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Will the turn of the Millennium turn out to be the largest street party ever or, as some folks predict, will it be a big flop and as limp as three week-old lettuce. Personally, I'll be at home with a good book, a fish finger sandwich and a bottle of brown ale. It's not that I'm a New Year Scrooge but I could probably enjoy myself equally as much, if not more, on Jan 6th 2000 as I could on Dec 31st 1999 - and it would be a heck of a lot cheaper! It will also give me time to consider the future.

Our little microcosm that we call hi-fi will undoubtedly cease to exist at some stage in the future. Just how near will that will be though? There is a school of thought that the only way forward for hi-fi is to go backward, and that specialist vinyl, valves and loudspeakers will keep the ship afloat. This is debateable. Trying to interest the young in the old is - and always will be - tough work.

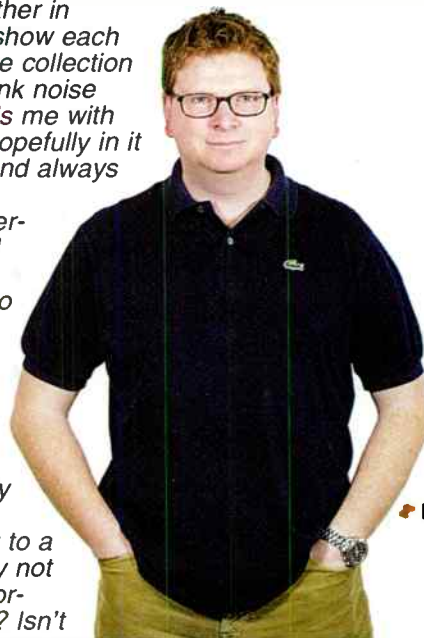
Of course, it's virtually written in stone that future

generations will listen to music - it's far too strong an artistic and social force for it to just roll over and peg out - but it will be more computer and visual-based than ever before. 'Hi-fi' could therefore become increasingly specialist, its fanatics probably more fanatical, nostalgic and maudlin. The thought of it turning into an underground movement where gangs of audiophiles gather in basements to show each other their valve collection and listen to pink noise quite frankly fills me with dread. We're hopefully in it for the music and always will be.

Future 'universal' players will ensure that video and audio discs will replace both the CD player and video recorder. The unit will then more than likely be placed in close proximity to a TV unit, so why not watch the performance as well? Isn't

one of the strongest selling points of hi-fi to create or relive a performance which more often than not involves the eyes? The same goes for MP3 and computer monitors. If the quality eventually turns out to be as good as current hi-fi what's the problem?

Like it or not things are changing. For the better? Who knows, but fight it if you dare . . .



Simon Pope

How we test the products

- Hi-Fi World has its own advanced test laboratory and acoustically treated listening room.

- Hi-Fi World has a dedicated in-house team of experienced listeners. We review thoroughly by extensive auditioning, rather than by quick-fire group listening tests.

- Hi-Fi World's engineering team designs a wide range of products in-house. No other hi-fi magazine is so expert and dedicated.



OUTSTANDING -

Superb sound, something we'd use ourselves.



GOOD -

Has strong merit. Well worth an audition.



ADEQUATE -

Mediocre in several areas. May be worth auditioning.



POOR -

Seriously flawed. Not worth considering.

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This month we try out half-a-dozen bookshelf 'speakers priced between £300-£400. Will it be a case of quality over quantity with these mini marvels? The editorial team unplug their lugs for some serious listening.

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The name Acoustic Research may ring a few bells. Now re-launched under the Recoton umbrella we try out a pair of the brand new Status 30 models, which could well redefine the term 'budget floorstander' with their £250 price tag.

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the 7 have the pedigree of its successors? Jon Marks integrates seamlessly with this classy little number.

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This is the new phono stage from Musical Fidelity that incorporates a monobloc design. Richard White is our man with the black stuff...



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The sweet sounds of a ready-to-use integrated valve amplifier for just £600 - you jest surely? Ho-ho, no, says Richard White.

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Simon Pope gives ear to these stylish entry-level components from the popular Salisbury-based company. Will they prove to sound as good as they look?



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It's not just about pictures you know! Simon Pope takes you through the ins and outs of multi-channel audio. He knocks up a budget system courtesy of Denon and Eltax and highlights what's available on the software front.

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It's the second installment of David Price's history of audio. Our resident hi-fi historian strides from the 1970s to the foreseeable future - with a little help from famous names in the industry.



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KEF CONCERTO 1

A new model from KEF is available from your local dealer. The Concerto 1 follows the current trend for slim floorstanders in a 2-way design. The drivers consist of a 25mm silk dome tweeter and a 130mm coated paper cone bass/mid unit. In these

domestically style conscious days KEF describe the cabinets as having a 'furniture' appearance to appeal to the aesthetically minded. They have mirror matched veneers and heavy internal bracing in an attempt to rid the cabinet of coloration. Rear-ported and bi-wirable with gold-plated terminals, they are priced at £599.99 per pair.

Another new goody from KEF comes in the shape of the new budget Cresta 1. This follows hot on the heels of the award-winning Cresta 2 and is a smaller version incorporating a smaller 4in bass/mid unit coupled with a 1in silk dome tweeter. Finished with a soft edged cabinet and a leather look baffle, the Cresta 1 is priced competitively at £99.99.

**KEF Audio UK Ltd.,
Eccleston Rd.,
Tovil,
Maidstone,
Kent ME15 6QP
Tel: 01622 672261**



WADIA THINK ABOUT THIS?

Ultra high-end digital maestros Wadia have a new baby to show off. Under the heading "The best one box CD player on the market?" is the Wadia 860ix. It uses technology from the 270/27ix system and features 24 bit 96kHz processing with upgrade possibilities for new formats. The Clock architecture of the W860 has been replaced by that of the W27ix to reduce noise and jitter in the W860ix. The price of the W860ix is £7450, whilst owners of the W860x can upgrade to the new specs for £250 plus shipping.

Also new on the Wadia list are two analog to digital converters, the 130 and 150. The 130 provides a digital output to Philips Red Book CD standard and the 150 outputs 24/96 kHz data. They are priced at £895 and £995 respectively.

**The Musical Design Company,
PO Box 4146,
Epping,
Essex CM16 6HJ
Tel: 01992 573030**

Slimline Tonic

This stylish customer is the new "super compact" personal MD recorder from Panasonic. The SJ-MR100 features a newly developed optical pickup and can apparently deliver up to 20 hours continuous playback with the supplied rechargeable battery. There is a 40-second anti-shock function, power saving auto-off and an MD Title Station. It's priced at £249.99 including a slimline remote.

**Panasonic UK,
Panasonic House,
Willoughby Rd.,
Bracknell,
Berks RG12 8FP
Tel: 08701 578577**



CASTLE



Castle Acoustics Limited,
Park Mill, Shortbank Road, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 2TT England.
Tel: (01756) 795333 Fax: (01756) 795335
Email: sales@castleacoustics.co.uk www.castleacoustics.co.uk

DANISH CHROMA!

From Eltax of Denmark comes a whole new range of 'speakers to compliment their Liberty range. The Chroma Series, which is due to hit the UK in January celebrates the 40th anniversary of the company. Like the Liberty range the Chroma Series features a pair of floor-standers, a pair of stand mounts, a centre 'speaker and a pair of bipolar models for use in AV systems.

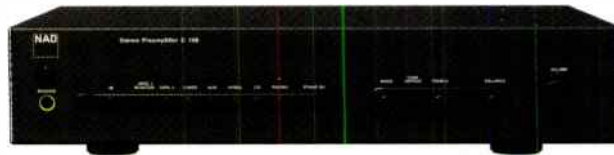
All models in the series feature aluminium bass/mid units to apparently increase load capacity and the floor-standing models also use a metal dome tweeter. And exactly how much Krona will you need for the Chroma? Although not clarified yet, each pair should be around £100 dearer than its Liberty equivalent.

Eltax UK,
4 Warren Yard,
Wolverton Mill,
Milton Keynes,
MK12 5NW
Tel: 01908 226464

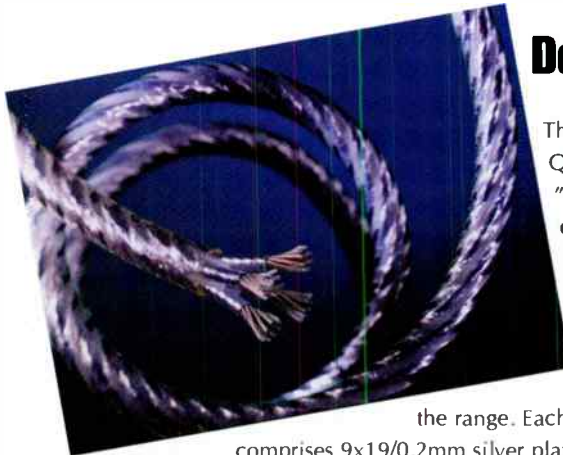


NAD CONTROL

NAD have a new preamplifier to unveil in the UK. Inside the usual grey fascia lurks what should be a very competent bit of kit. The C160 stereo preamp is a combination of the 114 and 116 and features 6 line inputs as well as a switchable MM/MC input, 2 line outputs, an independent headphone amp and a high quality Blue Velvet Alps volume pot. Of the two outputs one is variable from 0dB-12dB which helps to match when bi-amping. Also featured are 'defeatable' tone controls and full remote control. The C160 will be priced at £429.95.



Lenbrook UK Ltd.,
15 Faraday Rd.,
Aylesbury,
Bucks HP19 3RY.
Tel: 0700 00 28346



DOUBLE GENESIS

The Silver Spiral cable from QED, born out of their 1994 "Genesis report" has now been doubled-up. After the four years spent developing the Silver Spiral it is now available in bi-wire form. The Genesis SSBW uses the dual core format of its brothers in the range. Each of the four conductor groups comprises 9x19/0.2mm silver plated 99.999% OFC conductors which gives a total cross section of the conductor area of 22 square mm. The Silver Spiral SSBW is covered by the usual translucent jacket and is priced at £60 per metre.

QED Audio Products Ltd.,
Ridgeway House,
Ridgeway Close,
Lightwater,
Surrey GU18 5XU
Tel: 01276 451166

THE NEW SURREALISTS

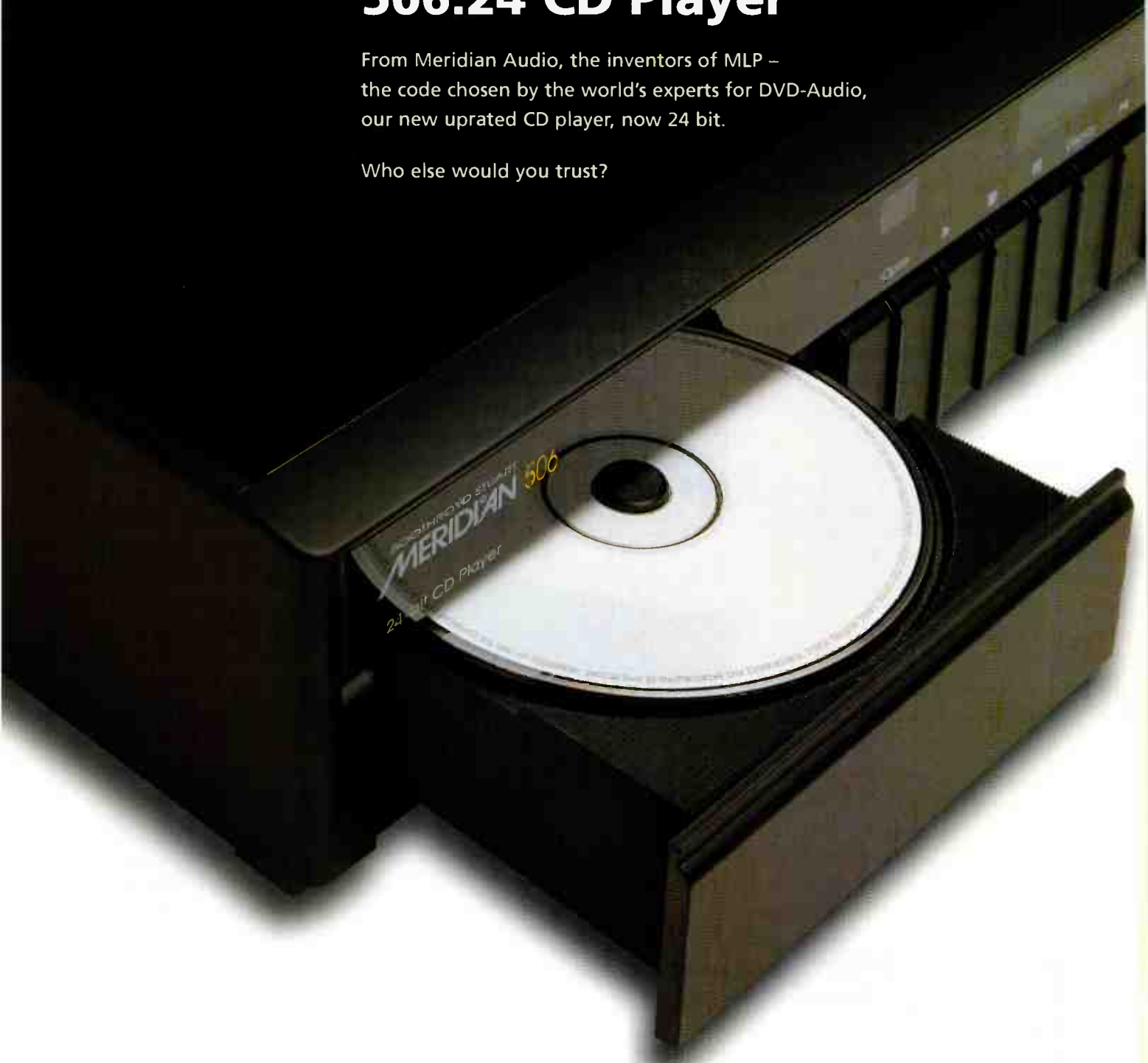
The new AXS range from Dali Loudspeakers is a series of 'speakers designed for the home entertainment enthusiast "on a tight budget". The range consists of the AXS 8000 at £329.95 per pair, the 5000 at £229.95 and the 3000 at £159.95. All models feature an 8in version of Dali's own bass unit specifically tuned for the range and the silk dome tweeters are a 3/4in unit in the 3000 and 500 and a 1in version in the 8000. The cabinets are finished in wood-grain vinyl and their are front-mounted reflex ports for close placement to rear walls.

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Tel: 0700 00 28346

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Meridian America Inc

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T (404) 344 7111 F (404) 346 7111

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MULTI-CHANNEL MERIDIAN

The new two-box surround system that was shown at the London Hi-fi Show by Meridian is now available in dealers. The 568 surround sound processor features many of the features found in the 561 and 861 processors such as PC set-up for installation, digital buffering and compatibility with new digital formats. The 562V.2 is an audio/visual switcher which combines audio and video signals and converts between digital and analogue and triggers screen and TV inputs. It also features 4 S-Video inputs and converts S-Video to compsite. Prices are £3600 for the 568 and £1385 for the 562V.2.



Meridian Audio Ltd.,
Stonehill,
Stukely Meadows,
Huntingdon,
Cams PE18 6ED
Tel: 01480 52144

HOME IN ON THE RANGE

Sony extends its DVD-V range this month. It includes the unusual DVP-F11 "compact" DVD-Video player. Economy of space is the idea behind this design as it can be tipped up to play discs in a vertical position - so it can be tucked away inconspicuously among your Reader's Digest collection! It comes with a stand which will ensure its stability. Although of small dimensions, it seems that no compromise has been made, as it is compatible with all existing surround formats and inside the slimline, slot-loading chassis is Sony's improved Precision Drive Base Mechanism which apparently speeds up the scene selection and menu operation.

The other product to be launched is the DVP-CX850. This is a multichanger model which can store up to 200 DVD and CD discs at any time. It features a "Disc Browser" function which enables the user to file and sort titles by title, genre and disc type and also customize folders. It comes complete with a built-in Dolby Digital/MPEG 5.1 decoder, DTS output and a selection of digital cinema sound modes.

Sony UK Ltd.,
The Heights,
Brooklands,
Weybridge,
Surrey KT13 0XW
Tel: 01932 816000

MISSION POSSIBLE

Mission Loudspeakers have announced the replacement for the 75 Series. The 782 is the first model in the 78 Series and is a three-way floorstanding model which incorporates new technology in the shape of the 'Keraform' ceramic cone. This is what Mission describe as a "true" ceramic - not anodised metal - made from china clay particles and resin and is a mid range drive unit.

The Keraform is partnered with a silk dome tweeter mounted in its own unit and a 17cm Nomex bass unit. The cabinets feature Mission's Transverse Folded Cabinet technology. The folded baffle which is a stable mount for the new Keraform driver is locked into a 30mm MDF enclosure with sculptured inner walls. Available now, priced at £699.90.

Centralforce Ltd.,
Huntingdon,
Cams PE18 6ED
Tel: 01480 541777



NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE

A selection of some of the goodies we hope to bring you next month:

DVD GROUP TEST

DVD players now have household recognition, with sales increasing by the day. But do they really sound better than CD players? We take five models under £500 and guide you through their sonic performance.

TANNOY REVOLUTION R3

The R3s are the top of the range floor-standers in the Revolution series. With their solid cabinet and classy finish, they ought to sound as good as their smaller brothers. Find out what we think of them next month.

NAD C540 CD player

Hi-Fi World gets its hands on this much-praised CD player from the stalwarts of Danish hi-fi. Will it wipe out the mid-range competition? All shall be revealed in just four weeks.



Klipsch KSB2.1

£299.99

Adding over the years to the famous horn 'speakers with which the company made its name, Klipsch now make several ranges to suit more space-pressed customers. Part of their Synergy Series, the KSB2.1 monitor was developed as part of their AV range, and may be used with the matching KSC-C1 centre channel. Measuring 15in by 7 1/2in by 8in, the 11lb cabinets are finished in 'black ash' textured vinyl. Protected by the smart, metal, pencil-proof grille are the 6 1/2in bass/mid driver, the reflex port and the Tractrix horn loaded compression tweeter.

Klipsch are too old at the game to just bung in a horn tweeter for the sake of it, so the stereo detail should have come as no surprise. Nevertheless, a performance of Dvorak's F major piano trio gave a crash course in the 'speakers' fundamental accuracy. Mixed in with the pin-point imaging were all sorts of unlikely details, not the least of which were the anomalies in microphone placement: the violin and 'cello at a distance and the piano under a rug apparently. Truly these are not forgiving 'speakers!

We put on Diana Krall's All Or Nothing At All in the hope that the driving double bass on this track would point out any bass hoots. In truth there was a ghost of one in there but it refused to blossom even at improbable volume levels - with 93dB/w/m to play with, things can get pretty loud even if you use low-power valve amps.

Taking the smooth with the even smoother, we tried Karajan's DGG recording of the Albinoni G minor Adagio. Despite an almost ludicrously velvet interpretation, the Klipsches gave full values all round, particularly in the sustained organ notes and the viola section.

Turning to the strains of commercial radio, the KSBs showed that they had plenty of punch, even with suicidally monotonous material, and, like our other contestants, would have no difficulty in filling a domestic living room.

One of the bonuses of a properly designed horn tweeter is that stereo doesn't disappear when you move off the hot spot. Some balance distortion naturally occurs, but to all intents and purposes, the Klipsches lay down a sonic picture which you can happily walk around in.



Indigo One

£329

Indigo are the new kids on the block. They were started earlier this year and found their spiritual home, along with half of the British hi-fi industry in good old Huntingdon, Cambs.

Our model One's were the cherry wood version (black available at £30 less). The model One is a small and chunky customer with a deep cabinet that goes back a very long way. A two-way design with port front mounted, they are recommended for use with amps up to 100W/channel, being described as studio monitors for the home. Those snow-white drivers and the metal domed tweeter certainly look like studio equipment, but what about the sound?

Actually they sound like little hi-fi we've heard before. They're not bad exactly, they're just... well, different. They are very directional, almost lighthouse standard, but once optimally positioned, they're exciting and fast customers. Truth be told, they floundered a little with the complicated lyricism of Mahler. In an attempt to avoid over-brightness, the metal tweeter sounds so smooth it's almost veiled. The violins in the Mahler were fluid and smooth to the extent that they sounded almost thin. Not altogether unpleasant, but we felt that the Indigos needed to suck on a couple of Locketts for good measure! However, Boulez's Rite of Spring recording, which could be described as a 'dry' recording, sounded powerful and detailed through the Indigos. Plucked strings and sharp precise percussion was exciting and lightning-fast. The dead acoustics of the recording location suited the slightly sterile sound of the 'speakers. If you like your music analytical and precise, take a listen.

The Indigos suit studio-based recording such as the Foo Fighters far better than acoustic recordings. The song Stacked Actors was rocking and rolling with the best. Here the speakers' 'studio' characteristics came out. The drum kit was fast and powerful, guitars forward and rhythmic. Sound-staging was a lot better than with the classical recordings too.

The tag 'studio monitor' can sometimes indicate harsh and uninvolved sound. Indigo have side-stepped this with uncanny smoothness for a metal domed tweeter. They're interesting listening but, as we have noted, different!

ultimate





Opera Duetto

£395

Like all of the Opera range, the Duetto's build is high on quality for the price. Opera use only solid wood cabinets and aim for a smooth and sophisticated sound, low on coloration and high on neutrality.

The Duetto's are by no means the smallest in our group test but they still manage to look tidy, compact and very stylish. They are a single-wire bass reflex design with quite a wide rear firing port. The crowning features of the back are those exquisite 24 carat gold-plated brass posts that manage to find home on all of their models, no matter the price.

Starting with the 'Castrol GTX' movement from Mahler's seventh symphony we were greeted with a fluid and inoffensive sound well suited to the timbres of the modern symphony orchestra. Fine depth of stage and good imaging are also hallmarks of the Duetto's. They produce a rich and warm sound with strings - ideal for Mahler's Viennese whipped-cream passages!

The trade-off with this warmth is a little less detail than that of more revealing 'speakers such as the Dalis or Klipsches. Cymbals and triangles lacked that bit of brightness but they still sparkled musically. Bass response could at times sound a little slow but the mid range and treble are open and sweet.

A short word for hard core rockers. These 'speakers may not be for you. The pounding ear-bashing of the Foo Fighters came as a bit of a shock for the Duetto's. They seemed to lack that last ounce of attack and drive that is essential to bring off this sort of thing. Whilst the vocals and guitar of the midrange were almost faultless, there was a touch of woolly boom to the bass drum.

Unaccompanied choral music saw the Operas feeling more at home. Howells' church music is dependant on the colours created by harmony and the Duetto's didn't disappoint here. This is very warm sounding music and they brought their own touch of warmth to the sound. The result was balmy, nostalgic and melancholic - exactly what the composer was after. The Duetto's are smooth and sophisticated, but perhaps a little too smooth.



Technics SB-M01

£400

The first thing that strikes you about Technics' SB-M01s is their tininess - approximately 9in by 5 1/2in by 8in (hwd). It's generally reckoned that size and weight count for something in loudspeakers, so Technics have obviously challenged themselves to get the results in the face these unusually diminutive dimensions.

Not counting the generous roll surround, the bass/mid driver's cone itself measures only two inches across. A more conventional dome tweeter complements the line up. Firing to the rear is a generously proportioned long port, which appears to be slightly waisted, presumably to spread the 'boom frequencies' around a bit. Single wiring only is provided for. A tasteful veneering job gives the Technics an air of high quality, despite their compact size.

Turning on the radio, I walked slap into one of Johann Strauss II's 'music by the yard' polkas played by the Vienna Philharmonic. First things first; the bass was very powerful from such a small unit. The overall coherence of the sound was something of a surprise - the SB-M01s seem to have no difficulty moving air about. Treble was civilized with no evidence of any tendency to shriek; the amusing twitter of Strauss' woodwind scoring was particularly well relayed. On pushing the Technics just a little further with some commercial rock, a bass hoot could be forced which, on occasion, could suck out the midrange. Imaging was reasonably coherent with very little confusion and, although not ear-stretchingly deep, the soundstage was again very creditable, given the 'speakers' size.

A spin with some Early Music showed up a touch of paperiness in the middle which could be unkind to gut-stringed instruments, although the sparkling clarity of the harpsichord showed that this was a touch of the swings-and-roundabouts.

Interestingly, the midrange gave of its best with vinyl source material - Maurice Hassan ladled out some lush Romantic medicine which the M01s seemed rather to enjoy! Again a slight over-enthusiasm for certain bass notes cropped up, but this is by no means unusual with reflex 'speakers no matter what the size.

statement



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Dali Royal Menuet £399.95



Elac CL82 £399.99



Indigo One £329



Klipsch KSB £295



Opera Duetto £395



Technics SM MO1 £400

This month our group test proved to be enjoyable listening and it also brought up a few surprises. It seems that bookshelf models in this price range vary more than their floorstanding cousins. The best characteristics tended to be detail and excitement coupled with transparency. The two pairs that undoubtedly came top in these categories were the candidates from Dali and Klipsch, which share joint honours on the top of the podium.

The Klipsches, ironically the cheapest in the group test by some way, were a bit of a surprise. The build is hardly bombproof and the fixed metal grills speak more of 'wine bar' monitors than hi-fi loudspeakers. But as we found with their more-expensive brothers the Heresies, looks can be deceptive. Firstly they have extremely high sensitivity rarely heard of at £300; this means they're as easy to drive as a Micra and have an exciting and involving sound that's very refreshing and slightly different to the norm. That flimsy-ish cabinet means that bass can boom ever so slightly but it's sensibly controlled. Some may find the sound a little too involving for relaxation, but we urge you to give them a listen. They're great value for money.

The Dali Royal Menuets, on the other hand, sounded as they looked: smooth, sophisticated and controlled. The finish is less 'rough and ready' than the Klipsches, but then again, they are £100 dearer. We liked the way the sound had space and transparency from such small cabinets - anything we played through them gave the same excellent detailed performance. These are solid and reliable performers that would grace any small or medium room. Their build and sound is as good as many models twice the price.

Of the remaining quartet we felt that the Elacs and Technics merited high marks. Due to their larger size, the Elacs had the deepest bass, although it could sometimes sound slightly forced and boomy and, despite heavy cabinet construction they could still sound a bit 'boxy'. That said, they're still a quality product and deserve serious consideration.

The Technics SB-M01s are no strangers to us. We first encountered their impressive little sound earlier in the year. Along with the Dalis, these are for those listeners out there with minimum space to play around with - they'd probably fit nicely in a Wendy House! Although truly minuscule, they still deliver a confident and

engaging sound that really does impress, as does the fine wood finish.

The Opera Duetto's don't really fully live up to their siblings' pedigree. Opera's Primas and Minis manage to mix a smooth response with detail and musicality. The Duetto's, for all their smoothness and sophistication, don't really engage the listener to quite the same degree. They are very good with chamber music and string quartets, for example, but with anything more beefy and rhythmic they become slightly confused; a good loudspeaker but not quite up there with the best.

Indigo's One models are far harder to pigeonhole. With certain music, such as studio recorded rock, they can sound exciting and really 'up for it'. In other situations, such as with Mahler's richly textured orchestration, they gave up the ghost somewhat and delivered quite a veiled and occasionally muddled performance.

All-in-all, this collection paid their way admirably. Considering the 'poor relation' status of the class as a whole, we hope that our test this month has shown some of the exciting possibilities which a careful choice bookshelf 'speaker' can open up for the listener.

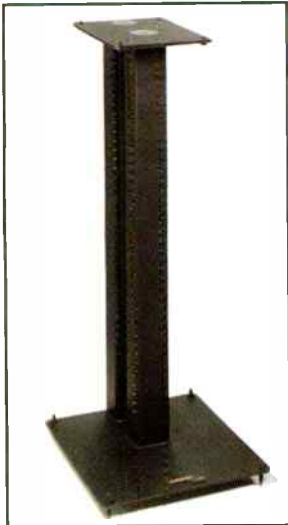
DALI, LENBROOK - 01296 482 301
ELAC, SENNHEISER - 01494 551 551

KLIPSCH, MID. RADIO - 0121 430 7817
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TECHNICS - 01344 862444

STANDS THAT DELIVER!!

Simon Pope takes you through a trio of stands ideally matched for our group test reviewees.

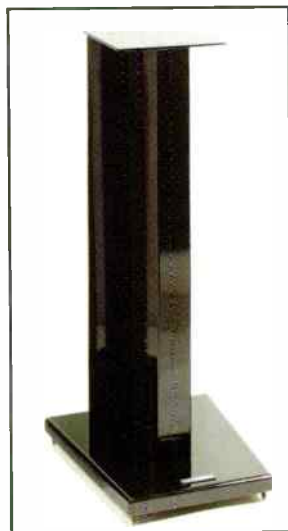


TARGET HR 70 £155

Target are perennially popular stand manufacturers, and you can see why. What you get for your money is a good, solid all round performer that simply does the job. Target are like the Pizza Express of stands - they're good value, good quality and you know exactly what your getting. These are the most expensive in the HR range (being the tallest) and offer excellent value for money. They also come supplied with filling. I admit, there is very little difference between filled metal stands of this price, you'd need bionic ears to hear any major difference, but the Targets give a controlled per-

formance to any 'speaker you place on them, from a pair of Tannoy m1s to the £1,300 Chario Academy Millenniums. Bass is improved by leaning down the flab, so everything is taut and fast, reducing boom to a minimum and giving any music, from Led Zeppelin to Perotin's 12th Century choral music, a sense of added control. If you're prepared to pay the extra £40 or so to have stands ready sand-filled, they are probably the best at the price.

**Target Audio Products,
Suite 6a, Britannia House,
Britannia Estate,
Luton LU3 1RJ
Tel: 01582 401244**



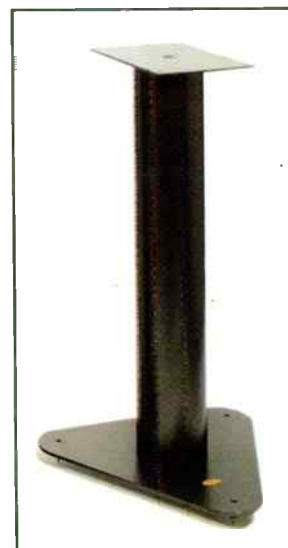
SOUND STYLE X6124 £110

Sound Style favour a thick, flared column which is recommended to be sand filled, although they can be used 'empty'. Assembly is nice and easy, so my swear count was kept to a minimum. Trying them out without sand resulted in a sound which had a certain metallic brightness that could be a trifle annoying after a while.

formed very well, showing that the Sound Style stands were well matched to quality budget 'speakers. The Charios performed well too, but lacked the warmth they have with their solid wood dedicated stands. If you have a pair of stand mount priced from £100-400 these will make the most of them, tightening up the sound and tuning the bass response. Very attractive and very good value.

Sand filling helped out the sound greatly. The two-feet high stands, which when fully spiked had impressive stability and a good weight that supported a pair of heavy-ish Charios easily. Bass was good and firm, although not quite up to Target's standards, and the KEF Cresta 2s per-

**Goldring Products Ltd.,
8 Greyfriars Rd.,
Bury St. Edmunds
Suffolk IP32 7DX
Tel: 01284 701101**



KUDOS S50 £115

These Kudos stands are distributed by Neat Acoustics as a match for their range of stand mounts and they plump for the not-unattractive cylindrical look. Once out of the box, and before being fully assembled (a bit fiddly, but not too tough!) they can be sand-filled to improve solidity. The round shaft of the stands are fairly rigid, and although not of overbearing thickness give a solid grounding for both light and heavy stand mounts alike. I tried them out with a pair of KEF Cresta 2s, Neats own Petite Pros and the £1300 Chario Academy Millennium 1s. Each 'speaker gave a better performance when the stands were sand-filled, so I would recommend this. 'Empty' there was a hint of brightness to the

top end (more so in the less expensive models) where the cabinet was more likely to ring. Once filled however, they gave a good show. Although the carpet spikes of the base weren't as large as the Target's, they still stabilised well and tightened up the bass response well. Not unsurprisingly the performance of the Critique Pros improved with the Kudos to form a good match. For the lower end of the quality stand market these represent good value.

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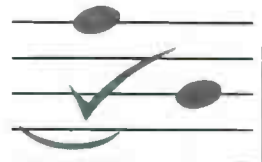
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CHURCHILL ETC. **SUPPORTS:** DH CONES, STANDS UNIQUE, VIBRAPLANE ETC.



Cap'n White puts to sea with the Croft Vitale, a budget version of the Epoch Elite pre-amp.

When hi-fi became largely transistorized during the 1960s, in many instances the trusty pre-amp, hitherto the focus of the whole set-up, went out into the cold. A further blow to the breed's self-esteem occurred when the reaction against tone controls, variable slopes and all that, set in. Given that most popular amplifiers were integrated types, indeed they not infrequently included a tuner as well, the pre-amplifier became to a large degree banished to the margins of the higher-end - with a commensurate increase in price.

When we had a look at Croft's Epoch Elite valve pre-amp a few months ago, we were pleased to give top marks for sound quality but noted that, at £950, this was an item which would need saving up for. Now Croft have met the piggy-bank brigade halfway and introduced the Vitale (rhymes with 'Charlie') with the intention of giving similar service to its illustrious cousin, but at a much reduced price.

As is usual with Croft gear, advantage is taken of the comparatively low production numbers to employ the hard-wiring techniques which mass production usually precludes. This allows very short signal paths - in some instances the components are soldered directly to the valve sockets - which has at least one distinct advantage: the eradication of all-but-unavoidable parallelling of tracks in PCBs which can introduce capacitative spuriae.

Being a budget version, the Vitale pre-amp does not have the benefit of valve regulation of the power supply which distinguishes the more expensive Epoch. Despite this, stabilizing looks to be in good hands if the hefty reservoir capacitors are anything to go by.

Also, bearing in mind its price, it would be idle to deny that the Vitale is presented in anything but penny-plain finish: collet kobs are not usually considered the hallmark of expensive gear! I understand that those who prefer a somewhat more up-market look may specify the brass knobs and wooden fascia from the manufacturer at pro-rata prices.

Four inputs are provided: phono (MM), tuner, tape and CD. Separate volume controls are used for each channel, consequently there are two mute positions on the source selector to allow spot of silence without the irritation of losing a carefully set balance. Tape Out sockets are given but no source/tape switching - arguably a refinement which the current decline of tape-recording has rendered obsolescent.

Having given high marks to the Epoch Elite, I was curious to see how the economy model measured up, particularly the moving-magnet phono stage.

Straight on to the platter with my Zuckerman Elgar Violin Concerto to see if all was lovely in the late-Romantic garden. So it proved, with the full majesty of the orchestra swelling, almost bursting out of the loudspeakers while the delicate nuances of the solo violin wove their way through the ensemble.

All right for dynamics so far; clarity was checked with the Archiv pressing of Vespers by the members of a Spanish monastery. With the wonderful acoustic reproduced on this disc, the entirely unselfconscious performance of the singers adds, rather than subtracts, from the whole. The natural throatiness and huskiness of the brothers was amplified with a crystalline clarity which could all-

but transform a South London sitting room into a medieval chapel. Luckily, before I could pop up to Shrewsbury to solve a mystery or two, the side came to an end and Brother Cadfael turned back to reviewing hi-fi.

A quick trip round the air-waves proved that the Vitale was prepared to pass on music without comment. Even the most compressed rock and rap got a fair hearing and the Archers showed their stereophonic worth in trumps before I managed to switch 'em off.

In common with its more expensive stablemate, Croft's Vitale has an uncanny ability to disappear completely and let the sound itself get on with it. This unassuming valve job seems to be able to pass all styles with nothing added and, more importantly, nothing taken away. If you can put up with the somewhat homely finish, it would be difficult to recommend anything else, either at this price or indeed considerably more.

Croft Vitale £350

**Croft
15 Harrison Road
Erdington
W. Midlands
B24 9AB
Tel: 0121 373 1442**

WORLD VERDICT



Sparkling valve pre-amp at a very modest price. Humble finish but exceedingly sweet sound.

Measured Performance see page 119

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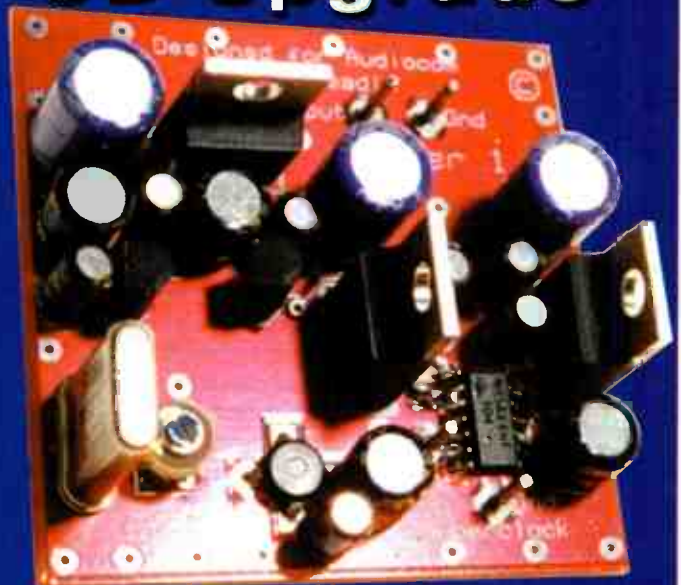
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Keep on Run-in

Jon Marks discovers patience is indeed a virtue when it comes to getting the best from Audio Analogue's Maestro CD player.

I don't know which of the £1100 Maestro's components it is that takes so long to burn in. Maybe it's the same one that needed over 100 hours of use before it would allow the Bellini and Donizetti pre/power combo to loosen up and hit its stride. Whichever it is, there's certainly no hurrying it: audition the Maestro ahead of the mandatory running-in period (once again about 100 hours), and it will produce the sort of purely cerebral, uninvolved performance that fails to pluck at the heart strings.

Perhaps it should come as no surprise that this complex machine requires plenty of time to mature. After all, unlike 99% of CD players, it features a 24-bit, 96kHz-sampling DAC in a box fitted with a transport that can read only CDs. This explains why the Maestro has a coaxial digital input as well as output: it can decode the digital signal from a DVD player spinning a high-resolution disc (as well as standard 16/44.1 from a CD transport, of course). Few manufacturers offer this sort of flexibility - Denon is one other, with their DCD-S10 MkI and MkII players.

As anyone who's ever laid eyes on a Puccini or Paganini will be aware, build is one of AA's strengths. Making up part of the Maestro's 10kgs is a thick, aluminium front panel broken by a slim drawer, the

classy circular display, and an unusual cluster of beautifully-finished control buttons (which cater for all the basic fascia functions you might expect to find outside the remote).

After the disappointment of the initial week's listening, I left the Maestro on repeat for three or four more days before returning it to a system where it cohabited with a DPA 50S, Crimson Electric monoblocs and a pair of Jamo Concert 8s. I was eager to hear what the Italian could offer against the considerable charms of T+A's CD 1210 R, which sells for £1150. With discs like OMC's *How Bizarre* and Presence's *All Systems Gone*, the contest was close in most respects. That typically clean, transparent Audio Analogue presentation was in evidence on both of these predominantly electronic albums, the Maestro inching ahead of the German contender when it came to detail and resolution. The T+A levelled the scores with its slightly fuller, weightier tonal balance on filter setting number three. The AA may provide easier access to its DAC along with 24/96 compatibility, but the CD 1210 R benefits from a wider spread of 'characters' thanks to its selectable digital filters. On top of this, it was the more vibrant, cohesive and musical piece of equipment. Where its punchy bass went

with the pace on faster tracks and could boogie with the best on Blues and R 'n' B recordings, the Maestro took a calmer, less ebullient view of the proceedings. It remained an enjoyable player, it just didn't have as broad a range of expression as the T+A.

At its price, Audio Analogue's latest has a lot going for it. The signal on the digital input can even be looped through to the digital output, the Maestro acting as a jitter-reducer. However, the bottom line is sonic satisfaction, and in spite of a sterling show on imaging and sound staging, the AA lags behind the all-genre prowess of the T+A CD 1210 R.

Audio Analogue Maestro £1100

UKD

**23 Richings Way,
Iver,**

Bucks. SL0 9DA

Tel: 01753 652669

WORLD VERDICT




The Maestro is well up with the pack on most counts, but it isn't the most musical of machines.

Measured Performance see page 119

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SEVEN IN HEAVEN

Jon Marks searches for amp nirvana under £1000 with the new Cyrus 7 integrated.



If there's one thing Cyrus electronics could never be accused of, it's that style of design and construction which typifies quite a few British manufacturers. Even the head of the Cyrus integrated line, the highly affordable One, was founded on a cast base-plate which endowed it with a brick-like solidity you just don't find in hi-fi's more usual biscuit-box offerings.

The size, proportions and robust build of the Seven will be familiar to owners of the Three it replaces, but in almost every other respect this is a very different creature indeed. While the circuitry itself is fairly standard, no less than three months have gone into 'voicing' the Seven. Cyrus' original design strategy used to involve taking a product brief, handing it on to an engineer to turn it into a reality, and then passing it to other people down the production line. Now, that engineer is responsible for the amp or CD player throughout its development. And instead of viewing circuit topology as paramount and individual parts selection as a secondary consideration, the three-man voicing team recognises that the sonic signatures of caps and resistors play the largest role in determining the sound of a finished item.

What makes the Seven a rarity is that all the above has been seamlessly matched to an extremely slick set of computer controls. Take, for instance, the adjustable sensitivity on all the gold-plated sockets bar those for CD, which is the

'reference' input. Then there's the volume knob, which varies the speed of its impact depending on whether you're turning it quickly or slowly. And if you switch to headphone listening via the front-panel button, the loudspeaker level drops gently before the headphones are gradually brought in.

Too often in hi-fi, this operational sophistication compromises what flows from the loudspeakers, but not this time. Driving a pair of Jamo Concert 8s, the Seven displayed a grip, speed and power you'd normally not expect of a 60Watt integrated partnered with a testing load. In fact, the Cyrus rustled up the kind of unobtrusive detail, musicality and bass muscle on Presence's *All Systems Gone* album that I'm more accustomed to hearing from a pre and a pair of 100Watt monoblocs.

For a further check on the Seven's prowess at lower frequencies, I lined it up with the Dubby rhythms of Bill Laswell's *Axiom Dub: Mysteries Of Creation*, and Bob Marley's *Kaya*. In spite of neighbour-annoying levels, the amp remained composed, firm and fleet-footed with basslines. Thanks to this, it was more enjoyable than most of the competition as it avoided any hint of that slow, bloated presentation which robs music of vitality.

On *Kaya*, the Cyrus pulled another ace out of its sleeve - insight. A whole host of delicate percussion touches that a lot of amps gloss over were suddenly obvious, but not in an in-your-face manner.

Instead, they were realistically woven into the overall musical fabric, a trick which only pricier electronics than this tend to pull off.

Confirming subtlety as a Seven forte was Tori Amos' *Boys For Pele* and The Palladian Ensemble's *Trios For Four*. In addition, both demonstrated that sound-staging, image precision and tonal colour were bread and butter to this amp. Smoothness was above average as well, TA's harpsichord and Rachel Podger's violin proving that treble and midrange were free from the grain which dogs poorly-implemented transistor gear.

After the decent but somewhat uninspiring Three, Cyrus are back with a vengeance with the Seven. For the money, this classy little amp is a pleasure to use, looks good, and sounds better.

Cyrus Seven £700

**Mission Group,
Stonehill,
Huntingdon,
Cams. PE18 6ED
Tel: 01480 451777**

WORLD VERDICT



Don't judge this amp by its size. It combines impressive scale with delicacy in an attractive package.

Measured Performance see page 119



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NAIM

Softies had better duck for cover, thinks Simon Pope as he encounters the CD3.5 and Nait 3R amplifier from Naim.



That Tune!

Some hi-fi is built to cosmetically impress with out-and-out brashness and design, whilst some is built to fit more modestly into the home - not so much a showpiece as an attractive necessity. So it is with Naim. Like Cyrus and Arcam, for example, Naim equipment is instantly recognisable. It's subtle and discreetly functional-looking.

Celebrating twenty five years in the British hi-fi industry, Naim is a company that deserves to be taken seriously. More than perhaps any other manufacturer in this country, their products attract a following of almost fanatical devotion, with some audiophiles refusing to go within 500 yards of any other gear.

Not having that many hours of listening to Naim gear under my belt, I was keen to hear what it was all about when I received the CD3.5 and Nait 3R integrated for temporary lodging in my equipment rack. Five line inputs are provided along with full and easy-to-use remote control.

The first thing you notice about the CD player is the unusual 'loading' tray that is completely manual. None of those smooth auto-gliding delights await you here. Instead you get a system that perhaps brings the sense of occasion back into hi-fi: an almost vinyl-like ceremony of pulling out the banana-shaped tray, sticking the disc on and plopping the little stabilising disc on top. A little push back in and you're ready to rock and roll. And what rock and rolling it delivered.

With Naim equipment you are never going to get that ultra-smooth sound so favoured by some in the audio fraternity.

It's definitely a solid-state sound and undeniably very exciting, especially using Naim's own 'speaker cable. Playing Most High from Jimmy Page and Robert Plant's Walking Into Clarkesville proved to be enthralling listening. After the 'rag and bone' intro, the drum kit and bass guitar kicked in with a vengeance. This combo delivers an up-front, driving sound that appears to belie its quoted output of 30W/channel. The emphasis here is on rhythm, and the heavily accentuated syncopation of this track powered through my Magnaplanar 'speakers (no easy load) with keen and involving presence.

With good tonal balance and separation, the only slight problem I had with the sound was that vocals tended to be a little too forward for my liking. Instead of crouching in the fireplace, Robert Plant was on my lap, which was a little disconcerting!

After three days running in, I got an idea of the 'sonic stamp' of the equipment and for some (very) serious listening I treated the CD3.5 to the truly hair-raising sounds of Richard Strauss' manic masterpiece, Elektra. This employs one of the largest orchestras ever scored for an opera and consequently results in balance and dynamic problems. Put this together with the fact it's mostly scored for female voices and you have a recipe for auditioning disaster - one that can often see equipment running for cover. However, the Naim duo handled the horrendously loud climaxes and screeching voices very well indeed. This was without doubt one of the most exciting performances of this recording I've heard.

The sheer murder-a-minute excitement of the writing suited the pair down to the ground. Jagged double basses growled away viciously and the upper strings were precise and very detailed with commendable transparency. Brass snapped menacingly and woodwind cackled appropriately nastily. It was real shiver-down-the-spine stuff. Who said the life of a hi-fi reviewer was dull?

Further experiments with string quartets and choral music showed that the 3.5 and 3R gave detailed and analytical performances that showed up the timbres and 'sound' of the pieces. Indeed, whatever I fed into the pairing failed to sound dull - but it may sound too up-front for some, and could become hard work after prolonged listening. This combo really takes music by the seat of its pants and gives it a good shake. One thing's sure - your music never becomes background listening!

Naim CD3.5 £1080
Naim Nait 3R £799

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WORLD VERDICT



Quality CD player and a fast amplifier that sounds exciting and rhythmic. Not for the weak-hearted or laid-back, though.

Measured Performance see page 111

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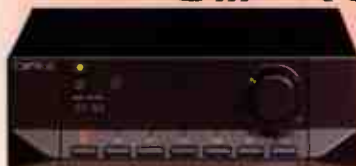


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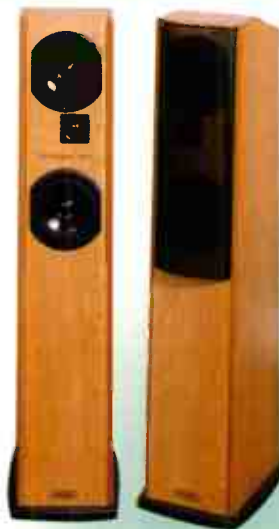
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WIRED FOR



It's not just about movies, you know. With the help of a sensibly-priced set-up, Simon Pope gives ear to an example of what's currently available in the realms of multi-channel audio. Is it really the future of hi-fi and is it any good? Read on. . .

Multichannel music is nothing new. Remember how Quadraphonic was hailed as the future of audio back in the early 70s? Its demise was right up there with the best of them, along with the Sinclair C5 and Digital Compact Cassette. The world (and the music industry) wasn't quite ready to commit itself to new technology that involved yard upon yards of extra 'speaker cable and a wooden coffin in each corner of the room, not to mention a whole stack of new equipment - a surefire marriage-wrecker.

So why does the electronics consumer seem so eager to embrace it all now? It could have something to do with the telly. The consumer electronics buyer isn't as daft as some would like to think. What they want is value for money: if one complete system deals with both sound and vision, that's what they'll plump for. Be that as it may, it seems that only France has really embraced the multi-box thing, with sales far exceeding that of any other European country. The rest of us are pretty sceptical as yet, and with one new format replacing another on what appears to be a

weekly basis, can we be blamed?

Wait a moment - what if you want music rather than pictures? Well, there is multichannel music, and quite a lot of it. Denon, for example have released multichannel "ambience" audio discs in Dolby Digital format of high quality classical performances, and DTS Entertainment (Digital Theatre Systems) have quite a catalogue of both popular and classical 5.1 channel discs. Armed with a wide selection of these we set up our multichannel system, placed our listening chair in the "hot-spot" position and set to work.

FIVE ALIVE

For our particular set-up we called upon Denon for the electronics, and Danish 'speaker company Eltax for the sound boxes. As source we used Denon's DVD 2500, a not-so-old, reliable friend of Hi-Fi World and matched it with Denon's spanking new AVR 3300 five channel receiver. This beauty features both Dolby Digital and DTS decoding, two surround modes for both movie soundtracks and

audio discs plus 24/96 DACs on each of the channels. This combination should hopefully play audio discs with all the power and control of good quality hi-fi, as Denon pride themselves on manufacturing 'audiophile' quality AV gear. With this pair we added two of Eltax's Liberty 5+ floorstanders as front 'speakers, a pair of 1+ standmounts and the Liberty centre model. Multichannel audio discs are mixed for 5.1 channels, the .1 being an optional sub - only really necessary for huge rooms or film scores where extra boom is used for effect. Totting up, the complete outfit amounted to about £1600 which should be considered the 'entry level' for good multi-channel.

Connecting the DVD player to the receiver for multi-channel discs is executed by use of either an optical or coaxial digital connect (in our case a Tara Labs coaxial) - the decoding of the 5.1 channel data stream takes place inside the AVR 3300 receiver (although now some DVD players have an in-built decoder!). I duly set the receiver to 'no sub' and sat down to take in the all-encompassing experience of surround sound!

SURROUND SOUND

DTS DISCS - THE FACTS

Digital Theatre Systems are probably best known to the layman as creators of cinema surround sound. However, this technology of mixing is also available to pure sound recordings.

The discs are encoded with the information which is a direct 20-bit transfer from the original multi-channel master tape. There are no set-in-stone rules to mixing techniques, therefore not all recordings will be 'uniform'. Different information will be allocated to different channels in every recording.

For a list of available DTS recordings: www.dtsdigitalsound.com

MUSIC MAESTRO, PLEASE!

Kicking off the listening section I opted for Denon's "ambience" DVD-video recording of Mahler's mammoth fifth symphony recorded live by the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra in the lush acoustics of the Alte Oper. Unlike the DTS discs, this a DVD-video disc (DTS recordings are CDs with digital data stream) although you can chose to skip the pretty mundane visuals. This truly is a live recording - applause, coughs, splutters, dropped programs et al.

For those used to the orchestral imaging of a stereo orchestra it's initially very weird to be greeted with a blaring fortissimo - minor chord coming from all four corners of the room after the initial trumpet theme. If you previously didn't know what it sounds like to be the oboe in an orchestra - a little blast of multichannel will answer all your queries!

A little balance control was necessary to bring the sound from the centre of the listening room to nearer the front 'speakers, with the rears acting as more of an echo/ambience device. Moving them back another foot also improved the balance. What was achieved in these recordings is one step towards the high quality SACD multichannel demonstrations I have heard. In this excellent recording you certainly feel you are in the stalls of the Alte Oper.

Both the Denon combination and the Eltax 'speakers captured the detail in the recording - from the 1st desk violins turning their pages to the bloke in the back

row with a chest problem!

Moving onto DTS recordings, of which there are many, it's best to stick to the discs that have dedicated 5.1 mixes rather than the older recordings such as Karajan's late Mozart symphonies with the



Berlin Phil. Some of these are simply remixed old Quadraphonic recordings. Lyle Lovett's Joshua Judges Ruth really lights the multi-channel fireworks, with backing vocals coming from the rear, acoustic guitars from the front right, main vocals from the front left, kitchen sink from the middle, etc. . . All this is, admittedly very impressive, and really impresses your mates when they come round, but listening to it for any lengthy period I found quite hard work - you can't help thinking that maybe it's all just for



Sockets galore: the downside of multichannel

effect. This apart, tonal balance was excellent with taut - but not boomy - bass. Treble, although sometimes a bit brittle, was very detailed.

The problem that stereophiles might find with multi-channel is the lack of sound staging and imaging that they find with just two good 'speakers and an amp. Comparing the two is very difficult. Yes, it's definitely hi-fi, but not really as we know it. I attend quite a few concerts and have never heard the "ambience" around me to the extent that it is used on the discs, or it may have put me off ever going out to listen to music again!

Multichannel, like it or loathe it, seems to be here to stay this time. The new digital audio formats, DVD-A and SACD have multichannel capability, and this looks like the future of high quality audio reproduction. Having said that, the full multi-channel experience is still quite a long way off. Of course, if after all this you still hanker for good old fashioned left and right, then the Denon DVD-2500, AVR-3300 and Liberty 5+s will give you a good-quality entry-level stereo hi-fi sound, and there's always the advantage of three more channels and pictures if you so wish, not to mention a radio!

WHAT WE USED:

Denon DVD-2500	£499.99
Denon AVR-3300	£799.99
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TWO TO TANGO

Richard White thinks he's hearing double with Musical Fidelity's X-LP2 monobloc phono amplifiers.



Musical Fidelity are getting rather fond of the twice-times-mono approach to stereophonic reproduction, witness their NuVista power amp with its two separate amps in one box, and two separate power supplies in another. Extravagant it might look, but there are good reasons for it all.

One of the biggest headaches with audio circuitry is getting rid of the 'unwanted' portions of the signal. The simplest potential dividing network relies on 'losing' the surplus to earth. In an audio amplifier of any sophistication, careful design is necessary to ensure that the rejected signals do not make their way back into other parts of the circuit to muddy the water with out-of-phase spuriæ. This is easier said than done.

'Crosstalk' between stereo channels is much easier to detect (by ear) than the aforementioned inter-stage ghosting, but still requires care to limit its nuisance value, especially when, as is most often the case, individual channel amplifiers are mounted on one chassis. A simple and effective way round is to use monobloc construction; either two independent amplifiers or else independent chassis within 'one' stereo amp. This approach not only practically eliminates crosstalk altogether but also prevents any homeless signals from one channel's circuit from 'greying' the other one too.

Putting these common-sense tenets into practice has given MF the opportunity for a radical and, as far as I am aware, unique product - a monobloc phono stage. The monoblocs are supplied com-

plete with MF's X-PSU, which will power up to four of their X-Series components, so there's room for another couple if you think the X-LPs will be lonely!

Slinging the X-LP2s in rather at the deep end, I fixed up a van den Hul Frog pickup. In some respects, this is an unfair test. Unusually for an MC, the Frog has a recommended load impedance of 47k Ω - the same as standard MMs - which makes the X-LP's switchable choices of 10 Ω , 25 Ω , 50 Ω and 100 Ω for moving-coils look a bit low. I decided to try both to see which gave the best results.

Playing Decca's marvellous old deep-cut pressing of Walton's *Façade*, with all its percussive jags and wonderful 'distant thunder' bass drum, proved pretty quickly that either the X-LP2, or the Frog, or most likely both, were very tolerant of unusual loads. At the sacrifice of a little perceived breathing space, the Frog benefitted from what seemed almost limitless amplification on the MC setting. On the other hand, courtesy of a slightly higher volume setting, MM amplification and the manufacturer's recommended 47k Ω allowed the Frog to find its full - and most un-amphibian - voice.

Ortofon MC cartridges sit squarely in the 100 Ω camp, so I tried their MC15 II Super offering with Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No 6. With all the potential for midrange muddle in this piece, I was pleased to be hearing some of the clearest-defined stereo I've ever coaxed out of this record. The results seemed to go beyond what could be reasonably expected from a budget cartridge and seemed to demonstrate that monobloc construction is worthwhile even on this scale.

With Cartridge Man's Music Maker the X-LP2s showed what they could do with a pure moving-iron pickup. High amplitudes and a perilously shallow cut combine to make Archiv's pressing of Purcell's

St Cecilia extravaganza a bit of a torture if things aren't right. With basically too much information squashed onto the low velocity middle grooves, it is unusual to find a copy of this record which hasn't been 're-cut' by a previous stylus! What's certain is that anything less than crystal clarity in the phono stage makes for a truly horrible earful, despite the beauty of the music. The X-LP2 clearly showed its mettle here, with no trace of greyness, no trace of transient overload; in short, no muddle.

As I seem to be invariably giving high marks to Musical Fidelity gear, I had vague hopes that the X-LP2 - a monobloc phono stage, I ask you! - would give the opportunity for a gripe or two, for a change. Unfortunately, with its first class performance offered at a very fair price, I'm forced to admit that those so-and-sos at Wembley have done it yet again!

Musical Fidelity X-LP2 £499

**Musical Fidelity Ltd
16/16 Olympic Trading Estate,
Fulton Road,
Wembley, Middx.,
HA9 0TF**

Tel: 0181 900 2866



WORLD VERDICT



MM and variable-impedance MC monobloc phono amps with absolute clarity and limitless drive. In a class of their own for quality and value.

Measured Performance see page 119

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Acoustic Research Status 30

Acoustic Research have relaunched themselves with a new range of speakers. Noel Keywood listens to the Status 30.

There's a race to produce bass from budget floorstanders. Suddenly big cabinets are in vogue, at low, low prices. Acoustic Research have joined the fray with the Status 30, a slim, light floorstander that retails at just £250. It's a price that would barely get you a budget bookshelf with a few pretensions a year or so ago, so what has happened? The design process has been speeded up no end by computers and software that offer fast, text book solutions, meaning you get a bass reflex cabinet with a port. Acoustic Research fit a bass/midrange driver with coated cellulose cone and inverted dust cap, paired with a silk dome tweeter. These usually offer a softer treble than metal domes.

The cabinet is no heavyweight - they rarely are at this price. It weighs a liftable 14kgs (31lbs), relying on floor spikes for stability on bare or carpeted wooden floors. Cherry or black ash finishes are available and the front baffle has an attractive gloss finish. The rear panel carries bi-wire terminals with removable links, so single or double cables can be used. Bi-wiring improves treble clarity, lessening muddle.

I ran the speakers in, driving them from a Musical Fidelity Nu-Vista 300 power amplifier. The promise of ground shaking bass, which in my listening room translates to a good rattle of my old sash windows, was easily fulfilled by the Status 30s. The walking bass line of Angelique Kidjo's 'The Sound of Drums' almost made the cabinets quiver but they held fast on the spikes and pumped energy into the room. The emphasised bass behind Kidjo's vocals developed a massive presence in the room, demonstrating without doubt their ability to play a bass tune free from slurring or emphases. I could hear

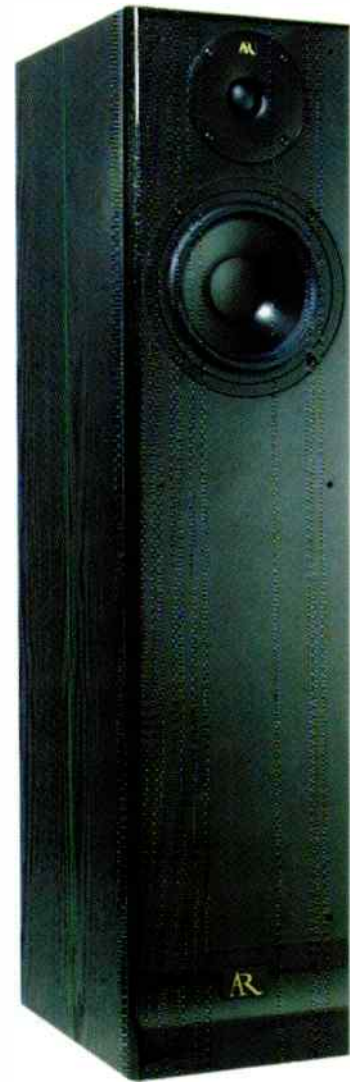
some panel flexure and boom - a penalty of lightweight cabinets - with bass heavy tracks like Temptation Waits, from Garbage, but in the overall scheme of things a floorstander like this will put some force behind intros, like A Thousand Years from Sting's new album, Brand New Day, that would otherwise slide by unremarkably.

The jangling guitars and energetic chord changes of Cast's Alright were a little muted and veiled at low levels. This sort of 1960s Brit rock has a raw drive that was rounded by the Status 30s civilising influence. There was a degree of warmth and fluffiness that at low levels blunted the drive of classic guitar based rock. The 'speakers gain life as volume rises above normal and edges toward loud. A little more sparkle and bite at low levels wouldn't have gone amiss with material like this though.

Yet there were albums where the innate balance of the ARs was ideal. Gabrielle teeters on the edge of intelligibility at times. The Status 30s had enough insight to keep vital nuances audible; I never quite lost the lyrics as I have with other 'speakers having a warm balance. Put it down to a smooth tweeter that integrates seamlessly and reveals healthy amounts of detail. Together with a fulsome bottom-end performance the Status 30s came across as silky smooth, easy on the ear and refined.

The Status 30s put some body and punch behind the Foo Fighters drum kit on Gimme Stitches; it was a promising start. But guitars and vocals didn't make it any further forward than the loudspeakers themselves - a little disappointing.

Image projection is helped by the presence of more treble energy than these 'speakers can muster. The trade they make



is smoothness against projection, civility in place of drama. I loved their easy unchallenging nature and basic accuracy, yet with some material I also yearned for a little more verve and spirit.

By delivering deep bass with a good sense of control I can't help feeling the Status 30s will impress a lot of listeners. Acoustic Research haven't left it there, however, giving them a sound that's easy to live with but accurate and revealing at the same time. They have struck a good balance.

AR Status 30 £249.90
Acoustic Research, Recoton UK
Tel: 01367 252605
e-mail: rha.intl@recoton-europe.com

WORLD VERDICT



Good value. The 30s have a warm, generous sound. But they can lack bite with upbeat music.

Measured Performance see page 119



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A - YOU'RE AFFORDABLE . . .

A valve integrated amplifier for £600? What's the catch? Beady-eared Richard White tries to find it with Affordable Valve's Model EL34



'Affordable' - a word with several contradictory connotations. When The Affordable Valve Company contacted us to try out their flagship EL34 amplifier, we naturally wanted to know more about it. We are all for cost saving, provided that this doesn't involve corner-cutting: with DC voltages in valve amps running into the hundreds, careless design could leave somebody's next-of-kin flipping through the Yellow Pages for an affordable funeral, which is not usually the idea with hi-fi.

Preliminary enquiries proving 'CE' certified satisfactory, and the - unusual - provision of a protective grille for the hot valves inspiring further confidence, we hauled in the Model EL34 integrated for a thorough listening.

Affordable's EL34, like innumerable medium-power amplifiers both now and before, is based on the famous Mullard 5-20 design. This venerable circuit has many virtues: simplicity, reliability and predictable performance. Time was when practically all manufacturers made some sort of 5-20, whether with acknowledgements or without. It has been claimed that the design was published in order to popularize the Mullard EL34 valve in a field which the KT series had hitherto had practically to itself. If this is true, the work was thoroughly done - EL34 has provoked as many imitations and equivalents over the years as its Kinkless rivals.

Affordable's designer has cast away the hiss-ridden EF86 input stage in favour of a low-power triode. By the same token, such amplification as there is for the pre-amp stage is drawn out on minimalist lines - there is no internal phono stage.

In order to achieve its Class A output of with push-pull EL34s, it is obvious that the overall feedback must be fairly low. This usually gives a 'free speaking' amplifier but at the expense of some distortion. It is recommended that the amplifier be given ample warming-up time, so once I'd hefted its considerable bulk into place (no sign of any skinping on transformers, by the way) and switched on, I made myself a pot of tea and possessed my soul in patience, as they say.

First off the starting blocks was a well-loved if cheap-and-cheerful Naxos CD of Haydn's Prussian quartets. Even unimpeachable valve amps have been unable to make this record sound smooth, so the slight edge was something to which I have become accustomed. On the other hand, the Affordable obviously had plenty of guts - it that's the word - which I imagine is due to the low feedback design. On the minus side, there was evidence of a somewhat unforgiving treble sound, which may also be coupled to the higher distortion figures.

By and large I think the Affordable just about got away with it, but to be sure I followed the well-mannered Haydn with an exceedingly dynamic chunk of Stravinsky's Firebird. Throwing caution and neighbourly relations to the wind, I wound the wick up and found that the EL34 is certainly a powerful beast; the tone-painting of the lower strings and bass drum was afforded some very quick service indeed. On the down side, the slight distortion of higher transients took a little of the thrill off the sound, although this may depend on how truthful the attached loudspeakers are. Imaging was good

although perhaps monoblocs show to greater advantage here.

Courtesy of a Musical Fidelity X-LP, I tried out some smooth-sounding vinyl, from Herbert von Karajan and the Berlin Philharmonic on DG. Happily, even a low feedback amplifier couldn't give a tizzle to the von K brand of syrup, and I enjoyed quite a relaxing twenty minutes, soothingly rocked by the EL34's powerful bass end and with all thoughts of treble harshness in abeyance.

When a manufacturer sets out to make valve amplification at comparatively low prices, all things being equal, it is not for Hi-Fi World to stand in its way. It is possible that the amplifier needs a little more refinement but it certainly doesn't disgrace itself and is manifestly affordable compared with much of the ready-built competition.

If you can't face making a kit and own a pair of smooth-ish loudspeakers, Affordable Valve's EL34 offers a hard working, value-added entry into the world of thermionics.

Model EL34 £600

**The Affordable Valve Company
Tel: 01634 373410**

WORLD VERDICT



Low feedback integrated with plenty of slam. Not the ultimate in refinement but very good value for money.

Measured Performance see page 119

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Kef Model 4 (Rosetta Burr)	£4250	£2899
Kef Model 4 (Black)	£3650	£2499
Kef Reference 101 - UniQ	£600	£249
Leak 2060 (Teak)	£NA	£169
Leak 3090 Speakers	£NA	£349
Leak Sandwich 250	£NA	£99
Lineaum LFX, Ribbon Mini Monitors	£600	£399
Lindley New Age Speakers	£NA	£579
Linn Isobarik (2 Pairs Available)	£Please Call	
Linn Nexus (Grey)	£450	£249
Magna Planar SMGA (Oatmeal / Teak)	£900	£449
Martin Logan Aeries v.g.c	£2199	£1399
Meridian A500 (Rosewood)	£895	£599
Meridian M10 Active (Rosewood)	£2500	£1099
Mission 734 (Black)	£400	£199
Mission 750 (Black) (Ex-dem)	£250	£199
Mission 751 (Rosewood)	£330	£189
Mission 754 Freedom (Rosewood)	£1400	£699
M K MX150 THX Subwoofer (Ex-dem)	£1500	£1199
Monitor Audio Studio 20 SE (Cherry) (Ex-dem)	£2500	£1749
Mordant Short Performance 860 (Gloss Blk)	£1900	£999
Morel Base Master 602 Inc Stands	£1600	£849
Musical Fidelity Ref 2 Mini Monitors		£149
Naim Credo Cherry finish v.g.c	£1250	£749
Naim SBL Various,	£From	£699
Note Perfect Virtuoso (Ex-dem)		£1399
Opera Platea (Cherry) (Ex-dem)	£800	£639
Pro-Ac Response 3.5 Walnut Marked (Ex Demo)	£4250	£2699
Pro-Ac Response 4 (Birsdeye Maple) (Ex-dem)	£13000	£7499

Pro-Ac Response 5 (Rosewood) (Ex-dem)	£9995	£6899
Pro-Ac Tablet 50 (Teak)	£600	£429
Quad ESL57 (Bronze)	£NA	£479
Quad ESL63 (Ex-dem)	£3500	£1999
Quad ESL63 (Brown, Just Serviced £500!)	£3500	£1799
Rogers LS33 + Sub-Units (Black)	£600	£299
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Rogers Studio 1 Teak v.g.c	£620	£369
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Spendor BC1 Walnut v.g.c	£500	£299
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Soundlab Dynastat Hybrid Panels	£3750	£2349
Soundlab Quantum Electrostatic Hybrid Loudspeakers (New Panels Fitted)	£2250	£1649
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Tannoy D700 Speakers (Rosewood)	£2500	£1499
Tannoy Devon Speakers	£NA	£329
TDL RTL 3 (Black)	£400	£199
Thiel CS 1.5 (Black) The best compact floor stander we've heard!	£2700	£1699
Triangle Graphite (Black)	£800	£499
Wilson Audio System 5.1 (Graphite Finish) (Ex-dem)	£18000	£11999
Wilson Audio Witt Mk1 Ex Demo	£8888	£6499
Wilson Benesch Act One	£7000	£4799

Tape Recorders

Aiwa AF 850 Cassette Deck 3 Head	£250	£129
Denon DRM 850's Cassette Deck (With Dolby 's')	£NA	£129
Nakamichi BX1 Cassette Deck	£NA	£249
Nagra EL Portable Mono Reel to Reel	£4000	£1399
Pioneer CT830S Cassette Deck, Dolby S	£550	£329
Revox A77 Reel to Reel (2 Available)	£Please Call	
Revox G36 Valve Reel to Reel	£NA	£399
Revox PR99 Pro Tape Machine	£NA	£899
Rotel RD955 Cassette Deck	£300	£99
Tanberg 3034 Silver Cassette Deck	£NA	£189
Tanberg TCD 320 AV Cassette Deck	£NA	£149
Tascam 22-4 4 Track Reel to Reel	£NA	£449
Teac CX650R Cassette Deck	£300	£129
Sony Pro Walkman + Exposure PSU	£530	£249
Yamaha KX 580 Cassette Deck (Used Once)	£250	£149

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LETTER OF THE MONTH

GAUL STONES?

Dear Sir,

My attention has been drawn to an internet newsletter which contains worrying allegations regarding some reprehensible practices in the French loudspeaker manufacturing industry.

It is alleged that for some years components from discontinued or defunct lines have found their way into the manufacture of new products for export. It seems incredible, but prolonged exposure to the sound output of these drive units has now been positively linked to a syndrome colloquially known as *Maladie des Gittes Malheureuses*, or *Paralysis Anorakis Immodium Nonmusicallis*, as doctors like to call it.

In its advanced stages, PAIN gives rise to dementia and weird obsessions. One patient seems to have spent many months developing a recipe for oxygen-free cassoulet; another has bankrupted himself trying to market garlic flavoured loud-speaker cable.

I am writing to you as an aspiring KLS11 owner, in light of the above, I urge the designers at World Towers to develop an alternative spec for KLS11 (and other designs) which uses only British drive units. This policy should remain in force until we

are sure that all French drivers are PAIN free. Further details can be found at www.vachemerde.com.cicomca.etc

Yours faithfully,

T. Rowden, Stockbridge, Hants.

Merci bien, matey.



Our suspicions were first aroused by the packaging . . .

PICKING UP THE THREADS

Well, it's been over 10 years, as you will see, and I was prompted to pick up your magazine this week when one of my speakers started groaning at me. Now I find myself in a quandary because that rush of excitement has returned and I can feel a unavoidable urge to spend money. I need help! I have a Rega Planar 3 (forgotten what cartridge but it's red), Nad 3020, Marantz CD-62, Nakamichi BX-1, Denon TU-260L, and AR 18s on stands. I get my kicks from delicate riffs and vocals rather than the clash of heavy metal. My tastes cover Van Morrison, Alanis Morissette and Pavarotti.

Where do I go from here? I've got a bit more cash available than in those days and I'd like to move up a notch from what appears to have been a reasonable budget system at the time. I guess I'm really talking about the speakers, amp and possibly CD player. The Rega's fine (everything replaced except the chipboard after nearly 10 years use at no charge by those wonderful people at Graham's), tape is on its way out so the Nakamichi will have to last me, and the tuner can wait until the digital revolution is underway at sensible prices.

Is it worth changing the CD now or is that format about to change? And I've moved so now my lounge is 20 ft by 30ft

with an 8ft ceiling. I need to change the speakers but whatever I do I want to start building up a system that is a bit better than what I have now. I'm prepared to spend up to £1500 now so how far should I go with that and what can you recommend?

Steve Wilson SWilson.Blade@alban.co.uk

It's probably just as well to stick with CD, as the new formats such as SACD and DVD-A are actually yet to arrive in the shops, never mind drop in price! The amount of money you have to spend will buy you a very decent system. We'd recommend Rotel's RCD 951, compatible with HDCD discs, at £300. This matched with the Audio Analogue Puccini SE amplifier (with phono stage, so don't chuck out the Rega!) will take you up to around £1000, leaving £500 left for 'speakers. You could do much worse than a pair of Tannoy R2 floorstanders at £350, which would leave £150 to spend on some decent cable such as DNM's Reson. With your fairly large room size and musical tastes, this trio should deliver an involving and full sound. That extra bit spent on the Puccini amp should make all the musical difference! SP



Tie the rust with DNM Reson cable

ROUND THE HORN

Dear Sir,

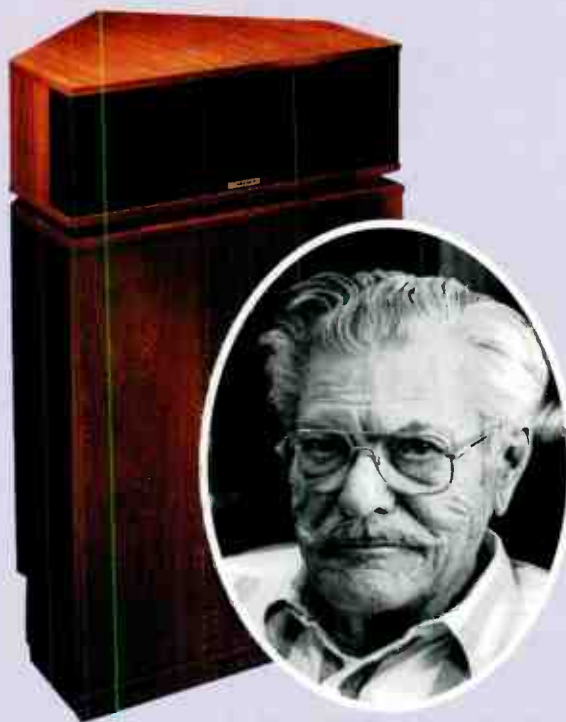
I read in your Christmas supplement about the Klipsch Heresy II and wonder if these speakers were all designed by Paul Klipsch or is it just the name?

**Yours faithfully,
A S Greenbank**

I have checked as far as I am able and find that several of the company's present range were designed by Mr Klipsch himself, albeit some years ago. Those for which he was responsible include the famous Klipschorn, the Heresies, the La Scala and La Belle Klipsch.

To my astonishment, I also discovered that Mr Klipsch is very much alive - in his mid-nineties! - and still takes an interest in the firm which he founded. There must be something in the water in Arkansas - or is it just that high fidelity is a preservative?

RMW



Father & Child

HOOTS, MON!

Dear Hi-Fi World,

My system consists of the following: Marantz 63 MkII Sig. CD player, Musical Fidelity K10-D, Arcam 8 integrated amp, Arcam 8 power amp, Ruark Broadsword 'speakers, cables: van den Hul and QED.

Our musical taste is mostly classical with a strong emphasis on vocal. However, I continually worry over the vocal reproduction. Some singers, for example Janet Baker, sound as if they are overloading the system (or microphones), leading to intense passages of the voice being accompanied by reverberation or an 'edge'. Is the equipment to blame or is it in the recording.

The problems vary from disc to disc, and there is no problem with instrumental music. We eventually wish to upgrade the CD/amplification with a budget of £3,000. What suggestions would you make?

**Matthew Howard,
London N22**

Very often we get letters from people having trouble with the sound of their 'equipment' when it's probably the source material. Unfortunately all recordings aren't of 'demo' standard.

More than perhaps any other acoustic instrument, the voice of a classical (especially opera) singer has a massive dynamic range, some have very big voices, and - more importantly - they tend to be close mic'd. in recording sessions. Because of the relative lack of compression in classical recordings, this

can sometimes be a problem. Female voices (and choir trebles/sopranos) tend to suffer worse. Rock recordings, however, often use a 'gate' which will kick in at a set level to squash the dynamic range of the voice or instrument. However, to compress voices such as Birgit Nilsson, Placido Domingo, Janet Baker et al would be scandalous! Equally, recording unaccompanied choirs is tough - getting the right microphone placement is essential, and then there's the actual recording venue, where the choir are placed in it... and so on.

As well as different recordings having different levels of distortion (usually the older ones), different voices have different sounds. There is a lot of natural reverberation going on in the human voice, each voice is different and each head (where a lot of reverberation occurs) is different. Janet Baker, for example, has a big voice that's technically faultless but has a sound that some could describe as a 'hoot' on certain notes. These frequencies will stick out in some recordings, which could be your problem. Many classic recordings have distortion. Listen to the great EMI recording of the Verdi Requiem by Giulini and the Philharmonia - the Dies Irae rattles like a shed door, but it's still the best available if you count performance over recording quality. To cut a long story short, it would seem your equipment is probably fine and the 'fault' lies in recordings. Your comment that orchestral music doesn't suffer seems to confirm this.

*As for your eventual upgrade, why not try the Musical Fidelity X-Ray along with their excellent A300 integrated. This will set you back less than £2500 and play music, classical vocal included, just as it's meant to be heard. It's a combination that puts music before electronics during listening, which is the mark of truly 'musical' equipment. **SP***

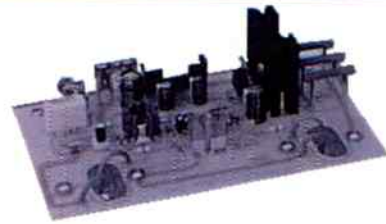


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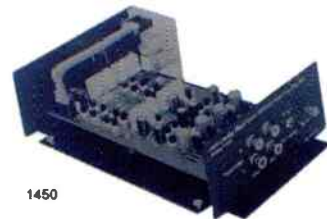
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QUADS & QUINS

Fifteen years ago I cobbled together a Rock with a Moth, a Myst TMA3 and a mismatched pair of Quad Electrostatics from the bronze age.

The electrostatics never really worked properly: one was louder than the other (so it goes behind the sofa). I use Force4 'speaker cable with cheap 50p connectors which always come off. I know it sounds funny, but I've rarely heard a system that suits me better.

And then someone broke the end off the Moth arm. Not that I minded particularly. I dumped the whole lot in a spare room and got a grand piano, three computers and a large desk instead. The closest I get to hi-fi nowadays is a fish-shaped radio stuck to the bathroom wall. But I read your article on ESL 57s and a few pages later saw an ad for Origin Live. And now I miss my Mahler (and my Bix Biederbeck and my Pink Floyd).

I would like to get the ESLs fully serviced, preferably within a few hours of London. I called Quad themselves and they can't do much... I'd like to get the Rock looked at too. Do you know any reputable service centres and is the Origin Live upgrade all it's cracked up to be (particularly on a turntable that already has quite good tonearm damping)? I have always had this feeling that the Myst TMA3 is so laid back it should be a hippy. I'm quite tempted to get an old pair Quad pre and power amps: I heard some ESLs played through valve amps a long time ago and the sound was lovely: dynamic without being too bright.

In a nutshell, I love the Rock, I love the ESLs and know next to nothing about the rest (the stylus is a Goldring 1012GX - I've no idea what the cartridge is). What can I do for around £500 (excluding the cost of the ESL refurbishment) or should I just get the whole lot serviced, buy some new cables and a few new LPs? Finally, I'd also like a tuner to match, but without lots of flashing lights. What is a Leak Troughline?

David Watkins
Marmalade Publishing

71 Abady House, Page Street, London SW1P 4EP
0171 828 3251 or 0973 840504

Taking your easiest question first, a Troughline is a musical device shortly to be outlawed by Digital Radio. There always seem to be plenty for sale; personally I'd recommend buying a mono version and an add-on decoder because the Leak stereo decoder as fitted - and retro-fitted - to their tuners never was up to much.

Service for Quad ESL 57s has become much easier over the last year or so. It looked at one time as if the breed would die out as Quad had no further interest in mending them but now there is a choice. Have a look on the Web, but within reasonable travelling distance from London, Classique Sounds of

Leicester provide a complete ESL 57 resuscitation service which may suit you. While you're there, you might like to discuss Troughlines, as Classique is also the service address for the One Thing stereo decoder which goes so nicely with the venerable old tuner.

Service for your turntable - by the way, how on earth did anyone break the Moth arm and are they still living? - needs a little more thought. There's no compelling reason to change it if it still works but, judging by the number of letters we receive and are unable to answer satisfactorily, turntable servicing can be more trouble than it's worth: I should be inclined to let things be if there's no immediate worry.

Origin Live's modified Rega arm has garnered nothing but plaudits, so there is no reason not to buy with confidence although, of course, Moth's current arms are also Rega-based. If you're desperate to re-instate the original Moth, you might try ringing them on 01234 74152, although if it's a pre-Rega type you may be out of luck. Moth's current range is good value in any case, so you can lose nothing by a 'phone call.

Goldring's 10XX range are proven performers and you'd be hard put to better them for the money. To consider second-hand briefly: 'Vintage' cartridges with elliptical styli want watching - the more modern van den Hul type line-contact styli are superior and are less prone to re-cut your records for you!

As regards amplification for your ESL 57s, whatever you decide I shouldn't over-do it: the 'speakers were perfectly content with the 15W of the old Quad II, and sound very pleasant with that sort of drive. I am aware that all sorts of voltage clamps can added on to protect the 'speaker from too much power but, used sensibly and within their range, it shouldn't be necessary. Within your budget you oughtn't to have too much difficulty getting a pair of Quad IIs in reasonable order through our private classifieds at the back. Many of our second-hand dealers also advertise serviced Quads.

Summing up, you should be able to re-cobble a well-mannered little outfit for a reasonable sum. Good luck!

RMW



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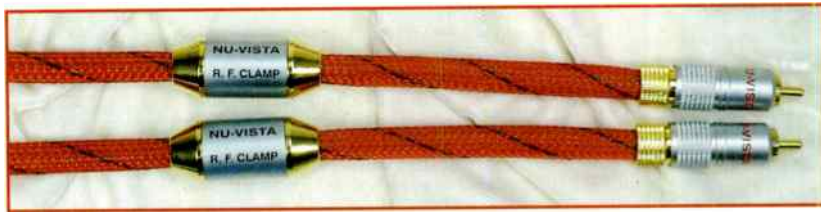
A quick glance tells you this cable takes its name from the less-than-subtle colour of its PTFE insulation, below which hide the coaxial screen and pure nickel conductors. The slim design of the Violet was mirrored to some extent in its character. It had the familiar

Sonic Link top-end sparkle (which helps highlight detail) allied to fine midrange clarity, but with a leaner bass than most of the other SL cables we've auditioned. The result was a sound that was fast and dynamic, although one that would have benefitted from a little more impact to in the bass. Nonetheless, the Violet turned in a funky and enjoyable portrayal of the

Neville Brothers' Big Chief from a Southern States Sounds R 'n' B compilation CD. The SL's transparency really came to the fore on Beth Orton's Trailer Park album, where tracks such as Tangent and Sugar Boy had a likeable combination of delicacy, detail and tunefulness.

The Violet is an accomplished interconnect with a gift for speed and insight, but as a spell with the Scandinavian Jazz of Cirrus' Land's End HDCD proved, it would better match warmer systems in need of cooling down than those which are already tonally bright.

Sonic Link
Tel: 01332 361390



MUSICAL FIDELITY NU-VISTA £89.99 0.7M

Immediately I hooked up the Nu-Vista, with its chunky locking plugs, between the T+A CD1210R CD player and the DPA 50S pre-amp, I realised that this was a very smooth performer indeed. Saxophone on Cirrus' Leaves had a rich, creamy texture without a hint of glare or harshness to it. Sound staging was

handled just as ably, the five members of the band set within an acoustic made all the more convincing by this disc's HDCD processing.

While this contender remained composed and enjoyable, it couldn't quite rattle up the same level of detail, crispness or musicality as the Violet. Where the MF came into its own was with more relaxed numbers, Bonnie Raitt's Tangled And Dark, for example, where its powerful,

controlled bottom-end lent useful weight to basslines. Ballads such as I Can't Make You Love Me also suited the Nu-Vistas, their warmish character bringing out the intimacy inherent in the music.

These interconnects with their RF-suppressing chokes at either end certainly look the part. Sonically, they're coming from the opposite end of the spectrum to the Violets. In this instance, a brighter, leaner, 'in your face' system in need of calming would be a better home for them than a set-up which majors on bass instead of treble.

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A1 TRIBUTARIES 1M £75.00

As with the MFs, the Tributaries are terminated with well-engineered locking plugs. What links these together is pure silver multi-strand wire. This metal has a reputation for allowing plenty of subtle detailing through, and so it was with the Tributaries.

With Bonnie Raitt flowing along them, the A1s were more revealing than the MFs but less unforgiving of dodgy recording technique than the Sonic Links: cymbals were smoother than through the latter, and individual backing vocalists more distinct than through the former.

In the lower frequencies as well, the Tributaries succeeded in mixing the best

qualities of both their peers, with an extension not far off the Nu-Vistas' mated to the upper-bass speed that plays a role in the Violets' pace and drive.

Seeing as the plus-points above went just as much for Cirrus and Beth Orton as Bonnie Raitt, you might have arrived at the conclusion that these are the top all-rounders this month. However, while the Tributaries score A1 in most areas, their grade for involvement drops marginally to a still-respectable B1.

De Regle,
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BINARY OPPOSITION

Like so much in the nineteen eighties, hi-fi was polarised. Philips' new digital Compact Disc, which reached these shores in 1983, provoked a massive reaction which alternated between fawning and hatred. Various sections of the hi-fi press went at each other like their lives depended on it. In truth they probably did, because hi-fi sales were declining quite sharply. Whether you loved or hated it, the Digital Audio Disc came just in time to save hi-fi's bacon.

Early CD actually sound-

ed rather good, and far better in many respects than the super-fi turntables of the day. The problem was that half the UK press decided that because it didn't have any clicks or pops it was 'perfect', while the others plugged the new players into systems designed for their woolly sounding turntables and were surprised to find their ears bleeding. In truth CD was neither heaven nor hell - it's just a shame no one said so at the time. The mother of all format wars duly started in earnest.

Ironically, when CD reached us, all manner of stories circulated about how it would kill off vinyl. Few people noticed that another Philips format had already got there - ye olde Compact Cassette. So highly developed was it by the middle of the decade that many music buyers didn't bother with anything else. By 1983 some 236 million pre-recorded tapes were sold world-wide, more than vinyl LPs. New metal tapes allied to Dolby C and HX processing meant a decent sound could finally be coaxied from the sixties dictation format, and by 1989 cassette was enjoying its best ever sales year. Its astounding success owed much to a little Sony invention from 1979, the TPS-L2. Otherwise known as the Walkman, this portable audio cassette player brought in a whole new era of personal music listening. The Walkman family has grown to over 500 models, including 1985's WM-DC6 Walkman

Professional, 1988's D-88 CD Discman, 1991's TCD-D3 DAT Walkman and 1992's MZ-1 MiniDisc portable.

Meanwhile, eighties budget hi-fi was getting really rather good. NAD's 3020 amplifier had been introduced in summer 1979 at a remarkably low £59 retail price. Coupled with Dual's CS505 turntable and a pair of Mission's 700 loudspeakers, buyers could get themselves a truly capable

budget system: even by today's standards. Super-fi was developing apace, with ever better moving coil cartridges (Linn's Supex-based designs), improved loudspeaker cone materials (including

polypropylene and carbon fibre), and a new fascination with speaker stands and cabling. A decent set of stands and wires for your Wharfedale Diamonds was as de rigeur as red braces in an eighties advertising agency.

DIGITAL DOMINATION?

Although digital fought its major battles during the eighties, it still had the odd skirmish in the next decade. The biggest casualty was Philips' Digital Compact Cassette. Despite respectable hi-fi sound thanks to its clever PASC data compression system, it was an ergonomic joke and Philips wasted many millions of pounds trying to prove otherwise. 1992 also saw Sony launch its rival MiniDisc system, which was wonderful to use until you had to listen to it! Sony's ATRAC data compression system was far behind PASC, making MD unpopular with sound-conscious Europeans. Fortunately, keen pricing and fast development in its Japanese home market kept MD alive just long enough for buyers to look again. The

arrival of Sony's fourth generation machines in 1996 turned the tables. Sales took off, and by 1999 MD had replaced cassette as Britain's convenience medium.

By the mid nineties some audiophiles were getting increasingly frustrated with CD. Despite constant crowing from magazines about how much better the format had become, this didn't seem to be borne out by listening. Many enthusiasts felt CD had reached a plateau of development, and that there wasn't much more room in its 16bit format for manoeuvre. Despite this, the official line from manufacturers was that it was superior to LP. But just as many music retailers stopped stocking vinyl, an underground analogue revival started. Startling high end products from the likes of SME, Roksan, Immedia, Michell, Graham, Wheaton, Wilson Benesch, Lyra, Ortofon, Dynavector and Van den Hul appeared along with a new interest in separate phono preamps sparked by Michell's original ISO. Suddenly, everyone had one in their range, from EAR and Audio Innovations to Rotel and NAD!

At the beginning of the nineties, valve amplifiers were about as cool as old Cliff

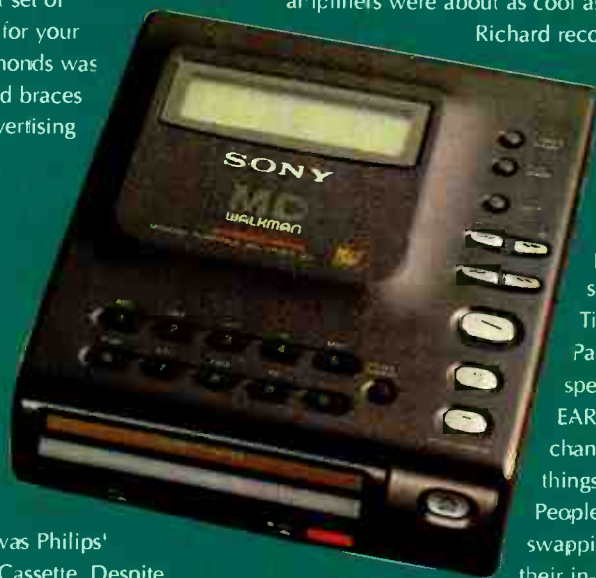
Richard records.

But the arrival of some seminal thermionic products, sparked by Tim de Paravicinni's spectacular EAR509, changed things. People began swapping their in-

your-face sounding transistor power amps for classic tube designs from fifties and sixties, in search of sweeter, more musical sound. Speaker manufacturers soon twigged that using lighter, faster, stiffer cone materials such as carbon fibre, Aerogel and Kevlar would not only sound better but also work with a wider number of systems. Eighties-style complex, power-hungry mini-monitors suddenly seemed very old hat. Tweaking grew from a hobby to an art form - people started peppering their workaday hi-fi separates with high



The future as it was then: an original press shot of the Philips CD100 CD player.



quality audiophile grade passive components to great effect.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Despite relatively slow sales, the nineties were a good time to be a dyed-in-the-wool hi-fi enthusiast. Gone was the 'there's no alternative, you must buy this' ethos of the eighties, and in its place a recognition that the old and the new could live together very profitably. Suddenly, people were running 1960s Garrards with Pink Triangle HDCCD players through valves and Horn loudspeakers, with an MD machine for the car. The late nineties showed which way the wind is blowing, in no uncertain terms - people who'd tell you 'the format' is CD, or 'transistors kill valves' suddenly looked very unenlightened.

The future was moving to multi-format, multi-technology, multi-media music, and two key new developments appeared to make this a reality. In December 1995 the DVD-Video format was established, and in November 1997 MP3.com was founded by Michael Robertson to reflect the emergence of a new computer file format with radical implications for the future of recorded music. Both were computer-derived audio formats with tremendous flexibility built in. Both offer a variety of different levels of sound quality - variable bit-rates, sampling frequencies and digital word lengths. DVD is backwards compatible yet looks to the future with its range of coding options and combination of audio, video and computer connectivity.

MP3 is the world's first music carrier without a physical medium - it started on computer hard drives but is now spreading to MP3 portables and MP3-compatible CD players (a CD's worth of MP3s gives over 12 hours of music). MP3 is also the first format the world's multinationals didn't contrive for their profit, and looks set to make even more of an impact than the Compact Cassette. If Thomas Edison had been alive to learn that in early 2000 Sony is to launch its new 'Digital Walkman', he'd have doubtless been as thrilled as he was with 'Mary had a little lamb' all those years ago. After over 130 years of development, hi-fi still has a long and interesting road ahead!

LEADERS OF THE PACK

Some of the top names in Hi-fi select their all-time faves . . .

KEN ISHIWATA, Marantz



MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS: LP (1948), Stereo LP (1958) and CD (1982) Without LP, hi-fi would never have been born. The improvement over 78 was incredible and encouraged enthusiasts to start working on amplifiers, speakers and turntables! Stereo LP came and lasted more than 20 years, during which time many other great products were designed, again thanks to this format. Initially CD wasn't accepted by audiophiles because of its dramatically different sound, but today everything's based on CD.

MOST SIGNIFICANT PRODUCTS:

[1] Marantz Model 7 pre and Macintosh 275 power amp combo - showed how good hi-fi should be designed.

[2] Quad ESL63 - point source characteristics showed how domestic speakers could be designed for stereo reproduction.



[3] B&W Nautilus - combines the strength of dipoles and dynamic speakers in one package.

HI-FLYERS - hi-fi separates that really moved the game forward:

LEAK 'Point One' TL12 Peachy sounding fifties monoblock valve amplifier, refined beyond its price.

GARRARD 301 Industrial strength transcription turntable truly made vinyl king SME 3009S2/SHURE M75ED First tonearm/cartridge combo to really rock 'n' roll.

THORENS TD124 classy belt drive turntable that launched a thousand copies.

QUAD ESL57 Electrostatic speakers that brought new levels of transparency to UK audiophiles.

BBC LS3/5a The original seventies mini monitor was startlingly good for its size.

TECHNICS SL1200 The direct drive at the top of the charts for nearly three decades.

NAIM NAP250 Big hitting power amp sparked the high end transistor craze SPENDOR BC1 Polyprop cones brought new levels of clarity to well-healed audiophiles.

SUPEX SD900 The first moving coil cartridge with true star quality - vinyl never sounded the same again.

NAD3020 The best entry-level integrated ever designed, bar none.

JBL 4344/II The speaker that did for rock what the Quads did for classical

DUAL CS505 The record deck to have in a million eighties budget systems

RECA RB300 The best value tonearm in hi-fi's history.

SUGDEN A21a Class A amplifier esoteric at a mass market price - pity no one noticed!

MICHELL ISO Put phono stages on the audiophile map and catalyzed the vinyl revival.

PIONEER A400 Nineties budget super-amp worked in systems way above its price point.

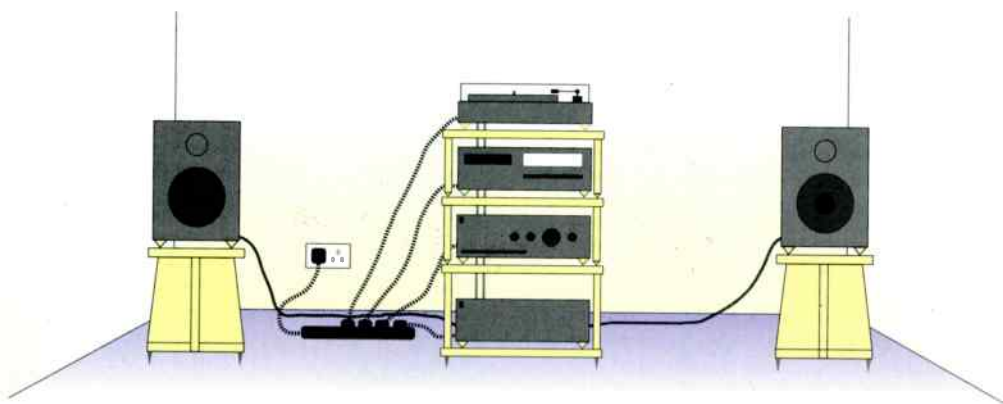
MARANTZ CD52SE Best budget player of its generation, raised the CD game.

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All the instruments had tonal signatures and the loudspeakers clarity coupled with a realistic soundstage gave the impression of almost being in the Wigmore hall, without the coughs and dropped programs of course. Simon Pope Hi Fi World



The quality of the bass and the subtle dynamic contrasts it can convey puts conventional box loudspeakers to shame. This speaker has true grip and poise, and doesn't slop around muddling detail. Paul Messenger hi Fi Choice



The Veritas 20 reproduced the sense of scale, instrument placement and depth with superb naturalness, while tonal balance was full and realistic. Certainly a big, generous sound. David Berriman Hi Fi News

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MARANTZ'S MOST SUCCESSFUL PRODUCT: CD-63KIS, but my personal favourite is the CD-7, which has incredible power to deliver the essence of music. NEW DEVELOPMENTS: If the last century was two channel hi-fi, this will be multi-channel. I didn't believe this at first but after hearing SACD in multichannel mode my opinion changed - you really got a sense of 'being there'.



JULIAN RICHER, Richer Sounds PLC

MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS: CD, MD and DVD. As the first mainstream digital format, CD injected new energy into a hi-fi industry languishing in seventies mediocrity. MD has great versatility and 'sex-appeal'. DVD has enormous mass-market potential, and has kick-started the previously static home-cinema market.

MOST SIGNIFICANT PRODUCTS:

- [1] From a personal point of view, the first is a Marantz cassette deck which was my first ever deal back in 1978. If they hadn't sold, who knows what I'd be doing now!
- [2] Sony CDP101 - simply for being the first CD player.
- [3] Sony MDSJE500/510/520/530 - with these we helped establish the UK MD market by selling tens of thousands at virtually cost price.

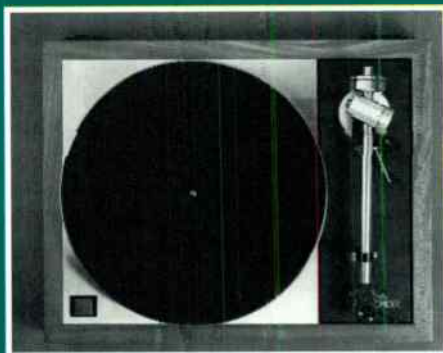
RICHER'S MOST SUCCESSFUL PRODUCT: The IPV Mini-Monitor - brought affordable hi-fi to the masses

NEW DEVELOPMENTS: Recordable DVD is the final nail in the coffin for the last of the analogue formats, and it will herald

the complete convergence of audio, video and computers.

JOHN MICHELL, Michell Engineering Ltd.

MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS: Stereo LP, for the new dimension in sound it brought, and its infinite upgradability. Cassette, for bringing music to the masses. CD, for how it's educated the general public about how enjoyable good sound can be.



*The start of hi-end vinyl?
The Linn LP12*

MOST SIGNIFICANT PRODUCTS:

- [1] Linn Sondek LP12 - a fine sounding deck and an inspired marketing exercise. Linn changed the way people thought about turntables, they said 'forget about technical measurements and listen to the sound', and they were absolutely right.
- [2] Koetsu Rosewood Signature - nothing has ever reproduced female voices as sweetly.
- [3] SME Series V - the best engineering I've seen in any audio equipment. Unmatched service and aftersales support. Great sound that's upgradable with better cables.

MICHELL'S MOST SUCCESSFUL PRODUCT: The GyroDec - it's run for 20 years and continues to improve with new technological developments. CD has just about reached where it was 10 years ago.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

New technology will pay dividends in speaker design, which has been pretty stagnant of late. There are some very interesting looking hi-tech ribbon tweeters on the way.

PAST MASTERS - more of audio's illustrious boffins

GUGLIELMO MARCONI 1874-1937

First to realise the possibility of wireless communications - his first patent was for a system of radio communication, later succeeded in signalling across the Atlantic Ocean.

THOMAS ALVA EDISON 1847-1931

Developed the phonograph, as well as the first commercially practical incandescent lamp, alkaline storage batteries and the carbon microphone! Patented over 1000 ideas, including a method of wireless telegraphy based on magnetic induction.

EDWIN ARMSTRONG 1890-1954

His first patent for a regenerative receiver in 1914 significantly advanced the art of radio - every modern radio and TV uses his ideas. Others include the super-heterodyne receiver and wide-band FM.

HEINRICH HERTZ 1857-1894

Did experiment that confirmed the existence of waves, and Maxwell's theory that light itself was a form of electromagnetic radiation.

JOHN AMBROSE FLEMING 1849-1945

Made a lamp with a metal cylinder around the filament and ran wires to the outside of the envelope. Thus was born both the electronics industry with the electrical 'valve'!

JOSEPH HENRY 1797-1878

Discovered inductive resistance, units of which are named after him in honour. Also invented an electric motor, a telegraph and the relay, as well as improving transformers and non-inductive windings.

MICHAEL FARADAY 1791-1867

Brilliant theorist and experimental scientist who discovered the dynamo effect of moving a wire and field relative to each other. The Farad - a unit of capacitance, is named him.

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL 1847-

1922 Granted a patent on a method of sending two or more telegraphic messages on the same wire at the same time - the telephone. Achieved the first wireless transmission of speech using his 'photophone' to transmit words on a beam of light.

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What you will get is the undivided attention of the two owners, Les and Pete, both of whom have many years experience in the business, and you will want to come back again and again until you're happy you've made the right choice.

And, yes, the rumours are true; we still understand what the vinyl LP will do, and how to get the best from it!

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Wilson Benesch Act1 Tonearm.	£600	£1000
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The news that EMI wants to pull out of CD manufacture, because it will become unprofitable in the near future seems baffling. I've just bought a handful of CDs at a hefty £16 apiece, which leaves me a little stunned.

The figures look stunning too. The U.K. alone was responsible for £1.7bn in music sales in 1998, fourth behind America, Japan and Germany. EMI serves the worldwide market though, which consumed £24bn of music. Most of it is now CD: 2.4 billion CDs were sold worldwide through 1998, representing 66% of all sales. In 'developed' nations such as America, Japan and much of Europe the CD dominates; in developing nations - especially India - the cassette is still king. You'd think this was one helluva place to be trading, especially when you have such a globally well-known name as EMI. It may just be though that the figures are too good. As I pored over them suspicion set in. Are CD sales about to go into decline? Does EMI know something we do not?

There's a world of difference between a CD of course, and the music on it. Since the Far East and China started to press CDs, prices for the discs have come under ever more pressure, unit costs falling well below 50p per disc. This is why it is becoming progressively more difficult to sustain pressing in the high-cost West. Once, the quality of Far East discs was inferior, but now that is not necessarily the case. EMI is pulling out of disc manufacture, not the business of producing music to put on them. But the huge growth potential for CD that remains worldwide is not something they could tap into anymore without setting up factories in China and India. Doing so would yield little. If these markets wanted their music EMI could have CDs pressed locally, but Western music doesn't sell so well in India, China and Indonesia, nor Latin America. It makes little sense for EMI to be there.

All the same, CDs are cheap to make

and dear to buy, so somebody is making money. Obviously, it is the music companies and the retailers, the two not always being different. HMV owns the Our Price chain and Virgin have their own stores of course. Both operations cannot be easily undermined by low cost labour outside Britain so, unlike CD manufacture, this business is secure. Intellectual property retains its value and, as anyone who receives IFPI press releases knows, the music industry prosecutes trespassers aggressively.

I have some sympathy. Not only is the piracy industry in the Far East and Russia massive, it also fuels crime, and I certainly support the notion that intellectual property has a value that should be acknowledged. However the music biz does itself no favours with over-zealous

” Something went badly wrong in 1997. CD sales in the U.K. declined from 160m to 159m, the first time such a thing had happened.

statements from highly-paid senior executives to the effect that the poor Joe who pays his £16 for a CD owns nothing.

Few people take much notice of all this I suspect, but it hardly endears the buying public to the business, hence the common allegation that CDs are a "rip off".

Sales figures suggest some background forces are at work that EMI cannot ignore. Let me explain. Through the 1970s and 80s prerecorded tape sales steadily rose as LP sales declined. Tape was replacing the LP as a format. Tape sales suddenly went into decline in 1990. Philips and Sony saw this coming, saying it was an inevitable part of a product life cycle, which takes the form of a bell curve. It had happened before with the LP and it was happening again with the cassette.

Both of these went into decline very quickly; it's quite a gruesome process! It is also one with a lot of consequences. LP pressing plants had to shut, then cassette duplicating plants. According to the bell curve, CD sales will peak and go into decline - and predicting when is important to a lot of people. Do EMI have doubts about the CD, I wonder?

From launch in 1983, CD sales rose to 51m in 1990, to 176m in 1998. Since no music medium ever sold more than 90m before, the CD has proved phenomenally popular and very resilient to price increases. It sells in vast quantities, so large in fact that anyone interested in its future might doubt how long such a good thing can continue.

The figures look ominous. Something went badly wrong in 1997. CD sales in the U.K. declined from 160m to 159m, the first time such a thing had happened. They picked up strongly in 1998 but earnings did not, even though the music business claims that 75% of sales are for full price product. If that means £16 then I cannot easily see how the market could possibly sustain a further price increase to get earnings back up. Surely, £18-£20 for a CD would drive sales into decline. So companies like EMI face a dilemma here.

America suffered a decline in 1997 then sales picked up, like the UK. In Germany and Japan CD sales have started to decline. It doesn't look good.



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What a delightful time it has been for the scaremongers! Not only have we faced wholesale changes to our lives through the third revolution (agricultural, industrial and now information technology), but we've also had to endure coping with the dreaded Millennium bug. Well, now that we're all still here we've been told that the Internet is going to change the way we shop forever. Over the last three years we've seen many of both the larger and smaller retailers become entangled in the World Wide Web. Yet, until recently, things have been at teething stage, with few transactions actually carried out over the Web.

The argument goes, however, that things are set to change in such a big way over the next ten years that retailers face bankruptcy if they fail to meet the demands of internet literate population. At first inspection, the argument seems pretty convincing, too. The Internet is growing at a huge rate, with thousands more sites being added daily. In this country usage is also rocketing at a rate similar to the take up rate of mobile phones two or three years ago. Now that a basic version of home shopping is available through Sky Digital TV, this has brought the reality of cyber shopping closer still to many more thousands of people across the UK. Admittedly, the process is still rather slow and a little cumbersome, yet this will undoubtedly improve at a rate of knots. A specific area that's key to the success of shopping on the net is that of search engines. To those of you fortunate/unlucky (delete as appropriate) enough not to have used the internet, a search engine is a system which searches the web pages for specific interests you may have. At the moment, however, even the best search engines can only cover 20% of the Internet, and aren't all that accurate. Yet in the not too distant future we've been promised versions that will allow the user to instantly compare prices for a particular product.

So, for example, one could type in, "Sony MDSJE 530. Price", and the engine would come up with all the competing store prices in an instant. "Hooray", I hear you cry, no more wasted afternoons spent, phone book in lap, ringing around trying to get the best price!

So, is the traditional hi-fi retailer doomed? Well, in my opinion, not necessarily. In the first instance, making transactions over the Internet is still far from being secure. If you do buy this way, then ensure that the site you're using is "safe". A small padlock logo will be displayed if it is such a "safe site". No doubt security will be improved, but

” Things are set to change in such a big way over the next ten years that retailers face bankruptcy if they fail to meet the demands.

then anyone familiar with computers will realise that the hackers are usually just a few short steps behind.

Secondly, there are undoubtedly rogue dealers out there, who could easily portray the pretence of being an established hi-fi retailer when, in fact, they are nothing of the sort. It's also worth remembering that traditional high street retailers often won't price beat such companies. Bearing in mind these points, the old adage, "buyer beware" seems more appropriate than ever.

The main reason though, I believe, for hi-fi retailers to be able to sleep at night, is the sheer act and process of shopping itself. Shopping for non-essential items, for many of us, is still a tactile experience. With hi-fi retailers there's the added advantage of being able to actually hear the

equipment! I'm sure many of you (myself included) have been disappointed with a component because it was bought blind (or perhaps deaf would be more suitable here) through a mail order advertisement. Maybe it's not the case with accessories, but with hi-fi components, listening to the equipment first, preferably with your own gear, really is a good idea.

Finally, if you're anything like me, once you've decided you want a particular CD, cable or hi-fi component, you'd rather be able to go into town and get it straight away, rather than waiting for it to be delivered!

The Internet will undoubtedly effect the high street. Yet the degree that this will apply to hi-fi separates retailers, I believe, can be overstated. After all, there have been mail order companies for years, and whilst these offer an excellent service for cables, upgrades, accessories and the like, there's still no substitute for actually being able to hear the products themselves.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I've got to "log on" to check some football results! ●



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KITS HAVE NEVER

KIT88 VALVE INTEGRATED

AMPLIFIER KIT

NEW FOR THE MILLENNIUM



£440

Here is the amazing KIT88. The circuit is similar to that of the ever popular KEL34 with a few changes to incorporate the Tesla, JJ branded KT88 power tetrode. This is a pure Class A push-pull design providing 36 watts into an 8ohm load. Gary Devon, has come up with a gems of an output transformer (E/I), this combined with the KT88 offers a virtually unmatched result for a valve amplifier. Frequency response is 11Hz up to 75kHz, separation is 71dB, noise is 98dB, sensitivity is 400mV and a distortion of 0.03%. "As valve amplifiers go, the KIT88 is one of the best measured performances I have ever come across", says Noel Keywood. Jon Marks says, "The KIT88 pulled a series of surprisingly fast, meaty basslines out of its trickbag when dealing with Suzanne Vega's Nine Objects Of Desire album. As if that wasn't enough, the mid and treble were nice too - cymbals had a deliciously natural, golden shimmer without sounding soft, and vocals were extremely transparent and crisply defined. KIT88 didn't hang around when it came to exploiting the virtues of its four output valves on numbers such as 'Leaves' and 'Suspect Sustain' from Cirrus' Land's End Jazz CD. Saxophone had a wonderfully smooth, realistic character, and acoustic guitar mixed speed with harmonic richness to very impressive effect. Asian Dub Foundation and Moloko showed no sign at all of the sluggish, woolly bottom-end and poorly-delineated bass beats that most valve amps are to blame for. Which makes the KIT88 an all-round, high-end bargain." Weight 16kg, external dimensions with valves are 330mm(w)x300mm(d)x190mm(h).

KEL34 E&I VALVE INTEGRATED AMPLIFIER KIT

The KEL34 E&I version is our second generation budget stereo integrated valve amplifier, providing a massive 40 watts of pure valve sound. With 4 line level inputs and one tape output. The KEL34 E&I is a simple and elegant circuit design using a 6AU6 pentode input valve, an ECC82 double-triode phase splitter and a push-pull pair of Tesla, JJ branded EL34s. The result is a typically sweet, open valve sound with atypical bass control and power. The KEL34 E&I will work its magic into 'speakers of average sensitivity too. Jon Marks says, "tonally the KEL34 E&I is a bit of a smoothie. It has a fast, dynamic sound, plucked guitar strings and bass drum enjoy crisp leading edges and great impact. Clear imaging and spacious sound staging meant voices and instruments really jumped out of the loudspeaker boxes. Overall the KEL34 E&I is a beautiful power amp." At the price, this kit is second to none and will open up the benefits of valve amplification to a whole new class of audio nuts! Weight 12kg. External dimensions with valves: 33cm(w) x 27.5cm(d) x 18cm(h).

KEL34 Facelift - if you want your KEL34 to look like the KIT88 this is what you need - £75.00



KEL34 Upgrade Kit- with a superb Panasonic volume control, stargate electrolytics & paper in oil capacitors and fast recovery diodes.

HD83 VALVE HEADPHONE AMPLIFIER KIT

The HD83 is our new headphone amplifier, a beautifully simplistic design using Mullard ECL83 valves, a triode and power pentode housed in the same envelope. It works directly from any source be it a CD, tape, tuner etc., or from an amplifier's tape out or pre-amp sockets. The circuit utilises high specification output E and I output transformers that will drive any headphone load from 16 ohms to over 300 ohms depending on how the secondaries are wired up. The HD83 is a single ended design with the power pentode wired up in triode configuration for that added purity and is as quiet as a mouse. For sound quality Jon Marks says, "The bass is punchy and controlled without becoming artificial, while treble has the crispness of the best solid-state, with the tonal purity, delicacy and speed associated with valves. External dimensions 18cm(w) x30cm(l) x 8cm(h) weight 4kg.



£175

£315

KEL80 MONOBLOCK AMPLIFIER KIT



£590 A PAIR

NEW!

Following the success of our budget KEL34 40watt kit amplifier, we have come up with a 'bigger brother' design. The output stage utilises two pairs of TESLA EL34 pentodes in parallel-push-pull mode, allowing KEL80 to turn out 80 watts into an 8ohm load. Heading up the input stage we have the wonderfully linear Russian 6AU6 working into an American 5687 phase-splitter. KEL80's output transformers are 4ohm and 8ohm tapped. With an input sensitivity at around 380mV for full output, it will happily partner both passive and active pre-amplifiers. It is easy to assemble. Simon Pope says, "The proof of the pudding is in the eating and the KEL80 is a feast for the ears, with solid bass attack, lightning fast reactions, that emphasises musicality as well as power, at 590.00 GBP a pair, a definite valve winner. Each monobloc weighs 12kgs., external dimensions with valves: 14cm(w) x 8cm(h) x 43.5cm(d).

K5881 MkII VALVE AMPLIFIER KIT

A 20watt, Class A power amplifier that uses reliable Russian 5881 output valves, a military version of the American 6L6, designed for low distortion audio work. Now with a super shunt regulated push-pull (SRPP) input stage K5881 offers amazing sound quality. It can be used with a simple passive pre-amp or one of our own pre-amplifiers, and it matches modern loudspeakers well. Weight 15kg external dimensions with valves 40cm(w) x 32.5cm(d) x 17cm(h).



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KLS10 GOLD SUBWOOFER



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KLS9 TWO WAY FLOORSTANDER



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DRIVE UNIT & CROSSOVER KIT £350.00
DRIVE UNIT PACK £230.00

KLS7 2 WAY CARBON-FIBRE DRIVER FLOORSTANDER

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DRIVE UNIT & CROSSOVER KIT £195.00
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KLS12 TWO WAY FLOORSTANDER/STANDMOUNTER



£175

KLS12 is a versatile budget loudspeaker that delivers fine sound quality at a low price. It utilises Audax's HT210F0 woven fibre glass cone, mid/bass unit, beautifully married with the TW034X0, 34mm diameter doped fabric dome tweeter. Noel Keywood says, 'The KLS12 is a transparent, vividly detailed transducer with fine projection. It has tight well defined bass, which means it is best positioned close to a rear wall. Vocals possess a clean outline with an intense clarity.' At 89dB the KLS12 is easy to drive, thus, it is suitable for 20W and upward power amps. Internal volume = 34.1 litres standmounter external dimensions = 58cm(h) x 24.2cm(w) x 34cm(d) floor stander external dimensions(with sand filled space cavity) = 58cm(h) x 24.2cm(w) x 34cm(d)

DRIVE UNITS & CROSSOVER KIT £175.00
DRIVE UNIT PACK £100.00

KLS11 3 WAY DESIGN



NEW!

Our newest design is a wonderful three way bass reflex enclosure stand mounter. Another star performer, featuring the superb gold dome tweeter, the HD3P! This, married perfectly to a HM100ZO midrange unit and utilising the deep full sound of the 10 inch PR24OZO bass unit. All units are from Audax. As both these units use high definition Aerogel cones they have similar sonic signatures, providing a deliciously gelled sound. Our KLS11 is a quality three way, with powerful bass and midrange driver that ensures vocals are handled with high fidelity. The treble is both smooth and sweet. Sensitivity 88dB Volume 45.5 litres External dimensions 31cms (w) x 37.3cms (d) x 64cms (h)

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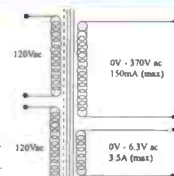
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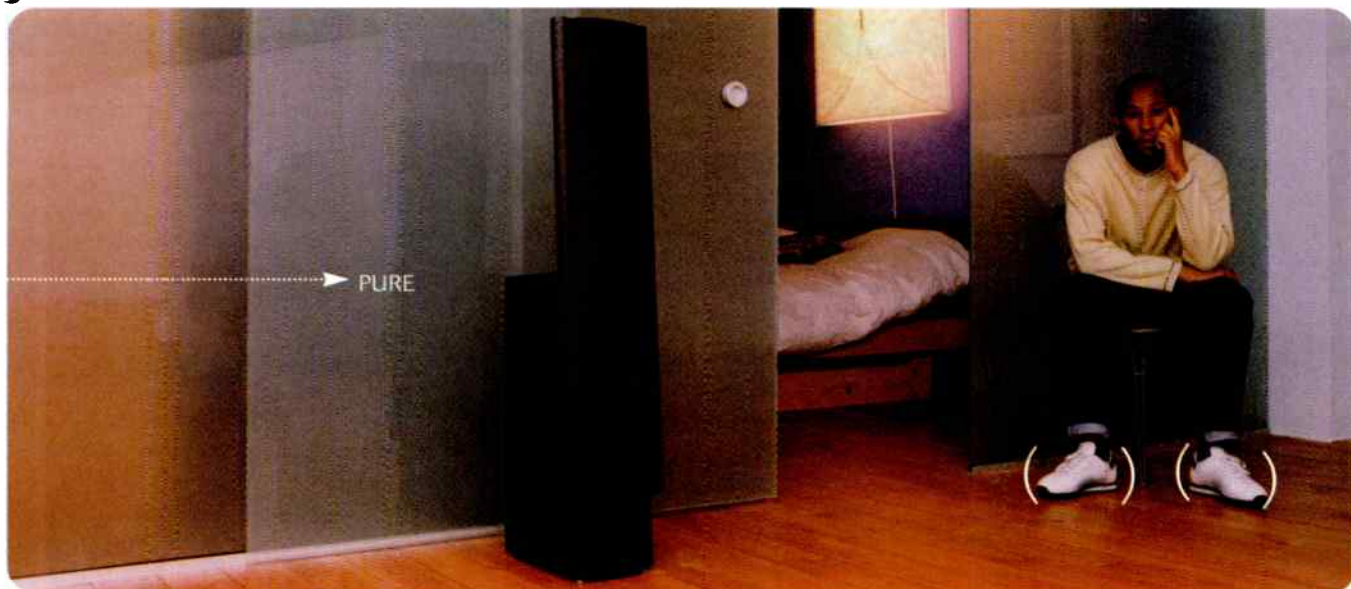
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HD83 Valve headphone amplifier kit.....	HD83-K240/120	<input type="checkbox"/>	£175	£150
KEL80 Valve Monoblock Amplifier kit (with valves).....	KEL80-K240/120	<input type="checkbox"/>	£590	£500
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KEL34 Facelift Kit.....	KEL34-Facelift kit	<input type="checkbox"/>	£75	£65
KEL34 Upgrade Kit.....	KEL34 Upgrade Kit	<input type="checkbox"/>	£150	£125
KEL34 E&I 40W push-pull integrated amplifier.....	KEL34 E&I -K240/120(with valves).....	<input type="checkbox"/>	£315	£270
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KLS7 2-way carbon fibre driver floorstanding loudspeaker		<input type="checkbox"/>		
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KLS8 2-way high sensitivity standmounting loudspeaker		<input type="checkbox"/>		
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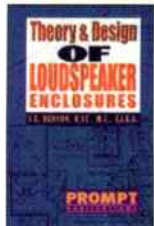
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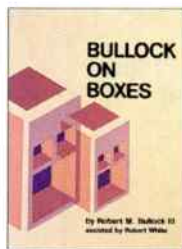
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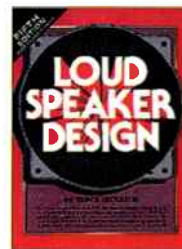
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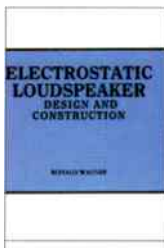
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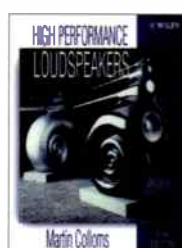
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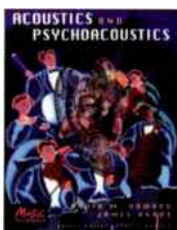
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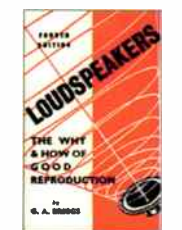
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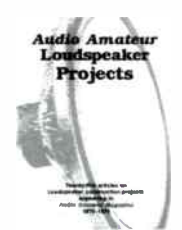
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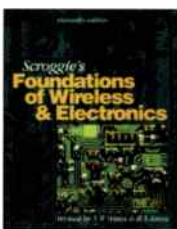


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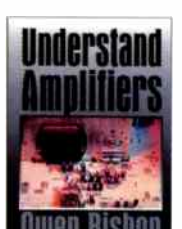
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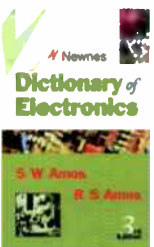
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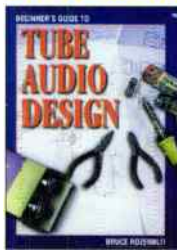


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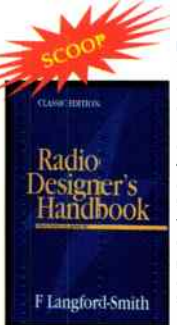
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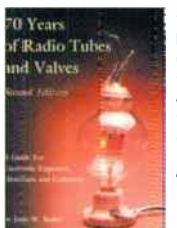
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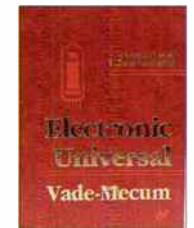
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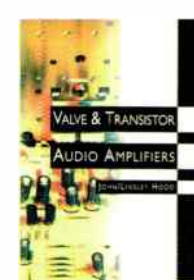
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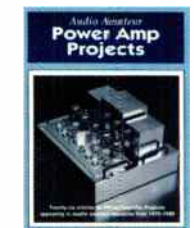
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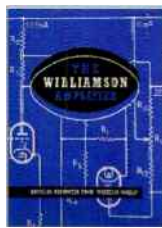
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TEAC S. Marlin House, The Croxley Centre, Watford WD17 8YA. Tel: 01923 819630 Fax: 01923 236290. Teac has already established a virtual world-dominance in the manufacture of precision recording equipment and data storage products and the company is now turning its attention to its core hi-fi and audio related products. The Tokyo Electro-Acoustic Company (hence TEAC) was formed in 1956. Over the years TEAC has produced some of the world's most outstanding recording equipment including many excellent affordable home cassette decks (for which the name TEAC became almost synonymous) and by the time of the dawn of the digital age at the beginning of the 1980's it was internationally acknowledged as a world leader in audio technology with a string of high fidelity firsts to its name. In 1992 TEAC was the first company for TEAC with the launch of a superb new mini-system, a newly developed VRDS mini CD player, and a British designed CD player.

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Aura LST 627.



Blue Room Mini Pod.

Acoustic Energy AE100	£200	Jan 96	Reasonably neutral but ultimately lacklustre. Control of treble and mid-range poor.
Audio Gem Opals	£240	Dec 97	Partner the Opals with warm ancillaries and you get an involving sound. Avoid bright amps and sources.
Aura LSB-627M	£230	Aug 98	Energetic, bold and highly detailed, the Aura is one to consider for the budget-conscious.
Aura LST-627	£299	Oct 98	Like Aura's matching stand mounters, the 627Ms are lucid and controlled. Treble is brightish.
B&W 601	£200	Jan 96	Unrestricted and clean sound with satisfying musicality. An engaging subtlety not common at the price.
B&W DM302	£130	Apr 96	Clear open and detailed sound but balance too forward and weak bass.
B&W DM602	£250	Nov 96	Excels with taut hard-hitting bass with dynamic, uncoloured midrange. Metal tweeter bleaches out the treble.
Boston CR6	£150	Sep 98	With simple music, the CR6s work well, but not quite as well as the best of the competition.
Castle Isis	£230	Jan 96	A lively little animal, well worth the money.
Celestion 12i	£119	Feb 98	The 12is' powerful, confident sound belies a rather poor measured performance.
Celestion Impact 15	£200	Jan 96	Big presentation but a rather distant quality. Could sound boomy and confined.
Celestion Impact 23	£299	Nov 96	Sterling performance in the bass with speed and control. Good midrange projection.
Chario Hiper 1000	£299	Feb 99	Quality construction and sound produce a very capable 'speaker. Open treble and firm bass for the size.
Eltax Liberty 3+	£150	Jan 98	A lot of loudspeaker for the money. Punch and slam in the bass but sometimes thin in the treble.
Eltax Symphony 6	£240	Nov 96	Although bright, the Symphony 6s score for clarity and power. Bass is fast and accurate.
Gale 2i	£140	Feb 97	Smooth, balanced performers that do a good job on any genre. Free from the nasties that afflict many at the price.
Gale Mini Monitor	£50	Apr 97	Not the last word in midrange or bass clarity, but gives real hi-fi results for a paltry £50.
GLL ICT100	£170	Nov 95	For their size and price they offer some super qualities, especially stable imaging.
Heybrook Heylette	£270	Jun 98	A mini monitor with more precision and dynamism than the size and price tag would suggest.
Heybrook Optima	£259	Oct 98	Capable all-rounders, the Optimas combine smoothness, insight and control to great effect.
Heybrooks HB1 S3	£269	Nov 96	Excellent imaging with clear treble and midrange. Bass slightly dry and boxy but would suit a smaller room.
Jamo CS5 Actives	£200	Oct 98	In spite of a few colorations, the Jamos are fine examples of budget active operation.
JPW ML510	£130	Jan 98	With greater transparency and a bit more get-up-and-go, the 510s could be leaders of the budget pack.
Kef 60S	£200	May 96	The 60S is open and detailed but coloured too.
Kef Coda 7	£129	Apr 95	Rhythmic push and tuneful bass are the plus points of these small standmounts.
Kef Coda 8	£200	Jan 96	Breezy presence, good dynamics and a sense of fullness. Not the utmost in clarity, some box colouration.
Kef Coda 9	£299	Jul 96	Strong bass can get out of control, as can treble. This tends to overpower the midrange.
Kef Q15	£199	Feb 97	Impressive bass and a sweet clarity make the Q15s 'speakers that'll put a smile on any audiophile's face.
Kenwood LS90UK	£129	Jul 98	The LS90UKs have dry bass and limited tonal colour, but staging and imaging are superb.
Linn Sekrit	£298	Apr 96	Well-behaved and with a decent tonal quality.
Mission 700	£130	May 98	The 700s are easily outclassed by Mission's own superb 731 Pros at a £10 premium.
Mission 731	£129	Apr 95	An initially impressive, upfront sound but ultimately a little uninvolved.
Mission 731 Pro	£139	Jul 97	Music makers with a clean, punchy sound. Real value for money.
Mission 731i	£130	Nov 96	Mission's babies are a truly worthwhile improvement on the original 731s.
Mission 731LE	£150	Nov 95	Excellent sound puts the competitors in the shade. Well built and pretty too!
Mission 732i	£200	Aug 97	If you've got £200 with 'loudspeakers' written on it, then the 732i should be on your shopping list.
Mission 771	£170	Jul 98	Superb stand mounters of real refinement and musicality. A touch bass light.
Mission 772	£230	Apr 99	Civilised standmounters which lack nothing in control, finesse or transparency.
Monsoon MM-1000	£200	May 99	A novel multi-media two-satellites-and-sub which nevertheless demands to be taken quite seriously.
Mordaunt-Short MS20i	£200	Jan 96	Very light bass and an all-round big sound. Some sharpness in the treble but assertive and clear.
Nad 801	£100	Jun 97	Impressive bass with midrange clarity are pluses. Prominent treble stops the 801 from challenging the best.
Paradigm Mini Monitors	£230	Aug 97	The Paradigms have a generally enjoyable sound but treble is sharp and midrange recessed.
QLN 122	£270	Jun 96	Solid bottom end will drive a large room well, but they're a bit bright too.
RDL RA Labs Mini Ref	£99	Jul 95	Engineering is not tip-top, but with a smooth system they will produce a clear and open, if bright, sound.
Revolver Purvey	£200	Jan 96	Rather small sound for a big cabinet. Absence of deep bass hard to forgive.
Rogers LS1	£149	Feb 96	Clear, bright and open but with weak bass. Best used close to or against a wall.
Rogers LS33	£250	Nov 95	Detailed and clear with a forward midrange. Could be a little rough on vocals; bass extension is limited.
System Audio 1005	£299	Aug 96	Excellent all-rounder that provides a real open window into almost every genre of music.
Tangent Monitor 11	£200	Nov 97	The Tangents' bass has attractive speed and impact, matched with smooth treble and open midband.
Tangent Monitor 2	£60	Jul 96	Good imaging as well as control. Tweets a bit too much but more than fine for the money.
Tannoy Mercury m1	£120	Jun 98	The best at the price and capable of embarrassing many more expensive 'speakers.
Tannoy Mercury m2	£140	May 97	For £140, you get a 'speaker with transparency and enjoyability unmatched at the price.
Tannoy Mercury m3	£240	Nov 97	Even overall balance and taut secure bass, if not the deepest ever. Slightly lightweight and uninvolved.
Tannoy R1	£199	Nov 98	Worth an addition if you need to balance a bright source and amp, but treble lacks clarity.
TDL NFM 1	£120	May 97	Bright treble is partially balanced by taut, well integrated bass, but outclassed by the competition.
TDL Nucleus 1	£60	Apr 97	Clean, incisive, detailed and revealing, especially in the bass.
W'dale Active Diamond	£180	Mar 99	Great value introduction to active. The sound is deep and powerful but could be a little coloured for some.
Wharfedale Valdus 300	£150	Jul 96	Can work well if partnered to give weighty bass and smooth treble.

£300-£799

B&W CDM1SE	£600	Apr 98	Tuneful and confident, these 'speakers are well suited to Pop and Dance music.
B&W DM305	£350	Mar 97	All the ingredients for listening fun are mixed into the DM305. Overall presentation could be more cohesive though.
B&W P4	£600	Mar 95	Good-looking solid 'speakers with great spirit and tenacity but with a dry treble. Not fans of classical music.
Blue Room Minipod	£400	Jan 97	Arresting style allied to an engaging sound makes the Minipods attractive. Best with smooth amps and source.
Carlsson OA 50.2	£585	Dec 98	Acoustic music gels nicely. More artificial pieces sometimes don't work so well.
Castle Avon	£699	Dec 96	Taut, dry bass and lucid midrange but need matching to warm ancillaries to avoid sounding bright.

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Loudspeakers £ Year Verdict

£300-£799

Castle Harlech	£799	Aug 96	Bass power and extension will impress but overall sound is uneven and rather sterile.
Castle Kendal	£450	Mar 98	The Kendals have great clarity but need coupling to warm ancillaries.
Castle Savern II	£579	Jul 98	Apart from some hardness in the tweeters, the Severn 2s are accomplished all-rounders.
Charlo Haven 1	£399	May 95	Music makers through and through with a great feel for rhythm and dynamics.
Charlo Lyna	£549	Apr 99	The Lynxes are superbly built but their rising bass and treble suit home cinema more than hi-fi.
Dak 430	£700	Feb 96	A powerful and rich sound from these competitively priced floorstanders makes them worth a recommendation.
Epos ES12	£495	Oct 96	Strong, punchy bass allied to detailed and articulate midrange and treble.
Heybrook Heylos	£339	Mar 97	The Heylios stand out for their bass depth, dynamics and sound staging. Overall balance prefers Classical to Rock.
Heybrook Heylo	£389	Oct 95	Posses a neutral, fast and dry sound. A good match for soft sounding systems.
Jewell 307	£300	Apr 95	Delicate, detailed sound, albeit with rather imprecise imaging. Will work well on a bookshelf.
JPW ML910	£300	Nov 97	Not perfect but they make music fun. Quality, power and extension, the Milleniums are worth a listen.
JPW Ruby 2	£395	Oct 98	Once allied to warm electronics, the Ruby 2s mix insight with plenty of involvement.
Kef LS3/5A	£599	Jul 95	Partnered with the Rogers AB1, this is a substantial marriage.
Kef Q35	£350	Nov 97	Very accomplished midrange and treble but the dry in the bass. For Rock fans the upper bass speed is appealing.
Kef Q55	£499	Aug 97	The Q55s look rather expensive at £500 with their 'boom and tizz' presentation.
Kef RDM1	£499	Oct 97	The RDM1s soundstage well thanks to their Uni-Q drivers. Can be uninvolved because of a lack of scale and impact.
Linn Tulcan	£389	Dec 95	Highly musical standmounters that give similarly priced floorstanders a great deal to worry about.
Mission 7300	£750	May 95	Very polite and many will appreciate their civility. Deep powerful bass.
Mission 733	£300	Apr 95	Captivating floorstanders that bring music to life - what good hi-fi should do.
Mission 734	£430	Sep 95	Engineered for low price and showroom appeal rather than absolute sound quality.
Mission 751 Freedom	£350	Apr 97	Charming little stand-mounters with a sweet, warm, musical sound.
Mission 752 Freedom	£578	Jan 97	Dynamic, punchy, and musical yet refined like few at the price. Bass lacks a little depth.
Mission 774	£500	Feb 99	With the right ancillaries, the 774s have a clarity and lack of colouration still rare at the price.
Mountaineer MS25	£300	Nov 96	Sweet sounding metal dome tweeter although the dry bass and rather plasticky midrange work against it.
Musical Technology PM15	£474	Jan 99	Sophisticated, neutral sound and fine musicality put the PM15s near the head of the class.
Neat 10M	£500	Jan 96	A thin and hard sound but precise with it!
Neat Critique II	£445	Jan 99	Deserving 'speakers with good looks and build. Can fail to shine with over-polite equipment.
NHT 1.5	£389	Aug 95	Very crisp sounding 'speakers best suited to smaller rooms.
Opera Prima	£495	Feb 99	The Primas offer a taste of the high-end at a sensible price. They are more fans of Classical than Rock though.
Orchestra Con Condo 6	£329	Oct 95	Good value floorstanders with clean enjoyable sound - not quite supersonic, though.
Poik PSW150	£500	Jul 97	The PSW150 adds depth to a system but can sound obvious at times.
ProAc T Series	£600	Aug 98	Amp-sensitive and slightly boxy in the lower treble, the ProAcs are still highly musical.
Rel Q Bass	£350	May 96	Needs care in setting up but this subwoofer offers serious quality bass for not a lot of money.
REL Q100E	£500	Apr 98	Another capable sub from REL that boosts bass and improves sound staging.
Rogers AB 1	£499	Jul 95	When used with the Kef LS3/5a this sub delivers the goods, beyond a doubt.
Sandwich Book Orde	£595	Feb 97	Musically involving 'speakers that many will enjoy, but a little unrefined at times.
Sequence 400	£329	Apr 96	Good at orchestral scale but coloured in the midband.
Soundcraft Absolute 4P	£799	Oct 97	The Absolute 4Ps excel in all areas except for the rather bright, hard treble. Bass is exceptional.
Spendor 2030	£599	Jun 96	Smooth, focussed and coherent in their delivery with deep, taut bass extension. Not the most spacious sound.
Stylarmok 165	£400	Feb 96	Dry and clean sound, but can become hard and confused when pushed.
Tannoy Precision P10	£300	May 98	Though very even in their performance, the P10s lack ultimate clarity and punch.
Tannoy Profile 623 plus	£600	Nov 96	Weighty bass and rhythmic detail work well on dance. Less satisfying with classical music. Firm imaging.
TDL RTL 4	£650	Feb 95	Easy going with plenty of detail and timbral richness. Better with classical fare.
TDL T Series 2	£550	Jan 97	Midrange and treble have good tonal colour, detail and speed. Bass is slow and blurred.
Technic SB-M300	£350	Nov 95	A great sound with solid bass from a compact and well priced 'speaker.
Technic SB-M500	£450	May 96	Clean, dry and taut with good imaging and sound staging. More neutral than Mission's 752s but less euphonic.
Triangle Comete TZXe	£475	Jan 95	Quite pleasant, inoffensive sound but others costing less can offer more.
Wharfedale Vector 500	£300	Oct 95	Good for adding scale and power to a weak system or budget separates.



JPW Ruby 2.



Soundcraft Absolute 4P.

£800-£1499

Audionote E	£1499	Mar 95	Big, bulky and ultra-sensitive with quick pace and a well balanced sound, but not without flaws.
Audionote M1 Sg	£1479	Aug 98	The M1 Sigs may be a little laid-back, but they have a pleasant and involving sound.
Audiovector M2	£1499	Jun 98	The M2s are marred by a boom 'n' tizz presentation that suits Heavy Metal but not much else.
B&W CDM7	£999	Feb 98	With warm ancillaries the CDM7s produce a weighty, open sound. Bass could be faster.
Castle Howard S2	£1099	Mar 96	Fantastically deep and tight bass but some treble sharpness requires careful matching.
Catfish A2	£1499	Jun 98	Focus is not a strength, but bass extension and even tonality are. Metal tweeter can be bright.
Charlo Academy One	£1199	Dec 95	Musical realism and a great real-wood finish make these 'speakers enjoyable, if not perfect.
Conquest Karis	£1250	May 99	Small cabinet precludes the deepest bass, but a sweet little act for all that. Seriously imaging abilities.
Epos ES22	£1185	Jun 98	Aside from a slightly cool balance, the ES22s shine. Dynamics, bass depth and control are tops.
Event 2000EAS	£829	Sep 98	Warm, detailed and well-endowed in the bass, the Events lack only a touch of overall control.
Harbeth DPM1 Active	£849	Sep 98	Now HNB's Circle Actives, these loudspeakers mix the best of pro and domestic to produce first-class results.
Harbeth HL Compact 7	£1329	Jun 96	Dry and analytical but truthful with it. A first class monitor ideally suited to acoustic or classical music.
Harbeth HL K6	£975	Dec 96	Clean, musical and classy - Harbeth have done themselves proud again!
KAR Torino	£895	Jan 97	The Torinos' stylish sound won't shame any system. That powerful bass does need space to breathe properly though.
Kef Reference 1	£995	May 95	Beautifully fluid and integrated mid band and treble but can be slow, with a little loss of bass control.
Kef Reference 2	£1499	Jan 95	Handles rock and classical with equal aplomb, with the ability to reproduce detail that flummoxes many other models.

Prices shown are those at the time of review



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Loudspeakers £ Year Verdict

£800-£1499

Kelly KT3	£1199	Apr 98	The KT3s go very loud very easily but they don't possess the most even response.
Klosch Horns II	£1150	May 99	Horn and infinite-baffle hybrid with power to spare. Phasing and frequency accurate beyond belief.
KRK V8	£995	Sep 98	Ultra-detailed and revealing, the V8s are true pro more than domestic transducers.
Magneplanar MG 0.6 SE	£1370	Mar 95	Very clear detail and separation, but just fails to produce a fully 3-dimensional sound.
Magneplanar MC12/QR	£1200	May 99	Lightness of touch and clarity in trumps. Needs powerful amplification for 77dB/W/m. Not a valve 'speaker.
Mirage 830	£1075	Oct 95	An easy going, open and natural sound makes the mirages an attractive proposition.
Mission 754 F5	£1299	Sep 96	Articulate and informative sound with fine imaging and tight, deep bass.
Mordant Short 800	£1450	Dec 95	Fast, light and informative, but a poor tweeter casts a grey shadow.
Musical-Tech. Falcon	£955	May 96	Give a big sense of scale on rock and jazz but not subtle and even enough for the critical classical listener.
NEAR Soundmist	£1199	Aug 95	An interesting, musical floorstander that's good value even at this price.
Origin Live Sovereign	£1225	Jun 98	The OLs have transparency and detail in considerable amounts. Bass can be loose though.
PT Ventricle	£896	Aug 95	Smooth and refined floorstanders that some listeners will find captivating.
OLN Signature	£1499	Mar 96	Super sound staging, openness and detail. Well worth seeking out.
REL Stadium 2	£995	Aug 95	Excellent bass performance means that this subwoofer is no toy.
Roksan Ojan 3	£1000	Jan 98	Unusual 'speakers with great rhythmic capabilities and bass. Could be more transparent.
Rusik Passim	£1099	May 95	The Paladins possess a detailed and expansive soundstage but also a rather dry character
Spendor 2040	£899	Oct 96	The tweeter works well but a recessed midband and one-note bass are the Achilles heels.
Spendor FL8	£1275	Jun 98	The FL8s are warm, mellow performers which prefer Classical to Rock.
Tannoy D300	£1000	Apr 97	Impressive bass extension and control with precise imaging make the D300s a snip at £1000.
Torom Model 1 Sig	£1250	Sep 97	Good but the move from standard to Signature has taken speed and punch out of the Model 1s
UKD Callias Gold	£995	Jun 96	A rich and open sound, extremely musical if not strictly accurate. Great bass extension for their size.
UKD Divina	£1390	Jun 95	Not the most neutral 'speakers but they are extremely smooth with an overall coherence to the sound.
Veritas 7	£1000	Jun 99	Combine neutrality and detail with fluidity and sophistication.



Magneplanar MG12/QR.

£1500

Audiovector 6	£4600	Jun 95	If you have enough room and money the 6s are capable of a highly musical, involving performance.
BKS 107 MkII	£1500	Dec 98	The 107 Mk2s may look slim but they have a solid sound and are fabulously revealing.
Cadence ES	£3500	Sep 95	Interesting design that incorporates an electrostatic tweeter. An impressive but inconsistent performer.
Celestion A3	£1800	May 97	The A3s are quite simply superb. All you'll need to enjoy them is a large enough listening room.
Epos ES25	£1505	May 95	An extremely coherent and focussed sound; these are true audiophile speakers. Captivating with classical music.
Harbeth HLS8	£1999	Mar 97	Glassy clarity, bright treble, with bass that comes alive when given welly. Expensive though.
Heybrook Octet	£1800	Jul 98	The Octets are smooth, laid-back floor standers. Lack speed and transparency.
Jamo Concert 11	£2000	Dec 97	A worthy bigger brother for the Concert 8s, with a fast, transparent and even sound.
Jamo Concert 8	£1500	Jun 97	The Concert 8s are superbly clean and transparent. Their nature will show up any source shortcomings.
JBL S2500	£3500	Jul 96	Smooth, detailed and spacious with scale, dynamics and imaging. Capable of producing a real performance.
Kef Reference 3	£2000	Nov 95	For superb reproduction within large rooms, the 3s are a force to be reckoned with.
Kef Reference 4	£3099	Oct 96	Superb bass and near-electrostatic soundstaging make these involving 'speakers a bargain.
Living Voice Auditorium	£1500	May 99	Their strengths suggest a Classical 'speaker but they suit electronic compositions better. Rich tone but loose bass.
Proac Studio 150	£1500	Mar 99	They may be musically engaging but the ProAc's brightness suits them best for smooth valve amplification.
Slate Audio Stormforce	£8000	Feb 99	The best home for a reflex-loaded Tannoy dual-concentric, but they don't come cheap!
Spendor SP7/1	£1970	Jan 95	Gorgeous looking. Listening becomes an enjoyable experience, full of surprises from subtleties.
Spendor SP9/1	£3400	Apr 96	One of the clearest and most expressive loudspeakers you'll ever find for a large room. Easy to drive, too.
Tannoy AM36	£2702	Aug 96	Bold and powerful with solid bass, clearly focussed midrange and delicious treble. Well worth tracking down.
Tannoy D900	£3999	Sep 97	£4000 may be a lot to pay for a pair of 'speakers, but the Tannoys deliver to great effect in all areas.
Technics SB M1000	£1500	Nov 96	Materially excellent value. Sound clean and extended but can lack involvement.
Thomas Transducers Brio	£4750	Feb 95	Capable of producing a captivating performance of lifelike proportions with a great air of naturalness.
Thomas Virwind Gold	£3395	May 98	Impressive horns that combine lightness of touch with power and clarity.



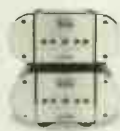
Jamo Concert 8.

Integrated £ Year Verdict

under £300

Alchemist Maxim	£211	Mar 96	Fluid and musical but upper bass is a little dry. Useful phono stage with but with a little sibilance and ringing.
AMC 3025	£150	Nov 96	A lot for very little money - sweet sound and good build make the AMC 3025 a great starter amp.
AMC 3050A	£170	Feb 98	Offers plenty of power for the money but sound quality is not class leading.
Arcam Alpha 500	£250	Oct 96	Good with efficient loudspeakers but generally needs more power and control.
Arcam Alpha One	£230	Jan 99	In a smooth system with a warmish bias the Alpha One makes a strong case for itself.
Aura VA10	£279	Apr 95	Excellent value for money and will get the best from any component. Needs a separate phono stage.
Aura VA80 SE	£250	Mar 96	The Aura has a smooth, civilized sound with fine detail. Bass punch really rolls along. Good phono stage.
Cambridge A1 Mini Integ	£100	Jul 98	Involving and finely detailed, the Cambridge pushes forward the boundaries for inexpensive amps.
Denon PMA 250SE	£160	Feb 97	A mix of control, delicacy and detail allows it to excel with any music.
Denon PMA 425R	£230	Sep 96	Good drive, punch and an open soundstage, but suffers from confusion plus a thin midrange and treble.
Denon PMA 450SE	£280	Oct 96	Big and brutish but unfortunately bland with it. Something of a blast from the 1970s-80s past!
Harman Kardon HK610	£180	Jun 95	Thorough-going down to earth liveliness. Bright but clean which gives appealing vivacity.
Harman Kardon HK620	£280	Oct 95	Not quite a giant killer, the Harman is nevertheless a good solid budget buy.

Prices shown are those at the time of review



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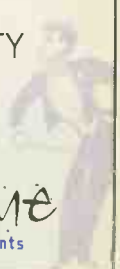
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Integrated £ Year Verdict

under £300

Musical Fantasy 211	£299	Feb 98	A very capable integrated with a smoothness and warmth predisposed to classical rather than rock.
NAD 304	£239	Apr 95	Fine quality bass but rather lackadaisical as regards timing. Phono stage moderate. Needs careful matching.
NAD 310	£130	Jan 95	Good detail and a spacious open sound gives acoustic music and the majority of rock superb clarity.
NAD C320	£200	Apr 99	Younger sibling of the famous 3020 with many of its virtues to boot. Pre-eminently balanced and natural.
Pioneer A700	£130	Mar 95	Luxuriant presentation doesn't compensate for the tendency to un-rhythmic effects. MM phono stage.
Pioneer A20GX	£230	Apr 95	Another highly capable all-rounder although a touch sterile sounding for some tastes.
Project 7	£259	Apr 95	On a budget, the Project has strong merit, including an excellent phono stage. Not for all systems.
Rebel RA 9700X	£250	Oct 96	Fresh sound with sharp attack. A slight midrange emphasis can make certain music sound rather forward.
Rebel RA 901	£150	Dec 98	For the money there's no faulting such a gifted performer.
Sony TAF44E	£250	Aug 95	bright clear and detailed, but needs a touch more refinement to prevail.
Technica SU A700 H&S	£250	Jan 97	A smooth unassuming sound misses out on the subtlety which brings music to life.

£300-£799

Michael Axton	£300	Sep 95	Musically rewarding; deserves serious audition. Great British hi-fi on a budget.
MSAC 315HA	£329	Nov 98	Not the most musical amp ever but good value. The tone controls and balance adjustment will appeal to some.
Orion Alpha 6+	£350	Jan 96	Full and smooth sound, unfortunately with loose bass.
Scott Alpine II	£500	Dec 96	Excellent value. A detailed and open sound gives great atmosphere to all types of music
A. A. Puccini SE	£595	Dec 97	All the main ingredients like rhythm and dynamics present and correct. Natural smoothness and transparency.
Audio Analogue Puccini	£595	Sep 97	Excellent sound quality outstrips the competition at up to £1000.
Audiolab 8000A	£500	May 95	Manages the rare feat of sounding powerful and lithe at the same time. Bass taut but not the last word.
Audiolab 8000D	£700	Dec 97	Powerful hefty sound which doesn't blench when driving awkward loads.
Benchmark Reynold SIA 1	£680	Aug 96	Too thin and crisp which makes prolonged listening fatiguing.
Cyrus 3	£500	Oct 96	Highly refined and detailed performance with a clear well-proportioned soundstage.
Cyrus Straight Line	£398	Nov 98	A good, honest bit of kit with a fine musical sound and no glaring vices.
Denon BSA	£650	Dec 97	If a musical adrenaline rush is what you seek, fine. Listening in bulk, rather clinical and cold sounding.
Edmund ESI 10	£400	Apr 99	Solid build and a big sound make the ESI 10 worthy of audition. Not perhaps the transparent at the price.
Hell Audio	£750	Jun 98	Powerful and refreshingly pure; a sound investment.
Kennwood KA 700DR	£400	Apr 98	Excels with sound staging but lacks subtlety and tonal colour.
LFD Musical	£499	Jun 97	An extremely enjoyable, lucid little amplifier that really gets to the heart of the music.
Mannix PM-86 KI-S	£400	Nov 97	An enjoyable and rhythmic sound but may be too lean for some bass-light 'speakers.
Mosby M3	£695	Jan 97	An engaging musical performance; sweet overall sound. Doesn't cope with difficult loads so well.
Moth 30 Integrated	£320	Jul 95	A big open sound sets the Moth apart at this price. Low powered, though. Distinctly amateurish looks.
Musical Fantasy X-A1	£480	Dec 98	Two boxes don't form a pre and power in the X-A1 but the result is nevertheless a winning combination.
Myriad F40	£399	Nov 98	Couple the Myriad with a warm system and enjoy. Possibly a little lightweight on the Reggae & Rap side.
NAD 311	£470	May 97	With 80 watts on tap, the NAD has power aplenty but is rather dynamically limited and ultimately uninvolving.
Naim NAB	£500	May 95	Rather monochromatic with midband emphasis and slightly dry bass. Good imaging but smallish soundstage.
Orion SA 100	£449	Jul 96	Clean, open, active sound. Smooth and detailed with good punch too. One of the best at the price.
Pioneer A 300R Precision	£400	Aug 97	A bargain at £400 pure and simple. Outclasses the competition in every area.
Pioneer A40GX	£300	Oct 96	Complements all sorts of music with power and confidence. Outstanding value for money.
Quad 77	£595	Feb 95	Although classically orientated, the Quad will rock too. Precise and stable imagery and fidelity to tonal values.
Rockwell Control	£695	Jun 97	Mixes the best of solid state and valve worlds (without valves!) to produce a seductive sound.
Road Scion	£615	May 97	Great packaging and super sound make the Scion a winner.
Sony/Orion Camano	£579	Jan 96	Highly detailed and smooth sound. Worth searching out.
Sony/TA FD320H	£300	Feb 99	Partnered correctly to counterbalance its forwardness, the Sony offers a fast, rhythmic presentation.
Tec A6XTR	£700	Jun 96	Big and powerful sound, but a little unrefined with it.
Technica SE-A300 Mid	£300	Mar 99	Nominally a separate pre and power, but the pre can't work alone. Exciting but unrefined.

£800-

Audiozone Sire 6+	£1999	Mar 95	Needs the right loudspeaker but a good musical presentation is in there somewhere.
Depland CSR 14	£1099	Apr 96	A sweet and subtle sound. Fine midrange; transparent and open with vocals.
Denon GM 10	£1299	Jun 95	Dual mono construction gives strong stereo separation. Brutal resolution of detail but not the clearest ever.
Exposure Super XX	£800	Oct 95	A stringy-sounding transistor amp for rock. Build and finish could be better and price lower.
Gamma Rhythmic	£2499	Jul 96	Partnered with sensible loudspeakers of good bass depth, the Rhythm is capable of impressive performance.
Larvalle II	£3200	Apr 99	Has clarity in spades and an extremely rare tonal purity. Outclasses many transistor alternatives with ease.
Microsonic MAB02	£3735	Sep 95	A mighty confection of power, facilities and style, and it sounds good to boot.
Musical Fantasy AT201	£2499	Jun 98	Awesome power and seismic bass. A very good all-rounder with super-clean sound.
MVL Integral A2	£850	May 99	An excellent performer with any music. Adept at handling subtle details. Difficult to beat at the price.
Systeme Phase 2	£800	Apr 97	Even-handed performer deals confidently with music regardless of genre. Not as smooth as the best.
Wood Fountains Affair	£1295	May 98	A characteristically competent and musical integrated. Prefers fairly efficient loudspeakers though.
Sony/Orion Atlas	£900	Oct 97	Excellent high-end integrated with a real love of music and plenty of poke.
Tec AD X10	£1000	Sep 95	Very strong all round performer with excellent build and finish. Verging on the expensive though.
Wilson Pds. Simply 80	£2950	Mar 98	Allied to all the right 'speakers will handle all musical genres with smoothness and power.

Prices shown are those at the time of review



Audio Analogue Puccini.



MVL A2+.

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Pre-amps £ Year Verdict

under £300

AVC 1100	£150	Mar 99	Tone controls cannot be defeated and the sum total is a little metallic but value in spades.
Creek OBH-11SE	£199	Apr 99	A very lucid, natural headphone amp which scores as highly on acoustic and Classical as it does on Rock.
Creek CRH-12	£200	Jul 98	Only poor cosmetics mar the Creek. Sonically it's a gem.
Loth 30 Passive	£149	Mar 99	Won't win prizes for best build but a flexible effort for a passive. Somewhat dry presentation overall.
Musical Fidelity X-Cans	£130	Mar 98	If you haven't yet experienced the world of quality headphone listening, the X-Cans is the way to start.
Musical Fidelity X-Pre	£200	Jan 98	A smooth, sweet and musical performer.
Musical Fidelity X-Tone	£120	Mar 99	Easy-to-use stand-alone modern tone control with subtle effect. Father a bargain.
Project 7	£259	Feb 95	Immensely enjoyable and listenable, a rare mixture of sophistication and fun.
Rock RC 971	£150	Mar 99	Five line-level inputs and tone controls make for a flexible unit. Partnered by the RB-971 power amp, very good value.
Technics SU-C1000MkII	£299	Apr 98	Needs slightly more taut bass and a less grainy midrange to bring it up with the best.

Prices shown are those at the time of review

£300-£799

Audio Analogue Baffini	£475	Apr 98	Organic and transparent. Free from transistor hardness.
Aura CA200	£749	Mar 97	A smooth and sweet sound devoid of roughness.
Chord CPA1800	£440	Nov 98	The phono stage is the main area of weakness. Can sound a touch muddled at times.
Croft Epoch	£600	Jun 96	A fine sounding preamp, but the phono stage is weak in the bass.
Cyrus P	£650	Feb 96	Pre-amplifier has plenty of facilities, but sounds a little unexciting and 'conventional'.
Heybrook Signature II	£549	May 97	Impressive smoothness and tonal colour, transparent as well.
HM Audio Lab LIS	£650	Dec 95	This valve pre-amp is very good value indeed.
Howell Indus	£499	May 99	Passive pre of box-of-switches, whichever way you look at it the Indus is stylishly finished and well conceived.
Sumi Athens II	£767	May 96	More valve-like than transistor in sound; highly competent if not spectacular.
Talk Hurricane 1	£500	Jun 97	Flexible with a strong controlled sound, but won't suit all tastes.
Technics SU-C1000	£350	Feb 97	Good when mains powered, even better running on its batteries. One to consider at the price.
Thorens TTA2000	£550	Jul 95	Poor sound quality and engineering let this pre-amp down. Pricey too.
Union Res. Feather 1	£795	Aug 98	Warm but still exciting, it is only let down by a slightly recessed midrange



Musical Fidelity X-Tone.

£800-£1499

Audiolab 8000Q	£999	Jun 95	Highly recommended for its blend of operational sophistication, build and sound quality.
Clavin Preamps	£1095	Feb 98	Smooth, even and transparent. Well worth the outlay.
John Shearpe Phase 6	£995	Sep 96	Matched with a smooth amp and 'speakers the Phase 6 is capable of a transparent and rewarding performance
Orin Wikanda	£900	Apr 98	In terms of musicality and involvement it falls short.
Meridian 502	£1295	Dec 96	Transparent, detailed sound with good tonal range and very natural presentation.
Wokal Fd. Nu Vista	£1200	Sep 98	A truly competent pre-amp whose high-end sound comes with a very reasonable price tag.
Haim NAC102	£999	Apr 97	This even-handed performer images well and deals confidently with music regardless of genre.
Quant 7741	£850	Jul 96	Bright and detailed, but phono stage is inadequate at this price.
TAG McLaren PA10	£850	Nov 98	Justifies its price with a very musical and revealing performance.
TC Pre-1	£1000	Nov 96	This pre-amp is highly detailed and spacious.

£1500

Audiovalve PPP30	£1995	Mar 95	A bright and lean approach to the valve sound.
Conroy 601 MkII	£1600	Apr 99	Very musical, very revealing. A credit to the valve tradition with considerable kick in reserve.
Chord CPA 1800	£1774	Mar 98	Has it all - detail, transparency, slam and rhythm. In a word excellent.
Final Music-6	£1500	Feb 99	Partner for the Final Music-6 power amp. Battery powered.
Focusrite Red 4	£2345	Feb 96	Smooth and detailed sound. Not as clinical as some professional amps can be.
Galatron Pre	£1630	Nov 95	Smooth, but dull balance makes it suitable for bright systems.
Marantz 7	£3500	Mar 97	Superb, combines delicacy and power, especially with a vinyl source.
Michael Orca	£1650	Oct 98	With its Panasonic pot, the Orca reaches new standards of transparency and involvement.
Union Res. Mystery 2	£1750	May 98	Offers finesse, control and clarity for a very reasonable outlay.



Chord CPA-1800.

Power amps £ Year Verdict

under £800

AVC 2200	£150	Mar 99	Super value separate with first-rate sound staging. Midrange subtleties sometimes suffer but at this price...
Arctim 9P	£400	Dec 96	A detailed and open sound gives great atmosphere to all types of music.
Arctim Alpha 10P	£600	Jul 98	This power amp lags behind the best of the competition, and the build is flimsy.
Audio Analogue Donizetti	£575	Apr 98	As smart as an Armani suit, they sound powerful in a natural, organic manner
Aurum PA100	£749	Mar 97	A smooth, sweet powerful sound free from the rough brightness that afflicts many solid-states.
Creek A43	£399	Mar 99	Shows what a skilled designer can do, even when hooked up with a passive pre. A very realistic approach.
Cyrus Power	£449	Feb 96	The Cyrus Power is simply impressive in all respects.
Linn LK100	£650	Apr 98	Well built, but judged purely on a musical basis they fall short.

AUDIO ANALOGUE

In just a short while, Audio Analogue has won plenty of admirers. When Hi Fi World tested the *Puccini* Special Edition, they gave it their top star rating with the words

"Excellent sound quality ensures the *Puccini* S.E. outstrips the competition at up to £1,000". And the influential USA magazine *Stereophile* (Dec.98) praised its "harmonic richness, stunning purity of tone and sheer musicality". To top that,

the basic £475 *Puccini* won Hi Fi Choice's Best Buy for amplifiers in an up-to £1,000 group test (Feb. '98). In their words: "This is a first-rate budget amplifier that looks and sounds like an altogether more costly model. Check it out". The *Bellini* preamp and *Donizetti* power amp fared equally well. Ken Kessler in *Hi Fi News* (Jan. '98) had this to say. "A new benchmark in the value for money stakes". Now, we're proud to introduce you to the

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Prices shown are those at the time of review

Power amps £ Year Verdict

under £300

Amplifier 240	£750	Aug 97	The LK240 plays tunes exceptionally well, tonal colour and image precision are not its fortes though.
Meridian 505	£795	Aug 97	Crisp, clear images are set in a broad spread between the 'speakers but the 505 lacks stage depth and grunt.
Monarchy SM 70	£595	Jan 99	The Monarchy is a smooth, warm amp most at home with 'speakers that are easily driveable.
Moth 30 Power	£249	Mar 99	Refined approach with the lighter acoustic music but lacking a little in overall clout.
Moth Stereo 60	£549	Dec 95	This power amp unfortunately suffers from sharp sounding treble and poor depth.
Musical Fidelity X-A50	£500	Jan 98	Very smooth, sweet and musical performers, not over-analytical but very involving.
Quad 7707	£600	Jul 96	With good punch, speed and attack its not bad at all but can be a little uninspiring.
Rotel RB-971	£225	Mar 99	70 Watts a channel helps give lucid presentation with deep sound staging. Perhaps on the bright side.
Shearne Phase 3	£689	Apr 97	The Phase 3 possesses impressive clarity, detail and dynamics.
TAN Tornado 1	£500	Jun 97	A flexible power amp with a strong, controlled sound, but won't suit all tastes.
Technica SE A1000	£400	Feb 97	Smooth, warm sound has plenty of grunt when needed and is very enjoyable to listen to.
Thorens TTP 2000	£500	Jul 95	Its best feature is the key on/off switch, otherwise its a case of poor sound quality and engineering.

£800-£1499

Chameleon Tube	£995	Jan 97	Well specified and powerful, but dry and short of life. Suits Rock on bass-heavy speakers.
Chord SPM 400	£1325	Mar 98	This amp has it all - detail, transparency, slam and rhythm. In a word, excellent.
Conson GS300C	£800	Nov 98	These monoblocs have a tonal richness and bass speed rare amongst powerful amps.
Croft Series V	£800	Jun 96	Fast, clear and detailed sound will win friends in both the transistor and valve camps.
Dalby De Capo	£1469	May 95	Quality bass and a clear midband but the treble can be harsh at high volume.
DPA 200S	£1245	Jul 93	Serious audiophile product at an affordable price. Well constructed, pleasant to use and fine sounding.
Galactron Power	£1200	Nov 95	Smooth sound but dull balance make the Galactron suitable for bright systems.
HD Audio Duo	£1185	May 95	Not dissimilar to the Audiobloc monoblocs, the sound has a sweet top and amazing clarity.
Highbrook Signature II	£1051	May 97	Not quite as transparent as it could be but impresses with its smoothness and tonal colour.
Meridian 557	£1400	Dec 96	Great control and dynamics allied to seductive smoothness. A rare combination of power and delicacy.
Musical Fidelity X-A200	£1000	Aug 98	Hugely powerful and controlled, the X-A200s are still superbly musical.
MVL Integral A2	£895	May 99	An excellent performer with any music. It is hard to imagine the A2 being beaten at the price.
Myriad M100	£1000	Apr 96	The sound is a somewhat acquired taste and a little rough in places.
Omak Jewel One	£899	Jul 95	A lot of amplifier for the money. Big, warm, sweet sound places it ahead of most.
Quad 717	£800	Jul 87	The 707 embodies a rare blend of grace and power in its sleek grey casework.
Rothwell Rubicon	£949	May 99	Low on power at 8 watts but fairly musical for all that. Good resolution of detail and texture.
Shearne Phase II	£898	May 96	More valve-like than transistor in sound; highly competent if not spectacular.
TAG McLaren 60P	£850	Nov 98	Fully justifies the cost with a very musical and revealing performance.
VTE A 100	£1495	Jun 95	Lovers of light piano-based fare and Baroque music will appreciate this amp's delicacy.

£1500-

Audiovalve LC8	£1995	Mar 95	Eschews the traditional lavish tube sound for a brighter and leaner approach.
Cary 301	£3055	Nov 98	The 301 puts the 300B's traditional virtues to good use in a push-pull design that will drive most loudspeakers.
Cary 300B SE	£3975	Feb 95	Cary have a winning amplifier that is a prime example of how a 300B can sound.
Escher Amp	£2925	Feb 98	Very natural, substantial presentation with lots of power on tap.
Final Music 6	£1500	Feb 99	Battery powered amp puts convincing scale and three-dimensionality into suitably sensitive loudspeakers.
Gamma Aeon 5	£2057	Feb 96	Powerful, smooth and detailed sound. Not as clinical as some professional amplifiers can be.
Gamma Aeon 9	£4999	Apr 97	Sound quality of these monoblocs is impressive but marred by a rather obvious hum. Build could be better.
Marquart 2	£8000	Mar 97	These monoblocs are superb, producing a beguiling performance of great control and verve.
Michell Alecto	£1989	Oct 98	The new Alecto is crisper, cleaner and more controlled than earlier incarnations.
Orion RC750	£6600	Aug 96	A powerful grip on usic, but articulate and detailed too. A rare combination.
Shearne Phase 1	£1999	Oct 94	Good sound quality and an impressive tonal balance.
Symetra 1	£1550	Oct 98	The Symetra monoblocs impress with their grip. They run hot and sound warm.
Tube Technology Genesis	£2599	Jun 94	Valve monoblocs that produce explosive bass, midrange as clear as a bell and shimmering treble.
Unison Res. Brain 3000	£4250	May 98	Powerful, neutral sounding amps thanks to their modified 300B valves, but a little expensive for the same reason.
Unison Res. Power 35	£1525	Aug 98	A great compromise between delicacy, power and practicality. Very musically satisfying, too.
Valve N15	£2350	Jul 98	The S15's purity and clarity are impossible to beat for the money. Bass is not brilliant, but still better than most.
VTE POW-1	£2000	Nov 96	This power amplifier is smooth and seductive, although a little pricey.

CD Players £ Year Verdict

under £300

AKC CD8	£150	Oct 97	The CD8 is free from grain but can sound too polished at times.
Cambridge CD4SE	£200	Feb 98	Natural and very life-like, the CD4SE embarrasses many pricier players.
Denon DCD-425	£150	Apr 97	Consp. up-beat player which is inconsistent in its overall presentation.
Denon DCD-635	£180	Feb 98	Rhythmically slick and dynamic, the Denon errs to the cool side of neutral.
Denon DCD-835	£280	Nov 98	Warm and smooth, the 835 is laid-back rather than in-your-face.
Grinding CD3	£240	Sep 94	Great for simple Jazz and Folk, but soft bass slows things down.
JVC XL-4500	£157	Jan 98	Slightly muddled in the bass, the '230 isn't the most rhythmic of players.



Final Music-6.



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CD Players £ Year Verdict

under £300

Kenwood DP-3080/II	£180	Feb 98	One of the best budget all-rounders there is. A shade treble-heavy.
Kenwood DPF 3010	£180	Jan 99	A fine performer. Lacks only some of the spirit of its predecessors.
Marantz CD-63	£249	Jun 94	Upholds the Marantz tradition of lively CD players.
Marantz CD-67	£270	Nov 96	Fine vocal projection and treble. Bass is deep if not that tight.
NAD 510	£200	Oct 95	Hard to criticise at the price, with a typically smooth, fluid NAD sound.
NAD 520	£170	Jan 99	Warm and smooth, this is a cultured player. Can be over-civilised at times.
Philips CD721	£130	Feb 96	Not the most accurate machine, but holds its own at the price.
Phonon PD-103	£140	Feb 95	Rolled-off treble limits detail. Light bass retains foot-tapping ability.
Quad 87	£?	May 93	One of the top players at the price with great speed and grip.
Real RCD 940113	£230	Oct 94	Controlled and invigorating player albeit a touch sterile.
Teac CD-P3450SE	£200	May 97	Refuses to become flustered. Can lack emotion as a result, though.
Teac CD-P4100	£249	Nov 92	Like many of its contemporaries, the Teac is too smooth to shine.
Technics SL-PG490A	£100	Jan 99	In spite of a bias towards bass and treble, this machine remains a bargain.
Technics SL-P5710	£200	Feb 98	Typical Technics' bright and bassy sound. Prefers Dance and Rock.
Yamaha CDX-480	£200	Mar 95	Mature, laid-back machine drops points for inferior timing and imaging.
Yamaha CDX-560	£230	Feb 98	Detailed, refined but not particularly engaging or exciting.
Yamaha CDX-593	£180	Jan 99	Lean and up-front, the Yamaha is involving on Rock but can sound rough.

Prices shown are those at the time of review

£300-£799

AKC CDM7	£340	Jun 96	Very musical outfit which gains sweetness with optional valve output stage.
Arcam Alpha 7	£320	Jan 97	Superbly-designed, instinctively musical player destined for success.
Arcam Alpha 8SE	£599	Jun 98	The 8SE builds on the strengths of the standard 8 with HDCD filtering.
Arcam Alpha 9	£799	Dec 98	Apart from its tonal brightness, the Alpha 9 is a very capable machine.
Audio Associates Paganini	£749	Apr 99	Effortless, wholly musical delivery. The Paganini does for CD replay what its stablemate Puccini does for amplification.
Audio Innovations Alto	£449	May 96	Grainless treble is detailed but the Alto misses that vital emotional spark.
Audio CD56	£450	Jul 93	High measured distortion mars the treble and bass is dry.
Creek CD43	£499	Oct 98	A competent player with a musicality that will seduce any music-lover.
Cyrus dAD 1.5	£398	May 99	Great detail and imaging with intimate music. Classical and Jazz suit the 1.5 best but Rock can sound harsh.
Cyrus dAD3	£598	Dec 96	Lacklustre with Classical, dramatic and lively on Dance and Rock.
Denon DCD-1550AR	£350	Jul 98	Clean and precise, the Denon lags only in warmth and openness.
Harman/Kardon HD730	£300	Aug 96	Strong on dynamics and drive, but lifeless treble can dampen music.
Linn Mink	£798	Apr 95	Tonally hard but possesses many, if not all, of the Linn rhythmic strengths.
Marantz CD-63 KI-Sig.	£500	Sep 96	This is a rare player, greater than the sum of its parts.
Marantz CD-63SE	£350	May 95	Taken as a whole, the CD-63SE is one hell of a CD player. No digital nasties.
Myryad T20	£600	Dec 98	With its brightness balanced by warm ancillaries the T20 will win friends.
Onyx CD100	£650	Mar 97	Clean and tidy on electronic music. Not so good with acoustic material.
Pioneer PD-S904	£400	Sep 96	Fluid midrange leads a dry bass and tonally-limited treble.
Real RCD-3050A (Digital)	£375	Dec 94	Fast, clean sound verges on the clinical at times.
Rotel RCD-911	£350	Sep 98	Refinement is a plus point, but lack of vitality holds the Rotel back.
Rotel RCD-915	£450	Sep 96	Tuneful, pungent bass are the pros, flat sound staging and tone the cons.
Sony CDP-X3000ES	£500	Mar 98	Neutral, dynamic and stylish but not quite up with the best.
Sony CDP-XE100E	£300	Mar 97	In spite of fine sound staging and clarity, the Sony fails to involve.
Teac CD-5	£350	Jan 96	Clean and dry, the Teac is rather sterile compared to the competition.
Technics SL-P5710	£450	Sep 95	Not the last word in bass control. Midrange is more persuasive.
Thule CD100	£600	Apr 99	A very smooth and refined player with the added bonus of good detailing. Can lack rhythmic bite at times.
Trichord Genesis	£549	Sep 95	Warm and bassy, but extremely natural. Not the most consistent player.
Trichord Revelation	£799	May 97	When it's good, it's very good indeed. Can get confused on dense mixes.



Sony CDP-X3000ES.



Marantz CD-63 KI-S.

£800-£1499

AudioLab 8000	£1000	Dec 96	Sweet treble and full midrange give the 8000CD a lucid sound.
Copland CDA 216	£1199	Feb 99	Perhaps lacks the last ounce of strength on Rock, nonetheless has winning all-round ability.
Cyrus CDP1.2	£1279	Dec 97	Its warm, musical sound plus HDCD compatibility are a strong combination.
Cyrus dAD-7	£899	Jan 95	Up with the best at the money, the Cyrus simply sounds 'right'.
DNA Reference	£895	Jun 95	Breathtaking imagery and dynamics. Not strictly accurate, but who cares?
Harman/Kardon HD7725	£800	Jan 94	Construction is price-correct, but not the excessively relaxed sound.
Haystack Signature	£989	Oct 97	The Haybrook loses out because of its rough treble and lack of clarity.
Hollt X-ray	£950	May 98	It's not cheap but the X-ray scores for firm bass and exciting presentation.
LFD Mistral	£999	Nov 97	The Mistral is outclassed in areas like pace and bass depth.
Marantz CD-17	£800	Mar 96	The CD-17 has a presentation which excels in musicality and lucidity.
Marantz CD-17 XI-S	£1300	Sep 97	The KI-S has a valve-like smoothness and clarity.
Meridian 506	£875	May 95	Characteristically dry Meridian balance which could do with more emotion.
Meridian Fidelit X-Ray	£800	Feb 99	Bright, clear and well-built, the X-Ray's transparency can be hard on poor recordings.
Pink Triangle Numeral	£1099	Apr 96	This very natural one-box fully justifies its £1000 price tag.
Quad 77	£850	Nov 95	Competent, entertaining machine with neat styling and remote.
Roksan Caspian	£895	Aug 97	The Caspian is a gifted player well worth its asking price.
Sageon DTS 1	£850	Mar 93	A superb all-rounder with particularly convincing rhythms.
Teac VRDS-10SE	£850	Apr 96	Draws you into the music. Soundstaging fine but treble is a little bright.
Teac VR75 SE	£1300	Aug 96	Solid build doesn't make up for sound which lags in integration and detail.
XTC CDP-1	£1250	Dec 97	Rhythmically satisfying, but can sound hard in the wrong system.

CD Players £ Year Verdict

£1500-

Anthem CD1	£1600	Mar 98	Sweet sound and numerous features make the Anthem fine value for money.
Burmester 937	£5460	Sep 94	Amongst the best with its belt-drive transport.
Meridian CDM-7000	£2635	Dec 95	Unmatched quality from CD at a high but fair price.
Meridian 508.24	£1995	Jul 98	The 508.24 is one of the top performers at its price.
Naim CD1	£1998	Apr 97	CD2 excites at the expense of subtlety. More at home in a Naim system.
Pink Triangle Literal	£2099	Feb 98	One-box player with sound capable of mixing it with the best.
Teac CD 81	£2300	Jun 92	You'll either love or hate this machine's great flair and confidence.



Roksan Caspian CD.

Turntables £ Year Verdict

Under £800

Clearaudio Solution	£750	Feb 99	If you seek powerful presentation with musicality over absolute finesse, this could be the answer.
Linn Sora	£400	Sep 94	Definitely a turntable for devotees of attack and strong bass lines. Not strong on imaging.
Michel Gyrodec SE	£775	Apr 99	Great sound, superb build and excellent upgradability make the 'spider' a wonder at the price.
Minihor Maestro	£539	Jan 94	Silent and beautifully made, with transparent reproduction.
NAD 533	£200	Nov 94	Based on a Rega Planar 2. Both pleasant to use and look at with a mature sound, all for £200.
Pink Triangle Transport	£575	Oct 97	Simply the best at the money. Combines PT's customary transparency with real authority.

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Audio Note DAC-4 Sig, PQ's own. Purchased by us, upgradeable to '5 for £1,850 but why bother?		
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PT da Capo, with 20 bit (1307) Filter, £400 upgrade to 24 bit		
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Theta DS Pro Gen II, 5 years old		
Theta built, Theta sound	£4,600	£1450

AMPLIFIERS		
ATC SCA2 Line Pre-amp, 1 year old. Mint, see also ATC SCM20 below	£2,499	£1200
Audio Note Japan Ongaku, 27 wpc privately owned mint sample. One of the last Kondo SE amps	59k	£14995
Audio Note Japan Kassai Silver Ex-dem, slight mark 18 wpc One of the last Kondo SE amps		
Audio Note Japan Kegon-C 18 wpc	33k	£12000
5 years old, only six made Easily the best amp created	84k	£15000
Chord SPM 1200B amp (black) 250wpc, as new, hardly run-in	£4,495	£2750
Gryphon Limited, MM, MC line Twin mono 4 x psu. An ultimate Pre-amp at medium price	£8,500	£2995
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Rosewood, 6 months mint, as new. ProAc Response Three (mahogany)	£3,500	£1500

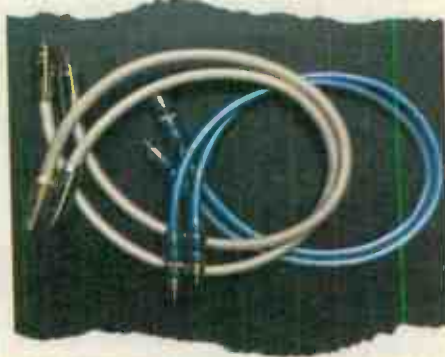
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POWER CORRUPTS... (YOUR MUSIC)

Musical ambience depends on much more than careful choice of equipment. We can reliably advise on mains purity, equipment support, room acoustic treatment and perhaps most important of all, interconnects and speaker cables. Make it your 4-point plan if you want your system to work for you.

YOU NEED SOME SUPPORT

Solving problems of distant customers by phone, son of Audio Salon has grown up. AudioSource is the mail order and online division; it occupies our spacious lower ground level. We even make our own interconnects and prepare Audio Note cables. When you visit us online, you will see not just an extended catalogue, it will be a unique guide to serious Hi-Fi, but still no substitute to lending us a day of your life... no one leaves disappointed or without a focus on the optimisation of their budget. We have customers who travel from afar, and our Travel Guide is available on request.

Our Information sheets in print are **Leading Questions:** on Cables and Interconnects; **Power Corrupts...** (your music) - 2am sound all day; **You Need Some Support** (or rather your equipment does); and finally **Confused? So Are We** - the choice of digital formats.

If you expect to get music from dirty mains, contaminated arteries, and vibrating shelves then carry on wasting more money on equipment. Significantly, Levinson is one make closest to plug'n'play, with great attention to fully balanced signal transmission, mechanical integrity against microphony and pure power (mains regeneration in the reference level).



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Prices shown are those at the time of review

Turntables £ Year Verdict

Under £800

Project 1.2	£200	Jun 97	A bargain at £200 with its substantial and involving sound.
Project 6	£380	Dec 93	Involvement and rhythm are priorities. Highly recommended.
Project 6.1	£435	Sep 94	The 6.1 gives a very full, strong sound. A very exciting deck.
Systemdek 232	£500	Aug 96	Clear and precise sound through midrange and treble puts it up with more expensive rivals.
Systemdek IIX300	£415	Sep 94	Detailed sound stage and broad imaging with a good, even range of tonal colour.
Systemdek IXX	£450	Jan 93	Combined with an SME 309 it achieves great results, with a massive sound stage.
Thorens TD166 Mk6	£405	Sep 94	Totally smooth with a warm midrange, but a little too laid back.
Thorens TD16C	£180	Feb 95	A good, basic budget bargain.
Thorens TD280 Mk4	£199	Jun 93	Superbly lucid and clear midrange, but lower reaches are a little lightweight.
Virtual Reality Flexor 501	£600	Nov 95	With fine detail resolution, transparency and a neutral balance the Reson rs1 represents super value.
VW Junior	£500	Oct 97	The Junior is a very good deck indeed, with an assured and involving sound.

Turntables £ Year Verdict

£800-

Alphason Symphony	£1860	Nov 92	The Symphony has to be one of the best the British can offer. It's expensive, but a true sophisticate.
Michell Orbe	£1950	Apr 95	Fast and detailed with crisp sheer treble and clean, deep bass.
Opus 3 Confessor/Cantus	£900	Oct 95	Solid as a rock and almost as heavy, it's a satisfying performer, but not quite the best.
Origin Live Oasis-A	£950	Dec 98	Nice looks and a good sound, but can be bettered on price.
Origin Live Oasis-S	£2250	Oct 98	The Oasis-S is a cool, lean but very transparent performer thanks to battery power. Up against strong competition.
Project Perspective	£900	Aug 98	Aesthetically, the Perspective is a winner, but better sound can be had from cheaper decks.
PT Anniversary	£2390	Oct 96	With its battery supply and ultra-quiet DC motor, the Pink displays great accuracy and neutrality. A top-flight deck.
Roksan Xerxes X	£1295	Jan 97	An undoubted bargain and class leader in all areas with a precise, confident and well-balanced sound.
TMC Model 20	£2500	Oct 92	This is a deck for those with a substantial record collection who demand the best. Exemplary sound.
Technics SL-1200 LTD	£1000	Apr 97	Looks expensive at £1000, but don't let that put you off the capable standard version.
Wilson Broadcast	£1775	Jul 96	Gives a technically excellent rendition but fails to really communicate the emotion in music.
Wils. Bonesch Full Circle	£2000	Mar 98	Offers clarity in abundance with a natural ease. Looks gorgeous too.

Phono stages £ Year Verdict

Under £500

Creek OBH-90BH-2	£160	Nov 97	One of the best MC phono stages on the market at the price
Creek OBH-90BH-1	£110	Nov 97	Smooth and truly musical, exceedingly worthy entry-level phono stage.
Denon LP Drive DP-2	£350	Sep 97	A beautifully made, fine sounding device that looks great too.
EAR 834P	£340	Oct 94	Very fine phono stage with precise imagery and a bargain at the price.
Lafayette Black Cube	£395	Oct 98	Capable of involvement, neutrality and insight usually the preserve of stages three or four times the price.
LPD Mistral	£299	Sep 97	The most lucid and musical budget phono stage around - a true audiophile bargain.
Musical Fidelity X-1P	£130	May 99	First-class inexpensive phono stage. MM and MC inputs catered for. Low on distortion, high on clarity, build legendary.
NAD PP1	£40	Sep 98	At this price the NAD is an accomplished all-rounder. Slowish bass will suit leaner systems though.
RED Discover	£35	Jan 97	A bargain. Beguilingly musical presentation, with more than enough detail and power for a mere £35.
Rotel RQ-970BX	£130	Nov 94	Combine with a good cheap line level integrated and it will show you how good vinyl can be.
Sedley Rayley MCMM	£399	May 98	The Sedley combines transparency and fine dynamics with excellent rhythmic ability.

£500-

Anthem Pre 1P	£899	Aug 98	Despite a sizeable price tag the Anthem offers a smooth, lucid sound and superb build quality.
Audio Innovations P2	£749	Feb 96	Fantastic bass and super insight make this one of the best phono stages around.
Aviclab 4000/PA	£800	Oct 94	Instruments can have a somewhat flat perspective, but excellent clarity
DAK DMP 2000D	£495	Oct 94	Could be too forceful for some, but with excellent detail and extremely powerful bass.
Kinohow Perception	£525	Oct 94	Extremely impressive results, especially with MM cartridges.
Line Linn	£850	Oct 97	Marries beautifully into the Linn family, but not too hot with other components.
Michell Ho	£528	Oct 94	Gives a thoroughly cohesive picture of a recording with a very tight and rhythmical bass.
Michell Ho HR	£850	May 93	Perhaps too good for some record collections. Extremely revealing.
Roksan Artaxerxes/D55	£945	Oct 97	Doesn't worry about genre, it just gets on with the job of making music in an enjoyable way.
Sono Frontiers Phono 1	£2000	Apr 98	Expensive, yes, overpriced, no. The Phono 1 is a superb all-round phono stage.
Unison Simply Phono	£495	Mar 96	Liquid sound with great dynamics, but a little hissy and muddled too. Beguiling, but not perfect.

Cartridges £ Year Verdict

Under £200

Decca's Alpha	£130	Apr 99	Tends to sound quite hard at the top but imaging and detail are good. Best in a warm system.
Denon DL103M	£110	Aug 97	First manufactured in 1963, it sounds mature and sure-footed rather than over the hill.
Denon DL100	£65	Mar 94	May be a little soft-natured for some. Splendid dynamics and an even tonal balance.
DNM Mica	£185	Feb 98	Better Goldring's 1042 without difficulty. MC quality from an MM.
Goldring 1042	£90	Jan 93	One of the best MMs at the price with stainless delivery.
Goldring 1012GX	£60	Jul 93	Great with Rock music, the 1012GX is the best value low-price MM.
Ortofon Phono Cartridge	£119	Apr 97	Good tracking and inoffensive sound, but somehow lacks sparkle in any department.
Linn K9	£58	Sep 94	Rhythmic bite compensates for a lack of vibrancy in music (MM).
Ortofon 104G	£100	Jan 93	Smooth operator and very good value for money (MM).
Ortofon MC15 Super II	£110	Mar 95	In the right system, can be masterful with its dry and accurate response.
Ortofon MC15	£170	Sep 95	A considerable achievement that adds true verve a pizzazz to the MC15 Super II
Roksan Corus Black	£120	Jan 93	Light and dry presentation with good presentation (MM).
Roksan Corus MM	£185	Sep 97	If you like the V15 you'll love the Brazen. Works well with an SME 3009.

£200-

Cartridge Man Music Moving Iron	£549	Feb 99	Good price, high output and a winning musicality make this Moving Iron cartridge the one to beat.
DM Linn	£1300	Jan 99	A Goldring make-over that tracks well and sounds good. Pricey, though.
DNM Rica MM Cartridge	£255	Jun 98	This betters the Mica, has super-MM virtues.
Dynavector DV201-H	£299	May 99	Delightfully musical sound makes the Dynavector a very strong contender in the budget MC stakes.
EMT HST6	£850	Oct 96	Solid bass and smooth, musical sound make this rare MC cartridge worth the money.
Goldring Exact VX	£495	May 97	Has fine midrange clarity, but is bettered in other areas by cheaper competitors.
Linn Arkiv	£1200	Dec 97	Linn fans will love it but it's up against strong competition.
Linn Klyde	£489	Jun 95	Sumptuous sounding cartridge that borders on the bass heavy but has a good feel for music.
Linn Lydian	£649	Jun 95	Extremely smooth, civilised MC with no obvious weaknesses.
Ortofon Jubilee	£1250	Mar 99	Detailed, musical and sure-footed, the Jubilee goes a long way towards justifying its elevated price tag.
Ortofon MC25F	£225	Sep 95	Delightfully sweet, musical sound with added refinement on FL that takes some beating.
Ortofon MC25 Super	£450	Jun 95	Involving yet refined presentation but some could feel it's slightly coloured.
Ortofon Rohmann	£1000	Apr 96	A top quality MC with superb tonal quality and excellent imagery.
Shure V15	£295	Mar 97	Warm, dynamic rendition of music with great detail and impact (MM).
Transfiguration Spirit	£1000	Jul 98	A balanced all-rounder that misses out only on the last ounce of detail and bass weight.
Van Den Hul MC10	£840	Jun 95	The MC10 is very hard to fault. A honey, pure and simple.
VH Grasshopper IV	£3750	Dec 95	Allows music to flow with superb fluidity and reveal things which were previously unheard - at a price!



Pink Triangle Tarantella.



Sonic Frontiers Phono 1.



van den Hul Grasshopper.

Tone arms £ Year Verdict

Hadcock GH 228 SE	£595	Dec 98	Construction won't worry SME but its sound quality will unsettle a lot of the competition.
Origin Live RB210/PB330	varies	Nov 97	These modified arms are a considerable improvement on the originals
SME 309	£689	Jan 93	Tight, neutral sound with good tonality, but lacks the IVs pace and precision.
SME IV	£828	Mar 92	Sexy chassis and staggering engineering along with potent performance earn it a place in audio history.

Prices shown are those at the time of review

Tuners £ Year Verdict

Under £300

AAC T7	£130	Jul 97	Although it has a tempting price, its sound quality is poor compared with its rivals.
Arcam Alpha 7	£230	Mar 97	An attractive, smooth sounding tuner that won't break the bank.
Cambridge T500	£180	Feb 99	The T500 is one of the most gifted tuners under £500; a very accomplished all-round performer.
Herman/Kardon TU 990	£200	Jul 96	Sound quality is generally impressive. Let down by a rather constricted sound stage, but still good value.
Kennwood KT-2080	£130	Feb 97	Smooth, even balance allows the KT-2080 to convince with whatever it's receiving. £130 well spent.
Masanz ST-57	£150	Oct 97	The ST-57 is a smooth, warm tuner but lacks a little clarity and transparency.
Mosconi Cystal FM7	£299	Apr 94	Musical, communicative and extremely detailed and a steal at the price.
NAD 412	£190	Jun 96	A remarkably musical, natural sounding tuner. Unbeatable at the price, or even twice the price for that matter.
Orbits T421	£160	May 94	A competent machine, but time has taken its toll on the sound quality.
Ring Radio	£230	Jan 95	Sounds on the whole more than its price, but in other respects it isn't especially competitive.
Royal RT-930AX	£175	Aug 94	The RT-930AX is a glowing little bargain, real quality at a very realistic price.
Sony ST-SAMES	£250	Apr 97	The Sony is worth every penny of its asking price. If you're a fan of radio this is one to go for.
Sony ST-SE700	£180	Aug 97	The ST-SE700 is one of the best at this price. LW reception is a welcome bonus.
Technica ST-01-360L	£140	Jun 95	Not a bad buy at all and a very good fit for budget and mid-price systems.
Yamaha TX300 RX3	£200	Feb 95	If you want something for casual listening with superior aesthetics, this might be the one for you.



Hadcock 228 SE.

£300+

Adcom GFT 558-2	£399	May 93	Quite musical but does not rejuvenate the waves! Good solid performance but less than luxurious.
Bussinger 301	£4347	Nov 94	This is not a cheap tuner, but its cheaper than buying a radio station, which is the only possible alternative.
Creek T43	£399	May 98	A great little tuner. This is the one in the price bracket.
Dinon TU 514	£400	Mar 98	A stylish, well-built tuner which has a detailed sound but needs careful partnering
Fantare FT 1	£1350	Mar 95	Whether it's sweaty disco or symphony hall, the Fantare comes up to scratch.
Kennwood KT-300L	£300	Oct 95	A good value, excellent sounding rds tuner, but lacks full EON facilities
Linn Karik	£1645	Mar 92	Commendable basic performance but, considering the price there are limitations.
Magnus Dynast FT101A	£749	Apr 92	Worth auditioning but bass rather dry and light.
Marpitz ST-17	£600	May 99	Knock-out build quality and rich velvety sound. Poor-signal mute a bit too enthusiastic.
Mosconi 304	£660	Mar 96	A clear, natural sound with good punch. Has strong rivals at the price, but acquires itself well.
Micromega Tuner	£700	Jul 95	An unusual design from Micromega that's well built but sonically unrewarding and expensive.
NAD T20	£330	Jul 94	Well worth auditioning, even if you've never previously considered a receiver.
Naim NAT 03	£499	Sep 93	Soft and pure, especially across the midband. Speech very well reproduced plus solid weighty bass.
Nakamichi RT30	£350	Dec 94	Looks good, but the sound quality isn't really worth the asking price
Pioneer F-04HDS	£300	Dec 98	One sole mark against the class-leading transparency is its slightly dry character.
Pioneer F-04RDS	£350	Nov 95	Well engineered and competent tuner, but a little uninspiring.
Royal Micro RHT10	£895	Mar 94	This classy looking tuner can hold its head up high amongst the best tuners at the price.
Royal RT-930AX	£500	Apr 95	The price of twenty concert tickets, and for that you can listen as if you were there. A bargain.
TAG McLaren T10	£1100	Mar 99	Extremely well built with a lucid if slightly dry sound. The only real drawback is the high price.
Thorens TRT-300	£500	Dec: 97	An otherwise competent tuner is let down by a rather processed character.



Rotel Michi Tuner.

Cassette £ Year Verdict

Under £300

Aiwa AG-F580	£150	Apr 98	No Dolby S, but three heads and two capstans make the Aiwa a bargain.
Danon DFM-530	£160	May 96	Good enough for the price and no worse than the competition.
Danon DRM-220S	£230	Aug 96	Top sound quality with ferric and chrome makes this deck a steal.
Kenwood CF-4	£250	Jan 95	Fair on pre-recordeds. OK when recording, but speed stability isn't great.
JVC TD-VH62	£300	Sep 98	Only the lack of Dolby S conspires against the otherwise excellent JVC.
Kennwood KT-300G	£200	Jan 97	Stable transport gives fine results on metal and chrome. Rough on ferrics.
Nad 412	£230	Jan 96	Decent playback and good recording when used carefully.
NAD 414	£270	Sep 95	Excellent electronics are let down by a low-grade transport.
Rotel PD-3000X	£230	Oct 95	A solid, competent machine which is reasonable value for money.
Sony TC-K211	£150	Dec 93	Auto-tuning is mediocre and the general results are unexceptional.
Sony TC-K480	£170	Jan 93	A mix of average heads and electronics doesn't make for happy taping.
Teco V-610	£100	Apr 97	The V-610's performance matches its price well, but audiophile it isn't.
Teco V-800	£150	Sep 94	Satisfactory for in-car recordings, but the low price shows.
Yamaha KX-580 SE	£250	Sep 97	The '580 lives up to its SE tag with a fine performance in all areas.

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Naim NAP 135 P/Amps pair (2YR warranty)(3510.00)	£2590.00	Rega XEL Speakers (BLK) (WOW!) . . . (1040.00)	£479.00

Prices shown are those at the time of review



Panasonic DVD.



Sharp 722 portable.



Sonic Frontiers 3.

Cassette £ Year Verdict

£300-

Model	£	Year	Verdict
Altec AD-S 100	£300	Feb 95	Vice-free playback is mirrored by impressive recording.
Denon D15-210	£300	Jan 92	On the right tapes, the Denon repays with delightful sound quality.
JVC TD-V1010	£400	Sep 92	Disappointing on replay but recording is another kettle of fish altogether.
Remond KV-7000S	£330	Dec 94	Convincing all-rounder except for heavy-handed noise reduction.
Nakamichi 1.5	£500	Jan 92	The Cassette Deck 1.5 has no rivals in its ability to recreate a realistic performance.
Nakamichi CR-1	£780	Jun 93	Not perfect but as close as you can get for the money.
Nakamichi DR-3	£300	Mar 93	Unfortunately keeping the price down keeps performance below Nak's norm.
Orion TA250	£350	Oct 94	Top transport but the electronics aren't on a par.
Pioneer CT-95	£1000	Mar 97	On chrome and ferric, the '95 is smooth and natural. Not so good with metals.
Pioneer CT-S100S Precision	£340	Feb 99	Three heads, ease of use and high quality make the Dolby S equipped Precision a strong contender
Pioneer CT-S740S	£430	Jun 96	Complex but superb in every important area.
Royce TC-R110	£330	Feb 94	Muffled on pre-recordeds but pulls out all the stops on recordings.
Sony V-6030S	£550	Nov 97	Solid build and solid sounds. Top-notch at the price.
Sony V-6020	£650	Aug 95	One of the highest quality Dolby S decks available.
Technics RS-AZ7	£300	Jul 96	Excellent bass but mid and treble lack dynamics. Auto-tunes poorly on metal.

DVD £ Year Verdict

Model	£	Year	Verdict
Denon DVD-3000	£700	Aug 98	The Denon is a fine performer with CD and better still with 24/96.
Denon DVD-5000	£1500	Mar 99	Build is second to none. Sound is very solid convincing, but not as musical as the 3000.
Panasonic DVD-A350	£700	Jul 98	The A350 wipes out the CD-only competition at the price and threatens players up to £2000.
Panasonic DVD-L10	£1000	Nov 98	Isn't cheap, but it's an outstanding portable and a capable domestic device.
Sony DFP-675	£700	Aug 98	The Sony is warm and smooth but lacks clarity and precision.

Minidisc £ Year Verdict

Model	£	Year	Verdict
Denon DMD-1000	£300	Sep 98	With its uncoloured and natural approach, the Denon is digital done right.
Goldstone DMD DMD	£199	Apr 99	Well-tailored CD/MD pairing and a doddle to use. Sound quality is spot on for the price.
JVC XM 220	£230	Sep 99	Well-built recorder. Good but not exceptional as Minidisc improves generally.
Kenwood DM7-9020	£500	Aug 99	An excellent tool for home recording; combines convenience, superb sound and a fair price.
Kenwood DM-7090	£500	Apr 97	If your heart was set on a Nakamichi cassette, have a listen to the Kenwood instead!
Kenwood LM-5000	£500	Jan 98	One of the best MD machines to date but CDR has the sonic edge
Kenwood DM-5000	£330	Feb 99	Analogue recordings are especially good. Lack of digital recording level is a small setback.
Remond DMC-DT1	£330	Mar 98	This portable offers fair performance on the move but isn't the last word in sound quality.
Sharp 722 portable	£230	Aug 99	Flash looks with solid build. First-class portable with domestic potential, but it isn't cheap.
Sony MDS-ES30 MD	£300	Feb 97	Impressive sound and unmatched convenience make an excellent buy.

Headphones £ Year Verdict

Model	£	Year	Verdict
Ergo Model 2	£140	Mar 99	Wonderfully lucid and transparent panel-like sound.
Sennheiser Plan 3	£100	Mar 99	Clarity and openness are their traits, rather than slamming bass, but still good value.
Sennheiser HD 580	£200	Nov 98	In the company of a smooth, warm system the 580s can shine.
Sennheiser HD 501 V2	£1000	Feb 95	Electrostatic that set a class standard and can put a case for chucking out your power amp and 'speakers.
Vivanco FMH-6800	£80	May 98	Have a lot of potential but basic operating problems have to be cleaned up first.
Vivanco SP100	£50	Nov 95	Excitement that is rarely heard in headphones, but have a little trouble with heavy orchestral loads.

CD Transports £ Year Verdict

Model	£	Year	Verdict
Apollon 9000 CDM	£1249	Aug 94	Distinguished by a wide array of facilities, thoughtfully designed and high quality.
Conrad Disc Master	£1800	Jul 94	Smooth and cohesive. The Disc Master looks good and comes with the Dac Master within the price.
OPA Enlightenment	£695	Mar 95	Solid and lifelike sound with Rock music and full bodied on Classical.
Kenwood DP-X0010	£530	Feb 92	Superb build for the money and a very musical sound. Benefits greatly from clocking.
Shionogi Duo	£3435	Apr 93	Excellent build quality and a sound quality to match.
Sony ST-4A	£1595	Jun 94	Isn't cheap but has a solid dependable sound with a big, powerful presentation.
Parasound C/BD-2000	£1695	Jun 97	The belt drive is an interesting idea but the Parasound is bettered by cheaper transports.
IT Central	£1440	Feb 95	Heart-stopping speed and impact contribute to what is an exceptionally good machine.
Royal RDO 980	£450	Jul 96	Good, clean dynamic sound with a neutral and pure midrange tone.

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CD Transports £ Year Verdict

Sonic Frontiers 3	£6999	Sep 98	A handsome machine both sonically and aesthetically. We love the camera aperture-style loading system.
Sonic Frontiers SFT-1	£2295	Aug 96	Top flight machine with an easy, musical and enjoyable sound, for those that can afford it.
Tec P 30	£2500	Jun 97	Costs a lot of money and sounds nothing short of superb.
Tec VRDS T1	£499	Feb 95	Enjoyable player with good insight. Good finish and keen pricing make it a thoroughly good buy.
Thomas TCD 2000	£900	Jun 96	A soft and warm sound will please vinyl lovers, but it's not the last word in detail.
XTC CDT1	£1200	Apr 96	A warm and musical sound with a taste of high-end refinement and detail.

Prices shown are those at the time of review

CD Convertors £ Year Verdict

Alphason TS D 1	£300	Jan 99	Smooth, natural and relaxed on the ear, highly persuasive with acoustic material. A bit soft on Rock and Dance.
Arcam SB500	£750	Aug 97	Smooth and accurate treble and easy-going rhythm. Measured and engaging; good value too.
AudioLab 8000DAC	£900	Aug 97	Treble roll-off serves to remove some of the music's sparkle; lags behind the group leaders somewhat.
Cambridge Dacmagic	£150	Jun 95	Instant upgrade for a budget player but out of its depth with In a properly designed hi-fi CD player.
Chord DSC 900 DAC	£1700	Dec 98	The Chord combines smooth composure with musicality and transparency. Fort Knox build and priced to match.
Creek OBH-14	£239	Jun 99	Combined DAC and passive pre-amp; at the money there is no competition.
DPA Enlightenment dac	£795	Mar 95	Powerful, taut bass and remarkably solid higher frequencies. A nice touch with acoustic music especially.
DPA Enlightenment	£825	Aug 97	An engrossing listen with good manners to boot. Never uninvolved or lacklustre, plays with realism.
DPA Line Da 3	£300	Nov 95	Don't be misled by the name - it's the budget convertor to have. Impossible to criticise for the money.
DPA SX512 DAC	£8000	Jun 98	A real smoothie for high-end conversion. Given the right transport, an outstanding sound is on the cards.
Marantz S1 Processor/PSU	£895	Aug 97	If detail is high on your list of priorities, with a more forceful, hard-edged presentation, this looks like a very good bet.
Midiman Flying Calf	£109	Feb 99	A great little DAC which simply can't be beaten at the price. A bargain in all areas.
Midiman Flying Cow	£300	Jun 98	First-class as a DAC; doubles as an ADC for archiving to CDR - great value.
Monarchy Audio Delux 13	£595	Aug 97	Never offensive; its multi-bit convertor packs a mighty bass punch. Useful analogue volume control.
Monarchy Delux 13	£795	May 95	Delicate brightness does a lot to open out music and create a sense of space.
Musical Fidelity X-24K	£300	Jan 99	Crisp, detailed and dynamic, the MF is a genuine music maker, if a touch hard and bright at times.
Musical Fidelity X DAC	£300	Nov 97	Outstanding value for money. Excellent sound in the usual attractively styled package.
Orelli DA188	£399	Jun 95	Nicely built using quality components, with a lively sound. Solid bass, tidy midrange and crisp treble.
Phon Technig Da Capo	£1400	Feb 95	Old hand at the game. One of the first HDCD-compatible convertors still a fine piece of gear.
Pros Audio	£699	Nov 95	A fine musical performance makes this idiosyncratic CD convertor worth searching out.
RDP 990	£450	Jul 96	An affordable route into two-box players. Good, clean dynamic sound with a neutral and pure mid-range tone.
Sonic Frontiers DAC kit	£240	Jan 95	Easy and fun to build, competitively priced and delivers fine sonic results.
Sonic Front Process 3	£7000	Sep 98	An awful lot of money - use it forever. Quality which can outlive any amount of cheaper purchases.
Sonic Frontiers Transdac	£699	Jul 95	The transdac has a smooth and focussed sound, but partnered with the Ultra Jitterbug looks expensive.
Thomas TDA1200	£700	Jun 96	Partnered with the TCD 2000, produces a sound that is certainly focussed, detailed and spacious.
XTC Dac	£1200	Apr 96	A taste of the elegantly smooth, slightly laid-back sound - the epitome of American good taste.



Midiman Flying Calf.

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 - PPA 20sl Phono Preamp£1499.00
 - 60isl Integrated amp£799.00
 - 60iRvsI Integrated remote ..£999.00
 - PA10 Preamp£849.00
 - PA20Rsl Remote Preamp ..£1499.00
 - 60Psi Power Amp£849.00
 - 100Psi Power Amp£1099.00
 - 125Msl Monoblock Amp ..£1199.00

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World Classic

Cassette

Nakamichi (various)
Yamaha TC-800GL

See main Guide

Early classic in serious cassette. Its ski-slope looks got it a cult following once it had ceased to be simply ugly.

CD Players

Meridian 207
Pioneer PD-91

Beautifully-built two-box with pre-amp stage. Very musical although not as refined as modern Bitstream gear. No digital output. Built-to-last player with easy upgrade routes for modifiers. Not knockout as it stands but get one cheap and have a go!

Amplifiers

Leak Point One, TL12 & TL10
Leak Pre-amps
Leak Stereo 20
Leak TL12+
NAD 3020
Quad 33
Quad II
Sugden A21
Technics SE-A5 Mk2

Ancestors of hi-fi, consequently expensive nowadays. As with all vintage stuff, overhauling is de rigueur before use. Line of 'good for their time' pre-amps. Use of EF86 pentode for high gain rules out ultra performance. Not the highest-fi. Excellent workaday classic. In good order the 20 will not disgrace itself. Various upgrades are available from specialist repairers. Plentiful monobloc equivalent of Stereo 20. Reasonably inexpensive and a tweakers' dream. Genuine hi-fi on a budget. You can't argue with success! NAD's budget integrated gave thousands their first taste of hi-fi and remains great value. By no means a bad job and value for money. With its matching 303 pre-amp makes a good introduction to audio classics. One of the all-time classic mono amplifiers. Unusual circuit but it works beautifully. 22 pre-amp not up to today's standards. Seventies transistor integrated has an eminently likeable smoothness and musicality. Limited inputs via DIN sockets. Nice transformer and electronics, shame about the casework. With tweaking, this 150watter can sound sweet.



Leak TL12 Point One.

Loudspeakers

Klipschorn
Leak Sandwich
Lowther PM6A
Magneplanar SMGa
Mission 770
Quad ESL57
Tannoy GRF & Autograph
Wharfedale Super 8 RS DD
Yamaha NS1000M
TannoyYork, Lancaster etc.

Not exactly plentiful or cheap but a splendid beast. For efficiency they have seldom been equalled. Space hungry! Rather warm sounding big infinite baffle but cheap with it. With reasonably powerful amp can sound quite satisfying. High quality full-range driver; still manufactured. High sensitivity, as fitted to many classic horn designs. Touch dry in the bass but a technological 'speaker with genuinely musical abilities. Usual warnings re: dipoles apply. Father of the 77 range which continues to this day. Well mannered with a warm sound and a kind load to amplifiers. Unrivalled. Properly serviced there is nothing like 'em. Their natural presentation may make them caviar to the general. Folded horn monsters which certainly sound good if you have the space. For Tannoy vintage see HFV November 1998. Ideal experimenters' driver. High sensitivity ~14,000 Gauss: magnet and extended frequency range. Inexpensive too! Hi-tech favourites of the Japanese and Americans. Viewed more warily in the UK but can give excellent results. Many similar models of infinite baffle or reflex design. Not the last word in tautness but the drivers work well in modern cabinets.

Vinyl

Acos Lustre
Aphason HR100S
Ariston RD11
Garrard 301 & 401
Goldring Lenco 88 & 99
Haddock 228
Linn Axis
Michell Focus One
Shure M75
SME 3009 IIS
Thorens TD124
Thorens TD150
Trio L-07D

Very honest piece of kit, well made and easily adjusted. Vinyl beginners could do very much worse. First class arm, up to present-day standards. Buy carefully, though, as there's no service available now. A one-time king of turntables very similar to the Linn LP12. Now deposited but worth a look at the 'right price. Legendary and fairly plentiful. Excellent back-up available: many different custom plinths available. High quality. Great deck for the kitchen table enthusiast. Garrard fans won't look at 'em but cheap and capable. Servicing available. Recently out-classed by Haddock's updated 228 Special Edition but a proper hi-fi arm for all that. Makers still service. Uncomplicated, lower-price version of the famous Sondek. Considerably less expensive than some of its stablemates. 20 years and still going strong. Early runner in the 'modern' turntable cycle with a first class arm. Factory servicing available. Recent line-contact improvements have left the M75 behind but the wide range of needles make it a handy tool. Everlasting classic tone-arm. Spares permanently available from SME. No longer the last word but peanuts second-hand. Best classic deck ever? Judging by the prices they fetch it's possible - 78rpm too! Mid-price deck with a keen following. No real difficulty with servicing - novices may find the suspension system unnerving. Knockout heavyweight from 1980 with stainless bearing and 11lb platter! Not a give-away and beware! - spares scarce.



Thorens TD124.

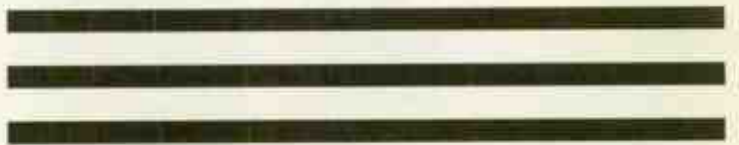
Tuners

Leak Troughline (original)
Leak Troughline II & III mono
Leak Troughline III Stereo
Marantz ST-8

Interesting ornament but no longer hi-fi. Bandwidth limited to 88MHz to 100MHz only. Arguably the best-sounding tuners ever. Adaptation for stereo easy via phono multiplex socket. Excellent tuner with indifferent stereo decoding circuit. Best when adapted to use modern outboard decoder. Possibly the ultimate Tardis console, including an oscilloscope for checking the strength of signal. Expensive even now.



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Clearance Items

	Our Price	Original Retail Price
Exposure V Active x over (3 Way)	£ 295.00	£ 995.00
EAD 7000 Transport	£ 895.00	£ 2495.00
Magnum 2000 pre amp	£ 895.00	£ 1895.00
Gale 401	£ 250.00	£ -
Micromega amp	£ 595.00	£ 1295.00
Micromega Tempo P	£ 595.00	£ 1250.00

New in This Month

	Our Price	Original Retail Price
POWER AMPLIFIERS		
Graff GM 200	£ 4950.00	£ 7900.00
Plinius SA 100	£ 2850.00	£ 3450.00
Mark Levinson 335	£ 6500.00	£ 7500.00
AVI S2000 MA Stereo	£ 495.00	£ 850.00

	Our Price	Original Retail Price
PRE AMPLIFIERS		
Graff GM 13.5	£ 1850.00	£ 3750.00
Cello Audio Suite + master supply	£10,995.00	£28,000.00
Cello Audio Palette + master supply	£ 9995.00	£25,000.00
Mark Levinson 32 Reference	£11,995.00	£14,500.00

	Our Price	Original Retail Price
SPEAKERS		
Cello Stradivari Grand Master (Rosewood and Piano Black)	£22,000.00	£60,000.00
Cello Performance 2 Monoblocks (4 chassis)	£ 9995.00	£20,000.00
Audio Static DC1 (Audi Silver)	£ 2495.00	£ 4250.00
ATC SCM 50A Rosewood	£ 2850.00	£ 5000.00
REL Stadium Sub	£ 595.00	£ 950.00
Wilson Audio MAX	£24,995.00	£33,000.00

	Our Price	Original Retail Price
C.D PLAYERS & DACS		
Meridian 200 Transport	£ 450.00	£ 900.00
Naim CD3.5/ Flat Cap	£ 950.00	£ 1350.00
Wadia 860 X (24/96)	£ 6500.00	£ 7500.00

	Our Price	Original Retail Price
TURNTABLES/ ANALOGUE/ VARIOUS		
EAR 834 P	£ 295.00	£ 450.00

Power Amplifiers

Restek Extract Monoblocks (160 watt)	£ 1795.00	£ 3500.00
Krell KAS 2 Monoblock	£ 9995.00	£18000.00
Jadis JA500	£ 7995.00	£21000.00
Boulder 102 AE	£ 2650.00	£ 3400.00
Boulder 500 AE	£ 2995.00	£ 5000.00
Audio Note P1 SE	£ 500.00	£ 950.00
Jadis JA 80 Monoblocks	£ 4995.00	£10000.00
Audion Golden Knights	£ 1995.00	£ 4000.00
Jadis Dely 7 mk III	£ 3250.00	£ 4790.00
Micromega Tempo 2 Integrated	£ 450.00	£ 900.00
Krell FPB 600	£ 8995.00	£12900.00
Krell KSA 250	£ 2750.00	£ 6700.00
FM Acoustics 611X Resolution Power	£14995.00	£22000.00
Lamm M1 Monoblocks (100W)	£ P.O.A.	£ P.O.A.
Quad 77 Integrated (Quadlink)	£ 495.00	£ 700.00
Krell 50S	£ 1995.00	£ 3690.00
Exposure XII psu	£ 495.00	£ -
Musical Fidelity F19	£ 2250.00	£ 4000.00
Audio Research D130	£ 1395.00	£ 1850.00
Jeff Rowland Synergie + External power supply	£ 3200.00	£ 5000.00
Lavardin IS Integrated	£ 1195.00	£ 1600.00
Audion Silver Knights	£ 1295.00	£ 3000.00
Musical Fidelity XAS 100 (X-dem)	£ 699.00	£ 799.00
Musical Fidelity A2 Integrated (X-dem)	£ 325.00	£ 499.00
Sugden Stemfoort SF60 Integrated	£ 350.00	£ 550.00
Sunfire (LISPA, 300 wpc)	£ 1195.00	£ 2200.00
Alchemist Kraken	£ 295.00	£ 580.00
Quad 405	£ 225.00	£ -
Counterpoint SA12	£ 795.00	£ 1400.00
YBA 3a pre/ power	£ 1295.00	£ 2400.00
Naim Nap 250	£ 995.00	£ 1800.00
Cary SLA 70 mk II	£ 1095.00	£ 1800.00
VTL 125	£ 1795.00	£ 3500.00
Exposure Super VIII	£ 550.00	£ 800.00
Exposure VIII	£ 450.00	£ 700.00
Copland CSA 28 Phono, remote Integrated	£ 950.00	£ 1299.00
Electrocompaniet AW160 Monoblocks (cosmetic damage)	£ 1895.00	£ 4500.00

Pre Amplifiers

Jeff Rowland Consumate + Phono (3bo)	£ 3995.00	£ 8000.00
Meridian 541 Dolby Surround	£ 650.00	£ 1095.00
F M Acoustics 266 Resolution	£10995.00	£17000.00
Krell KRC2	£ 1995.00	£ 4190.00
Musical Fidelity F25	£ 795.00	£ 1500.00
C.A.T. SL1 Ultimate	£ X-DEM	£ 5750.00

Croft Super Micro A mk 3	£ 495.00	£ 1000.00
CAT SL1 Sig mk III	£ 2995.00	£ 6900.00
Jeff Rowland model 2 + battery power supply	£ 3750.00	£ 7600.00
Musical Fidelity X-P 100	£ 699.00	£ 799.00
AVI S2000 MP	£ 650.00	£ 1000.00
Meridian 562 V	£ 695.00	£ 995.00
Exposure XIV/ IX	£ 1495.00	£ 3000.00
Audio Research LS3B remote	£ 1495.00	£ 2700.00
Exposure XI pre XII psu	£ 795.00	£ 1500.00

AV COMPONENTS		
Onkyo TXD 939 AV Receiver	£ 1495.00	£ 2400.00

Quality Speakers

B & W 801 Series 2 (Black Ash)	£ 189.00	£ 4000.00
Apogee Stage	£ 995.00	£ 3000.00
Sonus Faber Guarneri	£ 4500.00	£ 6500.00
Roksan ROK 1	£ 295.00	£ 600.00
Wilson System V1 (Black)	£10500.00	£18000.00
Rogers LS3/5A Black (NEW)	£ 575.00	£ 798.00
Rogers AB1 Sub (NEW)	£ 395.00	£ 598.00
Rogers LS55 (New)	£ 330.00	£ 430.00
Alfante Spazio	£ 250.00	£ 500.00
Martin Logan Stylos	£ 1795.00	£ 2900.00
Alon Adriana (New)	£ Special	£10000.00
Alon V mkIII	£ Special	£ 5500.00
Meridian DSP 5000	£ 2495.00	£ 3300.00
Meridian M 2500 Sub	£ 1095.00	£ 1600.00
Quad ESL 63	£ 1695.00	£ 3600.00
A.T.C. SCM 1000 SL Active Speaker	£ 4500.00	£ 7000.00
Sonus Faber Extrema + Stands	£ 3995.00	£ 6500.00
JBL T1 200	£ 1495.00	£ 2250.00
Jamo SW3105 active sub	£ 495.00	£ 800.00
Orelle Swings	£ 795.00	£ 1200.00
Infinity IRS 2B	£ 1795.00	£ 4000.00
Morel 704	£ 650.00	£ 1000.00
Martin Logan SL3	£ 2200.00	£ 3400.00
Proac Response 1SC + Stands	£ 1095.00	£ 1700.00
Dymalab 2.8 Ref (New)	£ 895.00	£ 1200.00
B & W 601 S2	£ 150.00	£ 199.95
Audio Physics LIBRA	£ X-DEM	£ 5000.00

CD Players & DACS

Cambridge Dac Magic	£ 150.00	£ -
Mark Levinson No 39	£ 4250.00	£ 5000.00
Forsell Air Ref Transport mk II	£ 4995.00	£ 8000.00
Mark Levinson 30.5/31	£11500.00	£24000.00
Krell KPS 25s	£13995.00	£19995.00
Krell KAV 300 CD	£ 2500.00	£ 3500.00
Quad 77 CD Player (Quadlink)	£ 495.00	£ 700.00
Genesis Digital Lens	£ 1095.00	£ 1900.00
Meridian 203 dac	£ 225.00	£ 500.00
Arcam Alpha plus	£ 195.00	£ 500.00
Meridian 563 dac 20 bit	£ 495.00	£ 950.00
Meridian 565	£ 1495.00	£ 2500.00
Helios Model 1	£ 895.00	£ 1300.00
Helios Model 2 (new)	£ 750.00	£ 1000.00
Helios Model 3	£ 495.00	£ 700.00
Audio Alchemy DDS 2	£ 450.00	£ 900.00
AVI Reference 2000	£ 895.00	£ 1400.00
Linn Karik 2	£ 895.00	£ 1600.00
Musical Fidelity X-Ray (X-Dem)	£ 699.00	£ 799.00
Musical Fidelity X-IOD (X-Dem)	£ 89.00	£ 119.00
Musical Fidelity E624 (24 bit)	£ 395.00	£ 500.00
Pink Triangle DaCapo (1307)	£ 995.00	£ 1850.00
Marantz 63 SE Ki Sig	£ 295.00	£ 500.00
Meridian 500 Transport	£ 995.00	£ 1245.00
Meridian 566 Dac	£ 895.00	£ 1095.00

Turntables & Analogue

Voyd Reference/ Reference Power supply/ Helios Cyalene/ Audio Note I0 limited + P/S	£11500.00	£22000.00
Roksan Xerses/ Linn Akito/ PSIII/ DSU	£ 650.00	£ 1200.00
Piere Lume J1/SL5	£ 1500.00	£ 4500.00
Forsell Air Force One	£11995.00	£25000.00
Pink Triangle PT Too Ref Bearing, platter, clamp	£ 495.00	£ 950.00
Linn LP12/ARO/Armedgeddon/ Prefix/ Hi Cap/ 17 DII	£ 2500.00	£ 4000.00
Lyra Parnasus	£ 995.00	£ 2000.00
Clear Audio Master Reference/ Clear Audio Insider Reference (Wood)	£ 9500.00	£16000.00
Linn LP12/ LVIII Lingo Cirkus K9	£ 1095.00	£ 2000.00
Linn Sondeck LP12 Vallhala/ Basic	£ 295.00	£ -
Pink Triangle Export (Ref bearing & Platter)	£ 695.00	£ 1050.00
Sequera Model 1 FM Tuner	£ 4250.00	£ 8000.00
Linn LP12/ Valhala/ Ekos	£ 995.00	£ -
Linn Klyde	£ 375.00	£ 500.00
Revox B77 (3 / 7 case + reels) like new	£ 595.00	£ -
Michell Gyro/ Q.C.	£ 850.00	£ 1300.00



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Audio Note ANCD2 Valve CD Player (New boxed)	1000	695	Audio Innovations 800 SeriesIII power amplifier	999	499
Audio Note ANCD2 Valve CD.Player	1000	499	Audio Note Otto SE Valve Integrated	1200	650
Audio Synthesis DAX2 HDCD / Balanced	3000	1599	Electrocompaniet AW60 Poweramplifier	1095	799
Aura CD 100 CD player	399	225	Krell KSA 150S 150Watt Stereo Class A	5980	2500
DPA Renaissance 24 / 96 CD Player (New style)	995	695	Musical Fidelity P180 Power amplifier	N/A	375
DPA SX64 DAC 24 / 96	800	599	Pass Aleph 4 100W Class A Power amplifier	5500	3750
Micromega Stage3	999	495	Roksan Caspian Integrated	795	595
Primare D20 24 / 96 CD Player	695	575	Roksan Caspian Poweramps	599	449
Radford / Woodside WS2 CD Player	1200	299	Sugden A21 with Phono Stage Ex- Demo	900	695
Roksan Caspian CD Player	895	650	Sugden SP 30 Class A Poweramplifier	900	699
Roksan DA2 Converter	595	429	Unison Research Simply 845 Valve Integrated	3095	2250
			Unison Research Smart 845 mono single ended valve	3450	2099
Turntables Tonearms & Cartridges			Loudspeakers		
Aphelion Audio 401 Plinths (New & various finishes)	250	169	Apogee Stage Ribbon Speakers / Anthercite	4700	1299
EAR MC3 Transformer	629	399	Impulse Lali Cherry Loudspeakers	1750	1199
Decca London Gold (Podded & Re-built)	600	250	Impulse Maya Loudspeakers	695	459
Decca London Gold (Garrot Re-built)	N/A	195	Musical Fidelity MC5 Loudspeakers / stands	899	379
Heybrook TT2 Turntable Black	N/A	149	Opera Callas Gold/ Oak Loudspeakers & Stands	1599	899
Lyra Parnassius 600 Hrs	1895	750	Snell J Mk2 Loudspeakers Black / Huygens Stands	900	399
Roksan DS5 PSU	549	479	Sonus Faber Minima Amator / Ironwood Stands	2000	1199
Roksan Shriaz Cartridge 300hrs (Black body)	995	650	Spendor SP2 Mk3 Black Ash	950	499
Roksan Radius 3 - Tabriz / Chorus Blk	1170	499	Totem Tabu Mahogany	2300	1499
Roksan Xerxes Black Ash / Tabrizi / XPS3 / DSU	1795	695			
Roksan Xerxes Walnut / XPS2 / SME cut	795	325	Cables & Accessories		
Roksan Xerxes X Black / Tabriz / Corus	2072	1200	DPA The Power / Power Slink	199	125
Rega RB300 Tonearm	174	119	Musical Fidelity X-10D Line Tube stage	129	75
The Transfiguration MC Phono Cartridge	1250	450	Nordost Flatline Bi-Wire 2 x 10m	480	250
			Origin Live Skyline Platform Turntable Table	200	99
Preamplifiers			Roksan Turntable Stand/ Medium	129	79
Audio Note M3 Phono Preamplifier	4650	2750	Roksan Turntable Stand/ Tall	169	99
Michell Orca Remote Preamplifier	1650	1049	Transparent Music Link Plus Balanced 1m	427	275
Electrocompaniet EC 41/2 Preamplifier	1095	699	VDH The First 1m Interconnect	220	160
Rega HAL Pre Amp Mm/Mc - Remote	998	459			
			Tuners & Tape Decks		
			Aiwa F550R Cassette Deck	N/A	49
			JBL ESC 200 Surround Package	299	179
			Revox B77 fi track 3fi - 7fi Mk1 Reel to reel	1600	595
			Roksan Caspian Tuner AM/FM	599	479
			Yamaha DSP E390 ProLogic Processor / Amplifier	399	69

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CHARIO ACADEMY 2	XD	£1750	£1199
CHARIO ACADEMY 3	XD	£8500	£4995
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GAMMA RHYTHM	XD	£2500	£1995
HARMON KARDON HK630 AMP	XD	£230	£169
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	SR-225	£180
	SR-325	£270
Reference Series	RS-1	£590
	RS-2 (new)	£425

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SE's can play bass!

BorderPatrol 300B SE Power Amplifier



'It (the BorderPatrol) makes trannie amps sound thick and earthbound with its superb transparency and fullness of foot. It doesn't quite match good trannie bass but it does a far better job than any other SE I've heard. What's more you get the purity of midrange and treble that such amps are renowned for. Add to this superb high frequency extension and you've got some idea of its prodigious capabilities.'

'The BP isn't just about power, it's about the ability to reproduce music with its timbral and dynamic elements fully intact. You tend to take good tone for granted with tubes but when it's created with so little colouration as it is here, you can fully appreciate its beauty and richness. The 300B, when used with this much attention to detail, appears to add no colour of its own and combines the skill with lightning speed, removing any sense of electronic colouration.'

'By going to town on the power supply, however, the BorderPatrol puts pay to the notion that SE's can't play bass.'

Jason Kennedy Hi-Fi Choice Jan 1999

The BorderPatrol 300B SE is a state of the art single-ended power amplifier that uses a single output valve for each channel, zero negative feedback, inter-stage driver transformers and a heavy duty external power supply that contains no-less than three independent valve rectified choke input filter power supplies. Clear and fluid with effortless dynamics and powerful, tight bass this is a milestone product that combines the traditional qualities of single-ended operation with real low frequency performance.

The BorderPatrol 300B SE: £3995.00 and £4495.00 with Western Electric, 300B valves



For more information please contact: BorderPatrol
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We have the following ex demonstration and secondhand equipment for sale:

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- Impulse H2 horn loudspeakers. Mahogany. S/H. Mint £1350
- Audion Silver Knights. Just re-valved. S/H. £1195
- Mirage M3SI loudspeakers. S/H. Mint £1750
- Sugden AU 51 CD transport and dac. S/H. Mint Pair £1295
- Teac T1 CD transport with Trichord clock 3 mod. S/H. Mint. £475
- DNM PA2 100W mono blocks. S/H. £1500
- Voyd Valdi/RB 300/Micro Benz Glider turntable. S/H. Mint £795
- Audionote CD2 CD player. 1 year old. S/H. Mint £695
- Audioquest Argent loudspeaker cable. 4m pair. As new. £725
- Tube Technology Synergy 150w Integrated valve amp. New. £4995
- Muse Model 18 subwoofer. S/H. Mint. £1995
- Gamma Aeons 211 valve mono blocks. S/H. Mint £2995
- Audion Golden Knights. S/H. Mint £2250
- 2 x Graaf GM20 OTL valve amps. Superb. S/H. Mint. £2250 each or £4200 the pair.
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- Albary 50w mono blocks. S/H. Mint £325
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- Musical Fidelity pre amp 3A. S/H £125
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Audio Research D240 Mk.II	£3500	£1195
Audion Black Shadows 845 valve monoblocks	£4000	£POA
Audion Silvernight 300B monoblocks	£2250	£POA
Chario Academy 1 solid walnut (ex/d)	£1299	£800
Chario Academy 2 solid walnut (ex/d)	£1649	£1100
Conrad Johnson PV10AL Pre	£995	£550
Copland CSA 14 Int. Amp	£1195	£700
Dynaudio Contour 1.3 MKII	£1198	£650
Genesis Gen 400 spks (ex/d)	£4000	£2499
Genesis Gen 500 spks in Built Active Bass (ex/d) SUPERB	£11000	£6499
Krell Kay 300I	£2495	£POA
Lexicon DC1 point II AC3/DTS pre (factory upgrade)		£1995
Macintosh 7106 6ch. THX pwr. amp	£4000	£1999
Meridian 204 Tuner		£350
Meridian 205 Monoblocks		£395
Meridian 208 CD. pre + r/c		£495
Nakamichi CRIE Cass		£150
Quad 34+FM4+306+rack		£600
Quad 77 Int. Carbon	£700	£400
Quad 606 pwr.		£350
Sonic Frontiers SFD II Dac (Ex/d)	£5300	£3995
Spendor SP 7/1 spks.	£1995	£650
Tube Tech. Unisis Sig.Int.	£2300	£1250

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HI-FI NEWS: Ken Kessler: 'What I think we're witnessing here is Tim De Paravicini's finest moment and that's scary, when you consider that even his disasters are better than most designer's triumphs!'

WHAT HI-FI: Verdict *****

Leading French magazine Diapason voted the V20 Amplifier of the year.

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Quad 44 Pre Amp grey boxed	£195
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Lumley 120 valve monoblocks Triode/Petode 120 watt chrome black finish mint, fantastic drive £3700 new	£1995
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Pye FM Tuner valve with rose gold finish	



Small but perfectly formed MC3

MC3

Producing the very best from vinyl has long been a black art and it's no wonder with so many permutations involved. Most people agree that Moving Coil cartridge design is technically superior than the Moving magnet but demands much more from it's ancillaries, especially the phono stage.

E.A.R./Yoshino have just launched the MC3 Cartridge Transformer with a band width of 3Hz-100kHz, facilities for a wide range of quality cartridge outputs and twin isolated earth terminals for maximum noise reduction.

The MC3 captures all the subtleties from the most complex recording without resorting to thrusting or spitting it out. Its extreme clarity and graceful presentation makes for a superb vinyl experience.

ART DUDLEY: Leading American hi-fidelity critic.

'I'm impressed with the MC3, and from a musical point of view, I think it's worth every penny of the price. Those of you who have tube-based systems & can afford it should pester your local dealer until he lets you take one home and try out Value/Quality *****'

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Meridian 604 Tuner	£695
Leak Stereo 30 amp mint	£50
Quad 101 spender spks as new	£395
Quad II pair various	£300
Leak TL12+ pair	£300
EAR 834P	£235 (nt)
Revox B77 Open Reel mint	£495 (nt)
Leak Troughline 3 Tuner	£35 (nt)
STD Turntable	£145 (nt)
Cary 300b kit amp professional build	£495 (nt)
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Various Open Reels, Revox, Ferroglyph, Sony	(phone)

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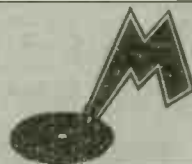
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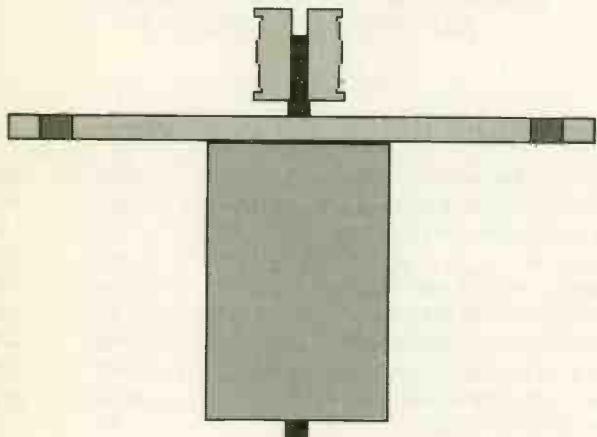


Trade and Export enquiries welcome



UPGRADE YOUR TURNTABLE

"The single most important upgrade you can ever make to any record deck concerns the motor drive ...nothing can compare you for the shock of going DC, in a word Gobsmaeking"
COMMON GROUND MAGAZINE



Whether you own a Linn Lingo or a Rega, the results of upgrading to the Origin Live dc motor and power supply are simply astounding. This high grade motor kit is designed as a drop in replacement for almost all turntable motors. Decks benefiting so far from this ultimate of upgrades include Linn, Roksan, Michell, Systemdeck., Rock etc. With a 12 Volt power supply it is safe and easy to fit. Guidance instructions are provided. At £250 with money back guarantee if not impressed this is a bargain out of all proportion to it's value in terms of performance.

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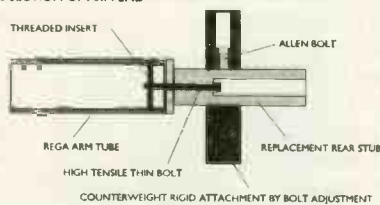
HI-FI WORLD, FEB 1999

If you are the proud owner of any Rega arm, why not utterly transform it into the league of super arms with the Origin live structural modification:- £75 inc post & packing. This modification will enable your Rega to perform at a level exceeding that of arms costing over £1200. Internal rewiring with high grade litz cable is also offered at an additional £70.

"I have to say the Rega modifications turn this humble arm into a real Giant killer. Gone is the rather grey, sterile sound of the cooking Rega. Instead, tonal colour is fresh, dynamics have great speed and impact, and the sound stage is huge." HI FI WORLD SUPPLEMENT NOV 97 (structural modification to a RB250) WHAT HI-FI Sept 98 gave this modification a 5 star rating.

For arm modifications we normally return your arm in 2-3 days

CROSS SECTION OF ARM END



For further information contact:-

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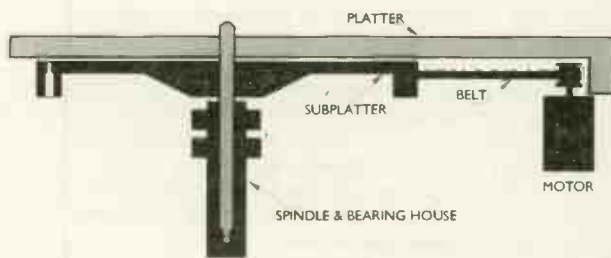
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Now you can save money and build your own high performance deck. The standard kit version is offered at £145, and the ultra version at £279. Both decks come with a full set of drawings and guidance instructions. The kit allows for your creativity or there are optional parts that will enable you to assemble a tried and tested design within 1-4 hours. This is probably the easiest kit you will ever make.

"this Vinyl font end had my jaw heading towards the floor with the solidity and transparency of the music it was making"...
" the standard came up with crystal clear images set in a broad sound stage"... *"With all these goodies in place, the standard would give turntables at the £1200-£1400 mark a hard time."*
HI-FI WORLD SUPPLEMENT NOV 97

"is exceptionally easy to build and professional in both sound quality and appearance"

HI FI NEWS SUPPLEMENT NOV 97



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QED Reference	£200
Audio Synthesis Passion	£350
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Conrad-Johnson Sonographe SA250	£600
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Triangle TE60	£200
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Cabasse Skiff 301 (Beech)	£1000
JBL LX-66 (Black Ash)	£300
Klipsch KG5.5 (Light Oak)	£650
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Fullers Audio Sultan SE (Mahogany)	£150
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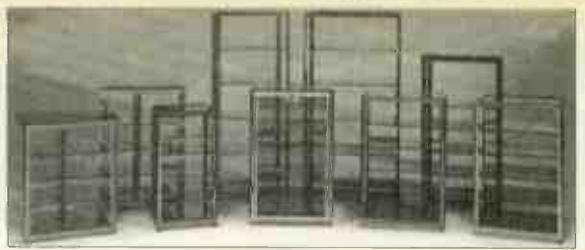
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Audio Note Kit Amplifiers -

Power-Amp Kit

The Audio Note Kit One *(Illustrated)*

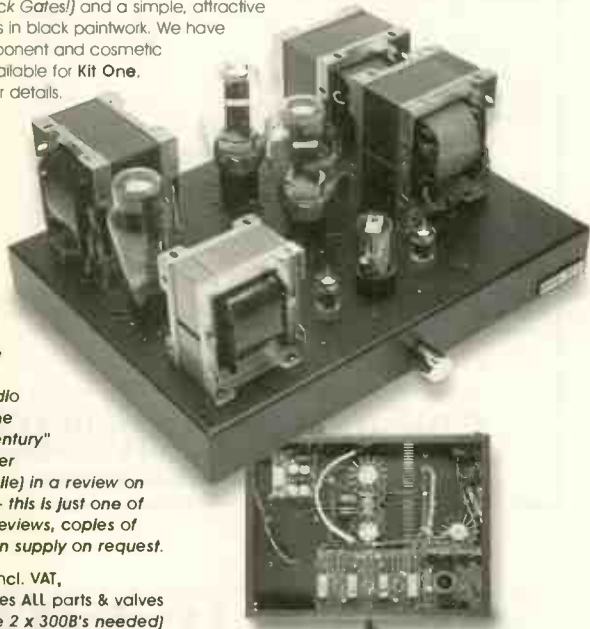
Based around the justly famous 300B directly heated triode, we see this kit as the introduction to *real* Audio Amplification, as it covers all the important aspects of design necessary, Single Ended, No-Feedback, Class A, Directly Heated Triode, to become a member of this exclusive club of amplifiers.

Kit One has one 300B per channel running at 420 volts with 75mA current giving 8-9 watts of the cleanest power you will ever hear, the input stage consists of a 6SN7GT with a 5687 double triode driver stage running in SRPP. The power supply is capacitor-choke-capacitor configuration with a 5U4G HT rectifier, the 300B's have a DC filament supply for hum-free operation whilst the other valves are AC heated. Component quality is similar to our Level 2 finished products, **Audio Note** paper in oil signal capacitors, Beyschlag 1 watt 1% metal film resistors, good quality electrolytics (*sorry NO Black Gates!*) and a simple, attractive stereo chassis in black paintwork. We have several component and cosmetic upgrades available for **Kit One**, please ask for details.

The Kit One has recently been awarded the title "The Greatest Audio Bargain of the Twentieth Century" by Dick Olsher (ex-Stereophile) in a review on the internet - this is just one of many rave reviews, copies of which we can supply on request.

Price: £799 incl. VAT, which includes ALL parts & valves (yes, also the 2 x 300B's needed) but not postage/packing which to UK customers is £12.00.

KIT ONE ORDER CODE: AN-KIT-001



The Audio Note Kit Two

Kit Two features a single 6550 tetrode running in Single-Ended mode, yielding some 12 watts of pure Class A. With a valve rectified HT for the output stage, stereo chassis, and 6SN7GT input and 12AX7/ECC83 SRPP driver stage, componentry and chassis as **Kit One**.

Kit Two costs £599 incl. VAT, includes valves, but not postage/packing.

KIT TWO ORDER CODE: AN-KIT-002

The Audio Note Kit Three

Kit Three features 2 x 300B's per channel running in single-ended parallel yielding 16/17 watts in pure Class A. This kit is on two mono chassis with valve rectified HT supplies, no signal feedback, it uses a 6SN7GT double triode as input valve and a pair of 5687 double triodes running in SRPP as drivers. The **Kit Three** is essentially a mono version of the **Kit One** with double the power, the same component choices and on two chassis' instead of one.

The **Kit Three** costs £1,550 incl. VAT but excluding delivery.

KIT THREE ORDER CODE: AN-KIT-003

The Audio Note Kit Four

The **Kit Four** is really our introduction to valve amplifier kit building, the circuit and power supply being mounted on a single printed circuit board. The high-quality push-pull output and mains transformers are all mounted in a small aluminium chassis covering everything so nobody will be able to see that you have succumbed to the lure of the valve amplifier which is sweeping the world. The circuit consists of two 6V6GT tetrodes running in Push-Pull class A, yielding about 10 watts, driven by a 6SN7GT and a 12AX7/ECC83 input stage. Easy to build, even for the beginner. Visually **Kit Four** matches the **Audio Note** Pre-amplifier shown here but with a single chrome-plated volume control. As with all **Audio Note** kits everything (except solder) is included.

The **Kit Four** costs: £299 incl. VAT but not delivery.

KIT FOUR ORDER CODE: AN-KIT-004

Audio Note Driver, Interstage & Pre-Amplifier Output Transformers

Here is a product group that you do not see advertised every day! As usual we start small with the intention to grow quickly.

Audio Note Paper In Oil Signal Capacitors

These handmade signal capacitors are sonically superior to any of the plastic or other paper types we have come across. If you have never experienced the difference that a really good paper / oil capacitor can make in a valve amplifier, then you really should try.

Audio Note Paper In Oil Tin Foil Signal Capacitors

The tin foil is better than alu-foil for most applications, we recommend you try them.

Audio Note Paper In Oil Copper & Silver Foil Signal Capacitors

These copperfoil paper signal capacitors are considerably better than both the standard offerings and the tin foils. To start with there will be a few values / voltages of each available and we shall expand as fast as we can to cover all the popular values.

Audio Note Acid & Chloride Free Silver Solder

The best solder available, used in all our amplifiers from OTO to the mighty GAKU-ON.

Audio Note Cables & Wires

Audio Note manufacture a range of high quality copper and silver coax, speaker and wiring cables, which, depending on the overall price of the project, will do justice to any hi-fi system, regardless of price. Please call for prices and details.

Audio Note High Quality Stepped Attenuators & Switches

These handmade attenuators and switches are manufactured by a friend of Mr Kondo of **Audio Note**. They are the best you can buy.

Audio Note High Quality Valve Bases

All of our valve bases are of the highest possible quality materials. Ceramic, Teflon and gold and silver plated. If you want the best look no further - they are the ultimate!

Audio Note Resistors

Audio Note endeavour to stock the entire E12 range of all the different makes of resistor, since most are used in our products stock is generally available within four weeks.

BEYSCHLAG - HOLCO - SHINKOH Tantalum Film Resistors

AUDIO NOTE 1/2 Watt Tantalum Resistors

AUDIO NOTE 1 Watt Tantalum Resistors

AUDIO NOTE 2 Watt 1% Tantalum Resistors

AUDIO NOTE Precision Carbon Film Resistors

ALLEN BRADLEY 1 Watt 5% Carbon Film Resistors

Audio Note is happy to provide a wide range of complete kits, output and mains transformers, chokes, paper in oil, aluminium, tin, copper or silver foil signal capacitors, Black Gate, Cerafine or standard electrolytic capacitors, tantalum, carbon and metal film resistors, silver wires, interstage and driver transformers, switches, balance controls, potentiometers, attenuators, chassis's and fittings for the quality oriented DIY'er, whether you are a beginner or hardened experimenter, male or female, we have the best (and not always most expensive) parts for most projects.

Audio Note Loudspeaker Drivers & Kits

We shall be offering the speaker drivers that we use in our own loudspeakers for general sale from now on. You can buy the drivers individually or together with matched and tested cross-overs, cabinet drawings and reflex ports.

Audio Note Circuits, Valvedata & Basic Technical Information

If you would like some suggestions which to base a future project around, then we shall be happy to provide you with a circuit pack containing good circuits like ONGAKU, KEGON/KASSAI, NEIRO, GAKU-ON plus several other power amplifier circuits and the M7Tube & M10 pre-amplifiers, which are the best sounding pre-amplifier circuits we have come across.

Audio Note Quality Output Transformers

We are in the process of building up four separate ranges of **Audio Note** output transformers, in order to offer the best possible outputs at different pricepoints, they will fall into four categories.

Economy range Selected to ensure quality audio in a price efficient package.

Mid-price range Top quality with specially selected components.

High Quality range Double C-core outputs for single-ended circuits exclusively.

Super High Quality range All-silver wired outputs of the best possible quality.

Audio Note offer a design, prototyping and production service, where we can supply for almost any requirement. Please telephone for details.

Audio Note Mains Transformers

Available for most popular designs. We shall continue to expand the range as opportunities become available.

Components & Valves

Pre-Amp Kit

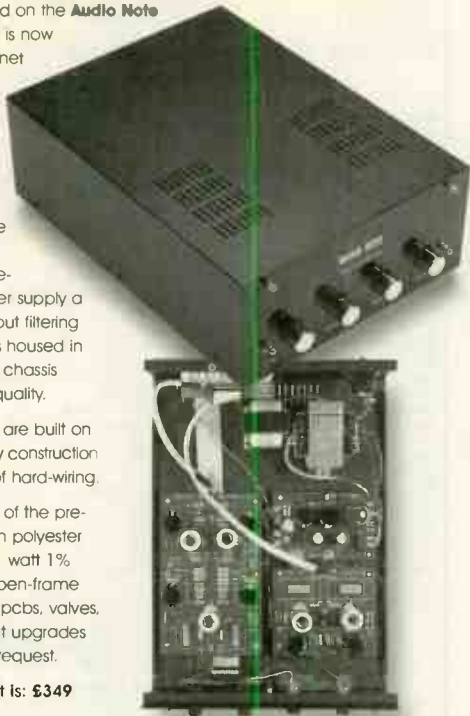
The Audio Note Pre-Amplifier Kit (Illustrated)

A complete kit loosely based on the **Audio Note** M7Tube pre-amplifier circuit is now available. The moving-magnet compatible phono stage consists of a cascade input, with passive RIAA equalisation and anode-follower output using the 12AX7/ECC83. Line buffer/ amplification for the four line inputs consists of an ECC82 configured in parallel anode-follower mode. For the power supply a valve rectifier and choke-input filtering are employed. All circuitry is housed in a non-magnetic aluminium chassis giving the very best sound quality.

Both phono and line stages are built on 'track-less' pcbs allowing easy construction but with the sonic benefits of hard-wiring.

The standard-quality version of the pre-amp kit includes Roederstein polyester film capacitors, Beyschlag 1 watt 1% metal film resistors, Noble open-frame style potentiometers and all pcbs, valves, wire etc. Various component upgrades are available, details upon request.

Cost of The Pre-Amplifier Kit is: £349
Incl. VAT but not delivery.



Audio Note Black Gate Electron Transfer, High Performance, Graphite Foil Capacitors

Audio Note is currently the sole source in Europe that holds any significant range of values in stock, we use literally 1000's in production, as we were the first company to realise the tremendous benefits that Black Gate capacitors offer, and we are to date the only high-end audio company in the world to incorporate Black Gate capacitors consistently in our finished products.

There are very few audio parts that promise a guaranteed improvement when replacing practically any other part, but this is what the BLACK GATE capacitors actually do. Exchanging any electrolytic capacitor anywhere in the circuit of an amplifier or in the crossover of a speaker will greatly improve sound quality. We are working on some guidelines as to where, how and which types of Black Gates to use in different circuits, the first such technical guideline is available now and is called "Improving your CD-Player" and can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to us requesting this leaflet. All AUDIO NOTE Level 2 signature products use Black Gate Electron Transfer in critical signal / power supply junctions.

Audio Note Cerafine Powdered Ceramic Electrolytic Capacitors

We have at long last secured a reliable source for these fine power supply filter capacitors, a must in any single-ended project. The Cerafines really cover many of the Black Gates values and where the prices for the BG's are prohibitive the Cerafine is a fine sounding alternative. We have increased the range of Cerafines we stock quite recently, and strongly recommend all the Cerafines as a far superior replacement or substitute for ordinary electrolytics, and at the prices offered that should be within most budgets. All power supply Cerafines are supplied with a capacitor clamp and are upright mounting.

Audio Note Potentiometers

The best available from a sound quality / price viewpoint, made by Noble in Japan, utilising high quality conductive plastic film. However a better alternative is the KO-ON volume controls which are used in pre-amplifiers like the M7 Tube, M7Line, and in a mono version on the input in the NEIRO, KASSAI, KEGON and GAKU-ON, these are very good sounding pots by any standard.

Audio Note also carry large quantities of STANDARD TYPE SWITCHES, STANDARD ELECTROLYTIC CAPACITORS (good quality industrial types), RCA, BNC, BANANA, PLUGS, RCA SOCKETS, SPEAKER & GROUND TERMINALS & LOUDSPEAKER SPADES.

Audio Note Moving Coil, CD Line & Input Matching Transformers

Audio Note now offer moving coil, CD and Input matching transformers for general sale. Common to all of these small signal transformers is that they come in a mumetal screening can with a threaded spindle with a nut for mounting.

Stock Clearance SALE

In anticipation of the arrival of the new in-house made Audio Note copper foil paper in oil signal capacitors, we are pleased to offer a **60% discount on current list price** on all Tobias Jensen made paper in oil aluminium, tin and copper foil signal capacitors.

Offer strictly limited to availability, while stocks last.

Minimum Order
4 pcs single or mixed values or £20.00.

Audio Note Selected Audio Valves

Our valves are selected from the best available sources and are tested to the same stringent standards that we apply in the production of our own amplifiers. They fall into two categories, standard production items and rare, mostly NOS (New Old Stock) valves which are no longer in production. We have compiled a special list of the NOS items, which is available against a stamped self addressed envelope, if you live outside the UK, send US \$2. You should be aware that the valves on this list are NOT cheap, but we have stock of original GE, RCA and United Electronics 211, both standard versions and reinforced anode type for the US airforce, 645 Westinghouse, VT25/10/10Y, VT62/801A, WE300B, STC4300A, Mullard GZ34/CV1377, Tungsol 5U4G (best sounding 5U4G we have ever heard!), Chatham 5R4WGY and many others.

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All other enquiries relating to Audio Note products should be addressed to their head office: Audio Note (UK), Unit C, Peacock Industrial Estate, Lyon Close 125-127 Davigdor Road, Hove, East Sussex BN3 1SG
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Audio Note DAC4 Signature	£2995
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Audio Innovations 2nd Audio mono-blocks with BorderPatrol PSU's	£1600
Project 6.1 bit, Project Arm, Ortofon MC1 turbo	£295
Snell type I 11.2 pairs Oak or Black	£375
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Petros cables were designed for AudioSOURCE to complement transparent components in a well-matched system: the goal was neutrality - musical flavour transmitted as water flows along a smooth pipe. If our cables sound bright or blurred, be confident that it is the equipment that you are hearing! Stratos cables have the greatest differentiation of all interconnects we have compared, that is to say that different recordings and different components just yield their own characters, transparently.

The design is the attention to many details, based on simple physics and many listening tests. We are now so far ahead of the game - and still moving the goal posts - that we will disclose the basic principles. The two major principles are conductivity and contamination. **Conductivity:** low resistance, capacitance, etc, using the highest purity copper (silver content acid-free solder) in very fine but many strands. In outer space, such cables would transmit Nothing But Signal (hence the esteemed American NBS brand! Incidentally, we have some of their amazing cables for sale at half-price). **Contamination:** since the invention of radio we are aware that your wires act as aerials. Designers cannot eliminate this in the equipment without serious degradation of the music signal. Planet Earth is now contaminated with EMI, RFI, you name it fields from cellular phones to AC mains. Coming from your neighbours, factories, and your own hi-fi and non-hi-fi devices. Our cables use twin axial (quasi-balanced) plus and minus wires, inside a triple-shielded braid earthed at source only and taken through to the plugs. We also apply Kontak cleaner to greatly reduce RF rectification and enhance surface conductivity. It lasts for about six months. If you haven't tried it, you don't know

what you are missing. £14.95 per bottle.

Stratos Series II (launched in August) is a major leap forward in interconnects which exceed the sonic performance of all but one extremely expensive (NBS) digital and stereo interconnects we have tried in a wide variety of equipment. Series two features our own RCA state-of-the-art phono plugs which use our tried materials (solid phosphor bronze, not bent copper) for enhanced contact and noise rejection. **Do not judge the performance by the price.** Customers are disposing of major brands now shamed by Stratos II because our cables are sold direct to end-users without marketing costs. This saves at least 75% when you consider that packaging and promotion double the cost of cables and dealer margins and vat double it again. One stereo metre of Stratos II thus sells for only £125. Stratos II Digital costs £59. Terminations are RCA or Neutrik Black Gold XLR from stock; others to order.

"These cables are everything you said they were ... this has been the cheapest and by far and away the most significant upgrade I've done to my hifi in years. I ordered cables, and when I opened the box, the contents looked like cables but these Stratos cables are much, much more than that. They have made such a huge difference to my listening pleasure that it's the equivalent of replacing one or more of the key items of hardware. At £120 [series II now £125] a 1 metre pair, they are the cable bargain of the decade." - Mr E.H., Aberdeen, 12/08/99.

Dirty mains has been neglected for too long in the UK but conditioners can degrade sound by limiting speed and power. The best place to clean up your mains is between your wall and the equipment. We are at beta test stage on effective AC mains cords, and can advise you on high-end products from America before you invest. Advice on speaker cables freely available.

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Measured Performance

loudspeakers

AR STATUS 30

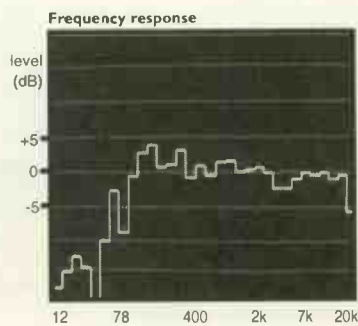
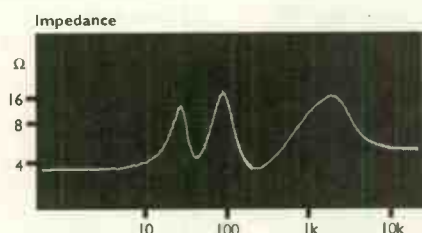
It's always good to see a smooth frequency response like the AR's. It is free from peaks and dips but has a slight downward trend toward high frequencies. This translates into a basically truthful delivery, but one free from obvious imbalance or the colorations caused by resonant effects. It's quite difficult to balance a loudspeaker so that it delivers clear treble with plenty of detail, whilst at the same time seeming natural in its tonal balance. This sort of response characteristic is about the closest it's possible to get, even if it is still no guarantee.

Acoustic Research have squeezed a high 90dB sensitivity from the Status 30,

but they show their American origin by working to a low nominal impedance of 6Ω. The bass unit falls to 4Ω so the 'speakers will draw current if pushed hard. Ideally they should be driven by a chunky hi-fi amplifier, not a low power design, in spite of their high sensitivity.

There's a lift in bass output around

150Hz which will add body to the sound. Bass extends down to 50Hz, below which the port takes over. It is tuned to 32Hz our analysis shows, a low value that promises to add real weight to bass. NK



DALI MENUET II

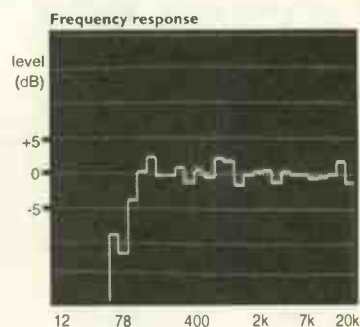
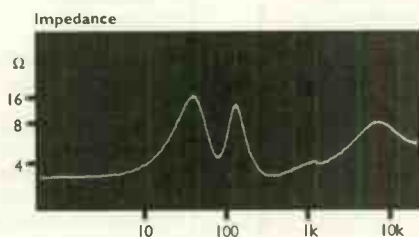
A frequency response as flat as the one displayed by the tiny Menuet IIs doesn't occur by accident. Dali have obviously placed a close eye on measured performance, concocting a loudspeaker that measures ruler flat from 125Hz up to 20kHz. In my experience though this does not commonly translate into the sort of sound most people find natural. Bass will likely seem reticent, treble prominent. This is a generalisation; other factors can come into play to alter the balance. It suggests the Menuet's are meant for wall placement, to lift low frequencies.

Unlike Technics SB-M01s, the

Menuets are a low impedance and draw current, hitting a minimum of 3Ω. Overall, their impedance measured 5Ω. This boosts sensitivity, so they go louder at any particular volume setting. But the Menuets demand more from an amplifier in doing so. The port is tuned to 65Hz -

just right to give a good impression of fast bass, providing output is sufficient.

The Menuets are neatly engineered but may well have a dry tonal balance. NK



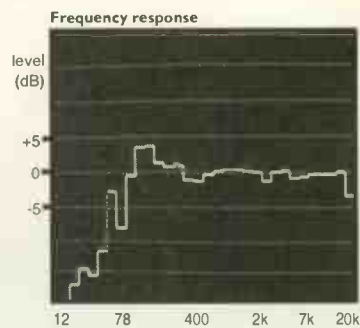
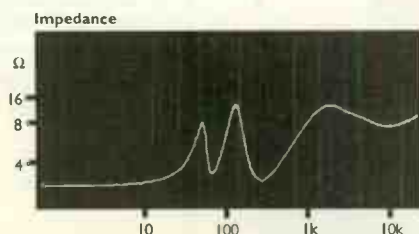
ELAC CL82 MkII

The CL82 MkII has a remarkably flat frequency response. Super-flat loudspeakers commonly sound bass light and treble sharp though. Elac have seemingly felt a need to compensate by raising bass output, because the CL82 MkII has a bass peak centred around 160Hz. Below this low frequencies roll off smoothly, suggesting an overdamped bass characteristic to suit wall placement. The tweeter is impressively flat; it will sound smooth and well integrated as a result.

Sensitivity was high at 88dB, largely because the bass/midrange unit has a low

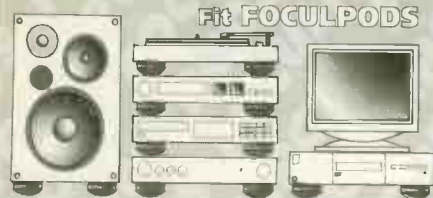
impedance of 4Ω, so it draws a lot of power from the amplifier. The treble unit measures 8Ω so it is considerably more efficient, resulting in a peculiar impedance curve. Measuring 5Ω overall, the impedance characteristic of this loud-

speaker varies a lot, shows the Elac will draw current and is not the 'easiest' load. It is best matched to beefy amplification. NK



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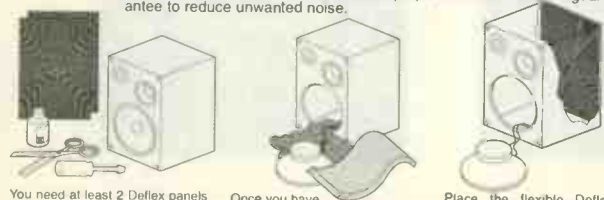
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Hi-Fi News & Record Review - March 1998
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INDIGO

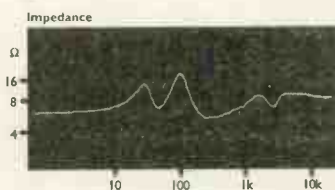
It might be small but the Indigo reaches down 50Hz before low frequency output from the bass driver starts to fall off, good for such a small cabinet. Below this frequency the port takes over, acting at 40Hz to extend output down to the lower limit of the audio band.

The metal dome tweeter of the Indigos was less effective than it appears though. High frequency energy rises gently to a smooth broad peak at 5kHz, an effect that will inject some brightness and perhaps sparkle into the sound. Trouble is, it will colour all music and soon become appar-

ent as a speaker effect.

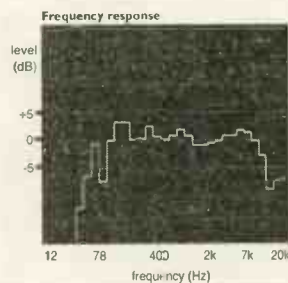
Above 10kHz output drops sharply however, unlike that of its rivals in the group, with the exception of the Opera Duetto. This will take some air out of the sound and the edge off fast transients.

Sensitivity was normal at 85dB and impedance an exact 8Ω. A flat impedance



trace means the loudspeaker is a resistive and therefore easy load for the amplifier.

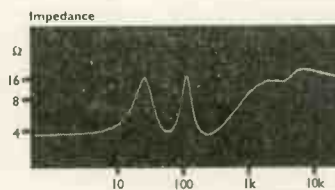
Although not perfect in the sense of being academically flat, the Indigo will give a lively sound and an easy load. NK



KLIPSCH KSB 2.1

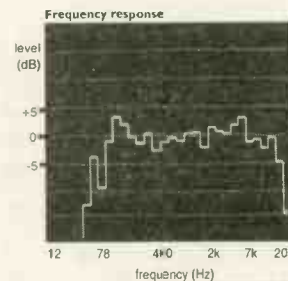
High sensitivity seems to be a prime design objective for Klipsch. The compact KSB 2.1 produces an astonishing 90dB sound pressure level from one nominal watt (2.84V) of input power. In fact it draws more than 1 watt from a solid-state amplifier because overall impedance measures 6Ω. All the same, this 'speaker is unusually efficient and will likely sound fleet-footed as a result. It will also go loud at low volume control settings. This Klipsch draws low frequency current, however, so a beefy amp is preferable.

The horn tweeter is very sensitive, integrates reasonably well and has a response that stretches up to 16kHz. A small peak at 4kHz may add a little sharpness into the sound. I'd expect the 2.1s to sound a little bright, but subjectively detailed and precise. They have a



bass peak around 120Hz and bass driver output reaches down to 50Hz, the port going lower.

Here's an interesting small loudspeaker, one that differs from the norm. NK



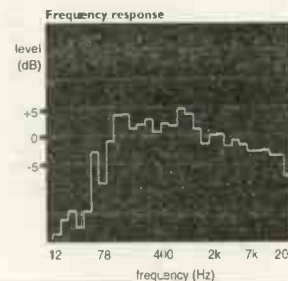
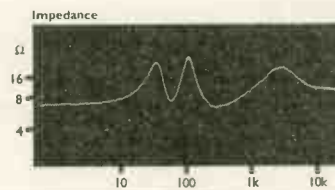
OPERA DUETTO

The Duetto's have a smooth roll off in treble output, above a midband peak centred around 1kHz. This should give them some extra presence and projection with vocals, together with a smooth, warm and integrated-sounding top end. It's likely to make for an easy and relaxing listen, free from digital bite from CDs. Some will find the presentation a little soft though, the downside of such a characteristic.

Our impedance analysis shows a modulus that sinks down to 8Ω minimum. So it is not surprising that overall impedance

measures high - around 10Ω. In spite of this, sensitivity was reasonable at 86dB sound pressure level (SPL) from one nominal watt of input power. This, and the smooth characteristic point to low reactance and energy storage, both mechani-

cal and electrical. The Duetto's are an easy amplifier load and will go loud with moderate power. Their sound will have a characterful warmth though. NK



TECHNICS SBM-01

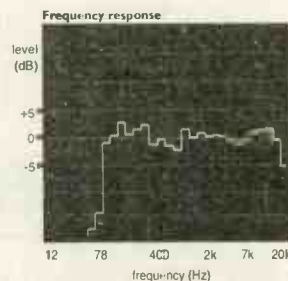
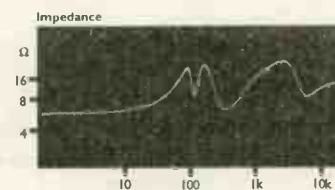
The tiny Technics SB-M01s measure flat in terms of frequency response, our analysis shows. This is not uncommon with small loudspeakers, as you'll see from others in the group. It helps toward a natural and accurate sound. The only drawback here is absence of low bass, the 01's lower limit being 100Hz, the highly tuned port taking this down to just 80Hz. It's not low enough for really deep bass but good for emphasising drums and percussion.

Technics rate impedance as 6ohms, but the speakers measured a high 10ohms overall, as our impedance analysis

reveals. They draw little power and are very insensitive, producing just 82dB SPL from one nominal watt of input. This raises a problem: SB-M01s need a powerful amplifier to go loud, whilst drawing little power from it. Perhaps the idea is to stop the SB-M01s going loud, in order to pre-

vent the tiny bass driver running out of travel.

So here's an accurate miniature, but don't expect high volume. NK





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AUDIO NOTE MEISHU 300B integrated with phono EX DEM			PLINIUS 8150 integrated with phono 150W/ch EX DEM	1900	1350	PRIMARE D20 cd player, amp also available	700 400	
with full manufacturers warranty	3250	2250	PRIMARE A20 AMP	800	400	PIONEER DVL909 DVD player!	900 500	
AUDIO NOTE M2 RIIA phono stage EX DEM	1050	650	PS AUDIO TWO PLUS C power amp		250	ROKSAN CASPIAN cd player	900 600	
AUDIO NOTE M2 pre with phono	1500	800	QUAD 34/306 grey 400 will split		200 each	WADIA 6 cd player with digital volume mint boxed	3760 4000	
AUDIO NOTE p2se power amp	1500	800	QUAD 44/405.2		400	PS AUDIO LAMBDA transport inc AT&T glass optical out 2500	1000	
AUDIO NOTE P4 monoblocks	4200	2100	QUAD 77 int no remote	700	300			
AUDIO NOTE KASSAI parallel single ended			ROTEL RC 872/981	300	300	TURNTABLES, ARMS & CARTRIDGES		
300B 18watts per channel silver wired output tx	23000	8500	ROKSAN CASPIAN	800	475	ALPHASON SOLO + BASIK arm	450 150	
AUDIO INNOVATIONS 1st Audio monoblocks		600	SUGDEN OPTIMA 200 line integrated	900	450	AUDIO NOTE TT2	425 200	
AUDION SILVER KNIGHTS	2250	1300	Toca 22 class a power amp	1900	900	AUDIO NOTE IO v II Petr K Quortrup's own example	2000 1300	
BEARD BBA100 line integrated	1500	500	LOUDSPEAKERS				AUDIO NOTE ANS3L silver wired step up TX	1600 900
BEARD P35 MKII power amp		450	ALIANTE MOD SPAZIO	500	250	AUDIO NOTE ans2 step up tx	400 225	
BEARD P500A PREAMP	1000	300	ALIANTE LINEA (sonus faber electas clones)	2500	1100	CLEARAUDIO EVOLUTION TURNTABLE with		
CROFT MICRO		250	ATC SCM10 black boxed ex dem	1080	600	parallel arm & beta cartridge	1650 1000	
CROFT V POWER		300	AUDIOPLAN KONTRAST MARK 2	2800	1400	FIDELITY RESEARCH FR 64 s silver wired arm	350	
CONCORDANT EXCELSIOR phono pre with psu	1500	600	AUDIO NOTE ANJ tweaked		500	LINN LP12 valhalla, linn arm board	300	
EDISON 12 power amp 12 watts class A		200	Audio Note ANE factory seconds new boxed	1520	760	LINN LP12/ PINK LINK	650	
GAMMA RYTHM INTEGRATED latest version	2500	1000	AUDIO PHYSICS TEMPOS with Essex digital equalizer	4000	1500	LINN LP12 VALHALLA/BASIK	350	
GAMMA AEON MONOBLOCKS latest version	5500	2500	BANDOR BANDORA in light oak	1350	650	LINN LP12 VALHALLA/BASIK PLUS/P	77 380	
LUMLEY M75 monoblocks 75 watts		1500	CADENCE E5 mk I	3500	1350	MICHEL HYDRAULIC REFERENCE with HADCOCK arm, no lid	275	
LUXMAN LX33 valve integrated		2000	CASTLE SEVERN mk I floorstanders	579	300	ORACLE DELPHI MK I with VDH wired Helios Orion	700	
MELOS 333 two box line pre	3000	1300	Celestion 5000 with ribbon tweeters	700	350	ORTOFON Rohmann boxed	1000 500	
MORE FIDELITY 300B stereo power amp	2200	750	DYNAUDIO AUDIENCE 5	400	200	ORTOFON spu gt	250	
ORANGEVALVE PRE with Phono		300	IMPULSE H2	2250	1000	PINK TRIANGLE pt too with rb 300 arm	450	
RADFORD STA 25 RENAISSANCE		700	JAMO CONCERT 8 ANNIVERSARY piano black	1850	1200	ROKSAN XERKES	400	
SONIC FRONTIERS SF5 40 POWER AMP	2000	1000	JBL 200ti latest model in maple	500	300	ROCKPORT TECHNOLOGY CAPELLA		
TRILOGY 948 Stereo power amp.	2000	900	JR 149 round version of ls3/5a		150	with 7000 arm, Ex. Dem.	12500 9500	
TRANSISTOR AMPS								
ALCHEMIST FREYA PRE AMP	1050	450	KLIPSCH LA SCALAS, black, deluxe, boxed	2500	1500	SME 312 silver wired ex dem	1000+ 650	
ALCHEMIST ODIN POWER AMP	1050	500	ORIGIN LIVE SOVEREIGN floorstanders	1200	800	SOUTHER TRIQUARTZ SLA3 arm boxed	1000+ 350	
ATC SCA2 with phono and remote	3000	1650	ORIGIN LIVE RESOLUTION	875	500	TRANSCRIPTORS SATURN with ORIGINAL ARM & LID	250	
AVI S2000MP preamp	950	500	REGA ELA ex dem	325	500	VPI TNT mkIII boxed	4000 2000	
AUDIOLAB 8000C pre grey colour	450	200	REI stygian subwoofer	250	250	WELL TEMPERED ARM	500	
CHORD SP1800 stereo power amp, boxed	2200	1350	RUARK SWORDSMAN	100	100	CABLES		
CRIMSON pre/power		170	SONUS FABER CONCERTINOS	650	425	Please note orig prices are approximate, I can't be bothered to look		
CYPRUS pre/power	1100	700	SPENDOR 15/2 MINI MONITOR	800	350	XLO TYPE 5 1.5m spades	800 400	
CYRUS STRAIGHT LINE integrated amp	400	275	Spendor sp I mint boxed now	1000	350	GOERTZ M1 centre stage 5m bananas	200 125	
CYRUS surround sound processor	700	200	TANNOY LITTLE GOLD MONITORS	600	4000	NORDOST FLATLINE GOLD 2.5m biwired bananas	160 80	
Cyrus two with psx	650	275	TANNOY WESTMINSTERS latest version with shipping crates			OCOS DC SERIES 8 2.2m single/bi or tri wire 50	100 150	
DENSEN D200/D300 pre/power " "	1850	1200	TANNOY ARDEN objective audio rebuild (twice as heavy as the			YAMAMURA MILLENIUM 5000 2.5m bananas bit tatty	3000 700	
DPA DPA pre with two DSP 2005 power amps	2100	1300	originals with 15" hpd. Awsome sound		900	FURAKAWA FS-2T155 PC-OCC 3.5m bananas and 2mm 800	300	
ELECTROCOMPANET pre/power 25 WATTS CLASS A		500	TOWNSEND GLASTONBURY'S MK II	2500	1250	SONIC LINK LILAC 1m phonos	65 40	
EXPOSURE VII pre mm/mc with psu		250	UKD CARUSO ltd edition, four way floorstanders	2500	1250	MADRIGAL HPC 1m phonos	400 200	
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LINN KAIRN with brilliant psu & phono	1500	750	CAMBRIDGE T55 silver fm tuner		75	LFD bi-wire cable 6metre pair	450 225	
As above but with phono boards	1700	800	LEAK TROUGHLINE III STEREO		100	SONIC LINK CABLE RANGE NOW IN STOCK		
LINN MAJIK	800	400	MERIDIAN 204 tuner	650	350	VINTAGE		
MERIDIAN S05 MONOBLOCKS	1700	1000	NAIM NAT101 TUNER with psu	450	450	lots of obscure cheap valve amps for restoration from 10 pounds		
MERIDIAN 205 MONOBLOCKS	1000	600	Nakamichi 700 tritracer	200	200	APHELION GARRARD 401 PLINTH boxed	150	
MOTH 60WATT power amp wood finished mint		650	PIONEER CT9005	500	250	CLASSIQUE SOUNDS 301 PLINTH	200	
boxed			REVOX B77 2 track one owner from new, full service history	600	600	GREEN MARBLE TD 124/SME 3012 PLINTH ONLY	250	
MUSICAL FIDELITY PREAMP/TYPHOON pre/power		650	REVOX A77 several available serviced	200-250	350	LEAK STEREO 50 REBUILT	500	
MUSICAL FIDELITY XPRE and XAS0s	700	450	REVOX b261 tuner boxed		100	MINT RESPRAYED QUAD II	pair 600	
NAIM NAC 32 " "		150	YAMAHA c1 fm tuner black analogue tuner		100	ROGERS CADET 111 pre/power	100	
NAIM NAIT ONE " "		150	Trio 8005 tuner BIG 705 beastie		100	ROGERS BABY DELUXE 6V6 pp pair	500	
NAIM 250 old style		700	CD & DACS				SME 3012 arm	185
NVA pre/power old style 50 watts 4 box		350	ALTIM top loading transport and two box dac, best cd midrange I've		5500 1350	BUDGET EQUIPMENT		
NVA passive pre	350	200	over heard		1750 800	GOLDRING G88	40	
Naim snaps		150	AUDIO NOTE dac1 SIGNATURE smooth valve sound	1000	500	GARRARD 401 depending on condition	60-120	
OCM 500 power amp stereophile recommended		2500	CYRUS DISMASTER/DACMASTER transport/dac	1750	800	In addition to the above we have loads of cheap stuff -		
components list 250 watts per channel	2500	1200	KENWOOD DPX9010 TRANSPORT ONLY	500	250	come and have a look!		
PASS LABS ALEPH 2 MONOBLOCKS	6200	3800	LINN KARIK cd player	2000	700			
PASS ALEPH P LINE PREAMP	3800	2000	MICROMEGA SOLO cd player	1500	600			
			MUSICAL FIDELITY DIGILOG DAC		100			

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amplifiers

AFFORDABLE VALVE CO. EL34 AMPLIFIER

The Affordable EL34 produces 40W on the nail, about as much as you can get from EL34s. The output transformers of this amplifier have plenty of metal in them and could swing full output at low frequencies (40Hz) measurement showed, so this amplifier can produce bass.

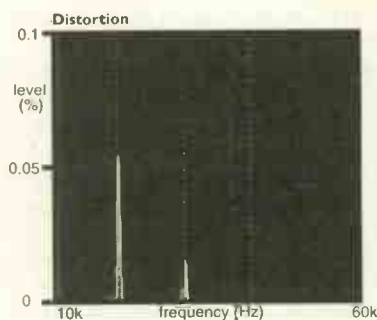
Distortion rose to 3% close to full output at 40Hz and triangulation (third harmonic) set in but this is to be expected. In the midband distortion was higher than usual at low output powers, measuring 0.4% at 1W. A valve amp can produce 0.1% or less so the Affordable isn't too impressive here and may lose a little clarity as a result.

Frequency response was wide, stretching from 4Hz up to 106kHz. It is safer to band limit a valve amplifier because out-of-band signals through a valve amplifier get distorted - especially bass frequencies. Heavy subsonics from some CDs can drive a valve amp into bass distortion if this is not done.

High power output across the frequency band will likely give this amplifier a solid kick. Reduced bandwidth and a little less distortion at low outputs wouldn't go amiss to improve sweetness. All the same, the Affordable Valve amplifier offers a good level of performance at the price. NK

Power 40watts

CD/tuner/aux.	
Frequency response	4Hz-106kHz
Separation	60dB
Noise	-96dB
Distortion	0.4%
Sensitivity	380mV
dc offset	none



CROFT VITALE PRE-AMP

The Croft's line stage provides a gain of x4 for tuner/aux/CD., which is just what's needed. It is common to provide x3 to take a 300mV signal up to around 1V or so. Bandwidth was good at 5Hz-45kHz, and both noise and distortion were low. Being a valve pre-amp it will swing plenty of output, managing 20V (0.5% distortion).

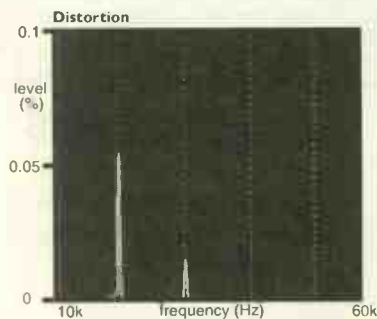
The phono stage has more gain than is needed for moving magnet cartridges (x100), but too little for low output moving coils, which ideally need x1000. At x400 the Croft falls in-between, but users will find it handles high-ish output MCs like Ortofons satisfactorily, although there will be a little hiss. With MMs the Croft is

relatively quiet though. Equalisation was accurate, although some plateau treble lift (0.5dB from 3kHz-20kHz) will add brightness.

The Croft offers a nicely balanced conventional performance that should be useful in any system. A valve phono stage can sound wonderful with LP, and this will likely be the Vitale's key strength subjectively. NK

CD/tuner/aux.	
Frequency response	5Hz-45kHz
Separation	-75dB
Noise	-86dB
Distortion	0.01%
Gain	x4

Disc	
Frequency response	8Hz-100kHz
Separation	-72dB
Noise	-75dB
Distortion	0.03%
Gain	x400



MUSICAL FIDELITY X-LP2 PHONO STAGE

The X-LP is a monoblock phono stage with separate power supply, so there are three units in all. This makes the separation figure a bit academic, which isn't a problem because no cartridge manages better than 35dB or so in any case. Distortion was minimal at 0.005% through both MC and MM (MC is a x8 gain stage in front of MM) and MM equivalent input noise very low at 0.3µV. The MC stage was also quiet, having an equivalent input noise of 0.07µV, if not up with the best which manage a few dB better.

Equalisation was very accurate from

10Hz up to 50kHz, meaning the X-LP has, in effect, a flat frequency response. That's if you ignore a later IEC amendment to the original RIAA curve which inserts a steep warp filter below 40Hz. The X-LP2 doesn't have such a thing, meaning it gives deeper bass, but will also produce some cone flap if warped LPs are played.

Gain was about right at x120 for MM and x1000 for MC. Overload is set by maximum output swing, as usual, which was a healthy 11V. That means input overload was 90mV for MM and 11mV

for MC.

The X-LP2 measured well and is very accurate. Phono stages have a great impact on LP sound quality and must in the final analysis be judged subjectively though. NK

Frequency response	10Hz-50kHz
Separation	82dB
Noise, MM/MC (e.i.n.)	0.3mV / 0.07mV
Distortion	0.005%
Gain, MM/MC	x120 / x1000
Overload	11V out

AMPS & SPEAKERS

In the last couple of adverts I have referred specifically to 'speakers and then amplifiers, but space prevented me considering the even more complicated question of 'synergy' between the two. Sometimes the problem can be fairly simple, namely when a 'speaker manufacturer also makes amplification, so that in the case of ATC and AVI for example their electronics and 'speakers are going to work well together. I have often asked other speaker manufacturers which amplifiers they utilise when designing their speakers, as this is bound to effect the balance, assuming they actually listen to them and don't simply work on measurements. (I know of one amplifier designer who does just that and says that's how it should be designed, and if you don't like the sound that's just too bad!) But it's difficult to get them to say what amps they use, although many 'speakers can be very amp dependant. I am just wondering, while writing this, whether a 'speaker cable, such as the new Townsend Isolda, which is designed to provide the correct impedance between the cable and speaker and provide the correct load to the amplifier, may eliminate some of the synergy I am referring to here. Having only just obtained the Isolda cable and the new Townsend Seismic Sink speaker stands, I haven't had the time to listen on enough systems to answer that question yet. But watch this space! What is not in doubt is that both items can dramatically improve the sound of your system, although not cheap. In the meantime I will just refer to the combination of Ruark Equinox with Electrocompaniet amps and Alon 'speakers with AVI integrated on classical music or Chord amplifiers if you require more thump on pop music. Back to the testing! Please ring if you want to join in.

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NAIM NAIT 3R

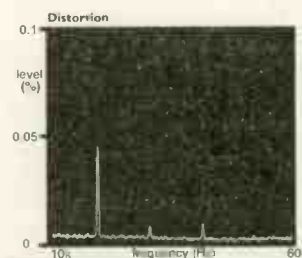
The Nait has a modest power output of 32W. These days however, there's no shortage of high sensitivity loudspeakers that can produce 90dB or more from 1watt, meaning they'll produce 105dB with 32W, which is very loud. Since this is 1m in front of the loudspeaker it won't be as loud in the average listening position 2-3m away, but all the same the Nait will go loud if suitably partnered. The Acoustic Research Status 30 and Klipsch KSB 2.1 in this issue both offer 90dB and so do many floorstanders. Be aware that smaller loudspeakers are generally less

sensitive, which might seem surprising. Modern floorstanders are the best bet for an amplifier like this.

The Nait produced little distortion and what did exist was innocuous sounding second harmonic, our analysis shows. Naim band limit the Nait to 22kHz to minimise transient distortions and they also give it a very high sensitivity of 60mV, so it will match just about any source, no matter how weak its output. NK

Power 32W
CD/tuner/aux.

Frequency response	11Hz-22kHz
Separation	86dB
Noise	-84dB
Distortion	0.01%
Sensitivity	60mV
dc offset	none



cd players

NAIM NACD 3.5

The NACD 3.5 has a distinctive frequency response characteristic in which high frequencies roll down faster than usual, to take the sting out of CD treble and give a more analogue character. The upper response limit measured 17kHz. It might look more limited than the usual 21kHz figure, but the roll off in truth covers an octave of higher frequencies that, subjectively, do not affect how we perceive treble directly in terms of brightness, coarseness or sweetness and such like. Best to judge this one subjectively.

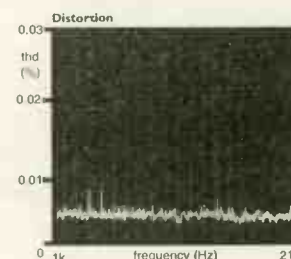
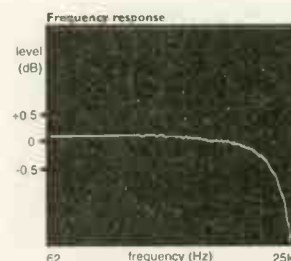
Audible treble information lies below 10kHz and here the Naim was as linear and distortion free as other modern CD players. Our analysis shows there are few distortion spikes (harmonics) to be seen, a

further contribution to subjective smoothness. With low noise and a normal output of 2.2V the NACD 3.5 measures well. NK

Frequency response	4Hz-17kHz	
Distortion	left	right
-6dB	0.006	0.006
-30dB	0.02	0.02
-60dB	0.38	0.38
-90	28	28
Separation	left	right
1kHz	106	105
20kHz	103	102

Noise -105dB
with emphasis -105dB

Dynamic range	109dB
Output	2.2V



AUDIO ANALOGUE MAESTRO

Our distortion analysis shows that only the noise floor contributed energy to the analysis up to 20kHz, just a trace of second harmonic being visible at far left. This gave distortion value at -30dB of 0.006% (not including noise), about as low as possible.

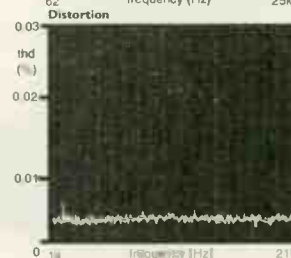
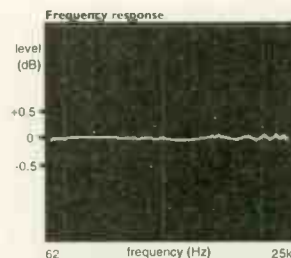
Low distortion at -60dB contributed to the excellent EIAJ dynamic range value of 109dB.

Our response analysis shows the presence of filter ripples, unusual on a modern player, but they were too small in themselves to affect sound quality. The suggestion here is that as the player's filters are different their inherent sound may also differ, giving the Maestro a distinctive character. The fact that output is flat right

up to 20.6kHz (-1dB) means the player will produce a clean sound with perhaps some treble sheen. NK

Frequency response	4Hz-20.6kHz	
Distortion	left	right
-6dB	0.006	0.006
-30dB	0.006	0.006
-60dB	0.38	0.39
-90	29	29
Separation	left	right
1kHz	-116	-120
20kHz	-95	-98

Noise -110dB
with emphasis -110dB
Dynamic range 109dB
Output 1.97V



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B & W P5 floorstanding speakers, boxed, two years old £350. Denson Beat amp, two years old £250 boxed. Both like new. Tel: 01438 816 104 (Feb/I)

MERIDIAN 506 20 Bit CD Player, excellent condition, boxed with instructions and remote control £775. Tel: 0181 946 4927 (SW London) (Feb/I)

KEF REFERENCE Series 4 speakers, Rosetta Burr veneer, £2000, Kef 105/3 speakers walnut & Kube £900, all as new & boxed. Tel: 00353 509 35469, 00353 86 819 6711 (Feb/I)

REGA RB300 For Sale £85 plus Mana sound frame £75. Tel: 0181 556 0606 evenings or 0171 473 5472 daytime (Feb/I)

MARANTZ CD94/CDA94 transport and converter, excellent condition, superb sound, £550 ono. Denon DRM12 cassette deck £40, Acoustic Research TO4 tuner £20. Tel: 01858 464 771 (evenings) (Feb/I)

KEF REFERENCE Series Model Three in Rosetta Burr. Lead filled support plinth. Look and sound superb, boxed. Retail at £2700. £1700 ono. Tel: 01394 210 614 (after 6pm) or mobile 07714 659 760 (Feb/I)

NAIM 52 pre-amp with Supercap £3600. Two Naim 135 power amps £1650 old style. All mint. Linn Sondek LP12, Circus, Ekos 2, Arkive 2, Armageddon, little used and in mint condition £2000. Naim Prefix head amp £100. Naim Nait 1 £100. Tripod Hi-Fi stand suits Naim, £110. Audiotech table and wall shelf £60 each. Tel: 01622 858 085 (Feb/I)

TEAC VRDS10 CD player/transport, good player, great transport, mint condition, boxed, cost £800 accept £375. Naim 32.5 preamp with dedicated CD boards and m/coil £180. Tel: 01282 458 223 Northwest (Feb/I)

Classified Ads

LAT AC2 POWER CABLES AND DISTRIBUTION BOXES ARE AVAILABLE FROM:

- Audio Concept - Ealing - 0181 567 8703
- Audio Reflections - Wakefield - 0113 252 8850
- Custom Cable Service - (mail order) - 0181 942 9124
- Musical Images - Covent Garden - 0171 497 1346
- Musical Images - Edgware - 0181 952 5535
- Orpheus Audio - Lancs - 01257 473175
- Sounds Of Music - Tunbridge Wells - 01892 547003
- Sounds Of Music - London - SE1 - 0181 357 8882
- The Listening Rooms - London SW7 - 0171 244 7750
- Unilet Sound & Vision - New Malden - 0181 942 9567
- Kronos Hi Fi N Ireland - 01868 753 606



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Hi Fi World June 99

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AC-2 Power cable - Silver clad, Teflon insulated at 10awg; this is the largest gauge of power cord we know of. The design of our shielding system effectively eliminates interferences from RF and EMI sources. Fitted with a MK Tough plug and IEC or Fig of eight connector. European connectors also available.



Solder connections with Wonder Solder. 2ft £49, 3ft £59, 4ft £69, 6ft £89. Other lengths to order. 4, 6 and 8 way all steel distribution boxes with 3 ft of cable & MK Tough plug £149, £179, £209.

Analogue Interconnects, IC-50, IC-80, IC 100, IC, 200. - refer What Hi Fi for review ratings. Hi-Fi World Sep 99 - IC-50 "this months bargain". Speaker cables - SS800, BIWIRE, SS1000

Hi-Fi World Aug 99 "gained speed, control & involvement. Improved cohesion and musicality"

Taperwire flat speaker cable

418 -★★★★★ WHAT-HIFI, What Hi Fi Ultimate Hi Fi Guide

Sunfire Corporation

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CLASSIC TUBE PRE AMP, optional all valve phono stage (MM/MC) with CD input (reverse RIAA equalisation)



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FIVE CHANNEL POWER AMP 200 wpc x 5 - HEXFET with no heat sinks

THEATRE GRAND PROCESSOR PRE-AMP- phono stage, tuner, Dolby Digital, DTS, auto source sensing, intelligent remote

2700 watt TRUE SUB-WOOFER 11 inch cube 18Hz

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Fax: 44 (0) 181 241 0999
E-Mail: cweere @mcmall.com

AUDUSA & Co

Gershman Acoustics

Avante Garde RX20 - a mere 36" tall and 12" x 12" at the base - Absolute Sound review - "a true torture test with a bass line that's big, super fast and continuous - the Gershman's handled it beautifully, servo driven Infinity RS1 towers have more power but are way too slow. The Magnepan MG3.5/R's, can't match the low bass impact of the Avant Gardes, only the Thiel 3.6 can handle this track with aplomb and even they don't sound quite as fast. Unquestionably, the Avant Gardes are a tremendously musical loudspeakers". X-1, Specter, Enigma 500-X, GAP-520X



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NEWS FLASH! ERGO headphones now available in the UK. Made in Switzerland these headphones are simply the best. Prices start from £149.00 for the Model 1.

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CABLES**

SONUS FABER	LIST	SALE
CONCERTINO	599	430
CONCERTO	945	750
CONCERTO GRAN P.	1,550	1,290
ELECTA AMATOR 2	2,849	1,950
GUARNERI HOMAGE	5,795	3,750
SIGNUM	1,250	999
EXTREMA	N/A	2,850
AMATI HOMAGE	11,450	8,750

Prices refer to new/mint condition and sealed

WHARFEDALE mod AIR DALE, great sound for the price of £ 200 the pair! **LOWTHER** Acoustat Cabinet £ 100 the pair, Belcanto £ 1,500 (piano finish) rare model, few available, Fidelio £ 1,100. Drive Units: (each) Series DX2 £ 230; DX3 £ 350; PM6A £ 235; PM7A £ 290; PM2A £ 350. **MAUHORN** beautiful cabinet for PM2A £ 1,000. **QUAD ESL** Black or Bronze £ 350-500. Cables from Italy: **SHINPY** Black Hole A. £ 300; Black Star 2 i. (1+1m) £ 250; **AUDIO NOTE** ANSP Pure Silver Speaker Cable £ 150 **A.R.T.** (for Sonus Faber) Millennium 1000 £ 200.

AUDIO VALVES

This month's bargain: 300B Western Electric boxed with Guarantee Registration Card £ 220 each or £ 400 the matched Pair; PX4 POA; PP3/250 POA; KT61 £ 15; KT66 G.E.C. boxed £ 50; 6550A General Electric with original box

£ 35 each; EL34 MULLARD POA, EL84 POA; ECC82 Mullard £ 8 each; ECC83 Mullard £ 9 each; E88CC Brimar/Mullard £ 7 each

VINTAGE/MODERN AMPS

LEAK TL 10 £450-500; TL12+ £ 350 (pair) or £ 150 single, TL12.1 £ 1000-1250 (pair); Stereo 20 £ 250; TL 50 POA; Throughline Stereo Tuner £100; QUAD II good/mint £ 450/550; QUAD 405 mint £ 200; QUAD 606 POA; also available **RADFORD** STA 15 with preamp £ 650; STA25 £ 700; **AUDIO NOTE** SHINRI 300B still boxed with original set of 300B valves, great sound (£ 23,000 new) £ 9500; M2 preamplifier phono £ 1000; M7 preamplifier phono £ 5000; **GRAAF** GM100 VTA £ 3800; GM20 £ 2700; GM 200 OTL £ 5800; Venti-cinque £ 900; **UNISON RESEARCH** POWER 35 £ 1350; SMART 845 £ 3450; PENTODE 35 £ 1490; **JADIS** 300B £ 5,999; DEFY 100 £ 2,000; JPL Preamp £ 2,500. **CONRAD JOHNSON** VM 50 £ 1100; **AUDIO RESEARCH** PH2 preamp £ 1490; **VAC** (separate PSU) PA60 £ 3000; **VAC** RENAISSANCE 30/30 £ 3900.

TENTABLES/CARTRIDGES/ARMS

GARRARD 301 POA; 401 £ 120; **MICHELL** Gyrodeck MKII ex-demo £ 750; MicroGyro Arm £ 500; **NOTTINGHAM ANALOGUE** MENTOR REFERENCE (one of the best in the market) mint condition £ 2000; Interspace £ 350; Spacedeck £ 550; HyperSpace £ 1190; **NOTTINGHAM** The Foot (12" tone arm) £ 850; **SME** 309 £ 550; **SME** 3009 £ 80; **SME** 3012 £ 150; **ORTOFON** Rohmann mint/sealed £ 750; MC10 Supreme £ 210; MC20 Supreme £ 375; MC30 Supreme £ 425; **AUDIO NOTE** IO-V £ 1000; **SUMIKO** Blue Point S £ 199.

CD PLAYERS/DAC

C.E.C. TL2 Belt Drive as new £ 1350; **AUDIO NOTE** DAC 4 bargain £ 2500.

CASH WAITING for the following valves: PX4; PX25; PP3/250; P850/P15/250; P12/250; AC044; PP5/400; RS241; 300BWE; KT61; KT60 2A3; 211; EL84 (Mullard); LEAK; RADFORD; QUAD I and II; DYNATRON, any RGD amp; GOODMANS AXIOM 80 - TANNAY & LOWTHER

Special Internet offer
see page 130 for details

MARK LEVINSON 333
ower-amp £4200. 380S
re-amp £3800. Tel: 01179
65 361 Bristol (Feb/I)

MUSICAL FIDELITY Nu-
fista preamp, 10 hours use
nly, spare valves £1050.
udio Research LS2 MKII
reamp stunning £1200.
Monitor Audio Studio 20SE,
osewood, special isolation
tands £950. Tel: 01438 359
00 (Feb/I)

IAKAMICHI 1000 Tri-tracer
assette deck in full working
condition £200 ono. WANT-
ID: remote control RM20
or Nakamichi Dragon. Tel:
1202 397 545
Bournemouth) (Feb/I)

INN LP12 black ash, Lingo
irkus Ekos arm, all boxed,
mint condition £1350 ono.
Tel: 01993 898 358
venings or 0802 989 899
anytime (Feb/I)

UDIO RESEARCH pream-
plifier SP9MK2 rewired with
ilver wire. Controls simpli-
ed to volume and selector
with custom black front to
uit £200. Tel: 01454 418
97 (Feb/I)

HREE WAY speakers
sing Dynaudio units 24W-
00 D76 and D28. Housed
n high quality teak cabi-
ets, cost of units alone
600 plus. Bargain at £200.
Tel: 01454 418 997 (Feb/I)

ROUGHLINE II revalved
fullard NOS with De
aravacini decoder
aligned and serviced by
laden Boardman, lovely
condition, excellent sound
150. (About £400 spent on
his classic tuner). Tel:
1203 416 979 (Feb/I)

AIM ARO £500 Naim
BL'S black, latest drivers,
950. Linn Active Isobariks
with Naim S-Naxo, black
950. Epos ES14 early teak
odel £175 including
tands. Tel: 01245 283 125
Essex) (Mar/I)

SOUNDSTYLE X6100
equipment rack, brown with
red marble effect glass
shelves as new condition
£125 ono. Tel: 01392 205
395 (Feb/I)

LINN SONDEK LP12
Valhalla Rega RB300
45rpm adaptor, new arm-
board and belt, boxed,
excellent condition £450
ono. Tel: 01909 470192
(Mar/I)

SUGDEN A48 amplifier, T48
tuner. Excellent. £95 pair.
Ferrograph Dolby Logic
724D, amplifier and speaker
model, good. Series 704
deck, needs attention, £125
pair. No offers, buyer col-
lects. Tel: 01273 583 675
(Feb/I)

MERIDIAN 207 CD/preamp
Mk II Meridian serviced
£395. Meridian 203 DAC
£145. Meridian 209 remote
also available. Gale Model
4 loudspeakers £95. Tel:
Peter 0802 273 430 or 0181
861 3478 (Feb/I)

FOR SALE Connoisseur
BDI record deck SME
3009.2 arm with Ortofon
cartridge, new £25 or just
deck and arm, price nego-
tiable. Just rebuilt into new
pine plinth, one
Connoisseur record deck
with SAU2 arm. Good con-
dition. Empire cartridge,
price negotiable. Tel: 01395
273 631 (Feb/I)

MUSICAL FIDELITY
MA50X power amplifiers
with preamp 3 £380. Tel:
01608 642 460 (Chipping
Norton, Oxon) (Feb/I)

LEAK CLASSIC Point One
TL/10 amplifier Point One
preamp. Original in perfect
working order, immaculate
condition £200. Tel: 01287
623 587 (Cleveland) (Feb/I)

CARTRIDGES MM & MC
£10 - £60. Technics Shure
Grado Stanton. Details Tel:
01287 623 587 (Cleveland)
(Feb/I)

QUAD ESL63s, wood finish
3 years old, mint condition,
must sell due to house
move. Boxed, speaker
cables included. £1500. Tel:
01283 704 227 (Derby -
Burton area) (Feb/I)

OPERA IIIa for sale £550,
new price £1100, very nat-
ural sounding, slim floor-
standing solid mahogany
and sand loaded. Tel: 0171
586 3214 (Feb/I)

PASS ALEPH O Monoblocs
and Aleph P Pre. Mint
boxed manuals. Stereophile
Class A. £4500 (£11k new).
Tel: day: 0171 636 9464,
eves: 01582 629 556 Email:
i.s.k.g@btinternet.com
(Feb/I)

KRELL MD-10 Transport,
fantastic build and sound
quality (£7990), bargain
at £2995. Also Krell
Studio DAC to suit above
mint (£4550) sell £1995.
Need space, may split,
also consider part
exchange for quality sin-
gle box player. May deliv-
er. Tel: 01482 641 217
(Feb/I)

DENON DCD-1560 CD
£250. Rotel RC-850 preamp
£80. Rotel RB-870BX
power-amps £150 (3 for
£400). Denon PMA-250SE
amplifier £85. Acoustic
Research EB101 turntable
£100. All immaculate,
boxed, manuals. Tel: 0151
480 6871 (Feb/I)

TECHNICS ST-600L tuner
£50. Mordaunt- Short MS10i
speakers £75. Kenwood
KX3010 tape deck £65.
Aiwa AD-F410 tape deck
£50. All immaculate, boxed
with manuals. Tel: 0151 480
6871 (Feb/I)

AUDIO ALCHEMY Bellini
pre-amp. Mint condition.
Financial reason forces
sale. £300 ono. Tel: 0116
267 5113 ansaphone
(Feb/I)

NAKAMICHI DRAGON cas-
sette deck recently serviced
£1400. Tel: 01789 490 975
(Feb/I)

AR LEGEND turntable with
Linn Basik LVX arm and K9
cartridge £150. Marantz
PM55SE amplifier £95.
Celestion 5 MkII speakers
£65. Tel: Michael 0121 603
5136 after 7pm (Feb/I)

MODIFIED RB250. 1999
arm sourced through Origin
Live. Structurally modified
and rewired with silver Litz
(Hi-Fi World Feb 99
'Nothing less than total
dynamite'.) Cost £281. Sell
£140. May sell cartridge
too. Tel: 01483 281 234
(Surrey) (Feb)

ELCASET: SONY EL-7
three motor, three head ver-
sion with 50 unused tapes
and handbook, service data.
Excellent. £175. WANTED:
Ferrograph sales literature,
service data, etc. Tel: 0116
255 4619. (Feb/I)

LINN LK1 Preamp, late
model (108046) vgc, full set
of input and output leads
£125. Linn Index Mk2, with
dedicated. Kustone stands,
vgc, £195. Tel: 01484 841
482 (Feb/I)

ROTEL RCX820L
30WRMS/FM-AM £30.
Technics SA300L
38WRMS/FM-AM £40.
Denon PMA250/TU450L (Q)
£140. JVCV31 FM-AM £30.
Dual CS-505-3 £50.
Marantz CD42 £100.
Mission 70II spks £100.
TDL T-Line 2's £350. Quad
QCII Pre-A £25. JVC TV
R.C + VHS Video £125.
Wanted - IMFTLS80 II's.
Tel: 01206 510 392 (Feb/I)

SAGE SUPERMOS module
wanted. Good money paid.
Selling Genexxa Linaeum
speakers pro LX5 £40 pair.
Genexxa modular ribbon
tweeters with crossovers
£40. Tel: Chris 01457 765
292 before 8pm only (Feb/I)

Classified Ads

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AUDIO RESEARCH LS3B Linestage Preamplifier	Mint S/H/and	£2250	£1395
ACURUS RL II Classe A Linestage Preamplifier (Black)	Ex.Demo/Mint	£765	£375
ACURUS ACD II CD Player (Black)	Ex.Demo/Mint	£900	£475
CAIRN Meije CD Player (Silver)	Ex.Demo/Mint	£750	£495
CAIRN Eternis Face Nord CD Player (Silver)	Ex.Demo/Mint	£1200	£849
CLASSÉ CP-50 including Phono. Fully Balanced Remote Preamplifier (Black)	Mint Ex.Demo	£3190	£1995
KORA D30 30w Pure Class A Integrated Line Tube Amplifier	Mint Ex. Demo	£1850	£1150
KORA D50 50w Pure Class A Integrated Line Tube Amplifier	Mint Ex. Demo	£2700	£1795
KORA 100SB Pure Triode Monoblocks + Bal & S/E Inputs & Resonance Tuned Chassis	Min Ex. Demo	£5350	£3795
MUSICAL FIDELITY F18 200 WPC Power Amplifier	Mint S/H/and	£4000	£1995

MIRAGE:-

M-290 2-Way Audiophile Compact Monitors	Mint Ex. Demo	£400	£225
M-390is 2-Way Tuned Vent Floorstander (Black Ash)	Mint Ex. Demo	£550	£295
FRX-3 2-Way Bookshelf Monitors (Black)	Ex.Demo/Mint	£330	£195
FRX-5 2-Way Floorstander Loudspeakers (Cherry)	Ex.Demo/Mint	£510	£325
FRX-7 2-Way Floorstander Loudspeakers (Black)	Ex.Demo/Mint	£700	£420
CM-6 3-Way Semi Active Omnipolar Radiators (Black)	Ex.Demo/Mint	£2750	£1995
CM-8 3-Way Semi Active Omnipolar Radiators (Black)	Ex.Demo/Mint	£2000	£1350
CM-10 2-Way Omnipolar Radiators (Black)	Ex.Demo/Mint	£1100	£695
CM-14 2-Way Omnipolar Radiators (Black)	Ex.Demo/Mint	£650	£395
FRX-R Spherical Radiating Surround Speakers (Black)	Ex.Demo/Mint	£335	£199
FRX-S12 150w Active Subwoofer (Black)	Ex.Demo/Mint	£575	£310

HOME CINEMA

RUTEL RB 985 Multi-Channel Amplifier	As New S/H/and	£725	£495
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AERIAL ACOUSTICS

acurus: *Barclay*
Cairn: *Classé Audio*

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Mirage Loudspeakers
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Definitive Audio	NOTTINGHAM	01159 733222
Serious Kit	MANCHESTER	0161 798 9649
Walrus Systems	LONDON	0171 724 7224

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(CT HFW 02/00)

Special Internet offer
see page 130 for details

REVOX B77 MkII high speed, half track. Serviced with new heads. Sold with 20 reels of NAB 10.5" tape £395. WANTED: Atlas PSU for Alphason Sonata. Tel: 01780 764 149 or 01489 603 765 (Feb/I)

GRADO REFERENCE R52 headphones. Mint. Audiophile heaven. (£495) £230. Tel: 01752 773 369 (Feb/I)

WANTED: AVANCE Z501 power amplifier or Z504 power amplifier. For sale: Pioneer PD-S801 CD player, unmarked, makers box £150. DBX 119 dynamic range expander £70. Tel: 01204 531 016 anytime (Feb/I)

AUDIOLAB 8000Q pre-amplifier £595. Monitor Audio 703 PMC loudspeakers £495. Chord Chorus digital interconnect £50. Audioquest Digital Two interconnect £25. Cabtalk Theatre 2 speaker cable 2 x 10m £25. Tel: 01489 570 990 (Feb/I)

AUDIOLAB 8000 transport, three months old, mint condition, boxed £700. Also Audiolab 8000 DAC, two years old, mint condition £400. May sell together for £950. Tel: 0131 221 0391 (Feb/I)

LOWTHER LOWTHER Lowther. PM2A L./S. drive units wanted. Any condition. Also wanted - Lowther Acousta twin cabinets, working drawings, L./S. feet, and drive unit screws. Tel: Jeff 0181 924 0207 (Barking, Essex) (Feb/I)

ALCHEMIST FORSETI remote integrated amp £600; Audionote 'K's' with stands £400. All equipment in mint condition. No time wasters at these bargain prices please. Tel: 01443 422 796 (Wales). (Mar/I)

TANNOY SR840 power amplifier 250 WPC. £895. PS Audio 4.5 pre-amplifier. Massive PSU. £495. Burmester 785 pre-amplifier £495. Audionote OTO. £695. Nakamichi Electret microphones. (3) £295 all vgc. Tel: 01747 853 372 Dorset (Feb/I)

VOYD VALDI turntable with Wilson Benesch Act-1 tonearm (boxed) (£1250), Audio Innovations S-1000 MC-Transformer (£125), 3 x 1 metre Living Voice interconnect (£100/m), 4 metre (bi-wired) Hitachi SSX-102K LO-OFC speaker cable (used in Living Voice horns) (£100), 2 x 1 metre Living Voice mains cable, 1 x yellow (£65), 1 x grey (£35), Living Voice 4way distribution block (£65), Musical Fidelity X-10D (£75). Tel: Simon 0171 820 9102 (Feb/I)

MUSICAL FIDELITY X-LP phonostage, six months old, £90. DBF Azure 1m interconnect £15. Tel: Richmond 01684 567 212 Email: richmond@lancaster@severn-trent.co.uk (Malvern, Worcs) (Feb/I)

ROKSAN XERXES Turntable with XPS 3.5 / D.S.U, RB300, Goldring 1042 & spare stylus. Ringmat XLR. Boxed with manual in immaculate condition £520. Tel: 01633 660 301, Email: nicolap99@hotmail.com (Feb/I)

FERROGRAPH 3 A/N open reel recorder. Tapes of 1960's shows. £80 ono. Tel: 0114 230 3515 (Sheffield) (Feb)

LINN AKTIV music system. All items boxed as new £2700. References available from the Sound Organisation York. Tel: Mark 01482 896001 (day) 01482 618116 (evening). Tel: 01904 627 108 (Mar/I)

TECHNICS SL10 direct drive linear tracking record sized turntable. Audio Technica MC cartridge instructions £495. Teac 300 cassette deck £130. Teac 300 am/fm tuner £130. Tel: 01202 481 386 (Feb/I)

LEAK ST20 rebuilt £300. Garrard 401 oak superb plinth £250. Decca Gold cartridge paperwork, mint, £100. Paper oil capacitors 12uf 18off £40. Audax two 25ml tweeters 2off £16. Stentorian, offers. Tel: 01827 261 082 (Feb/I)

MERIDIAN 508-20 bit CD player, as new, M.S.R., £850. Naim Interconnects (2 phono to 5 pin din), Chord Cobra £30, Audiquest Quartz £60. Naim M.M phono boards £40. (all inc. p & p). Tel: 01766 781 211 (Feb/I)

PRIMARE D20 integrated CD player, A20 integrated amplifier, Castle Avon loudspeakers, excellent sound and condition, three months old, boxed. £1395 ono. Denon DC1 personal component system six disc changer £195. Sony M2-R55 portable minidisc recorder, three months old, £185. Tel: Jamie 07808 736 310 (Feb/I)

AUDIOLAB 8000PPA phono stage cost £900 accept £495. Ortofon MC20 supreme cost £350 new accept £195. Alphason Sonata turntable gold walnut Atlas power supply cost (£1200) accept £495. Tel: 01634 387 686 (Feb/I)

NAIM CD3 £600, NAC92 + MM boards £300, NAP90/3 £300, Flatcap £175, Kef Reference 3 Rosetta (new) £2000, Linn Keilidh with bases £400, Yamaha DSP595 surround receiver (new) £250. Tel: 01189 714 986. (Mar/I)

PAIR QUANTUM Audio small walnut monitor loudspeakers 90dB efficiency biwireable ideal partner for valve amp. Original price £899, three years old, boxed, mint £325 ono. 01634 313 712 Medway (Feb/I)

GARRARD 401 turntable with Decca FFSS arm cartridge, teak plinth, all original, mint condition £125. Also Mordaunt Short MS251 floorstanding speakers 720 x 220 x 220. rosewood, £65. Tel: 01932 820 677 Weybridge, Surrey. (Feb)

PROAC RESPONSE 2.5, yew finish, 9 month old, cost £2950 sell for £2150 ono. Tel: 0171 840 0207. (Feb/I)

QUAD 405 power amplifier, excellent condition £160. Tel/Fax: 01302 859 095 (Feb/I)

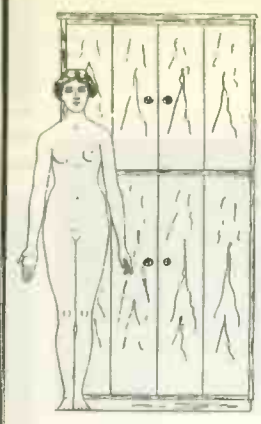
PROAC RESPONSE 3 speakers, black ash £1200, 5.5 years, first class condition, with boxes, sale for leaving UK. Tel: 01628 585 358 daytime or 0181 992 3354 eve or send email: toru@tonaga.globalnet.co.uk (Feb/I)

NAIM CREDO (cherry, boxed with full guarantee. £750. Naim CD2 £1250. Ruark Talisman 2 (unused) £550. Rega Elicit amplifier £275. Pioneer A400 £125. Marantz CD63KI Signature £200. Tel: 01952 502 097 (Telford) (Feb/I)

ROYD Sorcerers, cherry, dedicated stands, £365. Exposure CD £495. Naim 72 £370 new style,. NAP250 £690. Hicap £350, old style, NAD 4020N Tuner £75, Creek phonostage OBHSE/OBH2 £95. All mint condition. Tel: 0181 952 2044 (Feb/I)

Classified Ads

Classified Ads



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EZ81	Mullard	£10	.5 µF		350V		£5
ECC33	Mullard	£25	.5 µF		500V		£8
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ECC81	Mullard	£6	2H	300mA	£15	5H	250mA £20
ECC82	Mullard	£10	16H	30mA	£10	5H	40mA £15
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EF86	Mullard	£12	10H	250mA	£30		
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E88CC	Mullard	£15	Secondary		Secondary	Secondary	
M8137	Mullard	£15	COM 4V 5V 3A		400-350-0-350-400 150MA £40ea	400-0-400 180MA £25ea	
EF37A	Mullard	£10	COM 4V 6.3V 3A			PLESSEY Primary 105-240V SCR	
EL84	RCA	£12	COM 4V 6.3V 4A			Secondary	
A2900	GEC	£20	COM 4V 6.3V 4A		PLESSEY Primary 105-240V SCR	Secondary	
EL37	Mullard	£40	350-300-0-300-350V		Secondary 1185-0-1185V	6.5V 3A 6.5V 3A, 6.5V 2.2A 6.5V 400MA,	
ML6	Marconi	£25	250MA £70ea		200MA £50ea	57-0-57 60MA, 365-0-365V 215MA £35ea	
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6SL7	STC	£8	8 µF	1000V	£15	2 µF	600V £6
6SN7	STC	£15	12 µF	350V	£8	1 µF	600V £6
6SN7	USA	£5	4 µF	600V	£6	.5 µF	1000V £10
EF86	Brimar	£6	4 µF	800V	£8	1 µF	1000V £10
8D8	Brimar	£15	4 µF	1500V	£15		
VALVE SOCKETS							
6SN7	Brimar	£6	Mc Murdo Octal		£1 each	Quad 2 pin mains	
5Y3GT	Haltron	£5	Mc Murdo B7g		£1 each	Quad 2 pin output	
5R4GY	USA	£8	Cinch Skirted B9A		£1 each	Bulgin Octal plug	
5R4GY	STC	£15	P.T.F.E. Skirted B9A		£1 each	Bulgin Free Octal SKT	
3A/110A	STC	£20	P.T.F.E. Skirted B7G		£1 each	Bulgin Free 3 pin mains	
3A/110B	STC	£20	USA Ceramic Octal		£1 each	Bulgin FXD 3 pin plug	
6072A	USA	£5	Mc Murdo Ceramic Octal		£3 each	Bulgin Free 2 pin Spkr plug used for leak spkr output	
5751	USA	£5	Marconi Ceramic Octal		£3 each		
6B4G	USA	£35	Marconi Ceramic B4		£5 each	Silver plated P.T.F.E. wire various sizes and colours several different voltage ratings all 50p per mtr (ring for details)	
5U4G	USA	£12	Chinese 807 Ceramic		£2 each	P & P £5 per order, overseas carriage at cost.	
			Chinese Twist Loc Ux4		£3 each		
			Chinese Twist Loc 211		£6 each		
			R.C.A. Twist Loc 211		£15 each		
			R.C.A. Twist Loc Ux4		£8 each		
			Marconi Bacolite DA100		£30 each		
PLUGS AND SOCKETS							

Special Internet offer
see page 130 for details

SONY CDP-X303ES high end CD player with Trichord Clock 3 mod, mint boxed (cost £845) £295. Mission 752 loudspeakers, vgc, boxed. £225. Dynavector DV-20XH high output moving coil, HFW favourite, 20 hours only, boxed (£295), £130. Sony ST-JX60 tuner, early 80s high end FM only digital, silver finish (£225), £75. Marantz CD54 CD player, rare first generation machine in vgc, boxed. Champagne gold, CDM1 Pro transport, beautiful warm sound (£400), £90. Pioneer A400X amplifier, mint, boxed, great cheap integrated (£295), £95. Ortofon MC30 Supreme, worn, buy for trade-in discount. (£595), £40. Wanted: Proac SuperTablette, black Linn Kan II, good MM cartridge. Can arrange carriage. Tel: 01273-571521.(Feb/I)

TRIO L-08 preamp with matching cables £175 ono. Philips Motional.Feedback loudspeakers Model 532, one requires minor repair, offers. Tel: Jon 0181 904 8023 (Feb/I)

WANTED. AUDIOLAB 8000 P or PX. Tel: 01278 741 373 (Feb/I)

MARANTZ PM94 Integrated amp £550. Marantz CD85 £250. Celestion 66 studio monitors £450. Leak Stereo 20 £250. Leak Sandwich speakers £85. All mint condition. Tel: Geoff 0181 291 5353 days, 01634 310 453 evenings (Feb/I)

HIGH END Denon, gold, DCD S10-II CD player, balanced, mint, 18 months old, breathtaking £600 (£1300). Also Electrocompaniet ECI-3 integrated amp. Stupidly good, 3 weeks old £850 (£1000) Tel: 01308 868 044 (Feb/I)

KRELL 250P preamp, boxed, £1000. Primare A20 II integrated, 1 month old £400. Gale 401 speakers, wood finish £150. Tel: 01226 710 605 or 0403 516 688 (Feb/I)

MAGNAPLANAR PANEL speakers MG1C, light oak frames, beige cloth. Excellent condition, original box and literature. £300. Tel: 01621 860 572 (Feb/I)

QUAD 33 preamp, 405 poweramp with manuals. £250 including carriage. Tel: 01728 668 264 (Feb/I)

MERIDIAN 501 preamp with MSR £410, M20 active speakers £430, 506-18 CD player £400, 566-20 DAC £420, 504 tuner (new) £470, vdH interconnects, All boxed. Tel: 01425 655 940 (Hampshire) (Feb/I)

JAMO CONCERT 8 speakers, 3 months old, immaculate in sapele mahaogany with matching stands £900 ono. Tel: 01792 536 143 (Feb/I)

DPA PDM1 Mk2 DAC £150, Sumiko Blue Point Special £100. Vivanco SR808 HFC Best Buy headphones (£60) £20. Arion Acoustics Titan mains filter (£150) £50. Tel: 0181 672 4319 (Feb/I)

MERIDIAN M20 active speakers, rosewood, including stands and cable, 1 owner, original boxes and manual. Also 101B preamp and tuner £375 the lot. Tel: 01282 841 525 or Email: pleigh@eggconnect.net (Feb/I)

WANTED: MISSION 751 Freedom speakers and stands. Tel: 01282 841 525 or Email: pleigh@eggconnect.net (Feb/I)

KRELL PAM3 preamp complete with two power supplies. Brushed aluminium, mint condition and superior sound quality (£2000) £695. Tel: 01482 641 217 (Feb/I)

AUDIOLAB 8000MX Monoblocs with Kimber powercords £900. Meridian 563 DAC £250. Tel: 01292 266 697 (Feb/I)

B & W 802 speakers, black, vgc, boxed £795. Tel: 01462 673 524 (Feb/I)

MONARCHY SE100 Delux monoblocs, better a Levinson without the price! £1500. Audiolab 8000DAC unused gift £450. Monarchy 18B DAC/preamp £280. Monarchy Anit-Jitter Super DIP unused £200. 2XLO Reference 1/2m pair £115. Various Jena-Labs 99.99999998% copper £neg. 2m Nordost Red-dawn £285. 2m Audiotruth Midnight Bi-Wire £120. NAD 5020 turntable £55. Speakers: QLN Signature as new £650. Audio Dynamite Reference 2 light oak with black marble bases, custom built £6000, £2650. All ono. Tel: 0141 884 3831 (Feb/I)

GUIDELINES FOR BUYING AND SELLING SECOND-HAND EQUIPMENT

FOR THE BUYER

1. Not everyone is honest - Buyer Beware!
2. Accept no verbal guarantees.
3. Have you heard the item or something similar? If not, why do you want it?
4. Don't pretend to have knowledge - it's *your* fingers that will get burnt!
5. Is it working? If not, why not?
6. Has it been modified and, if so, have notes been kept?
7. Was it any good in the first place?
8. **Don't send cash.**
9. If you are in the slightest doubt, arrange an audition (see point 4). If it's too far, wait for another time.
10. Either buy it or don't: vendors are excusably impatient with 'consultation' exercises.

FOR THE VENDOR

1. Not everyone is honest - Seller Beware!
2. Make no verbal guarantees.
3. Even 'nearly new' is still second-hand. If the manufacturer's guarantee is no longer in force, your price should reflect this.
4. There is very little *intrinsic* value in second-hand hi-fi; it's only worth what someone will pay for it.
5. The best guide to pricing is last month's Classifieds: that a 'classic' was worth £xxx a year or two ago is no guide. Values fall as well as rise.
6. Amateur second-hand dealing is not a big money game: you win some, you lose some.
7. Be prompt with despatch. If in doubt about buyer's bona fides, either wash out the deal or **send C.O.D.**
8. There will always be time-wasters; be tolerant within reason!



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Classified Ads

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Dealers must not advertise in the Private Classified section.
 Monthly consecutive insertions will be considered trade advertising. The Publisher reserves the right to judge submissions.

BUY-SELL-EXCHANGE.

Vintage wireless and classical audio. Repairs, spares, restoration, modification to all valve equipment. Quad II, Leaks etc, shipped worldwide, best prices, call us at 17 Bell Street, NW1 5BY. Tel: 0171 258 3448 Fax 0171 258 3449 (Jul00(I))

TECHNICS SLP1200 CD £500. EMT 948 £500. EMT 950 £850. Studer A80 VU £800. Revox PR99 Mk3 £1200. Studer A810 £750. Technics SP10 Mk2 £250. Studer B67 £550. Studer A710 £550. Tel: 01246 235 024, Fax: 01246 550 421 (Feb(I))

DO YOU relish the thought of a £500 sub, but only have £125 to spend? Subsonic DIY subwoofers are the answer. Passive £125, Active £249. 'The Real Thing'. Call now. Tel: 0771 404 8408 (Feb(I))

NO VINTAGE! No New! But lots inbetween, 70's and onwards hi-fi. Phone for stock information: 0181 590 2890. Essex Sound & Vision, 762 High Road, Goodmayes, Ilford, Essex IG3 8SY. Mail Order Available. (Feb(I))

ROGERS LS88 Floorstanding speakers. Brand new and boxed. Black only. £175 pair. Massive saving on list! Very few left at this special price. Call Mitcham Loudspeakers 0181 648 0743 or 01344 873 943 (24hr answerphone) (Feb(I))

AUDIO NOTE DAC3 £950. Audio Note Otto SE £850. Audio Note CD2 £550. Audio Note ANJ/SP speakers + stands (£1380) £850. All new and guaranteed. Castle Harlechs (beech) £650. B&W C7MSE (£1200) £750. Possible part exchange. Tel: 01952 502 097 (Telford) (Feb(I))

OLD DAYS VINTAGE/AUDIO. Tel/Fax: 0171 349 9675. WANTED: Tannoy 12", 15" speakers/GRF. Western Electric amps/speakers. Triode amplifiers, PX4/PX25, DA60. Garrard 301, EMT927. SMEs, early valve amplifiers. 1940s radiogram. (Feb(I))

AUDIO RESEARCH LS15, 4 months old, boxed, as new, RRP £3500, £2400 ono. Teac VRDS25 CD, boxed, immaculate (RRP £1400) £750. DPA Enlightenment drive plus DAC, new 24 Bit, 96kHz technology, guaranteed 2 years £1300. Krell KSA 50 MkII power amp £1150. Tara Labs Reference balanced interconnect, 1 metre £650 new, accept £250 ono. Marston Silhouette CD player, brand new £400. Musical Fidelity X-Ray CD player, unused, brand new £680. Denon DRM 500 cassette deck, boxed, manual £40. Oracle CD player, brand new, RRP £7415, £6200 ono. Krell KPS 30i CD player, mint condition £2300 ono. Transparent balanced interconnect RRP £300, accept £130 ono. Tel: Jules 01792 280 061 (Feb(I))

ROGERS SPEAKERS Still available! Studio 7 from £350, Studio 9 from £550, Studio 3 from £225. All dependent on finish. Avanti 625 £225, AB33 sub woofers £175, LS1 £90. Massive discounts! Spares and servicing. Other models available (see separate ad for BBC models) Call Mitcham Loudspeakers 0181 648 0743 or 01344 873 943 (24hr answerphone) (Feb(I))

ROGERS LS3/5A, Rogers AB1 sub woofers, Harbeth Special Edition LS3/5A and AB1 combo in rosewood, special prices from £450 dependant on finish. Very limited quantities left! Call Mitcham Loudspeakers 0181 648 0743 or 01344 873 943 (24hr answerphone) (Feb(I))

KO'LOK THE World's largest single-ended hi-fi amplifier. 6000V anode voltage, 7000W anode dissipation. Fully detailed A4 paperback. Write to: 21 Gloucester Street, Norwich, NR2 2DX. £10.00 including P&P. Cheques payable to Sheldon Associates Ltd (Mar(I))

CASTLE LOUDSPEAKERS New. Discounts available. Deliver Anywhere UK. Please telephone for details. Five Ways Hi-Fidelity Ltd (Est 1972), 12 Islington Row, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 1LD Tel: 0121 455 0667. Tues-Sat 10.30-6.00 (Feb(I))

AFFORDABLE VALVE COMPANY Model EL34. Quality 30 watts Class A valve amplifier £600. Thick aluminium front panel. Detachable safety cage for hot valves. FREE colour literature. 1 month HOME TRIAL. Tel: 01634 373 410 anytime (Oct00(I))

EMT 948 £600. Studer A80 £800. EMT 950 £800. Technics SLP1200 CD £550. Studer B67 £550. Technics SP10 MkII £280. Revox G36 HS £550. Nagra Stereo £1500. Nagra III £450. Tel: 01246 275 479, Fax: 01246 550 421 (Feb(I))

A PAIR OF CD in line attenuators will improve musicality, give better volume control and remove input overload: fixed £23/ pair, variable £47/ pair. Tel: Grant 01752 202 841 (Feb(I))

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*As reviewed by Richard White
Hi-Fi World June 99*

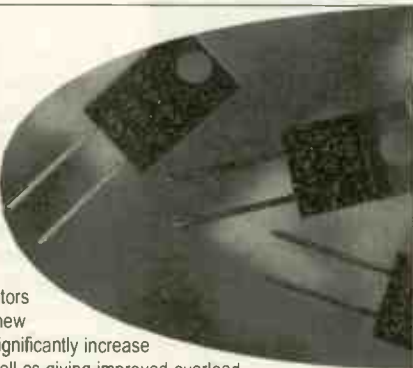
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*As reviewed by Simon Pope
Hi-Fi World October 99*

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Classified Ads

Classified Ads

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SONIC-LINK SUPERMAINS cable, Classe amps and Mirage loudspeakers at trade prices. Phone Audio Visual Concepts for unrepeatable offers on 01628 440 873 evenings please. (Feb/I)

NO VINTAGE! No New! But lots inbetween, 70's and onwards hi-fi. Phone for stock information: 0181 590 2890. Essex Sound & Vision, 762 High Road, Goodmayes, Ilford, Essex IG3 8SY. Mail Order Available. (Feb00/I)

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EMT 948 £550, EMT 950 £850, Technics SP10 MkII £260, SLP1200P CD £550, Uher RM £180, Studer B62 £450, Studer B67 £650, Studer A810 £800, Studer A710 £550, Studer A80 £800, Rogers LS5/B £250, Nagra IVS £2000, Studer A807 £950. Tel: 01246 235 024, Fax: 01246 550 421 (Feb/I)

A PAIR OF CD in line attenuators will improve musicality, give better volume control and remove input overload: fixed £23/ pair, variable £47/ pair. Tel: Grant 01752 202 841 (Feb/I)

AUDIOLAB 8000A £329, Audiolab 8000C (boxed) £349. Audiolab 8000Q (mint, boxed) £799, Cyrus III £299, Exposure 20 £349, Quad 34/405 (inc. phono board) £379, Quad FM3 Offers!, Ruark Talisman II £449, Dynaudio Contour 1.3 Mk1 (inc. stands) £799, Nakamichi CR3 Offers!, Thorens TD160s MkV (inc. various cartridges) offers! Harmon Kardon AVI 250/ADP303 £499. Tel: 01733 897 697 (Feb/I)

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STUDER A80 Vu-Bridge stereo £600. Studer B67 30ips stereo £750. PR99 mono £100. EMT 950 £600. EMT 948 £400. Revox G36 mint £500. Tannoy PA speakers £45. Technics SP10 £150. Technics SLP1200 CD £300. Tel: 0113 243 5649 or 0831 311 009 (Apr/I)

ORCHID PRECISION Audio Linear Phase 6 way loudspeakers ex-demo in beautiful black walnut reduced from £6400 to £4400 with free stands. 20-25000 Hz frequency response. Tel: 01608 684 694 or visit www.orchid-precision-audio.co.uk (Feb/I)

AUDIO RESEARCH LS15, 4 months old, boxed, as new, RRP £3500, £2400 ono. Teac VRDS25 CD, boxed, immaculate (RRP £1400) £750. DPA Enlightenment drive plus DAC, new 24 Bit, 96kHz technology, guaranteed 2 years £1300. Krell KSA 50 MkII power amp £1150. Tara Labs Reference balanced interconnect, 1 metre £650 new, accept £250 ono. Marston Silhouette CD player, brand new £400. Musical Fidelity X-Ray CD player, unused, brand new £680. Denon DRM 500 cassette deck, boxed, manual £40. Oracle CD player, brand new, RRP £7415, £6200 ono. Krell KPS 30i CD player, mint condition £2300 ono. Transparent balanced interconnect RRP £300, accept £130 ono. Tel: Jules 01792 280 061 (Feb/I)

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Telephone and model numbers are treated as one word, i.e. Quad 303 = two words

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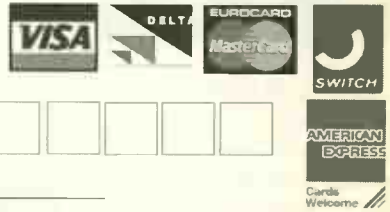
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