 • fax 01484 607774 • E-mail Alison@dial.pipex.com
 Realistic • Tandy • tel 01922 434000 • fax 01922 710789 • Dealers 346
 Rega Research Ltd • tel 01702 333071 • fax 01702 432427 • E-mail design@rega.onyxnet.co.uk
 Rehdeko • Virtual Reality Audio Systems • tel 01277 227355 • fax 01277 224103
 REL Acoustics Ltd • tel 01656 768777 • fax 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 • E-mail toby2801@msn.com
 Revox • MDC • tel 01992 573030 • fax 01992 574030 • E-mail mdc.hifi@virgin.net
 Richard Allen Loudspeakers • tel 01274 872442 • fax 01274 869935
 Rivelin Audio • Sonic Link • tel 01332 674929 • fax 01332 298836
 Rockport Technologies • Vinyl Demand • tel 01425 654545 • fax 01425 654400
 Rogers • Swisstone Electronics Ltd • tel 0181 640 2172 • fax 0181 685 9496
 Roksan • Centralforce Ltd • tel 01480 433777 • fax 01480 431767 • E-mail info@quad-hifi.co.uk
 Rose Industries Ltd • tel 01235 847023 • fax 01235 847023

Ross Consumer Electronics Ltd • tel 01204 862026 • fax 01204 862033 • E-mail info@rosscp.com
 Rotel • Gamepath Ltd • tel 01908 317707 • fax 01908 322704
 Roud Loudspeakers Co Ltd • tel 01952 290700 • fax 01952 290190 • Dealers 65
 Ruark • tel 01702 601410 • fax 01702 601414

S

Sansui UK • tel 0181 591 6961 • fax 0181 594 3996
 SD Acoustics • tel 0181 399 6308 • fax 0181 399 6308 • E-mail sdav@clara.net
 Sennheiser UK Ltd • tel 01494 551551 • fax 01494 551550 • E-mail 106066.2217@compuserve.com
 Sentec • MAG Audio (UK) Ltd • tel/fax 0181 555 1222
 Shahinian • Pear Audio Ltd • tel 01665 830862 • fax 01665 830051
 Sharp Electronics (UK) Ltd • tel 0161 205 2333 • fax 0161 205 7076 • E-mail custinfo@sharp-uk.co.uk
 Sherar Audio • tel 01438 740953 • fax 01438 221696
 Sherwood • Hi-fi Direct • tel 0500 333500 • fax 0171 4035152
 Shun Mook • Audiofreaks • tel 0181 948 4153 • fax 0181 948 4250 • E-mail info@audiofreaks.i-way.co.uk
 Shure • HW International • tel 0181 808 2222 • fax 0181 808 5599 • E-mail hwinternational@dial.pipex.com
 Siltech • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962 • E-mail 73064.1710@compuserve.com
 SME Ltd • tel 01903 814321 • fax 01903 814269 • Dealers 125
 Sonic Frontiers • MPI Electronic UK Ltd • tel 01483 454993 • fax 01483 454992
 SonicLink • Audiokit • tel 01332 674929 • fax 01332 298836
 Sonus-Faber • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962 • E-mail 73064.1710@compuserve.com
 Sony United Kingdom Ltd • tel 0181 784 1144 • fax 01635 875250 • Web. www.sony.europe.com
 Sound Organisation • Goldring Products Ltd • tel 01284 701101 • fax 01284 750040
 Sound-Lab • Audiofreaks • tel 0181 948 4153 • fax 0181 948 4250 • E-mail info@audiofreaks.i-way.co.uk
 Soundstyle • Goldring Products Ltd • tel 01284 701101 • fax 01284 750040
 Spondor Audio Systems • tel 01323 843474 • fax 01323 442254 • Dealers 17
 Spica • Presence Audio • tel 01444 461611 • fax 01444 461510
 Stands Unique • tel/fax 01933 461058 • Web. audioweb.demon.co.uk/stand/
 Stanton • Lamba Electronics plc • tel 017278 40527 • fax 017278 37811
 Stax • Path Premier • tel 01494 441736 • fax 01494 440360
 Stemfort Audio • Audio Synergy Ltd • tel 01924 406016 • fax 01924 410069
 Sugden • Audio Synergy Ltd • tel 01924 406016 • fax 01924 410069 • Dealers 12
 Sumiko • Path Premier • tel 01494 441736 • fax 01494 440360
 Sumo • Audusa & Co • tel 0181 942 6241 • fax 0181 241 0999
 System Audio • The Chord Company • tel 01722 331674 • fax 01722 411388
 Systym • Systemdek Ltd • tel 01294 271251 • fax 01294 277095

T

Talk Electronics • tel 01252 378383 • fax 01252 371818
 Tannoy Ltd • tel 01236 420199 • fax 01236 428230 • web. www.Tannoy.com • Dealers 400
 Tara Labs • Acoustic Energy Ltd • tel 01285 654432 • fax 01285 654430 • E-mail info@acoustic-energy.co.uk
 Target Audio Products • tel 01582 401244 • fax 01582 485990
 TDL Electronics Ltd • tel 01628850111 • fax 01628 850130 • E-mail tdelectronics@compuserve.com
 Teac UK Ltd • tel 01923 819630 • fax 01923 236290 • Dealers 200
 Technics • Panasonic tel 0990 357357 • fax 0541 580550 • E-mail customersupport@Panasonic.co.uk
 Theta • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962 • E-mail 73064.1710@compuserve.com
 Thiel • MPI Electronic UK Ltd • tel 01483 454993 • fax 01483 454992
 Thorens • Portfolio Marketing • tel 01489 795519
 Thule • Virtual Reality Audio Systems • tel 01277 227355 • fax 01277 224103
 Totem • May Audio Marketing (UK) Ltd • tel 01535 632700 • fax 01535 632887
 Townshend Audio • tel/fax 0181 979 2155 • E-mail townshend.audio@dial.pipex.com
 Transfiguration • Audio Reference • tel 01483 575344 • fax 01483 301412
 Transparent Audio • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962
 Triangle • Kronos Distribution • tel 018687 48632 • fax 018687 48281 • E-mail arion@dial.pipex.com
 Trichord Research Ltd • tel 01684 573524 • fax 01684 577380
 Tube Technology • tel 01932 821111 • fax 01932 821182 • E-mail tube_technology@compuserve.com

U

UKD-Opera • UK Distribution • tel 01753 654531 • fax 01753 652669
 Unison Research • UK Distribution • tel 01753 654531 • fax 01753 652669

V

van den Hul • tel 0181 810 9388 • fax 0181 810 9365
 Vandersteen • A&R Cambridge • tel 01223 203203 • fax 01223 863384 • E-mail custserv@arcam.co.uk
 Visonic • Canford Audio • tel 0191 415 0205 • fax 0191 416 0392
 Vivanco UK Ltd • tel 01442 231616 • fax 01442 403030 • Dealers 1000+
 VPI • Audiofreaks • tel 0181 948 4153 • fax 0181 948 4250 • E-mail info@audiofreaks.i-way.co.uk

W

Wadia • Woodstock • tel 01865 883535 • fax 01865 881012
 Well Tempered • Pear Audio Ltd • tel 01665 830862 • fax 01665 830051
 Wharfedale Loudspeakers Ltd • tel 01480 431737 • fax 01480 431767
 Wheaton • Audiofreaks • tel 0181 948 4153 • fax 0181 948 4250 • E-mail info@audiofreaks.i-way.co.uk
 Wilmslow Audio • tel 01455 286603 • fax 01455 286605 • E-mail wilmslowaudio@dial.pipex.com
 Wilson • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962 • E-mail 73064.1710@compuserve.com
 Woodside Electronics • tel 01994 448271 • fax 01994 448665

Y

Yamaha Electronics UK • tel 01923 233166 • fax 01923 244930 • E-mail sales@yamaha-hifi.demon.co.uk
 Yoshino • tel 01480 861834 • fax 01480 861869

Z

Zeta • Moth Marketing • tel 01234 741152 • fax 01234 742028
 ZYP • Presence Audio • tel 01444 461611 • fax 01444 461510

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. Give your ears a new reference point for the best sounds at any price. Forget reviews and trying to put together a system like a patchwork quilt with the 'best' bits around. It's our job to do the assessing, you judge the results. Come here, or we'll come to you, and plan a system for the future, even if you spread the purchases. Leave "upgrade-itis" behind, save money and enjoy music. Just listen, and you'll know. Ask also about our ex-dem and mint used items if you must! Our creditentials - CD: Acurus, Audio Synthesis, Classé, Enlightened Audio Design, Meracus, Orelle, Wadia, XTC. Vinyl: Basis, Graham, Michell, Sumiko. Amps: Arcurus, Audio Sculpture, CAT, Classé, DNK, Korá, Lumley, Meracus, Michell, Orelle, Sirius, Sonneteer, XTC. Speakers: Audio Aristry, Audio Physic, Ethos, Harbeth, Lumley, Magnepplanar, Mirage, NEAT, Spendor, Totem. Turners: Fantare, Magnum Dynalab. Cables: Chord, DNM, Silver Sounds, SoniLink, 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, Oracle, Ortofon, Pink Triangle, Pro-Ac, Project, REL, Ruark, Sheame Audio, Silver Sounds, SME (inc 20A), Sonic Link, Stax, Townshend, Triangle, Trichord, Union Research. Demos including home cinema by apt 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, Ruark, Ruark, Sennheiser, Systemdek, Target, Thorens, Van den Hul & more! Hi-Fi Listening Room. Open 6 days 9.30-5.30.

BERKSHIRE

AUDIO T, 4 Queens Walk, Broad Street Mall, Reading, Tel (0118) 958 5463. Fax (0118) 956 6417. Open Tues-Sat 9-5.30. See our main entry under Oxford. We also sell Audio Alchemy, AV Linn, Naim, Rega & Royd.

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.

MUSIC MATTERS, 93-95 Hobs Moat Road, Solihull, W. Midlands B92 HJ1. Tel (0121) 742 0254. See main entry under West Midlands.

MUSIC MATTERS, 156-157 Lower High Str, Stourbridge, W Midlands D18 1TS. TEL (01384) 444184. See main entry under West Midlands.

SOUND ACADEMY 152a High Street, Bloxwich, Nr Walsall W. Midlands, Tel (01922) 493499/ 473499. Audio equipment from leading and specialist brands, with 3 demo floors, home trials, home cinema with instore demo theatre, evening demo's by appointment. In house service dept. Mail order avail. Int free credit subject to status. Open 6 days 9am - 6pm. Late night Friday. Expert advice, cable dressing and free installation

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

NORTHWOOD AUDIO, 98 Cambridge St, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1BA. Tel. (01296) 428790 (A/P). Selected sounds from Alchemist, Audio Meca, Boston, B&W, Cabeltalk, Castle, Celestion, Chord Company, Denon, D.P.A., Exposure, Harman Kardon, KEF, Marantz, Michell, Micromega, Monitor Audio, Musical Technology, NAD, Pro-Ac, Rega, REL, Rose, Rotel, Ruark, Tannoy, Teac, Thorens Neat Acoustics, Talk Electronics, Chord, Heart, Audio Note, Epos, Kilpsch, Acoustic Energy, Stax, Pioneer, D.N.M. NOBODY EVER REGRETTED PURCHASING THE BEST. Export orders welcome. 2 Dem rooms. Credit facilities available.

TECHNOSOUND and AUDIO INSIGHT, 7-8 Granville Square, Willen, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK15 9JL. Tel: (01908) 604949. Main lines include Meridian, Arcam, B&W, Acoustic Energy, Musical Fidelity, Mission, Ruark, Royd, Teac, UKD. 4 Dem Rooms, Custom Home Cinema, Video Projection and Dolby Digital. Service Department, Free Installation and Home Trial Facilities. Access & Visa accepted and Interest Free Credit available. Open Mon 1-6pm, Tues-Sat 10-6pm, late night Fri till 7.30pm.

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, 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, Celestion, Chord Company, Densen, Epos, Mission, Naim, Rega, Ruark, KEF, Micromega, Myryad, 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, Bang & Olufsen, Cyrus, KEF, Meridian, Mission, Yamaha and other leading brands. 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 TV's and videos. Home demonstrations a pleasure.

PRACTICAL HIFI, 88 Bridge Street, Warrington, (01925) 632179. The audio video specialist, expert advice, instant demonstrations, best prices, interest-free credit, part-exchange welcome. Extended warranty. Stockists of Yamaha, Kenwood, Denon, Sony, Technics, Onkyo, Marantz, Pioneer, Mission, KEF, Jamo, Celestion, B&W. Also stockists of LaserDiscs.

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.

CLEVELAND

ACTION ACOUSTICS, 155-157 High Street, Redcar, Cleveland TS10 3AN. Tel (01642) 480723. Jamo, Denon, Harman-Kardon, Heybrook, Jamo, 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. Alchemist, Analysis, Audio-note, Audio Spectrum, A.T.C., Cable Talk, Boston Acoustics, Henley Designs, Myryad, Michell, Nordost, Parasound, Monitor Audio, Moth Group, Musical Fidelity, Projekt Furniture, Project Turntables, Lexicon, R.E.L., S.M.E., Soundstyle, Stands Unique, Elemental Audio, Philosophy Cables, Audioquest, Kelly Transducers, Target, Teac, Thorens, V-Damp Isolation.

CUMBRIA

PRACTICAL HIFI, 106 English Street, Carlisle, Tel: (01228) 44792. The audio video specialist, expert advice, instant demonstrations, best prices, interest-free credit, part-exchange welcome. Extended warranty. Stockists of Yamaha, Kenwood, Denon, Sony, Technics, Onkyo, Marantz, Pioneer, Mission, KEF, Jamo, Celestion, B&W. Also stockists of LaserDiscs.

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.

THE HI-FI ATTIC, 58 New George Street, Plymouth. Tel (01752) 669511. Plymouths oldest and best independent Hi-Fi retailer. Selling Hi-Fi that suits the individuals needs. 3 tastefully decorated demo rooms to make you feel at home. Friendly and expert advice on all your Hi-Fi, AV and multi media computer needs. All major credit cards accepted. % Interest free credit, subject to status. Open from 9.30-5.30 Mon-Sat. Ask for Chris or Simon.

UPTON ELECTRONICS, 31 Torquay Road, Paignton, Devon TQ3 3DT. Tel (01803) 5513298. Friendly and knowledgeable service from a dealer with over 20 years experience, stockists of Denon, Pioneer, Marantz, Alchemist, Nad, Myryad, Orelle, Micromega, Castle, Tannoy, TDL, Jamo, Project Mordant-Short, GLL, Sony, Rel, Onkyo, Cabeltalk, Qudos etc, etc. Large range of Accessories. Credit facilities, interest free on certain items. Free delivery and installation, Demonstration facilities, Mastercard, Visa, American Express, in house service department. Part exchange.

DORSET

DAWSONS, 23 Seamount Road, Westbourne, Bournemouth, Dorset. Tel (01202) 764965. B&O, Castle, Canon, Jamo, JBL, Pioneer, Sony, Target, TDL, Technics. No appts necessary. Free install, Service Dept. 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, Sheame 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) 555512. Linn, Arcam, Mission, Quad, Audiolab, Rotel, Yamaha, Denon, etc, 2 Single Speaker Listening Rooms. Home Demonstrations, Free Installations. Open Mon-Sat 9-5.30. Call for details.

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.

DURHAM

HI-FI EXPERIENCE, 17 Coniscliffe Road, Darlington DL3 7EE. Tel Help Line (01325) 481418. Fax



INDICATES MEMBERSHIP OF THE BRITISH AUDIO DEALERS ASSOCIATION

(01325) 382982. 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 AV range. Home cinema Dolby Pro-Logic, multi-room specialist. **BADA**

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

AUDIO EXCELLENCE, 58 Bristol Road, Gloucester. Tel (01452) 300046. All that's best in Hi-Fi carefully selected and demonstrated by friendly knowledgeable staff, at prices to suit all budgets. Delivery and installation, home dems, part exchange, in-house workshops, full credit facilities with interest free on selected items. Tues-Sat 9.00-5.30. Closed Mon. **BADA**

AUDIO T, 40-42 Albion Street, Cheltenham, GL52 2RQ. Tel (01264) 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, Selec, Sennheiser, Sound Organisation, Sound Style, Top Tape, Yamaha. 2 dem rooms. Open Tues-Sat, late night Wed. Free parking, bus route, credit facilities. Winner Sony/Hi-Fi News Best 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. **BADA**

SEXTONS, 31 High Street, Aldershot, Hants GU11 1BY. Tel (01252) 320728 Fax (01252) 319635. Most major manufacturers stocked including Marantz, Rotel, Pioneer, Technics, B/W, NAD, and Yamaha. Two demonstration lounges including full Home Cinema suite. Knowledgeable staff offer a friendly unbiased service, Monday to Saturday 9.00 to 6.00. Access, Visa, Amex and Switch accepted. Mail order service also available. **BADA**

HEREFORDSHIRE

ENGLISH AUDIO, 37 Whitecross Road, Hereford HR4 0DE. Tel (01432) 355081. Arcam, A.T.C., Audiolab, B&W, Castle, Celestion, Cyrus, Denon, Exposure, Harman Kardon, KEF, Marantz, Micromega, Mission, Naim, Pink Triangle, Pioneer, Proac, REL, Rotel, Ruark, Shearman, Stax, Quad, Tannoy, Teac, 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, Marantz, Martin Logan, Michell, Micromega, Orelle, Roksan, Ruark, S.M.E, Sonus Faber, Sonic Link, TDL, Theta, Thorens, SME, 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 1JQ Tel (01462) 452248 Fax (01462) 458424. Stockists of Apollo, Arcam, B&W, Celestion, Cyrus, Denon, Marantz, Mission, Pioneer, Quad, Rotel, Ruark, Soundstyle, Teac, and many others. Hi-Fi listening room and A/V dem. room. Workshop off premises. Access, Amex, Visa, Diners. Interest free and instant credit. Open 9.30-5.30 Mon-Sat. **BADA**

HERTFORD MUSIC 328 Ware Road, Hailey, Hertfordshire SG13 7PG. Tel (01992) 442425. We hold in stock the complete range of REL subwoofers, including Studio II. We also stock the complete range of MAGNUM amplifiers, CD2020 and the full range of MAGNUM speakers. All other brands quoted. Demonstration rooms for AV and Audio. Mail order, home audition. Visa, Switch etc. **BADA**

RADETT AUDIO, 9 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 1EU. Tel (01727) 855577. Probably the longest established high-end dealer in the country. Demonstration facilities second to none with systems to suit all budgets. Mainlines include: Mark Levinson, MIT, Sonus Faber, B&W, Copland, Audiolab, Proac, Marantz, Trichord, AVI

STUDIO 82 (Harpden) Ltd, 82 High Street, Harpenden, Herts AL5 2SP Tel (01582) 764246, AVI (01582) 467022. Arcam, ATC, Audiolab, Aura, AVI, Bang & Olufsen, Bose, B&W, Chord, Denon, Harbeth, Jamo, KEF, Marantz, Musical Fidelity, Musical Technology, Myrrad, Naim, Panasonic, Philips, QED, Quad, Roberts Radio, Sennheiser, Soundstyle, Tannoy, Target, TDL, Teac. Single Speaker Demonstration room. Free installation. Service dept. Access, Visa, Switch, Amex. Open 9am-5.30pm Mon-Sat. **BADA**

KENT

ASHFORD SOUNDRAFT 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. **BADA**

HALKSWORTH WHEELER, 34 Guildhall Street, Folkestone Tel (01303) 255688. See previous entry.

LINN STUDIO, 123 Swanage Street, Dover, Kent, CT17 9AP. Tel (01304) 201525; Fax: 01304 240135. Sondek LP12*, Knekt*, Karik*, Kairn*, Klout*, Kreamlin*, Keltik*, Kaber*, Keiledn*, Numerik*, Tukan*, Wakonda*, Majik*, Mimik*, LK100*, Ekos*, Kudos*, Arkiv*, Brilliant*, Lingo*, Valhalla*, Sekrit*, Aktiv*... Dream systems for everyone from £2000 to £30000+. A new dealership from a specialist family business, established in 1948. Outstanding service and facilities. Multi-room specialist. **BADA**

MUSICAL IMAGES LTD, 126 High St, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1ED. Tel (0181) 663 3777. Fax (0181) 663 3555. Email: sales@musical-images.co.uk. AV

Dealer of the Year. Home Cinema, Hi-Fi, multi-room specialists. Main authorised dealers for over 100 brands. Interest free credit anywhere in the UK, subject to status. Mail-order worldwide. 10 demonstration rooms throughout Musical Images, including projectors and big screen TVs. Professional home installation and design consultancy. Part exchange, service and repairs. Active Musical Images Club. Open all week including Sundays. 10am-6pm (10am-4pm Sundays). **BADA**

SOUND OF MUSIC, 10/12 Chapel Place, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1YQ, tel (01892) 547003, Fax (01892) 547004. Quad, Exposure, Marantz, Tannoy, REL, Magnum, Ruark, Musical Technology, Micromega, Acoustic Energy, Teac, Avdion, B&W, KEF, Pro-Ac, Michell, Copland, Trichord, Klipsch, Thorens, Pass, Lymley, Woodside, BAT, CAT, Dunlavy, Wadia, Krell, Audio Research and many more. We offer the very best service and advice along with some very special deals. 1 month's trial exchange, good prices and free delivery, the widest range of equipment, systems from £300-£100k, valve + vinyl specialist. All major credit cards accepted. HTTP://WWW.SOUNDSOFMUSIC.CO.UK

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**

CLEARSTONE, 235 Blackburn Road (1/2 mile from city centre on the A 666 Blackburn Road), Bolton, Lancs BL1 8HB. Tel (01204) 531423. Bolton's biggest Hi-Fi superstore. Every top brand & all the best buys at guaranteed unbeatable prices. Aiwa, Akai, Arcam, Audiolab, B&W, Bose, Castle, Celestion, Denon, Hitachi, Infinity, JBL, JVC, KEF, Kenwood, Marantz, Meridian, Mission, Mordaunt Short, NAD, Panasonic, Pioneer, Rotel, Sony, Tannoy, TDL, Technics, Toshiba, Yamaha. 2 Dedicated Hi-Fi Demo rooms and 2 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. **BADA**

PRACTICAL HIFI, 43 Friargate, Preston. Tel (01772) 863958. The audio specialist, expert advice, instant demonstrations, best prices, interest-free credit, part-exchange welcome. Extended warranty. Stockist of Yamaha, Kenwood, Denon, Sony, Technics, Onkyo, Marantz, Pioneer, Mission, KEF, Jamo, Celestion, B&W. Also stockists of LaserDiscs. **BADA**

PRACTICAL HIFI, (also in) 81 Whitegate Drive, Blackpool. Tel (01253) 300599. 33 Knowlesy Street, Bolton. Tel (01204) 395789. 84 Penny Street, Lancaster. Tel (01524) 39657.

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, Myrrad, Naim Audio, 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. Arcam, B&W Matrix, Copland,

Mission Cyrus, Marantz, Harman-Kardon, KEF, M&K, Michell, Pink Projects, Quad, Roksan, Rogers, Rotel, Sonus Faber, Talk Electronics, Teac, Technics, Yamaha. 3 Dem areas. 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. **BADA**

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. **BADA**

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. **BADA**

LONDON

ALPHABEC, 392 Finchley Road, London NW2 2HR. Tel (0171) 431 9133. Main product lines include Denon, Sony, JVC, Onkyo, Linn, Loewe, Grundig, Yamaha, Teac, Boston Acoustics, Jamo. One demo room with full cinema surround system available and service dept. Interest free credit available. Access, Amex, Visa and Mastercard accepted. Open Mon-Sat 10-6pm, half day Thurs 10-1pm. **BADA**

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, London W1P 1HH. Tel (0171) 631 0472, Fax (0171) 436 7165. Open Tues-Sat 10-6, Thurs 10-7. The specialists for the highest quality sound, be it for one room or many more. We offer friendly advice, and a full delivery and installation service is available. Two listening rooms (appointments preferred). Service department. Amex, Mastercard, Switch, Visa. Worldwide mail orderservice. Brands include; Arcam, ATC, AVI, Bryston, Dynaudio, Mark Levinson/Procead, Naim, Pro Monitor Co., Rega, Royd, and much more... THE CORNFLAKE SHOP - Double egg, bacon, chips. **BADA**

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**

HI-FI & COMPONENTS, 84 Battersea Rise, London, SW11 1EH. Tel (0171) 223 1110. ESTABLISHED 33 years. Beyer, Celestion, Cerwin Vega, Denon, Eminence, Goodmans, Harman Kardon, KAM, Jama, Kenwood, QED, NAD, Ortofon, Sennheiser, Shure, Stanton, Tannoy, Project, Marantz, Vivanco. Wide range of accessories & styli. Appts nec. Service Dept. Access, Switch, Visa, Diners, Amex. Open 10-6 Closed Wed. **BADA**

HI-FI EXPERIENCE, Lion House, 227 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P -HX. Tel Help Line 0171-580 5355 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.

INFIDELITY, 9 High Str, Hampton Wick, Kingston-upon-Thames. Tel (0181) 943 3530. For full details see entry under SURREY.

K.J. WEST ONE, 26 New Cavendish St, London, W1M 7LH. Tel (0171) 486 8262/63. Fax (0171) 487 3452. Hi-Fi, THX Home Cinema and Multiroom specialists. Dem* studios bookable. Home trial. Installations by arrangement. Major credit cards. Interest free credit - ask for details. Most major brands stocked. Open 10am-6pm (Closed Wednesday & Sunday). E-mail: 106435.121@compuserve.com.

KAMLA 251 Tottenham Court Rd, London, W1P 9AD. Tel (0171) 323 2747. Kenwood, Pioneer, JVC, Philips, Toshiba, B&W, AR, Mitsubishi. Demonstration room available. Appts 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).

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.

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.

NICHOLLS HI-FI, 1/5 Eltham Road, Lee Green, London SE12 8RW. Tel (0181) 852 5780. ATC, Alchemit, Audio Alchemy, Boulder, Celestion, Celco, Chario, Dynaudio, Electrocompaniet, Harman, Jamo, JBL, Levinson, Micromega, Project, Revox, Jeff Rowland Group, REL, Revox, Thorens, Technics, Sony, Marantz, Kenwood etc. Dem Room, Home Dem facilities. Interest free credit, Instant Credit, Access, Visa, Amex etc. Mon/Fri 9.30-6.00 Thurs.

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.

RICHER SOUNDS, The world's busiest hi-fi retailer. 30 branches nationwide and Eire. Call 0500 101112 for a free fun packed catalogue including a full branch listing and opening times. Full range of budget and high end equipment, semi pro and DJ and home cinema from all top brands. Demonstration facilities in all stores. If in the incredibly unlikely event you see an offer remotely approaching one of ours, simply tell us about it and we'll smash it by up to £50.(most brands). Ask in store for details.

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.

THOMAS HEINZT, 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. Arcam, Audioblab, Rotel, Royd, Mission, Marantz, Lyra, Audio Research, Sonus Faber Copland, Ruark, Epos, Denon, Yamaha, Bang & Olufsen. Free installation. Record club. Major credit cards and credit facilities. Open Tuesday-Saturday 10.00 to 5.30, 8pm on Thurs.

PRACTICAL HI-FI, 65 Bridge Street, Manchester. Tel (0161) 839 8869. See main listing under Lancashire for details.

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.

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).

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.

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

RIVERSIDE HI-FI LTD, 422 Richmond Road, East Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 2EB. Tel (0181) 892 7613. Fax (0181) 892 7749. Internet: <http://www.riversidehifi.co.uk> E-mail: "Where dreams come true." e-mail: Soundadvice@riversidehifi.co.uk Angstrom, Arcam, Audioblab, Audio Research, B&W, Bose, Copland, Castle, Denon, Dwin, Krell, KEF, Meridian, Marantz, Monitor Audio, Musical Fidelity, Michell, Micromega, Martin Logan, Nakamichi, NHT, Pioneer, RCF, REL, Sony, Sonus Faber, Tannoy, Theta, Vidikron, Wilson, Yamaha. Appointments recommended. Finance available. All major credit cards accepted. Mon-Sat 10-6, Thurs 10-7

WEST MIDLANDS

AMAUEUS SOUND & VISION, 10 Boldmere Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands. Tel (0121) 354 2311. Audio Gem, aura, AVI, B&W, Castle, Marantz, Musical Fidelity, NAD, Harman Kardon, QED, Rotel, Sanneteer, Sheame Audio, TEAC. Single speaker demo, service available, installations, home trials. Access, Visa, interest free credit available subject to status. 9.30-6pm, 6 days.

EMPIRE ELECTRICAL SUPERSTORE, 21-22 Stephenson Street (behind New Street, opposite Pollasades car park), Birmingham City Centre, West Midlands B2 4JD. Tel (0121) 643 0972. Birmingham's biggest Hi-Fi superstore. Every top brand & all the best buys at guaranteed unbeatable prices. Aiwa, Akai, Arcam, B&W, Bose, Castle, Celestion, Denon, Hitachi, Infinity, JBL, JVC, KEF, Kenwood, Marantz, Mission, Mordaunt Short, NAD, Panasonic, Pioneer, Rotel, Sony, Tannoy, TDL, Technics, Toshiba, Yamaha. 2 Dedicated Hi-Fi Demo rooms and 2 A.V Demo rooms, no appointments required. Service department, free installation, home trial facilities. Access, Visa, Amex, Diners. Interest free credit. Open Mon - Fri 9.30-6.00. Sat 9.00-5.30

FRANK 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. Audioblab, 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. Appts Necessary. Service Dept. Free install & Home Trial. Interest Free Credit on selected products. Open 9.30am to 5.30pm Monday to Saturday.

GRIFFIN AUDIO, 94 Bristol Street, Birmingham, West Midlands. Tel (0121) 622 2230/(0121) 692 1359. 40 years in Hi-Fi and still the best in the Midlands. We sell great Hi-Fi from Arcam, Denon, Linn, Marantz, Musical Technology, Nakamichi, Naim, Quad, Rega, Shahinian and Loewe Television. Arcam Xeta Home Theatre. Open Tues-Sat 10.00-5.30.

MUSIC MATTERS, 93-95 Hobs Moat Road, Solihull, W Midlands B92 HJT. Tel (0121) 742 0254. Rotel, Denon, Lexicon, Tannoy, Ruark, Alchemist, Exposure, Pioneer, Roksan, Nakamichi, Arcam, Audioblab, 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: 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. Please see entry under BIRMINGHAM.

NORFOLK

BASICALLY SOUND, The Old School, School Rd, Bracon Ash, Norwich NR14 8HG. Tel (01508) 570829. Audio Alchemy, Arcam, Audioblab, Beyer, Cabletalk, Chord Co. Opera Speakers, Denon, Densen, Dynavector, Epos, Grado, Heybrook, Micromega, Naim, Opera, Sound Organisation, Rogers, Rotel, Royd, Soundstyle, TDL, Unison Research, etc. 2 comprehensive demo rooms. Home trial. Free installation. Visa, Access, HP facilities. Tues-Fri 9.30-1, 2-5.30. All day Sat

MARTIN'S HI-FI est. 1968, Ber St, Norwich. Tel (01603) 627010 Fax (01603) 611302. Arcam, Atacama, Audioblab, 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.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

CLASSIC HI-FI + VIDEO, School Lane, Kettering, Northants. Tel (01536) 310855. Aura, B&W, Exposure, Heybrook, JBL, KEF, Kenwood, Marantz, Musical Fidelity, NAD, Oreille, Pioneer, Rogers, Rotel, Sheame, Sugden, Tannoy, Teac, Yamaha and many more. Home trial, free installation, service department. Interest Free Credit. All major credit cards. Open 9.30-5.30pm.

LISTEN IN, 32 Gold Street, Northampton. Tel (01604) 37871 Linn, Naim, Rega, Audioblab, Arcam, M&K, IXOS, Target, Quadraspire, Mission, KEF, Epos, Myrrad, 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.

OVERTURE, 3 Church Lane, Banbury, OX16 8LR. Tel (01295) 272158. See main entry under Oxfordshire.

NOTTINGHAM

CASTLE SOUND & VISION 48-50 Maid Marian Way, Nottingham NG1 6GF. Tel (0115) 958 4404. Nottingham's newest and largest hifi and home theatre store, serving the whole of the region. Brands stocked include Alchemist, Audio Valve, Blueprint, Boston, Acoustics, Castle Acoustics, Chario, Chord Electronics, DMP, Denon, Henley, Jeff Rowland, Jolida, Kef, Keswick, Klyne, Lexicon, Loewe, Marantz, Mark Levinson, Micromega, Monarchy, NHT, Naim, Nordost, Pink Triangle, Pioneer, Proceed, Project Turntables, Precious Metals, QLN, Quad, REL, Revox, Sheffield Lab, Solidsteel, Sonic Frontiers, Sony Projection Systems, Stand Unique, Stereophile, Talk Electronic, Wilson Benesch and XLO. New brands arriving all the time. Large showroom and three demonstration rooms. Home demonstrations and a full installation service available, including multi room. Open 10.00am to 6.00pm Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 11.30am to 8.00pm Wednesday. Appointments out of normal shop opening hours can also be arranged.

CHANTRY AUDIO 16-18a Eldon Street, Tuxford Nr Newark, Nottingham NG22 0LH. Tel (01777) 870372. Product lines include Krell, Theta, Copeland, Epos, Audio Research, Ruark, Meridian, Sonus Faber, D.P.A., Mordaunt Short and many more. 3 dem rooms inc. home cinema. Service dept, free installation, home trial facilities. Access, Amex and Visa Accepted. Interest free credit available. Open Mon-Sat.

DEFINITIVE AUDIO serves the first time purchaser and the seasoned audiophile with the same high level of care and interest. Our aim is long term customer satisfaction. We achieve this with quality impartial advice, quality back up and service and genuine interest in your needs. We have an established reputation for achieving sound quality benchmarks with innovation. We have an extensive range of carefully selected agencies. We are open Mon-Fri 9.30-6.30, Sat 10.00-1.30. Visa / Mastercard / Amex. Deliveries nationwide and worldwide. Extensive second hand stock. Components from £10.00 to £75000. Call for more information. Tel/Fax (0115) 9813562.

JOHN KIRK, 70 Chilwell Rd, Beeston, Nottingham. Tel (0115) 9252986. Est 1970. Professional advice and service. Demo room, Free installation, Service Dept. Arcam, Atacama, Aura, B&W, Canon, Castle, Denon, Dual, Marantz, Mordaunt Short, Nakamichi, Quad, Rogers, TDL, Technics, Thorens. Tues-Sat 9.30-5.30. Access/Visa/Switch.

NOTTINGHAM HI-FI CENTRE, 120-122 Alfreton Road, Nottingham. Tel (0115) 9786919. The area's oldest established specialist (Est. 1969). Two superb demonstration rooms, easy free parking. Home Cinema and Multi Room. Stockists of: Arcam, Audioblab, Celestion, Denon, KEF, Linn, Loewe TV, Marantz, Micromega, Michell, Mission-Cyrus, Rotel, Sennheiser, Yamaha. Mon-Sat 9.00-5.30.

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.

AUDIO T, 19 Old High Street, Headington, Oxford OX3 9HS. Tel (01865) 760844. Fax (01865) 60415. E-mail: hifi@audio-t.co.uk Web site: <http://www.audio-t.co.uk> Great Value on Acoustic Energy, Arcam, Audioblab, B&W, Cable Talk, Celestion, Cyrus, Denon, Dynaudio, KEF, Marantz, Meridian, Mission, Monitor Audio, Mordaunt-Short, NAD, Pioneer, Quad, REL, Rotel, Trichord, Technics, Yamaha & many more. Tues-Fri 10-6. Sat 9.30-5.30. Late Thurs until 8.00. 3 year guarantee on Hi-Fi separates. Price Promise. 30 day free upgrade scheme. Part exchange. Interest Free Credit on selected items. 2 listening rooms. Home trials. 30 years in business. Home Cinema specialists. BADA Bonded. Serious hi-fi shops - Silly prices!

OVERTURE HI-FI, 3 Church Lane, Banbury, OX16 8LR. Tel (01295) 272158. Arcam, Bose, Denon, Heybrook, KEF, Linn Products, Mission, N.A.D., Naim Audio, Quad, Yamaha. For sensible un-biased advice, call Oxfordshire's audio experts. Superb demo facilities. No appts nec, service dept, free install, home trial. Access/Visa, instant credit. Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 9.30-5.30.

OXFORD AUDIO CONSULTANTS, Cantay Hse, Park End Street, Oxford OX1 1JE. Tel (01865) 790879 Fax (01865) 791665. Quad, Denon, 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.

WESTWOOD AND MASON, 46 George St, Oxford. Tel (01865) 247783. Celebrating 50 years in high fidelity. In 1947 the Leak TL12 introduced the world to Hi-Fi (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.

PORTSMOUTH

HOPKINS HI-FI, Technics approved specialist dealer, full range of products stocked from separates cinema sound and mini systems. Denon, NAD, Onkyo, castle, B&W, Tannoy, T.D.L., Jamo and lots more plus demo facilities. With over 3 years experience of giving sound advise service and best



INDICATES MEMBERSHIP OF THE BRITISH AUDIO DEALERS ASSOCIATION

DEALER Directory

prices, visit Hopkins Hi-Fi your local specialist dealer. 40 Fratton Road, Portsmouth, 01705 Tel: 822155 Fax: 611999. Finance available on request, most cards taken. Phone orders welcome.

SHROPSHIRE

CREATIVE AUDIO, 9 Dogpole, Shrewsbury, SY1 1EN. 01743 241924. One of the largest ranges of quality HiFi/Audio Visual equipment outside of London. Arcam, Atacama, Cabeltalk, Celestion, Chord, Cyrus, Denon, KEF, Miller & Kreisel, Mission, Onkyo, NAD, Naim, Nokia, Pace, Quad, Rega, Roksan, Soundstyle, Stands Unique. Comfortable listening room, home installation (including multi-room and tracking satellite), free 2 & 5 year warranties, selected used equipment, part-exchange welcome, specialist workshop facilities. Access/Visa/Switch/Amex and low cost finance from £250 up to £15,000. **W. OWEN**, 58 Market Street, Oakenates, Telford, Shropshire, Tel (01952) 613818. Audio/Video specialists. Pioneer, Reference Point, Kenwood, Sony, Jamo, B&W, Bose, Dolby Pro-Logic specialist. 16:9 screens in stock. Free installation and home deliveries.

SOMERSET

MIKE MANNING AUDIO - The HiFi and AV specialists. The best in HiFi from: Arcam, ATC, Aura, B&W, Castle, Denon, Heybrook, KEF, Marantz, Naim Audio, NAD, Pioneer, Rega, Rotel, Royd, Shahinian, TDL, Teac. Somerset's Bang & Olufsen centre. Dedicated listening lounge for relaxed and unpressured demonstrations. Home installations on most systems. Full service department. Access, Visa, Instant Credit. Closed Mondays. 110, Middle Street, Yeovil, Somerset BA20 1NE Tel (01935) 479361.

SUFFOLK

EASTERN AUDIO, 41 Bramford Rd, Ipswich. Tel (01473) 217217. Easy parking. Dem Room. Giving sound advice for over 21 years. Arcam, Audioblab, Meridian, Denon, B&W, Technics, Quad, Castle, Celestion, Top Tape, plus all the usual headphones, leads, racks etc.

BASICALLY SOUND, The Old School, School Rd, Bracon Ash, Norwich. Tel (01508) 570829. For full details see entry under Norfolk.

SURREY

AUDIO DESIGNS, 26 High Street, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 3AS. Tel/Fax (01342) 314569. See main entry under West Sussex.

COSMIC HI-FI SUPERSTORE EST 1962, 244-256 Station Road, Adlestone, Weybridge, Surrey KT15 2PS. Tel (01932) 854552/843769/851753 Fax (01932) 841615. Open 7 Days a week, Mon-Sat 9-6pm, Fri till 8pm, Sun 10-4pm Large free car park, fully equipped service depart, massive showroom. Arcam, Audio Quest, B&W, Cable Talk, Denon, Dual, Jamo, Marantz, Mission, NAD, Pioneer, Quad, Rogers, Sennheiser, Sony, Tannoy, Target, TDL, Technics, Thorens, Yamaha. Home cin, widescreen TV, projection TV, laserdisc. Int free credit. All Major credit cards.

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, Roksan, Royd, Shahinian, Yamaha. Single speaker listening room. Apts pref, free installation, service dept. Major credit cards. Closed Mon, Tues-Fri 10.30-7, Sat 10-6pm.

PJ HI-FI, 3 Bridge Street, Guildford, GU1 4RY. Tel (01483) 504801/304756. Mon-Sat 9-6pm. Linn, Rega, ProAc, EPOS, Rotel, Audioblab, 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, Musical Fidelity, Myrrad, Ruark, Tannoy, 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.

SPALDING HI-FI, (Established 30 years), 352-4 Lower Addiscombe Rd, Croydon, Surrey CR0 7AF.

Tel (0181) 654 1231/2040. Linn Naim, Quad, Meridian, Audioblab, Mission, Marantz, Denon, Ruark, Tannoy, Arcam, KEF, Castle. 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. Service dept.

SURREY HI-FI, 45 High Street, Godstone, Surrey RH9 8LS. (Just off J6 - M25) Tel (01883) 744 755, free parking. Home Cinema on demo. Arcam, Audioblab, KEF, KEF Reference, Beyerdynamic headphones, Bose, Cabeltalk, Denon, Marantz, Mitchell, Musical Fidelity, Partington Stands, Quodos Cables, Target, TDL, Thorens, Yamaha, Stands Unique, Roger, Miller & Kreisel Sub Woofers, MIT Cables, Alphason Stands, Sennheiser headphones and many others. Interest free credit available. Closed Wednesday.

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, Cabeltalk, KEF, Marantz, Meridian, Micromega, NAD, REL, Rotel, Ruark, Sennheiser, Tannoy, Target, Yamaha, Talk Electronics, Stands Unique, Dynaudio, Musical Fidelity, Denon, Dali, Myrrad, Onkyo, Aura. Two demo rooms, home trial, AV specialists. Instant and interest-free credit available. Open Mon-Sat 9-5.30.

JEFFRIES HI-FI, 69 London Road, Brighton BN1 4JE. Tel (01273) 609431. Hi-fi, home cinema and multi-room specialist. Range includes Acoustic Energy, Arcam, Beyer, Celestion, Chord, Definitive Technology, Denon, Harbeth, KEF, Kinshaw, Lexicon, Linn, Loewe, Miller & Kreisel, Naim, Panasonic, Rega, REL, Rotel, Royd, Ruark, Sennheiser, Shahinian, Sound Organisation, Sound Style, Top Tape, Yamaha. 2 dem rooms. Open Tues-Sat, late night Wed. Free parking, bus route, credit facilities. Winner Sony/Hi-Fi News Best Southern Dealer.

JEFFRIES HI-FI, 4 Albert Parade, Green Street, Eastbourne BN21 1SD. Tel (01323) 731336, Fax (01323) 416005. Hi-fi, home cinema and multi-room specialist. Range includes Acoustic Energy, Arcam, Beyer, Celestion, Chord, Definitive Technology, Denon, Harbeth, Heybrook, KEF, Lexicon, Linn, Loewe, Miller & Kreisel, Naim, Panasonic, Polk, Rega, REL, Rotel, Royd, Ruark, Seleco, Sennheiser, Sony, Sound Organisation, Sound Style, Top Tape, Yamaha. Two demonstration rooms. Open Tues-Sat, late night Wed. Free parking, bus route, credit facilities. Winner Sony/Hi-Fi News Best Southern Dealer.

THE POWERPLANT, 66/67 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, Audioblab, ATC, 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, Audioblab, Cabeltalk, 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. Matrix), Denon, Harman Kardon, Jamo, Marantz, Mission, Tannoy, 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. Email: pearl@msn.com. Whether your requirements are for the best in HiFi, Home Cinema, Multi room, or full systems integration, contact us to discuss bespoke systems to match your needs and your budget. Three listening and viewing studios. Agencies include, Acoustic Energy, Arcam, Audioblab, B&W, Castle, Celestion, Denon, KEF, Linn Knekt, Marantz, Meridian, M&K, Naim, Pioneer Precision, Sheame, Talk Electronics, Yamaha. Open Mon-Sat 9.30am-5.30pm. All major credit cards. Full credit facilities.

WARWICKSHIRE

SOUNDS EXPENSIVE 12 Regents St., Rugby. Tel (01788) 540772. Arcam, Audioblab, Quad, Meridian, Marantz, Mission, Celestion, KEF, Rotel, Ruark, Heybrook. IMPROVE YOUR IMAGE. BE SEEN WITH US. Apts required, no service dept, free install, home trials 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, Worcestershires leading Hi-Fi specialists stocking Bang & Olufsen, Naim Audio, Royd, Micromega, Arcam, Absolute Sounds, Teac, Acoustic Energy. On site demonstration room by appointment, home demonstrations available, multi-room installation specialists, free delivery. Interest free credit. Independence House, the trinity, Worcester, WR1 2PN. 01905 619085/619059

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, Lexion, 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 inc 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, Audioblab, 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, Shearue Audio, Stands Unique, Sugden, Spondor, Sonic Link, TEAC, Tube Technology, Unison Research... and many others.

YORKSHIRE (SOUTH)

HI-FI STUDIOS, Sunnyfields, Doncaster, DN5 85A. Tel (01302) 781387. TDL, Audio Alchemy, Sugden, Audioblab, Electrocompaniet, Proac, Ruark, Castle, Teac, Unison valves, Impulse horns, Apogee, Stemfoot, 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, Holfi, 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)

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 AV1, 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 est 1957 (YORKSHIRE) LTD 5 Bethel St, Brighouse, HD6 1JR 1 mile from junction 25, M62, West Yorkshire, (01484) 713996. 40th Year Celebrations 1957-97 •Cash savings & interest free credit. •Informed, independent advice on digital wide screen TV & Hi-fi. •Quality DVD & Dolby digital dems. •Professional pro logic home installs. •Keen Prices on award winners. Yorkshire's largest & latest range of Panasonic & Technics. The North's No. 1 Polk Audio dealer. BOSE multiroom Lifestyle systems. Yamaha DSP, Philips widescreen TV. Speakers by Cervin vegal Miller & Kreisel, Mordaunt-Short & TDL. Pioneer laserdisc & Panasonic DVD, VCR & camcorders. Qualified in-store service team. Mailorder sales (01484) 718116 (Mastercard, Visa) or why not visit our showroom? We're not too far! Open 9-5.30 Mon-Sat.

LEARTONE (FORMERLY ERRICKS), Rawson Square, Bradford City Centre, BD1 3JR. Tel (01274) 309266. Bradford's leading Hi-Fi specialists. Every top brand & all the best buys at guaranteed unbeatable prices. Aiwa, Akai, Arcam, Audioblab, 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) 750000. The North's biggest electrical megastore. Every top brand & best buy at guaranteed unbeatable prices. Aiwa, Akai, B&W, Bose, Celestion, Denon, Grundig, Hitachi, Jamo, JVC, KEF, Kenwood, Marantz, Mission, Mitsubishi, Mordaunt Short, NAD, Panasonic, Pioneer, Rotel, Sony, Tannoy, TDL, Technics, Toshiba, Yamaha. 3 Dedicated Hi-Fi & AV Demo rooms, no appointments required. Service department, free installation. Free parking. Access, Visa, Amex, Diners. Interest free credit. Open Mon - Fri 9.30-8.00, Sat 9.30-6.00, Sun 11.00-5.00.

EMPIRE ELECTRICAL SUPERSTORE, The Clock Buildings (formerly the Clock Cinema), Roundhay Road, Leeds (on the junction of the A 58 & Roundhay Road), LS8 2SH. Tel (0113) 2351701. Leeds'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 Dem 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



INDICATES MEMBERSHIP OF THE BRITISH AUDIO DEALERS ASSOCIATION

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 BELFAS

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.

THE HI-FI SHOP, Bruce House, Bruce Street, Belfast, BT2 7JD, Tel (01232) 327 604. Product lines include Arcam, Audiolab, B&O, B&W, Castle, Chario, Keswick Audio, Micromega and Rotel. Dem room and Earl Gray available. Service Dept, free installation, home trial facilities. Access and Visa, instant and interest free credit. Open Tues-Sat 10am-6pm.

DUNGANNON

KRONOS HI-FI, 35 Furlough Road, Newmills, Dungannon BT71 4DU. Tel (01868) 748632. We have one of the largest ranges of quality Hi-Fi in Ireland. Our agencies include Apogee, Arion, Audion, Audio Note, Audiomeca, BOW Technology, B and W, Cadence, Densen, Frameworks, Harman Kardon, JBL, Kabelwerk, Kimber, Klipsch, Living Voice, Lyra, LFD, Marantz, Michell, MIT, Nottingham Analogue, Orelle, QLN, Rogers, Roksan, Rotel, Ruark, Silver Sounds, SME, Sonic Link, Triangle, Trichord, Unison, UKD, Wilson Benesch, YBA and much more. Demo rooms for Hi-Fi and AV. Free installation, home demos and home trial. Access and Visa. Credit including instant and interest free. Open Mon-Fri 9-5, Sat 10-5. We are also open any evening by appointment.

SCOTLAND DUMFRIES

RIVER HI-FI, 28 Church Crescent, Dumfries. (Situated above Barnstorn Records) Tel: 01387 267048, 0468 038306. Selected agencies include Naim, Rega, Roksan, Ruark, Alchemist, Kef, Trichord, Marantz, QLN, Tannoy, Orrelle, Rotel, Teac, Audiomeca, Triangle, Castle, Opera, Infinity, Densen, Musical Fidelity, Neat, Revox, Apogee, Ortofon, Project Turntables, Sennheiser, Stax, Grado, Primare, Jeff Rowland, Marston, Soundstyle, Stands Unique, Atacama, Nordost, Van den Hul, Chord Company, MIT, etc. Showroom and 2 listening rooms. Appointments and home demonstrations available.

DUNDEE

J D BROWN, 28 Castle Street, Dundee for real HiFi and home cinema in Tayside. Our friendly, knowledgeable staff will be delighted to give you a demonstration and help you to choose your system. Phone and book one of our listening rooms. Interest Free Credit Available. Tel. 01382 22659

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 Tues-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.

GLASGOW AUDIO, 135 Great Western Road Glasgow G4, Tel (0141) 332 4707. Main product lines include Arcam, Castle, Cyrus, Harman-Kardon, Marantz, Meridian, Mission, Onkyo, Polk, REL, Rotel, Royd, Ruark etc. 3 Dem rooms, AV and Hi-fi, service facilities installation service, and home trial facilities available. Access and Visa accepted. Instant and interest-free credit. Open Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm Sun 1-4pm.

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. Emailstereo@cix.computlink.co.uk We will help you choose a system to suit your needs precisely. Whether it's a complete distributed audio and video system or just a repair to your old speakers. WE'RE NOT JUST STEREO STEREO. Open 10-6.00pm closed Sunday, Tuesday. Interest free credit available.

STIRLING

STIRLING AUDIO, 19 Barnton Street, Stirling, FK8 1HF. Tel (01786) 479958. For central Scotland's best selection of quality Hi-Fi at all prices demonstrated and installed to suit your needs. B&W, Aura, Crimson, Ruark, Audiolab, Arcam, Marantz, Thule, Rotel, Impulse, Polk, Audio Innovations, Royd, Infinity, DNM Reson, NHT, REL, Revolver, Micromega, Beyer, Sennheiser, Harman Kardon, QLN, Target + Stands Unique and many more. Plus custom cable service + QED multiroom installation. Contact Bany 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. Arcam, Bose, Boston, B&W, Celestion, Castle, Denon, GLL, Harman-Kardon, Jamo, JBL, Marantz, Michell, Mission, Mordaunt-Short, Musical Fidelity, Myrrad, NAD, Micromega, Quad, Rotel, Rogers, Roksan, Ruark, Tannoy, Teac, TDL, 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**

...clear
your
...mind

With equipment from Moorgate Acoustics, you can relax and enjoy the show every night, in the comfort of your own home.

We sell hi-fi and Home Cinema equipment that soars above the mediocre.

Satisfied customers have built our business. Become one of them and find out how we can bring beautiful sound and pictures into your home.

- High Fidelity equipment
- Loewe Television
- Multi-Room
- Home Cinema



moorgate acoustics

Moorgate Acoustics
(Sheffield) Limited
184 Fitzwilliam St
Sheffield

Tel: (0114) 275 6048

www.demon.co.uk/moorgate/

10/12 Chapel Place
Tunbridge Wells
Kent TN1 1YQ

Sound of Music

Telephone: 01892 547003
Facsimile: 01892 547004
<http://www.sound-of-music.co.uk>

DO YOU BUY YOUR HIFI ON REVIEWS OR DO YOU LET YOUR EARS DECIDE?

If your answer is the latter then we are the dealer for you. The only way to achieve musical satisfaction is to use your ears and not somebody else's. There is of course, some merit in most reviews but many many times over our 35 years experience in the trade we have found that Hi-Fi bought on this basis has very often resulted in disappointment. At SOUNDS OF MUSIC we offer a very special trial service to combat this possible situation so the end results will always be to your satisfaction. You may eventually choose a product that was the subject of a very good review but if you do not agree with the reviews findings, with us you always have an alternative route. Listed below are a few of our special products for this month so if you are in the market for any of these or indeed, any of our other specially selected lines, please call us for more details of these and our special trial system. If music is your priority then SOUNDS OF MUSIC is the right place to come.

AMPLIFICATION

AUDIO ANALOGUE. A really superb new range. Incredible value and performance.

CHORD. New to S.O.M. this is one of the best solid state ranges available. If you are really serious about amplification, the 5000 stereo amplifier is stunning.

UNISON RESEARCH. Amazing value valve amplifiers with looks, performance and style to compliment even the most up-market decor. A joy to use.

KRELL. The new 250A/250P pre and power combination makes Krell performance affordable. Real power at your fingertips.

ANTHEM. A new product using hybrid technology. The integrated/power combo plus the CD player presents a formidable case. Fantastic build quality.

TRILOGY. Great valve amplification from the UK and they drive most loudspeakers too. The preamps are of special note coming in at a real budget price.

AUDIO SYNTHESIS. How do you follow the DAX-2. Combine it with a pre-amp in the same box. This is a fantastic combination for the latest AS amplifier.

BOW WAZOO. OK OK yes it is a wacky name but what a product. If you want an integrated with little fuss and top performance this is it.

CD PLAYERS

MAGNUM. This long awaited budget CD player is here at last and it was certainly worth the wait. Plain and simple but for the money, very very good.

A.V.I. The new budget CD from this progressive company will take a lot of beating. Now you can have a complete AV1 system including speakers for under £3K.

HELIOS. Moving up a little this stunning new range is one of our favourite new products. The Helios 1 at just over the £1k mark is unbeatable.

PINK TRIANGLE LITAURO. This unit however, does it with fine style. It is truly musical but full of detail, transparency and resolution.

LOUDSPEAKERS

ACOUSTIC ENERGY. With performance and build quality like this no wonder their reputation is as good as it is.

MUSICAL TECHNOLOGY. The New Condors are now our best speaker at the £1K mark. Great to look at, great to listen to.

DUNLAVY. Yes they are tall. Very tall, but very very neutral. Americas No 1.

WILSON/BENESCH. Its great to be working with this company and their products.

GERSHMAN. A speaker with fantastic looks and style to grace any home, and the performance - WOW.

ORCHID. It is still a fact that some of the worlds best speakers come from the UK and this one is no exception to the rule. Not for the faint hearted but for real music.

LUMLEY. But if there are no holds barred - the latest LM 1's are still the best we have heard under £20K. Reality that you will find hard to believe.

If that's not enough to be going on with, try the new WILSON/BENESCH circle turntable - GOERTZ cables - GRAHAM MK2 tonearm - PASS amplifiers etc etc etc. Only the very best at Sounds of Music.

**1x MONTHS TRIAL EXCHANGE SYSTEM. FREE DELIVERY
THE WIDEST RANGE OF EQUIPMENT ON DEMONSTRATION**



**VALVE - VINYL
SPECIALISTS**



**SYSTEMS FROM
£500-£100K**



turntables, tonearms & PHONO cartridges for the LOVE of music

To hear the dynamics and explosive power of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, your Hi-Fi system comes from Audiofreaks.

For your final choice of analogue front end components we have selected a few of the very best.

The very finest **BENZ-MICRO** and **CLEARAUDIO** moving coil and moving magnet phono cartridges and **CLEARAUDIO** acrylic turntables with parallel tracking tonearms, complemented by the sublime **EXPRESSIVE TECHNOLOGIES** SU-1 step-up transformer with matching IC-1 interconnect cable - all for the love of music

AUDIOFREAKS

Distributors of Fine Audio & Home Theatre Equipment

15, Link Way, Ham, Surrey TW10 7QT. Tel: 0181. 948 4153 Fax: 0181. 948 4250.
email info@audiofreaks.i-way.co.uk www.audiofreaks.i-way.co.uk



Audible Elegance



Kent's newest dealer is proud to present a fresh approach to buying Hi-Fi. If you enjoy music please take time to audition our carefully selected range of both modern & vintage equipment.

Alchemist ~ Art Studio ~ Beam Echo ~ Bravura ~ Gamma Acoustics
Loricraft Audio/Garrard ~ JM Labs Speakers ~ Monrio
Nottingham Analogue ~ Project Turntables ~ Sovereign Valves
Target ~ Trichord Research ~ Tube Technology

01227 742928

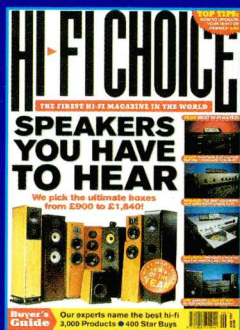


0976 402779

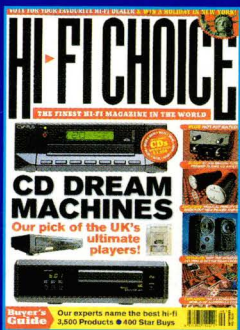
Ashcroft, Bishopstone Lane Herne Bay Kent CT6 6RO

BACK ISSUES

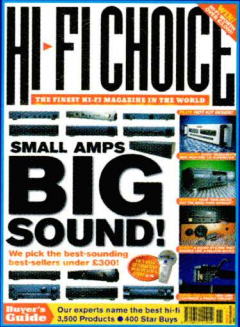
Missed *Hi-Fi Choice* the first time round? Don't worry! Selected back issues are available for just £4.00 (UK) or £6.95 (rest of world), including p&p. Stocks are limited, so place your order today!



JUNE 1997/ISSUE 167
 ■ 14 Loudspeakers, £800-£2,000
 ■ 5 Amps Below £250
 ■ Room Acoustics Special Report
 ■ Thomson DTH-1000 DVD player



SEPTEMBER 1997/ISSUE 169
 ■ 12 CD Players £500-£1,500
 ■ 5 Budget Speakers
 ■ Audiophile Records Special Report
 ■ Musical Fidelity X-A50 Monoblocks



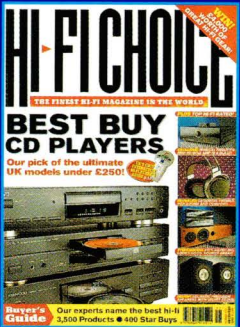
NOVEMBER 1997/ISSUE 171
 ■ 12 Amplifiers £130-£300
 ■ 6 Twin Cassette Decks £200-£300
 ■ Jeff Rowland Concentra Amp
 ■ Audio Research CD2



JULY/AUG 1997/ISSUE 168
 ■ 14 Amps £300-£800
 ■ 12 Speaker Cables
 ■ Special Report: Hi-Fi Accessories
 ■ Sony EP9ES Digital Preamp



OCTOBER 1997/ISSUE 170
 ■ EISA Awards - Special Issue
 ■ 14 Loudspeakers £140-£500
 ■ Soundproofing: Special Report
 ■ conrad-johnson ART preamp



DECEMBER 1997/ISSUE 172
 ■ 10 CD players £120-£250
 ■ Headphones & Accessories
 ■ Musical Fidelity A1001 Amplifier
 ■ Ramada Hi-Fi Show Report

Note: the following editions have sold out: April, May, July, August, October, November 1995; June, July/August, December 1996. Call our hot-line number for the latest availability info.

HOW TO ORDER

It couldn't be simpler! Just call our credit-card hot-line on

(01789) 490 215

We accept AmEx, MasterCard and Visa credit-cards, plus Switch or Delta debit cards. An answering service is available outside office hours. Or fax (01789) 490 878.

NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE

- DESIGNER SYSTEMS ON TEST
- MID-PRICE SPEAKERS
- NEW W-B TURNTABLE



Bang & Olufsen Century: sure looks chic, but does it sound sleek?

DESIGNER SYSTEMS SPECIAL

If you're searching for a system that looks good but doesn't compromise on sound quality, you should read our report in next month's issue. Contenders from Bang & Olufsen, Denon, Kenwood, Pioneer, Sony and TEAC lock horns in the quest to please both your music collection and living room.

SPEAK OUT!

Why not treat yourself to a new pair of speakers? You'll find 15 boxes priced £400 to £1,200 in next month's test. Brands on parade include Castle, Jamo, JBL, B&W, Monitor Audio and Mission. We'll leave no stone unturned in the quest for sonic enlightenment.

Castle Severn 2

FULL CIRCLE

Come round to a new, carbon-fibre way of thinking with Wilson-benesch's Circle turntable. Plus: reviews on Electrocompaniet's Scandinavian-made EC4.6/AW120 pre/power amp, and the awesome Stargate CD player from Helios.



Wilson-benesch Circle

RECORDABLE CD: THE PLOT THICKENS

Philips has increased the digital recording stakes with its CDR 870, a CD recorder, which sets a new, low price-point (£500) for record-once CD, and introduces rewritable CD to the consumer market. Does MiniDisc have a new rival?

HAVE HI-FI CHOICE DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR EVERY MONTH!
SUBSCRIPTION RATES START AT JUST £14.97
 - SEE PAGE 32 FOR DETAILS! -

THE JANUARY 1998 EDITION OF HI-FI CHOICE WILL BE ON SALE THURSDAY DECEMBER 18, 1997. DON'T MISS IT!

The Choicest Some of the more memorable quotes written by our columnists this year! sound bites

On hi-fi philosophy

“The debate is officially over: turntables versus CD players, vinyl versus polycarbonate. The difference between decent CD players and record players is now no greater than that of the software that’s played on them. Or rather, that software differences are greater than hardware ones, all other things being approximately equal.”

Jason Kennedy, January 1997

“To me, a good system is one that makes music enjoyable and accessible, so that your attention is held by the music and performance, not the equipment. Doubtless many would subscribe to such a view; we all say the music comes first. Yet how often does the reality match the rhetoric?”

Jimmy Hughes, January 1997

“Someone very grumpily and publicly ended it all the other day, by writing to a hi-fi magazine and bleeding messily over his letter. He pleaded about the futility of it all, the pointless years of slavery to the pursuit of perfect sound. Oh, the tweaking, he groaned — the endless upgrades; the fascism of fashion; the crushing imprisonment of audiophilia.”

David Vivian, January 1997

“In much the same way that having good eyesight won’t make you observant, acute hearing doesn’t necessarily turn you into a good listener — at least, not in the sense of being able to hear what’s right with something, as opposed to what’s wrong with it.”

Jimmy Hughes, February 1997

“Ironically, the sound on [The Spice Girls] *Say You’ll Be There* is pop CD at its worst: compressed, thick, one-dimensional. No amount of dubbed-on fake surface noise can

alter that, but (puts on broad Yorkshire accent), you try telling kids that today...”

Jimmy Hughes, March 1997

“If you have two almost identical-sounding pieces of equipment, but one costs £700 less than the other, it’s the cheaper one that should get your juices flowing. Not just because more talent and intelligence went into its design, but because its ‘goodness’ has a solid social dimension.”

David Vivian, March 1997

“During the long drive home [from the Bristol show], there was much animated argument on the merits of Meridian’s [DVD home theatre] system. Could one live comfortably with something so large and powerful-sounding? Wouldn’t the experience be too intense? And most important — how

would *Coronation Street* take advantage of wide-screen and sub-bass facilities?”

Jimmy Hughes, May 1997

“Whatever your system or tastes, the ultimate tweak is the appreciation of the music you play on it. So as well as sorting out your mains cables and upgrading your Blu-Tack, don’t forget to buy yourself some fantastic music. You’ll be amazed at what it can do.”

Jason Kennedy, July/August 1997

“August bodies must come to realise that CD succeeded because of sound quality, not just for its lack of pops and clicks and its immunity to smeared-on jam. It reproduced music better than formats it replaced. DVD audio won’t take off unless it sounds better than CD on the most prosaic audio equipment.”

Jason Kennedy, October 1997

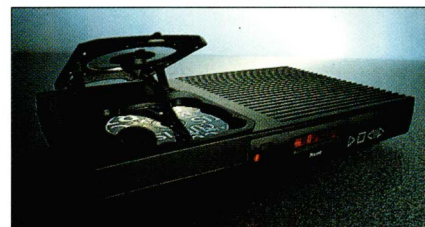
On hi-fi reviews

“Sonically, the Planet pulls off that favourite Rega trick of distracting you with the music. It emphasises the nature of recordings above its own subtle character. It was difficult to get a grip on its nature, so engrossed was I in numerous discs.”

Jason Kennedy, January 1997



ILLUSTRATION: BRETT ROEDER



Rega Planet CD player: sent Jason into orbit!

“Is there such a thing as a perfect cable? No more than there is a perfect speaker. Nordost SPM is a fine cable, but my ideal recipe wants to blend some of its characteristics with some of Naim NACA5’s, the way I do when swapping between my ‘reference point’ loudspeakers [Rehdeko RK175s and Tannoy 15-inch dual-concentrics].”

Paul Messenger, January 1997

New Issue

STUFF

GREAT GADGETS FOR MEN



MEGA TESTS
Over 30 skis and snowboards
Sports watches
Xmas stuff for her
Festive booze



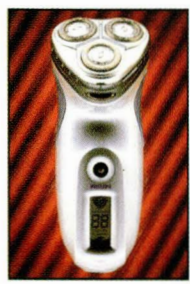
£2.50

over **200** new products rated!

AMAZING GADGETS



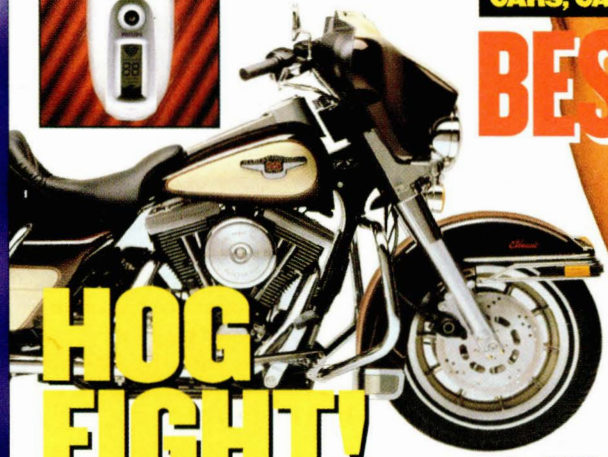
Latest techno kit tried and tested - p14



SHAVE ON!
The best razors a man can get

CARS, CAMERAS, GIZMOS, SPORTS KIT & MORE

BEST OF '97



HOG FIGHT!

Fat Boy or Softail - which Harley is right for you?



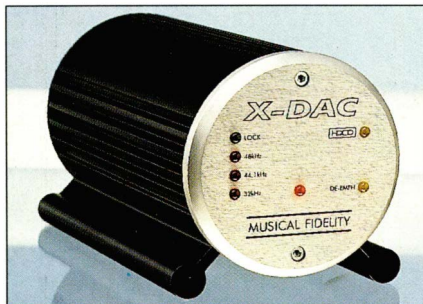
SUBBUTED ▶ WORLD CUP TICKETS ▶ NEW YORK



Melinda presents the year's top gear

WIN! £9,000 OF THE YEAR'S BEST BUYS

On Sale NOW



An audio accessory for Mulder and Scully?

◀ The best of Hi-Fi Choice's 1997 Columns, continued from the previous page.

On the Border Patrol Power Supply

"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. Tube bass now has power and depth, high frequencies shine and sparkle with seamless definition, and the overall presentation is more dynamic."

Jason Kennedy, April 1997

On the Musical Fidelity X-DAC

"Here's how to produce a pro-active audio accessory for the Mulder-and-Scully-mad, hi-fi-sceptical late '90s. First, kick off its name with a big, juicy 'X'. Then sell it for a ridiculous, high-end mickey-taking £299."

David Vivian, April 1997

On the SJS Arcadia preamp

"There's none of the wispy airiness and soft, slow bass that one associates with the breed [tube amps] — just consistently fine tone, edge-of-your-seat dynamics and effortlessness. Let's put it this way: if you're a tube-and-horn man or woman, you're going to have a lot of trouble walking away empty handed from a decent demonstration of this product. You have been warned!"

Jason Kennedy, September 1997



The SJS Arcadia preamp caused JK to reconsider the potential of vacuum-tube amplification.

On the Townshend Seismic Sink Stand

"The ensemble now looks even more like a baby oil rig in the middle of the lounge, and there's still the odd practical problem to sort out, but preliminary results are so good I'm determined to make it work. It's not quite the best of both worlds, but it facilitates the best combination of bandwidth and dynamic resolution I've heard from vinyl yet."

Paul Messenger, September 1997

On technology

"The answer, as ever, lies in the ingenious application of digital technology. Sure enough, the CT-W806DR still makes analogue recordings, which are no less compatible than copies made on conventional decks. However, music signals are digitally processed before they hit the tape and, again, once they are pulled off during playback."

Paul Miller, November 1997

On B&W's computer screen-savers

"I'd be transfixed instantly by the startlingly weird (yet strangely beautiful) animations of speaker cones behaving badly — or, indeed, like model citizens if the designers have done their sums right. Which, at B&W, seems to be most of the time. Believe me, these babies make *After Dark* look like Etch-a-Sketch."

David Vivian, November 1997

On DIY #1

"If you're a dedicated follower of fashion intending to move from stand-mount speakers to floor-standers, you might consider converting your existing stands into plinths, at the cost of only a little dismantling and drilling. Beats a 1,000-piece jigsaw-puzzle for something to do on a rainy afternoon..."

Paul Messenger, April 1997

On DIY #2

"Frankly, and at the expense of ruffling a few

feathers, this might just as well have been translated as "we're designing on a wing and a prayer". All well and good if you're cobbling together a box on your kitchen table, but far from acceptable if you are expecting enthusiasts to shell out large wads of hard-earned cash."

Paul Miller, July/August 1997

On theory

"Working dynamic range is one of the most important things in audio, yet it is rarely spoken of or understood, even by experts. Recordings with a wide working dynamic range sound transparent and reproduce easily, no matter what the system. Systems that achieve wide working dynamic range reproduce most recordings (good and bad) with ease and grace."

Jimmy Hughes, June 1997

"Evidently, not all 100 Watt (or 50 Watt, or 30 Watt) amplifiers are created equal. Now, fortunately, we have the technology to sort the men from the boys and recommend those amplifiers truly capable of grappling with 'real world' loudspeakers."

Paul Miller, May 1997

"Even with the worst of systems, it's usually possible to find at least one album that sounds good. As a result, you may feel justified in saying: 'If only all recordings were as well-made as this, my system would always sound great.' However, the acid test of a good system is how many recordings it transforms into gold, not how many it wrecks."

Jimmy Hughes, October 1997

"Grunge-reduction lies at the heart of hi-fi; in digital terms, the grunge is jitter. The trick is to lose the hash without sacrificing music along the way."

Paul Miller, December 1997

On first hi-fi experiences

"From the second the stylus dropped in the groove I knew I would never be a rich man. Hi-fi had entered my life — the clarity, the detail, the power, the bigness! It was all too much and made me go weak at the knees." [Courtesy of an early-'70s BSR turntable, Trio amp and Koss headphones.]

David Vivian, June 1997

"EMI's test pressing [of Pink Floyd's *Pulse* album], in [engineer/producer] Guthrie's words, 'bore no resemblance to the original; it was lifeless and limp, the low-level information had gone, and sounded as though it had been phase-shifted; and there was a bump in the low-end, reminiscent of the sound you get when an analogue tape machine is badly out of alignment'."

Jimmy Hughes, July/August 1997

"Are you an enthusiast or a consumer?"

Stan Vincent, December 1997

Wall to Wall Magic!



The Widest Choice of THX in the UK!

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

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

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

Processing by harman/kardon and Proceed.

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



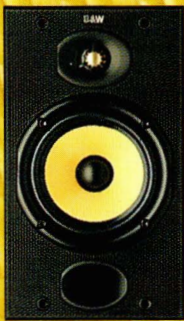
JBL



KAMLA

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

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



B&W DM™ 601
"The 601s sound like
the voice coils of God."
What Hi-Fi? – Nov '95

'The 601s sound like the voice coils of God'

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.

For more information contact
B&W Loudspeakers (UK) Ltd
on: +44 (0)1903 750 750
<http://www.bwspeakers.com>



L I S T E N A N D Y O U ' L L S E E