

HI-FI CHOICE

WIN!
 Superb Jamo Prizes
 Worth Over £3,000!

THE FINEST HI-FI MAGAZINE IN THE WORLD

CD Champs!

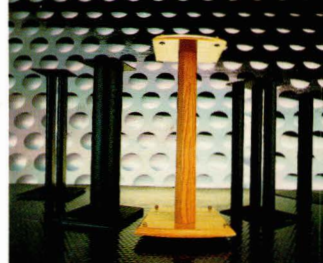


We name the Best Buys under £350!

REVEALED Top Record Players



SORTED Super Speaker Stands



EXCLUSIVE Best MiniDisc Ever?



SCOOP Elegant Missions Rock!



Buyer's Guide

Our Experts Pick The Best Hi-Fi 2,000 Products ● 300 Best Buys

Concert



The Jamo Concert Series.
HEAR...SEE...RELAX&ENJOY...
Advanced technology, innovative design and refined workmanship is not always the perfect recipe for success, we believe a little more is required.

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

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

It is an honour for us to introduce this new generation of loudspeakers to you...
... **Jamo Concert 11, Jamo Concert 8 and Jamo Concert Center.**

THE SOUND OF EXCELLENCE - Made in Denmark.

Jamo® "THE
SOUND
OF
EXCEL-
LENCE"

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

Editor's Notebook

Fresh from Cologne, **Stan Vincent** gets to grips with the reality behind the promise of high technology.



I'm writing to you this month from a hotelroom in Cologne, Germany. I'm here to represent *Hi-Fi Choice* and her sister magazine *Home Entertainment*, at the official presentation of this year's EISA Awards. EISA is the European Imaging & Sound Association, of which our magazines are the only UK members in the audio field. Regular readers will have seen our report on this year's winning products, in the last issue of *Hi-Fi Choice*.

The reason I'm telling you this is not to show off a glitzy, globe-trotting lifestyle. If only that was the case! The truth of the matter is that I didn't have time to write this before leaving our offices in London. Nor was it possible to finish the article on returning from my sojourn in the City of Sweet Smells. To file my copy in time I had to deploy a combination of modern and not-so-modern techniques. And suddenly it struck me that there was a parallel to be drawn with current fashions and trends in consumer electronics.

In an ideal world, here's what I would have done to send in my article. Step one: download notes from desk-top computer to Psion pocket computer. Step two: finish writing and edit article on Psion, then ping in modem and e-mail to magazine CompuServe account. Step three: enjoy leisurely breakfast.

In the real world, this is what happens. Step one: discover that vital software has been deleted from desktop computer. Step two: print out notes. Step three: leave notes on desk. Step four: on discovering lack of notes, agree with super-ego that they were a load of cobblers, anyway, and start afresh with novel 'travel' theme. Step five: write and edit article on pocket computer. Step six: modem fails to operate so copy article onto hotel note paper and fax back to nimble-fingered Reviews Editor. Step seven: dash off to meeting with European colleagues, sans breakfast.

There's the problem. The ideal scenario mapped out above is technologically feasible, but depends crucially on the right hardware and software being in the right place at the right time. However, it is almost a full-time job in itself to keep these high-tech balls in the air. Inevitably, I have more pressing matters to occupy my week-day working hours.

So what does this sorry tale have to do with the price of fish? Well only that it is all too easy



If you thought Samsung only made microwave ovens and midi systems think again. At the September Ramada show the company surprised us all with a full on, no compromise system.

The system consisted of the *C-01* preamplifier and *M-30S* monoblock power amps driving the substantial *SP-01* loudspeakers. Front end was a Mark Levinson *No. 30.5* CD transport and *No. 31* DAC. Word at the show had it that Madrigal had designed the amps and Hales the speakers in this £30k system.

to become tied in knots over the equipment and widgets that modern society persuades us we need. And manufacturers still put the greatest emphasis on technological innovation, paying scant regard to ease of use.

In the audio sphere of interest, this criticism applies particularly to home cinema. Even while the concept is still taking root in British soil, even while aficionados are still coming to terms with basic concepts like Dolby Pro-Logic, the marketplace is awash with speculation over the next big thing, which just happens to be the whole new ball-game of DVD and discrete digital surround. Already it's looking so complicated that I'm sure many potential buyers are throwing up their hands in despair.

One notable feature of the recent Hi-Fi Show at Heathrow's Ramada hotel was an aston-

ishing number of valve amps. I believe this is a manifestation of widely-held frustration with the complexity of modern existence and an appetite for products that are made by people to serve the needs of individuals, not mass-markets. Of course, the beauty of hi-fi is scalability: you can have as much or as little of it as you desire. And the best equipment provides unparalleled access to one of the most precious commodities known to man — music.

In this month's edition, you'll find a round-up of 14 CD players at the affordable end of the market, while for vinyl lovers we've taken a spin with five fantastic turntables. While on the subject of LP, there could be no greater British exponent than Alastair Robertson-Aikman of SME Ltd, and we have been privileged in this issue to pay a visit to his legendary MusicRoom — read about it on page 54.

So it's "herzliche grüße" from your correspondent in Cologne, and I hope you enjoy your listening this month!

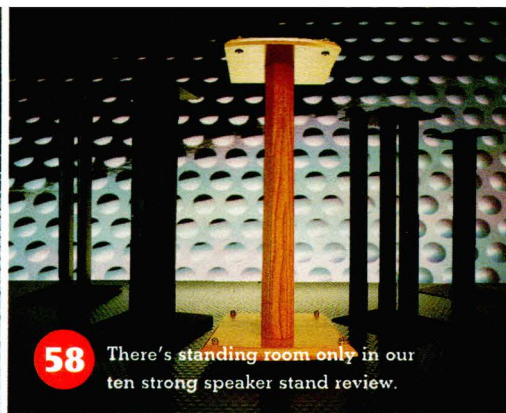
Stan Vincent



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



47 Space the vinyl frontier: turntables on test.



58 There's standing room only in our ten strong speaker stand review.



14 The latest and cutest from Sessions.

CONTENTS

NOVEMBER 1996 ISSUE 159

REGULARS

6 Update

Our resident news hound, Malcolm Steward, has been snuffing around the audio industry for the latest and finest hi-fi truffles.

14 Sessions

Jason Kennedy runs amok among the latest hi-fi goodies. Before your very eyes, he will open boxes and play with stuff — disgusting.

29 Write on!

Your chance to become the Jane Austen of audio. Write about passions hidden beneath heaving class A amplifiers, swooning and pucks. *Hi-Fi Choice* will be at home for tea.

32 Statements

This month's landmark product is the SD Acoustics *SD-1E* loudspeaker — it's tall, thin and elegant. Alan Sircom, however, is none of these things.

34 Help!

Alvin Gold is just like every hi-fi's agony aunt, except that he's more hairy than Claire Rayner.

54 Inspirations

To celebrate SME's many years of making the finest tonearms and turntables, Paul Messenger revisits Alastair Robertson-Aikman's listening room.

66 Instant systems

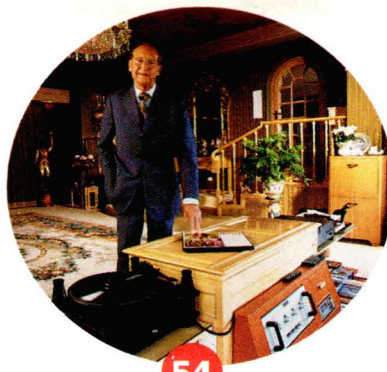
Alan Sircom takes one branch of Musical Images and stirs in three hi-fi systems to see how much AV seasoning is required to get the perfect blend of taste and colour. Yum!



14 Mission's 753 speakers enjoy new found freedom in Sessions.



The best budget CD players on the test bench.



SME main man in home theatre shocker - Inspirations.

OPINION

3 From the Editor's Notebook

Stan Vincent goes to Cologne only to discover his widgets are incomplete and has to resort to old technology to get his point across.

21 Ear Waxings

Jason Kennedy plays Charles Darwin as he unveils the origin of the Pioneer Precision species.

23 Personal Messages

Paul Messenger has been so impressed with the current crop of loudspeaker stands, tested on page 58, that he just had to air his views.

25 The Jimmy Hughes Experience

Jimmy Hughes gets all misty-eyed about the new Musical Fidelity X10-D valve based CD accessory — and not only when he hooks it up to a CD player.

27 Paul Miller's Oasis of Sanity

Hi-Fi Choice's Technical Editor Paul Miller gets ultrasonic on a few CD players — and doesn't like what he sees.

146 Ultra Vivian Scene

David Vivian surrounds himself in DSP — is it any good for music?

REVIEWS

47 Turntables

Alan Sircom gets to grips with five of the latest turntables priced between £500 and £1,200.

58 Speaker stands

Paul Messenger stands tall and proud next to the latest crop of speaker stands, from the cheap and cheerful to exclusive carbon-fibre models.

72 CD players

Alvin Gold and Paul Miller join forces to take on 14 one box, budget CD players priced between £100 and £350.

READER SERVICES

38 Subscriptions

Subscribe to *Hi-Fi Choice* or we'll force you to listen to The Spice Girls triple-live concept album, without the video!

111 Readers' Classified

Buy, sell or trade a bargain today in our list of well-cared-for second-hand hi-fi products.

136 Factsback

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

145 Next Month & Who's Who

Beat those pre-Christmas blues — find out what's in store in the December issue. Plus details on who's to blame in *Hi-Fi Choice*.

SPECIAL OFFERS

105 Mail Order

Your chance to own a variety of small hi-fi gizmos that you can't live without.

THE BUYER'S GUIDE

112 The Price Guide/Directory

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

WIN!WIN!WIN!

Over £3,000 worth of superb Jamo Deco Art speakers and artwork must be won!



PRODUCTS FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

Alphason NCI160 speaker stand	page 58
Arcam Alpha 8 amplifier	page 66
Arion Adonis amplifier	page 14
Apollo AZ6 speaker stand	page 58
Atacama BD21 speaker stand	page 58
AVF Tower speaker stand	page 58
Cambridge Audio CD6 CD player	page 75
Cyrus AV Master preamplifier	page 66
Cyrus dAD7 CD player	page 66
Cyrus Power/PSX-R power amplifier	page 66
harman/kardon HD710 CD player	page 77
JVC XL-Z574 CD player	page 79
KEF Reference One loudspeakers	page 66
KEF 70S loudspeakers	page 66
KEF 100 loudspeaker	page 66
Kenwood DP-3080 CD player	page 81
Kudos S50 speaker stand	page 58
Kudos S100 speaker stand	page 58
Marantz CD-67 CD player	page 83
Marantz CD-63II	
KI Signature CD player	page 66
Meridian 508.20 CD player	page 66
Meridian 519 laser demodulator	page 66
Meridian 557 power amplifier	page 66
Meridian 565 AC-3 processor	page 66
Micromega Minium CD player	page 85
Miller & Kreisel V-75 subwoofer	page 66
Miller & Kreisel 125THX subwoofer	page 66
Miller & Kreisel MK200 subwoofer	page 66
Mission 733 loudspeakers	page 66
Mission 73C loudspeaker	page 66
Mission 73 loudspeakers	page 66
Mission 753 Freedom loudspeaker	page 14
Mordaunt-Short VS300 loudspeaker	page 14
NAD 512 CD player	page 87
Nottingham Analogue Spacedeck turntable	page 47
Onix OA32 amplifier	page 14
Philips CD721 CD player	page 89
Pioneer A-300R Precision	page 14
Pioneer Elite CLD-99 LaserDisc player	page 66
Pioneer PD-204 CD player	page 91
ProAc Response 2 'S' loudspeakers	page 66
ProAc Response 2.5 loudspeakers	page 66
ProAc Studio 150 loudspeakers	page 66
Reson RS1 turntable	page 47
Revolver speaker stand	page 58
RMS by Stands Unique speaker stand	page 58
Roksan Radius 3 turntable	page 47
SD Acoustics SD-1E loudspeakers	page 32
Sharp MD-MS100 MiniDisc	page 14
Sherwood CD-4030R CD player	page 93
Silverado Raider loudspeaker	page 14
Sony CDP-XE500 CD player	page 95
Sony CDP-XE900E CD player	page 97
Soundstyle X124 speaker stand	page 58
Stands Unique High Performance speaker stand	page 58
Sumo Artemis preamplifier	page 66
Sumo M-10 power amplifier	page 66
Systemdek 2X2 turntable	page 47
Technics CA01 system	page 14
Technics SL-PG480 CD player	page 99
Thorens TD-2001 turntable	page 47
Townshend 3D Seismic Sink	page 14
Yamaha CD-X490 CD player	page 101
Yamaha DSP-E580 processor	page 66

Update

ACE REPORTER MALCOLM STEWARD RETURNS FROM THE FRONT WITH NEWS OF THE LATEST PRODUCTS AND EVENTS

In brief

Have you got an unused MM phono input on your amp, and more line sources than you can accommodate? If so, the Inverse RIAA Converter module, from EDL of Bristol, might be a good idea. For just £16.80 this discreet box attenuates signal and shapes frequency response, to make line-level sources amenable to your amp's phono stage. <http://www.tecno.demon.co.uk/riaa.htm>, ☎ (0117) 974 1918.

Sevenoaks Hi-Fi has a new branch in Birmingham that features separate A/V and hi-fi demonstration rooms. You'll find it at Arch 12, Queensway Arches, Livery Street, Birmingham B3 1EU. ☎ (0121) 233 2977

The *Virtuoso* is the newest horn speaker from Bravura. Half the size of the *Accelerando* model and boasting 104dB sensitivity, it costs £2,995 and comes in a variety of real wood finishes. ☎ (01732) 851408

In Singapore between 31 October and 3 November? See the International Audio Video Exhibition at the Raffles City Convention Centre and Le Meridien hotel. | ☎ + 65 344 3866

Chandos is clearing its stock of LPs. Limited quantities remain and none of the albums will be re-pressed, so if you want them you'd better get a move on. Price is £6.50 per LP; order four and you get another one free. ☎ (01206) 794000

The High End Society show, High End '97, will take place at the Hotel Gravenbruch Kempinski near Frankfurt, Germany between 9 and 11 May 1997 with trade-only admission on 8 May. ☎ + 49 202 70 20 22

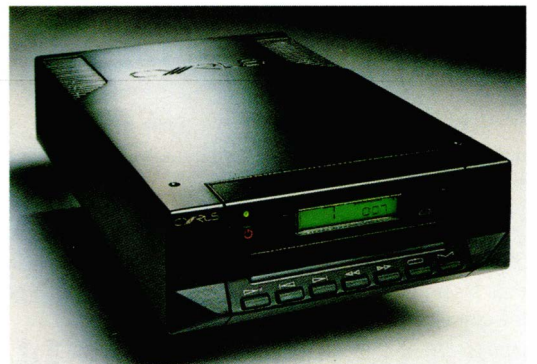
Cyrus cornucopia

Not so much additions to the range, more a cornucopia of Cyrus combinations hoves into view from Huntingdon. Along with a new CD player, a revised version of the Cyrus *III* amplifier, a new budget power amplifier and a new budget integrated, there's an equipment rack designed specifically to house Cyrus components.

The £598 *dAD3* CD player looks to be a nifty piece of quart into pint-pot engineering, as Mission has managed to fit a front-loading mechanism into the compact Cyrus case. The mechanism, which features a highly-tuned, self-centring isolation system, feeds an 18-bit DAC. The power supply uses star-earthing and extensive decoupling but can be enhanced with a PSX-R power supply.

The Cyrus *IIIi* amplifier, which also sells for £598, is a completely redesigned version of the Cyrus *III*, incorporating several elements developed for the Cyrus *Pre* and *Power*. Rated at 50W per channel, it uses surface-mount components powered by a toroidal transformer. The *IIIi* uses an electronic management system to provide full remote control and a calibration memory referenced to the CD input to ensure constant volume levels when switching to other sources.

There's no such sophistication in the Cyrus *Straight Line*, the company's new entry-level, 50W per channel integrated amplifier. Priced at £398, it's a no-frills design



The new rack mountable Cyrus *dAD3* CD player.

fitted with five line-level inputs and tape monitoring. Although it can't be upgraded with a *PSX-R*, preamp-out sockets allow for bi-amping with an additional power amplifier – such as the new 50W Cyrus *XPA*. This £298 power amplifier's input sensing switch-on feature also makes it ideal for all remote installations. ☎ (01480) 451777

Stu, stu, Studio 60

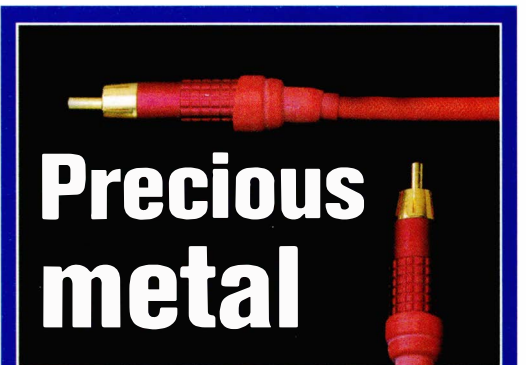


Studio 60 standing tall.

Monitor Audio has launched a new loudspeaker to top off its high-end Studio range. Said to "redefine the state-of-the-art in its market sector", the *Studio 60* comes in at between £6,000 and £7,000 depending upon the veneer and lacquer finish.

Sitting on an MDF base, each 1.08 metre tall, floor-standing cabinet houses four drivers, each specified for the *Studio 60*. These include a 25mm Ceralloy tweeter, a 170mm Ceralloy midrange with a fixed phase corrector, and two 170mm Ceralloy bass units.

Driving the speaker promises to be easy with its "smooth" eight Ohm load impedance and highish 90dB sensitivity. Power handling is 250W while the frequency range is quoted as extending from 27Hz to 22kHz. ☎ (01223) 246344



SonicLink is claiming a first for its new *Vermilion* interconnect. According to the company that broke the gold-plated mould to bring you rhodium-plated plugs, it's the world's first hi-fi cable to feature solid-core titanium conductors. SonicLink's listening tests have shown that this material's sound quality is "substantially superior" to that of copper, silver and carbon fibre.

A 0.5m stereo pair of *Vermilion* cables will cost you £170 while a 1m stereo pair will deplete your savings by £195. A network of Rare Earth Metal dealerships will carry these and other unconventional cables.

It's refreshing to see SonicLink doing its bit for East-West relations: since the end of the Cold War the Soviets have been buried under a mountain of titanium that they can't use! (01332) 361390

Spot the difference!

The Rogers *Project D* loudspeaker is quite unlike any of the designs the company has produced in its long history. Super efficient, easy to drive and very loud (like the Lanzante-McLaren *F1* supercar that inspired it), this high-tech compact is aimed primarily at the installation market. However, it's also available to more design conscious members of the public.

The futuristic speaker cabinet is crafted in the USA from injection-moulded polymers and aluminium. It houses an Aerogel-coned, five inch bass unit whose reflex port surrounds the 14mm polymer tweeter – this is apparently the only place they could put the port without upsetting the speaker's aesthetics.

And aesthetics is where the *Project D* really aims to score. It comes in a range of nine finishes that include a faux Burr Walnut, carbon fibre, a cartoon, a guitar-style sunburst paint job, and one that pays homage to Oakley by reflecting light in a surf-punk mirror-sunglasses fashion. If you can't find a finish that harmonises with your lifestyle, you can



specify a design of your choice – on the proviso that you order a couple of hundred pairs, of course. Each pair will cost around £390. ☎ (0181) 683 2101



In case you're having difficulty telling the Lanzante McLaren F1 from the Rogers Project D, it's the one with the headlights.

NAD's Watt-fest



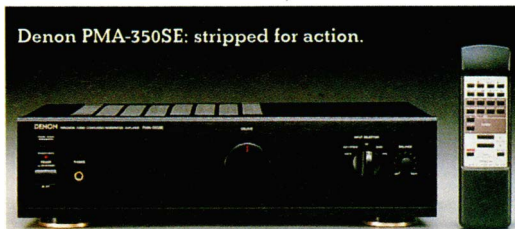
Fully extendable: NAD's 218THX.

NAD's latest audiophile THX power amplifier, the 218 THX, boasts extended dynamic power, but the question is, just how extended is it? The answer is 1.2 kilowatts which, one would imagine, ought to be sufficient for most purposes. Needless to say, it incorporates NAD's proprietary Soft Clipping circuitry to reduce the chances of speakers being baked.

To achieve this monstrous output you need to switch the amplifier from stereo into bridged mode as in its regular two-channel configuration the 218 THX 'only' delivers 200W per channel.

Priced at £849.95, the amplifier comes with fully balanced XLR inputs and traditional gunmetal grey, rack-mountable casework. ☎ (0181) 343 3240

Budget purism



Denon PMA-350SE: stripped for action.

Denon's new UK-designed *PMA-350SE* is a straight line amplifier for purists on a budget, with phono stage and remote control handset available as optional extras.

The bare bones amplifier costs £199.99, has five line-level inputs and outputs 50W through two sets of speaker terminals arranged for bi-wiring; vinyl fans can convert one of those inputs to phono operation for £14.99 with a dealer-fitted circuit board. For the same money, couch spuds can add a remote handset that controls the amplifier's power, volume and mute functions as well as key features on all compatible Denon CD players, cassette decks and tuners.

Denon says that the *PMA-350SE*'s high current and load capabilities mean it will drive most loudspeakers. High-grade components, hard wired connections between critical circuits, and heavy duty power transistors just add to its audiophile appeal. ☎ (01753) 888447

Bose revives the music centre

It's official – the music centre lives! That's precisely the term adopted by Bose to describe its new *Lifestyle 20*, which it says is the most technologically advanced system the company has yet produced.

The two-zone music centre includes a six-disc magazine-style CD changer, an AM/FM preset tuner, and inputs for two VCRs, tape and another line-level source. Also included is a radio frequency remote control that operates through walls and around corners. Proprietary equalisation circuitry and amplifiers rated at 200W come in the accompanying *Acoustimass*® bass module. Contributing to the £3,000 system's elegant and unobtrusive nature are the Direct/Reflecting *Jewel Cube* satellite speakers, which measure just over 4x2x3 inches (a little higher than a CD) and cover the mid and treble bands.

Buyers can exploit the *Lifestyle 20*'s second zone facility with one of three add-on packages available in white or black finishes: the music-oriented *Acoustimass 5* and 3



Lifestyle 20: now smaller than ever.

powered speaker systems or the *Acoustimass 9* powered speaker system, which also includes a zone 2 home cinema remote control to operate the incorporated Bose *Videostage* decoding circuit. Usefully, you can listen to different sources in each room. ☎ (01795) 475341

In brief

Sanyo has two new micro systems, the £219.99 *MS4* and the £249.99 *MS6*. The *MS4* includes a 12.5W amplifier and a single-disc CD player while the *MS6* provides a three-disc CD changer and 20W of power. Both include cassette, tuner, speakers and the usual micro features. The company's new midis, the £249.99 *SYS750* and the £299.99 *SYS1050*, both feature semi-automatic turntables. ☎ (01923) 246363

Silvertone has reduced the price of its *Silvervoice* loudspeaker from £85 to £55 per metre. This coincides with the introduction of the more refined *Silvervoice Ultra* at £85 per metre. ☎ (0973) 743054

"The best club headphones in the world", is Sennheiser's boast about its £159.95 *HD25* and £84.95 *HD25SP*. Tough, repairable and designed to withstand DJ abuse, they also go very loud. ☎ (01494) 551551

Richard Allan would like you to know that it now offers 11 dedicated A/V loudspeaker packages ranging in price from £269 to £1,439, all sold directly from its factory on a home trial basis. ☎ (01274) 872442

Quarter Notes is Madrigal's rather smartly presented newsletter, which should be of interest to anyone who's interested in its products. You can sign up for it on the company's web site at <http://www.madrigal.com/>

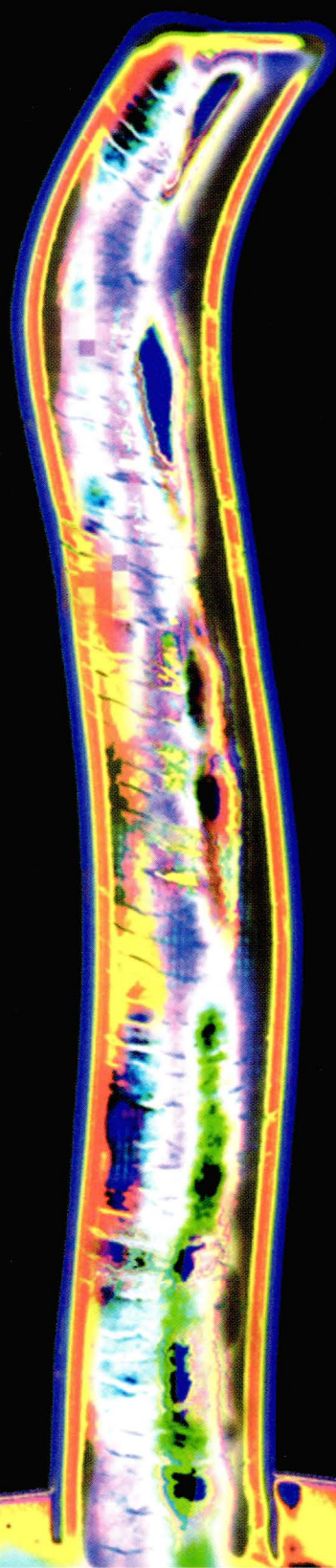
B-Tech has a new wall bracket for larger speakers. The £29.95 *BT77 Ultragrip Pro* will accommodate units weighing up to 25kg and measuring 170 - 280mm wide, up to 330mm deep and 510mm high. ☎ (01689) 849999

Bib is now the UK distributor for Roladisc CD storage units. With a 150-disc capacity and available in wood, ABS and aluminium, they cost between £12.99 and £19.99. ☎ (01442) 233233

Due to unprecedented demand, the price of Miller & Kreisel's *V-125 THX* subwoofer has been dropped from £895 to £800. ☎ (01962) 886280

KEF has streamlined its six-strong ►►

A hair on the back of the neck, amplified by Technics.



Technics
For Music Lovers.

Myryad does digital

Owners of Myryad amplifiers will be interested in the CD player released to complement its existing range. The *MC100* is a sleek minimalist offering whose facia is dominated by a large, easily read display panel complete with a custom-made, dark-tinted window and a centrally-mounted CD mechanism. There's a minimal button count but all the major controls and the secondary functions appear on the remote control handset.

The unit is based on a 1-bit PLM DAC incorporating four convertors, providing push-pull outputs for each channel. The analogue filter circuits feed a second filter stage incorporated into the discrete output stage derived from the *M120* amplifier. The CD mechanism benefits from being mounted into the unit's rigid steel chassis. Some of onboard memory plus double C1 and quadruple C2 error correction provide "outstanding" playability of



Another sleek minimalist offering from Myryad.

defective and scratched discs. The *MC100* uses 11 separately regulated power supplies, each of which is custom-designed for the job. You can sample their efficacy for £699.95. ☎ (01705) 265508

In brief

range of Q Series loudspeakers. Each uses new clear cone Uni-Q drivers, which give improved off-axis response and smoother midrange performance. The top of the range *Q65* and *Q75* models also feature KEF's new six by nine-inch "racetrack" drive unit and are finished in real wood veneers. They are bi-wirable and prices range from £199 for the *Q15* to £999 for the *Q75*. ☎ (01622) 672261

Technics reckons its new £199.95 *SLXP600* personal CD player will run for 17 hours on a set of batteries, long enough to entertain you on a round-trip flight to Washington. ☎ (0990) 357357

After a three-year stint, TDL has upgraded its *RTL2* and *RTL3* speakers. They feature improved cosmetics, including three-quarter length sculptured grilles and spiked plinths for greater stability. They also benefit from a new driver complement which is said to provide even deeper bass and cleaner treble. While performance might be improved, however, the prices haven't increased. The *RTL3* is still £399.95 while the *RTL2* has come down to £279.95. ☎ (01628) 850111.

Grahams Hi-Fi has given its year-old World Wide Web site a facelift and added some new areas to entice surfers to visit. It pains to point out that "our presence on the Internet is not designed to introduce mail order business", the site now has information, magazine, installation, music, links and buying sections. www.Grahams.co.uk

Sharp has introduced the £400 *MD-R1E*, a 270mm width MD recorder designed to partner existing mini CD systems. It includes a sampling rate converter for compatibility with CD, DAT and digital radio sources and a timer for unattended recording. The £800 *MD-X3* midi system features a front-loading MD player, a three-disc CD changer, auto-reverse cassette, FM/AM tuner and a 50W amplifier. A 3D surround sound system using Sound Retrieval System technology claims to eliminate the stereo sweetspot. ☎ (0345) 125387

Harbeth has produced its first floorstander. Developed from

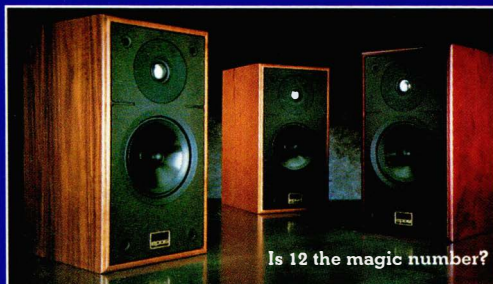
JBL surround for all

Gamepath, the new UK distributors of JBL and Harman/Kardon domestic products, has a competitively priced package for budget-conscious A/V buyers. The £649.99 JBL AV Power Pack introduces JBL's first A/V receiver, the *JSR635*, which is based on the Harman AVR10. This delivers 50W to the front speakers and 25W to each of the surrounds, and provides subwoofer and pre-amplifier outputs for the front channels. Dolby Pro-Logic and three-channel processing are bundled in too, and the tuner section offers 30 FM/AM presets. The speaker line-up consists of JBL *TLX121* fronts, a *TLX103* centre and *TLX111* surrounds. ☎ (01908) 317707

A surround package with pedigree from Harman and JBL.



ES11+1



Is 12 the magic number?

The popular Epos *ES11* has stepped off the production line to make way for a successor, the *ES12*. Selling for £499.99 and available in three real wood veneer finishes, the new speaker is a compact, ported two-way that, says its maker, remains faithful to the Epos spirit.

The *ES12* uses two newly-developed drivers built in-house at Epos. A 25mm aluminium dome tweeter, which provides improved sensitivity and dynamics at the top of the frequency range, partners a polymer cone bass/midrange driver that's designed to give an appropriately fast response and smooth integration. The bi-wire crossover that marries the units is, in typical Epos fashion, a hard-wired, single component network feeding the bass/midrange driver directly. ☎ (01705) 407722

KLH sets the scene

KLH Audio Systems is back in the UK, with a range of 'High Fashion, High Fidelity' products that have transformed KLH into the second largest volume supplier of speakers in the US since 1989.

First out of the starting gates are the revolutionary £60 *Soundbite* (right) loudspeakers, with matching £68 *Powerbite* amplifier and £100 *Bassbite* subwoofer. These unique track-ball speakers are designed for use with everything from a PC to portable audio.

KLH Audio Systems also has one of the largest ranges of loudspeakers on the planet, with no less than 33 models ranging in price from £36 to £950. Models of note include the £700 *SX-9*, a Cerwin-Vega challenger with a 380mm bass driver, 94dB sensitivity and 300W capability. Less earth-shaking models include the £35.99 *970A* two-way book shelf (left) and the £450 *HT-200* six speaker home cinema package. ☎ (01473) 833228



Petites with Gravitas

Neat Acoustics was aware that many of its customers were partnering its *Petite II* bookshelf speaker with a variety of subwoofers but felt that while many extended its bass admirably, none could truly improve its sound. Enter the *Gravitas* to rectify the matter.

The *Gravitas* system, which at the time of writing is expected to sell for £1,925, consists of a pair of *Petite IIs*, a pair of subwoofers and linking cables. Existing *Petite II* owners can buy the subwoofer sections separately for around £1,175.

The subwoofer enclosures act as stands for the *Petite IIs* and each contains two 165mm bass units. The slate base of the cabinet is spiked into the floor while the *Petite II* is spike coupled to the sub's top. ☎ (01833) 631021



DO WE REALLY NEED 86 QUALITY CHECKS FOR EACH AND EVERY SPEAKER?

You may have heard whispered rumours that every single one of our justly famous Danish loudspeakers has to pass 85 merciless quality checks before final assembly.

Well, they're wrong. In fact, it's 86! The moment one of our newborn speakers leaves the hands of master-



craftsman Hugo Nielsen, it has to survive the Skanderborg interrogation chambers. Where we discover any possible fault in cabling, driver or crossover. And after that, our victim is put to the ultimate test. Listening!

Erik "The Ear" Nielsen himself, our cold-hearted chief-tester, and his no less fearsome colleagues make sure that

even the slightest deviation from the path of musical truth doesn't go undetected. That the driver's backwards-radiated energy is really completely absorbed.

And that the speaker sounds as open, airy and natural, as transparent, precise and powerful as only a true Dynaudio could and should. If you want to experience the original Dynaudio effect (as shown by our exhausted



company raccoon, Knudsen, in the pic) please call us at 0 171 37 89 750 for your free personal copy of our most revealing "Book of Truth". Or visit your nearest true dealer. Even if you do not attempt to do the 1,000-watt-dome-driver-test, we guarantee you an overwhelming experience, too.

DYNAUDIO
AUTHENTIC FIDELITY

DANES DON'T LIE.™

Castle goes carbon

◀◀ What's light, stiff and moves fast? Carbon fibre cones, that's what. And woven carbon fibre cones are what you'll find in Castle's *Avon* loudspeaker. Not carbon fibre fragments loading some other material, but pure, unadulterated lengthy strands of the stuff identical to the material that keeps Damon Hill's bottom off the tarmac at 200mph.

The *Avon* is a floor-standing, reflex-loaded, two-way design intended for use in free space. Along with its carbon-coned, 6.5 inch bass unit mounted in a die-cast chassis – said to provide a fast, dynamic sound with negligible coloration – it has a 25mm, polyamide laminated, soft dome tweeter bolted into its heavy, 25mm MDF cabinet. A reflex port vents neatly at the base above the spiked floor-plinth providing a resistive element to extend and tighten the system's bass performance.

Standing 875mm tall, the *Avon* is bi-wirable and comes in a choice of finishes. Mahogany, cherry, walnut, black, and natural, medium and antique oak cost £699, while rosewood and yew cost £839. ☎ (01756) 795333



Avon: Castle's carbon coned creations.

In brief

◀◀ the recently released *HL-K6*, the flagship *HL-S8* comes in a range of real wood veneers for £1,895. The metre-tall speaker uses the same drivers as those fitted to the bookshelf *HL-K6*, a 200mm Radial bass/midrange driver and a 19mm anodised aluminium tweeter. Both units are fully magnetically-screened. ☎ (01444) 440955

Mission has launched the *Freeway* automotive range. This starts with a £349 50W stereo amplifier and a range of in-car speakers, which kicks off with 5.25 and 6.5-inch woofers fitted with Aerogel cones. There's also a twin-driver, coupled cavity subwoofer for £199. ☎ (01480) 451777

Mana Acoustics

Music With Life

We would like to thank the following:

- Link House magazines/Hi-Fi News for putting on a great Ramada show.
- *Hi-Fi Choice*, Marantz, Audiolab, Cabletalk & Mordaunt-Short (especially Gary Mardell of MS for services beyond the call of duty, ie replacing drive units at a moment's notice. Sorry about that) for helping with our competition in room 1140, which has proved to be an overwhelming success.
- ATC for producing the amazing

- 100As (you were right Alan Ainsley, we could not blow them up!)
- Naim Audio for the best tonearm in the world (ARO) and the NAC 52 preamp.
- Path group for the Sumiko Sho cartridge.
- The following people for giving their time and effort (in no particular order): Paul Ogle, Ian Wright, Davey Cameron, Adrian Cowderoy, Tony Vassello, Paul Williams and – of

course – Damian.

- And – the biggest thank you to all the music lovers who attended the show.
- Hope to see you all next year.

John Watson
Mana Acoustics

59 Jubilee Close, Pinner,
Middlesex HA5 3TB
Tel/Fax: 0181 429 0118
Tel: 0181 868 2788

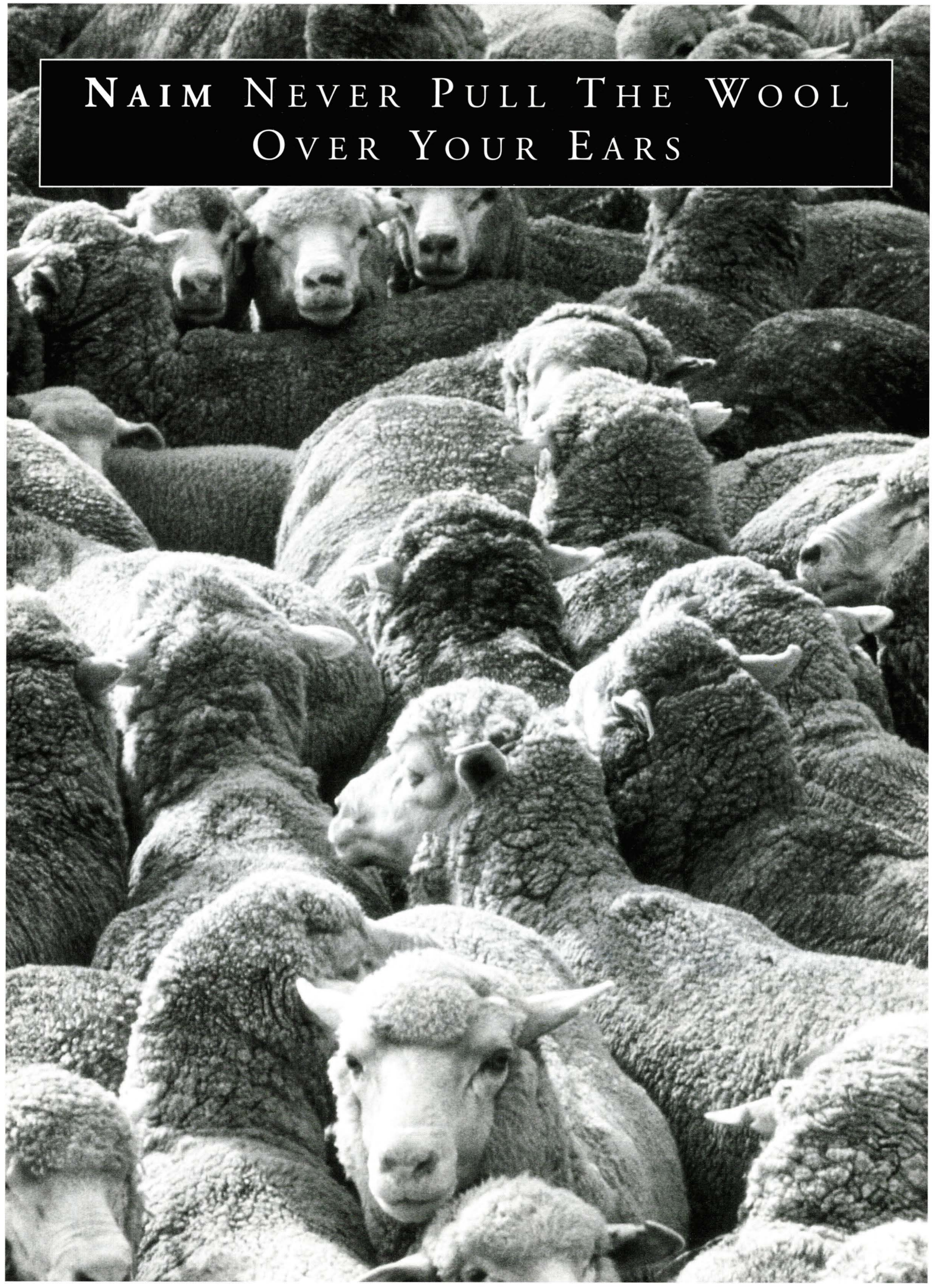
True Dynaudio Dealers.

- HiFi Experience, 17 Coniscliffe Rd, Darlington, 01325-481418
- Music Matters, 351 Hagley Rd, Edgbaston, Birmingham, 0121-4292811
- Music Matters, 93-95 Hobs Moat Rd, Solihull, Birmingham, 0121-7420254
- Harrrogate Hifi Centre, 15 Commercial St, Harrrogate, 01432-504274
- Cornflake Shop, 37 Windmill St, London, 0171-6310472
- Nichols Hifi, 430-432 Lee High Rd, Lewisham, London, 0181-8525780
- Performance Hifi Systems, 5 London Rd, Sevenoaks, Kent, 01732-740425
- Worthing Audio, 20 Teville Gate Precinct, West Sussex, 01903-212133
- Music Matters, 156-157 Lower High St, Stourbridge, 01384-444184
- Holburn Hifi, 441 Holburn St, Aberdeen, 01224-585713
- Practical Hi-Fi, 65 Bridge Street, Manchester, 0161-8398869

- Practical Hi-Fi, 88 Bridge Street, Warrington, 01925-632179
- Practical Hi-Fi, 33 Knowsley Street, Bolton, 01204-395789
- Practical Hi-Fi, 106 English Street, Carlisle, 01228-44792
- Chelston Hi-Fi, 38 Walnut Road, Chelston Torquay, 01803-606863
- W.M. Coupar, 8-12 Wellmeadow, Blairgowrie, 01250-872436
- W.M. Coupar, 33 Reform St, Dundee, 01382-229588
- W.M. Coupar, 9 Scott St, Perth, 01738-634809
- The Music Room, 98 Bath St, Glasgow, 0141-3325012
- Richer Sounds, 34 Wellington Quay, Dublin, 0103531-6719666
- Richer Sounds, 40-41 Smithfield, Belfast



NAIM NEVER PULL THE WOOL
OVER YOUR EARS



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



naim

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

FOR YOUR PERSONAL AUDITION AT YOUR NAIM CENTRE CALL 01722 332266

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

Choice sessions

ZEN HITCH-HIKER JASON KENNEDY CHECKS OUT A STACK OF NEW KIT FROM AROUND THE AUDIO GLOBE

Mission 753 Freedom

Updating a classic is tricky, but Mission seems to have hit the right note with revisions to the 753.

£798 Black; £898 Prima Vera

The 753 put the £500-plus floor-standing speaker on the map of real-world hi-fi. Although there were plenty of floorstanders before it, and some of them caught the public's imagination (Castle *Chester*, for example), the 753, with its plethora of drive units, was the one that shaped the market. Four years on, it has achieved *Freedom* status.

Mission's revisions to the 753 have not really changed its appearance, except that there is a new light wood finish,

The 753 has thrown off its fetters and found Freedom.



Fine lines: the Onix OA32 integrated.

Prima Vera, which is an alternative to Rosewood at the higher price of £898. However, there *are* changes: the one you can see is a silk-dome tweeter, the one you can't see is a change in internal proportions. What once was a box split half-and-half between bass and midrange/tweeter, has become a more complex cabinet, which devotes the greater amount of volume to the two lower bass drivers, and puts the midrange and high frequency units in their own sealed box. This should give greater bass extension and is claimed to improve the midrange.

I listened to the 753 *Freedom*s with the amps tested this month, and a couple of others. They worked well with all amps, but really sang with the little Pioneer *Precision*. In all the listening one thing became clear: these speakers like to be played loud. They'll never shout at you the way some speakers can, and they'll always remain in control of the situation.

The 753 *Freedom*'s midrange is, if anything, a little veiled, which has a lot to do with preferred volume levels. The bass is well extended and solid, underpinning the music and giving it that sense of 'being there'.

It's too long since I heard the original 753 to say exactly what's changed, but from what I remember, the new speaker is better — and most people thought the last one was pretty good. All that remains is to see what the blind panel thinks, but if volume levels are high, I suspect the *Freedom* factor will make its mark.

Centralforce Ltd ☎ (01480) 451777

Onix OA32

The nimble, musical OA32 will appeal to those who prefer an amp with subtlety rather than raw power.

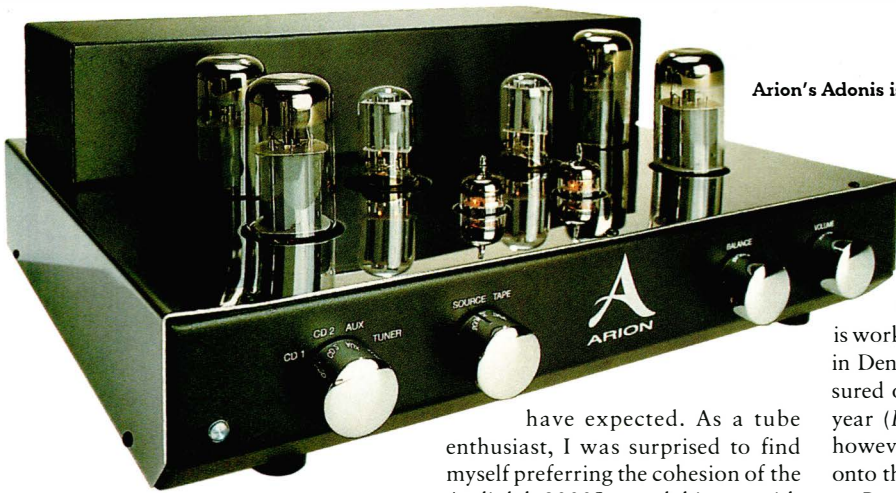
£499

Onix made its mark in the '80s with a rather good, minimalist integrated amplifier called the OA21, a stylish alternative to the Naim *Nait*, which was devoid of such fripperies as source legends and what have you. Looking at the OA32, it would seem not a lot has changed, but it's the right way round and it tells you where each source is, so the last ten years have seen some ergonomic progress at least. This amp has a clean-looking design, with optional moving-magnet or moving-coil input boards available for a mere £20 extra.

The OA32 has a light touch and an open, airy midband that's sensitive to inflection and nuance, but it is less inclined to get with the go when it comes to the more solid stuff. It proved the most ethereal sounding of all the amps in this *Sessions*, and a couple of others to boot. Both the NAD 314 and the Audiolab 8000S sounded more confident and strong, but the Onix has a musical touch that lets you forget the equipment.

Although it does not fare well in detailed comparisons, with a sympathetic system (say one with a more vivacious source than the Marantz CD-63mkII KI-S1 used) it could work nicely. The OA32 has a degree of transparency and nimbleness which would suit gung-ho sources and dark-sounding speakers. That covers quite a few budget multi-bit CD players and a plethora of speakers!

Onix Electronics ☎ (01273) 517358



Arion's Adonis is a hunky kit of parts.

Arion Adonis kit amp

If you enjoyed making model aeroplanes as a kid, you'll love building your own valve amplifier — especially when you hear how it sounds. £495 in black (£645 fully built), £549 in chrome (£699 fully built)

Valve amplifiers hail from an era when hi-fi enthusiasts were also constructors. They built their own loudspeakers, made plinths for turntables and were fully conversant with the art of amplifier design and construction. So a kit amp such as this Arion is more true to the genre than much of the expensive, snake-oil-massaged exotica that usually carries the torch for tubes.

Valve amps are relatively straightforward beasts; their only drawback to the novice is the sort of voltages they require when they're powered up. But I haven't heard of anyone getting scorched badly recently, so these mutas must be relatively safe.

There are two reasons for buying a kit amp: the obvious fiscal saving, which in this case amounts to £150; and the enjoyment and education to be derived from the process. There's even the sense of achievement to be considered on completing your amp, though if you get fed up half-way through, you can always get Arion to finish the job.

The *Adonis* is a classic push-pull pentode design in a line-integrated configuration. It would be easy for reviewers if all valve amplifiers sounded the same, but even component variations within a single type of valve amp can cause each model to have a distinctive character.

This pentode push-pull, for instance, sounds nothing like the Rogers *E20a* I tried a couple of months back. It has the same good tonal resolution and can reproduce instruments in a more lifelike fashion than average. It even has good timing, picking up on transient attack quite swiftly. However, it doesn't have quite the charm of the Rogers, and comparisons with an Audiolab *8000S* did not give the sort of results I would

have expected. As a tube enthusiast, I was surprised to find myself preferring the cohesion of the Audiolab *8000S* — and this was with valve-friendly Audio Note speakers! The Silverado *Raider* speakers made a good job of the Arion's fine midrange, however, revelling in its timbral resolution and reproducing a great sense of image solidity.

It's a good set of parts for the mone;, with solid casework and a chrome finish. The competitive price is a result of direct sale from the manufacturer, so it's very difficult to hear before you buy. But as a first step on the ladder to tube heaven, this is as good a place to start as any.

Kronos Distribution ☎ (018687) 48632

Technics SC-CA01

A true digital amp is not the only surprise the SC-CA01 has in store for those who scoff at micro systems.

£650

This tidy little desktop separates system is not only unusually cute, but has a technological ace up its sleeve that no-one seems to have made any noise about. The amp in this system is a true digital amp: it amplifies in the digital domain and lets the loudspeaker carry out the final phase of digital to analogue con-

version. In other words, the speaker outputs supply an amplified digital code that describes the music in a series of very fast, synchronous snapshots. Harman Audio is working on an amplifier of this type in Denmark, and we heard and measured one of its early prototypes last year (*HFC* 149). It seems Technics, however, has gone and slipped one onto the market in a micro system!

But back to the *SC-CA01*. It comprises a single slot-entry cassette deck, RDS tuner, CD player and the aforementioned amplifier. These bits hook up with ribbon cables that congregate at the tuner, which presumably makes a bit of precious space available in the amp. There are all manner of features, including a scrolling display and buttons for source direct (not a common feature on minis and micros) and vocal presence, both of which make a distinct difference.

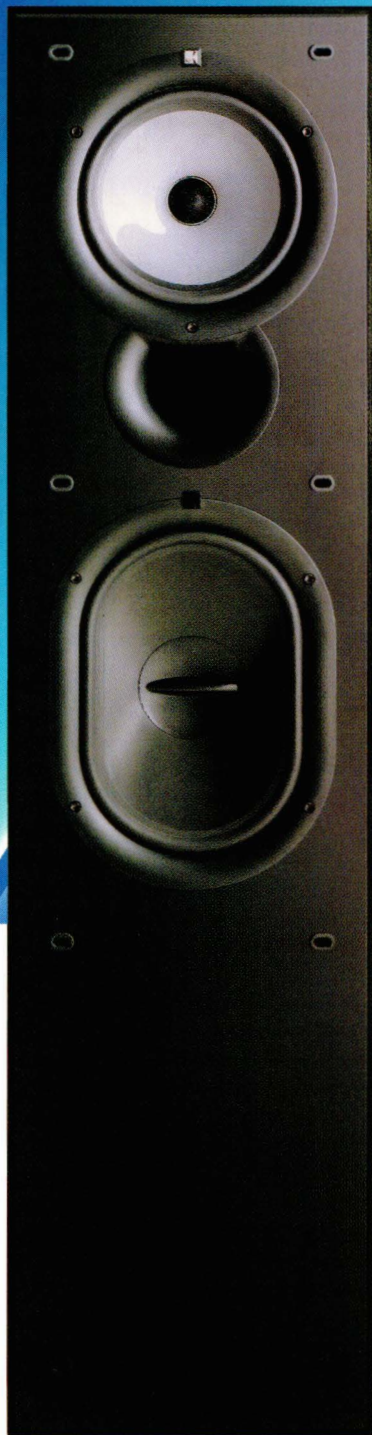
Turning to this system, after one of the better combinations from this month's separates, was a remarkably painless experience. The *SC-CA01* has very good resolution, coherence and openness for any system at the price, let alone one with three sources on board. The speakers aren't too small (about the size of an Mordaunt-Short *MS10i*) and have gas-flowed reflex ports — two clues that suggest Technics knew what it was doing with this system. It provides smooth, even loud music, with none of the limitations one might expect. It didn't take too well to the Mordaunt-Short *V-300s*, making them sound unduly hollow, so there may be limited scope for speaker upgrades. Nonetheless, for the price and size, this is a kickin' system. Panasonic UK Ltd ☎ (0990) 357357



Technics SC-CA01 has some serious technology hidden under its tiny hood!



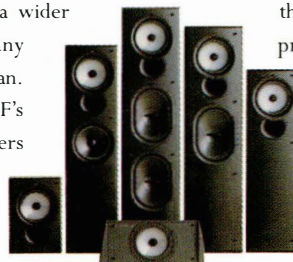
Clearly
better.



When one of the best loudspeaker engineering teams in the world advances its state-of-the-art technology, you'd expect the result to outperform the competition.

It does.

KEF's new Q Series, with its distinctive clear cone Uni-Q® drivers, delivers a more precise stereo image, over a wider listening area, than any conventional loudspeaker can. This latest advance in KEF's patented technology delivers even smoother midrange response and clarity that's simply stunning.



From bookshelf to 3-way floorstander, the entire range is magnetically shielded for Home Theatre use. And because aesthetics are integral to good design, the two largest models incorporate KEF's new 'racetrack' bass unit. With the performance of an 8 inch driver in the space of a 6 inch, it preserves the slim, elegant Q Series design.

With the new Q Series, the competition have been decisively out-classed.

The difference is clear.

Q
SERIES



The experience
of sound

Mordaunt-Short VS-300

Mordaunt-Short has a big, bouncy new loudspeaker to do battle in the hotly contested budget floorstander market.

£200

Mordaunt-Short's latest budget design is a no-frills affair, built to fill a niche. That niche, it would seem, has been carved out by models such as the Gale 4, and it appears that M-S wants a piece of the action. To this end, it has produced a 78cm-high, not-too-heavyweight speaker with the basic array of constituent parts. The VS-300 is fitted with spike-sockets and supplied with spikes, which is unusual at this end of the market.

All things being equal, it appears that the smaller the speaker, the more easily it will 'disappear' behind the music. In other words, the sense of the sound source being the speaker is reduced with the size of that speaker. This is why smaller speakers generally image better: their cabinets are so insignificant that they can't generate much noise of their own.

The problem with making a large, inexpensive speaker is that it's nigh on impossible to hide the character of the box. So comparing this VS-300 with an MS10i on a pair of stands, which brings the combination up to the £200 mark, will often find in favour of the smaller box.

However, a bigger box has the twin advantages of offering greater bass extension and greater sensitivity. So, with the VS-300 you have a dynamic, if somewhat boxy, speaker that sounds relatively relaxed in the bass when compared to the tight,

coherent sound of an
M S 1 0 i ,



M-S VS-300: a lot of box for the money!

which projects a better image but sounds like it is trying too hard at low frequencies.

Which compromise you choose depends on taste, but I have to say the choice is less clear cut than I'd imagined, and the easy nature of the VS-300 is hard to resist.

Mordaunt-Short Ltd ☎ (01705) 407722

Sharp MD-MS100

This cute little winner could be just what the MiniDisc format needs to break into the UK market.

£400

Minidisc is not giving up. It has made it in Japan, overtaking CD as far as uptake per year is concerned, and now it's back over here in its third or fourth generation. This time it means business.

Sharp's MD-MS100 makes a very convincing argument for the medium. It's very cute and highly featured. More importantly, it records from either analogue or digital line sources and an external microphone. The first two options use the same input, which is clever, but I've yet to see an optical lead to fit. The recording process is slightly different to tape, but ultimately quite simple. If you just want to dub from CD, the track numbers are put on automatically. You can rerecord all or part of a track and even rearrange track order. You can even record in mono to double disc-time.

You can name discs and individual tracks with a three-button procedure, and have them displayed scroll-style on the LCD. Although the writing procedure is straightforward, it's also a little slow.

The MD-MS100 has a digital volume control, which is something of a novelty for a personal stereo, and means that it offers a broader volume range. This thing will go a lot quieter than any other personal I've tried. The headphone lead is also conveniently short, being just long enough to put the box in a jacket pocket, but there's an extra section with remote control if it's too short for your needs. There are three levels of bass boost above the norm and a (thankfully defeatable) beep that ensues every time you hit a button. Sound quality is pretty good for a personal stereo. It's not quite up with the best CD players but not so far behind as it has been. With some of the early-generation discs that I tried, there was quite a vari-



ation in quality. For instance, Pearl Jam sounded a lot messier than Jamiroqui. The latter proved quite listenable through a system as well as the phones. I made a couple of recordings via the analogue line input and these also stood up well, retaining detail, timing and bandwidth commendably.

All in all, this Sharp is a lovely little thing. It has a remarkable selection of features and both looks and sounds good. While it's unlikely to set the hi-fi enthusiast afire, it must rate as an object of desire out in the real world.

Sharp Electronics (UK) Ltd ☎ (0161) 205 2333

Make friends and influence people with Sharp's new MD-MS100 MiniDisc recorder.



The 3D Sink comes complete with brushed facia and all important pump.

3D Seismic Sink

The latest Seismic Sink has entered the third dimension – now it pitches and yaws to give complete isolation!

£400

The 3D Seismic Sink is the latest and most expensive in Townshend Audio's range of isolation platforms. It differs from the basic models by virtue of allowing movement in three rather than two planes, hence the '3D' bit. All the Sinks use air suspension and damped-steel casework to achieve decoupling from structure-borne resonance; in this case, filtering out energy above three Hertz. The 3D Sink has two air layers, allowing side-to-side, back-to-front and up-down energy absorption.

Features include a pump, supplied

Audiolab 8000S *Stereo Amplifier*



Imagine an amplifier which offers the simplicity of an Integrated Amplifier and the flexibility of a separate Pre-Power Amplifier. It is the new Audiolab 8000S Stereo Amplifier.

At the turn of a switch you can use it as an Integrated Amplifier, as a Pre-Power Amplifier together with the Audiolab 8000P Stereo Power Amplifier in a bi-amplified system, as a high performance stand alone Pre-amplifier, with an external surround sound processor, or with a sub-woofer. It has remote control and outstanding sound quality. We couldn't think of anything else an Amplifier needs to do!

Ask your Audiolab dealer for a demonstration.



- 8000A Integrated Amplifier
- 8000C Pre-amplifier
- 8000P Stereo Power Amplifier
- 8000M Monobloc Power Amplifier
- 8000T Tuner
- 8000Q Pre-amplifier
- 8000PPA Phono Pre-amplifier
- 8000CDM Compact Disc Transport
- 8000DAC Digital-Analogue Converter
- 8000S Stereo Amplifier



**THE
BRITISH
HI-FI AWARDS
1996**

Winners

PRE-POWER AMPLIFIERS

Audiolab 8000Q/8000M

TUNERS ABOVE £250

Audiolab 8000T

*For more information about
Audiolab products and details of your
Audiolab dealer, call or write.*



Hear the difference.

AUDIOLAB

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

Telephone 01480 415600
Fax 01480 52159

◀ to achieve the desired pressure. A red light blinks when pressure is too high or low and the sensing device runs on a single AA battery. To alter pressure, you need to remove the brushed-alloy fascia to reveal a cycle valve. I found that with heavy components, the *Sink* needed to be topped up from time to time. This 'big' *Sink* also has rather nice adjustable feet.

Using this *Sink* atop a Mana stack and under the Trichord *Genesis* elicited considerable improvements in the realms of bass extension, power, focus and coherence. I achieved pretty much the same results whatever and, for that matter, however many things were put on it. I tried both the preamp and phono stage on top of the CD player to good effect, and both Rega and Primare CD players produced cleaner and more powerful music in its company.

The 3D *Sink* is an expensive platform, but in the context of a decent system, it's great value. I'd like one, but I think I'll wait for the two-Sink rack that Max T has in the pipeline!

Townshend Audio ☎ (0181) 979 2155

Pioneer A-300R Precision

Pioneer has used British expertise to customise a £200 amplifier and turn it into a giant slayer par excellence.

£400

This amplifier is the result of a very unusual collaboration between audio giant Pioneer and electronics designer Tom Evans. Tom's name has cropped up more than a couple of times in this journal as he has been involved with some of the most innovative products and tweaks that we've seen (see *Ear Waxings*, p.21, for the full story). This time Tom has managed to get into the product before it reaches the market by persuading Pioneer to let him design some tweaks for the modest £200 A-300R.

Although the A-300R has a remote control (for volume only), it is an extremely minimalist amp that caters for turntables and five other sources. However, it weighs next to nothing and wouldn't normally attract much attention. Tom, however, thought otherwise and devised a package of modifications for Pioneer UK to retro-fit.

The result is startling performance, way beyond that expected of a sub-£500 amplifier, and a bit of a shock for all of the integrated amps we had on hand for comparison. In nearly all respects it outshone the lot, and in one respect — three dimensionality — it swept the board. It produced a full-size, speaker-independent image that conjured up instruments and voices in



the room. It took the music out of the speakers like a valve amp, but underpinned like a decent tranny. Dynamics, timing, timbre and tone were reproduced with extraordinary ease, and we were left struggling to find its peer. I doubt that any other amp could do this at the same price.

With the A-300R Precision Pioneer has an amp worthy of the mantle left by the A-400. If you want to hear real stereo this is the place to start.

Pioneer High-Fidelity (UK) ☎ (01753) 789789

Silverado Raider

High-end aspirant Silverado has a new compact monitor for those seeking a taste of the high life, without the cost!

£695

Silverado is a little company with big ambitions. It's energetic proprietor, Mickey Thien, wants to compete with the high-end giants like Wilson Audio, and built the big Silverado speaker (tested in HFC 155) to do battle with that company's WATT design.

The *Raider* is a scaled-down version to suit the British pocket, but still incorporates many of the cabinet-solidifying techniques devised for its marbled sibling. The *Raider* is an infinite baffle design with a pair of solid but straightforward drive units, and bi-wire connections. It needs the best 24-inch stand you can put under it and prefers the cable that Mickey makes for it.

Although the *Raider* is designed for quite serious amplification, I stuck to the likes of the

Arion and Pioneer from this month as well as the steadfast Audiolab 8000S. I've no doubt the *Raiders* would respond to more exotic fare.

After the 753 *Freedom*s, the *Raiders* sounded attractively lucid and clean through the midband. For this reason they worked very well with the Pioneer *Precision*, whose nimbleness and imaging qualities were put to good effect — not to mention the dynamics and focus that the pairing extracted from the data streaming out of the Marantz CD-63mkII KI Sig.

The Silverados were a good match with the Arion as well, equalling the valve amp's capabilities in timbral accuracy and presence. It would seem that the *Raider* is a willing and capable slave to whatever drives it. It has a fine midrange and plenty of grunt when that is called for. This is the sort of speaker you wouldn't have to upgrade for a long, long time. ▲

Silverado ☎ (0181) 567 0260

Precision's the name, three-D stereo's the game.

Shiny, shiny. Shiny speakers of lacquer... Silverado Raider.





Are you an

INDIVIDUAL?



Yes, it's finally happened. Pioneer have lived up to their name yet again by introducing the very first consumer **CD Recorder**. The PDR-05 employs our acclaimed 'CD turntable' transport mechanism and advanced digital filter technology. Thanks to the 1-bit A-to-D Converter and built-in sampling rate convertor you can make the finest pure audio CD recordings from any analogue or digital music source.



Pioneer have developed the very first consumer CD Recorder. It allows you to record onto CDs to create your own, individual CD compilations.



For further information and details of your nearest stockist please call our **HOTLINE** on 0800 480480 any time.

 **PIONEER**[®]
The Art of Entertainment

Ear Waxings

Jason Kennedy waxes lyrical about the bargain audiophile amp of the year – and yes, it has remote control. . .

In *Sessions* this month (p.14) I'm reviewing a rather unusual new amplifier from Pioneer. The *A-300R Precision* represents a collaboration between the Japanese audio-electronics giant and British chipmeister Tom Evans.

The project was instigated by former *Choice* Editor John Bamford (now Product Information Manager at Pioneer) who spent at least a year going through the traditional political shenanigans required to allow such a radical product to come about. From there, Tom and John went through the amplifier range to find a suitable candidate for what was originally called the *Omega* project; the name changed to *Precision* for the launch.

They picked the *A-300R*, a £200 budget audiophile offering, because of its fundamental purism. It's a single-PCB design, with a separate power supply for the all-important motorised volume pot, and no tone controls. Unlike its spiritual predecessor the *A-400*, it does have a preamplifier section. But the ultimate decision-maker was the world's most basic remote control (hence the R in *A-300R*) catering solely for volume.

Tom Evans, who recently parted company with Trichord and formed Acoustic Precision with Paddy Hanscombe (Electrofluidics), had been looking at making the *A-300R* into a *Genesis* amp to go with the Trichord *Genesis* CD player (based on the Pioneer *PD-S504*), but by colluding with Pioneer directly the amp has ended up being about £150 cheaper. The £200 that the *Precision* costs over the base model has been spent on customised chip sets and high-spec components (existing *A-300R* owners can have their amps *Precisioned* for the same price). What differentiates the *Precision* from the *Genesis* it might have been, is that Pioneer retrospectively installs the components in its Yorkshire factory. Tom is presently working on a *Genesis* CD player which is planned to be out around Christmas time, and which will hopefully retail for the same price as the amp.

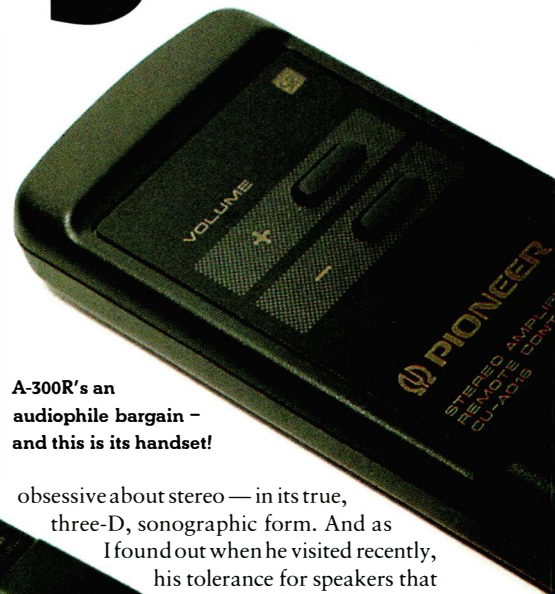
Tom has been designing well-regarded

products for some time now. The first one to make it big was EC Audio's *Finestra* preamp. This was followed by the Michell *Iso* phono stage and subsequently the *Argo* and *Alecto* pre and power amps (watch out for a new version of the latter Michell). More recently Tom has spearheaded the Trichord *Clock* crusade, providing turbo-charged, Pioneer-based CD transports that have an embarrassing tendency to trash any competition you care to pit against them.

His association with Pioneer really started with the *A-400* amp back in the late '80s. For our newer readers, the *A-400* was the product that defined the term 'budget high-end' by fitting in very nicely with considerably dearer systems and proving itself something of an audiophile bar-

gain. I know of at least one guy who bi-amped his six-grand system with a pair of them. But Tom realised that for a modest investment the *A-400* could be improved. His GTE modification cost in the region of £100 and proved remarkably successful in cleaning up the *A-400*'s treble.

Since the *A-400* days, Tom has refined his audio goal to the pursuit of phase linearity, a state of affairs engendered in no small part by Tom's familiarity with the work of speaker designer Ted Jordan. Ted's work with aluminium drivers, which started in the '50s, has resulted in speaker designs with far greater phase linearity than usual. Since Tom started using the Jordan-coned Electrofluidics *Sonolith* speakers, he has become



A-300R's an audiophile bargain – and this is its handset!

obsessive about stereo — in its true, three-D, sonographic form. And as I found out when he visited recently, his tolerance for speakers that are less capable in this respect is about zero. In his opinion this involves any speaker with a dome tweeter, so perhaps now you can see why Tom does his best to avoid anything that's non-Jordan.

Yet the *A300R Precision* works spectacularly well with the more common or garden variety of loudspeaker, reproducing much of the stereo image found with the *Sonoliths*, albeit with less focus and a considerably smaller sweet-spot. It had no trouble vanquishing the opposition in our listening room. Its fine resolution of dynamics, timbre and spatial information provided an altogether more coherent and effortless musical picture than one has any right to expect at £400. Its 35W or so had a little difficulty with the less-than-friendly load presented by the Wilson-Benesch speakers that arrived recently, but with everything from *MS10is* to Audio Note *AN-Es*, the sound was closer to that of an amp costing twice the price.

Tom, John and Pioneer Electronics Technology UK deserve a hearty round of applause for bringing this level of fidelity to the market at such a low price. All I have left to utter is a confident prediction that the *A-300R Precision* will be the audiophile bargain of the year. ▲

Acoustic Energy

Aiwa

Aikai

Alchemist

Alphason

Apollo

Arcam

Atacama

ATC

Audio Alchemy

Audioquest

Aura

AVI

B & W

Barco Projectors

Beyer Dynamic

Bose

Boston

Cabletalk

Canon

Carver

Castle

Celestion

Cerwin Vega

Chord

Citation

Cyrus

Dali

Definitive

Denon

DPA

EPOS

Exposure

GLL

Goldring

Grundig

Harbeth

Harman Kardon

Heybrook

Infinity

Jamo

JBK

JVC

KEF

Kenwood

Lexicon

Linn

Loewe

M&K

Marantz

Meridian

Michell

Micromega

Mission

MIT

Mitsubishi

Monitor Audio

Mordaunt-Short

Musical Fidelity

NAD

Nakamichi

Naim

NHT

Onkyo

Ortofon

Orelle

Panasonic

Phillips

Pink Triangle

Pioneer

Polk

Proac

Project Turntables

QED

Quad

Quadraspire

RCF Projectors

REL

Rogers

Roksan

Rotel

Royd

Ruark

Samsung

Selec Proectors

Sennheiser

Sharp

Shure

SME

Sony

Soundstyle

Spender

Stands Unique

Sumo

Systemdek

Tannoy Prestige

Target

TDL

TEAC

Technics

Thorens

Toshiba

Trichord

Tube Technology

Van den Hul

Wadia

Wharfedale

XLO

XTC

Yamaha

and Many More



The Power House of Choice

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

0%
INTEREST

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

0%
INTEREST

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

0%
INTEREST

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

0%
INTEREST

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

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

You Decide · We Provide · Anywhere in the U.K.



**45 High Street
Hounslow
Middlesex TW3 1RH
0181 569 5802**



**173 Station Road
Edgware
Middlesex HA8 7JX
0181 952 5535**



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



**126 High Street
Beckenham
Kent BR3 1ED
0181 663 3777**

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

Personal **Paul Messenger** reckons that bookshelf speakers have still got lots going for them. Size isn't everything. . .

Messages

Well, I finally drew the short straw and got to spend some quality time with a load of speaker stands (p.58). The prospect wasn't pleasant: all that metalwork to trip over, all those spikes to dodge, all that Blu-tack to tread into the carpet, all that sand to spread over the kitchen... However it did start me seriously thinking about the role of speaker stands, and the problems of assessing them.

Speaker stands are not among hi-fi's best-loved components. Dealers will never make a fortune out of them, and few customers would say that they enhance the loungescape. A discrete design is all, assuming that it can't be made to disappear altogether.

So why don't we simply put our bookshelf speakers on bookshelves like the hoi polloi out there in Minisystemland? The answer is simple: because stands work. Without stands, miniature and bookshelf-size speakers will never achieve their full potential, and the system as a whole will underperform.

The current trend seems to be towards ditching the bookshelf speaker/stand combo and spending the combined cash on a budget floorstanding speaker instead. It sounds tempting enough: a bigger, prettier box for the same money — that must be a better deal. Well sure, if you buy with your eyes rather than your ears. But our last group test of budget speakers (HFC 156) sent out some pretty strong warning signals. The small stand-mounted bookshelf speakers sounded unequivocally better than the larger budget floorstanders: cleaner, tighter, and for the most part, more coherent.

The reasons are quite simple. A bookshelf-size speaker consists of drive units (usually two) that create the sound, plus an enclosure to hold them together and absorb/redirect the sound which comes from the back of the main cone. The stand's prime tasks are to lift the main driver clear of the floor and hold the speaker in place.

Budget floorstanding speakers use similar drivers to bookshelf models and tend to have a similar internal acoustic volume too, because the enclosure is usually partly blocked off. Extending the box down to the floor might avoid the need for separate stands but is unlikely to offer any acoustic benefit. More likely the reverse is true, due to a more columnar shape. Typically, the floorstander will also have something like four times the

box surface area to vibrate, generating cabinet coloration in the process, although this can sometimes be mitigated by adding mass damping to the bottom section.

The bottom of the floorstander will have threaded inserts so that spikes can be fitted, but the inserts can tear out of the wood-chip only too easily. And in most cases the fore-and-aft stability footprint is meagre; proper plinths and more serious enclosure engi-

Nobody understands me...



neering can undoubtedly improve matters for the floorstander, but obviously at a cost.

The separate stand can be endowed with a big enough base to ensure good stability, and spikes fix much more securely metal-to-metal. Spikes (or *Blu-tack*) decouple the stand from enclosure vibration, while the main driver is also likely to perform better acoustically with unobstructed space underneath.

Even this brief analysis shows the advantages offered by a separate stand, but its subtleties and interactions are still poorly understood and there's little industry consensus.

When stands first appeared in the early '70s (as options with classic speakers such as the Spendor *BC1* and Gale *401*), their main purpose was to get the main drive-units away from the floor and walls to reduce the contribution of reflections. It wasn't until ten years later that the spike reared its sharp little head and introduced a mechanical dimension. Big spikes pierced carpets and locked to the floor while smaller upward ones stopped speakers from rocking — though some people prefer the more glossy interface of a flattened *Blu-tack* bead.

The sound quality improvements were so dramatic that speaker companies and stand specialists soon started to explore various options. Influential early examples included lightweight open-frame stands (such as the Heybrook *HBS1* and Linn *Kan*) and filled-pillar types which were usually rather heavier (from Foundation and others).

The most creative period was probably during the mid-'80s. Integral speaker/stand combos appeared, such as the endoskeletal Mordaunt-Short *442*, the exoskeletal Roksan *Darius* and the bit-of-both Naim *SBL*, arguably the most successful loudspeaker of the past decade. New ideas in stands included the ultra-lightweight RATA *Torlyte* and the ultra-heavy Slate Audio, both of which remain entirely viable today.

Floorstanders may have been attracting the bulk of attention over the last few years, but things have been happening to strengthen the case for the compact loudspeaker. The excellent but tiny £995 Totem *Model One* that I used (alongside B&W's £200 *DM601*) for the stand tests, sounded absolutely superb with the new and more upmarket 'tension-tuned' stands. Within an admittedly limited loudness capability, I reckon that besides looking much neater, it would beat most sub-£1500 floorstanders handsomely. ▲

The most important development
in sound reproduction for years.

And the box it
comes in.

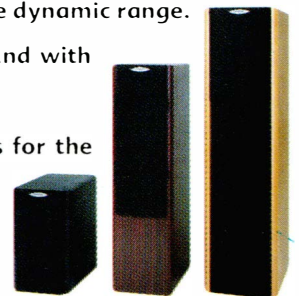


The Faraday ring may look insignificant. But it's this tiny component that gives the A Series its huge dynamic range.

By counteracting rising impedance in the voice coil, it allows more power into the tweeter. And with more power going in, you get more power out.

Even the highest frequencies sing out loud and clear, making the A Series the ideal speakers for the faithful reproduction of today's digital music and film recordings.

The Faraday ring is just one of many small, but vitally important components that make the new A Series so special. And there's only one place good enough for it. The beautiful box we put it in.



The Jimmy Hughes Experience

Musical Fidelity's Missing Link meets hi-fi's time-lord **Jimmy Hughes** and his brace of CD transformers.

Now what was I saying a few months back? Oh yes: the difficulty of improving an expensive system without a big outlay. Well, here's a product that proves the exception to the rule.

If we carried out a straw poll among readers, I bet many would cite CD harshness as their biggest problem. Compared to analogue LP, CD and digital recordings can suffer from a tendency to sound bright and harsh with a lack of sweetness and warmth.

It isn't just that the treble can be a touch fierce and edgy. At worst, CD can sound coarse and over-forceful, with a crude blatancy that lacks any delicacy or subtlety. Allied to this is a lack of depth and spaciousness which makes the music sound 'flat' dynamically, and lacking in dimension.

Since the UK launch of CD in 1983, we've seen many attempts to humanise the sound of CD and digital recordings, some more successful than others. Yet despite improvements in CD players and recording techniques, still there is often a certain ease and sweetness missing.

If all this strikes a chord, you'll be interested in Musical Fidelity's *X10-D*, which aims to reduce digital harshness without loss of detail, impact or focus. It's a valve line-output stage, using two ECC-88s, that fits between the analogue output of your CD player and the amplifier.

Please don't see 'valves' and assume the *X10-D* works by adding lots of nice second-harmonic distortion while rounding off sharp leading edges. It isn't so. Musical Fidelity claims the specification of the *X10-D* is high: ultra-low distortion, wide bandwidth and stereo separation, low noise, and that it's not a filter — although Paul Miller's findings from last month's *Oasis Of Sanity* suggest a slightly different interpretation.

The *X10-D* doesn't seem to colour the sound, nor does it reduce transient attack, dynamics or speed. True, the tonal balance is a bit richer, but this is partly because everything is much cleaner and less grainy. The music gains weight and tonal body, sounding much fuller and sweeter.

Play a bright recording and it still sounds bright, yet the treble seems smoother and richer with more depth. Instruments and voices separate out better. Rather than tending to crowd up, each part retains more of

its individual timbre. Overall the music sounds cleaner and better-sorted, as though unwanted contamination has been reduced.

Some readers may know that I use special line-matching transformers between my CD player and amp. I don't mention this often because the transformers I use (made by Marantz and Luxman) are no longer available and it seems pointless to endorse something that's not in the shops. Nevertheless, these transformers play a big part in shaping the sound I get at home, and I wouldn't want to be without them.

I mention this because, sonically, the *X10-D* produces a similar effect to my transformers (albeit at a much lower cost), helping to reveal hidden space and depth in recordings that would otherwise sound thin and flat. It also civilises the sound, making the music more coherent and listenable.

Although sold as a CD upgrade, the *X10-D* has a wide range of uses. For example, you could put it between a preamp and power amp and enjoy the same kind of improvement you hear with it between the preamp and CD. In such cases it should be possible to use two *X10-D*s with even better results.

It's also possible to use the *X10-D* with vinyl if you've got an outboard phono stage. I tried mine with the Audiolab 8000PPA and got excellent results. This particular phono stage offers superb CD-like clarity and openness, but can be rather revealing of faults. The *X10-D* manages to maintain the PPA's speed and articulation, but enhances warmth and spatial depth.

Another use would be with a cassette deck to give recordings a greater richness and depth. The *X10-D* could also be used to replay tapes. The same goes for your other sources, like an FM tuner.

Musical Fidelity rightly claims that many cheap CD players have poor line-output stages that fail to drive the low-impedance passive inputs of many amplifiers adequately. There's definitely

merit in this argument, but it doesn't explain why the *X10-D* works its magic with my transformer-coupled equipment, for which the problem should have been eliminated.

Incidentally, the *X10-D* gives a small increase in gain of about one dB, so it sounds fractionally louder on an A/B comparison. This partly explains the slightly more powerful presentation and why the music has more presence and impact along with the improvements in smoothness and clarity.

Having no power on/off switch, the *X10-D* is clearly intended to be left switched on all the time. As it uses tubes, which have a finite lifespan, I wondered about this. But Antony Michaelson of MF said the valves are not pushed hard and should last for about ten to 15 years. During use the case of the *X10-D* gets mildly warm.

The *X10-D* is a lovely product that combines superb build and performance with exceptional value for money. It looks vastly more expensive than its relatively modest price tag would indicate. I was both surprised and pleased when I realised it sold for £100.

It isn't a panacea and won't suddenly make an awful system sound great. But it will prove beneficial in the great majority of situations, delivering the sort of improvement many modern systems are crying out for.

In short, the Musical Fidelity *X10-D* is a great little product! ▲

☎ 0181-900 2866

MF's Missing Link reaches parts other widgets just can't reach...





One affair worth having...

LIFE AND YOUR ABILITY TO CRAFT IT, will have rewarded you with a status that creates an intoxicating cocktail of pleasures. In your dreams and reflections of life's experiences, there remains but one pure affair, an affair of the heart, the mind and the soul, an ultimate passion that surpasses all others...

THE PURITY OF SOUND generated by AE Reference Series loudspeakers seduced the audio industry and hi-fi press into rapturous *worldwide* acclaim, awards and accolades. Conceived in the late 80's, the range was soon heralded as the industry benchmark.

IN THE RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE, Acoustic Energy has once again raised the threshold. The new AE1 and AE2 Series II have been acoustically re-engineered with 'no compromise' design objectives and the latest technological advances. Completing the range, the new flagship AE5 is a floor-standing, multiple drive unit design; proven technology of the Reference Series, coupled with significant new developments, creates a sophisticated full-range loudspeaker of breathtaking sonic ability.

THESE NEW LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE, dynamic range and clarity will be a revelation. Whatever your aspirations, pursue your ultimate passion, contact us direct or through one of our carefully selected exclusive dealers, for an *uncoloured* audition.



AE
ACOUSTIC ENERGY
THE NEW REFERENCE SERIES

ACOUSTIC ENERGY LIMITED
16 Bridge Road, Cirencester
Gloucestershire GL7 1NJ
Telephone: 01285 654432
Facsimile: 01285 654430
Web site: www.acoustic-energy.co.uk
Email: info@acoustic-energy.co.uk

The Listening Rooms
London SW5
0171 244 7759

Musical Images
London WC2H
0171 497 1346

Studio 99
London NW6
0171 624 8855

Grahams Hi-Fi
London N1
0171 226 5500

Hi-Fi Experience
London W1P
0171 580 3535

Audio T
Enfield
0181 367 3132

Audio T
London NW6
0171 794 7848

PJ Hi-Fi
Guildford
01483 504801

Jeffries Hi-Fi
Portsmouth
01705 663604

Audio Excellence
Bristol
01179 264975

Audio Excellence
Cardiff
01222 228565

Paul Green Hi-Fi
Bath
01225 316197

Chelston Hi-Fi
Torquay
01803 606863

Audio T
Cheltenham
01242 583960

Audio T
Swindon
01793 538222

University Audio
Cambridge
01223 354237

Audio T
Oxford
01865 65961

Leicester Hi-Fi
Leicester
0116 2539753

Technosound
Milton Keynes
01908 604949

The Hi-Fi Room
Manchester
0161 832 0888

Manders Hi-Fi
Grimsby
01472 351391

Vickers Hi-Fi
York
01904 629659

Gilson Audio
Middlesbrough
01642 248793

Hi-Fi Corner
Glasgow
0141 2482840

Paul Miller's Oasis of Sanity

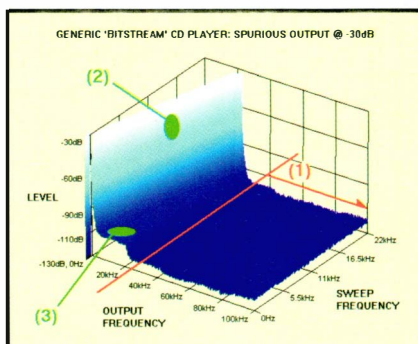
Paul Miller reckons that a CD player's ultrasonic noise output may lead to conflicting reviews . . .

In last month's *Personal Messages* column, our Consultant Editor, Paul Messenger, raised the thorny issue of system matching — arguably one of the greatest imponderables of hi-fi. As Paul rightly pointed out, some speakers seem better suited to the 'sound' of an analogue turntable, while others have a greater empathy with digital sources. Quite why this should be the case, however, isn't always obvious.

System matching has a lot to answer for. It's probably the principal reason behind conflicting reviews of the same product in different hi-fi magazines, a topic that continues to exercise the imagination of many readers if the *Choice* postbag is any guide. Mostly these variations in performance are quite subtle, and yet we occasionally stumble across a product whose sound quality can vary hugely from system to system.

I was reminded of this recently when auditioning Arcam's new *Alpha 7* CD player against several very smooth and gracious-sounding PWM bitstream players from JVC and Sony. The *Alpha 7* is based on Arcam's older *Alpha One*, but has the capacity to sound significantly more dynamic, open and musically revealing. And yet, by replacing my usual *DPA100S* amplifier with an alternative model, this same CD player returned a more aggressive, brighter and generally disagreeable sound. By contrast, the Sony and JVC players both retained their respective aural characters regardless of my choice of amplifier.

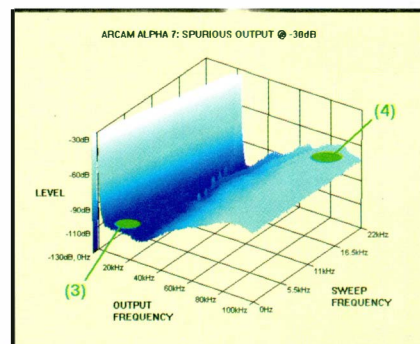
You can begin to see the dilemma. If the *Alpha 7* was auditioned with the 'wrong' amplifier, it would have received a bad review. Similarly, if the amplifier was reviewed with the *Alpha 7* as a source, then this also would have prompted a page of derisive copy. The answer, it seems, lies in the ostensibly inaudible output of the CD player — the ultrasonic region beyond the 20kHz limit of our hearing.



I've bounded this ultrasonic region (1) with two red lines on the three-D plot, encompassing a span from about 22kHz to 100kHz. This is fairly typical of a good PWM-style bitstream CD player handling a full sweep from 0Hz - 22kHz (2) at the musically-important level of -30dB. The bulk of the audio band is represented by the plateau area (3) which, in this case, is free of obvious distortions.

This generalised example shows that any ultrasonic output (1) is typically 120dB below the level of the -30dB sweep (-150dB below the player's peak output), so it poses no threat to other components further down the system's chain. Arcam's *Alpha 7*, however, is unusual in using one of Burr-Brown's *PCM1710* converters. Burr-Brown describes this as a 'multi-bit, fourth-order, Delta Sigma' DAC with onboard eight-times oversampling. Like all Delta Sigma or PWM bitstream converters, the *1710* reduces the size of the 16-bit digital code while speeding up the rate at which the code is processed.

In this instance, the *PCM1710* truncates incoming data from 16 bits to around two point three bits, handled by a five-level PWM output DAC. However, the reduction creates a huge error in the form of noise, distributed across the eight-times-oversampled bandwidth of the chip. Hence the on-board fourth-order noise-shaper, which redistributes this noise away from the audio range and accumulates it at higher, inaudible frequencies.



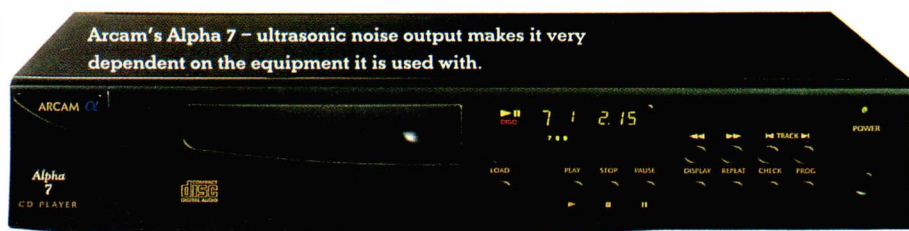
In this respect, Burr-Brown's *PCM1710* DAC bears comparison with other bitstream-style converters used by Sony, JVC and Technics, for example. However, because the *1710* uses less oversampling, its unwanted noise must be redistributed over a narrower ultrasonic bandwidth. In other words, a pile of unwanted digital garbage (4) ends up just outside the audio band (3).

The difference in level of ultrasonic output between the 'generic bitstream' player and the Arcam is obvious. Teamed up with any competently-designed amplifier this should not be an issue, but many manufacturers design their amps with plenty of compensation within the audio band to achieve low distortion figures, but give little thought to linearity at progressively higher frequencies.

In such cases, the huge welter of ultrasonic noise emerging from Arcam's *Alpha 7* could cause intermodulation (IM) distortion to occur within the amplifier at these inaudible frequencies. The products of IM distortion, however, fold directly back into the audio range (3) where they will cause the sound to become harsh and generally unforgiving. Which is precisely what we heard when changing from one amplifier to another.

By the same token, CD players with a far lower output of ultrasonic noise (as in our first graph) will tend to sound very much more consistent from one amplifier to the next. The moral of this technical tale is twofold. First, if different magazines publish contradictory reviews, then just as if you happen to disagree with your mates, dig deep enough and you'll unearth a valid reason for the dispute. Second, if you audition Arcam's fabulous little *Alpha 7*, make sure that you take along your own amplifier! ▲

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





Is it intelligent to sit here?

SRS (●)®
Sound Retrieval System

The lead guitarist of 'Mission Aborted' is about to smash his axe over your head. Don't worry, it won't hurt a bit. You see you're listening on a Sharp SRS 3D Surround Sound system, so it sounds so real you feel like you're actually there. Using the revolutionary 'Sound Retrieval System', the audio system engulfs the room with vivid, 3D Surround Sound from just two speakers. And because you get the same effect wherever you are in the room, you can get up and rock around to your hearts content. There are 4 audio systems with SRS available. Each one provides a more affordable alternative to normal multi speaker systems. So do the intelligent thing. Surround yourself with sound, not speakers. Ask for a demo at any leading electrical store or call 0800 262 958 quoting SRS/HFC/R for further information.

SHARP
INTELLIGENT THINKING



Write on!

FEELING SAD, MAD, FRUSTRATED, ELATED, CONFUSED, ABUSED? LET IT ALL OUT HERE...

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Headphones say no to dogs

As a long-standing reader of your magazine, I wish to thank whoever was responsible for the latest revision of your directory pages at the back of the October issue of the magazine. I found it particularly difficult to track down products I was interested in, using the previous incarnation of this guide.

The new version is a true return to form, as it allows me to look up your own opinions, while quickly checking out similarly-priced alternatives. I recently had to buy a new pair of headphones, after the headband was accidentally chewed to pieces by my year-old dog, Bastard (he used to be called Gromit, after the character in *The Wrong Trousers*, but currently I feel that Bastard is more appropriate). Armed with your directory, I quickly picked out a pair of Beyerdynamic DT331 headphones — and they're a perfect replacement.

E Lee

Guildford, Surrey



Grr-r-raphics

I find the continued existence of the domestic graphic equaliser strange. Don't people realise that the sound obtained in the final mix-down, by the mastering labs, is the best and cleanest sound possible? The likely fact is that, most of your readers, myself included, have been through the equaliser stage and are now enlightened.

We know what damage they can do to the sound, sometimes distorting instruments beyond recognition. If the graphic-equaliser buyer wants a box with plenty of knobs to play with, not to mention pretty lights, then by all means he/she should buy one for effect. But take the good advice and leave it out of the hi-fi system — unless the system is so poor that it

might actually make some improvement.

I would like to take this opportunity to say how much I enjoyed reading my first copy of *Hi-Fi Choice*. I used to swear by another publication, but it pales into insignificance by comparison. I have even taken out a subscription, and look forward to many more interesting issues.

Ray Fowler
Nottingham

Headphones say no to noise

I want to suggest that you do a review of expensive headphones. Under the new noise laws, people are not allowed to play their hi-fi very loud at all between the hours of 11pm and 7am, and I believe there are rules for day-time noise levels as well. If people flaunt these, they can be fined, or have their equipment (and music) confiscated. As these new laws filter through to the hi-fi community, it must be likely that more and more people will turn to headphones for their reference listening system. (That's what I am about to do, anyway.) I don't think that a group review of connoisseur cans has been done by any magazine for ages, and since you are the probably the most serious magazine on the market, I thought I would suggest this to you.

Also I have a query regarding mains filters. We suffer bad mains noise in our area, and I wondered what products could help. Trichord used to do a plug-in device, but has stopped making it.

Justin Marston,
via the Internet

The Trichord Black Box is now being produced by Acoustic Precision, ☎ (01443) 816856.

The Record Collection

I think it was about five years ago when you produced that first mouth-watering special issue called 'The Collection'. Apart from reviewing a few audiophile's dreams, you published a list of your reviewers' favourite recordings for assessing hi-fi systems, indicating which characteristics were more outstanding in each of them: imaging, speed, detail, and so forth.

I found that list very useful for what it was intended, but also, and more importantly, it led me to discover new artists and types of music that have broadened my musical tastes and, ultimately, increased the enjoyment I get in return for investing in hi-fi equipment.

I am sure that in the last five years, new and wonderful recordings have been produced and used in your reviews, so

Monster!



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

OUR ADDRESS

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



With Cinema DSP, you'll be amazed at what comes out of the woodwork.

Bats screech overhead. Wolves howl in the distance. And footsteps crunch across your living room floor.

No, it's not your imagination. You're hearing sounds placed around the room, just as the director intended.

All courtesy of Yamaha Cinema DSP. The home theatre technology that gives dialogue more definition. Music, more dimension. And sound effects, more graphic detail.

Only Yamaha Cinema DSP creates phantom speakers that fully replicate the experience you get in multi-speaker movie theatres. It sounds so real, in fact, you'll swear you hear sounds in places that you don't even have speakers.

As you might imagine, a breakthrough like this is no small feat. It's accomplished by multiplying the effects of Digital Sound Field Processing and Dolby Pro Logic.®

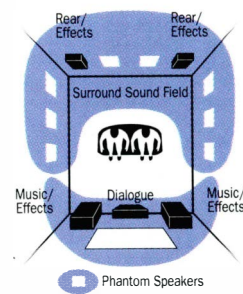
Digital Sound Field Processing is Yamaha's unique technology that electronically recreates some of the finest performance venues in the world. And Dolby Pro Logic is the technology responsible for placing sound around the room, matching the dialogue and sound effects with the action on the screen.

Together, these two technologies allow Yamaha to offer a complete range of home theatre components that outperform other comparatively priced products on the market.

Stop by your local Yamaha dealer for what could be a very eerie demonstration. Maybe we can't talk you into a system, but that doesn't mean we can't scare you into one.

For your local Yamaha Dealer telephone: (01923) 233166.

CINEMA DSP™



Only Yamaha Cinema DSP creates phantom speakers. It sounds so real, you'll swear you hear sounds in places you don't even have speakers.



YAMAHA

Yamaha Electronics (UK) Ltd, 200 Rickmansworth Road, Watford, Herts. WD1 7JS. Dolby Pro Logic is a registered trademark of Dolby Laboratories Licensing Corporation.

To: Yamaha Electronics (UK) Ltd. 200 Rickmansworth Road, Watford, Herts. WD1 7JS. Tel: (01923) 233166

Please send me full information on Yamaha Hi-Fi Components and A/V Range.

Name Address

Tel.

Please state where you saw this advertisement

Write on! (continued)

◀ how about giving your writers some homework, and update us with a new list of your favourite discs?

Carlos Lorenzo,
via the Internet

Sounds like a good idea. In the mean time check out Erehwon by David Thomas And The Two Pale Boys — JK

The Thorens Trail

So you want to buy the Thorens TCD2000 CD Player? Day 1: My first try...

Me: "Hello. Is that store A in Swindon? I'd like to hear a demo of the TCD2000. If it sounds as good as they say it does, then I'll buy it — it costs £900, doesn't it?"

Shop: "Well we don't stock it, sir, but we might be able to get one... give me your number and we'll call you back."

Day 6: No calls yet, so...

Me: "Hello. Is that store B in Oxford? Blah blah blah — TCD2000 — blah blah blah."

Shop: "Well, sir, we do stock the TCD2000, but our only unit is out on loan. We will get a new delivery today... give me your number and we'll call you back."

Day 14: Still no calls, so...

Me: "Hello. Is that store C in Bath? The UK distributors for Thorens suggested I call you about getting a demo of the TCD2000. Blah blah blahdey-blah and more blah."

Shop: "Oh yes, sir; we did have a TCD2000, but it is now in our Exeter store — give me your number and we'll call you back."

Day 20: Please. Will someone call me back? I really do have £900 cash to spend on a CD player — what is wrong with hi-fi retailers?

Kevin Mannion
via the Internet

IPL get it sorted

Following publication of my letter concerning IPL speakers (*Help!* September '96), I received a call from IPL Acoustics, expressing disbelief at my comments.



The body of a Lydian — but should we hear it naked?

After a simple modification to the crossover and a change of interconnect, the sound of my system has improved dramatically. It's proof that there are still companies in existence who are genuinely interested in customer satisfaction.

Steve Lester, Yoxall

Off his trolley

As an avid follower of your organ, I have always looked to your 'sound' advice when buying hardware. Everything I own was checked out against the

suggestions in *Choice*. And it all sounds pretty good to me.

However, I am stuck on the choice of an equipment rack which really performs and appeals to my eye. At present my amp is mounted on a two-inch stone slab. I came upon an ad for a wooden chef's trolley (below) which got me thinking. It's not Shun Mook obviously, but the three-inch-deep top and three-inch-square legs (all in solid timber) looked pretty good. There's even a handy drawer for odds and ends like

cleaning gear. Change the castors for spikes and Bob's your uncle. And if your latest upgrade doesn't come up to scratch, one swipe of your butcher's cleaver will see its vital bits fly off!

Harvey Watkins, Worcester Park, Surrey

This might turn out to be a tweak too far! — SV

Weighing everything up

With regard to your review of the Lyra Lydian in the October issue, I used to own one myself, and found that the sound-quality improvement on removing the cover was as much to do with moving the counterweight closer to the pivot point. I discovered this when I purchased the heavier counterweight which Naim offers, only to find that the same improvements were present when the counterweight went on and the body was replaced. I couldn't use the heavier counterweight with the body off. I have also upgraded to the Clavis DC and agree wholeheartedly with your views on improvements over the very fine Lydian. ▲

Paul Ricketts, Swindon

PING'S GUIDE TO C

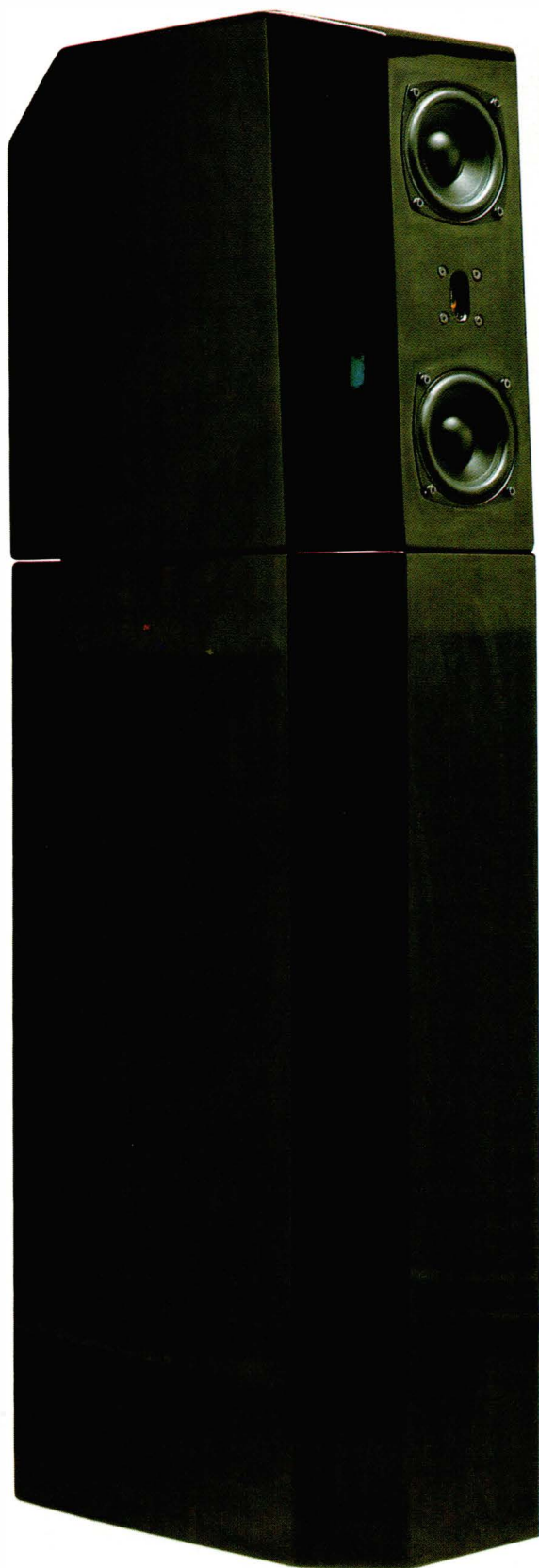


CHEF'S TROLLEY

This Chef's Trolley offers spectacular value, made from quality hardwood with an end grain blocked work surface measuring 25.5" x 19" and 3" deep. It includes racks for glasses, wine bottles and knives, a sliding drawer, removable side shelf and towel rail handle. There are castors on all legs, two are lockable.

Details from MCP (Midlands) Ltd.,
Dept GH/5/96, Unit 3, West Street,
Bridgtown, Cannock WS11 3NH
Tel: 01543 579858 Fax: 01543 466364

Sounding groovy



Alan Sircom traces the history of a classic floorstander: the SD Acoustics SD1. In its latest piano black finish it looks a far sturdier beast than before, but how does it perform?

Back when jobs in the city were still cool and house prices doubled every six days, SD Acoustics was an important part of the British hi-fi underground. The company produced a range of speakers from conventional mid-priced box speakers up to skyscraper high-end aspirants with ribbon tweeters and price tags to match.

One of the most popular SD models of the time was the up-market floorstanding *SD1*. This 1.5m-tall, coffin-like blend of wood and cloth was good in its day but would have difficulty keeping up with the audio Jones's of today. Some of the more wacky SD designs are gone now, but the *SD1* remains to this day. In its current £2,995 *SD1E* guise, however, the speaker bears almost no resemblance to its predecessor. Place them side-by-side and only the badge indicates the lineage.

The *SD1E* is a tall, slender affair and is divided into two discrete cabinets in the manner of the Wilson *WATT/Puppy*. The cabinets themselves are made from a new low-Q, polyester-based material called Polybimen. The top cabinet contains the two midrange cones, the planar ribbon tweeter and rear-firing super-tweeter. This sits on a heavyweight

ported bass unit that has four rear-firing 152mm bass drivers. The speakers can be used single wired with the cable connected to the base of the bass bin, but you will need a speaker cable between this and the mid/treble cabinet. Fortunately, it is also possible to bi-wire the speaker, and the *SD1E* sounds considerably more agile if you do this. With a claimed nominal impedance of six Ohms, suggested sensitivity of 90dB and quoted power handling of 300W, it is easy to drive but needs a beefy amp.

Serious set-up

Before you play the *SD1E* with any seriousness, the interfaces between the two speaker boxes and between the bass bin and the floor need to be thoroughly sorted. SD Acoustics supplies a set of cones for placing between mid/treble box and bass bin, but be prepared to experiment with Blu-Tack in exceptional circumstances. The *SD1E* is supplied with M8 spikes, and it is vital that you get the bass bin absolutely level and stable lest the bass sound loose, and lacking in definition.

Given these caveats, the *SD1E* has a lot to offer. Separating those bass and mid/treble frequencies certainly helps to keep each controlled and

unsullied by the other. In particular, the bass is cavernous and dynamic and perfect for anything on the Ninja Tunes label, yet it doesn't mess up the strangeness of any of those trip-hop cuts in the middle and upper registers. As this music has been heavily visited by the DJ, any loudspeaker blurring quickly turns a mix into a mess.

Likewise, the mid/treble cab is as clean as a whistle, regardless of what is going on down below. Open mid and top frequencies were always a hallmark of the old *SD1* and, if anything, the *SD1E* improves on these strengths. The new *SD1E* is more than transparent enough to put a smile on the face of even the most stoic Mahlerian, as it makes space for both orchestra and choir for the opening of Mahler's *Eighth Symphony*. The addition of the super-tweeter offers no quarter to bright-sounding electronics, but the clever use of a planar (rather than domed) tweeter and super-tweeter makes this design admirably free of spitch and grain, even with digital classical recordings or the handful of hideous remastering disasters I have in my collection.

It's not all perfect, however. The bass bin can be a mite overpowering in smaller rooms; the sheer extension and loading of the bass cabinet will make it less popular with the valves-'n'-vinyl brigade. There is a very slight lack of integration between treble and bass which is most noticeable on good recordings of simple music ('twas ever thus), and the overall sound is more cerebral and mannered than an outright headbanger would want. But such criticisms are minor, and I found myself missing the resolutely uncoloured performance of the *SD1E*s after they were gone.

Missing you

A little while has now passed since I last played any music through the *SD1E* and – for the most part – I still miss them. Although the piano-black chamfered monoliths did not match my listening room, and the sound was a little too shiny and hi-fi for my tastes, I was strongly swayed by the *SD1E*'s vibrancy, transparency and raunchy bass depth. If you want an analogy with cars, the *SD1E* is the loudspeaker equivalent of a Caterham *Seven*: distinctive, powerful and full of accuracy and energy. Neither machine will ever have mass-market appeal, each reveling in its idiosyncrasies far too much for that. But long may such designs live, both in cars and in loudspeakers. ▲

SD Acoustics (0181) 399 6308

Past Masters

The last time we investigated a SD Acoustics *SD1* loudspeaker was back in June 1991 (issue 95). Over five years ago, it was a very different beast, in every sense. The separated mid-treble cabinet, the four-driver bass enclosure and the chamfered piano-gloss finish were not even a glint in the eye of designer Steen Doessing of SD Acoustics.

There are some similarities, however. Both speakers are designed to be used in free-space, both are intent upon low levels of coloration and both are tall, imposing floorstanding designs that could never be used by a closet audiophile who wants to keep their passion under wraps. Shrinking hi-fi violets and hang-on-the-wall-flowers need not apply.

The original *SD1* was a design full of paradoxes, yet retained a certain charm at the same time. The slim shape, stepped profile and veneered plinth and top plate made it relatively attractive by monolith standards of the time. The price, too, was an attractive factor; costing a little less than Meridian's flagship CD player of the day, the *SD1* undercut many of the top-flight loudspeakers at the time, in some cases by thousands of pounds.

It used a ribbon tweeter, allied to a plastic cone midrange unit and a pair of 150mm bass drivers. The treble and midrange speakers were set in an open back baffle. This effectively created a dipole arrangement, eliminating standing waves, changes in pressure and other such nasties that lurk within a conventional cabinet. Unfortunately, this open arrangement also left a number of unsightly exposed cables at the rear of the speaker. By contrast, the bass cabinet was a conventionally ported affair in a bluff rectangular box with a volume of about 40 litres.

Paul Messenger tested the speakers back in the Statements feature of issue 95. Although it lacked bass extension, he enjoyed the laid back perspective and precise, impressive soundstaging. However, he also felt that the *SD1* suffered in comparison to the cheaper *OBS* speaker from the same stable.

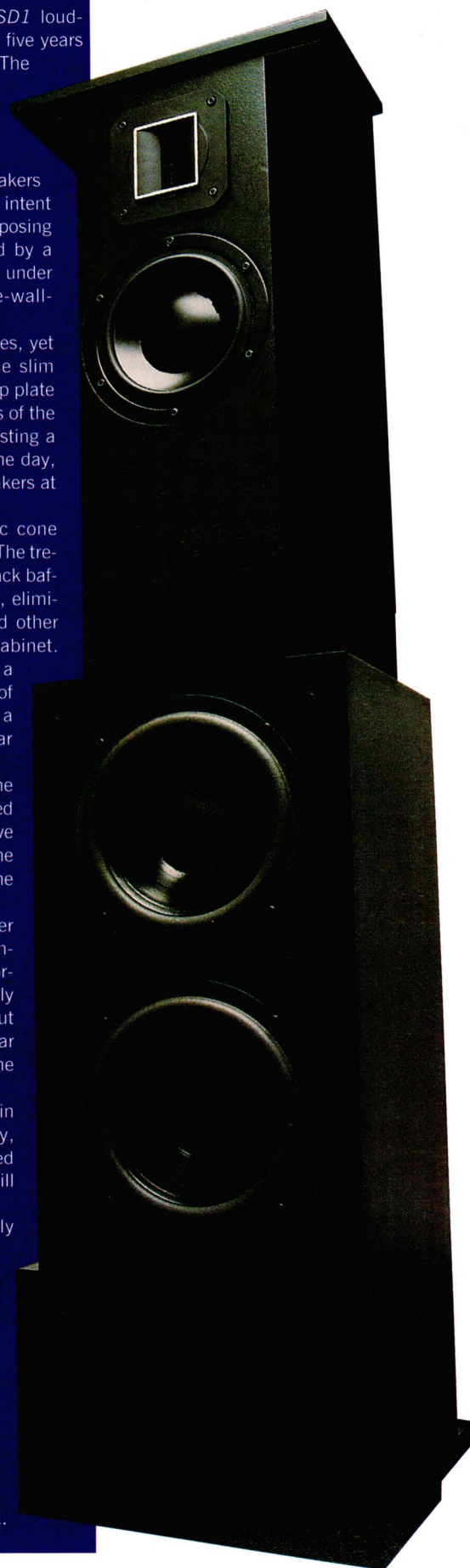
He also felt that the *SD1*'s ribbon tweeter rather accentuated the surface noise of a turntable. By contrast, such a frequency tilt would benefit the performance of a decent CD player. In today's CD-friendly climate, this would make for a popular design, but back in 1991, the high-end community was far more vinyl oriented than it is today. Perhaps the new *SD1E* will be better received for this reason.

Years later, however, there is still a tidy trade in second hand *SD1* loudspeakers. Paradoxically, although they were comparatively rare and need vast amounts of free-space around them, they still command a superb resale value.

If we go back still further to issue 60 (July 1988), the *SD1* was a slightly different beast once more. A three-way open design with a ribbon tweeter, it's easy to follow the development from '88 to '91 — the same cannot be said of the latest version.

There are strong similarities between the *SD1*s though. Even the sound is broadly similar, with clear sounding vocals a strong-point with both models. But today's *SD1E* is every bit as likely to create as much of a reputation for itself as its predecessors patently did.

Left, the two box *SD1E*. Right its predecessor the *SD1*.



Help!

ALVIN GOLD DONS THE GURU'S HAT AND DISPENSES WISDOM TO TROUBLED DEVOTEES OF SOUND QUALITY

Query of the month

Is there a cure for a vinyl junkie?

Someone once said: "Turntables and loudspeakers are art; amplifiers and CD players are technology." In my opinion, the Linn LP12 exudes charm and an effortless ease, unparalleled by other ancillaries. Indeed, it has more charm in its little stylus than most CD players have in their entire circuitry. My dilemma is to find a CD player that sounds charming, integrated and, above all, musical!

My system includes: Naim NAC72, NAP140, NAC A5 cable; Quad ESL63s; Linn LP12, K9 and Ittok LVIII arm. I have tried the Naim CD3, Micromega Stage 1, 2 and 3. I have also tried digital-to-analogue converters such as the Arcam Black Box 50 and Audio Alchemy DAC-In-The-Box. Although these made CD players more bearable, they still failed to satisfy. Is there an answer, or am I just a hopeless vinyl junkie?

Nick Brocklehurst, Christchurch, Dorset

A discontinued Ittok arm suggests that your Linn LP12 is getting on a bit, but please remember that your deck was at the pinnacle of source components in its day. To get a sound that is on a par with your turntable you need a suitably top-flight CD source, one that will blend into your existing Linn/Naim/Quad system. Such CD front ends cost large amounts of cash, at least as much as you would have to spend to get a new LP12 of similar quality today.

Try having a listen to CD players costing about £800-£1,000 more than those you are considering at the moment; in particular the Meridian 508.20, the Naim CD2 and the Linn Karik III all blend smoothly into the Naim electronics sound. None of these players attempts to make analogue-sounding CDs, but have a quality that is entertaining in its own right.

You could also try introducing a Naim Hi-Cap power supply for the NAC 72 preamp at a later date. This huge transformer decouples the preamp from the NAP140, and drives it perfectly to get the best from all sources — analogue and digital. This should help you find the best of digital audio; if not, perhaps you are looking for a CD player that doesn't exist — one that sounds exactly like your own LP12.



B&W DM602 — stand-mount solution for a budget system

All options open

I am considering speakers to replace my ancient Celestion Dittons. My room measures 3.5 x 7 metres and my system consists of a Technics SL-PG520A CD player, Aiwa AD-F810 cassette deck, Sony ST-S311 tuner and Technics SU-VX600 amp. Does this equipment justify expenditure on such speakers as the Acoustic Energy AE-100, Castle Isis or Monitor Audio CC200, or should I aim more modestly at, say, the Mission 731LE, Mordaunt-Short MS10i or KEF Coda 7 or 8? My music tastes include rock and classical.

N D Reynolds
Orpington, Kent

You're not really locked out of either group, though the Acoustic Energy really needs a different kind of home, and the Monitor Audio CC200 is a centre-channel dialogue speaker. Given your music tastes, size of room and the nature of your system, I would suggest starting with the Mission 752 or Polk RT8 compact floorstanders, or the B&W 602 if you prefer stand-mount speakers.

Swings and roundabouts

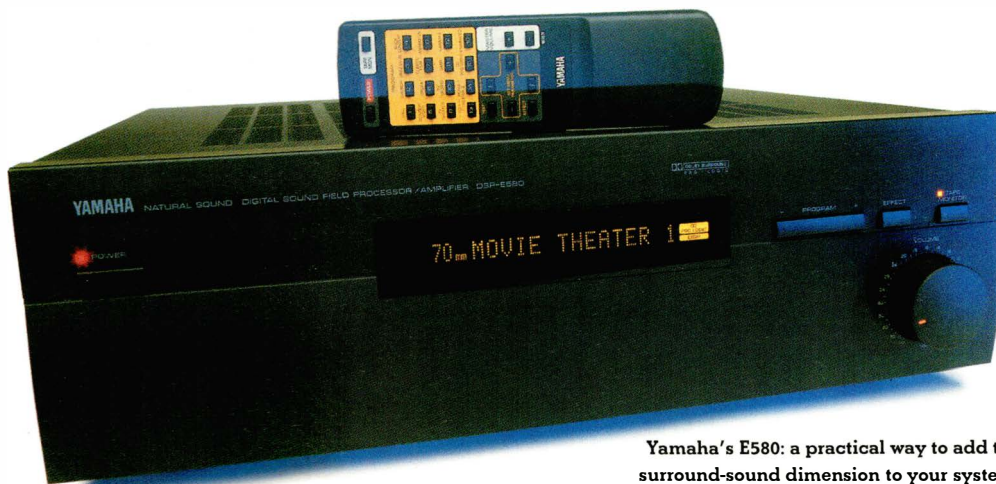
I would like a CD player, amp and speakers on a £500 budget. Would a combination of £150 per component be suitable? I was thinking of the Rotel 930AX or NAD 310 and KEF Coda 7, but I haven't got a particular CD player in mind.

Geoffrey Lui
University of Bath

Try to avoid dividing down an overall budget into individual budgets for each component — all you're doing is imposing an artificial and arbitrary restriction on your choice. For example, there are some great cheapie speakers such as the Sony SS-86, which cost just £100 a pair, although you'll need a pair of stands to match. Equally, the Philips CD721 CD player, which costs £129 (see review on p.89), is hard to better, or there's the £160 Sony CDP-XE500. This choice would leave you at least £200 for the amp, which will make a big difference as it allows you to go for something better, such as the NAD 312 (£200).

Pro-Logic practicalities

My system comprises a Micromega Drive 2/Pink



Yamaha's E580: a practical way to add the surround-sound dimension to your system.

Triangle *Ordinal* DAC/1307 filter, Mission *Cyrus III* amp with two *PSX-Rs* and B&W *DM1* speakers. I would like to add a Dolby Pro-Logic amplifier and a centre speaker for dialogue at the front. I already have a pair of Mission *73S* speakers to take care of the surround duties, and my available budget is £1,000.

Jawed Arshad
Ilford, Essex

Cyrus makes a very good decoder-cum-three-channel-amplifier to match the *Cyrus III* — namely the *Cyrus AV Master*, which costs £650. It combines a first rate Pro-Logic decoder and a centre-channel amp, though you would need one or two further channels of amplification to drive the two rear speakers (they can be driven in series or parallel from a single amplifier, as long as the impedance limits of the amplifier are not exceeded). Alternatively, and perhaps this is a more practical suggestion given that it will drive both the centre and rear speakers, have you thought about the Yamaha *DSP-E580* at £449?

The centre speaker should match the main speakers as far as possible. The *DM1* is a little too long in the tooth now for me to remember how it sounded, though I do recall it being clean and a little bright. I suggest the B&W *CC6* (£200) as a good starting point. The fact that it is the same brand is entirely coincidental.

Focus unknown

I am considering buying the Harman/Kardon *2200* power amplifier and either the *2300* or *2500* preamp and the carousel CD *FL8450*. Someone has suggested that I go for the Focus

Audio F7 or Mission *752* speakers. What do you think?

Peter Madeley
Bamboo Grove, Hong Kong

I can't tell you anything about Focus, but the Mission 752 is well-established and liked, with no real snags other than a slight lack of drama and presence. It is certainly hard to beat at the price, though a replacement is said to be in the offing.

Magnetic attraction

I have a great interest in the Densen *DeMagic* which demagnetises CD players. I own an old Nakamichi cassette deck which still serves me well but, as we all know, even the best cassette decks sometimes need demagnetising.

Does the *DeMagic* have a positive effect on cassette decks? After all, why pay for conventional demagnetisers which only demagnetise the heads of cassette decks when a single CD will do it all?

Sandro Prenkocevic
Vänernborg, Sweden

The Densen *DeMagic* is designed to reduce residual low-level magnetism throughout the active circuit path of your system, including (presumably) the ferrous content of cables and component lead-out wires, and certainly cassette decks if you record the signal and play it back.

I am part of the way through evaluating a sample, but it is already apparent that it has a beneficial effect on the equipment I have used so far. But that it is no substitute for a tape demagnetiser which has a much stronger action. Incidentally, mains-driven demagnetisers are not used just on record and playback heads,

but also on the guides, rollers and any other metallic component near the tape path. Nakamichi, however, takes a dim view of tape demagnetisers, believing them to be harmful to the delicate tape heads and the deck's circuitry. In short, Nakamichi says use a demagnetiser at your peril!

No joy from NAD

I have a CD-based NAD system (306 amp, 502 CD player) with B&W *DM630* speakers and QED *Qudos* cable, but I am constantly annoyed by a lack of clear soundstaging which means I can't divine where instruments are located in the

width and depth planes. Also, the frequency extremes are unsatisfactory. Will a quality interconnect do away with the flaws outlined?

Heinz Lefebvre
Ledebreg, Belgium

You'd be more profitably employed experimenting with the position of your speakers. Try angling them towards the listening position.

Two boxes aren't better

I have just bought an Audiolab *8000Q/8000P* pre/power amp and Audioquest *Midnight 3* single bi-wire speaker cables. I need help choosing speakers and a two-box CD player. It will be used with sentimental songs and solo piano in a room measuring 10 x 12 ft, which dictates bookshelf speakers.

Y J Yeoh
Malaysia

If you're stuck on the idea of a two-box player, the Audiolab 8000CDM/8000DAC could hardly be bettered. However, if you want to spend less, you will not lose too much performance by opting for a good single-box unit such as the Marantz CD17.

Mission 752s: hard to beat at the price.



Invest in Gold!

**The new Profigold PGA301 from
Bandridge has arrived...**

*Precision crafted from the finest
materials available, the new PGA301
interconnect leads will ensure that
you get the very best from your system.*

*Stop listening to your Hi-fi
and start enjoying the music!*



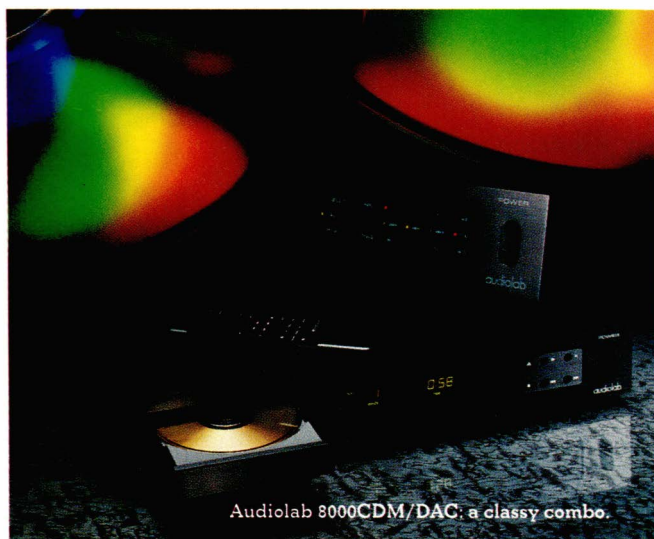
BANDRIDGE

PROFIGOLD[®]

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE PGA301 AND OTHER PROFIGOLD PRODUCTS,
CONTACT BANDRIDGE LTD. ON **0181 543 3633**

PREMIER HOUSE 18 DEER PARK ROAD WIMBELDON LONDON SW19 3BW

PROFIGOLD, THE NO.1 FROM BANDRIDGE



Audiolab 8000CDM/DAC, a classy combo.

On the subject of speakers, I would strongly recommend the QLN Classic 1 (neutral with superb imaging) or the Harbeth HL-P3ES (sharper, astonishingly transparent and articulate). All the named hardware is available in Malaysia.

Plenty of power

Your advice please! I have a Linn LP12/Ekos/Troika and Lingo PSU, Hitachi FT-5500 MkII tuner, Technics M260 cassette deck, Audiolab 8000C/8000P pre/power amplifiers and Linn Isobarik speakers. I am considering Naim, Exposure and Audiolab amplifiers, though other suggestions would be welcome. Please bear in mind that I intend replacing the Isobariks — wife forces sale — and the room measures 24 x 16 ft. I wouldn't expect to pay more than about £5,000.

John Kellock
Aberdeenshire

When I first encountered the Isobarik about 20 years ago, I heard in it everything that I thought made a loudspeaker great. The last time I heard one, about three years ago, it sounded offensively bad, like

the PA gear you hear in the kind of clubs that give you nightmares. I hope you have one of the early ones.

It is not easy to give firm recommendations without knowing where you will be going with your loudspeakers. For example, Dynavector, Naim or Exposure amplifiers that would perfectly match a pair of Shahinian Obelisks, will prove a poor match for a pair of ProAc Response One S speakers. For relatively compact dynamic speakers, you will need plenty of power for your size of room. Within your price range, the best amplifier to my knowledge is the Michell Argo HR/Iso HR/Alecto preamp, phono stage and power amps.

Short shrift

I wish to upgrade my Kenwood KA-3020SE amplifier, Teac CD-P1100 CD player and a pair of Mordaunt-Short MS05 speakers, but I can only afford to upgrade two parts. My budget is £300 for the speakers and £350 for a CD player or amp. I am looking for a sound that is realistic, detailed and dynamic, but not harsh. Any ideas?

Mark Skinner
Thanet, Kent

I'm sorry to say that I don't know the Teac, but I do know the other two components. The Kenwood KA-3020SE is a cracker, and definitely worth retaining as long as you don't have any extraordinary power requirements.

The Mordaunt-Short MS05, however, is certainly ripe for the chop, whatever else you may decide on. I would point you towards the speakers recommended to Stephen Thompson (see *Speakers on a budget*, p. 39), namely the B&W DM602 and the Castle Isis. Also shortlist the Mission 751, a very sophisticated compact, though you will need tall, inert stands too and, ultimately, the Mission may need a slightly more heavyweight amplifier.

The problem here is that £350 is probably too little to pay if you want a substantial all-round improvement over the Kenwood. You'd need a model in the Audiolab 8000A or S class (£500 or £650 respectively), the Mission Cyrus I at £500, or perhaps the new Pioneer Precision — I say perhaps because I don't know what it sounds like yet (However, see *Sessions*, p.14, and *Ear Waxings*, p.21). If you're in the market for a CD player, check out the test in this issue (p.72).

Hi-fi newcomer

I am a newcomer to hi-fi and would like to buy a system to include a turntable, CD player, cassette deck, tuner amp and loudspeakers, costing up to £1,600. Any suggestions?

Jerman Ferrer
(no address given)

I am sorry that I had to shorten your letter from the original six typewritten sides which, as you suggested, is probably a record. I only mention this because,

should you approach a dealer with the detailed requirements you set out in your letter (sample: the cassette deck must have accurate speed, mechanical integrity and sturdiness, dual capstan, bias adjustment, auto tape calibration, autoreverse, real-time tape counter, etc, etc) you'll probably end up being shown the door.

The irony is that your musical requirements are set out in terms devoid of real musical meaning. This leaves me two choices: either I reel out a list of gear as long as your arm or I point you towards a good specialist dealer (such as a BADA dealer). I'll do the latter. The BADA hotline on (0171) 226 4044 can provide suitable local names and addresses.

Lead the way

My system consists of a Cyrus DAD7 CD player, Arcam Delta 290 amp and Bose 305s which are stand-mounted. Could you recommend some interconnects and speaker cables? Right now I have Tandy Gold Line interconnects but I would like something a little sharper that won't break the bank.

Mark Millington
Worcester

A lucky-dip question this, but for interconnects try the IXOS 103 (£40) or DNM TCC75 (£34) first, and for speaker cables start with Cable Talk 3 or Gale XL315 (both are priced at £3/metre).

Speakers on a budget

I have a Musical Fidelity 100 amplifier and 600 CD player, a Trio 1033 record deck with Shure 95HE replacement cartridge, and 24-inch, sand-filled Gale speaker stands. I have about £300 for speakers — should I buy slightly cheaper speakers such as the Celestion 5 Mk II, for example, and improve the speaker cables and interconnects, or should I spend the whole lot on speakers and keep the existing Heybrook Heywire speaker cables?

Stephen Thompson
Alexandria, Scotland

There is no simple, definitive answer to the question of how to divide the resources, but there is a good bodge in the form of Gale XL315, which is



Kenwood KA-3020SE amp punches above its weight.

FANTASTIC NEW SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

"We'll give you this quality audio interconnect cable - FREE!"

Your FREE gift

This Puresonic 5050 interconnect is the ideal choice for today's hi-fi systems. As you'll find in all the best quality wires, it has oxygen-free copper (OFC) conductors, 24 carat gold plated phono connectors, and a tough moulded plastic casing. Usually £12.95, it's yours FREE when you subscribe to Hi-Fi Choice.

Worth
£12.95

THE PURESONIC AUDIO INTERCONNECT

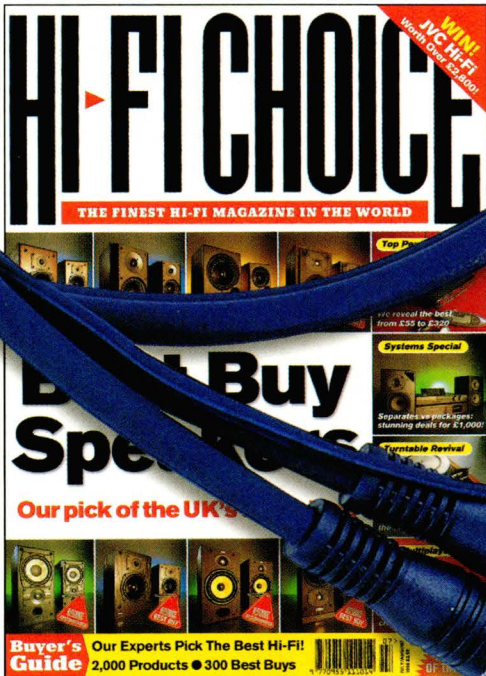
- RRP £12.95
- High grade moulded casing
- Pure OFC conductors
- 24 carat gold plated connectors

Reply now for this great deal

Subscribing to Hi-Fi Choice means you're guaranteed each brilliant issue - and more! Because we'll deliver all your magazines direct to your door **free of charge**. You'll save over £5 on the yearly shop price. And of course, we'll rush your FREE audio interconnect lead to you right away.

Subscribe for just £14.97

It's so easy to subscribe! And if you choose the Direct Debit method you'll pay just £14.97 every six months. Just complete and return the form and we'll start your subscription from the next available issue.



GET HI-FI CHOICE - AND GET CONNECTED

HI-FI CHOICE SUBSCRIPTION APPLICATION FORM

YES! I want Hi-Fi Choice sent direct to my door each month

- Please start my subscription from the next available issue and send me my FREE audio interconnect cable or
- I am already a subscriber, please extend my subscription and send me my FREE audio interconnect cable

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

Direct Debit payment

- £14.97 every six months (UK only)

Cheque or Credit/Debit card payment

- 1 year UK £29.97 Europe £43.99 World £56.99

YOUR DETAILS

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Daytime phone _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS COUPON TO: Hi-Fi Choice, Subscriptions Department, FREEPOST WD7, Bristol BS12 OBR. (No stamp required)

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

- Please indicate here if you do not wish to receive details of further special offers or new products

YOUR CHOICE OF PAYMENT

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

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

Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit (UK only)

To the manager: Bank name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Name of account holder(s) _____

Bank sort code | | | | | | | | | | Account no. | | | | | | | | | |

Originator's identification number **7 2 4 6 8 0**

Please pay Dennis Publishing Ltd. Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee.



Signature(s) _____

Date _____

Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account

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

- 3** Please charge my:

- Visa Access/Mastercard AMEX Switch (Issue No. _____)

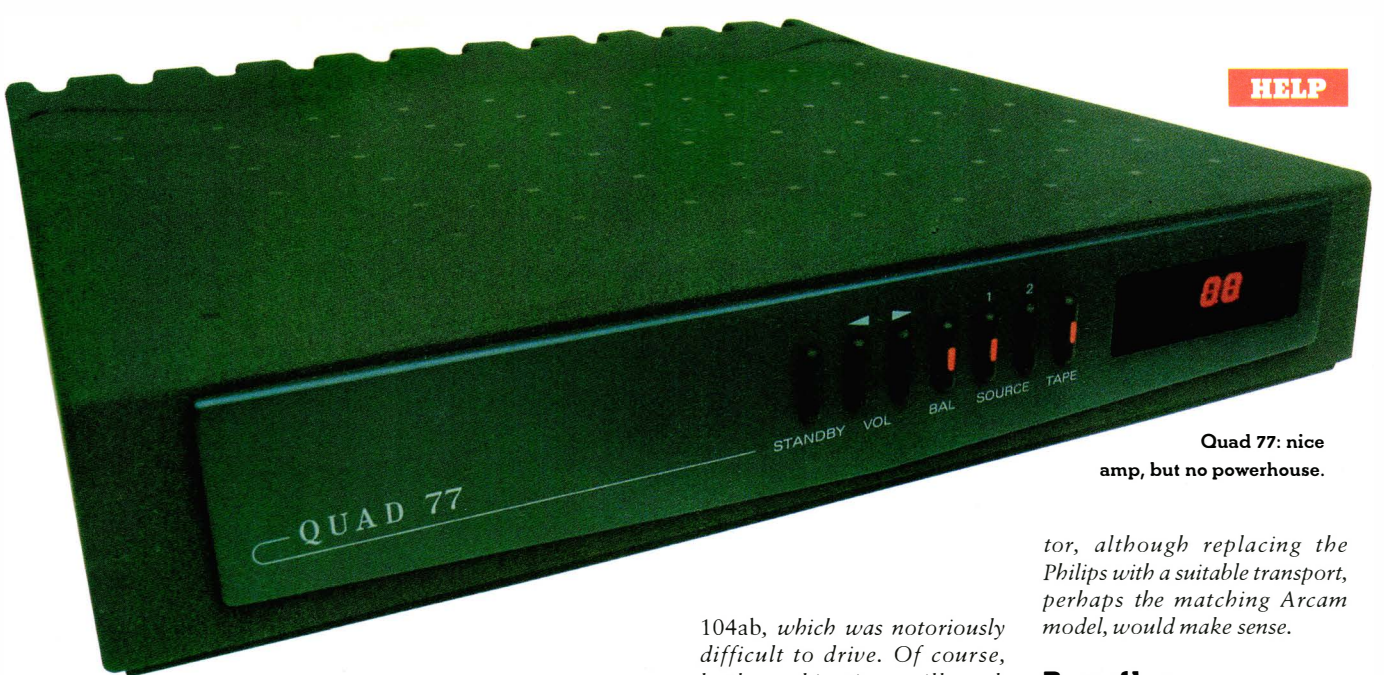
Card Number | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Expiry date | | | | | |

Signed _____

Today's date _____

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



Quad 77: nice amp, but no powerhouse.

cheap and works well with most speakers. This will leave most of your budget free for an interesting speaker such as the B&W DM602 (£280) which is dynamic, though arguably a bit sharp, or the Castle Isis (£230) which lacks the B&W's bass (it's a smaller speaker) but is nonetheless exceptionally refined and capable.

A weakness for Quad

I have a Pioneer S703 CD player, Kenwood KX-7050S cassette deck, Quad FM4 tuner, Quad 34/306 amplifiers and Linn Keilidhs with the ceramic base. It will not have escaped your attention that apart from the Quads, all the components have worn Hi-fi Choice swing-tags in the past.

Castle Isis - exceptionally refined!

I listen mostly to classical and country music. While I am generally happy, I notice a certain lack of breath at higher volume levels, and put it down to the Quad being under-powered for the Linns. Should I bi-amp the 306, replace it with the 405, or wait for the Quad 77 tuner and buy it with the Quad 77 amplifier and CD player? Any amp other than Quad is a non-starter because I have been a diehard Quad man since the long-gone days of the 33/303 (driving the KEF 104/ab).

M Sohail
Bahrain

A difficult question for me to answer to your satisfaction. The Quad is not in my view an optimum match for the Keilidhs, any more than the Quad 303 is the amplifier I would have chosen for the KEF

104ab, which was notoriously difficult to drive. Of course, both combinations will work after a fashion, and I concede that Quad amplifiers have many fine qualities. But as you are asking a question based on maximising sound quality, I make no apologies for pointing you towards such brands as Audiolab and AVI, both of which produce prepower amp combinations in the 8000 and 200 series respectively, with the power and quality you need and at prices within reach of Quad. If you just want me to validate choosing by name, then sorry, no can do.

Scratch the speakers

I have an ageing Philips CD473 CD player which currently plays through the digital input of an Arcam BBS0 DAC, JVC AX-A662 amplifier and Wharfedale Modus Seven speakers. Do you think I should just replace my CD player, or should I change the DAC as well? I have an overall budget of £1,000 to spend.

R Wheelwright
(no address given)

Within your budget, there are several very fine CD players that are comprehensively better than what you're using right now, from Naim Audio, Marantz, Harman/Kardon and others. But they will be a complete waste of money unless you bring the speakers up to scratch.

The Wharfedale Modus series are good home cinema speakers within the parameters set by their design brief, but this doesn't really apply to quality hi-fi systems. Even so, your current hardware for CD playing is unlikely to be the limiting fac-

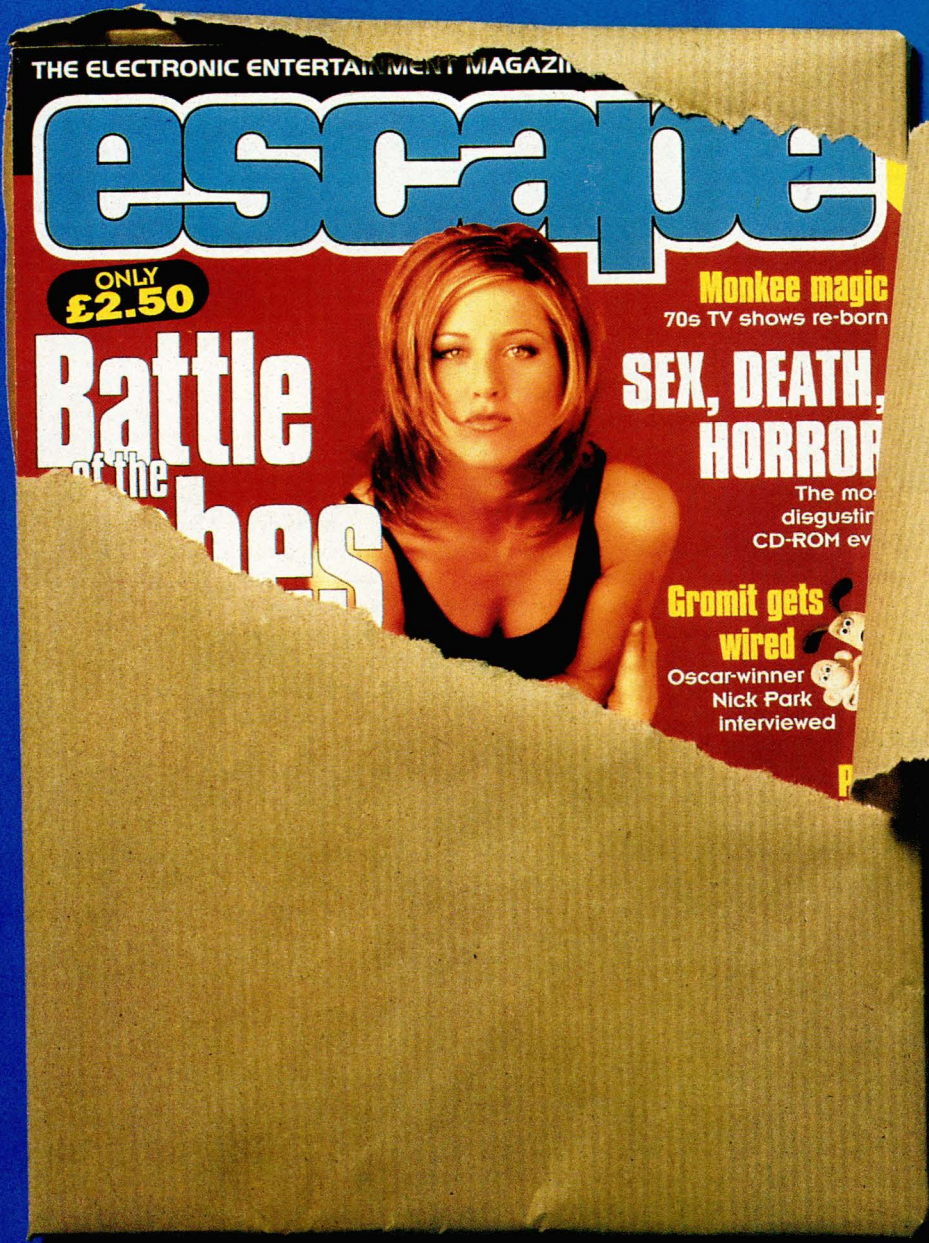
tor, although replacing the Philips with a suitable transport, perhaps the matching Arcam model, would make sense.

Bags of bass

My system consists of a NAD 310 amp, Marantz CD63 CD player, Aiwa AD-F450 cassette deck and Mission 731 speakers. My problem is a lack of volume and BASS! I know that a new amp and speakers are the best way to go, but which? Ideally the amp should be bi-wirable and the speakers

Linn Keilidh: can be amp-fussy.





Different.

escape THE ELECTRONIC ENTERTAINMENT MAGAZINE FOR MEN

FIRST ISSUE ON SALE

10th October



Wharfedale Modus speakers are great for AV, but outclassed for hi-fi.

around the size of the 731s; my budget is £400. But why do I need more bass and volume? Because my musical preferences include hip-hop, happy hardcore and drum'n'bass.
Neil Byrne
Basildon, Essex

An active subwoofer could solve all of your problems in one go. You would retain all the fine qualities of the equipment you own, just adding bass when appropriate and tuning it at will by adjusting the sub's

own level control. You won't even need a new amp because active subs have their own built-in. They can also be disguised as occasional tables, or positioned out of sight.
There are even some genuinely compact models that work very well. The latest version of the REL Q-Bass at £360 is a good example. But the Miller & Kreisel VX-7B sets the standards for delivering acres of bass from the audio equivalent of a pint-pot. It is only just over your budget at £450.



Bangin' choons required? Try the M&K VX-7B!

HINTS & TIPS SPEAKER TWEAKS

Jimmy Hughes shares one of his closely-guarded secrets of loudspeaker tuning.

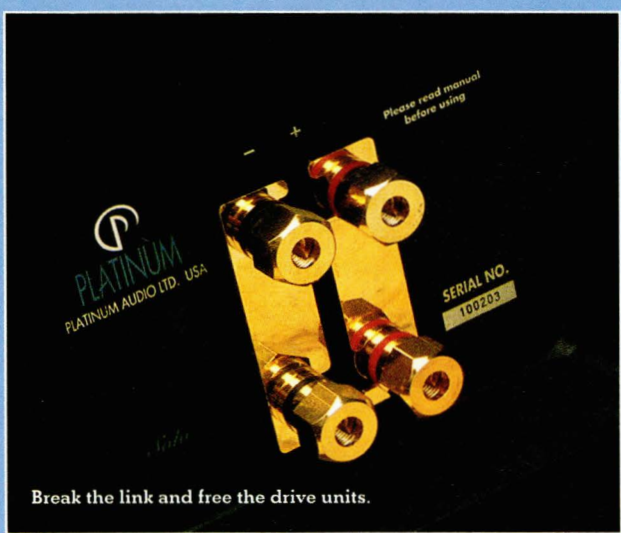
Bi-wirable speakers have two pairs of red and black connection terminals: one pair supplies the tweeter; the other supplies the bass/mid unit. This kind of speaker is usually supplied with some form of wire link joining together its two pairs of terminals. This enables you to use the speakers with just a single set of speaker wires.

If you can bi-wire your speakers, you can listen to tweeters and bass/mid drive-units in isolation. This means you can home in on specific frequency areas when you're fine-tuning or evaluating equipment. Suppose you're auditioning two sets of cables, and one sounds cleaner at the top-end. You can listen to the tweeter on its own by temporarily removing the leads that drive the bass/mid unit, or removing the wire link that joins the two sets of terminals.

This should tell you very clearly whether there is a significant difference between the two cables under test. Just remember that if you've never heard a tweeter on its own, you're in for a shock! Most sound pretty brash and squawky without the bass and middle to fill in. As a result, small differences are highlighted, allowing you to hear precisely which combination gives the smoothest sound.

Listening to the bass/mid unit alone, you'll probably be struck by how 'thick' and coloured the sound is. Without any treble to give sparkle and detail, the sound will probably seem very dull and muffled, and much of the speaker's transient attack will be lost. So listen for a sense of instruments starting and stopping, and whether the pitch of each note is clearly defined. Can you hear the words to a song clearly? Is the tune obvious? If a system can produce articulate, vivid sound through its bass/mid driver alone, it's likely to be a good performer when all drive units are firing.

Clarity at mid and low frequencies is crucial. If your system depends absolutely on its treble for detail and definition, it will be



highly dependent on the quality of recordings you play. On a smooth recording, or one that's not as articulate and well-separated as it might be, the result will be a thick and muddy sound. Any change that increases clarity at middle and low registers, should be an overall improvement. So if you can listen to this part of the frequency range on its own, you should gain a clear opinion of which changes work, and which don't. Comparing speaker stands by listening just to the bass/mid driver can be extremely revealing!

Nevertheless, bear in mind that listening to just one part of the frequency-range requires some practice. A change may seem to have the ideal effect in isolation, but it's vital that the decisions you make while listening to just part of the system, still give a good sound when you put everything back together again.

SIMPLY

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

MARKS & SPENCER Gift Vouchers FREE!



Customers quoting this Magazine can claim a **£5 M&S Voucher** for every **£60** spent when buying Hi-Fi Equipment* from this Advert at recommended prices.

AMPLIFIERS

Arcam	Alpha 7 New	249
	Alpha 8 New	349
	Alpha 9 New	499
	Alpha 8P 50wpc Pwr-Amp	249
	Alpha 9P 70wpc Pwr-Amp	399
Audiolab	8000A	499
	8000S	699
	8000C Pre.	549
	8000P Pwr.	749
	8000Q Pre.	1099
	8000M Mono Pair	1599
Aura	VA80SE-X	249
	VA100 Mk1 I	349
	VA150	799
Cyrus	SL straight line audiophile III-i	398
		598
	PSX-R power supply	328
	XPA 50wpc multi-amp	298
	Cyrus Pre	648
	Cyrus Power	498
	MR3 Multi-room system	498

*except these brands
**AUDIOLAB, ARCAM
AND CYRUS**
where you can't buy better!

CASSETTE DECKS

END OF AN ERA!
NAKAMICHI Cassette Decks
Brand New Boxed Model DR3
£449.00
with 30 Maxell XLLII-s 90's FREE♦

Denon	DRM550	159
	DRS640 Drawer Load	199
	DRM650S - New Dolby-S	229
	DRM740 3-Head	269
	DRW580 - New Double	199
	DRS810 3-Hd Drawer Load	309
	SD545 Double Special Offer	199
Marantz	DR3 *Stock still available*	449
Nakamichi	RD960BX	249
Rotel	RST-R474 Twin	219
Technics	KX390	149
Yamaha	KX490	199
	KX580 Dolby-S	249
	KX690 3-Hd Dolby-S	399
	KX-W392 Double	179
	KX-W592 Double	279
	KX-W952 Double	599

COMPACT DISC

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

RECEIVERS

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

TUNERS

Arcam	Alpha 7 New	229
	Alpha 8 + Remote New	279
Audiolab	8000T	799
Aura	TU80	349
Cyrus	FM7	398
Denon	TU260	119
	TU215-RD	149
	TU425-RD RDS	199
Marantz	ST57 RDS	149
	ST65 RDS	199
Mission	Cyrus FM7	399
NAD	412	179
Quad	FM77	499
Rotel	RT935AX	159
Yamaha	TX-480L	119
	TX-590 RDS	179

SPEAKERS

B & W	DM302 New	129
	DM601	199
	DM602	299
	CDM2 New	399
	CDM1 New	599
	P4	675
	P5	875
	P6	1095
Celestion	Impact 10	129
	Impact 15	199
	Impact 20	279
KEF	Coda 7	129
	Coda 8	189
	Coda 9 New	299
	Reference I	1099
Mission	73	99
	731i	129
	731 LE	149
	732	199
	733	329
	734	499
	751f RW or Oak add £50	348
	752f RW or Oak add £70	578
	753f RW or Oak add £100	798
	754f RW or Oak add £200	1298
Mon. Audio	Monitor One	249
	Monitor Two	299
	Monitor Three	399
	Studio 12	999
Musical Technology	Hobby - New	250
	Kestrel	265
	Harrier	399
Proac	Tablette 50	599
	Studio 100	699
	Response One S	999
Tannoy	Profile Plus 631	129
	Profile Plus 631SE*****	169
	Profile Plus 632	199
	Profile Plus 633	299
	Profile Plus 635	449
	Sub-Sat 3 (Woofer + Satellites)	199
TDL	NFM I	119
	RTL 2 improved	279
	RTL 3 improved	399
	T-Line 2	549
	T-Line 3	699
	Studio .75M	749
	Studio 1M	899

CD DACs & TRANSPORTS

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

WIRE & INTERCONNECTS

PHONO - PHONO 1 metre

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

SPEAKER WIRE - Per Metre

Audiquest	F14 solid 4 core flat	1.95
	F18 solid 8 core flat	3.60
	Type 4 4 spiral 4 core	4.95
Cabletalk	Talk 3i	2.25
	Bi-Wire 3i	4.50
	Talk 4	4.25
	Bi-Wire 4	8.50
QED	Qudos OFC/PTFE	2.25
	Qudos Bi-Wire New	4.50
	Profile 8 - Flat	5.00
Mission	Quartet Bi-Wire	3.90

The Small Print... Details correct at copy date 28 days prior to publication) & prices include 17 1/2% VAT. Some Brands are exclusive, please check with your local Dealer. ♦ Individual offers cannot be mixed with other promotions. E & OE

THE BEST!

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

HEADPHONES

SENNHEISER

HD 414 Classic limited edition re-issue	49.95
HD 435	27.95
HD 445	39.95
HD 455	49.95
HD 465	64.95
HD 475	74.95
HD 535	99.95
HD 545	119.95
HD 565	139.95
HD 265 Closed Back	139.95
HD 580	199.95
IS 360 Infra Red	69.95
IS 450 Infra Red	Special 99.95
IS 550 Infra Red	179.95
HE60 / HEV70 Electrostatic	998.00

TABLES & STANDS

SOUNDSTYLE TABLES

In 4 Colours - Red - Black - Blue - Grey

X050 / X053 3 leg 4 shelf	210.00
X058 3 leg 5 shelf	240.00
X100 4 leg 4 shelf	220.00
X310 extra long for TV & AV	250.00

"Select" Range available 'phone for details

TARGET HI-FI TABLES

GR5 5 shelf Welded	160.00
TT55a 5 shelf - Flat Pack	139.00
Beta 4 4 shelf - Round corner post	159.00
Beta 5 5 shelf - ditto	185.00
AER 5 shelf - Rigid & Stylish	205.00

TARGET SPEAKER STANDS

MX40 / 50 / 60	55.00
TR30 / 40 / 50 / 60 / 70	67.00
HS8 / HS12 / HS16	77.00
HS20 / HS24 / HS28	79.00
HJ10-3 / HJ15-3	135.00
HJ16-2 / HJ20	125.00
S7 or S8 Wall Brackets	39.00

A-V SYSTEMS



Denon	LA2300 Laser Disc Player	549
5 CHANNEL AMPS		
Arcam	Xeta One	999
Denon	AVR600	299
	AVR900 New Recvr	349
	AVCI800	549
	AVC2800	799
Marantz	SR66 New Starter	299
	PM711	449
Yamaha	RX-V390 RDS 5 Ch. Recvr	299
	RX-V590 RDS 5/7 Ch. Recvr	449
	DSP-A590 5/7 Ch.	349
	DSP-A780	599
	DSP-A990 7 Ch.	899
	DSP-A2070 7 Ch.	1099
	DSP-A3090 7 Ch. with AC-3	1699
ADD-ON AV AMPS		
Arcam	Xeta 2 50wpc front & rear	649
	Xeta 290P 75wpc pwr amp	399
Cyrus	AV Master	698
Denon	AVC-77 3 Ch. Mini	399
Yamaha	DSP-E390 3 Ch.	249
	DSP-E580 5 Ch.	449
	DSP-E1000 5 Ch.	699

AV LOUDSPEAKERS

KEF	80C Centre	129
	60S Satellite - Rear	199
Mission	73S Satellite - Rear	99
	73C Centre	149
	73PS Subwoofer - per pair	179
	75C Centre	248
	73DP True Di-pole	299
	AV-2 Pack (73 li + 73c + 73s)	349
Tannoy	621 Centre	99
	622 Profile Centre	179
	628 Rear Wall Mount-White	149
TDL	CCS Centre	149
	SBR Sub Woofer	199
Yamaha	NS-C60 Centre	60
	NS-C105 Centre	80
	NS-E60 Rear	80
	NS-E105 Rear Effect	109
	NS-C10MM Shielded Monitor	119

ACTIVE SUB WOOFERS

KEF	20B - New	349
	30B - New	499
Mission	75AS - New	548
REL	Q 50	375
	Q 100	475
	Strata Mk1 I	545
	Storm	695
Yamaha	YST-SW40	139
	YST-SW80	179
	YST-SW150	279

LET'S GET STARTED!!

A fully featured remote control
5 channel system for just £72.00 per month

FEATURING...



RX-V390
5 Channel Receiver
CDX-390 CD Player
KX-390 Cassette Deck

Mission
73li +
73s rear +
73C centre speakers

◆ INTEREST FREE CREDIT

Package Price £899.99 Deposit £179.99
plus 10 monthly payments of just £72.00

MINI & MICRO SYSTEMS

Mission	MM7 incl 73li spks	699
Denon	D-C1 Micro 6CD inc Spkrs	379
	DM-03 New inc Spkrs	449
	D-C30 Mini inc Spkrs	499
	D77 - 3 Box 30wpc	649
	D77W - Twin Cas	699
	DF-07 New Champagne Finish	649
	D99 New	899
	AVC-77 Add-On Dolby AV	399
	F-10 Separates System	999
Denon	F10 Amp	*289
Separate	F10 CD	*249
Mini	F10 CD 3 Disc	399
Units	F10 Cas. Deck	*279
	F10 Tuner	*239
	F10 Receiver	379
Yamaha	CL-10 Separates System New	949
	AX-10 Amp	299
Separate	CDX-10 CD	249
Mini	KX-10 Cas. Deck	299
Units	TX-10 Tuner	179

TURNTABLES

Michell	Micro + RB300 arm	577
Pro-ject	.5 + Ort OMS-10	159
	1 + Ort 510	199
	2 + Ort MC-1	299
	6 + Ort MC-15	449
Thorens	TD180 78rpm inc AT91	189
	TD180 78rpm inc Stanton	219
	TD280-IV inc AT95	209
	TD166/Rega arm	399

CARTRIDGES & Pre-Amp

Just a sample of the popular ranges held in store

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

INTEREST FREE CREDIT

0% apr

Terms tailored to suit you
Minimum Deposit 25%
over 6 - 9 - 12 months on
advertised prices
minimum balance £250.00
◆(excludes M&S offer)

OXFORD
Westwood & Mason
46 George Street
Tel: 01865 247783

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

RUGBY
Sounds Expensive
12 Regent Street
Tel: 01788 540772

St ALBANS NEW
Radlett Audio
9 Holywell Hill
Tel: 01727 855577

SEVENOAKS NEW
Performance Hi-Fi
5 London Road
Tel: 01732 740425

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

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

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

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

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

WALSALL NEW
Musical Approach
37 High Street Aldridge
Tel: 01922 57926

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

WREXHAM
Acton Gate Audio
Ruabon Road
Tel: 01978 364500

CARRIAGE FREE Hi-Fi TO YOUR UK ADDRESS

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

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

Gramophone granda

We were supposed to test five DVD players this month, but none of the review samples had their microwave-oven circuits installed. Instead, here's our mate **Alan Sircom** with a test of five fine turntables, all costing less than £1,200.



Ever since the launch of CD back in the early '80s, people have been saying that turntables are dead meat. Officially, sales of record players have tailed off as vinyl becomes harder to obtain, but often it seems that the reverse is true.

Is vinyl really an unsupported white elephant? A significant number of vinyl production plants have come back on stream to produce records for enthusiasts. And it is an enthusiast-led market: those who still buy LPs seem prepared to search out their 12-inch prizes, and pay a premium for all-analogue recordings and virgin vinyl pressings.

This has made the CD vs. LP debate hotter than ever. Those who invested heavily in CD cite all those 'perfect sound forever' arguments at vinylophiles, while LP lovers feel that CD is just 'too digital'. I prefer to take the middle path, and still buy and play records because I enjoy the format both for its sound and the size of the artwork. With vinyl, there is also a more intimate relationship between enthusiast and technology: you have to clean the record and handle it carefully, gently place it on the platter and cue up the stylus. Conversely, with CD, you just plop the disc in the tray and the rest is done for you. That said, I am buying more and more CDs, for their convenience, portability and accessibility. In the process I have become more accustomed to the clean, bright immediacy of CD sound.

New for old

As if to ram home the continued success of the turntable, only two of the five decks here have been around for any length of time, although the remaining three are all derivations of earlier models.

The bluff looks of the £600 **Nottingham Analogue Spacedeck** (with its **Space** arm and **Tracer II** cartridge) hint at the battleship engineering underneath. The deck does away with suspension and features a high-mass platter that uses a low-power motor simply to keep it spinning. An integral outrigger holds the £350 unipivot **Space** arm (built like a tank, but more shapely), while the £175 **Tracer II** cartridge is a tweaked Len Gregory (aka *The Cartridge Man*) moving-magnet affair. Everything sits on a marble-effect plinth and is built to keep playing until hell freezes over. And that's it: there are no fancy power supplies and no tweaks. If you want a dust cover, buy a tea-towel!

Roksan's £470 **Radius** is no stranger to these pages, but since the company was absorbed into Mission parent Verity plc, the **Radius** has been revised. With an improved platter, bearing and motor housing, the **Radius 3** certainly looks the part in its slinky matt-black finish. Somewhere along the line, it has gained an off-board £150 **RokDSU** power supply, too. However, the £420 **Tabriz zi** arm, with its intelligent counterweight, and the £130 **Corus Black** m-m cartridge, remain essentially unchanged.

Only the very stupid could fail to spot the similarities between the **Systemdek** and the **Reson RS1** (£675 all-in). The **Reson** is essentially a **Systemdek I** with Swiss Karlev Audio modifications. These include a DNM **Rota** motor that has an external plug-top power supply, and an expensive smoothing capacitor that prevents the deck from accidentally running backwards. It also uses a special white "budget Ringmat" platter mat. The loose-fitting, double-decoupled **Mita** arm is a souped-up Rega **RB250**, and the **Acio** cartridge is a tweaked Goldring moving-coil. Everything comes preset by the Virtual Reality boys, who use very-high-tech set-up gear worth thousands of pounds to ensure good alignment.

Systemdek's latest **Systemdek** – the **2X2** at £500 – is a rather refined device. It builds on the strengths of the old **Systemdek IIX** with an acrylic inner and outer platter, an easily-adjusted suspension system (as well as real suspension for the motor) and a new wooden surround to match the **System** loudspeakers. The **Systemdek** doesn't have a recommended arm and cartridge combination as such, but the £399 **Roksan Tabriz** arm with an Audio-Technica moving coil cartridge was just one of the many combinations used successfully on its predecessor. A Rega arm would be just as suitable.

Finally, the German company **Thorens** has been making turntables for almost as long as the discs have been in existence. **Thorens** has diversified into CD players, tuners and amplifiers, but a large proportion of its moolah still comes from black vinyl spinners. The cartridge-less £700 suspended-chassis **TD2001** is no newcomer (it was first reviewed back in issue 91) but it's one of the company's more upmarket models and the most expensive to feature the new **TP90** arm.

Testing times

All of the turntables were benchmarked against my own heavily-modified **Linn Sondek LP12** deck, which has a **Naim Armageddon** power supply, **Naim ARO** tone-arm and **Sumiko Sho** high-output moving coil cartridge. All were tested on a **Phase VII Mana** table and auditioned through an **Audiolab 8000PPA** phono stage into a **Densen Beat B100** amplifier and a pair of **Neat Mystique** speakers, again resting on **Mana** tables and platforms and using hybrid copper/silver **Ixos** cables throughout. However, as **Reson** moves in a different direction to most hi-fi companies, I also tested the deck using DNM solid-core cables and the company's own ultra-lightweight deck-chair-cum-turntable stand.

To give each deck a workout I dug out the KLF's *It's Grim Up North*, Bob Dylan's *Desire*, Gene Ammons's *Boss Tenor*, a mighty Lyrita production of Bax's *Tintagel* tone poem, Everything But The Girl's *Walking Wounded* and Funki Porcini's *Love, Pussycats and Carwrecks*.



Rogers®

BRITISH HIGH-FIDELITY

Rogers International (UK) Ltd
Sales and Marketing Centre
Unit 13
Bath House Road
Beddington Lane
Croydon
SURREY CR0 4TD
Tel: 0181 683 2101
Fax: 0181 684 6469

Introducing...the Rogers db101, a fusion of Rogers sound technology with modern streamlined design from Peter Stevens, stylist of the McLaren F1 'Supercar'.

Powerful and efficient, the fully shielded db101 has a unique floating tweeter and high definition bass driver to suit professional, commercial and audiophile music applications.

The db101 is available in nine high-gloss aluminium and natural finishes - and custom finishes to order.

THE DB101 IS DESIGNED BY ROGERS, STYLED BY PETER STEVENS, AND DRIVEN BY ALL PRIVILEGED AMPLIFIERS.



...the loudspeaker you can really drive



The Space tonearm embodies battleship build

◀ **Nottingham Analogue Spacedeck** **£1,125**

'Space' accurately sums up the *Spacedeck's* performance, as reproduced music is given stunning amounts of air, in a virtual reality soundstage that goes way past mere holography. Then there's bass that is controlled and right-sounding, but which plumbs depths that few suspended decks could ever dream of. Most others sound slow or ill-controlled by comparison.

Most impressive of all is the sheer lack of artifice in the sound of this design — it plays LPs so honestly, it's enough to make you want to sign your name in blow-torch on your CD collection. The seven nominated test LPs soon came and went, only to be replaced by disc after disc as I trawled my vinyl collec-

tion for long-forgotten discs and tracks.

When you first buy a *Spacedeck*, the enthusiasm it engenders will mean you end up playing all those records that you would want no-one but your mum to know about. Just try keeping your cool in front of your peers when you are caught playing that extended 12-inch disco remix of Barry Manilow's *Copacabana*. Thus, it's best to make sure that your wife or girlfriend is in a different room (if you have both, you'll know the importance of segregation already).

Place a dense slab of Straussian vinyl on the platter and you're given as much gut-wrenching emotion as you can stand; swap Richard Strauss for Richard Carpenter and you'll get a sound that's lighter than one of his sister's dinners. It sounds like Miles Davis

playing on a rainy Saturday night in Chicago; it sounds like Ralph Vaughn Williams on a summer's day in Hampshire.

How does it sound? It just sounds like music. If you are dead serious about this turntable stuff, the Best Buy *Spacedeck* is one of the first real ports of call; otherwise, it's out with the Fisher-Price activity centre.

NOTTINGHAM ANALOGUE - VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★
VALUE ★★★★★☆
PRICE £1,125 (including arm & cartridge)

▲ Superbly fluid and natural sound; will last a lifetime.
 ▼ Lacks any form of automation.

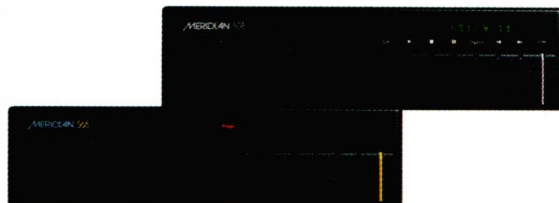
✉ Nottingham Analogue, 128 Cordy Lane, Underwood, Nottinghamshire NG16 5FD

☎ (01773) 762947

perfect balance

The New Meridian 508.20

Taking CD replay to the edge with a new 20 bit converter and precision re-clocking used throughout. With the lowest jitter and pure Class A analogue balanced output the 508 reaches a performance level previously unheard.



The New Meridian 566

A DAC with the performance where it counts. Meridian's twin Phase-Lock Loop yields the lowest jitter whilst our 20 bit DAC offers a new benchmark in clarity and deep fulfilling bass.

The New Meridian 502

A Dual mono preamplifier design. Separating the channels onto individual boards gives Meridian a level of preamplifier performance to match our new 20 bit CD sources. With the highest quality components and Meridian's years of experience in preamplifier design we are now able to offer you a preamplifier that sonically disappears.



The New Meridian 557

Balanced has never been so right. With balanced inputs and a dual mono design this 200W amplifier is the perfect finish to our balanced range. A unique ground balancing system gives you the highest performance in bridged mode without compromising the superb stereo at which Meridian amplifiers excel. Bridged output into 4 Ohms gives a massive 1000W.

Meridian System Remote Control with audiophile quality balanced design from laser to loudspeaker.

What more could you ask?

BOOTHROYD STUART
MERIDIAN

Meridian Audio Limited

Stonehill, Stukeley Meadows, Huntingdon,
Cambridgeshire PE18 6ED

Tel (0)1480 434334 Fax (0)1480 432948

The best thing next to your ears

Share in the sublime craftsmanship of the
finest headphones money can buy.

Conceived, designed, and built by Sennheiser
for the listener who knows.

To the lover of music
the closest to the ear

is the closest to the heart.

 **SENNHEISER**

Sennheiser UK Ltd. FREEPOST, Halifax Road, High Wycombe,
Bucks HP12 3BR. Tel: 01494 551551. Fax: 01494 551550.



◀ **Reson RS1**

£675

The Reson *RS1* defies almost every conventional idea about turntables at the price — and triumphs almost every time!

No other deck in the group could compete with the *RS1* in the detail stakes. Mid-band detail, in particular, was first-class. If there was any morsel of mid-band info on the disc, the *RS1* would dig it up. Away from the mid-band the sound was less impressive — bass, though tight, dropped away rapidly, and high frequencies were ragged at times. However, these factors conspired to make the *RS1* sound stunning on particular discs and with certain instruments.

Hurricane on Bob Dylan's *Desire* has seldom sounded so natural, and on the

Reson it had one of the most authentic violin sounds around. The *RS1* definitely favours 'live' music, making the Bax cut (from the glory days of Lyrita/Decca recording) sound like it was like being beamed across time and space to the auditorium. Yet if you play any track with a synthesiser line, what results is as sharp as lemon juice on a razorblade.

The addition of the lightweight DNM table makes the deck sound considerably less bassy, but at once faster and more focused in the upper bass. It wasn't that the Mana table sounded wrong, just that its sound goes in a diametrically opposed direction to the DNM. The DNM table was just better suited to the *RS1*.

This only serves to prove that the Reson *RS1* is no normal deck and will not suit every buyer, as the reproductions it makes are just too individualistic for most tastes. But for those who like it, the sound is something to get truly passionate about. Given the affordable price-tag, a Best Buy is mandatory.

RESON - VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★☆
VALUE ★★★★★★
PRICE £675 (including arm & cartridge)

▲ Ideal for detail freaks; race-tuned set-up by suppliers; excellent value.
 ▼ Sound is rather unconventional for some tastes.

✉ Virtual Reality, PO Box 383, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4GB
 ☎ (01277) 227355

**To perfect our latest CD player,
we added an input.**



When seeking to even further improve the already remarkable CD-P3450, we decided to add input.

How? By asking the valued opinion of a top audio electronics engineer here in the UK - and acting on his advice.

The result - a sub-£200 special edition CD player, the new CD-P3450SE.

It is enhanced by a unique circuit modification, developed specifically to appeal to music lovers in the UK and Europe.

The new CD-P3450SE from TEAC.

We put more in, so you'll get more out.

TEAC®

TEAC UK Limited, 5 Marlin House, The Croxley Centre, Watford, Herts WD1 8YA
Brochure Hotline 01923 819630
Monday - Friday 9am to 5.30pm

Roksan Radius 3 £1,170

The Roksan is arguably the prettiest of the five players tested here, and certainly achieves the most successful balance between convenience and good sound. Small and sleek in its new matt-black livery, the *Radius 3* delivers sound as neat as its looks would suggest.

Roksan's original *Xerxes* had a wonderful crisp, dry sound that was slightly light but fast, tidy and well-ordered. Listening to the latest *Radius*, it's clear why Roksan had to improve the *Xerxes* drastically: the *Radius 3* has much the same sound as the original version of the cult-classic X-deck.

Tidy, fast, ordered bass is back, and it's still as light as ever, but now possesses excellent definition and pace. It goes deep enough to pick up the occasional subsonic boom on *Big Deal* (by the new-look, drum-and-bass oriented EBTG), but lacks the bass intensity of either the Linn reference point or the *Spacedeck*.

In some respects, the *Radius 3* would probably appeal most to CD users, as its tonal balance is similar to the digital format's. *Radius 3* lacks the resolution of finest detail, which separates the best decks from the rest, and this is obvious in the slight lack of space around the instruments on the otherwise-airy Gene Ammons cuts. This deck also pushes the soundstage forward, making the sound immediate and exciting — but combine the



Radius 3 with a forward-sounding amp and speakers, and you may have too much zing.

This must not detract from an intrinsically clean bill of health. The *Radius 3* comes well Recommended, mainly because it is the perfect solution for someone who seeks accord between the sound of their CD and vinyl recordings, and a record player that sounds as fresh and as crisp as a bright spring morning.

ROKSAN - VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★☆
VALUE ★★★★★☆
PRICE £1,170 (including arm & cartridge and RokDSU power supply)

▲ Will sound great next to CD; offers some automation without intrusion.
 ▼ Can be too forward and bass-light.
 ✉ Roksan Audio Ltd, Stonehill, Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 6ED
 ☎ (01480) 431577

Systemdek 2X2 £500

Long ago, a bunch of audio revolutionaries called Audio By Design took the *Systemdek IIX* hostage. They forced it to wear an acrylic platter, making it sound similar to a Voyd, but at a much lower cost. This was the blueprint for the 2X2, except that the new deck sounds rather better than its inspiration.

Of all the decks in this group, the 2X2 had the most unfettered dynamics, and an expressive and refreshingly open sound. It was also one of the most comfortable-sounding, but didn't relax into a coma. I noticed also that it imprinted very little of its own character onto the music it played, but just let each recording show its true colours.

This platter-spinner has a fine sense of rhythm and order, whatever it's tracking. It didn't sparkle with detail on Funki Porcini's *Purrfect* the way the *RS1* did, or grip the bass drivers like the *KLF* did on the *Spacedeck*, but the 2X2 was still consummately musical and enjoyable at all times.

Ultimately, I felt it tended to suit classical recordings, but it will still dig deep into any disc's microgrooves.

On simple, acoustic recordings like *Boss Tenor*, there was excellent soundstaging — the full three-dimensionality of the early stereo recording is clear, as the 2X2 neither pushes the soundstage forward artificially,

nor pulls it backwards. There was a great sense of stability as the music became more difficult and complex, and the often nomadic sax on this recording stayed put.

The 2X2's main strengths are neutrality and versatility. I'm sure we'd have had similar results with most alternative arms and cartridges, so I confer Recommended status.



SYSTEMDEK - VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★☆
VALUE ★★★★★☆
PRICE £500 (excluding arm & cartridge)

▲ Very neutral and flexible performer; excellent soundstaging and dynamics.
 ▼ To rig it out according to its worth takes money.
 ✉ Systemdek Ltd, 34 Kyle Road, Irvine Industrial Estate, Irvine, Scotland KA12 8LD
 ☎ (01294) 271251

Over the years he'll take your car, your hard earned cash and years off your life. Do you really think it will be any different with your Arcam?

We can confidently predict that you will enjoy the top quality sound of your Arcam Hi-Fi separates for many years to come.

It's a simple enough prediction, when you consider just how hard we work to produce Hi-Fi of the highest quality.

Like any good parent, we ensure that our little treasures go out into the world with every advantage.

So, before we bid a tearful farewell, the Hi-Fi produced at our Cambridge factory must pass the most rigorous set of tests, checks and double checks. This means that each Arcam separate is blessed with a long, active and productive life.

Then again, sonic excellence and reliability are bound to feature on all Arcam products, since we design them in from the outset.

A very pleasing aspect of all this dedication is that year after year our products make us rather proud with lots of top Hi-Fi industry awards.

So, do keep a close eye on Junior. He also knows quality when he hears it. (Well, you can't really blame the little angel for inheriting your good taste!)

On the other hand, you could invest in a lesser Hi-Fi system than Arcam...

But why deprive yourself, never mind future generations?

ARCAM

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

Please send me information on: (Please tick)

Arcam amplifiers **Arcam CD players**

Arcam tuners **Arcam home cinema**

Arcam DACs **all Arcam products**

and the name of my nearest authorised dealer.

First Name(s).....

Surname.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

“One day son,
all of this will
be yours”

In Australia: Stollmack Audio Pty. Ltd., P.O. Box 139, St. Ives, N.S.W., 2075. Tel: (2) 440 8755.

In Canada: Emerald Audio Resources, Sussex P.O. Box 19016,

720 Spadina Avenue, Suite 100A, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 3C9. Tel: (416) 596 7657.

In New Zealand: Avalon Audio, 587 Mount Eden Rd., Auckland. Tel: (649) 638 9000.

In South Africa: Hi-Fi Specialists, Durban Road 155, Bellville. 7535. Tel: (21) 946 1441.

Conclusion

Five decks, four flags, no duff models — turntable fans have never had it so good. Even the tail-ender in the pack is no straggler. The **Thorens TD2001** produces sound that listeners of yesteryear would have dreamed about. It is rich, full and fast in a manner that could challenge a first-generation Linn *LP12*. Use it with a decent moving-magnet cartridge and you'll understand why people wax lyrical about vinyl, yet still stick with the convenience of a semi-automatic deck. If you value user-friendliness highly, then the Thorens wins out.

Both the **Systemdek 2X2** and the **Roksan Radius 3** are living proof that turntables are still developing, as both products improve upon earlier models. If you can't stretch to the ultra-percussive *Xerxes X* but seek that CD-clean sound, then the Recommended Roksan *Radius 3* should be at the top of your audition list. There are few more tidy-sounding turntables at the price.

The Systemdek 2X2 also will be on many wish-lists, but for wholly different reasons. The Systemdek is honest and dynamic and perfect for those who are not quite ready for the uncompromised starkness of the Reson *RS1*. The 2X2 can be used with a large number of different arm/cartridge combinations, and will not sound out of place in a far more expensive system. A Recommendation is the only obvious conclusion.

The two Best Buys could hardly be more different. The DNM-inspired **Reson RS1** is the turntable equivalent of a Formula One racing car. The *RS1* extracts more detail from records (especially mid-band detail) than any other deck tested here. It's best used with solid-core cables, an ultra lightweight table and a system that can get the best out of the whole package. It will undermine a proportion of your record collection (many recordings will disagree totally with the *RS1*) and many listeners will find the sound unconscionable. Yet, for the performance it gives at an affordable price, the Reson *RS1* deserves nothing less than a Best Buy.

Last but by no means least, we come to the most expensive deck in the test — and the exalted price-tag is entirely justified. If more British products were built like this, we would still have a glorious Empire. The **Nottingham Analogue Spacedeck** is built on the same engineering principles that informed Isambard Kingdom Brunel's bridges, and it has a similarly uncompromising sound. In fact, the *Spacedeck* is so good that a special Best Buy tag is being built in its honour, using three RSJs, an oxyacetylene welding torch, Titanic-size rivets and several coats of 'Hammerite' paint.

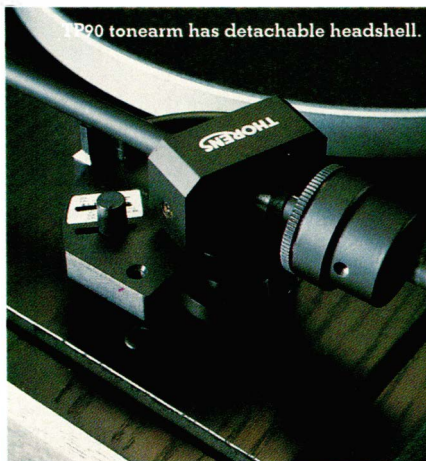


◀ **Thorens TD2001** **£700**

The German Thorens *TD2001* is the most user-friendly of all the decks in this test, with both its speed-selector and arm-lift controlled by knobs on the front of the turntable. It is also the only one in the group to use an arm with a removable headshell — this has a little clear-plastic doo-hickey that fits behind the headshell to make cartridge alignment easier than with other decks. There's still a problem, however, about fitting such a headshell back into the arm without losing alignment, but you can align the cantilever on a tiny mirror that's supplied. If you have undiagnosed astigmatism, however, you could end up setting the cartridge at an odd angle. My astigmat-free eyesight used a DNM Rita m-m cartridge.

When adjusted to optimum settings, the *TD2001* acquits itself well, but only up to a point. It has a musical bounce to its delivery, and this makes it sound quite attractive, even addictive, with the majority of LPs. However, 'workout' platters that challenge the extremes of the deck do reveal problems, for example with the ludicrous bass present on the KLF record, which highlights the Thorens' lack of much-needed precision at the bottom end. Even with comparatively 'easy' LPs, the *TD2001* is not as detailed as I would like, painting a somewhat indistinct, muddled soundstage, or blurring rim-shots and other transient-led instrument noises.

Only to mention the sound of the *TD2001* is to lose the Thorens plot. This deck is about getting the best possible sound from a turntable without sacrificing convenience. In



TD2001 tonearm has detachable headshell.

this aspect, the *TD2001* is extremely successful and it is only in comparison to more hair-shirt decks such as the four in this test, that I can level my criticisms at sound quality. Many would not countenance using a deck with no speed control or automated lift-lower, and for them the *TD2001* will offer what is probably the best sound it is possible to derive from a user-friendly record player.

THORENS - VERDICT

- SOUND** ★★☆☆☆
- VALUE** ★★☆☆☆
- PRICE** **£700 (excluding cartridge)**

▲ Good balance of convenience and sound; up-beat performance.

▼ Lacks detail and bass is never quite in the groove.

✉ Portfolio Marketing, 67 New Road, Little Kingshill, Great Missenden, Bucks HP16 0E11

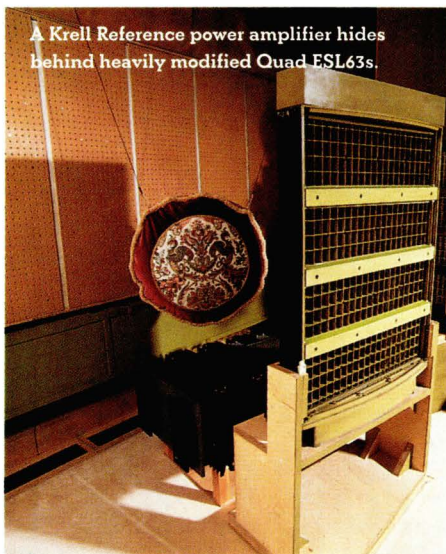
☎ (01494) 890277

SME

as it ever was



Our dashing reporter **Paul Messenger** returns to the rolling fields of Sussex, to visit an old friend and listen to exquisite opera played in what is probably the most perfect music room ever created.



A Krell Reference power amplifier hides behind heavily modified Quad ESL63s.

When *Hi-Fi Choice* went monthly and A4-sized, late in 1987, one of the first *Aspirations* features peeked through the keyhole of the legendary Music Room belonging to SME boss Alastair Robertson-Aikman (ARA — pictured right, and in the original article, top-right). A great deal has occurred in the eight years since, and this month SME is celebrating 35 years in the hi-fi business — an excellent excuse to prepare the horseless carriage for a glorious day out among the leafy lanes of Sussex.

Steyning is one of Britain's prettiest villages, and unquestionably the most important in the development of British hi-fi. SME started it off all those years ago, but now the village also plays host to the research labs of our most successful speaker manufacturer, B&W. It must be something in the air, or maybe the vistas: from the terrace outside ARA's listening room, soft meadowland sweeps towards the Adur Valley surrounded by the rolling beauty of the South Downs.

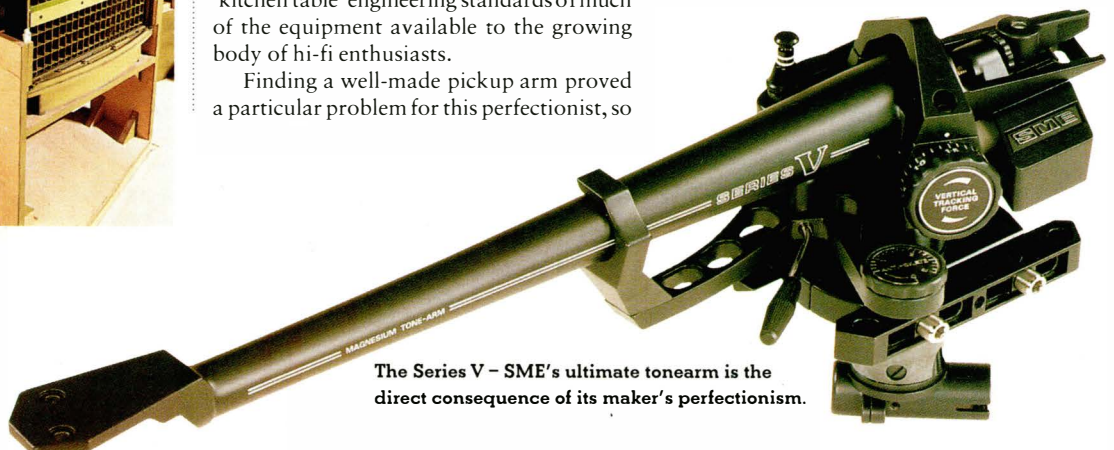
In the beginning, SME wasn't actually a hi-fi company. It was originally called the Scale Model Equipment Company Ltd, but was renamed in 1959, since when the initial letters have reflected the owner's passion for the ultimate in precision. The hi-fi bit came about almost by chance. The engineering operation was already well-established when ARA got bitten by the hi-fi bug. He had the wherewithal to indulge his hobby, but was immensely irritated by the indifferent 'kitchen table' engineering standards of much of the equipment available to the growing body of hi-fi enthusiasts.

Finding a well-made pickup arm proved a particular problem for this perfectionist, so

in sheer frustration (and with the benefit of having a precision engineering company at his disposal), ARA decided to make his own. Being a perfectionist, he was going to make it the best pickup arm in the world. Indeed, rumour has it that when ARA recently underwent hip replacement surgery, he took one look at the engineering of the artificial unit being offered, decided he could do a lot better, and went off and made his own!

I went back to the archives to SME's first appearance in a 1961 edition of the *Hi-Fi Year Book*, and I sympathised with ARA's predicament. Most of the pickup arms then were cheap plastic affairs produced by the cartridge manufacturers and selling for under a fiver. The new SME 3009 *Precision Pickup Arm* cost £18.15 plus £6.50 purchase tax. In engineering terms it was the difference between a Leica and a Box Brownie. Put that £25 into context by applying the seven-year rule (during which the value of money tends to halve), and it translates into £800 today, fitting in well with SME's current prices.

Only a handful of the hundreds of brands listed in that yallowing *Year Book* are still familiar, and to my knowledge, SME is the only one that is still owned and operated by its original founder. It's a vindication of a long-term strategy that set out to create the very best as its prime objective, and which has stayed totally consistent ever since. Equally pertinent is the fact that its founder was, is, and always will be, a dyed-in-the-wool hi-fi nut — and moreover, one with the



The Series V — SME's ultimate tonearm is the direct consequence of its maker's perfectionism.



Wall to Wall Magic!



The Widest Choice of THX in the UK!

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

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

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

Processing by harman/kardon and Proceed.

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

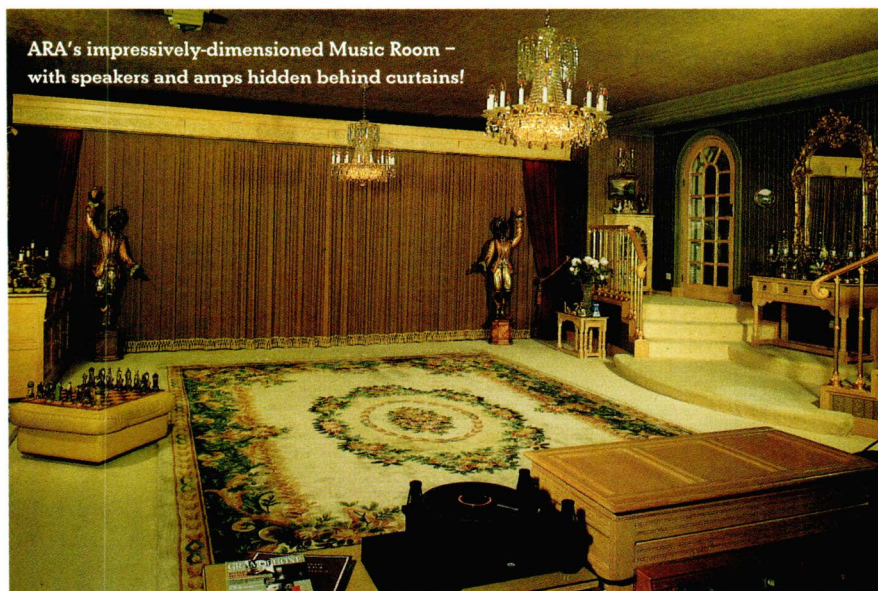


KAMLA

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

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

0% finance available subject to status.



ARA's impressively-dimensioned Music Room — with speakers and amps hidden behind curtains!

resources, the passion and the motivation to keep abreast of the many changes that have taken place over the past 40 years.

CD, the usurper of vinyl

With the coming of CD, it's been inevitable that demand for vinyl replay equipment has shrunk. While turntables and pickup arms no longer represent the major part of SME's activities, nevertheless they're still an important part of the total, as the company has, in a sense, reverted back to a more general precision engineering role.

When I visited back in '88, CD was an issue rather than an essential, and ARA had yet to install a player. Availability of new recordings has forced the issue, and ARA is well pleased with the Wadia CD player that now shares the limelight with his turntable. However, don't expect to find SME getting into digital engineering. It came close a couple of years back, showing a prototype converter co-developed with Essex University at the Ramada show. But ARA is meticulous; he did the market research and came to the conclusion that the fast-changing world of digital processing was for the big boys, and that operations the size of SME were more likely to get their fingers burnt.

The Music Room revisited

Going back to the Music Room, the first impression was that little seemed to have changed. In fact, apart from the basic structure of the room, the power amps and speakers, just about everything *had* changed, but only in gentle, painstaking stages. Which is as it should be. The lifelong enthusiast sees his system in evolutionary terms, inching forward towards an idealised goal.

ARA's stubborn, perfectionist zeal keeps him on the quest for the unattainable, and continuing to investigate the latest developments. But the broad brushstrokes for this system were laid down long ago with the construction of the room itself, and the decision to use Quad Electrostatic loudspeakers.

The Quad *ESL63* is a natural choice for

anyone whose music collection is devoted almost exclusively to opera and operetta. The '63s' delicacy, transparency and even-handedness in reproducing the human voice is legendary. Prior to the '63s, ARA used no less than 16 of the original *ESL57* electrostatics (£52 each in 1961!), while the two pairs of *ESL63s* currently in action have come a long way from original specification.

However, the room itself is probably the most important link in the whole chain. When you first arrive, the speakers and most of the other gubbins are quite invisible. It's the beginning of a process that helps suspend disbelief and build up a powerful illusion; very like entering a theatre, albeit a private one with an even more clearly audible hush.

Take your seats

The main seating area of the theatre is empty here, of course. Instead, an enormous and luxurious Chinese carpet covers up a wooden dancefloor, providing plenty of acoustic absorption. This audience sits right at one end, with backs to a heavily-curtained picture window, which affords that delightful view. It should also maximise the perceived bass, which is handy when using Quad *ESLs* in such a large room. At the other end of the room, a proscenium arch and curtained 'stage' heighten the sense of occasion and expectation (as well as hiding the equipment).

It was one of the hottest days of the summer, so we started off with the windows open to let a breeze in. As the window is far from the nearest road I wasn't consciously aware of any background noise, but a little later on in the proceedings, ARA suggested he shut the windows. As he did so, the hush again descended, and we immediately became more deeply immersed in the music, and concentration was sharpened. Having always lived in a rather more urban environment, I was quite shocked how much extra dimension this ultra-quiet background brought to the party.

The Music Room measures 36x22x10ft, which has the notable benefit of placing main

room modes well below those found in more normal-sized rooms — with the effect that the room modes have a very limited effect on audio frequencies. The ten-foot-high ceiling should introduce some reinforcement around 40Hz, which will help to compensate for the natural roll-off of the Quad speakers.

My last visit preceded the launch of SME's own turntables, but this time around, the magnificent *Model 30* was spinning the platters in place of a Goldmund, while the groove was being tracked by a ClearAudio *Insider* cartridge mounted at the business end of an SME *Series V* arm. The low cartridge output is equalised and boosted by an LFD head-amp before feeding a flat, line-level signal to the preamp proper. CD sounds are supplied by the redoubtable Wadia *16* — less a mere CD player, more a high-performance computer with 21-bit architecture and 80 MIPS data-handling capability. These two source components sit either side of a console that houses an almost-new Audio Research *Reference One* preamp.

The preamp sends its signal down long van den Hul *II* interconnects to the space behind the acoustically-transparent curtain covering the 'stage'. Here reside two enormous Krell *Reference* power amps, plus two pairs of heavily modified Quad *ESL63s*; one of each pair is aimed normally down the room while the other is set at right angles, directed outwards at the side walls. Luxurious (spare) cushions look rather incongruous suspended to hang in the V behind each pair of speakers, adding damping at the point where the axes cross. The rear wall is heavily lined with Rutex absorbent.

Strange... but I liked it

One aspect I did find a little strange was sitting some 30 feet or so from the speakers, as I'm more accustomed to a distance of about eight to 15 ft, and I found the major shift in perspective a little unsettling. Of course, when you think it through, 30 feet is much closer to the best seats at a concert or theatre. Our puny little lounges enforce a closer-than-life experience, which is itself a distortion, but because we get used to an intimate 'halfway-to-headphones' experience, 'the real thing' seems unfamiliarly distant.

I wasn't too familiar with ARA's music, either. His collection is almost exclusively opera/operetta, whereas mine is everything but, so I spent a very pleasant afternoon getting acquainted with *Rigoletto* and *Rosenkavalier*. The soundstaging is superb — it was impossible to guess the exact positions of the hidden speakers, although the central focus was exceptional, so it was easy to believe that there were real people behind the curtain. Voices were notably clear, natural and beautifully proportioned.

I came away with a much greater appreciation of the operatic tradition, but ruefully contemplating the realisation that the best starting point on the route to true high fidelity is a room about four times the size of the one I use. Ho hum! ▲

Standing room only

Before you replace your speakers in disgust, Paul Messenger suggests you try some new stands.

The speaker stand might be the ugly duckling of the hi-fi world, but it's a vital ingredient to extract maximum performance from miniature and bookshelf-sized loudspeakers. Even budget speakers benefit dramatically from proper support and placement, while those using top-quality small speakers with serious systems will be gobsmacked by the differences. In fact, I'd value the stand's contribution at more than half that of the speaker itself.

For decent hi-fi sound quality, there are only two alternatives. One is to opt for floor-standing speakers (but see *Personal Messages*, page 23). The other is the wall bracket, which is cheaper but also far less flexible, a pain to install and only suitable for miniature loudspeakers (around seven litres) aligned for close-to-wall operation.

The purist will place sound quality at the top of the priority list, the impecunious will go for price and the house-proud will opt for aesthetic appearance. A review needs to consider all three dimensions, although we'll concentrate on the sound and let you decide if you like the price or the look of it.

Practicalities

Many speaker stands are available in different heights and top-plate sizes. Choose the top plate to match the speaker, but always go first for the taller stand. The tendency to partner larger speakers with lower stands may make some aesthetic sense, but it's completely wrong on performance grounds.

The larger the speaker, the more bass it produces, and the more important it is to get the main driver well off the ground to avoid a thick and boomy bottom end. Tweeter height has little relevance; it's the main driver that interacts most with the floor and listening room. If you want more bass, try moving the speaker closer to the wall behind first.

When you install speakers, try to have each stereo pair working within a similar environment – the same height off the floor,

THE CAST LIST	
ALPHASON NCII60	£80
APOLLO AZ6	£80
ATACAMA BD21	£55
AVF TOWER 400	£40 (Dixons, Tandy)
KUDOS S50	£100
KUDOS S100	£280
REVOLVER RS1	£70
SOUNDSTYLE X124	£100
RMS VIVAS (with STANDS UNIQUE)	£550
STANDS UNIQUE TUNED SPEAKER SUPPORT	FROM £220

the same distance from the wall behind and the nearest side-wall, if possible. For the smoothest bass performance, make sure the three distances are different from each other.

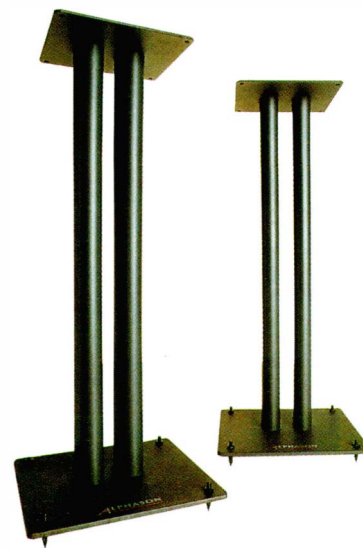
Conclusions

Our group of ten spans prices from £35 to beyond £500, with most at under £100. We had the Award-Winning Best Buy Atacama SE24 on hand, and this continued to impress as value for money while forming a yardstick to compare with the competition.

Although the SE24 is a decent stand, at £70 it's also a cheap one, and there's no denying the sonic superiority of our two £100 Best Buys, the Kudos S50 and Soundstyle X124. The pity is that there isn't an orderly pattern of improved performance at higher prices. It would be nice, for example, to find something that combines the S50's bass with the X124's midband – a mixture that should be worth £130 or £150.

The Kudos S100 is substantially better than the S50, but because it's nearly three times the price, most people won't consider it. Ditto the RMS Vivas. It's interesting that all three high-performance up-market stands use 'tension-tuned' elements.

A top-quality speaker stand can be one of the most cost-effective upgrades – much better than exotic interconnect and speaker cables, in my opinion. What's needed is a better price/performance progression.



ALPHASON NCII60 £80

The £80 NCII, reviewed here in nominal 60cm form (the most sensible height for any stand, in my opinion), comes in a substantial flat pack which contains the flat top and bottom plates, four columns shaped as elongated tubes, four long, threaded bolts, two bags of sonic aggregate and the usual collection of nuts, bolts and spikes.

Assembly proved straightforward enough after perusal of the instructions revealed where the various bits were supposed to go, which was not immediately obvious. I'm still slightly surprised that the twin pillars are placed side by side rather than fore and aft. It's undoubtedly an aesthetically attractive solution, but less than ideal for rigidity.

The fact that everything comes in the pack, and you don't have to prepare any ballast, is a plus. But with no attempt to shape the top or bottom plate for extra rigidity, nor any disguise for the floor spikes, the engineering content seems unexceptional at the price. So is the sound quality. This stand has a rich and fruity signature through the bottom registers and a slightly obvious top end, the more so because the midband proper sounds recessed and de-focused.

A fine matt-grey finish and those slim twin pillars give the NCII60 its elegance – ample justification for its existence. It's not a bad performer, but overall we still found it to be basically undistinguished from sonic and engineering points of view.

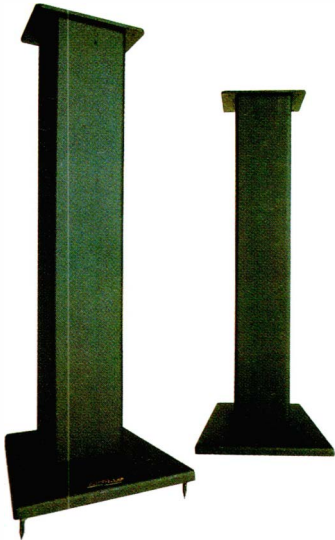
DATA	
HEIGHT	595mm
TOP PLATE SIZE	165 x 165mm
FOOTPRINT	200mm
FILLABLE	yes
WELDED	no
WEIGHT	7.5kg
THREADED SPIKE HOLES	no

ALPHASON NCII60 - OUR VERDICT	
SOUND	★★★★☆
VALUE	★★★★☆
PRICE	£80
▲ Arguably the best-looking stand around.	
▲ Sound and engineering content unexceptional for price.	
✉	Unit D2(2) Moss Industrial Estate, St Helen's Rd, Leigh, Lancs WN7 3PT
☎	(01942) 678000

APOLLO AZ6 £80

One of over 30 Apollo models, but an £80 price-tag puts the AZ6 slightly above the budget-stand average. In engineering terms you get a lot for the money, including fully-welded construction and the ballast to damp and mass-load the column. The single large-section pillar is roughly square shaped. It makes a change from circles and truncated triangles, but seems illogical if you're trying to minimise forward reflections.

Although the top plate normally supplied with this AZ6 is very thick, it's also rather small for normal speakers (although it's pos-



sible to order larger plates). Everything else seems excellently executed; the inverted-tray base gives good stiffness while hiding the spikes from view. Thick steel is used throughout, and both base and top plate are screw-tapped to take 6mm spikes.

Given such a promising list of ingredients, it seems churlish to have to report that the sound quality was undistinguished. It's not unpleasant, but the midrange doesn't project with any enthusiasm. Consequently, the impressively deep bass was a bit heavy and thick, which didn't suit rhythmic material very well. The treble is sweet enough, but the overall sound was rather too laid back for this listener — though it may suit different ears.

DATA	
HEIGHT	660mm
TOP PLATE SIZE	150 x 125mm
FOOTPRINT	240mm
FILLABLE	yes
WELDED	yes
WEIGHT	15kg (filled)
THREADED SPIKE HOLES	yes

APOLLO AZ6 - OUR VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★
VALUE ★★★★★
PRICE £80

- ▲ Good value for deep, clean bass.
- ▼ Midband is a bit too recessed.

✉ Zenith Crown Ltd, Tipton Road, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 4SQ
 ☎ (0121) 520 5070

ATACAMA BD21 £55

Atacama's £70 SE24 has been our Best Buy budget speaker stand for a few years, and won an Award in our June issue (155). However, there are over 12 models in Sambell Engineering's catalogue, and those on a tight budget might be tempted by this £55 BD21 alternative (or the £60 BD25).

Unlike the SE series, the BDs come in three bits, ready for assembly and filling with your choice of damping/mass-loading material. They're available in three heights: 17, 25 and 21 inches. The inverted tray-base is similar to that on the SEs, but the single central pillar here is a 100mm diameter steel pipe, topped by a small steel plate. The latter has holes for Atacama's £10 top-spike kit.

The result is neat and unobtrusive, making the SE24 look a bit of a blunderbuss by comparison. Given the cost saving involved, the SE24's sales might suffer, but not to peo-



ple who listen before they buy. The BD21 is a decent performer for the price, but doesn't have the coherence or smoothness of its big brother. Bass sounds lumpier, thicker and more detached, while the midband isn't as well formed or focused. The recommended flag acknowledges the BD21's basic value for money, but the SE24 is still rows ahead of it on the grid.

DATA	
HEIGHT	560mm
TOP PLATE SIZE	150 x 170mm
FOOTPRINT	210mm
FILLABLE	yes
WELDED	no
WEIGHT	9kg (filled)
THREADED SPIKE HOLES	base only

ATACAMA BD21 - OUR VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★
VALUE ★★★★★
PRICE £55

- ▲ A lot of stand for the money.
- ▼ Decent enough sound for the price.

✉ Sambell Engineering Ltd, Winston Avenue, Cro t. Leicester LE9 3GQ
 ☎ (01455) 283251

AVT TOWER 400 £40

AVF's main business is TV supports, but the company also makes a solitary speaker stand which is available from shops like Dixons and Tandy. It's more of a mass market than a specialist product, with a full-colour, multi-lingual, point-of-sale carton. The engineering may be prosaic, but that's to be expected at £40 a pair, which is roughly half that charged for other budget models.

The Tower consists of two thin, flat plates and a rectangular section tube. Over-size holes are punched in the larger base for the spikes, while little rubber stick-on studs are provided for the top. The recommendation to fill the shaft with sand was followed, albeit with some difficulty, but the assembly still rang rather enthusiastically.

That the sound quality falls short of the mark came as no surprise. The midband has precedence over the rest and possesses a measure of coloration, somewhat emphasised by the reticent treble and a lack of firmness at the bottom end.

Anyone looking for something to bring out the subtle polyrhythms of today's dance-oriented sounds should avoid this very basic offering. At the same time, there's no disputing that the it offers many benefits at half the price of the competition. A Tower 400 is certainly better than no stand at all.



DATA	
HEIGHT	535mm
TOP PLATE SIZE	165 x 200mm
FOOTPRINT	230mm
FILLABLE	yes
WELDED	no
WEIGHT	3kg (unfilled)
THREADED SPIKE HOLES	no

AVT TOWER - OUR VERDICT

SOUND ★★☆☆☆
VALUE ★★★★★
PRICE £40

- ▲ Very inexpensive indeed.
- ▼ Bass lacks definition.

✉ AVF, Road 30, Hortonwood Industrial Estate, Telford, Shropshire TF1 4ET
 ☎ (01952) 670009



GRAND OPENING IN KENT

Acoustic Energy

Aiwa

Akai

Alchemist

Alphason

Apollo

Arcam

Atacama

ATC

Audio Alchemy

Audioquest

Aura

AVI

B & W

Barco Projectors

Beyer Dynamic

Bose

Boston

Cabletalk

Canon

Carver

Castle

Celestion

Cerwin Vega

Chord

Citation

Cyrus

Dali

Definitive

Denon

DPA

EPOS

Exposure

GLL

Goldring

Grundig

Harbeth

Harman Kardon

Heybrook

Infinity

Jamo

JBL

JVC

KEF

Kenwood

Lexicon

Linn

Loewe

M&K

Marantz

Meridian

Michell

Micromega

Mission

MIT

Mitsubishi

Monitor Audio

Mordaunt-Short

Musical Fidelity

NAD

Nakamichi

Naim

NHT

Onkyo

Ortofon

Orelle

Panasonic

Philips

Pink Triangle

Pioneer

Polk

Proac

Project Turntables

QED

Quad

Quadraspire

RCF Projectors

REL

Rogers

Roksan

Rotel

Royd

Ruark

Samsung

Selec Projectors

Sennheiser

Sharp

Shure

SME

Sony

Soundstyle

Spender

Slands Unique

Sumo

Systemdek

Tannoy Prestige

Target

TDL

TEAC

Technics

Thorens

Toshiba

Trichord

Tube Technology

Van den Hul

Wadia

Wharfedale

XLO

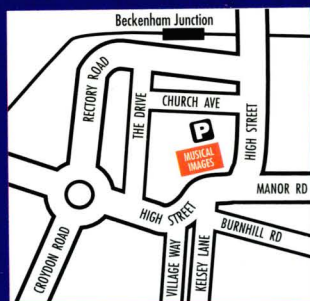
XTC

Yamaha

and Many More

THE SPOTLIGHT'S ON BECKENHAM

- * 2 dedicated home cinema lounges
- * 1 dedicated single speaker room
- * Multi room system on permanent demo
- * Design consultancy & installation service
- * Home trial facilities
- * Interest-free credit facilities*
- * Open Sundays
- * FREE PARKING
- * MAIN AUTHORISED DEALER FOR OVER 100 LEADING MANUFACTURERS



**126 High Street
Beckenham
Kent BR3 1ED
0181 663 3777**

Branches also at:

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

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

173 Station Road, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 7JX. Tel: 0181 952 5535

* Subject to status.



KUDOS S50 £100

The £100 Kudos S50 has been slightly modified since our original Best Buy review (issue 146). It's now normally supplied as a flat pack (to avoid filling up the stock room) but was delivered to us fully assembled.

The only option left to the user is to add mass/damping ballast to the single, large-section steel pipe that forms the heart of the stand. Because this rings like a bell when unfilled, damping seemed advisable. So it was off to the builder's yard, on with the oven (to dry the sand), and a couple of hours fiddling about getting ballast on board.

The two-dimensional flat baseplate is perhaps less than ideal, aesthetically as well as functionally. But it's a good, thick plate fitted with good, thick spikes and decorated most effectively by large brass lock-nuts. Tripods don't necessarily have quite the stability of quadrapods, but they're easy to level and automatically provide the same downward pressure through each spike. Also, the S50's large footprint actually makes it stand more stable than most. The top plate is quite thick and a sensible shape, but it lacks any drill holes – use cones (allegedly supplied) or good ol' Blu-tack.

The sound quality doesn't match up to the S100 by any means, but the S50 is still a class act for its price. The midband might be a bit shut in, but the best bass I've heard from a low-cost stand is ample reason to continue the Best Buy rating.

DATA	
HEIGHT	600mm
TOP PLATE SIZE	150 x 205mm
FOOTPRINT	240mm
FILLABLE	yes
WELDED	no
WEIGHT	7kg
THREADED SPIKE HOLES	base only

KUDOS S50 – OUR VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★☆
VALUE ★★★★★★
PRICE £100

▲ Great bass for the price.
 ▲ Midband a bit shut in.

✉ B&W Loudspeakers, Marlborough Rd, Churchill Ind Est, Lancing, West Sussex BN15 8TR
 (01903) 750750

KUDOS S100 £280

The Kudos S100 looks very similar to the S50: both feature the same 100mm steel pipe, a similar (and sensible) size top plate, and a broad, stable tripod base. The two main differences are a decidedly fancy, thick, polymer-composite, contoured base, and an equally fancy £280 price-tag. No lock-nuts were supplied to fix the spikes properly – apparently gravity suffices. The top plate is fitted with four wicked little adjustable spikes, which make an interference fit.

The S100 comes fully assembled. A substantial inner-tube clamps the main column between top plate and base under a pre-set



tension (and serves as a cable conduit). The rest of the column is filled with ballast.

My first impression was not entirely favourable. There was plenty going on, but the presentation didn't seem too tidy. Then I realised the stand was trying to tell me that the stylus needed a good clean. When that was done, everything started to work.

The more I played the S100, the more I came to appreciate its firm, deep bass, wide dynamic range and extended bandwidth. There's still a touch of the steel signature, but it's well disguised. The whole thing is so well balanced, it's clearly the result of extensive experimentation and listening. The S100 is the best all-round performer I've encountered.

DATA	
HEIGHT	630mm
TOP PLATE SIZE	150 x 205mm
FOOTPRINT	250mm
FILLABLE	yes
WELDED	no
WEIGHT	7kg
THREADED SPIKE HOLES	yes

KUDOS S100 – OUR VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★★
VALUE ★★★★★★
PRICE £280

▲ A great all-round sonic performer.
 ▲ Top performance doesn't come cheap.

✉ B&W Loudspeakers, Marlborough Rd, Churchill Ind Est, Lancing, West Sussex BN15 8TR
 (01903) 750750

REVOLVER RS1 £70

Revolver has been doing well in recent speaker group reviews, so it seemed only fair to look at its stands as well. The RS1 checks in at £70, which is average for budget speaker stands these days. It comes in a flat-pack that's a little more complex than some but logical enough to figure out.

I can't say the engineering content looks particularly good value. Both the top and bottom plates are simple and relatively thin, flat-steel sheets with no additional strengthening, just the un-tapped holes required for inserting and fixing upward and downward 6mm spikes. The result inevitably looks rather agricultural around the base.

What I like is the tri-column arrangement. It gives a pillar footprint as large as the truncated triangle designs, but without the same dense visual impact. Stylistically, it combines logic and purpose with something which might be called delicacy. You do have to find and cure your own ballast, filling the columns to provide mass and damping.

Sonically, it proved to be a pretty capable performer. Being shorter than most makes, the sound is a little warm and rich, but the bottom end sounds firm and controlled. The broad midband also hangs together very well without obvious coloration, even if the top end is a bit coarse and shut in.



DATA	
HEIGHT	525mm
TOP PLATE SIZE	175x180mm
FOOTPRINT	230mm
FILLABLE	yes
WELDED	no
WEIGHT	4.5kg (unfilled)
THREADED SPIKE HOLES	no

REVOLVER RS1 – OUR VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★☆
VALUE ★★★★★★
PRICE £70

▲ Good looking and decent sounding.
 ▲ Bass a bit crude, treble is coarse.

✉ Revolver UK Ltd, Aura House, 77 Sale Road, Cheshire M33 7BP
 (0161) 973 0505

The New Collection from The Chord Company

What are your speakers wearing?



CHORD LEGEND (Patent pending)

This is something really special.

A unique flat cable specially designed to optimise the performance of bi-wireable speakers. Constructed from four runs of oxygen free round copper conductors (two x seven strands for the bass and two x four strands for the treble).

The larger conductors used for the bass and the smaller conductors used for the treble are spaced in a way that produces ideal inductance and capacitance figures for perfect bass and treble reproduction. It is extremely unusual to find this in speaker cable. Bass needs more current than treble, therefore Legend provides more current carrying capacity.

Chord Legend will give you all the openness and detail that a good bi-wire cable produces, together with a wonderful degree of coherence and musicality.

For information on the finest handmade a/v leads, interconnects, speaker cables and loudspeakers, please return the coupon. Tel: 01722 331674 Fax: 01722 411388

Interconnects Speaker Cables Loudspeakers AV Leads

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POST CODE _____

The Chord Company, 30a Sarum Business Park, Portway, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EA.

pear audio

presents

Shahinian DYNAVECTOR Well Tempered

Stockists and Information from:

Pear Audio Ltd. 7 Prospect Place, Alnmouth, Northumberland, NE66 2RL
Telephone: 01665 830862 Fax: 01665 830051

Qudos[®], The Perfect Balance

The speaker cable forms a vital interface between your amplifier and loudspeaker system.

The properties of the speaker cable you use will determine how well your amplifier can communicate with your speakers. Use the wrong cable and your speakers could be missing the message.

To minimise the signal degrading properties present in all cable, QED's own research programme has established that a Balanced Design Concept is essential for optimal performance.



QED's Qudos speaker cable lowers all the cable's degrading Characteristic Properties in proportion and with the correct balance thereby delivering a superior and more accurate all round performance.



"Sensational sound... You won't find a better cable at this price."
MAY 1995



QED Audio Products Ltd
Ridgeway House, Ridgeway Close,
Lightwater, Surrey GU18 5XU
Tel:(01276) 451166 Fax:(01276) 452211
Internet: http://www.i-way.co.uk/~qed
Email: pame@qed.co.uk

Qudos, The Perfect Balance, The Perfect Choice.





SOUNDSTYLE X124 £100

Soundstyle's X124 follows the 'truncated triangle' pillar arrangement popularised by the Atacama SE24. This a logical approach which provides exceptional stiffness with relatively simple fabrication, and without creating too severe an acoustic shadow below the driver. It costs £100, the main justification being presumably the attractive, deep-gloss black finish, but heavyweight baseplate engineering and eight-mm floor-spikes are further strengths.

Assembly proved perfectly straightforward, apart from the usual hassle of obtaining and drying a considerable quantity of ballast to fill the capacious pillars. Four chunky Allen bolts are used to fix the base and top securely to the column. The top plate is arguably on the small side for the average bookshelf speaker, and is not especially thick either, but it does have four tapped holes for fitting the supplied top spikes.

The good news is that the X124 not only looks very smart, it also sounds rather good. In fact, I'd go so far as to say it's my personal favourite among the less expensive models included in this report. It's altogether more capable than the Atacama SE24 and, while it can't quite match the *Kudos* in bass performance, it definitely has the edge on midband projection and focus.

The Soundstyle X124 may be a little bright for some tastes and systems, but most will find it invigorating and very entertaining, as well as good looking.

DATA	
HEIGHT	650mm
TOP PLATE SIZE	170 x 160mm
FOOTPRINT	275mm
FILLABLE	yes
WELDED	no
WEIGHT	8kg
THREADED SPIKE HOLES	yes

SOUNDSTYLE X124 - OUR VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★☆
VALUE ★★★★★★
PRICE £100

▲ Fine midband projection and focus.
 ▲ Bass is a little soft and gentle.

✉ Goldring Products Ltd, 8 Greyfriars Rd, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP32 7DX
 (01284) 701101

RMS VIVAS (with STANDS UNIQUE) £550

This product wasn't finalised at the time of writing, although several have been produced for specific customers. But the pair that arrived in the car was so different and sounded so interesting that a bit of media attention seemed well deserved. A couple of days later it was christened *Vivas* and the price was set at £550. This RMS product was co-developed by Stands Unique, and the final version is unlikely to be the same as the one reviewed.

I found the skeletal, high-tech purposefulness of the *Vivas* very attractive, although hardwood disguises will be available. The quadrupod base consists of two steel plates



bonded at four points. The lower one carries the spikes, fixed by large black-chrome bosses. The upper plate supports three steel-tensioned carbon-fibre rods topped by conventional spikes. There is no top plate, but a stability outrigger is planned.

Unlike a steel stand, it lacks any definable sonic character of its own, although it's not strictly neutral. The speaker delivers a much more up-front presentation, better suited to vinyl than CD. Voices take on a uniquely natural openness, and that alone is justification for the unit's existence. The bass is dry and quick, if-a bit reticent. Dynamics could be more dramatic, but the open transparency is going to enslave many an audiophile's heart.

DATA	
HEIGHT	500mm
TOP PLATE SIZE	N/A
FOOTPRINT	200mm
FILLABLE	no
WELDED	no
WEIGHT	4kg
THREADED SPIKE HOLES	yes

RMS VIVAS- OUR VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★★
VALUE ★★★★★☆
PRICE £550

▲ Stunningly open voice reproduction.
 ▲ Could be cheaper and more dynamic.

✉ Stands Unique, 22 Rounds Road, Stanwick, Northants NN9 6PP
 (01933) 461058 (SU) or (01284) 769848 (RMS)

STANDS UNIQUE TUNED SPEAKER SUPPORT FROM £220

What's your favourite choice of material for the speaker stands that will be gracing your lounge for the next ten years? Something in matt charcoal-grey bent steel, perhaps? Maybe not. How about solid cherry wood (or a wide range of alternatives)? Yes, I thought you might be interested.

Of course, it's going to cost. The basic, non-audiophile version of this stand costs £160, and has no real pretensions to sound quality – although the slanted wood column, figured wooden base and top (covering steel plates), and brass nuts do look a lot nicer than steel. The £220 *Tuned Speaker Support* version adds a stressed vertical steel tube behind the wooden pillar, providing a proper mechanical earth between the concealed steel top and bottom plates. An extra £120 substitutes the steel for a tensioned carbon-fibre tube developed by RMS.

It all depends how much importance you attach to aesthetics. With steel tube in place it's certainly a cut above the budget stands sonically, although the margin isn't dramatic. Substituting carbon fibre for steel proved a bit of a shock – the difference is immediately noticeable. The CF version is quieter, which is not a good thing in itself, but it also sounds cleaner, smoother and tidier, with more coherent and convincing voice reproduction. I feel there's a loss of power and purpose at the bottom end, but exceptional midband clarity and top-end control are very persuasive.



DATA	
HEIGHT	590mm
TOP PLATE SIZE	215 x 230mm
FOOTPRINT	210mm
FILLABLE	no
WELDED	no
WEIGHT	5kg
THREADED SPIKE HOLES	base only

TUNED SPEAKER SUPPORT - VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★★
VALUE ★★★★★★
PRICE FROM £220

▲ High domestic acceptance factor.
 ▲ A bit fussy for the Bauhaus generation.

✉ Stands Unique, 22 Rounds Road, Stanwick, Northants NN9 6PP
 (01933) 461058

WIN!

SIGNED JAMO SPEAKERS AND FRAMED PRINTS

**OVER
£3,000
OF PRIZES**

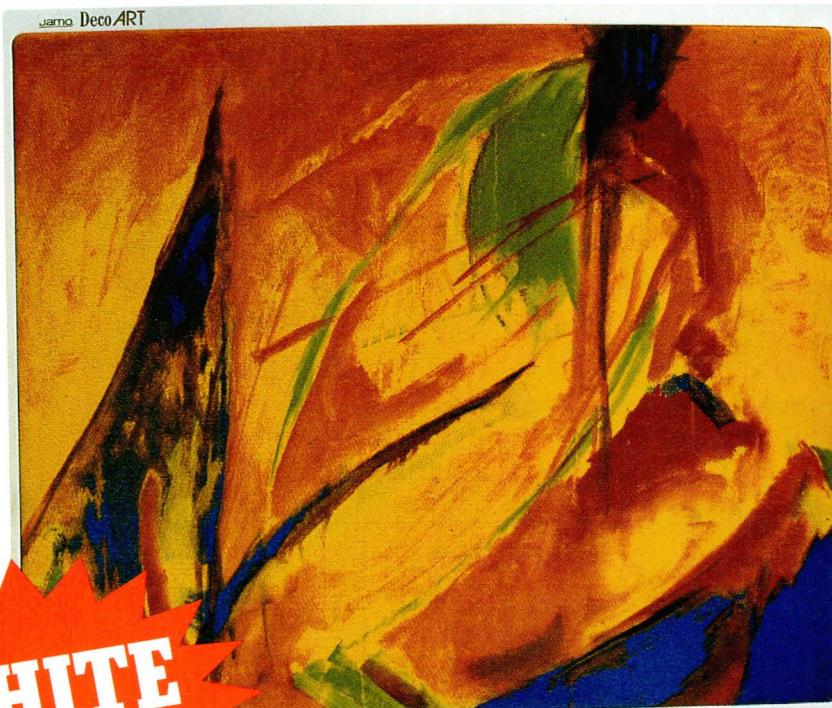
**Ten pairs of limited-edition Deco Art speakers,
signed by the artist exclusively for Hi-Fi Choice!
Plus: ten art prints in top-quality glazed frames!**



**ART
PRINT**

Jamo's Deco Art speakers marry the art of loudspeaker making with the art of... art! Though designed to hang on the wall, these two-way bass reflex enclosures have quality drive units, including a 25-mm dome tweeter and 133-mm woofer, to ensure they sound as good as they look. Supplied with black or white cabinets, the 90-mm-thick boxes have a claimed 88db sensitivity and 60W continuous power handling. And now, it is not only tonal colours that will be painted in bold strokes – Jamo has commissioned the famous Danish artist Jens Chr. Vestergaard to produce the unique image which decorates the Deco Art speakers. Born in 1960, Jens studied to be an engineer but now teaches art. Since 1987, his paintings have decorated many Danish homes, but here's your chance to be





**WHITE
SPEAKERS**

among the first Britons to own his work! We have ten pairs of these superb £300 Jamo speakers to give away – five in black, five in white, all signed personally by the artist, exclusively for *Hi-Fi Choice* readers. What's more, each winner will receive an art print of the painting that inspired the Deco Art design, supplied in a top-quality, glazed, Scandinavian-style frame. So if you'd like to win one of these fantastic prizes, follow the instructions and enter today!

THE QUESTION

What is the name of the Danish artist commissioned to create the design for Jamo's Deco Art speakers?

- a) Stig Halstrøm
- b) Erik Bloodaxe
- c) Lars Vanderspink
- d) Jens Chr. Vestergaard

HOW TO ENTER

To enter, answer the question above, on the back of a postcard or sealed-down envelope, and write down your name, address and daytime telephone number. Please tell us whether you would prefer the speaker in black or white – we will award the five white and five black speakers on a first-come first-served basis. We will assume you are over 18 years of age unless you tell us otherwise.

Address this entry to:
Hi-Fi Choice Competition (CHFC611A)
Bradley Pavilions,
Bradley Stoke North,
Bristol BS12 0BQ

All entries must arrive by first post, Friday 15th November, 1996.

COMPETITION RULES

- The Closing Date for this competition is Friday 15th November, 1996.
- Winners of the Jamo competition will be judged from all correct entries submitted, and drawn at random after the Closing Date.
- We cannot guarantee that all winners will receive the colour of their choice. Five black and five white pairs of speakers will be apportioned on a first-come, first-served basis when ten winning entries have been drawn.
- All winners will be notified by post.
- The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- The Jamo competition is not open to employees of Dennis Publishing Ltd, Jamo (UK) Ltd, nor their suppliers, agents or associates.
- We regret this competition is open to UK residents only.
- No cash alternative will be offered.
- By entering the competition all entrants agree to be bound by the rules.
- You must notify us if you do not wish to be informed of any special offers or promotions. Please indicate clearly on your entry if you do not wish to receive details of further special offers.
- We will assume you are over 18 years of age unless you state otherwise.
- For a list of winners of the Jamo competition, write, enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope to: Hi-Fi Choice Winners, Dept 159/1, 19 Bolsover St, LONDON W1P 7HJ.



**BLACK
SPEAKERS**

Exploding the myths

Alan Sircom once shook his head and refused to believe that home cinema and hi-fi could ever marry, but now he's looking to convert others to the cause.

Hi-fi and home cinema — can they mix, or are they forever destined to be entirely separate entities? Are the subtleties of hi-fi too delicate for the home theatre enthusiast, or is there a chance for the hi-fi buff to get into A/V without throwing away the years spent chasing the absolute sound?

Fundamentalist hi-fi buffs get very upset indeed whenever the merest snippet of A/V appears in a hi-fi magazine. Traditionally, hi-fi is about neutrality and getting as close to the music as possible. Home cinema, on the other hand, is less concerned with accuracy so long as a good time is had by all.

We at *Hi-Fi Choice* believe that hi-fi and AV can mix... and so does specialist dealer Musical Images. When properly conceived, a good hi-fi system can serve as the basis of an A/V extravaganza — the fireworks and the explosions can be added in via the regular A/V contingent of processor, centre and rear-channel speakers and subwoofer to give that extra oomph for every crash, bang and wallop. We set the Covent Garden branch of Musical Images a challenge by asking them to see if they could add A/V to three very different hi-fi systems — and without spoiling the sounds issuing from the hi-fi itself.

This also offers us a prime opportunity to see just how great a proportion of the original budget spent on the hi-fi system must be spent on A/V to maintain the right balance. Usually people allocate a budget for the add-on system which is either too high or too low for the rest of the hi-fi. It's interesting to see how the balance of AV budget changes as the hi-fi price-tag rockets upward.

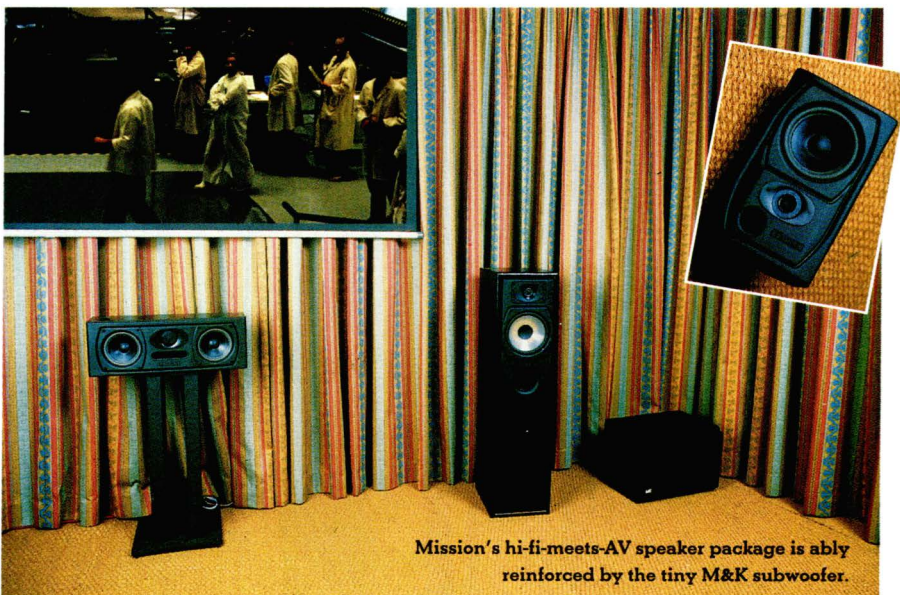
And how could we possibly turn down the chance to check out three top-class hi-fi systems at very different prices in a single day? Normally, the sheer space swallowed up by three systems of this calibre (not to mention the logistics of getting everything to arrive at the same time) would prevent this from ever happening, at Choice Towers. Musical Images however, has a policy of stocking almost every product around, and the Monmouth Street outlet is ideal if you want to hear a wide selection of kit.

First out on the blocks

The first hi-fi system we looked at was straightforward enough, comprising a Marantz *CD-63II Special Edition* CD player, Arcam's new *Alpha 8* integrated amplifier and a pair of Mission's popular 733 floor-standing loudspeakers. This system is pretty typical of the current £1,000 breed.

It's easy to see why this system is such a favourite, it's great fun to listen to and has loads of the attributes that make music stunning. In particular, it digs up excellent bass without sacrificing the rest of the frequency range. It's also superbly forgiving of even the most compressed made-for-airplay mainstream musical tastes. Why buy a stack system when there are separates this good and which offer such stunning value?

Adding the A/V angle to such a great hi-fi system could so easily be a recipe for disaster, but the Musical Images team proved



that it can be done — and stylishly, at that. The A/V package consisted of a Yamaha *DSP-E580* Dolby Pro-Logic processor/amp, with a Mission 73C centre channel speaker and a pair of Mission 73S rear speakers. This was bolstered with the small but meaty Miller & Kreisel V-75 subwoofer. For the record, the video source in all the systems was the £1,800 Pioneer Elite *CLD-99* NTSC-only LaserDisc player. This unit was overkill until we got to the AC-3-equipped high-end system — but then, overkill is part of the fun.

This add-on system doesn't undermine the main hi-fi system one jot. It offers the same fun factor, but throws in a remarkably subtle surround and well-controlled centre which match the hi-fi rather well. The ability to understand the voices above the background without straining more than justifies the whole Dolby Pro-Logic thing.

Then there's the M&K sub. For a box the size of a pack of peas it delivers chest-freezer-sized deep bass that is really noticeable above the Mission 733. As it isn't as musically sophisticated as the speakers, it's best left to A/V duties where it can be used to add film-score impact at the touch of a button.

Ultimately, it would be possible to boost the A/V performance by opting for the bigger Mission 75C speaker in place of the 73C. This would maintain a similar tone to the 733 fronts, but would depart from the slightly lean balance of the 73C speaker; this would also up the sound of the Yamaha without highlighting any of the system's limitations.

SYSTEM 1
The hi-fi

- Marantz *CD-63II Special Edition* CD player£350
- Arcam *Alpha 8* amplifier£350
- Mission 733 floorstanding speakers£330

The A/V:

- (Pioneer Elite *CLD-99* LaserDisc player) £1,800
- Yamaha *DSP-E580* Dolby Pro-Logic processor/amp£449
- Mission 73C centre speaker£150
- Mission 73S rear speakers (pair)£100
- Miller & Kreisel V-75 subwoofer£450

TOTAL (excl. LaserDisc player)£2,179



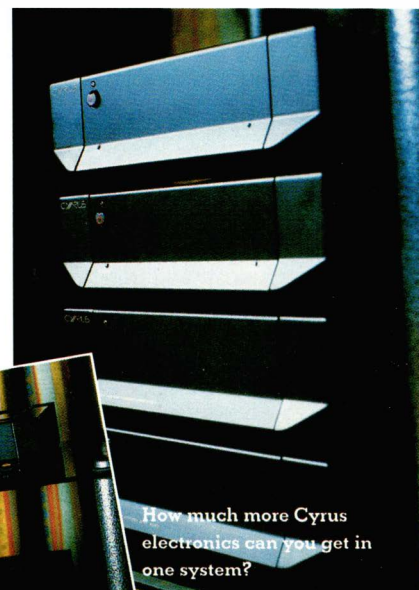
Come in, number two

The middle-price hi-fi package begins life as Cyrus electronics with KEF speakers. The £900 *dAD 7* CD player is accompanied by the £698 *AV Master* Dolby-equipped pre-amplifier (which is actually a superb stereo preamp in its own right). Power amplification is served up by the upgradeable *Cyrus Power/PSX-R* combination and from there is fed to a pair of KEF *Reference Ones*. The Cyrus amplifiers allow the user to add more *Power/PSX-R* combinations for bi-amping, monoblok or more for full-on maximum power applications.

Even in standard guise, the sound of the basic set-up is excellent, setting a standard considerably higher than the first system. This combination adds an extra octave or so of bass, while making the overall sound bigger and considerably less harsh and sharp — attributes that were only noticeable by comparison. It also improves imagery and stage depth, making the hi-fi system rather more versatile and musically transparent than the cheaper system but, paradoxically, rather more demanding and revealing.

Admittedly, using an *AV Master* as a preamplifier is a pretty big hint that something A/V is on the cards. But how much do you need to spend to make A/V as good as hi-fi? The *AV Master* has a built-in centre-channel amp, but the further *Power/PSX-R* for the rear-channel is vital. For the rear speakers, a pair of KEF 70S speakers were drafted in, accompanied by a KEF 100 centre speaker which is tonally balanced to match the *Reference Ones*. Naturally a subwoofer was called in, but this time it was a bigger and better Miller & Kriesel *125THX*. This all comes to approximately 60% of the cost of the hi-fi components in the system.

The whole A/V caboodle slots into the hi-fi with ease to create a slightly richer and darker aural picture than the budget system,



with a significant boost in scale and drama. The articulate centre-channel makes following film soundtracks a doddle. The bigger subwoofer more than justifies its existence by adding an impressive amount of impact, welly and grunt without slowing the sound down. In all, this Cyrus/KEF/M&K package gives an impressive account of itself in both hi-fi and A/V modes and makes the jump from the first system so obvious that even my granny could spot it — and she's stone deaf.

SYSTEM 2
The hi-fi

- Cyrus *dAD 7* CD player£900
- Cyrus *AV Master* preamplifier with Dolby Pro-Logic processor£698
- Cyrus *Power/PSX-R* power amplifier and power supply£826
- KEF *Reference One* speakers£1,099

The A/V:

- (Pioneer Elite *CLD-99* LaserDisc player) £1,800
- Cyrus *Power/PSX-R* power amplifier and power supply£826
- KEF 70S speakers (rear)£299
- KEF 100 centre speaker£359
- Miller & Kreisel *125THX* subwoofer£800

TOTAL (excl. LaserDisc player)£5,807

AUTHORISED DEALER

AIWA
AKAI
ALPINE
ARCAM
AUDIOLAB
B&W
BANG & OLUFSEN
BOSE
CANON
CASTLE
CELESTION
DAEWOO
DENON
DUAL
FERGUSON
FUJI
GOLDSTAR
GRUNDIG
HARMAN KARDON
HITACHI
INFINITY
JAMO
JBL
JVC
KEF
KENWOOD
MARANTZ
MAXELL
MERIDIAN
MICROMEGA
MISSION
MITSUBISHI
MONSTER CABLE
MORDAUNT SHORT
NAD
NOKIA
PACE
PANASONIC
PHILIPS
PIONEER
REVOLVER
ROTEL HI-FI
SAMSUNG
SANYO
SENNHEISER
SHARP
SOLID
SONY
TANNOY
TDK
TDL
TECHNICS
TOSHIBA
WHARFEDALE
YAMAHA

**FOR ANY MAKE AND MODEL OF TV, VIDEO, HI-FI, CAMCORDER
Buy DIRECT AND SAVE £££'s OFF HIGH ST PRICES!!!**



**FREEPHONE
0800 454980**

**LINES OPEN
Mon to Sat 9-8**

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

**TOTAL COMMITMENT
TOTAL SERVICE**

- ▶ **UK'S LEADING DIRECT SALES/MAIL ORDER SPECIALISTS** - With our vast experience in direct sales you can be assured of a first class service.
- ▶ **UK'S LARGEST RANGE OF ELECTRICAL GOODS** - Empire Direct (UK) can supply almost any make/model of TV's, VIDEOS, CAMCORDERS, HIFI SYSTEMS and SEPARATES direct from our vast stockholdings.
- ▶ **FREE NATIONWIDE 48HR DELIVERY SERVICE** - goods delivered free to your doorstep anywhere in the UK mainland (for orders over £100).
- ▶ **NATIONWIDE IN-HOME AFTER SALES SERVICE NETWORK** - Full manufacturers guarantee on all products covered by our exclusive in-home servicing.
- ▶ **UK'S LOWEST PRICES** - in the unlikely event that an identical product is advertised and available from stock at a lower price, Empire will beat that price!!!
- ▶ **A DEDICATED DIRECT SALES DEPARTMENT** - our vastly experienced team of direct sales operatives are always at hand to help you with your choice.
- ▶ **FREEPHONE HOTLINE 0800 454980** - It's the only number you'll ever need and it won't cost you a penny.
- ▶ **NATIONWIDE INSTALLATION SERVICE** - For a small fee we can arrange a professional installation of your equipment anywhere in the UK mainland.
- ▶ **SIMPLE ORDERING PROCEDURE** - choose any make/model required, call us with your credit card number and one of our highly trained operatives will arrange delivery direct to your doorstep.
- ▶ **EMPIRE ARE MEMBERS OF RETRA** - the electrical Radio Traders and Retailers association - our commitment to the utmost in quality performance and service.
- ▶ **EXCLUSIVE MEMBERSHIP TO OUR DIRECT SALES CLUB** - access to exclusive members only offers. Simply dial our freephone number to register. No purchase necessary.

SAVE £££'s! Call EMPIRE DIRECT (UK) NOW!!

This is just a minute selection of our huge range of products.

Amplifiers	Price		
DENON PMA 250 III	freephone	YAMAHA KX580	freephone
HARMAN KARDON HK1200	freephone	SONY TCKA6ES	freephone
KENWOOD KA-3020SE	freephone		
MARANTZ PM-55SE	freephone	Tuners	
NAD 312	freephone	DENON TU260L	freephone
ROTEL RA-930AX	freephone	DENON TU390RDS	freephone
ROTEL RA-970BX	freephone	SONY STS261	freephone
ROTEL RB-970BX II	freephone		
ROTEL RC-970BX II	freephone	Speakers	
SONY TA-F246	freephone	CASTLE SEVERN	freephone
SONY TA-FA3ES	freephone	KEF - Full range	freephone
TECHNICS SU-A900 II	freephone	KEF CODA 7	freephone
		KEF CODA 8	freephone
		KEF CODA 9	freephone
		MISSION - Full range	freephone
		MISSION 731 I	freephone
		MISSION 735	freephone
		MORDAUNT SHORT - Full range	freephone
		MORDAUNT SHORT MS051	freephone
		MORDAUNT SHORT MS101	freephone
		MORDAUNT SHORT MS251	freephone
		SONY SS176E	freephone
		TANNOY - Full range	freephone
		TANNOY 631SE	freephone
		TDL RTL3	freephone

Home Cinema	
DENON AVC 1530	freephone
DENON AVC 2800	freephone
KENWOOD KRX 1000	freephone
MERIDIAN 541	freephone
PIONEER VSX 804RDS	freephone
YAMAHA DSPE 390	freephone
YAMAHA DSPE 590	freephone
YAMAHA DSPE 1000	freephone
YAMAHA DSPE 2070	freephone

CD Players		Nicam VCR's	
DENON DCD 825	freephone	AKAI VSG 735	freephone
DENON DCD 1015	freephone	FERGUSON FV98HX	freephone
MARANTZ CD63SE	freephone	JVC HR57000	freephone
MARANTZ CD6311 Ki-Sig	freephone	PANASONIC NVHD 610B	freephone
MARANTZ CD 17	freephone	PANASONIC NVHD 650B	freephone
PHILIPS CD721	freephone	PHILIPS VR757	freephone
ROTEL RCD 965 BX	freephone	SONY SLVE 710	freephone
SONY CDP761E	freephone		
TECHNICS SLPG 570A	freephone	Hi-Fi Systems	
TECHNICS SLPG 580A	freephone	AIWA - Full range	freephone
TECHNICS SLPS 770A	freephone	AKAI - Full range	freephone
		DENON - Full range	freephone
		JVC - Full range	freephone
		KENWOOD - Full range	freephone
		SONY - Full range	freephone
		TECHNICS - Full range	freephone

Laser Disc Players	
PIONEER CLD F315	freephone
PIONEER CLD 2950	freephone
SONY MDP 850D	freephone

Cassette Decks	
TECHNICS RSBX 501	freephone

freephone 0800 454980

ANY MAKE • ANY MODEL • ANY WHERE • ANY MAKE • ANY MODEL • ANY WHERE

EMPIRE
direct (UK)

Empire Direct UK, Direct Sales Dept, The Clock Buildings,
Roundhay Road, Leeds LS8 2SH. Tel: 0800 454980 Fax: 0113 235 1771

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



RETAIL STORES

- BIRMINGHAM**
Empire Superstore, 21/23 Stephenson Street, City Centre.
- BOLTON**
Cleartone Superstore, Blackburn Road.
- BRADFORD**
Empire Megastore, Ingleby Road, Girington.
(THE NORTH'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL MEGASTORE)
Cleartone HiFi, Rawson Square, City Centre.
- LEEDS**
Empire Superstore, Roundhay Road, Harehills.
- WAKEFIELD**
Empire Limited, 94 Kirkgate, City Centre.



Pioneer's Elite LaserDisc player is perfect for NTSC discs with AC-3 digital, especially when Meridian is at the controls.

ProAc, Sumo and a scary-big M&K sub rule the floor (above) while Meridian deals the digits (right).

◀ Hail The Grande Fromage

Finally, in walked the big guns: the grande fromage; Musical Images' impression of the Mutts Nuts. Although it began innocently enough with the truly excellent Meridian 508.20 CD player, proceedings started to look much more serious when I realised it was connected to a Sumo *Artemis* line pre-amplifier from the US and thence to a pair of hefty Sumo *M-10* monoblocks. These were hooked up to a pair of my all-time favourite speakers, the ProAc *Response 2.5*.

I had always considered these speakers to be the sole preserve of the valve amp, but the Sumo amps drove them as if they had been designed for the task. The sound was full-range, free, warm and very, very sophisticated. Being used to the source and the speakers, I'd expected something smooth and satiating, but I was taken aback by the sheer sit-in-frontability of the whole package. The demo almost stopped right then and there, had Musical Images not restrained me from playing every CD within reach.

But there was more to come. At the time, ProAc didn't have a centre-channel speaker in its portfolio, so Musical Images used a single *Response 2 'S'* speaker. This was powered by another Sumo *M-10* monoblock. A conventionally-sized, unshielded speaker on a heavy stand is not going to match in with a regular TV set, but at this level of sophistication the A/V buyer should be looking at a projection screen anyway — the new *Response CC One* centre channel negates the need for a *Response 2 'S'*, anyway.

This kind of A/V system now has to feature the new AC-3 Dolby Digital 5.1-channel format, regardless of the fact that there are only a handful of LaserDisc titles that support it. As such, the system was enhanced by using a Meridian 519 laser demodulator and 565 AC-3-equipped processor all fed from that Pioneer Elite LD player.

AC-3 is the one for me

The main advantage of AC-3 is that it incorporates a pair of full-range speakers for the stereo rear-channels, so two ProAc *Studio 150s* were used along the side walls, facing toward the sofa from behind. These was driven by Meridian's superb 557 power amplifier (we'd run out of *M-10s*). Lastly, the bass was shored up by the awesome M&K *MK200* subwoofer. This system costs a whopping 126% of the original hi-fi system.

If anyone ever says that A/V is all about explosions, this system proves otherwise. It is every bit as subtle and sophisticated as the hi-fi, yet can deliver powerful bangs with the rest of 'em. This is not just designed to sound impressive at the drop of a machinegun. If anything, it almost has a laid-back character, but with a clarity and definition that puts the others to shame. Voices have a living, breathing quality, while the surrounds blend in to place you in the centre of the action with refinement.

What can we draw from this? Well, in the first instance, that we hi-fi buffs should not be scared of AV. It may be a cliché but it really does lend that extra dimension.

Next, it's easy to hear the tonal differences between the front, the centre and the rear speakers, so use products that match.

Cut your budget according to your hi-fi. The further up the ladder you go, the less you have to spend (in theory), but routinely 50%-60% or more of that original budget is required to add good A/V to your hi-fi.

Lastly, if your hi-fi system is ancient, change it. Aside from the difficulties you may face if your amplifier lacks inputs, try and find a pair of matching speakers!

If you are still unconvinced that A/V has a future in hi-fi, a trip to Musical Images will set the record straight. After all, if it can do it for me... ▲

SYSTEM 3

The hi-fi

- Meridian 508.20 CD player.....£1,700
- Sumo *Artemis* line preamplifier£1,700
- Sumo *M-10* monoblock amplifiers (x2 @ £2,400 each)£4,200
- ProAc *Response 2.5* floorstanders£2,700

The A/V:

- Pioneer Elite *CLD-99* LaserDisc player ..£1,800
- Sumo *M-10* monoblock amplifier£2,400
- Meridian 557 amplifier£1,400
- Meridian 519 laser demodulator£450
- Meridian 565 AC-3 processor£2,700
- ProAc *Response 2 'S'* speaker (centre) ..£1,000
- ProAc *Studio 150* speakers (rear)£1,400
- M&K *MK200* subwoofer£1,800

TOTAL£23,250

Musical Images Ltd
18 Monmouth Street Covent Garden, London WC2H 9HB
(0171) 497 1346

Five Stars

Does the best price always mean the best deal?

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



One reviewer said a product I fancied was absolutely brilliant but another said it was nothing special at all. How can that be? Surely one CD player is pretty much the same as another? And how can a loudspeaker that's one magazine's top recommendation not get so much as a mention in any of the others? And then there was the amplifier that was the best in the test six months ago, yet now I never see it mentioned. I don't mind admitting it, I'm completely lost."

Plan B — I'm going for a deal

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

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

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

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

Buying or being sold to?

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

Take control!

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

For Value

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



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

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

The story doesn't end there. These shops won't abandon you once you've put

your hand into your pocket. They won't leave you to set up the system you've selected as best you can. They'll install it in your home, make sure it sounds great, and make sure that you're entirely happy with the way it works.

Why bother?

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

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

Listed on the right of this page are the best hi-fi shops in the country. They all have lots of stars. You'll find them on the shop floor: they're the people waiting to guide customers towards hi-fi for which the appeal won't fizzle out the next time you buy a hi-fi magazine.



THE 20 BEST HI-FI DEALERS IN THE UK

LONDON N1

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

SW11

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

W4

Martin-Kleiser Ltd
108 Chiswick High
Road
0181 400 5555

SOUTH

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

Chelmsford

Rayleigh Hi-Fi
216 Moulsham
Street
01245 265245

East Grinstead

Audio Designs
26 High Street
01342 314569

Kingston-upon-Thames

Infidelity
9 High Street
Hampton Wick
0181 943 3530

Rayleigh, Essex

Rayleigh Hi-Fi
44a High Street
01268 779762

Southend-on-Sea

Rayleigh Hi-Fi
132/4 London Road
01702 435255

Uxbridge

Uxbridge Audio
278 High Street
01895 465444

MIDLANDS Banbury

Overture
3 Church Lane
01295 272158

Birmingham

Sound Academy
152a High Street
Bloxwich
01922 493499

Leicester

Listen Inn
6 Hotel Street
0116 262 3754

Northampton

Listen Inn
32 Gold Street
01604 37871

Shrewsbury

Creative Audio
9 Dogpole
01743 241924

NORTH

Cheadle (Stockport)

Audio Counsel
14 Stockport Road
0161 428 7887

Oldham

Audio Counsel
12/14 Shaw Road
0161 633 2602

Sheffield

Moorgate Acoustics
184 Fitzwilliam St
0114 275 6048

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh

Russ Andrews Hi-Fi
34 Northumberland
Street
0131 557 1672

Glasgow

Stereo Stereo
260 St. Vincent
Street
0141 248 4079

VERDICT

VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★★
SERVICE	★★★★★
FACILITIES	★★★★★

Disco inferno

CD players keep on getting better – and cheaper! **Alvin Gold** (listening test) and **Paul Miller** (lab test) pick out the gems among 14 new models.

We had no difficulty finding 14 new CD players to test this month. This product area is one in which manufacturers still see plenty of opportunities for change and development. So our latest bunch of hopefuls are priced from £130 through to £350, with eight coming in at £200 or less. In other words, we're looking at the affordable end of the market.

Putting sound quality to one side, many of the players share a distressing uniformity. There is less innovation in the range and type of facilities on offer, and while some make full use of all the editing and trick-play facilities provided, most people will be either indifferent to the unnecessary complication, or actively put off by it. And here is where

THE CAST LIST

Cambridge Audio CD6.....	£300
Harman/Kardon HD710	£200
JVC XL-Z574.....	£250
Kenwood DP-3080	£170
Marantz CD-67.....	£270
Micromega Minium CD.....	£350
NAD 512.....	£250
Philips CD721.....	£130
Pioneer PD-204	£150
Sherwood CD-4030R.....	£180
Sony CDP-XE500.....	£160
Sony CDP-XE900E.....	£300
Technics SL-PG480A.....	£140
Yamaha CDX-490.....	£170

the first real division in our group of players arises. It's not so much the number of widgets, but how effectively they're integrated and hidden from those who don't want to use them. In this respect, there are some big variations, but good design should not cost significantly more than bad design.

It's worth noting that some players have headphone sockets, and others don't. Those with headphone sockets might also have volume controls to adjust the headphone volume level, so that you can listen to the CD player via headphones remote from the rest of your hi-fi system. In some cases, the level control is also in series with the main line output, which is inconvenient and inevitably impacts on sound quality.

HOW WE DID THE LISTENING TESTS

These tests follow the pattern of previous months, though this time we're reporting on the numerical scores entered by the panellists. In most cases we're reporting minimum, maximum and average scores. To a certain extent, these figures reflect the immediate context of the listening test, so if a player sounded much better than the few preceding it, it may have been scored disproportionately well. Overall, though, the scores are representative of merit.

What hi-fi did we use for the tests?

The panel tests took place over two days, and the test system was designed to be neutral, analytical and a clear step or three up the greasy quality ladder. This avoided cramping the style of even the best of the players, while also making for a more realistic environment. The equipment list included a Musical Fidelity A1000 integrated amplifier and Definitive Technology BP10s, a high-grade, bi-polar

floorstanding design. Speaker cables were IXOS 606, interconnects were IXOS 103, and supports were from Mana Acoustics and IKEA.

We played a uniform selection of tracks (see right) on one or more occasions under single blind conditions, with each player identified by a number only. Panel judgements were weighted according to the consistency shown when players were presented more than once. For the most part results were very consistent. Where panel members had conflicting opinions, this is discussed in the individual reviews.

I also did my own, more extensive hands-on test. Using a wider variety of partnering equipment, I listened on a system whose capabilities roughly matched the best of the test group. I used a Mission *Cyrus* pre/power amplifier and Polk Audio *RT8* compact floorstanding speakers, as well as a much wider range of music, and this is mentioned in the tests where appropriate. **AG**

The Listening Panel

Keith Haddock (Gamepath) • Russell Kauffman (Morel) • Jason Kennedy (*Hi-Fi Choice*) • Robin Marshall (Mission) • Guy Sargeant (ex-Audio Partnership) • Alan Sircom (*Hi-Fi Choice*) • Ken Weller (B&W).

"Our grateful thanks to one and all!"

Music used for the panel tests

Ravel – Pièce en forme de habanera: Charles West (clarinet), Susan Grace (piano) (Wilson Audiophile)
Holst – First Suite in E flat Major for Military Band, Opus 28 No 1 (final movement): Eastman Wind Ensemble (Sony Classical)
Bartok – Concerto for Orchestra (finale): Chicago Symphony Orchestra/Pierre Boulez (DGG)
Keb' Mo' – Tell Everybody I Know (Okeh)
Jennifer Warnes – Somewhere, Somebody (Private Music)

Cambridge Audio CD6



JVC XL-Z574



NAD 512



Harman/Kardon HD710



Pioneer PD-204



Technics SL-PG480A



Kenwood DP-3080



Sherwood CD-4030R



Philips CD721



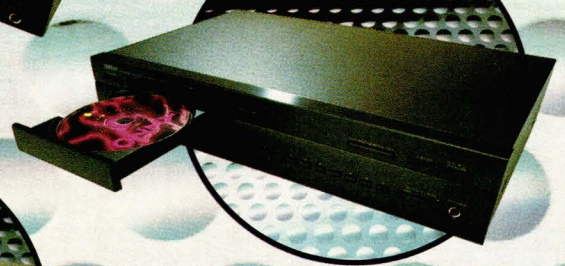
Marantz CD-67



Sony CDP-XE500



Yamaha CDX-490

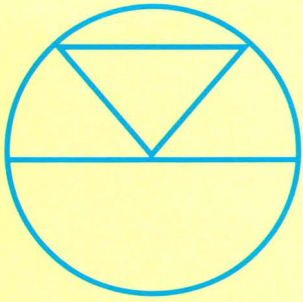


Micromega Minium



Sony CDP-XE900E





LINN

**Linn Hi-Fi • Linn AV
Knekt Multi Room • Loewe TV**

THE PRODUCTS

DOLBY DIGITAL

AV5103 System controller	£4850.00
AV5105 Stereo power amplifier	£1200.00
AV5140 Floor standing speakers	£2000.00
AV5120 Compact speakers	£850.00
AV5110 Black Local speakers	£295.00
White Local speakers	£315.00
AV5150 Active Isobarik speakers	£2850.00
AV5101 Personal handset	£250.00

CD PLAYERS

KARIK	£1750.00
MIMIK	£875.00
NUMERIK	£1400.00

TUNERS

KREMLIN	£2600.00
KUDOS	£775.00
KUDOS (Sneaky)	£500.00

TURNTABLES

SONDEK LP12 inc Lingo PS	£1750.00
SONDEK LP12 inc Valhalla PS	£1200.00
SONDEK LP12 inc Basik PS	£1050.00

TONERMS

EKOS	£1500.00
AKITO	£350.00

CARRIDGES

ARKIV	£1000.00
KLYDE	£500.00
K18/11	£250.00
K9	£150.00
K5	£55.00

CONTROL AMPLIFIERS

KAIRN	£1700.00
WAKONDA	£850.00

INTEGRATED AMPLIFIER

MAJIK	£750.00
-------	---------

POWER AMPLIFIERS

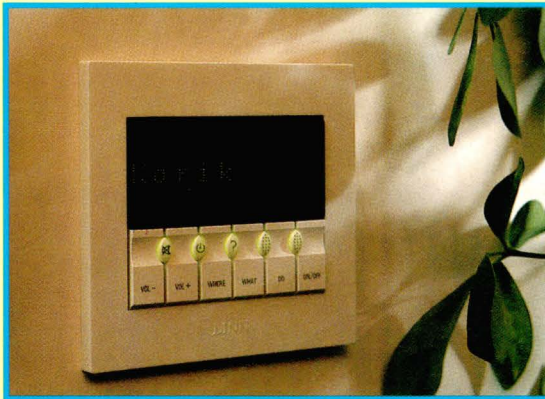
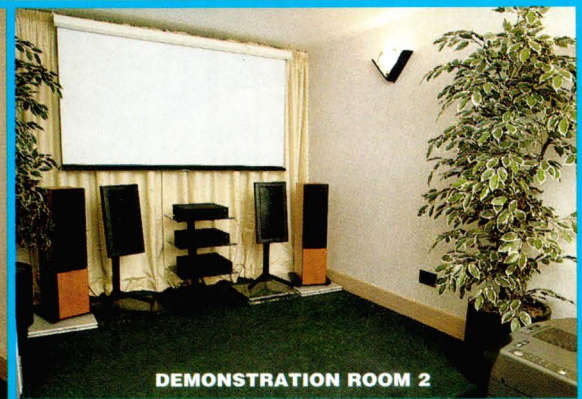
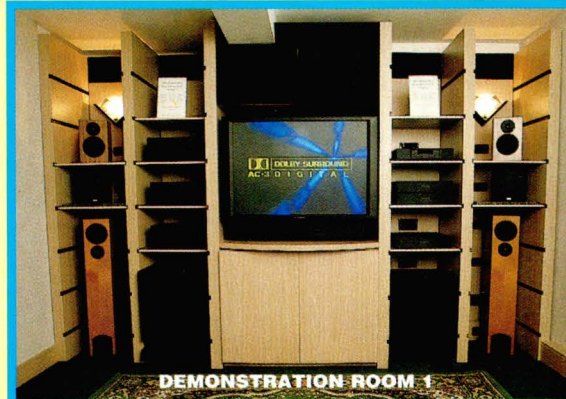
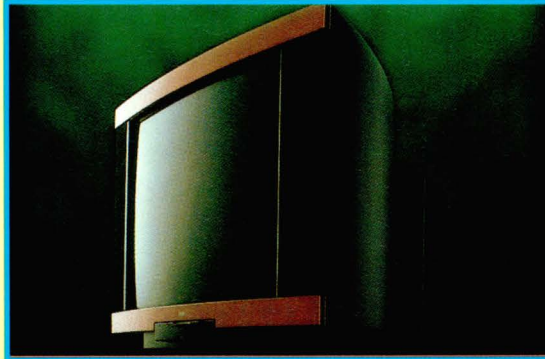
KLOUT	£2000.00
LK100	£850.00

LOUDSPEAKERS

KELTIK AKTIV	£4400.00
KABER AKTIV	£2440.00
KABER PASSIVE	£1800.00
KEILIDH AKTIV	£1450.00
KEILIDH AKTIV	£1200.00
KEILIDH PASSIVE	£700.00
TUKAN AKTIV	£1000.00
TUKAN PASSIVE	£500.00
SEKRIT AKTIV	£850.00
SEKRIT PASSIVE	£850.00

LOEWE TELEVISIONS

ART		
20-100	32"	£3599.00
70-100	28"	£1849.00
84-100	33"	£3299.00
95-100	37"	£4500.00
CALIDA		
5555Z	21"	£1199.00
5572Z	29"	£1599.00
5584Z	33"	£2099.00
ARCADA		
72-100	29"	£1849.00
8584ZP	33"	£2549.00



**UP TO 36 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT
ON ALL PRODUCTS**

(min purchase £200) EXAMPLE: Cash price £2,000.00 Deposit £200.00
Balance payable by 36 Months at £50 per month. Total payable £2,000.00 0% APR
Subject to status. Terms apply. Written details on request



**ENJOY THE LATEST DOLBY DIGITAL EXPERIENCE
AT OUR FINCHLEY STORE, LONDON**

344 / 346 REGENTS PARK ROAD, FINCHLEY CENTRAL, LONDON N3 2LJ
OPENING HOURS: Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 6.00pm (Closed Friday lunchtimes
between 12.30pm and 2.00pm)

We are situated 50yds from Finchley Central Tube Station (Northern Line)

Tel: 0181-349 1166

Fax: 0181 346 2268

Cambridge Audio CD6

Some CD players wear their hearts on their sleeves. Others — and the CD6 is a perfect example — conceal their true nature behind a bland fascia. There is a touch of originality in the form of a graphical disc-remaining indicator in the otherwise ordinary back-lit LCD function display, but the CD6 is perhaps more notable for the very basic set of controls available on the front-panel itself. The usual twiddly bits can of course be accessed via the remote control.

This is an ambitiously specified player, constructed internally as separate analogue and digital sections with extensive mutual screening and a jitter lock between them. The sophisticated power-supply section consists in total of three transformers and no fewer than 14 regulated supplies. The D/A convertor is a dual differential design built around the Philips TDA1305, with good quality internal wiring. Around the back you may be surprised to find AES/EBU balanced outputs in addition to the standard unbalanced analogue outputs. The digital S/PDIF output takes a BNC connector, but BNC/phono adaptors are readily available.

Sound Quality

Although the CD6 was thought 'scrawny' at times, the panel's comments on this player were generally positive, and on occasion

very much so. 'Rhythmic and bouncy', wrote one listener of Keb' Mo's *Tell Everybody I Know*, adding that there was 'a very strong sense of togetherness. It actually sounds like a band playing together'. In the Ravel piece for clarinet and piano, the same listener described the CD6 as 'very focused — almost mono-ish', and in the finale of Bartok's *Concerto for Orchestra*, he noted that 'There is less stage width than the others but an altogether more focused and integrated feel.' The Jennifer Warnes track showed very strong voice articulation, which was noted by most of the panel.

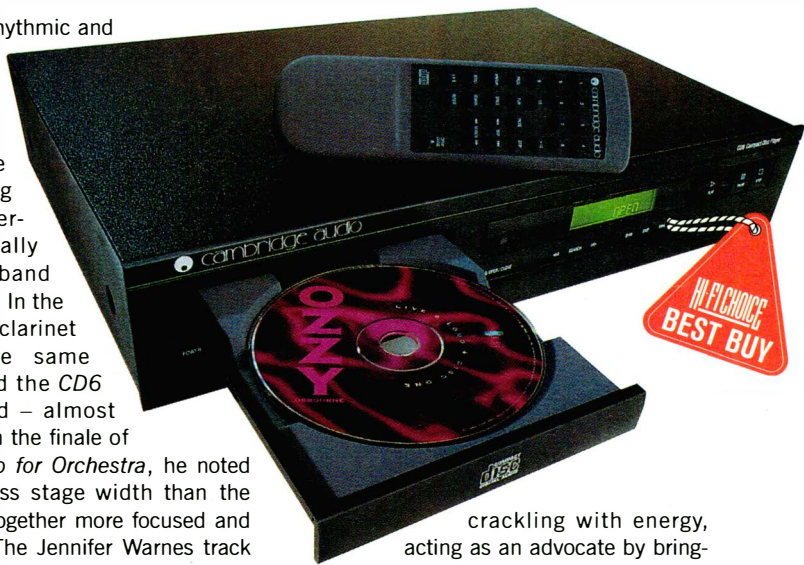
After listening to the complete presentation, one listener felt sufficiently moved to remark that the Cambridge CD6 was 'the only player (so far) that makes musical sense'. There was one dissenter, however, who thought the player was 'warm and mellifluous' but with a 'thick, glutinous bass', making for a 'pleasant if less than gripping sound' (Ravel). This one comment apart, the bass attracted nothing but praise. 'Nicely extended' and 'good bass reproduction' (Jennifer Warnes) were typical remarks, and then 'at least it has bass of sorts' according to a third ultra-critical listener who rarely brought himself to utter a positive word about the bass of any of the players in the session he attended.

I disagree about the 'warm and mellifluous' comment; I found the CD6 taut and

crackling with energy, acting as an advocate by bringing music to life in a way that eluded most of the others. That said, it needs a good quality, well-focused system to show its best side. It could sound raucous and ill at ease with systems of limited resolution and dynamics — which, in practice, usually means budget systems. If you want something a little easier on the ear, you should perhaps look elsewhere, but if you want to hear, perhaps for the first time, what is on those discs in your collection, the CD6 can do the job as well as some acclaimed players at two or three times the price.

Conclusion

Ignore the boring styling: this player (from the pen of John Westlake no less, formerly of Pink Triangle) is a thoroughbred unit that's well-honed and highly capable. Even better though, it's also thoroughly enjoyable. And with a price-tag of just £300, it's a snip. **AG**



VERDICT	
SOUND	★★★★★
VALUE	★★★★★
PRICE	£300
▲ Finely-honed, articulate and lively sound.	
◆ Dresses down, needs a high-res system.	
✉ Hi-Fi Direct, Richer House, Hankey Place, London SE1 4BB	
☎ (0171) 586 5977	

THE LAB REPORT

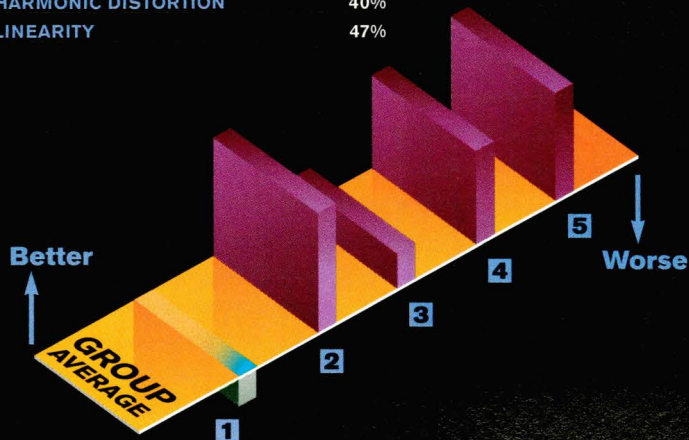
The Cambridge CD6 is rather like an integrated version of the company's DACMagic II outboard convertor, and includes individual power supplies (including three separate transformers) for its transport, digital signal processing and analogue stages. J-FET op-amps are employed in the final analogue output, which has a usefully low (<1 Ohm) source impedance. Long interconnect cables and 'difficult' preamplifiers should be driven with ease.

Pairs of Philips' TDA1305 Bitstream/Continuous Calibration (BCC) DACs are deployed to yield a massive 110dB S/N ratio, even though in practice this is dragged down by some +14dB of noise modulation. This, plus the characteristic type of jitter incurred by the CD6, accounts for much of its bright and slightly over-hyped sound, despite the response drooping by about -0.5dB at 20kHz.

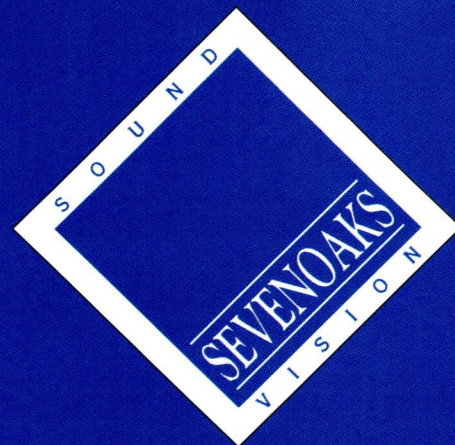
Traditional harmonic distortion, meanwhile, is consistently low at 0.006-0.018 per cent through the important -30dB zone, while its low-level linearity remains true to -0.5dB across a full 100dB dynamic range. Oh yes, the CD6's dual-mono construction endows it with a stupendous >130dB channel separation. Plenty of engineering for the money, and no mistake. *PM*

HOW IT COMPARES

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|------|
| 1 | SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES | -12% |
| 2 | JITTER | 51% |
| 3 | PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE | 16% |
| 4 | HARMONIC DISTORTION | 40% |
| 5 | LINEARITY | 47% |



23 Branches Nationwide



At Sevenoaks Hi Fi you will find a wide range of products on show with the emphasis on quality combined with unbeatable value for money.

Everything in stock is on display and available for audition in our dedicated Hi Fi and Home Cinema demonstration rooms.

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

Sevenoaks Hi Fi - there is no better place to buy.

MAIDSTONE
BRANCH OPENING SOON

MUSICAL EVENING
WITH ARCAM AND RUARK TUESDAY 15TH
OCTOBER AT BARNS HOTEL BEDFORD CALL
01234 272779 FOR FURTHER DETAILS



WE ONLY SELL PRODUCTS FOR WHICH WE ARE AUTHORISED DEALERS

BRANCHES AT

please telephone before travelling

- 1 SEVENOAKS 01732 459555
109-113 London Road
- 2 ABERDEEN 01224 587070
491 Union Street
- 3 BARROW-IN-FURNESS 01229 838757
46 Cavendish Street
- 4 BEDFORD 01234 272779
29-31 St Peters Street
- 5 BIRMINGHAM 0121 233 2977
12 Queensway Arches
- 6 BRIGHTON 01273 733338
55 Preston Street
- 7 BURY ST EDMUNDS 01284 753776
47 Churchgate Street
- 8 CHATHAM 01634 846859
4 Railway Street
- 9 CHELSEA 0171 352 9466
403 Kings Road, SW10
- 10 CHELTENHAM 01242 241171
24 Pittville Street
- 11 CROYDON 0181 665 1203
373 London Road
- 12 ENFIELD 0181 342 1973
7 Genotin Road
- 13 ESSEX 01376 501733
1 The Grove Centre, Witham
- 14 GUILDFORD 01483 36666
73b North Street
- 15 KINGSTON 0181 547 0717
43 Fife Road
- 16 LEICESTER 0116 255 7518
94 Granby Street
- 17 NORWICH opening mid October
01603 767605
29/29A St Giles Street
- 18 OXFORD 01865 241773
41 St Clements
- 19 READING opening mid October
0118 959 7768
3 & 4 Kingswalk
- 20 TUNBRIDGE WELLS 01892 531543
28-30 St Johns Road
- 21 WATFORD 01923 213533
478 St Albans Road
- 22 WOOLWICH 0181 855 8016
162 Powis Street
- 23 WORCESTER 01905 612929
2 Reindeer Court

there is no better place to buy hi fi...

Harman/Kardon HD710

Harman/Kardon's Class Of '96 includes a full range of CD players, including this £200 budget model. A full-width machine which is considerably taller than the average, the *HD710* is a relatively gimmick-free design with large, well laid-out controls. A well-featured and attractive fluorescent display includes a calendar-style readout along the bottom edge, but this can be turned off, leaving just a tiny dot to show that the player is still alive.

The feature set is more comprehensive than the simple front panel leads you to expect, and includes a range of disc-to-tape programming options. There's program play, intro scan, several repeat modes including A-B (playing from arbitrarily-set end points — useful with instructional titles or when trying to copy chords or riffs) and random track access. This last feature can be activated via a numeric keypad on the remote handset. A digital output is available in electrical form, and the *HD710* can be plumbed into Harman/Kardon-branded systems, in which case it will respond to system remote control commands via a rear-panel link.

Only limited information is available to explain what lies under the skin. The linear

tracking mechanism is from Sony, and the convertor stage is based on a Technics' MASH low-bit chip, the *MN6474*. There's no information on the filters, but the lab report shows their effectiveness.

Sound Quality

Praise and criticism alike were well-scattered, with few deficiencies noted consistently from one presentation to the next, and a similarly inconsistent set of judgements on a repeat presentation. Overall scores ranged widely in two separate presentations, in each case (with different panel members) varying from 3/10 to 8/10.

Making sense of these apparent contradictions is not easy, but analysis shows that the arithmetic average score was a reasonable if unexciting 5.5/10, and that the lack of agreement about specific problems and limitations was itself a positive sign. There was, however, some general criticism of a lightweight bass, and significant criticisms of treble quality described by one panel member as 'odd' with triangles and other percussion. The midband, though, was generally held to be open and detailed.

'A dynamic, articulate sound, full of delicate, pleasing nuances and good timing [in the Ravel],' wrote one judge; 'there was some feeling that the player struggles a bit through complex passages,' said another. The third member thought the player 'thick-set' with a 'ponderous bass', and that it could do with 'more space around the

instruments' in the Bartok *Concerto for Orchestra*.

My own separate listening left me slightly more favourably disposed than the panel, although I have no quarrel with most of the specific observations other than those describing the bass as ponderous. The *HD710* is indeed a crisp and detailed, if not always very refined, player — almost a MASH trademark. It pulls a lot of information off a disc and presents it coherently and believably. There is a trace of hardness at times, evident with vocals, chamber music and piano and especially at high levels. However, the bass sounded weighty and tuneful with all the programme material tried.

Conclusion

Not a mould-breaker, but a solid, workman-like CD player with the traditional house sound associated with the brand. The *HD710* is a little too fussy about programme and partnering equipment to make a safe overall recommendation, but the price is reasonable and it's worth auditioning. **AG** ▶▶



VERDICT

SOUND ★★☆☆☆
VALUE ★★☆☆☆
PRICE £200

▲ Middle-ranking performer of integrity, with a sensible control scheme that shields the user well from the plethora of minor features.
 ▼ A little hard and rough sounding, especially at high volume levels.

✉ Gamepath Ltd, 25 Heathfields, Stacey Bushes, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK12 6HR
 ☎ (01908) 317707

THE LAB REPORT

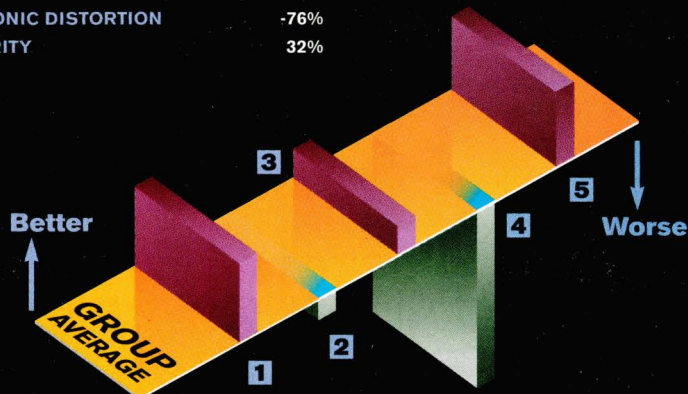
Despite blacking-out all the crucial chips within its budget *HD710* CD player (what is H/K trying to hide?), my measurements reveal Harman's latest choice of DAC to be the familiar *MN6474* from Technics. This would appear to mark a return to the '3D Bitstream' days of yesteryear, where players such as the *HD7500* and *HD7600* carried the flag for Harman. Either way, this puts the *HD710* in a similar technological pigeonhole to the *NAD 512* in this issue.

Certain features, including its 'shaping' of ultrasonic noise, the healthy 82dB suppression of stopband images and flat frequency response are all familiar characteristics of Technics's MASH/PWM DAC. And yet, H/K has imposed additional 'color' of its own, with relatively high levels of distortion (midrange distortion is particularly messy at mid-to-low signal levels) and a S/N ratio compromised by spurious frame-pattern tones at 7.35kHz, 14.7kHz and 22.05kHz. Although these tones are unlikely to be directly audible, they do limit the overall range to a just-about-16-bit value of 98dB.

There's also some magnification of low-level detail (+3.3dB at -90dB) and an unusual pattern of jitter at 785psec to contend with. If nothing else, the *HD710* certainly has character! **PM**

HOW IT COMPARES

1	SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES	34%
2	JITTER	-8%
3	PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE	12%
4	HARMONIC DISTORTION	-76%
5	LINEARITY	32%



Quality at



MUSICAL EVENING
WITH ARCAM AND RUARK TUESDAY 15TH
OCTOBER AT BARNS HOTEL BEDFORD CALL
01234 272777 FOR FURTHER DETAILS



MUSICAL EXPRESSION PRODUCT SELECTION

quality hi fi with style and value for music connoisseurs

AMPLIFIERS

Arcam Alpha 7		£ 249.95
Arcam Alpha 8P	Power	£ 249.95
Arcam Alpha 8		£ 349.95
Arcam Alpha 9P	Power	£ 399.95
Arcam Alpha 9		£ 499.95
Audiolab 8000A		£ 499.95
Audiolab 8000C	Pre	£ 549.95
Audiolab 8000S		£ 649.95
Audiolab 8000P	Power	£ 749.95
Audiolab 8000M (each)	Mono	£ 799.95
Audiolab 8000PPA	Phono	£ 899.95
Audiolab 8000Q	Pre	£1099.95
Cyrus XPA	Power	£ 299.95
Cyrus PSXR	Power Supply	£ 329.95
Cyrus SL		£ 399.95
Cyrus	Power	£ 499.95
Cyrus III i		£ 599.95
Cyrus	Pre	£ 649.95
Exposure Super 15		£ 799.95
Meridian 501	Pre	£ 694.95
Meridian 555	Power	£ 749.95
Meridian 551		£ 794.95
Meridian 502	Pre	£1294.95
Meridian 557	Power	£1399.95
Micromega Minium		£ 349.95
Micromega Tempo I		£ 749.95
Quad 77	Power	£ 599.95
Quad 77		£ 699.95
Quad 707	Power	£ 799.95
Quad 77	Pre Inc Remote	£ 849.95
Rotel RA930AX II		£ 149.95
Rotel RA930BX		£ 199.95
Rotel RA970BX		£ 249.95
Rotel RC970BX II	Pre	£ 174.95
Rotel RB970BX II	Power	£ 224.95
Yamaha AX390		£ 169.95
Yamaha AX590		£ 299.95

CASSETTE DECKS

Yamaha KX390		£ 149.95
Yamaha KX580		£ 249.95
Yamaha KXW392		£ 179.95

HOME CINEMA

Acoustic Energy	Centre	£ 149.95
Arcam AV50	Amplifier	P.O.A.
Arcam Xeta Two	Processor	£ 649.95
B&W CC6	Centre	£ 199.95
Cyrus AV Plaster	Processor	£ 699.95
Cyrus MR3	Multi Room	£ 499.95
Meridian 518	Processor	£ 924.95
Meridian 541	Processor	£1094.95

Meridian 565 AC3	Processor	£2699.95
Ruark Dialogue	Centre	£ 289.95
Yamaha DSPE390	Processor	£ 249.95
Yamaha DSPE580	Processor	£ 449.95
Yamaha DSPEI000	Processor	£ 699.95
Yamaha DSPA590	Amp	£ 349.95
Yamaha DSPA780	Amp	£ 599.95
Yamaha DSPA990	Amp	£ 899.95
Yamaha DSPA2070	Amp	£1099.95
Yamaha DSPA3090	Amp	£1699.95
Yamaha RXV390	Receiver	£ 299.95
Yamaha RXV590	Receiver	£ 449.95
Yamaha NSC60	Centre	£ 59.95
Yamaha NSC105	Centre	£ 79.95
Yamaha NSC80	Centre	£ 99.95
Yamaha NSC150	Centre	£ 109.95
Yamaha NSE60	Surround (Pr)	£ 79.95
Yamaha NSE105	Surround (Pr)	£ 109.95
Yamaha YSTSW 40	Sub	£ 139.95
Yamaha YSTSW80	Sub	£ 179.95
Yamaha YSTSW150	Sub	£ 279.95

SPEAKERS

Acoustic Energy AE100		£ 199.95
Acoustic Energy AE109		£ 329.95
B&W DM302		£ 129.95
B&W DM601		£ 199.95
B&W DM602		£ 299.95
B&W DM603		£ 499.95
B&W CDM1		£ 599.95
B&W P4		£ 674.95
B&W P5		£ 874.95
Castle Isis	(Deluxe extra)	£ 229.95
Castle Tay	(Deluxe extra)	£ 329.95
Castle Eden	(Deluxe extra)	£ 449.95
Castle Severn	(Deluxe extra)	£ 499.95
Castle Avon	(Deluxe extra)	£ 699.95
Castle Harlech	(Deluxe extra)	£ 799.95
Castle Howard II	(Deluxe extra)	£1099.95
Meridian A500	(Bik)	£ 749.95
Meridian M60	(Bik)	£2149.95
Monitor Audio Monitor 1	(Bik)	£ 249.95
Monitor Audio Monitor 2	(Bik)	£ 299.95
Monitor Audio Monitor 3	(Bik)	£ 399.95
Monitor Audio 700PMC	(Bik)	£ 599.95
Monitor Audio 702PMC	(Bik)	£ 699.95
Monitor Audio 703PMC	(Bik)	£ 799.95
Monitor Audio 705PMC	(Bik)	£1399.95
Monitor Audio Studio 2SE	(Bik)	£ 599.95
Monitor Audio Studio 12	(Bik)	£ 999.95
Monitor Audio Studio 20SE	(Bik)	£2199.95
Monitor Audio Studio 50	(Bik)	£3999.95

Ruark Icon		£ 359.95
Ruark Templar MkII		£ 549.95
Ruark Sceptre		£ 599.95
Ruark Talisman II		£ 749.95
Ruark Prologue One		£ 799.95
Ruark Crusader II		£1599.95

TURNABLES

Michell Gyrodec/RB300		£ 967.95
Michell Mycro/Syncro	P.O.A.	
Project 05		£ 159.95
Project 1		£ 199.95

TUNERS

Arcam Alpha 7		£ 229.95
Arcam Alpha 8		£ 279.95
Arcam Delta 280		£ 399.95
Audiolab 8000T		£ 799.95
Cyrus FM7		£ 399.95
Meridian 504		£ 694.95
Micromega Minium		£ 299.95
Rotel RT935AX		£ 159.95
Quad 77		£ 119.95
Yamaha TX480L		£ 179.95
Yamaha TX590 RDS		

CD PLAYERS

Arcam Alpha 7		£ 319.95
Arcam Alpha 8		£ 519.95
Audiolab 8000 CD		£ 999.95
Audiolab 8000 CDM-96		£1399.95
Audiolab 8000 DAC-96		£ 899.95
Cyrus DAD3		£ 599.95
Marantz CD63II KI Signature		£ 499.95
Meridian 506		£ 994.95
Meridian 566 DAC		£1094.95
Meridian 500 Transport		£1244.95
Meridian 508 20 bit		£1684.95
Micromega Minium		£ 349.95
Micromega Stage 4		£ 599.95
Micromega Stage 5		£ 749.95
Micromega Stage 6		£ 949.95
Micromega Drive I Transport		£ 699.95
Micromega DAC		P.O.A.
Pink Triangle		P.O.A.
Pioneer PDR05 Recording CD		£1299.95
Quad 77 Bus		£ 699.95
Quad 77 Powered		£ 899.95
Rotel RCD930AX		£ 179.95
Rotel RCD950		£ 249.95
Yamaha CDX390		£ 129.95
Yamaha CDX555		£ 199.95

Prices valid until October 31, 1996 E&OE ©

0% FINANCE

With Sevenoaks Hi Fi you have the chance to spread the cost of buying quality hi fi separates and loudspeakers with our 0% finance terms.

OPTION 1

A minimum balance of £400 after a 10% deposit, followed by 6 equal monthly payments.
Example, Cost: £999.95 Deposit: £99.99
Six Equal Monthly Payments: £149.99

OPTION 2

A minimum balance of £400 after a 25% deposit, followed by 9 equal monthly payments.

OPTION 3

A minimum balance of £400 after a 50% deposit, followed by 12 equal monthly payments.

OPTION 4

A minimum balance of £1000 after a 20% deposit, followed by 18 equal monthly payments.

23 BRANCHES NATIONWIDE

SEVENOAKS 01732 459555

ABERDEEN 01224 587070

BARROW-IN-FURNESS 01229 838757

BEDFORD 01234 272779

BIRMINGHAM 0121 233 2977

BRIGHTON 01273 733338

BURY ST EDMUNDS 01284 753776

CHATHAM 01634 846859

CHELSEA 0171 352 9466

CHELTENHAM 01242 241171

CROYDON 0181 665 1203

ENFIELD 0181 342 1973

ESSEX 01376 501733

GUILDFORD 01483 36666

KINGSTON 0181 547 0717

LEICESTER 0116 255 7518

NORWICH 01603 767605

OXFORD 01865 241773

READING 0118 959 7768

TUNBRIDGE WELLS 01892 531543

WATFORD 01923 213533

WOOLWICH 0181 855 8016

WORCESTER 01905 612929

JVC XL-Z574

A middle-price player, the XL-Z574 is sold on the back of technical prowess, in particular a package of measures collectively known as Z-Chassis (although confusingly, not all are concerned with the chassis itself). The Z stands for zero, and the idea is to minimise resonant behaviour in the structure and to improve electrical behaviour. Resonant behaviour is addressed with thicker chassis panels, the base being heavily ribbed to resist deformation. The player mechanism is positioned to reduce the effect of chassis-borne vibrations, namely at the centre of gravity. In addition, the transformer is isolated from the rest of the chassis.

Electrical performance is optimised by keeping analogue and digital sections well-separated and screened, and by employing short, optimised signal paths. Digital hardware follows recent JVC practice, with a proprietary 1-bit PEM (Pulse Edge Modulation) converter that uses twin DACs, allowing a reduced clock frequency for lower noise and improved resolution. The hardware also includes fourth-order VANS (JVC's Advanced Noise Shaper) which is said to allow comparatively gentle low-pass filtering with an improved phase response.

The XL-Z574 is fitted with an optical

digital output, which can and should be switched off when not in use, and a headphone socket whose output is fed via a volume control. (The control is electronic, but with finer steps than some.)

Random track access is available via remote control or front panel, and the over-fussy display can be turned off, although power-on default is with all lights shining bright. System remote sockets provide an interface with pre-existing JVC equipment.

Sound Quality

Mixed scores (averaging around 5/10) greeted this player, which attracted generally positive comments for the midband performance but some criticism for its frequency extremes. The bass was described as 'one-note' and the treble as bright and harsh. 'Forward, in-yer-face sound lacks body,' wrote one panel member after the Holst presentation, and went on to accuse the Jennifer Warnes song *Somewhere, Somebody* of having splashy percussion, some shushiness of sibilants and ill-defined bass pitch. The same Jennifer Warnes track was thought 'open, focused but loud' by another judge, but generally 'pretty together, with a good insight into the character of the voice'. The Bartok was felt to be both 'a bit thin and fatiguing', and 'quite big dynamically, but tonally bright and probably tending

to aggression on complex brass, and splashy on percussion'. This judge also passed comment on a one-note quality in the bass response.

The one-note quality was not identified in the separate hands-on sessions, but there was no questioning the rather thin and anaemic balance: although undeniably detailed, it made a meal of complex, heavy-weight symphonic and choral material. The bass was certainly dry, giving a rather lightweight, diminished-scale account of familiar recordings. There was also some effect on stereo imagery, which was precise but lacking in acoustic scale and presence. The midrange, however, was generally clean, open and detailed with good layering of sounds recorded at different distances. Also, the JVC worked well in instances where bass and extreme treble were not a prominent part of the sound.

Conclusion

CD player design is all about marrying a range of qualities, and there is no single magic key that assures good CD player performance. Assuming the player's technical performance matches JVC's claims, other weaknesses must be to blame for the rather raw, treble-led balance.

AG ►►

VERDICT

SOUND ★★☆☆☆
VALUE ★★☆☆☆
PRICE £250

▲ Strong resolving power and good midband dynamics.
 ▼ Raw, thin overall balance, lacks scale and pace, potentially wearing in extended use.

✉ JVC UK Ltd, JVC Business Park, Priestley Way,
 London NW2 7BA
 ☎ (0181) 450 3282

THE LAB REPORT

To all intents and purposes, JVC's XL-Z574 behaves like a slightly cheaper and K2-less version of the £300 XL-Z674 (issue 151). As a consequence, the Z574 version suffers slightly higher levels of distortion (up to 0.009 per cent at -30dB), even though in the context of this group, this still represents the best overall result. The XL-Z574 sets the standard in other areas too, offering excellent low-level linearity and a wide S/N ratio, even taking into account JVC's use of a digital mute circuit to 'improve' its noise figures.

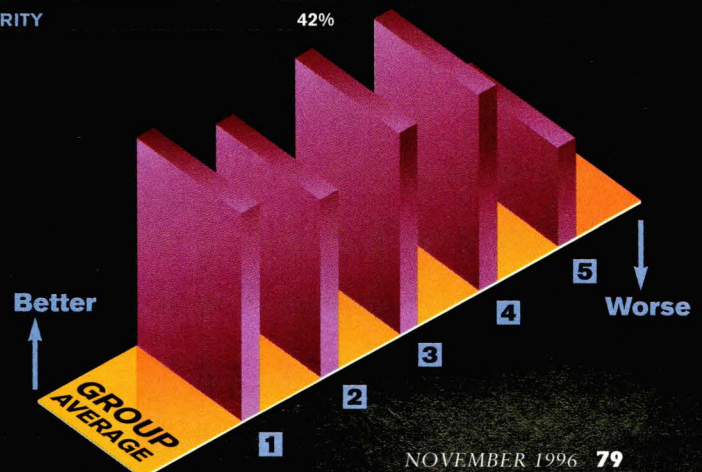
Moreover, the Z574 has a tremendously clean spectrum; free of digital artefacts (stopband suppression is >105dB) with very, very low levels of ultrasonic requantisation noise. Indeed, JVC's PEM convertor strategy really does seem to combine the benefits of both bitstream technology (low distortion and excellent low-level linearity) with other areas of performance which were previously only associated with multi-bit convertors (wide dynamic range and low ultrasonic noise).

Nevertheless, previous experience with earlier JVC players – and particularly those with such a wide open 'dynamic window' – has indicated a susceptibility to RF noise from the local environment, potentially causing the bright sound heard on this occasion.

PM

HOW IT COMPARES

1	SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES	89%
2	JITTER	77%
3	PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE	87%
4	HARMONIC DISTORTION	84%
5	LINEARITY	42%



Free goods at



ADDED VALUE PRODUCT SELECTION

the finest selection of quality hi fi for everyone's budget

CLAIM FREE ACCESSORIES (OR 0% FINANCE).

When you purchase any of the following makes (at their RRP) by presenting this voucher you can claim **20%** of their value in **free accessories.**

Selected models from GLL, KEF, DENON, KENWOOD, MORDAUNT SHORT, MARANTZ (not K.I. Signature), MISSION, NAD, PIONEER, POLK, REL, TANNOY and TEAC.

Offer valid until October 31, 1996

AMPLIFIERS

Denon PMA250SE		£ 159.95
Denon PMA350SE		£ 199.95
Kenwood KA3020SE		£ 199.95
Marantz PM66SE		£ 229.95
Nad 310		£ 99.95
Nad 312		£ 199.95
Nad 314		£ 259.95
Pioneer A405R		£ 249.95

MINI/MICROS

Denon DC1	inc spks	£ 379.95
Denon DM03	inc spks	£ 499.95
Denon DC30	inc spks	£ 499.95
Denon D77	ex spks	£ 649.95
Denon D77W	ex spks	£ 699.95
Denon DF07	ex spks	£ 649.95
Denon D99W	ex spks	£ 899.95
Denon DF10	ex spks	£ 999.95

CASSETTE DECKS

Denon DRM550		£ 159.95
Denon DRM650S		£ 229.95
Denon DRW580	Twin	£ 199.95
Nad 613		£ 229.95
Nad 616	Twin	£ 299.95
Pioneer CTS250		£ 149.95
Pioneer CTW205R		£ 159.95
Pioneer CTS550S		£ 249.95
Pioneer CTS830S		£ 499.95
Teac W416	Twin	£ 99.95
Teac V610		£ 129.95
Teac V8030S		£ 649.95

HOME CINEMA

Celestion HT in a box	Package	£ 749.95
Denon AVR900	Receiver	£ 349.95
Denon AVC77	Processor	£ 399.95
Denon LA2300	Laser Disc	£ 529.95
Harman Kardon AV1100	Amp	£ 249.95
JBL MR	Centre	£ 99.95
Kef 60S	Surround (Pr)	£ 199.95
Kef 80C	Centre	£ 129.95

Kef 90	Centre	£ 259.95
Kef 100	Centre	£ 359.95
Kef 30B	Sub	£ 499.95
Kenwood KRV7080	Receiver	£ 379.95
Mission 73S	Surround (Pr)	£ 99.95
Mission 73C	Centre	£ 149.95
Mission 75C	Centre	£ 249.95
Mission AV2	Package	£ 349.95
Nad AV716	Receiver	£ 599.95
Polk CS250	Centre	£ 249.95
Polk RTFX	Surround (Pr)	£ 349.95
Rel Q50	Sub	£ 374.95
Rel Q100	Sub	£ 474.95
Rel Strata II	Sub	£ 574.95
Rel Storm	Sub	£ 694.95
Rel Stadium II	Sub	£ 994.95
Rel Stentor II	Sub	£ 1794.94
Tannoy 628	Surround (Pr)	£ 149.95
Wharfedale Valdus	Centre	£ 99.95

SPEAKERS

GLL IC100		£ 169.95
GLL IC110		£ 299.95
GLL IC120		£ 419.95
Kef Coda 7		£ 129.95
Kef Coda 8		£ 189.95
Kef Coda 9		£ 299.95
Mission 73 Ii		£ 129.95
Mission 73 ILE		£ 149.95
Mission 732		£ 199.95
Mission 733		£ 329.95
Mission 734		£ 499.95
Mission 75 Ii f	(Deluxe extra)	£ 349.95
Mission 752f	(Deluxe extra)	£ 579.95
Mission 753f	(Deluxe extra)	£ 799.95
Mission 754f	(Deluxe extra)	£ 1299.95
M Short VS300		£ 199.95
M Short MS05i		£ 99.95
M Short MS10i		£ 139.95
M Short MS20i		£ 199.95

M Short MS25i	£ 299.95
Polk RT3	£ 199.95
Polk RT8	£ 399.95
Tannoy 631SE	£ 169.95
Tannoy 632 Profile	£ 199.95

TURNTABLES

Nad 533 inc. cart	£ 219.95
-------------------	----------

TUNERS

Denon TU260L	£ 119.95
Denon TU215RDS	£ 149.95
Denon TU380RDS	£ 199.95
Nad 412	£ 189.95
Nad 414RDS	£ 249.95

CD PLAYERS

Arcam Alpha 5+	£ 399.95
Arcam Alpha 6	£ 479.95
Denon DCD425	£ 149.95
Denon DCD625	£ 199.95
Denon DCD825	£ 239.95
Kenwood DP3080	£ 169.95
Marantz CD46	£ 149.95
Marantz CD67	£ 269.95
Marantz CD635E	£ 349.95
Marantz CD17	£ 799.95
Nad 510	£ 199.95
Nad 512	£ 249.95
Pioneer PD550S	£ 199.95
Pioneer PDC605	£ 229.95
Pioneer PDS705	£ 299.95
Teac DT1 DAC	£ 499.95
Teac VRDST1 Transport	£ 549.95
Teac VRDS7	£ 649.95
Teac VRDS105E	£ 849.95
Teac VRDS25	£ 1299.95

Prices valid until October 31, 1996
E&OE ©

Added value offers not available on price match.

23 BRANCHES NATIONWIDE

SEVENOAKS 01732 459555

ABERDEEN 01224 587070

BARROW-IN-FURNESS 01229 838757

BEDFORD 01234 272779

BIRMINGHAM 0121 233 2977

BRIGHTON 01273 733338

BURY ST EDMUNDS 01284 753776

CHATHAM 01634 846859

CHELSEA 0171 352 9466

CHELTENHAM 01242 241171

CROYDON 0181 665 1203

ENFIELD 0181 342 1973

ESSEX 01376 501733

GUILDFORD 01483 36666

KINGSTON 0181 547 0717

LEICESTER 0116 255 7518

NORWICH 01603 767605

OXFORD 01865 241773

READING 0118 959 7768

TUNBRIDGE WELLS 01892 531543

WATFORD 01923 213533

WOOLWICH 0181 855 8016

WORCESTER 01905 612929

Kenwood DP-3080

The second cheapest in the five-strong DP series, this well-equipped model from the house of Kenwood costs a moderate £170. The full-width player is fairly bulky, though its flimsy structure pays no heed to microphony, and few unnecessary resources appear to have been expended inside.

Aesthetics are not the DP-3080's strong suit. The display characters are small although the window they occupy is large, and the controls, presented in several clashing styles, are cramped into the central section of the fascia while part of the right-hand side is left blank. There is even what appears to be a mistake in the design of the random track access keypad: the designer has had to usurp one of the keys from an unrelated group of controls to perform the 'ten-plus' track-number function.

In equipment terms, the DP-3080 provides few hostages to fortune. There are edit facilities that allow tapes to be collated from multiple discs, peak-level search, repeat (including A-B repeat) and random play. Disc search tools include intro-scan. Headphones can be used via a front-panel rotary volume control. Other sockets enable the DP-3080 to be wired into the system-

control circuits of a Kenwood-branded system, and you'll find that an optical digital TOSLINK output is fitted.

The DP-3080 employs a one-bit NPC 5864 convertor and digital filter, along with Kenwood's recent Advanced High-Precision Master Clock jitter reduction circuit and DRIVE (Dynamic Resolution Intensive Vector Enhancement, no less). Notwithstanding the name, the latter is an adaptive digital low-pass filter designed to reduce step (quantisation) distortion on low-level and low-frequency waveforms, without detriment to large amplitude signals.

Sound Quality

The Kenwood was well received on audition, each listener describing the player in broadly the same terms as strong, dynamic and upfront. It came close to exposing the dynamic and spatial heart of the music, and reproducing much of the detail off-disc, too. 'Some real bass at least,' said one, and other comments pointed to the bright but articulate midrange/treble and the strong sense of transient attack, for example in the Bartok track.

However, some suggested that the Kenwood might not wear very well. 'More front than Sainsbury's,' wrote one participant, and another thought that the DP-3080 was the most immediately exciting player so far, but perhaps fatiguing and superficial in the long run – and obviously loud and 'in



your face'.

Another member wrote that 'this player can

party – but even

parties have to come to

an end sometimes. You can

have too much of a good thing.'

On a system synergy point, the slightly bright DP-3080 is probably not the best choice for already aggressive-sounding systems. Otherwise it was difficult to trip up in the hands-on sessions where it played material as varied as *Mahler's 2nd*/Gilbert Kaplan (Conifer) and *Capercaillie/Secret People* with bold and vividly painted strokes, from a rich yet brightly-coloured tonal palette, and with uncluttered three-dimensional imagery set against inky black backgrounds.

Conclusion

Here is a £170 player with a £250-going-on-£300 sound, which is a real surprise given its modest build quality. Best Buy material obviously, though the player is more suitable for smooth, well-controlled systems than those that are bright, edgy or otherwise not well controlled.

AG ►►

VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★☆
VALUE ★★★★★★
PRICE £170

▲ Bold, dynamic and outgoing sound quality with detail and energy by the bucket-load.

▼ Slapdash build quality and ergonomics; slightly aggressive balance needs careful system match.

✉ Trio-Kenwood UK Ltd, Kenwood House, Dwight Road, Watford, Herts WD1 8EB

☎ (01923) 816444

THE LAB REPORT

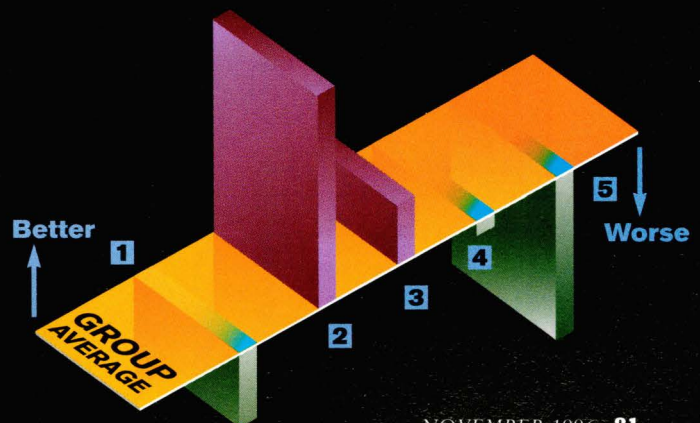
This new DP-3080 is distinct from Kenwood's earlier DP-3060 (issue 139) in several key areas, although not wholly from the change in technology from NPC's one-chip SM5872 to the combination of SM5841 eight-times oversampling filter and SM5864 bitstream DAC in this newer model. Distortion, for example, is very similar at 0.0009-0.025 per cent at peak output and 0.0025-0.03 per cent at -30dB. The pattern of ultrasonic noise remains comparable because both the SM5872 and SM5841 employ the same noise-shapers.

Importantly, the clump of sampling tones suffered by the DP-3060 between 30 to 40kHz are absent in the DP-3080, although residual stopband images are still only suppressed to a maximum of -54dB. IM distortion has worsened slightly while its overall S/N ratio has been squeezed from 103dB to 101dB. Its output impedance has been 'loosened' from 400 Ohms to 1.2k Ohms, and low-level linearity has been allowed to deviate by up to +1.4/-5.5dB over a full 100dB dynamic range (+0.0/-1.3dB for the DP-3060).

For all this, the Kenwood DP-3080 has one fundamental saving grace: just 193psec of digital jitter, which represents the lowest such corruption of any player in this test. Victory then, plucked from the jaws of potential doom. PM

HOW IT COMPARES

1	SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES	-31%
2	JITTER	91%
3	PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE	27%
4	HARMONIC DISTORTION	-5%
5	LINEARITY	-69%



Superdeals at



SEVENOAKS SUPERDEALS PRODUCT SELECTION

fantastic hi fi bargains on many leading brands

AMPLIFIERS

Denon PMA250 III (not SE)	£159 £ 99.00
Marantz PM34	£149 £ 89.00
Marantz PM55SE	£249 £ 159.00
Pioneer A400X	£299 £ 189.00
Rotel RA920AX	£119 £ 99.00
Sansui - Amps from	£ 89.00
Sony TAF246E	£199 £ 149.00
Sony TAF448E	£249 £ 199.00
Sony TAF43ES	£399 £ 349.00
Technics SUA600 MkII	£229 £ 189.00
Technics SUA900 MkII	£449 £ 359.00

MINI/MICROS

Mention this magazine to claim these special mini/micro prices

Aiwa XRM6 inc spks	£349 £ 299.00
Aiwa LCX100 inc spks	£149 £ 129.00
Aiwa LCX500 inc spks	£249 £ 199.00
Aiwa NSXV710 inc spks	£299 £ 239.00
Aiwa NSXV50 inc spks	£349 £ 269.00
Aiwa NSXV800 inc spks	£349 £ 279.00
Aiwa NSXAV90 inc spks	£499 £ 399.00
JVC Adagio D4T inc spks	£329 £ 289.00
JVC UXD66 inc spks	£379 £ 339.00
JVC UXC30 inc spks	£249 £ 219.00
Kenwood UD303 inc spks	£399 £ 269.00
Kenwood UD403P inc spks	£499 £ 359.00
Kenwood UD553 inc spks	£599 £ 499.00
Pioneer N460G inc spks	£399 £ 359.00
Pioneer N560M inc spks	£449 £ 399.00

Pioneer N760M inc spks	£599 £ 539.00
Sony MHC801 inc spks	£399 £ 319.00
Sony MHC881 inc spks	£449 £ 379.00

CASSETTE DECKS

Famous Make Twin	£99 £ 84.00
Famous Make	£129 £ 99.00
Nakamichi DR3	£449 £ 369.00
Sansui - Cassette Decks from	£ 79.00
Sony TCK661S	£299 £ 229.00
Sony TCKA6ES	£549 £ 449.00
Technics RSBX501K	£199 £ 159.00
Technics RSTR474 Twin	£219 £ 179.00

HOME CINEMA

JVC AXV6BK Amp	£229 £ 159.00
JVC RX616RBK	£349 £ 249.00
Kenwood KRV6070	£349 £ 199.00
Pioneer VSX505RDS	£299 £ 249.00
Pioneer CLD-D515-1	£549 £ 479.00
Pioneer CLD-D925 LD	£799 £ 699.00
Rel Q Bass	£349 £ 269.00
Sansui - A/V Receivers from	£ 189.00
Sony TAVA8ES	£699 £ 599.00
Technics SAEX300	£249 £ 225.00
Technics SAEX700	£449 £ 379.00

SPEAKERS

JPW Minim	£79 £ 49.00
Revolver Purdey	£199 £ 139.00
Sony SSI76E	£199 £ 159.00
Sony SSI76EB	£249 £ 219.00
Tangent 3	£ 59.00

Tangent 5	£ 79.00
Tangent 9	£ 149.00
Tangent 11	£ 179.00
Tannoy 631	£129 £ 79.00
TDL RTL-2	£299 £ 199.00

TURNTABLES

Technics SL1210 II	£499 £ 349.00
--------------------	--------------------------

TUNERS

Marantz ST55L	£149 £ 89.00
Pioneer F204RDS	£139 £ 99.00
Sansui - Tuners from	£ 69.00
Sony STS261	£139 £ 119.00

CD PLAYERS

Audio Alchemy DAC	£229 £ 179.00
JVC XLV284	£139 £ 99.00
Philips CD602	£119 £ 59.00
Philips CD710	£119 £ 79.00
Pioneer PDS703	£249 £ 199.00
Sansui - CD Players from	£ 79.00
Sony CDP313	£129 £ 89.00
Sony CDP361	£149 £ 119.00
Sony CDP761E	£249 £ 199.00
Sony CDPXE900E	£299 £ 249.00
Technics SLPG480AK	£139 £ 119.00
Technics SLPG570AK	£169 £ 139.00
Technics SLPG580AK	£159 £ 139.00

Prices valid until October 31, 1996

E&OE ©

NB - Limited stocks on some models.

*PRICE PROMISE

We always try to ensure that our prices are competitive. However, in the unlikely event an authorised competitor within 30 miles advertises an identical product as available from stock at a lower price, even in a sale, we will match that price!

23 BRANCHES NATIONWIDE

SEVENOAKS 01732 459555
ABERDEEN 01224 587070
BARROW-IN-FURNESS 01229 838757
BEDFORD 01234 272779
BIRMINGHAM 0121 233 2977

BRIGHTON 01273 733338

BURY ST EDMUNDS 01284 753776
CHATHAM 01634 846859
CHELSEA 0171 352 9466
CHELTENHAM 01242 241171
CROYDON 0181 665 1203

ENFIELD 0181 342 1973

ESSEX 01376 501733
GUILDFORD 01483 36666
KINGSTON 0181 547 0717
LEICESTER 0116 255 7518
NORWICH 01603 767605

OXFORD 01865 241773

READING 0118 959 7768
TUNBRIDGE WELLS 01892 531543
WATFORD 01923 213533
WOOLWICH 0181 855 8016
WORCESTER 01905 612929

Marantz CD-67

The CD-67 replaces the CD-63mkII at the same price (£270), and will be made available in an enhanced-sound-quality SE version, although it is the plain vanilla option we're testing here.

This is a one-bit player built around the Philips SAA7372GP CD7 decoder IC (upgraded from the CD6), with a new servo-drive chipset. The improved specs should provide more accurate control of the linear tracking mechanism, plus better tracking and focusing of the servo, with the aim of improving the eye pattern retrieved from the laser. The E-core transformer has also been upgraded with better laminations and wiring. The SM5872 DAC is unchanged from the CD-63, which was the first Marantz not to use a Philips component (Marantz is a subsidiary of Philips).

This player offers a full goody bag of bells, whistles and interconnection possibilities, straight out of the CD-63 songsheet, although the sober aesthetics help tame a potentially intimidating control system. The CD-67 can be wired into Marantz systems using rear-panel bus links to complement the full-function remote control. The latter operates a resistive ladder-type output volume control that supplies both headphone socket

and line output phonos.

Other features on the list include a full set of programming options, intro scan, A-B and other repeat modes, random play and a three-stage display dimmer. Random-track-access keypads are available both locally and on the remote control. The player also has optical and electrical coaxial digital outputs, which make it easy to upgrade.

Sound Quality

There were mixed feelings about this player, which attracted scores from 3/10 to 7/10, with an average of just under 4.5/10 – a little disappointing in view of its predecessor's good showing. The rather restrained (even enclosed) sound, its 'muddy' bass and its idiosyncratic, mid-forward tonal balance were the key points holding it back. One panel member wrote of the superbly recorded Ravel piece (on Wilson Audio): 'The soundstage seems flatter than I remember, with less sense of depth, as though the musicians are printed on the wallpaper,' and that the Bartok was 'smallish and dynamically restrained, with wiry-sounding strings'.

Jennifer Warnes' *Somewhere, Somebody* was felt to have a 'muddy, detached bass with poor timing' by one judge, although this view wasn't held universally. However, a degree of hardness and aggression in the midband was noted in almost all the listening notes, both on the original and in the repeat presentation. Treble quality was considered

to be graceless at worst and lacking in subtlety at best.

Nevertheless, the Marantz has other strengths. It has an unusually rich yet vivid sense of tonal colour, and an ability to deal with the architecture of large-scale music in a way that left most of the competition in the shade. Keb' Mo' and other rock and blues recordings came across with a pleasing solidity and physical presence, but the more complex orchestral recordings such as Arnold (*Serenade for Small Orchestra Op 28* on Everest) and Schoenberg (*Pelleas et Melisande/Israel Phil/Mehta* on Sony) showed the Marantz's true mettle.

Conclusion

The slightly loud, overbearing presentation and lack of resolution of this player are only partly offset by its excellent musical architecture and tonal variety. The shortcomings should be addressed in the forthcoming SE version, which could be pretty special. **AG** ▶▶



VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★
VALUE ★★★★★
PRICE £270

▲ Bold, dynamic and authoritative sound; excellent range of darker tonal colours.

▼ Shut-in, mid-forward balance, especially noticeable with small-scale acoustic recordings.

✉ Marantz Hi-Fi UK Ltd, Kingsbridge House, Padbury Oaks, 575-583 Bath Rd, Longford, Middlesex UB7 0EH
(01753) 680868

THE LAB REPORT

Marantz's hugely successful 63-series players were all based on a combination of Philips' CDM12 mechanism, servo and decoder chips, with NPC's combined eight-times-oversampling filter/bitstream DAC, the SM5872. The new CD-67 is no different, although its use of two JRC op-amps in the analogue filter (including Cerafine decoupling caps) with a screened HDAM output buffer (including Silmic coupling caps) seems to put it closer to the CD-63II (issue 151) than any other.

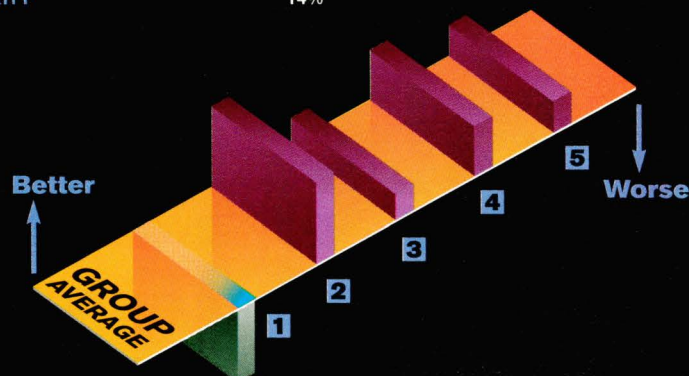
However, in practice, its 103dB S/N ratio is closer to the CD63SE than the 101dB achieved by the CD-63II, and while its characteristic and highly complex jitter pattern remains recognisable, the overall level has fallen from 650psec to 498psec. This is a step in the right direction, although it's still too high to guarantee favour with all listeners.

Otherwise, the CD-67 is a good egg, offering low distortion (0.0014 -0.03 per cent at -30dB) and a high-ish output (2.35V – beware non-matched A/B comparisons) driven from a usefully low 215 Ohm source impedance.

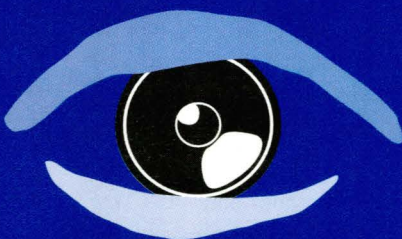
Whether you appreciate the tonal colour of the CD-67 may, in the final analysis, boil down to taste, but at least its performance should be consistent from system to system. **PM**

HOW IT COMPARES

1	SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES	-31%
2	JITTER	35%
3	PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE	11%
4	HARMONIC DISTORTION	22%
5	LINEARITY	14%



BLUE MURDER SALE



UNILET
SOUND & VISION

**21st SEPTEMBER –
10th NOVEMBER '96**

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

- Just phone or clip the coupon for a sale price list
- Visit Unilet between 21st September and 10th November 1996
- Full demonstration facilities available during the sale period in our audio and home cinema rooms.

Unilet Sound & Vision
35 High Street, New Malden,
Surrey KT3 4BY
Tel: 0181 942 9567
(Open on Sundays)

Unilet Sound & Vision
24-26 Union Street, Maidstone
Kent ME14 1ED Tel: 01622 676703

PRICE LIST APPLICATION FORM

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

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel No. _____

Micromega Minium CD

Micromega is perhaps better-known for its *Stage* CD players which can be upgraded hierarchically by changing the internal circuit boards. The *Minium CD* is, in effect, a hard-wired version of the basic *Stage* model, and cannot be upgraded; it is available also as part of a complete *Minium* system.

Although it lacks any strong styling features, the *Minium CD*'s ultra-simple alloy case, and complete lack of gimmickry, mark it out from the crowd. There are just six controls on the front-panel, which are sufficient for all normal purposes, including sequential track access and cueing (a two-speed, timer-controlled feature that provides an audible output only on the lower speed). An electrical coaxial digital output can be enabled or disabled with one of the front-panel switches. Unusually, absolute phase of the standard analogue output can be selected, typically to correct a phase-inverting system (though the player defaults to positive phase at power-on) or simply to 'correct' particular recordings.

Only the remote control provides any relief from the *Minium*'s austerity. This is a true multi-button monster (there are 46 of the blighters) that brings the feature count



up to industry standards. It also functions as a complete *Minium* system handset. Included are a random-play, track-access keypad, programming, track/programme/disc and A-B repeat modes, and a display dim/bright switch, but no explicit support for tape-editing functions.

This Bitstream player uses a Philips CDM12.2 mechanism, in-house control software and a CD7 decoder.

Sound Quality

This Micromega divided the four-strong listening panel. Two participants marked it highly both in the original and the repeat presentations, one marked it slightly below-average both times, and the fourth marked it inconsistently in the two presentations. With low and high scores of 4/10 and 9/10, the average score was a smidgen short of 6/10, which is disappointing considering it was the most expensive model in the group.

'A night and day difference (compared to the previous players),' said one of the Bartok *Concerto for Orchestra*, 'This piece sounds

as though it was composed instead of being just an orchestral warm-up. It's not perfect – it could use some low-end weight – but this is a seriously musical player, with a sense of musical scale and drama.' Another described it as 'slightly rounded but very expressive, with fair dynamics. I would really like to turn the volume up.' These comments encapsulate the attitude of the panel, the most negative comments coming from those who thought that some of the music was 'lacking in drive' (Jennifer Warnes) and 'insubstantial' (Keb' Mo') too. 'Ambient, but dry', is a view that was expressed in various forms on several occasions.

The bass quality, however, attracted particular praise. 'An appropriate, natural bass', and 'dynamic, expressive bass/mid', were typical comments following Bartok and the Keb' Mo' tracks respectively.

I found the *Minium CD* a fair-weather performer that was expressive and lucid. On the whole it made sense of the music, but the ambience was poorly formed on known, naturally-recorded discs (eg Inbal/Mahler 4 on Denon). After a while it became apparent that the deck was lacking in energy and dynamics and was slightly rough in texture.

Conclusion

While it's an interesting player that does many things well, Micromega's *Minium* is ultimately slightly less than the sum of its parts. It plays music unobtrusively and articulately, but with a slightly rough-hewn quality; it was also reluctant to rise to the occasion when the going got tough. **AG** ▶▶

VERDICT

SOUND ★★☆☆☆
VALUE ★★☆☆☆
PRICE £350

▲ Attractive, compact and easy-to-use player with a pleasing tonal balance, articulate midband and strong bass.

▼ Dynamically weak; rough and edgy with some kinds of music.

✉ Micromega D A Ltd, PO Box 13, London E18 1EG
 (0181) 502 1416

THE LAB REPORT

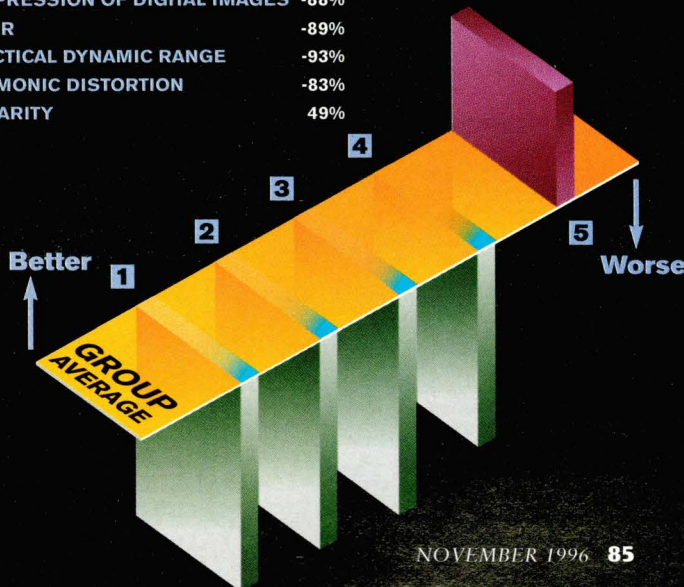
Details are somewhat sketchy to say the least thanks to the bonnet being sealed into place, but Micromega's £350 *Minium* bears some technical resemblance to Philips' £130 *CD721* in this issue. Judging by the release of substantial stopband images, it's safe to say that both players use the same over-sampling technology, although Micromega's *Minium* does enjoy a superior resolution of low-level signals.

Nevertheless, the *Minium* is a very 'untidy' player, with a good 20mV worth of sampling patterns adding to its output of unwanted ultrasonic spurs. Meanwhile, a complex hash of in-band products results in a very 'bumpy-looking' noise floor, populated with resonances, sampling patterns and idle tones. It is these largely uncorrelated products that contribute to the higher-than-expected distortion (<0.06 per cent at -30dB) and poor 89.7dB S/N suffered by the *Minium*. This is in spite of, I might add, its use of a digital mute to obtain better S/N figures under conventional measurement conditions.

Even so, this poor S/N ratio and limited dynamic range may serve to mask a multitude of sins. In particular there's a very nasty-looking jitter spectrum that amounts to some 1705psec of widely-distributed sidebands. **PM**

HOW IT COMPARES

1	SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES	-88%
2	JITTER	-89%
3	PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE	-93%
4	HARMONIC DISTORTION	-83%
5	LINEARITY	49%





THE CHOICE IS TRULY YOURS
 We carry the finest range of Hi-Fi in London, you can also be sure that any of the products you see advertised here are on display and available for audition. Our helpful experienced staff are always on hand to help explore the possibilities open to you. This month, wicked savings on featured systems **and** buy any two individual components for £600+ and claim a Chord Siren interconnect worth £65 absolutely **FREE!** or 9 months Interest Free Credit - (call or write for details) - **a devil of a deal!**

THE PRODUCTS

ARCAM
 New Range

AUDIO TECHNICA

B & O
 New 6 play CD

B & W
CHORD COMPANY

DENON
EPOS
KEF

LINN
 All - inc: Knekt
 & the New AV 51

MARANTZ
MORDAUNT SHORT
MISSION
N.A.D.

NAIM AUDIO
 New Intro, Credo

NAKAMICHI
PIONEER
 Recordable CD & DAT

ProAC
REGA
ROTEL
SENNHEISER
SOUNDSTYLE
TANNOY
TARGET
YAMAHA

Billy Vee
SOUND SYSTEMS

248 LEE HIGH RD, LONDON, SE13 5PL
0181-318 5755/852 1321 FAX- 318 0909
 Email : sales@billyvee.demon.co.uk
OPEN: 10AM - 6.30PM MON - SAT (CLOSED THURS)

SOUND VALUE SYSTEMS

Buy both and save over £65
MARANTZ CD 67 PLAYER
K.E.F CODA 7 SPEAKERS
 Add any amp over £149 and claim your siren interconnect (RRP£65)
£333
 for Free. - while stocks last.

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

MARANTZ CD 63se/2 CD
MARANTZ PM66se AMP
B&W 601 SPEAKERS
 or KEF coda 8 or Mission 732
£666
 sizzling savings on this system

PDR-05 RECORDABLE CD PLAYER
 Player and Recorder

Recordable CD's Only £7.99

Available now - the benefits are obvious

You choose-The Deposit-Time & Amount

0% APR

MIN LOAN £350 - MIN DEP 10% PLEASE CALL FOR DETAILS

GOODS PRICE	£1000	GOODS PRICE	£2500	GOODS PRICE	£5000
DEPOSIT	£100	DEPOSIT	£500	DEPOSIT	£1400
BALANCE	£900	BALANCE	£2000	BALANCE	£3600
12 MTHS @	£75	20 MTHS @	£100	24 MTHS @	£150

NEW ARRIVALS & FIRM FAVOURITES

- complete - SYSTEMS*
- Denon DC1 Micro inc Spks £379.00
 - Denon D-F07 System £649.00
 - Denon F10CD/TunerAmp/Cass. £899.00
- source - COMPONENTS*
- Arcam Alpha 7 CD (NEW!) £319.00
 - Arcam Alpha 8 CD (NEW!) £519.00
 - Linn Karik Player £1750.00
 - Linn Numerik DAC £1400.00
 - Marantz CD63se Signature £499.00
 - Marantz CD17 Player £799.00
 - Naim CD 3 Player £977.00
 - Naim CDS Player £3751.00
 - Rega Planet CD Player (NEW!) .. £399.00
 - Rega Planar 3 inc arm £274.00
 - Linn LP12 - combinations from £1488.00
- selected - AMPLIFIERS*
- Arcam Alpha 8 (NEW!) £349.00
 - Linn Majik (line level) £650.00
 - Linn Kairn Preamp £1750.00
 - Linn Klout Power Amp £2000.00
 - Marantz PM66se amplifier £229.00
 - Naim Nait 3 Amplifier £549.00
 - Naim NAC 82 Preamp £2058.00
 - Naim NAP 180 Power Amp £1016.00
 - Pioneer A300R Precision (NEW!) £399.00
 - Rotel RA 930x Amplifier £149.00
 - Rega Brio Amplifier £229.00
- am/fm - TUNERS*
- Arcam Alpha 7 Tuner £229.00
 - Linn Kremlin FM Tuner £2600.00
 - N.A.D. 412 Tuner £189.00
 - Naim NAT 03 FM Tuner £566.00
 - Rega Radio Tuner £229.00
- selected - RECORDERS*
- Denon DRM 550 Cassette £159.00
 - Pioneer CT-830S Cassette £499.00
 - Pioneer PDR-05 CD Recorder .. £1299.00
 - Nakamichi DR3 Cassette £449.00
 - Yamaha KX390 Cassette £149.00
 - Yamaha KX580 Cassette £249.00
- loud - SPEAKERS*
- B&W DM 302 £129.00
 - B&W DM 601 £199.00
 - B&W CDM 2 £400.00
 - B&W AS6 Active Subwoofer £499.00
 - Blue Room Mini Pod £399.00
 - Epos ES12 (NEW!) £499.00
 - Linn Tukan Mini Monitor £500.00
 - Linn Keilidh (Inc stands) £835.00
 - Mission 751 Freedom (NEW!) ... £348.00
 - Mission 752 Freedom (NEW!) ... £578.00
 - Morduant Short MS0.5 (NEW!) ... £99.00
 - Mordaut Short MS10i £139.00
 - Naim INTRO (NEW!) £596.00
 - Naim CREDO (NEW!) £987.00
 - ProAc Response 2.5 £2700.00
 - Rega Kyte speakers £198.00
- audio - VISUAL*
- Pioneer CLD515-1 Laser (NEW!) £549.00
 - Arcam Xeta2 processor £649.00
 - Yamaha DSP-E390 processor £245.00
 - Arcam Xeta 2 Amplifier £999.00
 - KEF AV System (C9/90/70s) ... £849.00
 - KEF 30B SubWoofer £499.00
 - Mission AV-2 System £349.00
- audio - ESSENTIALS*
- Chord Chrysalis Intercon £25.00
 - CableTalk Monitor 2 Int £49.00
 - Talk 3 Speaker Lead/mtr £2.25
 - Chord Rumour Spkr Lead/mtr £8.00
- & large selection of tables & stands from: **TARGET- STANDS UNIQUE - SOUNDSTYLE**
- ALL PRICES CORRECT AT PRESS E&OE

NAD 512

This is a NAD product in the company's classic vein: simple, evidently focused on the task of high-fidelity performance, and dressed in the distinctively familiar yet understated NAD suit of armour, with that mid-grey panel finish that looks great with, er, other NAD products.

Controls are few in number and more self-explanatory than the norm. They allow programmed play, repeat and the random play feature which seems to be obligatory these days (worthless, too, in my opinion; no doubt others will disagree). The display is a backlit design in white on a rather fetching burgundy-coloured background. What else? Just the back-panel bits, which include system remote sockets and an electrical S/PDIF digital output. This is a welcome departure from the usual optical-only provision with budget CD players.

The electrical design is based on a low-bit differential MASH D/A convertor with sharper than usual fifth-order passive filtering to reduce RF; most MASH players evidently use fourth-order filters. The output stage uses a DC servo rather than a capacitor to block DC offsets. A low (120 Ohm) output impedance is claimed, which should allow virtually any amplifier to be driven

without treble loss, even via long interconnects. A lot of thought has gone into the choice of passive components — by sound quality rather than cost or type, says NAD — and the design features individually regulated supplies for the digital, servo and analogue sections, plus star-earthing.

Sound Quality

There was some disagreement about this player from members of the listening panel. On the whole, the NAD was not generally well received, achieving a disappointing average score of 3.5/10.

Criticisms were concentrated on two areas: the balance was generally thought to be recessed and distant with some lack of spatial and tonal depth. 'Shallow sounding', said one participant with reference to the Keb' Mo' track, while another remarked on the odd texture of the clarinet and piano, especially in the lower registers (Ravel).

The other main criticism voiced by the panel concerned a lack of expressiveness and dynamics. One judge expressed it as 'dynamically lacking in shade: everything appears to happen at one level'. He went on to describe the NAD as 'manipulative,' a word that appeared several times in the comments of others and was expanded on by another listener, 'Music is delivered in little discrete serial packages rather than as a coherent unified whole.' 'This player is

becoming annoying to listen to,' wrote another judge in apparent disgust, but not everyone agreed. After a presentation of the Holst brass band piece, a third listener commented that 'Although it lacks the purity and extension of the best, this player is more lively and vital than most, with an easy, fluid presentation.' But in the Keb' Mo' track, he criticised the 'dry, pinched-sounding voice'.

I concede the criticisms, but heard them in a slightly different way. Expressed as plus and minus points, the 512 is sharp and well-defined, and extremely consistent both with frequency and level. Dynamics are strongly, if not very expressively, presented, and vocal intelligibility is of a high order. The sins of the NAD are presentational rather than structural. It sounds rather hard and grainy by the best standards, and it lacks the finest players' organic, liquid quality.

Conclusion

Arguably more of a rock'n'roller than a classical music player, the 512 has some distinctive musical strengths. But the hard, grainy edge will alienate many. It's worth considering, but audition it first.

AG ►►

VERDICT

SOUND ★★☆☆☆
VALUE ★★☆☆☆
PRICE £250

▲ Simple, well-focused presentation and articulate, wide-ranging sound.

▼ Hard-nosed presentation is clearly not everyone's cup of tea.

✉ The Audio Club, Adastra House, 401-405 Nether Street, London N3 1QG.

☎ (0181) 343 3240

THE LAB REPORT

NAD has been employing the same MASH/PWM technology from Technics for the last four to five years with varying success. This 512 model uses the same MNG474 MASH DAC as the £370 514 (issue 151), but because of inevitable compromises, suffers a 4dB shortfall in its overall S/N from 102.7dB (514) to 98.6dB (512). Nevertheless, there's a commensurate improvement in any rough-sounding noise modulation from +6.8dB to +1.2dB in this instance.

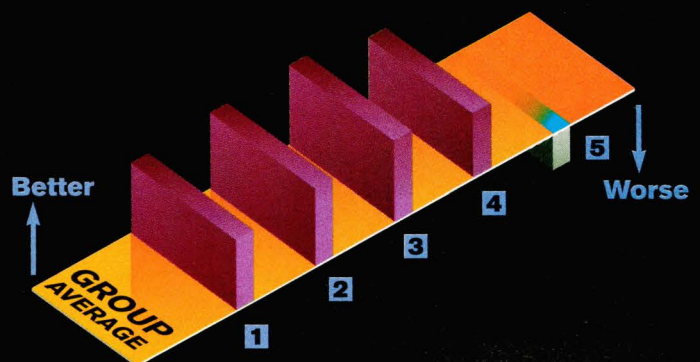
In other ways the 512 is closer in temperament to NAD's earlier 502 (issue 119), particularly with respect to its multi-pole analogue filtering, which bites deeply into the wave of requantisation noise beyond 35kHz or so, caused by Technics' noise-shaping. The 514 is less effective in this regard, despite claiming to use a similar analogue filter.

Sadly, the cheaper 512 does suffer a slightly higher level of jitter (504 psecs), and data-induced jitter at that. This is a known cause of compromised dynamics, life and musical expressiveness, as Technics's own players continue to bear witness. Otherwise the 512 has plenty of engineering in its favour. A case of so near and yet so far.

PM

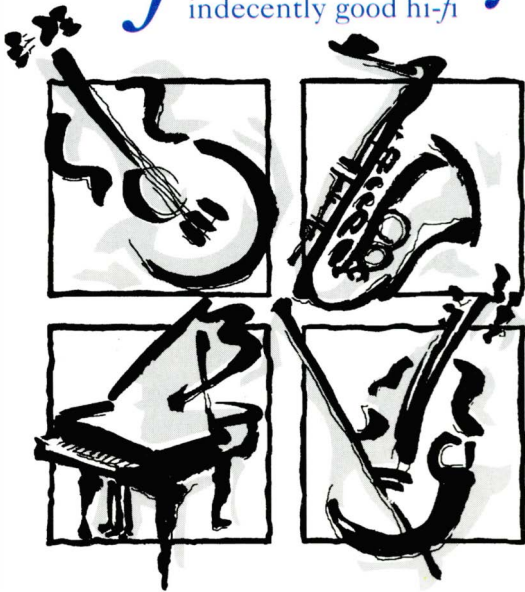
HOW IT COMPARES

1	SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES	30%
2	JITTER	34%
3	PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE	35%
4	HARMONIC DISTORTION	27%
5	LINEARITY	-15%



Infidelity

indecently good hi-fi



Buying hi-fi should be fun, we make it so. Listen to a well chosen selection of quality hi-fi equipment in our comfortable and relaxed listening room. Bring along your own records or CDs, we'll provide the coffee, and hear the difference we can make to your enjoyment of music.

ARCAM, EPOS, LINN, MICROMEGA, NAIM, NAKAMICHI, NEAT, REGA, ROKSAN, ROTEL, ROYD, SHAHINIAN and more.

9 High Street, Hampton Wick, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 4DA

Telephone: 0181-943 3530



Open: Tues - Fri 10.30am - 7pm, Saturday 10am - 6pm.

EQUIPMENT SUPPORT

Mana Equipment Tables

- ▲ Superb upgrade for any hi-fi system; like changing every component and buying a new music collection into the bargain.
- ▼ Dust-trap par excellence; more addictive than crack cocaine.

"Now, I can only say that until I had the Mana equipment table fitted, my hi-fi system was at best half-cocked."
Alan Sircorn
Hi-Fi Choice March 1995



Photo: Paul Hanley Studios



"Mana Tables are not cheap. But they are essential if you want to unlock your system's true potential." BEST BUY
Malcolm Steward, Hi-Fi Choice February 1996

For information on MANA products please contact:

Mana Acoustics

59 Jubilee Close, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 3TB
Tel/fax: 0181 429 0118 Tel: 0181 868 2788



It costs the same to get it right as it does to get it wrong.

At the Listening Rooms, we pride ourselves on matching your needs with exactly the right equipment, whatever your budget, and because we only stock the best, that's what you'll get.

What you'll also get is sound professional advice and a chance to relax and listen to some of the world's finest Hi-Fi equipment.

- 35 years combined experience.
- Two Fully equipped listening rooms.
- Home installation service.
- Multi-room design and installation.
- 2 years Parts and Labour guarantee.
- Home cinema surround-sound.
- Export and Credit facilities.



SONY A/V Dealer of the Year



- ACOUSTIC ENERGY • ARCAM • AUDIO RESEARCH • AUDIOLAB • AURA • BOSE • CELESTION • COPLAND • CYRUS • DENON • EPOS • HARMAN KARDON • JBL • KEF • KRELL • LINN • MARANTZ • MARTIN LOGAN • MERIDIAN • MICHELL • MICROMEGA • MISSION • MONITOR AUDIO • NAKAMICHI • NEAT PETITE • PINK TRIANGLE • PIONEER • QUAD • REL • ROGERS • SME • SONUS FABER • STAX • SYSTEMDEK • TANNOY • THETA • WILSON AUDIO • YAMAHA •



THE listening rooms

161 Old Brompton Rd. London SW5 0LJ. Tel: 0171- 244 7750/59. Fax: 0171-370 0192.
Monday - Saturday 10am - 6pm. Nearest Tube: South Kensington or Gloucester Road.

Philips CD721

Look very hard, and you might find a few CD players with remote control that undercut this new Philips model. In most cases, however, they will be discontinued, about to be discontinued or will hail from distinctly inferior brand names. The Philips name may not have the cachet it enjoyed a few years back — the company has left the quality hi-fi market to its Marantz subsidiary — but it's Philips technology that drives Marantz players and a sizeable proportion of players from other sources, at all price levels.

The CD721 is closely based on the popular but now discontinued CD720, and includes a number of apparently minor changes and tweaks. Among these, pride of place goes to a new set of resilient feet that are completely shrouded by bright but non-functional surrounds. Technically, the CD721 is similar if not identical to the £150 Marantz CD46, with a Bitcheck DAC and CDM12 linear-tracking mechanism, and an ultra-simple back-panel featuring only captive mains and signal leads. In case you're thinking about replacing the signal lead, it would certainly provide a sound-quality benefit, but would almost certainly void the guarantee, too.

The front-panel is surprisingly both practical and attractive, with good attention to detail and the kind of fit and finish that would do credit to a more expensive product. Highlights include an excellent display and a variable-level headphone output. The track skip and scan keys are shared — a timer decides which function to offer — but irritatingly, this two-speed scan function mutes when it reaches the higher speed.

One additional point: if you're really looking for a bargain, there is a non-remote control version of this player, the CD711, whose slightly simpler internal layout means it should sound even better. At £120, the CD711 is £10 cheaper than the model reviewed here.

Sound Quality

With an average score of 5/10 from the super-critical listening panel, the Philips acquitted itself remarkably well for a player at this price level. The least complementary comments described the Philips as 'clear and tidy, but with a band-limited presentation' (Holst). Further comments were that the guitar didn't really sound natural, though vocals were well-reproduced, sounding clear and open. Similarly, in the Keb' Mo' track, the same listener reckoned the Philips did not 'hold apart the strands of the music as well as some others'. But then after listening to the Jennifer Warnes track, he commented that the Philips 'retrieves a high level of



detail without fuss, and is expressive enough to make it an enjoyable experience'. In the Bartok, which is admittedly a difficult piece for even the best players to pull off, the 'introductory brass is ripe and fat' — further praise for the Philips's stereo positioning and depth.

Other panel members limited critical remarks to highlighting the feeling that the Philips is a bit soft and lacking in dynamics, and in more general terms that it wasn't always the most scintillating, communicative player. One commented that the Philips was more relaxed and natural than most, specifically preferring it to certain well-regarded players costing twice as much.

Conclusion

I have no quarrels at all with the panel's view of this Philips CD player, which performs an only slightly limited task very well indeed. The CD721 sounds articulate and open, with few obvious coloration effects. At the price, it's an obvious Best Buy. **AG** ▶▶

VERDICT

SOUND ★★☆☆☆
VALUE ★★★★★
PRICE £130

- ▲ Well-sorted, musically articulate and attractively presented player at a giveaway price.
 - ▼ Captive signal lead limits sound quality (and placement); slightly lacking in clarity and dynamics.
- ✉ Philips Centre, 420-430 London Road, Croydon, Surrey CR9 3QR
 ☎ (0181) 689 4444

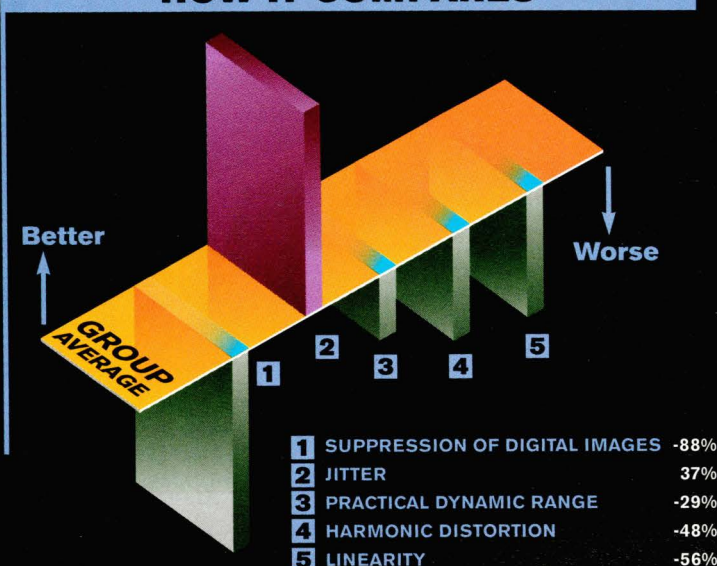
THE LAB REPORT

To keep costs under control, Philips is using a single PCB, strapped beneath a familiar CDM12 mechanism and assembled in deepest Malaysia. Philips's budget 'Bitcheck' oversampling and conversion does the digital honours, releasing substantial stopband images (-29dB), together with a high +8.4dB noise modulation that holds its ultimate resolution to no more than 16-bits.

It's band-limited, too, with a -0.7dB loss in bass at 20Hz, falling to -1.2dB (L) and -0.6dB (R) at the treble extremes (20kHz). Pre-emphasised discs show a slightly greater loss in treble. Rather than bury its distortion in an even-sounding carpet of noise — which is increasingly common these days — the CD721 is just a little messier, with a spray of odd-order harmonics spreading across the mid and treble through the upper 40dB of its dynamic range. Musically speaking, this is where much of the action takes place.

Poor crystal selection causes a huge clock error that represents a +21.5Hz shift at 20kHz. This change in pitch is not sufficient to be audible, but it is enough to force a 60-minute CD to finish in 59 minutes 56 seconds. **PM**

HOW IT COMPARES



Audiofreaks

FOR *the* LOVE
of *music*

Arcici
Benz-Micro
Cabasse
Cardas Audio
Clear Audio
Conrad-Johnson

Expressive Technologies
Golden Tube Audio
Hales Design Group
Kuzma
Muse Electronics

Paragon Acoustics
Power Wedge
Resolution Audio
Sbun Mook Audio Inc.
Sonographe

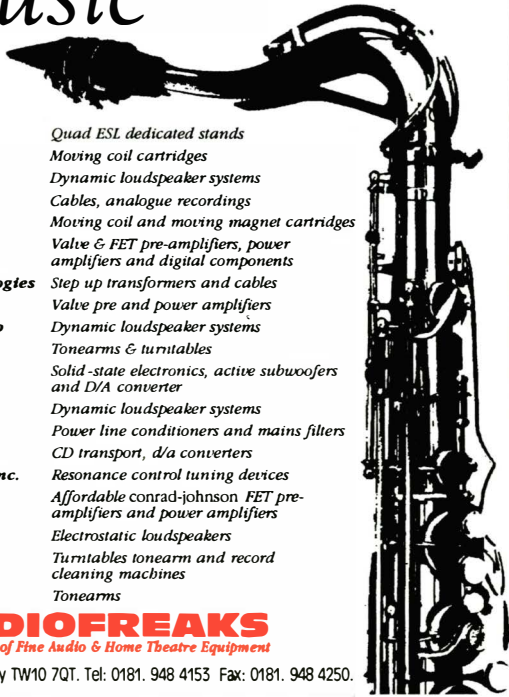
Sound Lab
VPI Industries

Wbeaton Triplanar

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

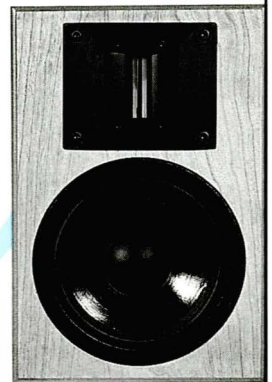
AUDIOFREAKS
Distributors of Fine Audio & Home Theatre Equipment

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



NEAT loudspeakers

THE PETITE:
'.. sounds anything
but petite;
it's stupendous!'
WHAT HI-FI



NEAT acoustics

tel: 01833 631021 fax: 01833 630022

e-mail: johncarrington@NEAT.octacon.co.uk

<http://www.cdtec.co.uk/ext/neatacoustics/>

making the most of the music

SME
MODEL 20/2



This finely engineered precision turntable offers a new listening experience from your treasured L.P.s and 78s. Massive construction, extensional damping of major surfaces and lack of vibration from moving parts ensure tightly controlled detailed sound and stable stereo imaging. The Model 20/2A illustrated has a new heavier motor and power supply adding further to the remarkable presence and realism of the sound.

Available through leading dealers, further details on request from:

SME LIMITED · STEYNING · SUSSEX · BN44 3GY · ENGLAND

☎ (01903) 814321

☎ (01903) 814269

Pioneer PD-204

Time was when CD players from mainstream electronics multinationals were available for just one year. In practice this often meant just a few months of the high season before they were replaced by an alternatively styled variant, often with similar, or even identical, insides. These days successful designs tend to last longer, and the Pioneer *PD-204* is a case in point: it has been available for two full years and has now embarked on its third. The price has also been reduced by £10 to £150.

When first released, it was unusual for a one-bit PDM player because it used 384-times oversampling — the standard then was 256 — but most of the others have now caught up. The *PD-204* employs Pioneer's Pulseflow D/A convertor with low second-order noise-shaping and a relatively low clock frequency (16.9244MHz) by normal industry standards, which should translate into reduced RF noise. What the *PD-204* doesn't have, however, is the Stable Platter Mechanism and Legato Link DSP filter that were used on Pioneer's more costly players.

Although it was originally intended as a competitive, low-cost hi-fi player, these days the main market for the *PD-204* turns out to

be semi-industrial. They are sold in tens and sometimes even in hundreds for use in large shops and other public places where background or distributed music is required, and where its low cost and reliability are the prime considerations.

An alternative version of this player, called the *PD-104*, is also available at £130. This cheaper model lacks a remote control handset, but if linked to other Pioneer components it will respond to remote commands received via its rear-panel system remote control link.

The *PD-204* is averagely well-equipped, with random track access keys on the front-panel. It has a remote control, a full calendar-type display, a headphone socket with an analogue volume control (hurrah!) and a separate digital output level control for the main line output. The latter is only accessible from the remote handset but, as usual, it does impact on sound quality. Using the amplifier volume control should give better results. Hi-Lite (intro) scan, random play, programme play, peak level search and various edit facilities, aimed at those who record CDs onto tape, complete the feature list.

Sound Quality

Of the three panel members present on the day, one rated the Pioneer positively with a 6/10 final score, while the other two ranked it rather lower. On closer examination, the nature of their observations were not altogether dissimilar. It was the weighting that

they placed on what they heard that made the difference.

The general feeling was that the player was well-balanced but a little bland and unexciting. 'The orchestra is quite lively but spatially challenged' (in English: the sound lacks spaciousness), said one.

The Jennifer Warnes test track was thought to 'lack substance, although it has a nice, responsive presentation'. One of the more critical listeners described the *PD-204* as 'balanced but uninspired' (Holst), and as having a 'good balance, but boring' (referring to all the other excerpts).

Contradicting the first listener to some extent, another felt the Pioneer sounded spacious, but a bit compressed dynamically (the author's view as well), and that the player tended to sound a bit scrawny at high levels (ditto). This listener also noted a lack of extreme low-frequency output and some sibilance with voices, which occasionally sounded 'spitchy'.

Conclusion

Now past its prime — and up against some recent cut-price competition — this remains a respectable performer and often a modestly attractive-sounding one, although it often sounds untidy when extended. **AG** ▶▶



VERDICT

SOUND ★★☆☆☆
VALUE ★★☆☆☆
PRICE £150

▲ Excellent range of front-panel facilities, well-endowed and diminutive remote control, and often easy on the ear.

▼ Can bite back, especially with complex, high-frequency music content.

✉ Pioneer High Fidelity (GB) Ltd, Pioneer House, Hollybush Hill, Stoke Poges, Slough, Berks SL2 4QP
 ☎ (01753) 789789

THE LAB REPORT

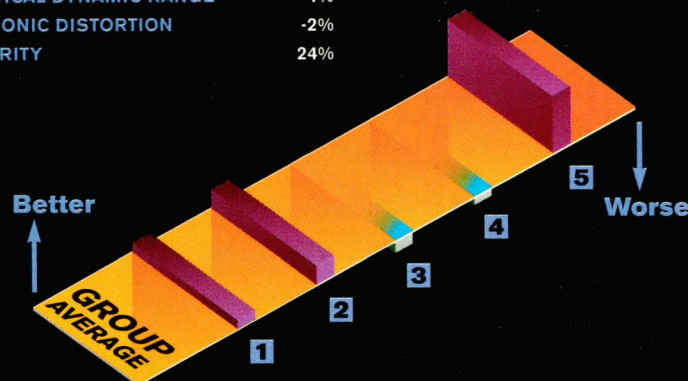
Tracing back through Pioneer's more recent family tree reveals the roots of this latest *PD-204* in the *PD-201* from four years ago (issue 112) and the *PD-5700* before that. It's a straightforward bitstream-based player, using Pioneer's *PD2026B* Pulseflow DAC with a conventional eight-times (FIR type) oversampling filter in place of the Legato Link 'filter', which is used in slightly costlier players like the £200 *PD-S505*.

In common with other good bitstream players, the *PD-204* enjoys a good low-level linearity and low distortion at -30dB (typically 0.002 – 0.02 per cent), although the 101dB A-wtd S/N ratio is compromised by its high +7dB noise modulation. Furthermore, and in common with Pioneer's earlier players, the *PD-204* features a -0.6dB treble roll-off and rather high 1.1k Ohm output impedance, which is likely to encourage a rather mild sound and/or increased distortion if used with long or highly capacitive interconnects or an amplifier with a low (about <10k Ohm) input impedance.

Numerically speaking, the incidence of digital jitter is better than average, although its *type* is both complex and data-induced — forms of jitter known to strip the life and vitality from most forms of music. **PM**

HOW IT COMPARES

1	SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES	4%
2	JITTER	8%
3	PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE	-4%
4	HARMONIC DISTORTION	-2%
5	LINEARITY	24%



Do you want to choose your hifi in a comfortable and relaxing environment . . . ?

Do you want friendly and helpful advice (and a cup of tea) . . . ?

Do you want to buy your system based on what you hear (and not what somebody tells you) . . . ?

Do you live in GUILDFORD . . . ?

. . . or Addlestone, Aldershot, Ashford (Middx), Ashstead, Bagshot, Basingstoke, Bracknell, Camberley, Chertsey, Crowthorne, Cranleigh, Dorking, Epsom, Esher, Farnborough, Farnham, Fleet, Frimley, Godalming, Hartley Wintney, Haslemere, Hook, Horsham, Kingston, Liphook, Leatherhead, Molesey (East & West), New Malden, Odiham, Petersfield, Reading, Reigate, Redhill, Richmond, Shepperton, Virginia Water, Walton-on-Thames, West Byfleet, Weybridge, Windsor, Woking, Wokingham, Yateley?

Nobody else in these areas stocks all the following major brands: Acoustic Energy, Arcam, Audiolab, Aura, B&W, Cyrus, Epos, DPA, Harman Kardon, Heybrook, Infinity, JPW, KEF (Reference), Linn Products (including records), Marantz, Meridian, Mission, Musical Fidelity, NAD, Nakamichi, Onix, PROAC, QED (Systemline), Quad, Rega, Revox, Rogers, Rotel, Sony, Sound Org, Target, T.D.L., Yamaha (including Home Cinema Systems) & Top Tape.

Visit us first and you won't need to go anywhere else, we have superb demonstration rooms where you can decide in comfort, and we will deliver and install free of charge (and part exchange is possible).

Complete service – We are the only outlet in the area to offer the complete service. As well as stocking selected items from the above manufacturers we are able to service and/or repair on the premises all the above brands (and others also).

PJ HIFI

Guildford's only REAL Hi-Fi shop

NEW ARRIVALS!
QUAD 77
PRE & POWER
+ MISSION 754
FREEDOM
IN STOCK
NOW!

We are at:
3 BRIDGE STREET, GUILDFORD
*(by the traffic lights –
next door to Alfred Marks)*

NEW! LINN
AV51 SYSTEM
MERIDIAN
DIGITAL THEATRE
&
YAMAHA
DSP
all on permanent
demonstration

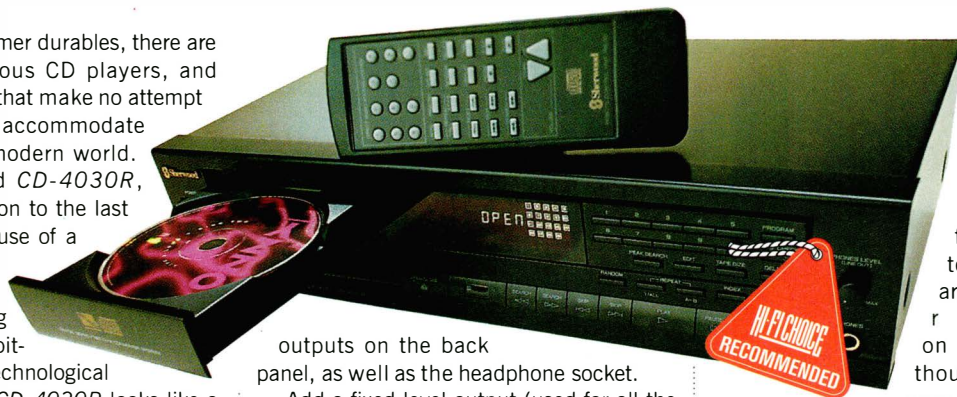
01483 504801 • 01483 304756

Access • Visa • Switch Open Monday – Saturday 9am – 6pm (later by appointment)

Sherwood CD-4030R

As with all consumer durables, there are fashion-conscious CD players, and there are those that make no attempt whatsoever to accommodate themselves to the modern world. Take the Sherwood *CD-4030R*, whose only concession to the last decade or so is the use of a bitstream D/A converter with an eight-times oversampling digital filter — and bitstream itself is no technological spring chicken. The *CD-4030R* looks like a refugee from the '70s, with its fussy, overdressed front-panel and plethora of control buttons. Ergonomics are consequently not the *CD-4030R*'s strong suit.

Ironically, the range of facilities available is not unusually wide. The player has a fairly standard range of play and programming options, including random track access (from the front-panel and the remote control), peak search, CD-to-tape edit controls, random play, programming and index search — and not just on the remote control as usual, but also on the main player. A headphone socket and volume control are fitted, the latter being a standard analogue rotary which is in series with one of the two main



outputs on the back panel, as well as the headphone socket.

Add a fixed-level output (used for all the listening after confirming that it sounded better than the variable output), system remote sockets and an optical digital output, and you should have the picture. Oh yes, the remote control has a couple of tricks of its own, including intro scan and a very welcome display normal/dim/off switch.

Sound Quality

Although the *CD-4030R* was generally thought to be short on specific virtues, it scored consistently well as a 'nice' and a 'musical' player by each member of the panel and with all music types — and it did so again in a repeat presentation later in the day. Although it wasn't explicitly recognised as a repeat, it did attract comments that were entirely consistent with the first presentation, which adds credence to the panel's judgement. Even the scoring averaged close to 6/10 on both occasions.

'A well-balanced, good-sounding player' penned one writer in response to the Keb' Mo' track *Tell Everybody I Know*, while another noted a 'nice bass, with good timing, and a bouncy quality with an excellent sense of rhythm'. The Ravel piece for clar-

inet and piano was said to offer a 'nice tonal balance'. (The use of the word 'nice' was a distressingly persistent feature of the written comments, arguably with good reason on this occasion, though.) Dynamics were generally thought

to be a little weak, attracting the comment, 'lively orchestra, but dynamically not quite there' (Bartok *Concerto for Orchestra*).

The bass was a little soft and lacking in control, one judge saying: 'a bit fat [and] sounds slow, although it does show a good sense of pitch' (Keb' Mo'). The treble was felt to be lively and well-controlled, and on the whole lacking the flatness, sibilance and loss of emphasis of detail that are endemic in lesser players.

This is indeed an easy player to like. It sounds easy and relaxed, with a slightly softened, laid-back presentation that works well with most music types. But it loses a little of the drama with more challenging programme material. Better Mantovani than Martinu may be putting it too strongly, but you get the idea.

Conclusion

Antediluvian appearance notwithstanding, the Sherwood *CD-4030R* is easy on the ear and will never offend, although it may not always excite. If you can get along with that messy, over-endowed front-panel, a Recommended flag is well-earned. **AG** ▶▶

VERDICT

SOUND ★★☆☆☆
VALUE ★★☆☆☆
PRICE £180

- ▲ Easy on the ear (if not the eye); smooth-sounding player.
- ▼ Slightly soft and compressed, and oh, that fascia...
- ✉ Hi-Fi Direct, Richer House, Hankey Place, London SE1 4BB
- ☎ (0171) 586 5977

THE LAB REPORT

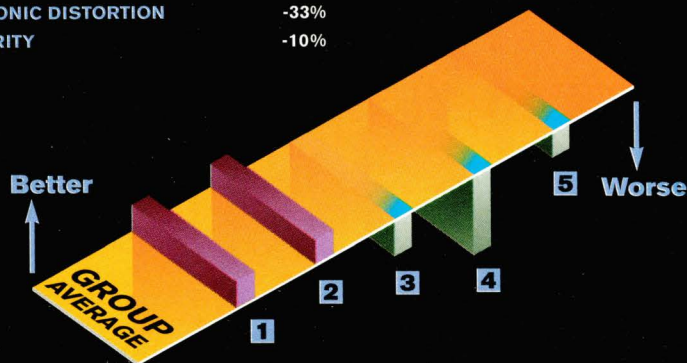
To all intents and purposes, the *CD-4030R* looks and performs like a reworked version of Sherwood's *CD-5010R*, which was reviewed and recommended in issue 124. Once again, we find a combination of Yamaha's *YM3433* eight-times oversampling filter and Philips' *SAA7350* BS DAC providing a characteristic 'aural fingerprint' that includes peak level distortion of 0.0035-0.016 per cent and an unusual compressive low-level linearity trend, which will tend to boost the significance of subtle musical detail.

This sample suffers a 0.3-0.5dB channel imbalance, while its stereo separation actually deteriorates from 108dB at 1kHz to 86dB at 20Hz, suggesting some unwanted coupling via the power supply at bass frequencies. This is mirrored in the highish 634psec of jitter, which includes a deal of supply-induced sidebands. Fortunately, the player's modest sub-100dB S/N ratio and high +7dB noise modulation may tend to 'cloud' the worst excesses of these distortions, while its gently declining treble will take the edge off any harshness.

The end result is a player that probably sounds very much more palatable than its technical performance might initially suggest. **PM**

HOW IT COMPARES

1	SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES	11%
2	JITTER	10%
3	PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE	-14%
4	HARMONIC DISTORTION	-33%
5	LINEARITY	-10%



UK'S LEADING AV DEALER

FOR QUALITY HI-FI AND AUDIO VISUAL SYSTEMS



THE PLEDGE

Should you find any local dealer offering a better price for goods currently in stock at Bill Hutchinson and the alternative quoting retailer, we will better that deal.

- INTEREST FREE CREDIT
- 2 YEAR GUARANTEE
- DEMONSTRATION ROOM
- DELIVERY & INSTALLATION
- PRO-LOGIC HI-FI, TV & VIDEO
- HOME CINEMA
- LASER DISC STOCKISTS
- ESTABLISHED 1983



Bill Hutchinson

Hi-Fi • CD • Audio Visual Centre

THE PROFESSIONALS



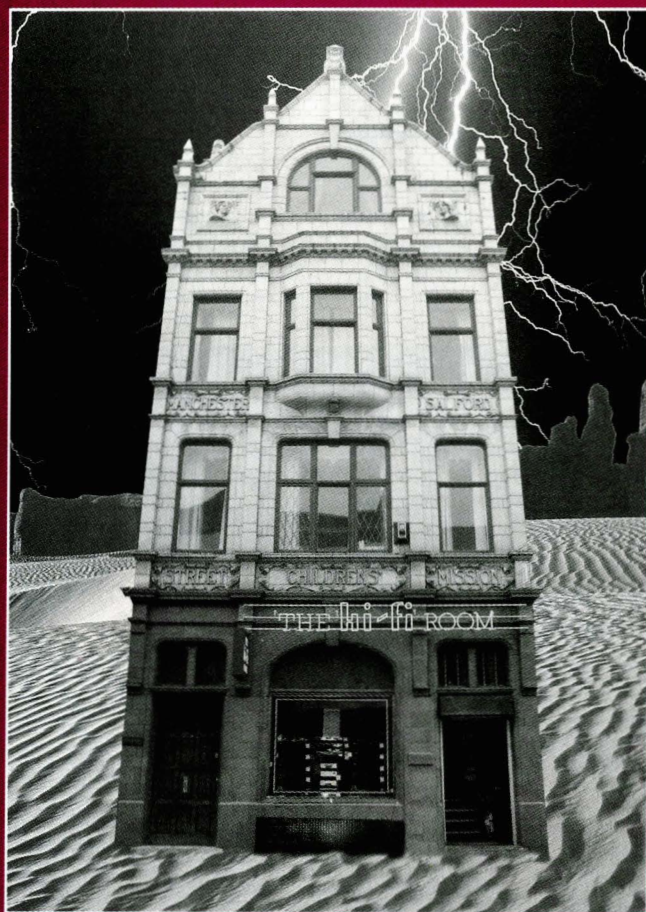
GLASGOW
43 HOPE STREET
0141-248 2857

EDINBURGH
40A QUEENSFERRY STREET
0131-220 0909

NEWCASTLE
87A CLAYTON STREET
0191-230 3600

LEEDS
26-28 WOODHOUSE LANE
0113-242 7777

MANCHESTER
50-52 DEANS GATE
0161-832 1600



THE hi-fi ROOM

EXCLUSIVE HI-FI AND
AUDI VISUAL SYSTEMS FOR
THE CONNOISSEUR AND
THE NOVICE

An Oasis of Sound

50 BRIDGE STREET,
MANCHESTER

TEL: 0161 832 0888

GLASGOW
NEWCASTLE

0141 248 2857
0191 230 3600

EDINBURGH
LEEDS

0131 220 0909
0113 242 7777

Sony CDP-XE500

Sony seems to be going through a phase of introducing new products like they're going out of fashion.

The *CDP-XE500* is two up from the bottom of a range of six CD players introduced this season. Powered by a one-bit H-Pulse D/A convertor, the player's most notable user feature here is a jog dial – a small ratcheted rotary switch that can be used for rapid track selection in either play or programming modes. A tiny adjacent button acts as an 'enter' key to confirm selections.

The player has an impressive array of useless gadgetry, including programme edit, shuffle play, peak search, time edit, time fade and more. The minor control arrangement is somewhat anarchic, and the display, with its full 5x4 matrix calendar readout, is too fussy by half. The cut-away front-panel styling (also seen in the Philips *CD721*) gives the unit attractively sleek lines, however, and if you can live with the rather protracted track access times, the main controls are a peach. Headphones can be



accommodated, although at fixed level only, and an optical flavour digital output is provided, but with no electrical equivalent.

The *CDP-XE500* reviewed here has clearly been through Sony's finishing school, a UK-based team of golden ears led by Eric Kingdon. The aim is to UK-orient or, if you prefer, simply improve the sound quality of the original factory prototype prior to production. Partly for cost reasons and also because the team was happy with the basic product, very few changes were deemed necessary in this case.

Sound Quality

With very consistent individual scoring averaging 7.5/10 overall, this baby Sony ranked convincingly higher than its more costly sibling, the *CDP-XE900E*. The following comments are typical: 'Good vocals with plenty of atmosphere around the voice and good timing. This is a clear, incisive player that offers a big window on the music (Jennifer Warnes),' and 'very impressive at capturing the drama and scale of a performance and the tension of this large-scale piece. Strings are very plausible and instru-

mental timbre is generally very good (Bartok).'

Mild criticisms were expressed by some, with one telling comment pointing to a 'wall of sound' quality (with the Holst brass piece), and a 'hi-fi-ish' overall balance from one

listener who recognised the ultra-detailed aural fingerprint of a Sony player. He went on to describe the player as the 'best of the day' up to that point. Other comments were directed at vocal quality (good), timing (clear and incisive) and immediacy (strong). To quote one typical sum-up comment: 'This is a good player which is both musical and bouncy with a fair sense of dynamics and timbre.' And so say all of us.

The panel was united in its view, and I agree with what they said. But my separate hands-on session suggested that the Sony has a gently constrained quality that is best suited to systems of medium capability and resolving power where other CD players will often sound harsh or thin.

Conclusion

With strong resolving power and very respectable dynamics, the *CDP-XE500* also brings good audio manners to an area of the market often lacking in such qualities. The jog dial is a boon to those who don't just play discs from the beginning to the end, and the overall strength of the package makes a Best Buy rating mandatory. **AG** ▶▶

VERDICT

SOUND ★★☆☆☆
VALUE ★★★★★
PRICE £160

- ▲ Good all-rounder with the kind of presentation that suits middle-ranking systems particularly well; jog dial.
- ▼ Messy display; non-removable stickers plastered over fascia.
- ✉ Sony National Operations Centre, Pipers Way, Thatcham, Berks. RG13 4LZ
- ☎ (0181) 784 1184

THE LAB REPORT

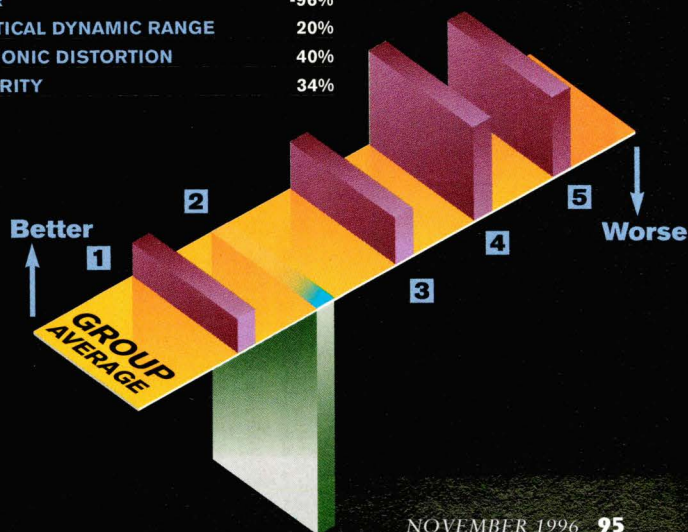
First things first. This *CDP-XE500* is not a stripped-down version of Sony's high-tech *CDP-XE900E*. Instead, the *XE500*, with its integrated H-Pulse DAC, is really a feature-packed version of the budget *XE200* and *XE300* players. The DAC's noise-shaping and digital filtering are not as effective as they are in the *CDP-XE900E*, therefore treble distortion is largely attributable to spurious noise, leading to a slightly brighter and perhaps more forward sound when partnered with amplifiers that are susceptible to such out-of-band signals. Odd-order IM distortion at 0.01 per cent is also slightly higher than expected.

Otherwise, the *CDP-XE500* has a higher than average dynamic range and impressive low-level linearity, a very flat response, good crystal clock selection and a huge >100dB separation between L and R stereo channels. Jitter looks appalling at 1782psec, but because it's composed entirely of low-rate hum and supply-induced components, it will have far less subjective impact than, say, the data-induced jitter suffered by the NAD, Yamaha and Technics players elsewhere in this test.

With a cleaned-up power supply the *CDP-XE500* could easily become a serious force to contend with! **PM**

HOW IT COMPARES

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|------|
| 1 | SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES | 14% |
| 2 | JITTER | -96% |
| 3 | PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE | 20% |
| 4 | HARMONIC DISTORTION | 40% |
| 5 | LINEARITY | 34% |

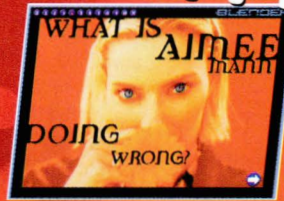


The interactive pop culture magazine on CD-ROM!

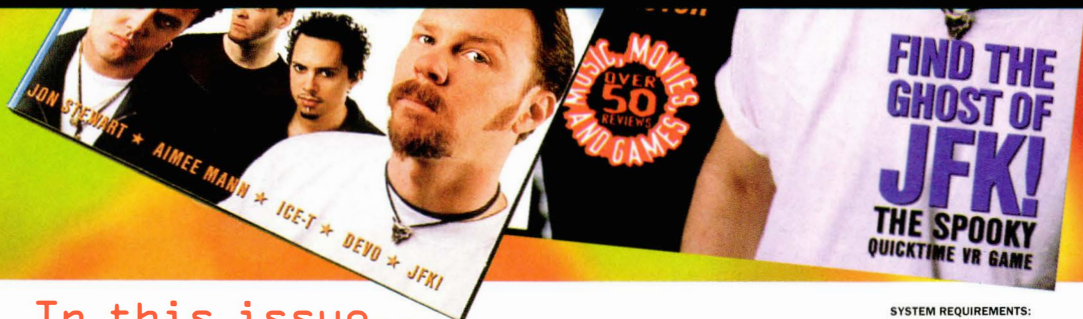
New to the UK

"Funky graphics complement trendy music/lifestyle content... a spiky editorial slant and a few surprises". Esquire

"Blender, the first mainstream youth mag on CD-ROM provides hours of fun: interviews with the celebs actually talking; music... and film reviews". Time Out



Music, films, computer games reviews



In this issue...

- Metallica Cuts Loose. Music from the new release. Plus music videos, guitar solos, the music video women, the imagery, the clothes.
- "Find the Ghost of JFK": Tour the site of his assassination (Dealey Plaza) in Quicktime Virtual Reality. Discover clues, 1963 facts, and other famous ghosts—Marilyn Monroe, Kurt Cobain, Jim Morrison, Andy Warhol. Find JFK and you could win an Apple Powerbook!
- Devo's Digital Rebirth: Their new *Adventures of the Smart Patrol* CD-ROM, and the Evolution /De-evolution of the band.
- "What is Aimee Mann Doing Wrong? Theories as to Why Her Albums Keep Tanking."
- Video interviews with Ice-T and Actor Martin Donovan—including movie clips.
- Search for collectibles from the future in Blender's "Jungle of Kitsch," an interactive search-and-find-against-the-clock game.
- Plus over 50 reviews—games, films, and music.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:

Windows
 MCP2 strongly recommended
 Windows 3.1 (or later) with DOS 6.2 (or later)
 486 or Pentium PC required
 4 Megabytes FREE RAM (6 recommended)
 Sound Card (Most modules)
 13" VGA or SVGA monitor
 Quicktime 2.02 for Windows (supplied)
 CD-ROM drive (double speed or better recommended)

Macintosh
 Macintosh System 7
 68030 processor required
 60040 or better strongly recommended
 4 Megabytes FREE RAM (6 recommended)
 13" colour screen (256 colour)
 Quicktime 2.0 + Apple Multimedia Tuner (supplied)
 CD-ROM drive (double speed or better recommended)



All for only £9.99



BLENDER



It all adds up to 6 hours of engrossing entertainment

Sony CDP-XE900E

This is the key model in Sony's new six-string range of CD players, and has had the greatest attention lavished on it by Sony's UK design team. (The aim is to invest audiophile pizzazz into high-fidelity components that are competitively priced, as only such a large company can offer.)

On one level, the CDP-XE900E looks like an up-spec version of the CDP-XE500, with a similar but slightly more complex control set. But the headphone socket has disappeared, and the digital output is still optical-only. The parallel-tracking player mechanism is built into the sliding drawer, in the same fashion as a lightweight version of the topology that has been used by Meridian for years. The reason is the same: to dampen vibrations in the lightweight optical system.

The real news, however, is the package of some 40-odd sound-improving measures specified for the UK. They include thickened chassis panels, asymmetric shock-absorbing feet, beefed-up transformer, improved rectification, improved power supply condensers and wiring, plus optimised grounding and improved capacitors (from Muse and Silmic). The main PC board is of symmetrical construction, and the digital hardware includes a Pulse DAC (CDX8505BQ)

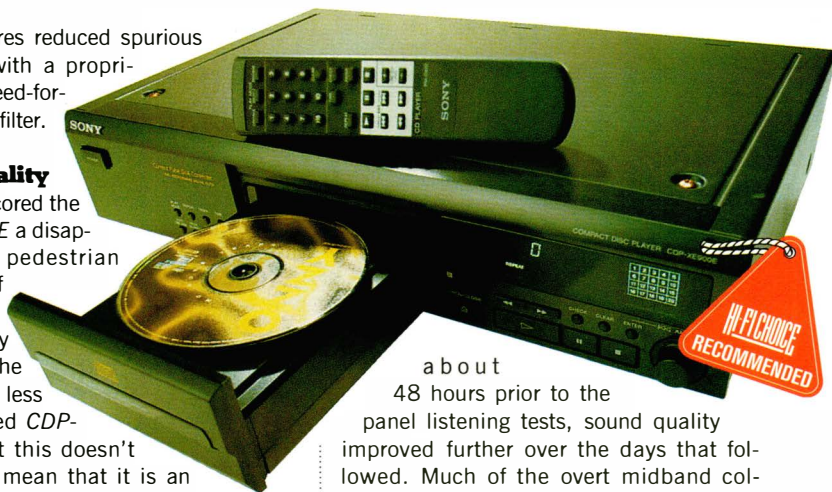
which features reduced spurious radiation, with a proprietary Full Feed-forward digital filter.

Sound Quality

The panel scored the CDP-XE900E a disappointingly pedestrian average of 5.5/10, significantly lower than the cheaper and less sophisticated CDP-XE500. But this doesn't necessarily mean that it is an inferior player. Indeed, some judges recognised in the CDP-XE900E a design that was more ambitious and more willing to go for the metaphorical jugular, even if it was thought only partly successful in doing so. In fairness, it should also be pointed out that the scoring was more scattered than usual, ranging from 4/10 to 7/10.

The general observation (with which I agree) is that the CDP-XE900E was lucid and well-separated with a strong sense of authority and weight in the bass, but with some distinctive colorations and loss of precision at mid and higher frequencies. 'Very sweet, perhaps too sweet, with muted dynamics', wrote one participant of the Holst brass piece, while another described it as 'lacking in detail - mellow, spongy and soft'. In a more positive vein, however, another wrote that the Bartok had 'a solid character to the sound', and that although not especially dynamic, it was nevertheless 'well-proportioned and lucid'.

Although the player was warmed up for



about 48 hours prior to the panel listening tests, sound quality improved further over the days that followed. Much of the overt midband coloration was reduced to a point where it ceased to be a problem. Although it sometimes handled music as if with kid gloves, unlike more tactile alternatives like the Cambridge Audio CD6, I rate the Sony as a communicator *par excellence*. It made light of difficult musical scores and portrayed much of the tension, vitality and beauty in such potentially difficult recordings as Mahler 2/Kaplan on Everest and Sibelius *Violin Concerto*/Anne-Sophie Mutter.

Conclusion

So much work has gone into preventing this player from misbehaving that some of the more positive virtues have been ironed out. As one wit put it: 'Music that lifts has been turned into music for lifts.' My own subsequent hands-on suggests that this is a player whose virtues will grow on you after a period of time, thanks partly to an uncommonly protracted running-in time. On this basis, I am happy to subvert the panels' judgement with a Recommended tag. **AG** ▶▶

VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★☆

VALUE ★★★★★☆

PRICE £300

▲ After a long warm-up this player matures into a refined yet analytical disc-scavenging tool.

▼ Sometimes likes to play safe, some midband coloration, and needs to be left switched on.

✉ Sony National Operations Centre, Pipers Way, Thatcham, Berks. RG13 4LZ

☎ (0181) 784 1184

THE LAB REPORT

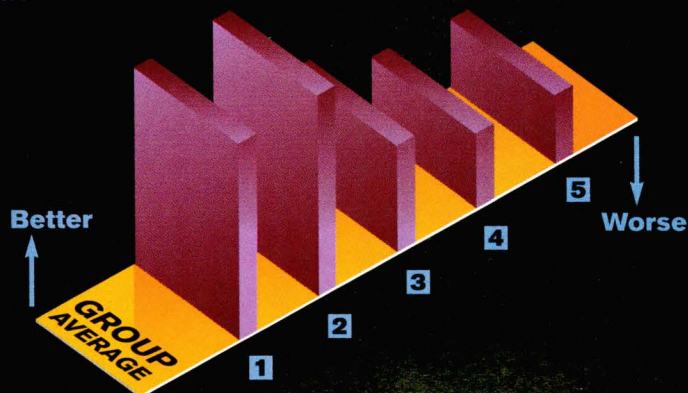
The key to the uniqueness of the Sony CDP-XE900E is its newly-developed 'fixed laser pick-up unit'. Here, although the laser is fixed, it's able to focus. The CD and disc motor assembly is mounted in a cradle that slides to and fro over the laser's line of sight. Evidently, Sony believes that by separating these two planes of movement, any reduction in mechanical, if not electrical, inter-modulation between the actions of the focus and tracking servos, represents a worthwhile goal.

Either way, it's the digital heart of the player that promotes its smooth and sophisticated sound, combining elements of the CDP-761E and CDP-XA2ES with its superb eight-times digital filter and separate current-pulse bit converter, the CXA-8042. This endows the CDP-XE900E with a low 218psec of jitter and distortion that remains below 0.0018 per cent at 0dB and 0.01 per cent at -30dB, which is where all the musical action takes place. Low-level linearity is held within tight 0.7dB limits, while the good 101.4dB S/N ratio and low +3dB noise modulation all help to crank up its working dynamic range.

This is high-tech stuff at a very reasonable price. **PM**

HOW IT COMPARES

1	SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES	84%
2	JITTER	86%
3	PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE	47%
4	HARMONIC DISTORTION	32%
5	LINEARITY	29%



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

...WHAT HI-FI

and only available from these dealers...

- ABERDEEN**
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
01224 587070
ACCRINGTON
Cryers
01254 391440
ALDERLEY EDGE
Aston Audio
01625 582704
ALDERSHOT
Sextons Hi-Fi
01252 20728
AYLESBURY
Northwood Audio II
01296 28790
BANGOR
I&H Griffiths & Sons
01248 370655
BARKING
Hyper-Fi
0181 591 6961
BARNSTAPLE
J & A Video Centre
01271 24384
BARROW IN FURNESS
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
01229 838757
BASINGSTOKE
Audio T
01256 24311
BATH
Moss of Bath
01225 465085
Paul Green Hi-Fi
01225 316197
BEDFORD
Richard's Audio Visual
01234 365165
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
01234 272779
BELFAST
Audio Times
01232 249117
Richer Sounds
01232 321332
BIDEFORD
J & A Cameras
01237 421791
BIRMINGHAM
Five Ways Hi-Fi
0121 455 0667
Music Matters
0121 429 2811
Music Matters
0121 742 0254
Norman H. Field
Hi-Fi
0121 622 2323
Richer Sounds
0121 643 1516
Superfi
0121 631 2875
BISHOP'S STORTFORD
Chew & Osborne
01279 656401
The Audio File
01279 506576
BLACKBURN
Practical Hi-Fi
01254 691104
Romers Hi-Fi
Centre
01254 887799
BLACKPOOL
Practical Hi-Fi
01253 300599
BLOXWICH
Sound Academy
01922 473499
BOLTON
Practical Hi-Fi
01204 395789
- BOURNEMOUTH**
Movement Audio
01302 529888
BRACKNELL
B&B Hi-Fi
01344 424556
BRENTWOOD
Hi-Spek
Electronics
01277 226303
BRIGHTON
Richer Sounds
01273 673333
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
01273 733338
the powerplant
Hi-Fi
01273 775978
BRISTOL
Richer Sounds
0117 973 4397
V Audio
0117 968 6005
BROMBOROUGH
CROSS
Peter's Hi-Fi
0151 344 1874
BROMSGROVE
Spains
01527 872460
BURTON UPON TRENT
Grange Hi-Fi
01283 533655
BURY
ST. EDMUNDS
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
01284 753776
CAMBORNE
E.T.S.
01209 712344
R.J.F. Audio Visual
01209 612260
CAMBRIDGE
Campkins Hi-Fi
01223 312240
The Audio File
01223 68305
CANTERBURY
Q Audio
01227 462787
CARDIFF
Richer Sounds
01222 465654
CARLISLE
Practical Hi-Fi
01228 44792
CASTLEFORD
Eric Wiley Hi-Fi
01977 556774
CHATHAM
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
01634 846859
CHELMSFORD
Rhythms (Colvill
Hi-Fi) 01245 325125
Richer Sounds
01245 355666
CHELTENHAM
Audio T
01242 583960
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
01242 241171
CHESTER
Peter's Hi-Fi
01244 319392
CHIPPENHAM
JD Stereo Centre
01249 654357
- CHORLEY**
Monitor Sound
01257 271935
COLCHESTER
Pro Musica
01206 577519
CONGLETON
The Hi-Fi Showrooms
01260 280017
COVENTRY
Frank Harvey Hi-Fi
Excellence
01203 525200
Superfi
01203 223254
CROYDON
Richer Sounds
0181 667 1100
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
0181 655 1203
Spaldings Hi-Fi
0181 654 1231
DARLINGTON
Hi-Fi Experience
01325 481418
DERBY
Superfi
01332 360303
DOUGLAS
Island Compact
Disc Centre
01624 674505
DUBLIN 1
Hi-Fi Corner
01671 4343
Richer Sounds
01671 9666
DUBLIN 4
The Sony Centre
01667 0990
DUNDEE
J.D. Brown
01382 226591
W. M. Coupar
01382 229588
EASTBOURNE
Smythe & Barrie
01323 729192
EAST GRINSTEAD
Audio Designs
01342 314569
EDGWARE
Musical Images
0181 952 5535
EDINBURGH
Bill Hutchinson
0131 220 0909
Bill Hutchinson
0131 667 2877
Richer Sounds
0131 226 3544
ENFIELD
Audio T
0181 367 3132
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
0181 3421973
EPING
Chew & Osborne
01992 574242
EXMOUTH
Exe Video &
Satellite Centre
01395 278558
FALKIRK
Hi-Fi Corner
01324 629011
- FOLKESTONE**
Halksworth Wheeler
01303 255688
V.J. Hi-Fi
01303 256860
GATESHEAD
Linton Audio
0191 460 0999
Linton Audio
0191 477 4167
GLASGOW
Bill Hutchinson
0141 248 2857
Richer Sounds
0141 226 5551
The Music Room
0141 332 5012
GODSTONE
Surrey Hi-Fi
01883 744755
GUILDFORD
Rogers Hi-Fi
01483 61049
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
0483 36566
HALIFAX
Huddersfield Hi-Fi
Centre
01422 366632
HARROGATE
Harrogate Hi-Fi
Centre
01423 504274
HARROW
Harrow Audio
0181 863 0938
HASTINGS
Adams & Jarrett
01424 437165
HEREFORD
English Audio
01432 355081
HIGH WYCOMBE
B&B Hi-Fi
0171 794 7848
Auditorium
0171 247 5000
Bartletts Hi-Fi
0171 607 2296
HOUNSLOW
Musical Images
0181 569 5802
HUDDERSFIELD
Huddersfield Hi-Fi
Centre
01484 544668
HULL
Superfi
01482 324051
Zen Audio
01482 587397
ILFORD
Audio T
0181 518 0915
PRC Hi-Fi & Video
0181 514 7448
IPSWICH
Eastern Audio
01473 217217
KETTERING
Classic Hi-Fi
01536 310855
KINGS LYNN
Martins Hi-Fi
01533 761683
KINGSTON UPON THAMES
Infidelity
0181 943 3530
Richer Sounds
0181 549 9999
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
0181 547 0717
- LANCASTER**
Practical Hi-Fi
01524 36991
LEEDS
Bill Hutchinson
0113 242 7777
Richer Sounds
0113 2455717
Superfi
0113 244 9075
LEICESTER
Leicester Hi-Fi
Company
0116 2539753
Listen Inn
0116 2623754
May's Hi-Fi
0116 262 5625
Richer Sounds
0116 255 4656
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
0116 257518
The Stereo Shack
0116 253 0330
LINCOLN
Superfi
01552 520265
LIVERPOOL
Beaver Hi-Fi
0151 709 9898
Better Hi-Fi
0151 227 5007
Richer Sounds
0151 708 7484
LLANDUDNO
Richer Sounds
01492 876788
LONDON
A&M Electronics
0171 580 1577
Audio Concept
0181 567 8703
Audio T
0171 794 7848
Auditorium
0171 247 5000
Bartletts Hi-Fi
0171 607 2296
Brians Hi-Fi
0171 631 1109
Chelsea Audio Visual
Centre
0171 352 2596
Francis of Streatham
0181 769 0466
Grahams Hi-Fi
0171 226 5500
Hi-Fi Care
0171 637 7879
Hi-Fi Care
0171 637 8911
Hi-Fi Confidential
0171 233 7225
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
01376 501733
Hi-Fi Surplus Store
0171 323 6712
Hi-Fi Surplus Store
0171 935 7582
Hi-Spek Electronics
0181 349 1186
Karnia Electronics
0171 323 2747
K.J.L. West One
0171 486 8262
- LONDON**
Kerco Electronics
0181 743 3698
Martin-Kleiser
0181 742 3444
M. O'Brien Hi-Fi
0181 946 1528
Musical Images
0171 497 1346
Myers Audio
0181 520 7277
Oranges & Lemons
0171 924 2040
Richer Sounds
PRC Hi-Fi & Video
0181 470 3499
Richer Sounds
0171 352 8496
Richer Sounds
0171 403 1201
Richer Sounds
0171 722 3359
Richer Sounds
0171 831 2888
Richer Sounds
0171 626 8006
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
0171 352 9466
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
0181 855 8016
Shasonic
0171 323 0333
NOTTINGHAM
Spatial Audio & Video
0171 637 8702
Studio One
0171 371 3037
Superfi
0171 388 1300
The Cornflake Shop
0171 631 0472
The Sound
Organisation
01531 62917
OLDHAM
John Munro
01343 812340
LUTON
B&B Hi-Fi
01582 459915
MAIDENHEAD
B&B Hi-Fi
01628 73420
MAIDSTONE
Halksworth
Wheeler
01622 756756
MANCHESTER
Bill Hutchinson
0161 832 1600
Central Radio
0161 834 6700
Practical Hi-Fi
0161 839 8869
Superfi
0181 835 1156
The Hi-Fi Room
0161 832 0888
MANSFIELD
Technique Hi-Fi
01623 26315
MARGATE
V.J. Hi-Fi
01843 226977
MILTON KEYNES
Technosound
01908 604949
NEW MALDEN
Grandix
0181 336 0012
NEWBURY
B&B Hi-Fi
01635 32474
NEWCASTLE
Bill Hutchinson
0191 230 3600
Richer Sounds
0191 2301392
NEWPORT
Hi-Fi Western
01633 262790
NEWQUAY
Quarterdeck Music
01637 851441
NORTHAMPTON
Listen Inn
01604 37871
NORTHWOOD
Northwood Hi-Fi
01923 820877
NORWICH
Basically Sound
01508 570829
Martins Hi-Fi
01603 627010
NOTTINGHAM
Forum Hi-Fi & Video
Centre
0115 962 2657
Richer Sounds
0115 9241551
0115 9412137
OBAN
Frank Walton Hi-Fi
01631 62917
OLDHAM
Audio Counsel
0161 633 2602
OTLEY
Aston Audio
01943 467689
OXFORD
Audio T
01865 65961
Oxford Audio
Consultants
01865 790879
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
01865 241773
PAIGNTON
Upton Electronics
01803 551329
PERTH
W. M. Coupar
01738 634809
PETERBOROUGH
Audio Vision
01733 352752
The Hi-Fi Company
01733 341755
PLYMOUTH
The Hi-Fi Attic
01752 669511
POOLE
Movement Audio
01202 730885
PORTSMOUTH
Now That's Hi-Fi
01705 811230
PRESTON
Goodrights
01772 257528
Practical Hi-Fi
01772 883958
- MILTON KEYNES**
Technosound
01908 604949
NEW MALDEN
Grandix
0181 336 0012
NEWBURY
B&B Hi-Fi
01635 32474
NEWCASTLE
Bill Hutchinson
0191 230 3600
Richer Sounds
0191 2301392
NEWPORT
Hi-Fi Western
01633 262790
NEWQUAY
Quarterdeck Music
01637 851441
NORTHAMPTON
Listen Inn
01604 37871
NORTHWOOD
Northwood Hi-Fi
01923 820877
NORWICH
Basically Sound
01508 570829
Martins Hi-Fi
01603 627010
NOTTINGHAM
Forum Hi-Fi & Video
Centre
0115 962 2657
Richer Sounds
0115 9241551
0115 9412137
OBAN
Frank Walton Hi-Fi
01631 62917
OLDHAM
Audio Counsel
0161 633 2602
OTLEY
Aston Audio
01943 467689
OXFORD
Audio T
01865 65961
Oxford Audio
Consultants
01865 790879
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
01865 241773
PAIGNTON
Upton Electronics
01803 551329
PERTH
W. M. Coupar
01738 634809
PETERBOROUGH
Audio Vision
01733 352752
The Hi-Fi Company
01733 341755
PLYMOUTH
The Hi-Fi Attic
01752 669511
POOLE
Movement Audio
01202 730885
PORTSMOUTH
Now That's Hi-Fi
01705 811230
PRESTON
Goodrights
01772 257528
Practical Hi-Fi
01772 883958
- PRESTWICH**
Richer Sounds
0161 773 0333
RAMSEY
Island Compact Disc
Centre
01624 815521
READING
Audio T
0118 958 5463
B&B Hi-Fi
01734 583730
Richer Sounds
01734 591111
ROTHERHAM
Hi-Fi Western
01633 262790
SAFFRON WALDEN
Chew & Osborne
01799 523728
SCARBOROUGH
Audio One
01723 355654
SEVENOAKS
Performance Hi-Fi
Systems
01732 740425
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
01743 459555
SHEFFIELD
Moorgate Acoustics
0114 2756048
Richer Sounds
0114 2661616
Superfi
0114 2723768
SHREWSBURY
Creative Audio
01743 241924
Shropshire Hi-Fi
01743 232317
SLOUGH
Fraser's Hi-Fi
Video
01753 520244
SOUTHAMPTON
Richer Sounds
01703 231311
ST. ALBANS
Radlett Audio
01923 856497
ST. AUGUSTINE
E.T.S.
01726 75400
ST. NEOTS
A N Audio
01480 472071
Audio Vision
01480 471202
STAMFORD
Stamford Hi-Fi
01780 602128
STOCKPORT
Richer Sounds
0161 480 1700
STOKE
Living Designs
01782 260047
Superfi
01782 265010
STOURBRIDGE
Music Matters
01384 444184
SWANSEA
Quinn's Audio
Visual Systems
01792 773644
- SWINDON**
Audio T
01793 538222
THAME
Theme Audio
01844 215431
THORNTON HEATH
AWE
0181 653 3657
TORQUAY
Chelston Hi-Fi
01803 606863
TRURO
E.T.S.
01872 79809
TUNBRIDGE
Wells
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
01892 531543
TUXFORD
nr Newark
Chantry Audio
01777 870372
UXBRIDGE
Uxbridge Audio
01895 230404
WALLINGFORD
01732 740425
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
01491 839305
WARRINGTON
Doug Brady Hi-Fi
0114 2756048
Practical Hi-Fi
01925 32179
WATFORD
Hi-Fi City
01923 226169
Richer Sounds
01923 218888
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
01923 213533
WEST WICKHAM
Strling Sounds
0181 777 9321
WYBRIDGE
Cosmic
01932 854522
WEYMOUTH
Weymouth Hi-Fi
01305 785729
WILMSLOW
Swift Hi-Fi of
Wilmslow
01625 526213
WOKING
Bartletts Hi-Fi
01483 771175
WOLVERHAMPTON
Superfi
01902 727901
WORCESTER
Sevenoaks Hi-Fi
01905 612929
WORTHING
Bowers & Wilkins
01903 264141
Phase 3 Hi-Fi
01903 245577
WREXHAM
Acton Gate Audio
01978 364500
YEOVIL
Mike Manning
Audio
01935 79361
YORK
Vickers Hi-Fi
01904 629659



CableTalk
Interconnects & Speaker Cables



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

Please quote HFC 10/96

Technics SL-PG480A

Atypically well-turned-out player from the Technics stable, the *SL-PG480A* has an unusually well-oiled drawer mechanism and a fluorescent dot-matrix display. It is well-equipped with all the usual widgets and then some — a digital output level control, peak-level search, random play, auto-cue and random track access via the remote control, although there's no headphone socket and no digital output. The most surprising feature here, however, is the price-tag: £140 is ultra-competitive for a player sporting build of this quality. By contrast, the correlation between features and price is often a negative one, with the cheapest units frequently being the best-equipped.

Buried at the heart of the *SL-PG480A*, and perhaps also one of the key reasons for the low selling price, is a single-chip LSI (Large Scale Integrated Circuit) that performs the functions of digital conversion, optical servo control and much of the remaining signal processing. This leads to a simple, well-rationalised circuit.

In common with other Technics players, the convertor is a MASH low-bit type, and the servo is said to be an improved version of one used in previous generations of Technics CD players.

VERDICT

SOUND ★★☆☆☆
VALUE ★★★★★
PRICE £140

▲ Well turned out, with a particularly slick drawer mechanism; full, driving sound.

▼ Uneven balance and unsubtle top-end impede reproduction of acoustic material.

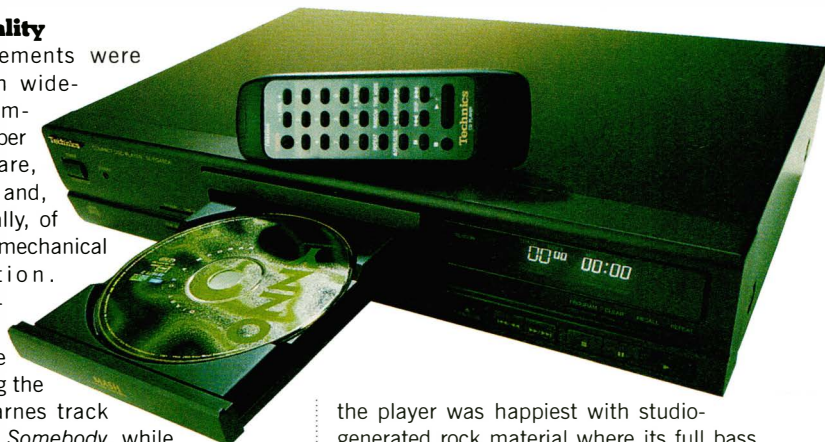
✉ Panasonic Consumer Electronics UK, Panasonic House, Willoughby Rd, Bracknell, Berks RG12 4FP
 (0990) 357357

Sound Quality

Panel judgements were mixed, with widespread complaints of upper midband glare, poor timing and, more generally, of a muddled, mechanical presentation. 'Slow, ponderous bass', wrote one following the Jennifer Warnes track *Somewhere, Somebody*, while the excellent Holst brass recording of the *Opus 28 No 1 Suite* was said to sound 'not entirely convincing and out of tune'. Similarly, the clarinet in the Ravel recording was criticised for being 'super-wide' and for sounding 'tonally strange... a bit like a recorder', a comment that found echoes in other pieces and from other panel members, albeit intermittently.

Only one panellist demurred, describing the player as displaying '(wide) tonal variety, some dynamics and good transparency'. 'Nicely balanced perspectives,' he wrote of the Ravel, although he did go on to criticise the bass for sounding 'light', which was echoed more strongly as 'lumpy' and 'slow and ponderous' by others.

My own separate listening also pointed to the Technics's modest standard of music-making. An acoustic guitar recording by Martin Taylor (*Artistry* on Linn Records) had a leaden, boomy bass, a steely mid and a recessed, rather unsubtle, upper harmonic structure. A similar lack of balance and analysis was heard elsewhere. Generally,



the player was happiest with studio-generated rock material where its full bass and prominent midband helped propel the music forwards in a convincing fashion. But the uneven nature of the design was clearly less at home with acoustic material, small or large-scale, and had the secondary effect of reducing both the expressiveness and individuality of vocal material.

During my hands-on sessions, I also found that the Technics was a little more sensitive to the physical condition of discs than some, sometimes muting momentarily where the best of the opposition would play cleanly without any break. The presumption is that it was also interpolating data more than some of the others, which may well have had an effect on sound quality.

Conclusion

The *SL-PG480A* might have done better if there weren't so many talented low-cost CD players around right now. As it is, this is a modestly effective deck with certain types of material, but it's also one that will be found wanting when the going gets tough. It is well-built, though, and very easy to use. **AG** ▶▶

THE LAB REPORT

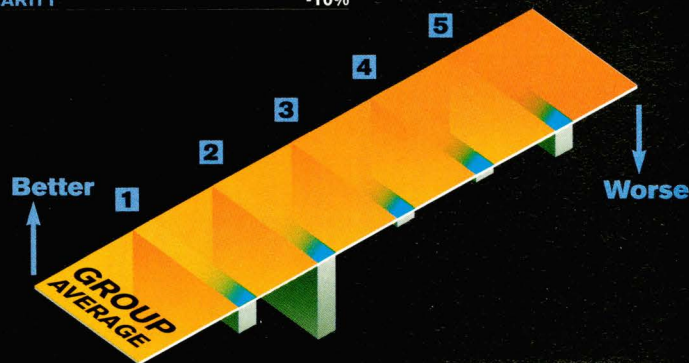
The Technics *SL-PG480A* is a highly integrated player employing a variation on Philips's *CDM12* transport mechanism and a super-slim audio board equipped with the latest version of its own 'player-on-a-chip' LSI (the *MN662713*) and very basic analogue filtering. Earlier versions of this LSI have been used in Technics's *SL-PG460A* (issue 139) and even in Yamaha's *CDX-480* (issue 147); players that all featured a slightly rippled frequency response, an acceptable 98dB S/N ratio and a characteristic 'blip' in their low-level linearity below -90dB at 20kHz.

Otherwise, the *SL-PG480A* exhibits very similar characteristics to the Sony *CDP-XE500* in respect of ultrasonic noise, but shows higher levels of THD overall (typically 0.0013-0.025 per cent at 0dB). There's also a shortfall in channel separation at both treble and bass frequencies due to capacitive and power supply coupling, respectively.

The latter is probably linked to the player's indistinct bass, while its high 1049psec of data-induced jitter (a common feature of Technics players) accounts for the muddling and unevenness heard elsewhere. Poor clock selection also accounts for the huge +975ppm error (equal to a +19.5Hz shift at 20kHz), although this is an issue of quality rather than audibility. **PM**

HOW IT COMPARES

1	SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES	-10%
2	JITTER	-32%
3	PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE	-2%
4	HARMONIC DISTORTION	-2%
5	LINEARITY	-10%



ARCAM
 AUDIO LAB
 CHORD
 NAIM
 KESWICK RESEARCH

ALSO:-
 APOLLO
 A.T.
 AUDIO ALCHEMY
 AUDIO QUEST
 B&W
 BOSE
 BEYER
 CABLE TALK
 CHORD COMPANY
 CYRUS
 CELESTION
 DPA
 EPOS
 EXPOSURE
 KEF REFERENCE
 KENWOOD
 MARANTZ
 MICHELL
 MORDAUNT SHORT
 MERIDIAN
 MICROMEGA
 MISSION
 MOTH
 MUSICAL FIDELITY
 NAKAMICHI
 ORTOFON
 PROJECT
 QUAD
 ROKSAN
 ROGERS
 ROTEL
 SENNHEISER
 SONY
 SUMIKO
 SYSTEMDEK
 TARGET
 TDL
 TUBE TECHNOLOGY
 VAN DEN HUL
 YAMAHA

TV & VCR FROM
 SONY
 PANASONIC
 NOKIA-WIDESCREEN

LASER DISC PLAYERS
 FROM SONY
 PIONEER

PROJECTION UNITS
 FROM
 SANYO
 VIDIKRON
 SELECO

A C A D E M Y

**VOTED
 BEST DEALER 1996**
 C.E.T.I. INDUSTRY AWARDS 1996



Our Three Hi-fi Studios and dedicated Large Screen Theatre allow you to experience the best in sound and technology. Interconnects, speakers, whatever your requirements, our professional staff will help you make the right choice.

Established in 1981 in the heart of the country, Sound Academy is accessible by the M6, only five minutes from junctions 10 & 11, and just 15 minutes drive from Birmingham. Sound Academy have Hi-Fi for the beginner, the enthusiast and the audiophile.

If you've got an eye for quality,
 You can't fail to see us



FREE UNBIASED
 ADVICE



SUPERB RANGE
 OF EQUIPMENT



HOME CINEMA
 SPECIALIST



FREE
 DEMONSTRATIONS



PART EXCHANGE
 WELCOME



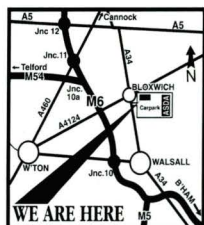
DELIVERY &
 INSTALLATION



INTEREST FREE
 CREDIT ON
 SELECTED ITEMS
 (Subject to Status.
 Written Details available on request)



SERVICE
 DEPARTMENT



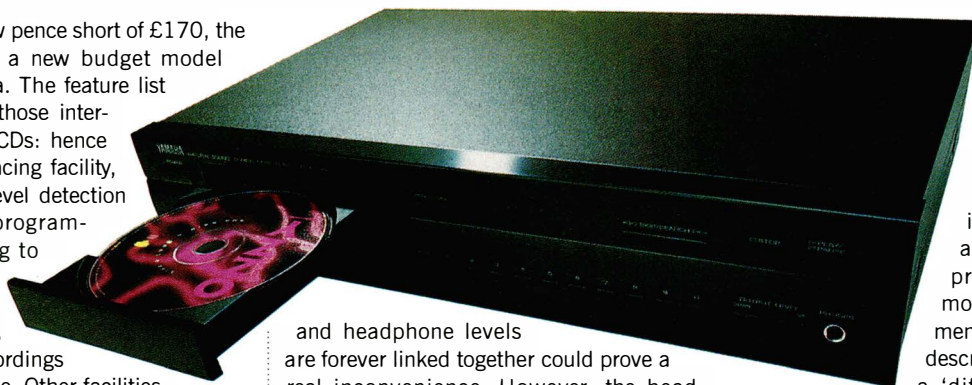
152a High Street, Bloxwich,
 Nr. Walsall, West Midlands, WS3 3JT.
 01922 473499/493499

The Academics of Hi-Fi

Yamaha CDX-490

Selling at a few pence short of £170, the CDX-490 is a new budget model from Yamaha. The feature list is aimed at those interested in copying CDs: hence the automatic spacing facility, automatic peak level detection and automatic programming for recording to tape. With a suitable Yamaha cassette deck, synchronised recordings are readily possible. Other facilities have not been ignored, however. An optical digital output is fitted, although you'd have to go for one of the senior Yamaha CD players if you have a serious digital recording habit and prefer to use an electrical digital feed. The display can be dimmed, but it cannot be switched off altogether.

A headphone socket is supplied, and a front-panel digital output level control varies the feed to the headphones and the amplifier alike, though why anyone should need the latter is hard to imagine. More to the point, this type of control is detrimental to sound quality when left at anything other than full output, and the fact that the main



and headphone levels are forever linked together could prove a real inconvenience. However, the headphone socket was dead on our sample.

Ergonomics are good thanks to a well-designed orange display, a set of random-access track-number keys fitted to the front of the player, and last but not least the remote control. Build quality is fairly standard, but the finish is a cut above average.

Sound Quality

This model elicited neutral to negative comments from the panel, with overall scores ranging between 3 and 5/10 on the first presentation, and between 2 and 5/10 on a repeat presentation, with one panel member correctly identifying the player as a repeat the second time around.

The main complaint was of a lack of control and focus, and a loss of sophistication. 'Forward, big-o-rama player with a ten-foot-high guitar and vocals... the kind of player that could plaster up the Grand Canyon,' wrote one, who later said that it had 'no articulation, no passion and no interest'. Another, more analytically-minded listener remarked that the Yamaha sounded 'loud' but veiled, and that overall the balance was dark and subdued, and failed to hold the

attention due to a loss of resolution and fine detail, although it was also thought to be dynamic and relatively un-fatiguing; its vocal quality also attracted some praise. Perhaps the most appropriate comment was the one that described the Yamaha as a 'difficult player that

doesn't really do anything very badly, but has no particular strengths'.

In all, the CDX-490 was uninspiring. A well-recorded acoustic jazz guitar (Martin Taylor *Artistry*) came across as overblown and bland; the more subtle intonation was underplayed and the action noise from the neck of the instrument curiously muted. A recently-acquired Gilbert Kaplan *Mahler 2* (Everest) was leaden and dark-hewn in a second movement that should have lightened the spirits after hearing the first; the loss of detail and articulation was palpable, and so was the loss of interest that followed. Even stereo imagery seemed curiously unformed. Despite plenty of left and right information, focus was poor, giving a rather sloppy, cloud-like orchestral image.

Conclusion

Although promising-looking, this player is characterised by its uninspiring, plodding and ill-differentiated sound quality, exhibiting notes that don't appear to start and stop as quickly as they should. Regrettably, it can be summed up with a single word from the end of my listening notes: anodyne. **AG**

VERDICT

SOUND ★★★★★
VALUE ★★★★★
PRICE £170

▲ Big, blowsy sound contrasts with sharp, angular styling.

▼ Lack of precision and focus undermines the more interesting qualities of the music it plays.

✉ Yamaha Electronics UK Ltd, 200 Rickmansworth Road, Watford, Herts WD1 7JS

☎ (023) 233166

THE LAB REPORT

The origins of Yamaha's CDX-490 can be traced back to the older CDX-480 (issue 147) which used the same MN66271R LSI. This busy little processor, a predecessor of the chip found in the Technics SL-PG480, combines servo and signal processing, oversampling and MASH DAC functions on a single, cost-effective substrate. This also includes a 56-step digital volume control, which operates over the top 35dB of the player's dynamic range, dropping into mute below this level.

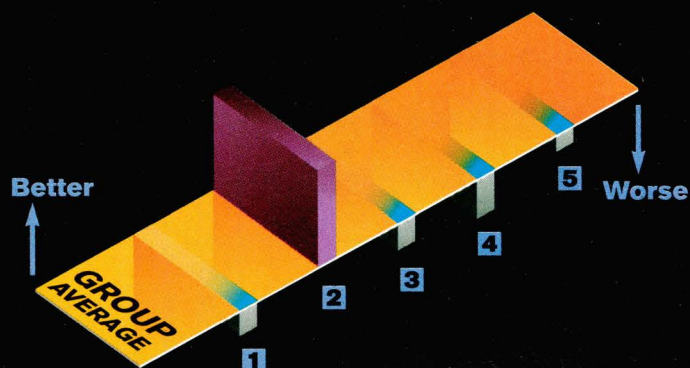
This single chip manages to totally dominate the player's overall performance, which is extremely similar to that of the rather grey and anodyne-sounding CDX-480.

All seems equal, except that this newer CDX-490 benefits from a tighter crystal selection (with an 11ppm error as opposed to 377ppm) and a lower incidence of digital jitter (463psec instead of 1225psec). Otherwise, distortion rests at 0.0025-0.018 per cent at peak output and is mainly second harmonic in nature, while at lower levels true distortion is overtaken by noise.

In practice, the CDX-490 only just achieves a 16-bit S/N ratio, while its high 1.1k Ohm output impedance augurs against long interconnects and/or amplifiers with a low (about 10k Ohm) input. **PM**

HOW IT COMPARES

- 1 SUPPRESSION OF DIGITAL IMAGES -10%
- 2 JITTER 41%
- 3 PRACTICAL DYNAMIC RANGE -11%
- 4 HARMONIC -16%
- 5 LINEARITY -7%



Does your Hi-Fi
sound like this?

When it should
sound like this.

**NEW
STORE IN
EXETER
NOW
OPEN**

Why put up with a blurred, tired sound when your hi-fi should sound crisp, clear and beautiful. At Audio Excellence you can choose from a wide range of Hi-Fi and Home Cinema products carefully chosen to give the best possible performance within your budget.

Audio Excellence is different. We have an unhurried, friendly atmosphere and helpful staff that won't blind you with jargon. Whether you are looking for a new system or upgrading your current system we will help you choose using our professional experience backed up by demonstration. We can deliver and install to make sure you get the best possible sound - crisp, clear and beautiful. **Sale now on - contact your local branch for details of the latest bargains.**

audio
excellence

WHERE THE MUSIC MATTERS

HI-FI AND HOME CINEMA CENTRES



PRESTON
131 Friargate, PR1 2EE. Tel: (01772) 253057
CHESTER
88/90 Boughton, CH3 5AQ. Tel: (01244) 345576
SWANSEA
9 High Street, SA1 1LE. Tel: (01792) 474608
CARDIFF
134/136 Crwys Rd, CF2 4NR. Tel: (01222) 228565
GLOUCESTER
58 Bristol Road, GL1 5SD. Tel: (01452) 300046
BRISTOL
65 Park Street, BS1 5PB. Tel: (0117) 926 4975
EXETER
156 Sidwell Street, EX4 6RT. Tel: (01392) 491194

Open Tuesday-Saturday 9.00-5.30. Closed Monday.

- Comfortable Hi-Fi & Home Cinema Demo Rooms
- 3 year warranty on Hi-Fi Separates
- Part Exchange Welcome
- Home Demonstrations
- Accessories and Upgrades
- Delivery and Installations
- Interest Free Credit (0% APR)
- Email us on CompuServe 100631,167 or visit our website at <http://www.audio-excellence.co.uk/> for more details and latest offers

Hi-Fi and Home Cinema makes stocked: Arcam, Audio Technica, Audio Lab, Audio Quest, B&W, Beyer, Castle, Chord, Denon, Duel, Dynavector, Epos, KEF, Linn, Loewe Television, Marantz, Meridian, Micromega, Miller & Kreisel, Mission, Myryad, NAD, Naim, Nakamichi, Philips, Pioneer and Pioneer Laserdisc Players, QED, Quad, Rel, Rotel, Sanyo LCD Projectors, Sennheiser, Shahinian, Tannoy, and Yamaha. (Not all products available at all branches - please 'phone before you travel).

Audio Excellence were nominated by CETI for Best Dealer '96 and by Home Cinema for Sony AV Dealer '95.

BRITISH AUDIO DEALERS ASSOCIATION
BADA
THE ULTIMATE IN
SOUND ADVICE

HOME
CINEMA
SPECIALIST
CENTRE

Conclusions

These tests revealed that while most of the players offer similar levels of equipment, the same cannot be said for their sound quality, which varied enormously. This observation is reflected in the scoring. Four models were awarded Best Buys, nine emerged with no ranking at all, and only two earned Recommended swing tags. If this doesn't suggest polarisation, then it's hard to imagine what does.

Looking at the players in price order demonstrates a scant correlation between cost and value. The simple fact is that there are some incredible bargains to be had at giveaway prices, some equally impressive bargains at almost three times the price, while the less-fancied models are evenly distributed throughout the price range covered.

The message from this is a mixed one. Choose carefully and you get what you pay for. The best players in absolute terms count among the most expensive here, and to this extent quality correlates with price. But the tests also show that you can buy badly at any price level – use our findings as a starting point, but take advantage of the dem room facilities provided by any half-decent hi-fi dealer, to listen to your shortlist.

While there were no absolute dogs in our test group, it was often the most impressively endowed that turned out to be the least exciting in practice. Take the Marantz CD-67, where the panel's general view was that it sounded simultaneously hard and spatially shut-in. It had its strengths too, at least a very physical style of delivery, but a

little more balance is needed before an unequivocal Recommendation is earned.

The list of misses and near misses included the MASH-powered models: the Technics SL-PG480A, (£140), the NAD 512 (£250) and the Harman/Kardon HD710 (£200). All suffered a hard-nosed quality, or at least a loss of subtlety, although previous experience suggests this isn't an inevitable MASH trait. Pioneer's PD-204 (£149) is nearing its sell-by date, but remains respectable, if untidy when extended. The Yamaha CDX-490 (£170) and the JVC XL-Z574 (£250) both demonstrated losses of euphony and articulation, and the Micromega Minium CD (£350) was uneven, with some positive qualities offset by a lack of dynamic range and some roughness.

Best Buys

The Best Buy bargain was the cracking £130 Philips CD721. Objectively, there's a lot that could be criticised — it's clearly a little soft and lacking in resolution — but it's attractive and easy to listen to for long periods. Anyway, at £130, who's counting?

A far more ambitious performer, the blandly-styled £170 Kenwood DP-3080, extracts a bolder and more visceral quality from your discs. However, it is by no means as easy-going as the Sony CDP-

XE500, which is another Best Buy. At only £160, the Sony has much of the Kenwood's vitality and *joie de vivre*, with the easy-on-the-ear quality of the Philips.

The main surprise with the Cambridge CD6 was that a player so ugly could sound so damn good. Cast in the Kenwood mould, it has more control and focus, but is largely lacking the slight edge-of-the-seat quality that can afflict the cheaper model. A true wolf in sheep's clothing.



Philips CD721



Kenwood DP-3080



Sony CDP-XE900E



Cambridge Audio CD6

Recommended

The £180 Sherwood CD-4030R looks like a fussy, ornate refugee from an earlier age. However, it has a clean, easy-going, attractive sound, although resolving power is not a strong suit. The other recommendation, the £300 Sony CDP-XE500E, is somewhat paradoxical. It delivers a sometimes soft yet full and authoritative bass, and a treble that is both analytical yet sweet-tongued. It needs a lot of running in and a sympathetic system, but if your budget is £300, keep it on your shortlist.



Sherwood CD-4030R



Sony CDP-XE500

Records at Cost

Now you can
buy your CDs
at dealer's
cost price

As a member of the WSL Records at Cost Service you can buy **any brand new CD at trade price** + postage and a small handling charge of **only 50p**

Only WSL - offering a music by mail order service for more than 35 years - can offer you such low cost listening.

Return the coupon, phone or fax us now and we'll send you full details of the **Records at Cost Service** and how to join

PLUS! We invite you to cash in on a MASSIVE CD WAREHOUSE CLEARANCE SALE



CDs AT ONLY A FRACTION OF THE ORIGINAL PRICE

Please send me full details about the **New Records at Cost Service** and all the benefits I can get from it. Including the **CD Warehouse Clearance Sale**. *Without Obligation.*

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

WILSON STEREO LIBRARY LTD

P.O. BOX 32 ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA EAST SUSSEX TN38 0UZ

Tel: (01424) 718254 Fax: (01424) 718262

HFC 11/96

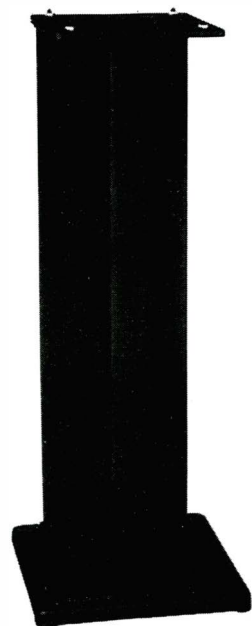
Atacama Audio

**Atacama
SE 24**

★★★★★

WHAT HI-FI? Aug '95

"Fill them with sand and they're unbettered for the money, injecting plenty of punch and panache into the sonic equation: tight as a drum, bass hits low, treble soars."



OTHER MODELS IN ATACAMA RANGE:

SE12	BD21	SL300
SE16	BD25	SL400
SE20	SX500	TP500
SE24	SX600	TP600
BD17	SX700	SE1000S
	SL200	

For your nearest authorised dealer and your free illustrated brochure, telephone or write to:

**SAMBELL ENGINEERING LTD,
WINSTON AVENUE, CROFT,
LEICESTER LE9 3GQ**

Tel: 01455 283251 Fax: 01455 283908

Dealer Guide

BERKSHIRE

B&B Hi-Fi
Berkshire's Leading Specialist

Aiwa, Akai, Alphason, Aura, Bang & Olufsen, Beyer, Bose, B+W, Canon, Castle, Celestion, Denon, Dual, Jamo, JPW, JVC, Kef, Kenwood, Marantz, Micromega, Mission, Mitsubishi, Monitor Audio, Mordaunt/Short, Musical Fidelity, NAD, Nakamichi, Panasonic, Path, Philips, Pioneer, Project, QED, Quad, Rel, Rogers, Rotel, Sennheiser, Sony, Tannoy, Target, Technics, TDK, Thorens, Wessex, Wharfedale, Yamaha.

Ask about FREE delivery & FREE installation

11-12 Market Place, Reading* Tel: 01734 583730
18 King Street, Maidenhead* Tel: 01628 73420
Princess Square, Bracknell* Tel: 01344 424556
4 Priory Road, High Wycombe Tel: 01494 535910
62 Northbrook Street, Newbury Tel: 01635 32474
12a Park Square, Luton* Tel: 01582 459915

*DEMONSTRATION ROOMS

Fraser's
HI-FI VIDEO

AUDIO & VIDEO SPECIALISTS

PIONEER ★ DENON ★ YAMAHA
ONKYO ★ NAD ★ KEF ★ MISSION

QUAD ★ MUSICAL FIDELITY
HOME CINEMA SPECIALIST

Unit 32, Observatory Centre, High Street,
Slough, Berkshire SL1 1LE
Tel: (01753) 531875

AKES
FOR BETTER HI-FI IN THE THAMES VALLEY

Agents for:

TECHNICS, KENWOOD, ROTEL, NAKAMICHI, B&W, MORDAUNT SHORT, SONY, PANASONIC, MITSUBISHI, PHILIPS, AIWA, J.V.C., WHARFEDALE, INFINITY

FREE DELIVERY • DEM ROOMS AT*

37 Stoke Road, Slough SL2 5AH (01753) 538287
252/254 High Street, Slough SL1 1BN (01753) 538288*
117/119 Oxford Road, High Wycombe HP11 2DN (01494) 528605*
9 Market Street, Aylesbury HP20 2PN (01296) 25119*
11 West Street, Marlow, Bucks SL7 2LF (01628) 483555
83 High Street, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 1JX (01628) 778611
20 Chequer Street, St. Albans, Herts AL1 3YD (01727) 834046*
11 Princess Square, Bracknell, Berks RG12 1LS (01344) 869898

BIRMINGHAM

MUSIC MATTERS
THE AUDIO SPECIALISTS

Latest additions to our extensive range of products include Audio Research, Theta, Dynaudio, and Sonus Faber. The Midlands' best HiFi store also offers the latest from B&W, Orelle, DPA, Musical Fidelity, Ruark, TEAC, Meridian, CYRUS, Yamaha and KEF.

WE TAKE:

INTEREST FREE CREDIT AVAILABLE

DEMONSTRATIONS BY APPOINTMENT 363 Hagley Road, Edgbaston 93-95 Hobs Moat Road, Solihull 156-157 Lower High Street, Stourbridge DY8

OPENING TIMES: Birmingham B17 8DL B92 8JL (near the ice rink) Tel: 0121 44184

TUES-SAT 10.00-5.30 Tel: 0121 429 2811 FAX: 0121 742 0254

Thursday 10.00-7.00 FAX: 0121 434 3298 FAX: 0121 742 3471

FAX: 01384 444184 FAX: 01384 444988

EX-DEMONSTRATION SALE - CALL EDGBASTON BRANCH FOR DETAILS

BIRMINGHAM

Norman H. Field Hi-Fi

Consultants for Home High Fidelity

■ B & W ■ Thorens
■ Denon ■ Tannoy
■ Castle ■ Yamaha
■ Dual ■ Kenwood
■ Mordaunt-Short
■ Technics

NAD

Two-year guarantee
Private Listening Rooms

HURST STREET
BIRMINGHAM B5 4BJ
Telephone: 0121-622 2323

BATH/BRISTOL

V'AUDIO 36 Druid Hill
Stoke Bishop
Bristol BS9 1EJ
Tel: 0117 9686005

ATC, AVI, Acoustic Energy, Alon, Audiomeca, AMC, Cadence Valve, Chord AMPS, Electronic Companiet, Harmon Kardon, Heybrook, Jamo, Lyra, Ortofon, Perception, Pink Triangle, Ruark, Michell, REL, Sansui, SME (inc. 20A), Sonic Link, Stax, Sugden, Sumiko, Townsend, Triangle, Wadia

USAi
ACOUSTIC ENGINEERS INTERNATIONAL

Demos by appointment only. Home trial facilities.
Free installations. Servicing facilities.
We are not a shop.

CHESHIRE

4 West Street
Alderley Edge
Cheshire SK9 7EG
Tel: 01625 582704 • Fax: 01625 586285

SUMMER SALE

SPEAKERS:	Guide New Price:	Sale Price:
XD AURA SP50	399.00	199.00
SH CELESTION DL6 MK2	250.00	119.00
SH LINN Index MK1 + stands	250.00	150.00 OT
SH RUARK Subwo MK2	250.00	149.00 OT
XD SOLID Monitor	250.00	199.00
XD ROTEL Tem	140.00	99.00
XD MISSION 751 BLACK	300.00	240.00
XD MISSION 751 ROSEWOOD	330.00	260.00
XD MISSION 752 BLACK	500.00	400.00
XD MISSION 753 ROSEWOOD	800.00	650.00

AMPLIFIERS:	Guide New Price:	Sale Price:
XD ARCAM Alpha 5	230.00	175.00
XD ARCAM Alpha 6 Plus	350.00	250.00
XD ARCAM Delta 290	500.00	375.00
XD AUDIO/AB 8000C pre amp	550.00	399.00
XD AUDIO/AB 8000P power amp	750.00	549.00
XD AURA VA100 MK2	350.00	249.00 OT
XD CYRUS 3	500.00	400.00
XD MUSICAL FIDELITY E10	300.00	199.00
XD MUSICAL FIDELITY E100	600.00	449.00
XD MUSICAL FIDELITY E200 pre amp	600.00	449.00
XD MUSICAL FIDELITY E300 power amp	700.00	499.00
XD NAD 302	180.00	149.00
SH NAIM Nait 1 mm	350.00	199.00 OT
XD NAIM NAC 72mm pre-amp	690.00	549.00 OT
XD NAIM NAC 62mm pre-amp	450.00	349.00 OT
XD NAKAMICHI IA3	349.00	249.00
SH QED A270	350.00	199.00 OT
XD QUAD 77	650.00	499.00
SH QUAD 66 remote control	75.00	75.00
XD ROTEL RC970 pre-amp	175.00	129.00
XD ROTEL RB970 power amp	225.00	169.00
XD ROTEL RC980 pre-amp	375.00	279.00
XD ROTEL RB980 power-amp	475.00	349.00

COMPACT DISC PLAYERS:

XD ARCAM Alpha 1	300.00	225.00
XD ARCAM Alpha 5 Plus	470.00	350.00
XD ARCAM Alpha 6 Plus	600.00	450.00
XD ARCAM Delta 250 transport	800.00	599.00
XD ARCAM Delta BHS0 DAC	500.00	349.00
XD ARCAM Delta 370	800.00	599.00
XD AUDIO/AB 8000 CD/M TRANSPORT	1400.00	1099.00
XD AUDIO/AB 8000 DAC	900.00	699.00
XD CYRUS DA1 7	999.00	730.00
XD MARANTZ CD63 SE	350.00	249.00 OT
XD MERIDIAN 5082	1475.00	1100.00 OT
XD MERIDIAN 563 DAC	599.00	599.00
XD MICROMEGA STAGE ONE	550.00	349.00
XD MICROMEGA STAGE THREE	690.00	749.00 OT
XD MUSICAL FIDELITY E60	300.00	199.00
XD MUSICAL FIDELITY E600	600.00	449.00
XD NAKAMICHI CD4	595.00	249.00
XD QUAD 77	595.00	449.00
XD ROTEL RCD 965BX	300.00	199.00

SYSTEMS:

SH ARCAM Alpha CD + Amp2 + Tuner2	700.00	349.00 OT
SH B & O 2100		149.00

TUNERS:

SH ARCAM Delta 280	400.00	200.00 OT
XD ARCAM Alpha 5	220.00	170.00
XD MUSICAL FIDELITY E50	300.00	199.00
XD CYRUS FM7	400.00	320.00
XD MUSICAL FIDELITY E500	500.00	349.00

CASSETTE DECKS:

XD NAKAMICHI DR3	449.00	349.00 OT
------------------	--------	-----------

HOME CINEMA TELEVISION & VIDEO:

XD B & O MX6000	1035.00	899.00
-----------------	---------	--------

SH(SEC/ON/D/AND) XD (Ex display) P(Private sale) OT(OT/EV) ACCESS/VIS/ASW/IT/CL. Three months guarantee on SH/XD
(No guarantee on items marked*) Demonstrations not available on items on this list & O/E

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

University Audio
HI-FI SPECIALISTS

MAIN AGENTS FOR:
A.T.C. • AVI • QUAD • DENON • MISSION
• ROTEL • MARANTZ • YAMAHA •
MERIDIAN • DENSEN • LINN

3 DEMO ROOMS

TELEPHONE: 01223 354237
FACSIMILE: 01223 322079

BADA
THE ULTIMATE IN SOUND ADVICE

CUMBRIA

Peter TYSON

CUMBRIA'S LEADING HI-FI SPECIALIST

Demos and Part Exchange Welcome
Advice, selection, sales, installation and service.

6 ABBEY STREET, CARLISLE (01228) 46756

Classified

Dealer Guide

CHESHIRE

• TECHNICS • PIONEER • MARANTZ • T.D.L • TANNOY • IXOS •

Who's Best in Home Cinema?
and MINI SYSTEMS - LASER DISC - SATELLITE - NICAM VIDEO - C.D.V. -
DOLBY PRO-LOGIC TV - HI-FI SEPARATES - LOUDSPEAKERS - CABLES - STANDS

We are: **WARRINGTON**  **CHESTER**
AUDIO-VISUAL

WARRINGTON AV
106 BRIDGE STREET
WARRINGTON
TEL: 01925 636215

CHESTER AV
47 ST. WERBURGH ROW
CHESTER
TEL: 01244 320414

• MITSUBISHI • JAMO • MISSION • CELESTION • ATACAM • BOSE •


ESSEX


Chew & Osborne

Akai • Alphason • Arcam* • B&W • Bang & Olufsen • Bose • Celestion •
Dual • Harman Kardon • Kenwood • Quad* • Marantz • Mordaunt-Short •
NAD • Nakamichi* • Pioneer • Ruark • Sony • Wharfedale • Yamaha •
* Epping and Saffron Walden only

148 HIGH STREET • EPPING • TEL: (01992) 574242
26 KING STREET • SAFFRON WALDEN • ESSEX • TEL: (01799) 523728
70 SOUTH STREET BISHOP'S STORTFORD • HERTS • TEL: (01279) 656401

DUNDEE

 **J. D. BROWN**
SOUND & VISION

Hi-Fi & AV

Hi-Fi for Tayside and N.E. Fife

Arcam-Audiolab-B+W-Denon-Dual-Kenwood-Mission-Mordaunt Short-Pioneer
Rotel-Ruark-Sony-Technics-Yamaha-Hi-Fi and AV Surround Sound Listening Rooms.

Call in for a demonstration. *Open Sundays.*
INTEREST FREE CREDIT ON SELECTED PRODUCTS
28-36 Castle Street, Dundee DD1 3AF
Tel: (01382) 226591 Fax: (01382) 229994

GRAYSTON
sound&vision

Comfortable demo rooms
Free delivery/installation
Home trials
Musical evenings
Excellent credit facilities
available

LINN QUAD
MERIDIAN
ARCAM B&W
NAKAMICHI
PHILIPS
THORENS
DENON
ROTEL
RUARK
KEF
PIONEER

33 Sir Isaac's Walk, Colchester. Tel 01206 577682

HERTFORDSHIRE

Hi-Fi City

Aiwa, Aura, Bose, B&W, Canon, Cerwin Vega, Denon,
Jamo, JPW, Kenwood, Marantz, Mission, Mordaunt-
Short, NAD, Pioneer, Rogers, Rotel, Sennheiser,
Tannoy, Target, Technics, Thorens, Yamaha.

0% CREDIT AVAILABLE • FREE LOCAL DELIVERY
15 YEARS SOUND ADVICE **LASERDISC**

FRIENDLY PROFESSIONAL ADVICE
WATFORD (01923) 226 169
15 CHARTER PLACE, HIGH STREET, WATFORD

The Audio File
Specialists in excellence

FOR THE BEST IN BRITISH HI-FI & HOME CINEMA ENTERTAINMENT

VISIT OR CALL TO ARRANGE A
DEMONSTRATION WITH PRODUCTS FROM:

- AUDIO LAB
- ARCAM
- MISSION
- LINN
- NAIM
- REGA
- CYRUS
- LOEWE
- ABSOLUTE SOUNDS
- KEF
- SONY
- YAMAHA
- REL
- QUAD
- RUARK
- DENON
- PRO-AC

27 Hockerill Street, Bishop's Stortford, Herts
Tel: (01279) 506576 - Fax: (01279) 506638
41 Victoria Road, Cambridge
Tel: (01223) 68305 - Fax: (01223) 345975

David Orton AUDIO VISUAL

Stockists of

Arcam, Audio Innovations, Audioquest,
Aura, Beyer, B&W, Bose, Celestion, Cyrus,
Denon, Heybrook, Marantz, Mission, Moth,
Musical Fidelity, Nakamichi, Ortolon,
Pioneer, Pro-Ject, REL, Rotel, Royd, Ruark,
Sennheiser, Systemdek, Target, Thorens,
Van den Hul & more!

Expert friendly service: Listening room
Pioneer Reference Point

6 Bancroft, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1JQ
Tel/Fax 01462 452248

HUMBERSIDE

Lend us your ears and we'll blow your mind . . .

Audio Innovations, B & W, Celestion, Denon,
Kenwood, Kef, Marantz, Meridian, Michell,
Micromega, Mission, Mordaunt-Short, NAD,
Nakamichi, Pioneer, Panasonic, Quad, Rotel,
Sony, Tannoy, Technics, Wadia
and more.

Audition the very best at South Humberside's
premier Hi-Fi dealer . . .

MANDERS
HI-FI LTD.

AUDIO • TV • VIDEO & SATELLITE SALES

2-4 EDWARD STREET (Off Pasture St.)
GRIMSBY. TEL: (01472) 351391

IRELAND

We Never Compromise On Quality


CLONEY
Audio Meridian Arcam Classe Philips TDL Epos B&W Naim

55 Main St Blackrock Dublin
Tel (00 3531) 2889449/2888477
Fax (00 3531) 2834887
Open Tue/Sat 10am-6pm. Thur/Fri 'till 9pm
Closed Monday

KENT

KIMBERLEY HI FI
A Sound Investment

SEPARATE DEMONSTRATION ROOM
BRANDS STOCKED: DENON TECHNICS KENWOOD AIWA NAD DUAL
WHARFEDALE MISSION MARANTZ SPKS TANNOY CASTLE MONITOR
AUDIO HECO JAMO CERWIN VEGA CELESTION ROTEL
SOUTH LONDON'S AND NORTH KENT ONLY
LARGE RANGE OF ICE INC PIONEER,
PANASONIC & JVC, KENWOOD, ETC

193 BROADWAY, BEXLEYHEATH, KENT
Telephone: 0181 304 3272

EDC ELECTRICAL DISCOUNT CENTRE

SALES & SERVICE

JVC AKAI
Technics
PIONEER
B&W jamo
marantz
PRO-LOGIC
plus many more . . .

BRANCHES AT

The Broadway,
Bexleyheath, Kent.
Tel: (0181) 298 7880.
Fax: (01474) 535 937

138 Pelham Rd,
Gravesend, Kent.
Tel: (01474) 326600
(01474) 569601

HI FI CHOICE
your No. 1 guide to buying Hi Fi

Classified

Dealer Guide

LANCASHIRE



HI-FI SPECIALIST

■ TECHNICS ■ SONY ■ PIONEER
■ PANASONIC ■ KENWOOD ■ DUAL

■ CASTLE ■ QUAD ■ B&W ■ MARANTZ ■ KEF
■ SPENDOR ■ THORENS ■ ROTEL ■ TEAC
■ DENON ■ YAMAHA ■ TANNOY ■ ROGERS
■ CELESTION ■ TDL ■ SENNHEISER
■ AND MANY MORE

• BIG DISCOUNT • TWO YEAR GUARANTEE ON HI-FI •
• FREE HOME INSTALLATION • EXCELLENT COMPARATOR
DEMONSTRATIONS • PRIVATE LISTENING ROOM •

CHORLEY (01257) 271935

54 CHAPEL STREET, CHORLEY

LEICESTERSHIRE

naim
shahinian
well tempered
dynavector royd rega
arcam musical technology

because the best hifi deserves the best advice

sound advice
duke street, loughborough
01509 218254

LIVERPOOL & WIRRAL

Wirral Hifi

Audio Valve, Arion, Cary, Castle, DPA, Dynaudio, Electrofludics, Gamma, Heybrook, Klyme, Lumley, Lyra, Magnum, Monarchy, Orelle, Parasound, Quasar, Rose, SD-Acoustics, Sumiko, Stax, Audio Synthesis, Audio Alchemy, Teac, Tube Technology, Triangle, XLO, and more!

For : Professional advice and excellent service, call

Tel : 0151 645 4621

MANCHESTER



MANCHESTER LTD Est. 1946
30-32 SHUDEHILL MANCHESTER M41EZ OPEN 9.00-5.30 MON-SAT
STOCKISTS OF: AIWA, BEYER, BOSE, B&W, CERWIN-VEGA!, CANON, J.B.L., KENWOOD, MARANTZ, MISSION, PANASONIC, PIONEER, SENNHEISER, SONY, TECHNICS, THORENS, WHARFEDALE, ETC. Call us if it's not listed above.

NEW DEMONSTRATION ROOM

CALL US NOW WE'LL BE PLEASED TO HELP

0161 834 6700



LONDON



27 BOND STREET, EALING W5 ☎ 0181 567 8703

APOLLO, AUDIOLAB, AURA, BOSTON, B&O, B&W, CABLE TALK, CANON, CASTLE, CHORD, DENON, DUAL, EPOS, EVOLUTION, HARMON KARDON, KEF, MARANTZ, MICROMEGA, MISSION, MUSICAL FIDELITY, NAD, NAKAMICHI, ONIX, ONKYO, QUAD, REL, ROGERS, ROTEL, ROYD, SOUND STYLE, SYSTEMDEK, TARGET, THORENS, VAN DEN HUL

Two demonstration rooms. Free local delivery. Repairs & Service. Closed Wednesday

NORTH WALES

ELECTRO-TRADER HI-FI

**YAMAHA * Rotel * NAD * Onkyo
TEAC * Tannoy * KEF * Infinity * TDL
* Musical Technology * Sugden * etc**

Contact JOHN HODKINSON for expert advice. All equipment available for home demonstration

19 Colwyn Crescent, Rhos-on-Sea, Colwyn Bay, N.Wales
Telephone 01492 548932



THE INNOVATIVE AUDIO/VISUAL HI-FI RETAILER

SERVING LONDON FROM BATTERSEA

ORANGES & LEMONS

0171-924 2040

61/63 WEBBS ROAD, SW11
NOW IN OUR SECOND FRUITFUL YEAR

To find out more about advertising in the finest HiFi magazine in the world, call Gina Cady on (0171) 917 3935

OXFORDSHIRE

o v e r t u r e

arcam mission
audioquest nad
denon naim audio
heybrook nakamichi
kef quad
linn products yamaha

3DA THE QUALITY ASSURANCE

3 Church Lane, Banbury (01295) 272158

NORFOLK



The Old School
School Road
Bracon Ash
Norfolk
Tel: (01508) 570829

Basically Sound of Norfolk

STOCKISTS OF LEADING HI-FI



Acoustic Energy, Arcam, Audio Alchemy, Audiolab, Cable Talk, Denon, Epos, Heybrook, Micromega, Naim, Nakamichi, Rotel, Royd, TDL, and others.

SUFFOLK

signals

hi-fi for grown-ups

ipswich 01473 622866 mobile 0802 176319

WEST MIDLANDS



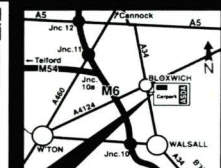
SOUND ACADEMY

Audio Equipment from leading and specialist brands for you to listen to and choose from.

Tel: 01922 493499/473499

- 3 Hi-Fi Studios
- Home Trials
- Home Cinema Theatre
- Audio Visual Equipment
- Inhouse Service Department
- Mail order available
- Interest Free Credit (On Selected Items. APR0%-written details on request)

Hi-Fi for those with an eye for Quality



WE ARE HERE

Sharing the ASDA Carpark with ample free parking, Off High Street, Bloxwich, Nr. Walsall, West Midlands
Open 6 Days, 9am - 6pm
Late night Friday

THE FIRST MIDLAND SPECIALIST FOR NAIM ARCAM AUDIO LAB CHORD KESWICK RESEARCH ALSO: APOLLO A.T. AUDIO ALCHEMY AUDIO QUEST B&W BOSE BEYER CABLE TALK CHORD COMPANY CYRUS CELESTION DPA EPOS EXPOSURE KEF REFERENCE KENWOOD MARANTZ MICHELL MORDAUNT SHORT MERIDIAN MICROMEGA MISSION MOTH MUSICAL FIDELITY NAKAMICHI ORTOFON PROJECT QUAD ROKSAN ROGERS ROTEL SENNHEISER SONY SUMIKO SYSTEMDEK TARGET TDL TUBE TECHNOLOGY VAN DEN HUL YAMAHA

Classified

Dealer Guide

SURREY

Front End Problems?
contact:

The Cartridge Man

It doesn't have to cost an arm and a leg to get the best - listen to my Koetsu - and - Decca - eater.

Also agents for Croft, Moth, Thorens, Pentachord Speakers & Nottingham Analogue - plus cartridge re-tipping service

(0181) 688 6565

To find out more about advertising in the finest HiFi magazine in the world, call Gina Cady on (0171) 917 3935

SUSSEX

WORTHING AUDIO

20 Teville Gate, W. Sussex. BN11 1UA
Tel: (01903) 212133

The friendly shop with the best sound systems in the South.

Friendly advice • 3 yr guarantees • easy parking
Open Mon-Sat 10am-6pm Late night Wed 7:30pm
Agencies include: Arcam, Exposure, JPW, Naim Audio, Marantz, Orelle, Origin Live, Ruark, Audio Technica, Target, TDL, Tripod, Kinshaw Electronics and many more.

WARWICKSHIRE



10A Chapel Street,
Stratford Upon Avon
CV37 6EP
Tel/Fax: 01789 414533

APPROVED DEALER OF QUALITY HIFI FROM:

ARCAM, B&W, BOSE, CYRUS, DENON, KEF, MARANTZ, MICROMEGA, MISSION, MONITOR AUDIO, NAD, ONKYO, PANASONIC, PIONEER, ROTEL, SONY, TEECHNICS, YAMAHA

OPEN 9.30 TO 5.30 MONDAY TO SATURDAY. DEMONSTRATIONS BY APPOINTMENT.
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED. MAIL ORDER & EXPORT, REPAIRS & SERVICE
UP TO 18 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT AVAILABLE

HI-FI ACCESSORIES

KLIPSCH

Horn loudspeakers - a legend in sound for over 50 years, KLIPSCH hi-efficiency speakers are used in many studios, top hi-fi and stage systems.

FOR DETAILS CALL
(0121) 430 7817

SALES & SERVICES

LUXURY LOUDSPEAKERS



THE BANDOR 'TRIDENT'

THE BANDOR "TRIDENT"

The Bandor "Trident" Loudspeaker, is a triple cabinet, ultra compact, full range system, that is styled to be both discrete yet attractive, in almost any environment. Breathtaking clarity and openness from the tiniest real hi-fi system around. - truly exceptional.

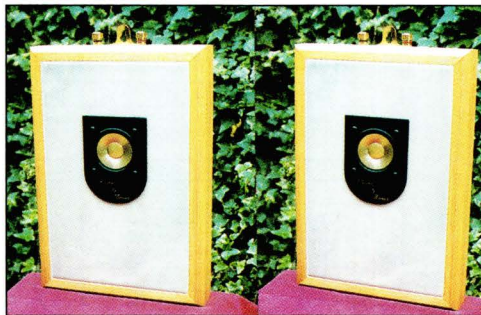
DESIGN (J. Powell - 1995)

Retail price £789.00p
vat included



BANDOR
MINIATURE LOUDSPEAKERS
DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE OF MINIATURE LOUDSPEAKERS AND SYSTEMS

DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT STUDIO
11 PENFOLD COTTAGES
PENFOLD LANE
HOLMER GREEN
BUCKS, HP15 6XR
Tel / Fax: (01494) 714058



"PICTURES" by BANDOR

Pictures are slim, attractive, wall-mounted loudspeakers, only 2 inches thick, offering superb sound quality.

Pictures contain an advanced driver, with spun aluminium cone, in a cabinet with a ceramic front, allowing their use in steamy environments such as kitchens and bathrooms. whilst being equally suitable in surround systems. DESIGN (J. Powell - 1994)

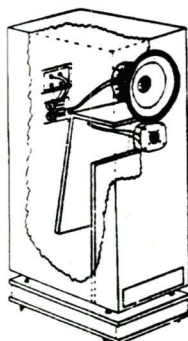
Very high quality --- very small. Banish mediocre extension speakers forever!

Retail one pair £329 vat included.

For more information on these and other Bandor systems please send a 50p stamp for brochure.

LOUDSPEAKERS

SPEAKER KITS FROM I.P.L. ACOUSTICS



The M3-TL, S3TL, S4TL and S5TL are superb Hi-Fi Transmission Lines using excellent SEAS, IPL, Audax and MOREL drive units to achieve sound quality and bass extension which is equivalent to speakers costing in the range of £700 - £2000.

The kits include sturdy cast chassis bass units, quality textile dome tweeters, quality crossover components for hardwiring, grille material, acoustic foam, T-nuts and bolts, Dual terminals for BIWIRING, spikes and assembly plans and instructions.

M3TL - 5.0" bass unit, cab size 810 x 186 x 210mm £172.00 + £6.50 p&p
S3TL - 6.5" bass unit, cab size 903 x 230 x 350mm £187.50 + £6.50 p&p
S4TL - 8.0" bass unit, cab size 960 x 275 x 400mm £216.00 + £7.50 p&p
S5TL - 10" bass 6" mid., cab size 1080 x 320 x 400 £383.00 + £7.50 p&p

Plain or veneered MDF Cab kits also available. Please phone for details, or

Send cheque or PO to: **I.P.L. ACOUSTICS**

2 Laverton Road, Westbury, Wiltshire BA13 3RS. Tel: 01373 823333

ALTERNATIVELY send 38p S.A.E for 36-page SPEAKER BUILDING CATALOGUE comprising: VALUABLE ADVICE on DESIGNING & BUILDING speakers, and full technical specs, including response curves of eight speaker kits, drive units, cables and quality accessories.

REVOX SERVICING

REVOX SERVICE

Fully Guaranteed Service and Repair
Insured Carriage arranged

Free Estimation

Also: Tape Supplies

Second User Reconditioned
Machines

Spare parts orders welcome

Free Advice

RamTek

Tel: (0181) 207 6159

Fax: (0181) 953 1118

**Kinetic Centre, Theobald Street,
Borehamwood, Herts. WD6 4SE**

Dealer Guide

SALES & SERVICES

MAIL ORDER



SOUND CONNECTIONS

TEL/FAX:
0151 348 1988

Tel/Fax/E-Mail
For Our Latest
Product & Price List.

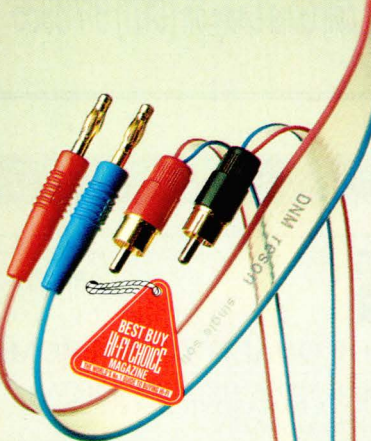
DNM RESON • VAN DEN HUL • CHORD CO
XLO • CARDAS • NORDOST • KIMBER
AUDIO QUEST • QED • TARGET
SENNHEISER • STAX • WBT
ORTOFON • AUDIO ALCHEMY
STANDS UNIQUE • LYRA
BLACK DIAMOND RACING
- and many more

52 Green Lane, Great Sutton,
South Wirral, Cheshire L66 4LE.

E-Mail: sound.connections@diap.pipex.com
Mon-Fri 9.30 a.m. - 8.00 p.m. (Sat to 1 p.m.)

WE OFFER A
HOME TRIAL
SERVICE
ON SELECTED
RANGES OF
CABLES &
ACCESSORIES

"THIS IS THE BEST SUB £1000 SPEAKER
CABLE WE HAVE TESTED" ... HI-FI CHOICE



"A FRESH, TRANSPARENT SOUNDING
INTERCONNECT PACKED FULL OF DETAIL"
(DNM RESON) ... HI-FI CHOICE.

PRE-OWNED

HEATHERDALE AUDIO LTD

HEATHERDALE PRE-OWNED GUARANTEED
EQUIPMENT. EXPORT FACILITIES AVAILABLE

APOGEE Caliper Loudspeakers	£950	KRELL KSA 50s (ex demo)	£2395
AUDIO ALCHEMY DLC Preamp, Power Station	£3395	SUGDEN AU51 Power amplifier	£650
STUDIO A807 Pro. tape recorder MINT	£3750	PRO-AC Response One S (ex demo)	£995
SOLITICE AAD speakers with stands	£650	PRO-AC Tablette50 (rosewood)	£615
SEQUERRA FM1 Reference tuner	£4000	CLEARAUDIO Turntable/arm List £4000 only	£2750
LINN Karma MC phono cartridge	£195	LINN LP12/Ittok LVIII/Armeddion	£895
LINN Arkiv MC Cartridge	£495	LENTEK X Monitor speakers	£295
MARANTZ Quadradial 4 receiver	£295	TRILogy Mono power amps model 958	£1795
XLO Type 5 Speaker Cable 1.5mtr set	£295	CAT S11 Reference pre-amp	£1695
APOGEE Centaur Minor Loudspeakers	£595	HARLER XL600 power amplifier	£995
REVOX C36 tape recorder (ex cond.)	£350	MUSICAL FIDELITY 2A pre-amp with phono	£250
McINTOSH C28 Pre amp (mint)	£795	NAKAMICHI 600 Cassette deck (serviced)	£395
REVOX A700 TapeRecorder (semi pro)	£495	LURMAN MQ32 pre-amp with phono stage	£595
TRANSPARENT Ref. interconnect 15 ft pair	£1595	LURMAN MB 3045 KT88 stereo power amp	£1295
TRANSPARENT Ref. interconnect 1mtr pair	£1295	LURMAN MB 3045 KT88 mono-blocks	£1995
TRANSPARENT Ultra bi-wire sp. cable 12' set	£2195	MERIDIAN 303 DAC (mint,boxed)	£295
TRANSPARENT Phono cable 2.5 mtrs.	£395	QUAD 33/303 pre-powers	£175
ACCUHARSE £203 integrated amp	£495	MARK LEVINSON ML50s dual mono Pre-amp rare	£2495
GENESIS model 111 speakers, mint	£2495	MARK LEVINSON ML3 300 watt stereo amp	£3195
HADIS Delly 7 stereo amp, mint	£3695	REVOX A76 Turner/A78 amp. boxed mint	£500
AUDIO RESEARCH Classic 30 amplifier	£1295	REVOX A76 Power amp (marked)	£600
AUDIO RESEARCH DAC 1	£995	REVOX B760 Turner good cond.	£495
ORACLE Alexandria turntable	£595	ROGERS LS7T speakers Blackcash.	£350
MICROMEGA DUO BS 2 DAC	£295	FOUNDATION speakers classic stands 18"	£1100
		BOXED SET 100 RCA classical CDs	£395

DON'T MISS OUT ON THAT BARGAIN! FOR AN UP-TO-THE-MINUTE LIST:
<http://members.aol.com/heatherdale/heatherd.htm>

ALL USED CARTRIDGES ARE CHECKED UNDER A
MICROSCOPE BEFORE BEING OFFERED FOR SALE.
QUAD MAIN DEALERS.

WE TAKE PART EXCHANGE ON NEW AND USED STOCK.

202 Findon Road, Worthing, Sussex BN14 0EJ TEL: (01903) 872288
after hours number (0860) 660001 FAX: (01903) 872234

MARBLE PLINTHS

STONE for SOUND

- slate speaker cabinets
 - granite, slate and marble platforms
 - acoustic balance blocks
- any item designed and manufactured to individual specialist requirements

ZARKA MARBLE

Tel 0171 431 3042 Fax 431 3879

MAIL ORDER

IAN HARRISON HIFI

TEL: 01283 702875
9am - 9pm

CARTRIDGES LONDON (DECCA) ORTOFON AUDIO TECHNICA DENON TRANSFIGURATION SHURE GOLDRING VAN DEN HUL GRADO ROKSAN AUDIOQUEST	TRADE IN YOUR OLD MOVING COIL CARTRIDGE (ANY AGE MAKE OR CONDITION) AND SAVE UP TO 40% OFF THE NORMAL SELLING PRICE	TRANSFORMERS, ORTOFON SOWTER, DENON
CD PLAYERS TEAC, SONY MARANTZ QUAD	CASSETTE DECKS TEAC, SONY, MARANTZ, DENON	TUNERS QUAD, MARANTZ, SONY, DENON
AMPLIFIERS QUAD, MARANTZ, SONY, TECHNICS, TEAC, SONIC LINK, CONVENTANT AUDIO TECHNOLOGY, LUMLEY REFERENCE	HI-FI FURNITURE SOUND ORGANISATION, APOLLO, SOUND FACTORY TRIPOD, SOUNDSTYLE, PROJECT ALPHASON	CABLES AUDIOQUEST, COGAN HALL, SONIC LINK, SILVER SOUNDS, QED, GOLDRING, VAN DEN HUL
BLANK TAPES TDK, MAXELL, SONY BASF, FUJII, AMPEX, SCOTCH, JVC, KONICA 353	HEADPHONES SENNHEISER, BEYER, AKG, GRADO	ACCESSORIES QED, DISC WASHER, GOLDRING, MAXVIEW, LABGEAR, ANTIFERRECE

TEST CASSETTES & CD'S
PHONE OR WRITE FOR DETAILS

MAIL ORDER ONLY
PLEASE PHONE TO CONFIRM PRICE AND AVAILABILITY
PRIOR TO ORDERING. ALL GOODS ARE BRAND NEW WITH
FULL UK GUARANTEES.

GOODS ARE NOT SUPPLIED ON APPROVAL.
MAIL ORDER FROM: IAN HARRISON HI FI, 7 MILL HILL, REPTON,
DERBY, DE65 9GG.

TEL: 01283 702875 9am-9pm. Inc. Sunday

HI-FI BARGAINS IN PETERBOROUGH

AMPLIFICATION

	TODAYS RRP	S/H
Nakamichi Stasis PA7E 200w/200w	£1890	£675
Quad 33/405 Pre/Power	£600	£325
Rotel RC/RB870BX Pre/Power	£460	£325
Quad 306 Mint	£950	£260
Audio Innovations Series 1000 Pre		
Series 200 Power	£1300	£695
Croft Series V Pre/Power	£1200	£500
EAR Head Amplifier	£600	£250
Nakamichi IA-3 Amplifier	£950	£250
Roksan L1 Pre-amp ex dem	£1500	£1275
Roksan L2 Pre-amp ex dem	£900	£795
Roksan S1 Power-amp ex dem	£1400	£1195
Cyrus One Amplifier	£270	£180
Cyrus II Amplifier/PSX	£500	£395
Moth Passive Pre 2 x Monoblocks	£500	£399
Yamaha DSP E3000 Processor	£649	£349
Yamaha DSP A1000 A/V Amplifier	£999	£595
Quad 77 amplifier (ex-dem mint)	£649	£649
Naim 160 x 3 power amps/Alps PSU		
NAC22 Pre/Naxo/Linn Isobariks	£7000	£2750

CAREFULLY USED HI-FI WANTED. CASH
READY - WE'LL COLLECT

CD PLAYERS/CASSETTES/TUNERS/REEL TO REEL

	TODAYS RRP	S/H
Harmon Kardon Citation 15 Tuner	£285	£175
Nakamichi ZX7 Ref. Stand Cassette	£1400	£795
Quad 77 CD Player (ex dem)	£800	£699
Rotel RCD965 Discreet	£425	£249
Revox B77 Reel to Reel	£1200	£699

YOUR SPECIALIST HI-FI CAN BE SOLD
ON A COMMISSION BASIS - 50%
CASH UPFRONT GUARANTEED ON
COLLECTION

TURNTABLES

	TODAYS RRP	S/H
Rega Planar 3 RB300/Ortonfon Q	£680	£300
SystemDek 2XE/RB300	£500	£300
A & R EB101 Turntable (Mint)	£200	£165
Technics SL110/SME 3009/Shure 97	£500	£250
Linn LP12/LV11 Ittok/AT05/ Cirkus/Tramplin	£2000	£895
Thorens TD180 MKV/Stanton 500	£895	£199
Mission/Nagaoaka MP20	£249	£149
Systemdek/Mission/Grado	£850	£245
Linn LP12/Syrinx P2, Koetsu Rosewood	£2250	£575

PART-EXCHANGE - OUR TRADE IN
PRICES ARE UNBEATABLE AGAINST ALL
THE TOP BRANDS WE STOCK

LOUDSPEAKERS

	TODAYS RRP	S/H
Spendor S100 Mahogany Mint	£2125	£1300
Spendor S20 Walnut Mint	£770	£500
Yamaha NS1000 Rare in Cherry	£1399	£700
IMF TLS50	£660	£165
Tannoy 609 Biwire	£900	£180
REL Strata Subwoofer	£600	£395
Roksan System 937 (ex dem)	£600	£480
Acoustic Energy (ex dem)	£1175	£875
Castle 900 walnut (ex dem)	£200	£200
Jamo 507 (ex dem)	£800	£600
DALI 450 (ex dem)	£700	£575
Celestion SL6	£299	£220
Monitor Audio MA800	£795	£495
Rogers LS7	£500	£300
Time Window 1A	£999	£499
Polk Audio RT8 Mint	£650	£295
Lentek Monitors	£1000	£375

NOW AVAILABLE -
INTEREST FREE CREDIT ON ALL
SECONDHAND AND NEW ITEMS.
JOIN OUR MAILING LIST FOR A COPY
OF OUR BROCHURE.

The HiFi Company

TRADING STATION

35-42 Cowgate Peterborough
Telephone (01733) 311587

To advertise
on these
pages call
Gina on

0171 917 3935



Reader classified

Advertise in Hi-Fi Choice for £5*

ARCAM Alpha 5 CD player, immaculate condition, boxed, can demo, reason for sale: upgrade; £250. 2x1m Music Link Interconnects, £50 each (were £119 each). London (0171) 701 4609.

ARCAM Alpha CD player, excellent condition, boxed with remote and manual, £195. Oxford (01491) 410369

ARCAM Delta 290 £360, 290P £275, Alpha 6 £375. All as new, boxed. Yamaha DSP-A1000 £425. N. Wales (01978) 358792

AUDIOLAB 8000S, new, unused, £500. London (0171) 794 3843

AUDIO TECHNICA interconnect, 0.7m £10. Cleveland (01642) 556268

AUDIO SYNTHESIS DAX1 Ultra Analog converter plus optional extras, brand new, unopened in box, RRP £1,995, accept £1,000. Essex (01375) 679446

CAMBRIDGE CD4, Rotel RA930AX-2, Mission 731 budget system (cables too), six-months old - upgrading. £300 ono. Cheshire (01829) 733725

CASTLE Howard II speakers (mahogany, immac.), 3.25 year guarantee £725. Three Cambridge A250 monoblok amps, £125 each. Lancaster (01524) 383499

DENON POA6600 monobloks, £500 pair. SD Acoustics SD2 speakers, £200 pair. Beds (01525) 754191

ELECTROCOMPANIE ECI-1, stone front, 2x100W integrated dual mono, one-year old, as new, boxed, £1,500 ono (was £2,400). Wilts (01793) 694384

EPOS ES11 plus dedicated stands, immaculate, two year warranty. Cost £550 new, accept £275. York (01904) 708382

GARRARD 401 turntable £250. AT1005 arm, £50. Rotel RA840 amp, £65. Technics Class AA 50W amp, £99. SLP300 CD, £75 or exchange. Colchester (01206) 861457
JECKLIN Float II earspeakers,

To advertise on this page, write your advert in block capitals and send it to: **Hi-Fi Choice, Reader Classifieds, 19 Bolsover St, London W1P 7HJ.** Include a cheque for **£5*** made payable to Dennis Publishing Ltd. The advert will appear in one issue only and must be no more than 20 words (or five lines) long, including all spaces and your phone number. Reader Classifieds are for the use of private individuals only. All Reader Classified adverts will be printed on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to available space, and Dennis Publishing Ltd accepts no liability for the accuracy of the information contained therein, nor any consequence arising from it, nor for any typographical errors. We reserve the right to amend or refuse adverts at the Editor's discretion and cannot guarantee that an advert will appear in any specific issue.

***This service is FREE to subscribers, provided their subscriber number is enclosed.**

concert-hall sound stage, mint cond, £55. Evesham (01386) 45605

KEF Celeste loudspeakers, superb performance, real Teak finish, vgc, £40. Evesham (01386) 45605

KEF 104/2 floorstanding speakers, perfect condition, awesome sound £650. Nottingham (0115) 946 4047 daytime, (0115) 972 4048 evenings

LINN Karik III CD player, one-year old, boxed, perfect, hear it. Offers around £900. Dunstable (01582) 667412

LINN Karik III, £1,250, reluctant sale - system mismatch. John, Middlesex (0181) 575 5060

LINN Axis, Basic, K9 as new £250. Mission Cyrus I, superb condition £110. Both boxed with manuals. Plymouth (01752) 667262

LOWTHER Audiovector upward facing compound horn speakers, original teak £1,000 ono. Gale 401 speakers, chrome ends, ideal rock speaker £280 ono. East Sussex (01273) 858259

LUXMAN deck with arm, Entre 1 MC cartridge, ADC head shell, Lentec pre amp, boxed as new, £179. Nottingham (0115) 9472275

MARANTZ 52SE £110 excellent condition, Tannoy 607

speakers with matching Tannoy stands £125. Surbiton (0181) 397 1601

MICHAELSON/AUSTIN TVA10, will exchange for Mana Reference table and level. Wolverhampton (01902) 20941

MICHELL Reference Electronic turntable, excellent condition, £150 inc arm and cartridge. Nottingham (0115) 975 1296

MICHELL Mycro, RB300 mint £375. B&W 580 floorstanders plus supports, stunning looks and sound £300. Sugden A28II amp £100. Bristol (0117) 985 9730

MONOSTEM hi-fi rack, wall mounted, silver finish with black slate shelves, matching CD stem, all boxed, £240. Huntingdon (01480) 458617

MONITOR AUDIO R352 MD speakers with stands, £85. A&R A60 amp, £65. A&R T21 tuner, £65. All vgc. (0151) 356 3200

MUSICAL FIDELITY F22 valve preamp, as new £650. Yamaha KX-380 cassette deck, never used. Rega ELA speakers (VGC) £290. Hastings 01424 431536

MUSICAL FIDELITY A1 mkIII amp. One year old, boxed, excellent condition, £200. Target TT3 rack £60 ono. Derby (01629) 540637

NAIM NAP 140 x 3, new style in pristine cond. Glad to demo, £400 each. RMS Revelation II speakers, mint, seven-months old, was £1,900, will accept £1,200 ono. Saving for partner's degree. Sheffield (0114) 266 7668

NAIM CDI 15 months new £1,300. Naim NAC 42/NAP 90 £380, boxed, good condition. DPA Renaissance CD player, boxed, manuals, as new £700 inc carriage. Swansea (01792) 280061 ask for Jules

PIONEER A-400 amp, vgc, £160. NAD 3130 amp, scruffy, but excellent sound, suit student, £50. Surrey (01293) 786453 evenings.

PROAC Super Tablette speakers, black ash finish, beautiful £300. Tonbridge (0181) 771 7325 daytime

PIONEER CLD 2950 Laserdisc player, used three times, cost new £699, will accept £450 ono. Cash needed for hi-fi upgrade. Devon (01404) 822193

RENAULT 5 GT Turbo, C reg/86, black, sunroof, alloys, Sansui etc. High mileage hence £1,200 ono. London (0171) 231 6184
REVOX HS RDS tuner £490, Meridian 207 CD player and preamp £475. Musical Fidelity A1 amp £275. Vision

by B&W speakers £115. London (0171) 912 1096, (0181) 867 0700 eves

REVOX B780 tuner/amp, recent Revox service (Sept 96) £600 with box. Yately, Hants (01252) 879429

ROTEL RT850AL tuner MW/LW/FM, eight pre-sets, mint cond, boxed, £75 ono. Wigan (01942) 233115

SHAHINIAN Arcs mk2, as new, boxed £1,099. Cyrus 2/PSX £329. Harlow (01279) 426647

SONY Cassette Deck TC-K661S, three heads, Dolby B/C/S/HX Pro, fine bias, two-months old. MRP £299, accept £200 ono. Sony CD player CDP-561E, remote,

peak, headphone, two-months old, MRP £199, accept £120 ono. Thetford, Norfolk 862128

SONY TCD-D7 DAT Walkman, hardly used £400. Sony DTC-690 full size DAT player, hardly used £400.

Hampshire (01264) 353657
S.T.D. 305S turntable, SME Series III tonearm, Ortofon cart, plus extra arm - Ortofon SME 30H, £200. Sussex (01403) 733019

TUBE TECHNOLOGY Unisis valve amplifier, excellent sound and condition, £1,750 new, accept £850 ono. West Sussex (01903) 716275

YAMAHA KX-580 Dolby S cassette deck, boxed with manual, £165. Sennheiser IS-550 infra-red cordless headphones, £105. Reading (01734) 328681

7" & 12" singles & EPs. Mainly 70s & 80s charts, VGC 50p each. Sony SRS-A60 Active speakers £50. Cleveland (01642) 556268

WANTED

Sony remote control RM-D3K for DAT Walkman. Cleveland (01642) 556268

VPI or Nitty Gritty cleaning machines wanted, in mint condition, top models especially required. London (0181) 558 3383

NEW READERS

How to be a good customer

Steve Moore draws on his experience as a hi-fi retailer to help you get the best service from your dealer.

It isn't always easy buying a new audio or AV system. So this article is for anyone about to buy a simple stereo, a home cinema set-up or a complex, multi-room system. It should help you to enjoy the experience and maybe also lay the foundations for a great working relationship between yourself and your dealer. Still, at the end of the day, *all* dealers like good customers.

Chris Storch from The Cornflake Shop is in favour of building up a long-term relationship. 'Our best clients are those who keep in touch — they bring their friends in too. This means that the staff get to know them, which definitely makes a difference. We know what they need and go out of our way to help.'

The first step is to work out what you really need and think about what you want, all being well. Be prepared to be flexible with the ancillaries (like a tuner) if the quality of the main system is at stake.

Ideally, contact a dealer whose friends recommend. If you know someone with a great hi-fi (not necessarily an expensive one, but one you like listening to), ask where they got it. Otherwise check out the *Choice Dealer Directory* (p.139).

Great expectations

As well as working out what you want, think about how you'll use it. Do you sit down and listen seriously, or will you use the system for background music but occasionally crank it up for parties?

You may have considerations other than the sound or picture quality. You may need remote control, or want something very small. Be aware of the compromises, though. You'll often pay more for a cute, tiny system of equivalent performance to a simpler, larger set-up.

Mayur Malde, of Musical Images, says: 'A lot of people come to us looking for a mini system but, in fact, end up with separates.'

If you have particular needs or expectations (for example: 'My blind aunt needs to be able to operate the system', or 'It must be installed and working for my party next Thursday'), make this clear at the start and ask if it will limit your options at all.

Remember that the time spent choosing the system is directly proportional to the time you will live with it. Don't be too impatient. Installation is often a vital part of the process, and you should steer clear of dealers who cannot (or will not) install your new system.

Appreciate what the dealer is trying to do. On busy days in hi-fi stores, customers need to be dealt with, repairs booked in, equipment tested, and systems installed. So book a demo in advance (especially on Saturdays) or be prepared to wait.

When you book a demonstration, spell out what you're looking for, how much you might be prepared to spend (be flexible if you don't have much experience in this field) and what your priorities are. If, having done this, the dealer is ill-prepared or won't adequately explain the choice of equipment, leave. A final word on demos: if you have a piece of aged or unusual equipment, take it along to the demo, or arrange a loan of the equipment you are interested in (most good stores will do this) as it is the only way you can be sure it'll work.

Listen closely now

Take simple, memorable pieces of music that you know well. But don't get stressed about the whole experience. Xavier Wilcox, owner of the Powerplant in Brighton, stresses the importance of being relaxed while listening. 'We don't put pressure on our clients. We'll play their music if they bring some, or we'll let them choose from our selection. We give them a cup of coffee and let them listen alone if they prefer.' And, if the whole family is going to use the system, take them along to help buy it.

If you trust the dealer, trust their advice — and don't be tempted to piece together a system from different locations, even if you can shave a few quid off the price.

Also investigate the after-sales service on offer. David Graham, Sales Director of Grahams Hi-Fi, feels this is important: 'Our role doesn't end with the sale. We aim to help the customer in the future, if he moves, if something needs servicing or upgrading, or if he wants to expand or change the system.' If you plan to buy a lot of equipment from the same manufacturer, try to gauge the dealer's commitment to a brand. Long-term customer support is very important to manufacturers of quality equipment. Many firms offer better terms to those dealers who offer this support, for example by having good demonstration and service facilities.

A dealer will do best at what he/she likes and enjoys — this is what they understand. Don't be tempted to cajole them into supplying something they advise you against. Then they'll have no real inter-



START HERE

est in the sale, or expectation of a good solution. If you subsequently discover that the system doesn't sound too good, or isn't reliable, the dealer can honourably point out that they 'told you so at the start'.

If you trust the dealer, expect them to be at least as competent at their job as you are at yours. Most good stores train their staff thoroughly. Both the British Audio Dealers Association and Custom Electronic Design & Installation Association offer a range of training courses designed to improve professionalism and knowledge.

And finally, enjoy the experience!

Steve Moore has been selling AV systems since he left school. Now he specialises in comprehensive multi-room and home automation projects. He is the current chairman of CEDIA UK (Custom Electronic Design & Installation Association).

Our Three Step Guide to Buying Hi-Fi

The legendary Hi-Fi Choice Directory is now simpler to use than ever before, but contains all the information you need to select and buy the perfect hi-fi system.

Step One: Discover which products fall within your budget by using our Price Guide (starts on page 114). This listing is updated monthly and includes all hi-fi products currently available in the UK. It is organised by product type, then by price band, and is sorted alphabetically. Products whose names are printed in red are those that we have reviewed. Which leads us to...

Step Two: Read about the hi-fi equipment that we have reviewed in the Directory (starts on page 122). Here you will learn which items have been singled out for our famous Best Buy and Recommended awards, that denote products of exceptional quality and value. The Directory is sorted by product type and listed alphabetically, and the beginning of each section provides essential information about each kind of hi-fi component.

Step Three: Find your nearest hi-fi store in our Dealer Directory (starts on page 139) to book a demonstration of the products you are interested in.

Best Buys and Recommendations

If you see a Best Buy (red) or Recommended (blue) flag at the beginning of an entry in our Directory of reviewed products, the item concerned is particularly deserving of your attention.

B This signifies the Best Buy swing-tag, which indicates products of the best quality and superb value for money in their price category.

R Recommended products offer excellent quality and value, though not at the superlative level of a Best Buy.

Please note that an expensive Recommended product will nearly always perform better than an inexpensive Best Buy.

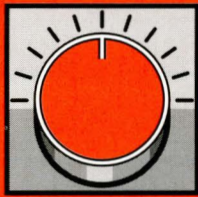
Using Best Buys and Recommendations to buy hi-fi.

Do not commit the cardinal sin of dashing into your local dealer, magazine in hand, demanding to purchase Best Buy CD player A, Best Buy amplifier B and Best Buy speakers C. This is unlikely to result in your long-term satisfaction. Our belief at *Hi-Fi Choice* is that you must consider the hi-fi system as a complete entity, not as a collection of components. While a superb system might well contain Best Buy and Recommended components, one cannot lump together Best Buys and Recommendations in the hope that they will automatically perform superbly. These ratings make a useful guideline for short-listing components worth trying, but only by hearing them for yourself can you draw meaningful conclusions about what suits your taste. Furthermore, don't panic if the dealer offers you equipment that we have not tested. At the end of the day, what matters most is that your hi-fi system fits your tastes like a glove, and it is the dealer's challenge to ensure your satisfaction by any means – and components – necessary!



DIRECTORY INDEX

ITEM	PAGE NUMBER
NEW PRODUCT PRICES	114
LIST OF REVIEWED PRODUCTS	122
INTEGRATED AMPLIFIERS	122
PREAMPLIFIERS	123
POWER AMPLIFIERS	123
CABLES	
ANALOGUE INTERCONNECTS	124
DIGITAL INTERCONNECTS	125
LOUDSPEAKER CABLES	125
CARTRIDGES	126
CASSETTE DECKS	127
CD PLAYERS	128
CD TRANSPORTS	129
DACS	129
DIGITAL RECORDERS	129
HEADPHONES	130
HI-FI LOUDSPEAKERS	131
SUBWOOFERS	133
STANDS & SUPPORTS	134
TOPEARMS	135
TUNERS	135
TURNTABLES	136
MANUFACTURER CONTACTS	137
FACTSBACK SERVICE	136



AMPLIFIERS

Integrated Amps

Up to £250

Aiwa XA-003	140
Arcam Alpha 5 Plus	240
Arcam Alpha 7	250
Cambridge Audio A1	100
Grundig V11	160
Harman-Kardon HK610	200
JVC AX-R5BK	200
JVC AX-V6BK	230
Kenwood KA-3020SE	200
Luxman A-312	200
Luxman A-331	250
Magnum IA120	249
Marantz PM-34	150
NAD 312	200
Onkyo A-801	200
Pioneer A-103	130
Pioneer A-203	150
Pioneer A-303R	200
Pioneer A-300X	230
Rega Brio	229
Rotel RA970BX	250
Sony TA-FE200	130
Sony TA-F161	140
Sony TA-F300	150
Sony TA-F261E	160
Sony TA-F246E	200
Sony TA-F448E	250
Sony TA-F406E	250
Teac AR300	200
Teac AR500	250
Technics SU-V300	170
Technics SU-A600 Mk3	200
Technics SU-V500	200
Technics SU-V620	230
Technics SU-A700 Mk3	250
Yamaha AX-390	170
Yamaha AX-490	249

£251 to £500

Alchemist Axiom	289
Alchemist Maxim	319
Analogue Jupiter	330
Arcam Alpha 8	350
Arcam Alpha 6 Plus	350
Arcam Alpha 9	500
Arcam Delta 290	500
Arion Adonis (kit)	495
Audio Innovations Atto	300
Audiolab 8090A	500
Audiolink Sterling II	350
Aura VA100 II	400
Cr Developments Kalypso	499
Creo IMP702	499
Creek 4240	279
Creek 4240SE	350
Denon PMA-450SE	280
Emf Audio Sequel	349
Harman-Kardon HK620	280
Harman-Kardon HK1200	300
Harman-Kardon HK1400	400
Harman-Kardon HK640	450
Luxman A-353R	350

Luxman A-373	400
Magnum IA170	299
Marantz PM-65	300
Marantz PM-711AV	450
Mission Cyrus III	500
Moth 30 Integrated	320
Musical Fidelity E10	299
Musical Fidelity E101	499
Musical Fidelity A2	499
NAD 314	260
Onix OA30	300
Onix OA21S	430
Onix OA31	480
Onkyo A-911	350
Onkyo A850	370
Orelle SA-100	449
Pioneer A-400X	300
Pioneer A-503R	300
Pioneer A-602	350
Pioneer VSA-701S	500
Pro-Ject Model 7	300
Rega Elex	398
Sony TA-F3ES	400
Technics SU-A800D	400
Technics SU-A900 MK2	450
Technics SU-A900D	500
Yamaha AX-590	299

£501 to £700

Alchemist Kraken A	549
Alchemist Kraken Anniv	549
Alchemist Nemesis	650
AMC CVT3030	529
Arcam Alpha 9 + MOD	550
Audiolab 8000S	700
Creo IMP703	538
DPA Renaissance	595
Exposure XX Super	700
Gamma Acoustics Gemini	699
Harman-Kardon HK660	650
LFD Integrated Zero	549
LFD Int. Zero (Ph)	679
Line Majik-1 (Line)	650
Lynwood Opal	685
Magnum Class A	675
Micromega Tempo 1	700
Monrio MJ	695
Musical Fidelity A220	699
Myriad M1120	530
Naim Audio NAIT 3	549
Pioneer VSA-D802S	600
Quad 771A	700
Rose Scion	545
Shearne Phase 2	649
Stemfoort Audio SF60	549
Teac AB-X7R	700
Triangle TE60SE	650

£701 to £1000

Alchemist Forseti	899
Arcam Xeta One	999
Aura VA150	800
AVI S2000MI	799
Chimera X-80	800
Cr Developments Romulus	998
Electrocompaniet EC1-2	990
Exposure XV Super	800
Harman-Kardon HK680	1,000
LFD Int. Zero LE	799
Line Majik-1 (Phono)	725
Meridian 551	795
Micromega Tempo 2	900
Minstrel Ultra Linear	900
Monrio MC-200S	895
Naim Audio NAIT 3 R	724
Rega Elicit	730
Sonic Link DM30	725
Stemfoort Audio SF100	849
Teac AB-X10	1,000
Thule IA100	949

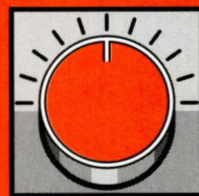
Woodside ISA230 Disc	899
Woodside ISA230 Line	899
YBA Integre Line	999

£1001 to £2000

Arion Elektra Export Mk	1,399
Arion Talos Line Mk II	1,450
Arion Talos Phono Mk II	1,650
Arion Tycho Int Mk II	1,999
Art Audio Integra	1,499
Audio Innovations Classic 25	1,099
Audio Innovations S500	1,199
Audio Innovations S700	1,199
Bryston B-60	1,090
Bryston B-60R	1,249
Chimera X-100	1,200
Copland CSA-14	1,100
Copland CTA-401	1,699
EAR 859	1,595
EAR 834	1,599
Electrocompaniet EC1-2SF	1,173
LFD Integrated 1	1,099
Meracur INTRARE	1,095
Minstrel Partridge	1,499
Monrio MC-205	1,500
Musical Fidelity A1000	1,399
Rogers E-20a	1,090
Rogers E-40a	1,900
Sonic Frontiers SFC-1	1,795
Triangle Nemo Allion 02	1,550
Tube Tech Unisis S'Line	1,399
Tube Tech Unisis	1,399
Unison Research Simply Two	1,148
Unison Research Simply Four P	1,495
Unison Research Simply Four T	1,545
YBA Integre	1,199

Over £2000

Adyton OPERA	2,595
Electrocompaniet EC1-1	2,233
Electrocompaniet EC1-1 SF	2,415
Gamma Acoustics Rhythm	2,499
McIntosh MA6800	3,735
Meracur ONESTA	2,595
Tube Tech Synergy 1	3,999
Unison Research Performance One	4,500



Preamps

Up to £500

Alchemist Kraken/Pre	380
AMC AV81 Control	289
AMC 1030	379
AMC S84	479
AMC AV81 H.T. Control	499
Analogue Saturn	75
Analogue Saturn MC	75
Art Audio Minuet	499
Audio Innovations P1	369
Audio Innovations L1	369
Audio Innovations T2	425
Audiolink P400	467
Creo PMP003	385
Creo HMP003	388
Creo MMP002	439
Creek OBM-8	99
Creek OBM-9	110



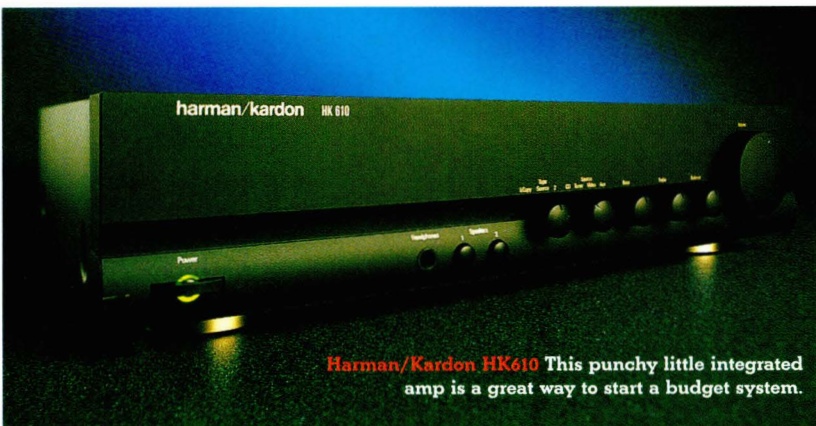
Audiolab 8000Q/M The range-topping pre/power combo has been upgraded recently.

Creek P42	279
Crimson CS610C	450
Denon PMA-425R	230
EAR 834P	399
EAR 834L	449
Grant CD10	482
Harman-Kardon AP2500	499
LFD Linestage LSO	499
Lumley Reference PP70	325
Lumley Reference PP40	325
Lumley Reference PP1	325
Lumley Reference PP1&PP70	345
Magnum MP330	475
Michell Iso	420
Moth 30 Passive	149
Moth 30 RIAA	199
Moth 30 Active	249
Moth 30 RIAA 100VA	299
Moth 30 Active 100VA	349
Musical Fidelity F20	399
Musical Fidelity F2	499
Naim Audio PREFIX	334
Naim Audio NAC92	448
Onix OA24	400
QED Vector	199
Rega EOS	398
Rose RV-23	450
Rotel RC970BX MkII	175
Technics SU-C1000	350
Thorens TTP2000	500
Unison Research Simply Phono	495

£501 to £2000

Adyton CHORUS	1,995
Alchemist Forsetti Pre	919
Arcam Delta 110	750
Arion Eros Line Mk II	1,150
Arion Eros Phono Mk II	1,350
Art Audio Headline	700
Art Audio VPL	741
Art Audio Conductor Phono	750
Art Audio VP1	952
Art Audio Conductor	1,250
Art Audio Conductor Export	2,000
Audio Innovations L2	749
Audio Innovations P2MM	749
Audio Innovations P2MC	949
Audio Research PH-3	1,550
Audio Research LS-3	1,845
Audiolab 8000C	550
Audiolab 8000PPA	900
Audiolab 8000Q	1,100
Aura CA200	700
AVI S2000MP	849
AVI S2000MP+P	1,049
Bryston 4	546
Bryston BP1	673
Bryston BP5	757
Bryston BP4	802
Bryston BP20	958
Bryston BP-25	1,129
Bryston BP-25P	1,355
Bryston 4B-ST PRO	1,495
Bryston BP-25MC	1,580
ChimeraX-150C	800
Classe Audio Audio 3D	1,320
Classe Audio Audio 4L	1,697
Classe Audio Audio 4	1,735
Concordant Exhilarant	900
Concordant Exquisite	1,950
Copland CSA-303	1,155
Copland CTA-301MkII	1,349
Counterpoint SA-1000E	1,195
CounterpointSolid 8E	1,195
CounterpointSA-2000E	1,695
Creo CMP004	799
Creo CMP005	1,119
Dawn Audio Prelude +50	951
DNM 3 Start	950

DNM 3A Start	1,500
Dynavector L200	1,195
Dynavector P100	1,495
Dynavector L100	1,995
ECA Vista S	760
ECA Vista HD	880
ECA Prisma	880
Electrocompaniet ECP-1	580
Electrocompaniet ECP-1 SF	675
Electrocompaniet EC-4.5	1,200
Electrocompaniet EC-4.5SF	1,343
Electrocompaniet EC-4 Line	1,466
Electrocompaniet EC-4 SF Line	1,648
Electrocompaniet EC-3MC	1,953
Exposure XIX	800
Exposure XVII	850
Gamma Acoustics Era Std	999
Graaf WFB Two	1,100
Grant G100P	764
KAL Magician	550
KAL Harlequin	750
LFD MC1 PhonoStage	949
LFD LS1 Linestage	999
LFD PhonoStage MC2	1,499
LFD Linestage LS2	1,599
LFD LFD	1,599
LFD Linestage LS2P	1,750
LFD Linestage LSB	1,999
Linn Wakonda/L	750
Linn Wakonda	850
Linn Kairn Line	1,400
Linn Kairn Phono	1,700
Lumley Reference PS1	795
Lumley Reference WAP1.5	895
Lumley Reference LV1.5	895
Lumley Reference LV1	1,000
Lumley Reference LV1	1,150
Lumley Reference WAP1	1,150
Lumley Reference L/R PV1.5	1,350
Lumley Reference PV1.5	1,500
Lumley Reference PV1	1,500
Lumley Reference PV1	1,700
Marantz AV-500	699
Marantz SC-23	1,000
McIntosh C712	1,479
Meracur INGRESI	625
Meridian 501	995
Meridian 562	765
Meridian 501V	875
Meridian 562V	995
Meridian 502	1,295
Michell Argo	730
Michell Iso HR	895
Michell Argo HR	1,339
Michi RHC-10	795
Michi RHC-10	1,150
Michi RHA-10	1,150
Micromega Tempo P	1,250
Monrio ADN	595
Monrio PLUR1-L	950
Musical Fidelity F25	1,499
Naim Audio NAC92R	599
Naim Audio NAC72	690
Naim Audio NAC 102	998
PS Audio 6.1	799
PS Audio 6.2	899
PS Audio Phono Link	899
Quad 77PR	850
Rega HAL	998
Rose RV-23S	525
Shearne Phase 6 Pre	895
Shearne Phase 1 Pre Ref	1,399
Sonic Frontiers SFP-1	1,095
Sonic Frontiers SFL-1	1,395
Sonic Frontiers SFP-1 Sig	1,495
Sonic Frontiers SFL-1 Sig	1,795
Sumo Ulysses II	629
Sumo Athena II Line	679
Sumo Polaris III	898

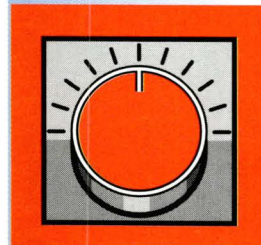


Harman/Kardon HK610 This punchy little integrated amp is a great way to start a budget system.

Sumo Athena III	987
Sumo Artemis OP	1,695
Sumo Audiomedia III	1,810
Sumo Model Five	1,830
Technics SU-C2000	700
Tesseract TAADA	1,500
Tesseract TALA	1,500
Tesseract TAHA	1,800
Thorens TTP 2000F	650
Thorens TRP3000	1,500
Thorens TRP3000	1,500
Thorens TRP 3000	1,500
Thule PR200	699
Tube Tech Seer Line	575
Tube Tech Seer Phono	649
Tube Tech Prophet	1,199
Unison Research Mystery One	1,750
Unison Research Phono One	1,995
Woodside SC27 Line	705
Woodside SC27 MM	881
Woodside SC27 MC	999
Woodside SC25 Line	1,420
Woodside SC26 Phono	1,931
XTC PRE-1	1,000
Yamaha CX-2	650
YBA 3 Pre	1,250
YBA 2 Pre	1,699

Over £2000

Adyton TEMPER	2,495
Adyton MODUS	2,895
Alchemist Alchemist Control	4,995
ATC SCA2	2,499
Audio Research LS-3b	2,250
Audio Research PH-2	2,895
Audio Research LS-2 II	2,997
Audio Research SP9 III	3,290
Audio Research LS-2b II	3,398
Audio Research LS-5 II	5,690
CAT SL1 Sig line	5,500
CAT SL1 Sig phono	6,000
Classe Audio Audio 5L II	2,395
Classe Audio Audio 5 II	2,657
Classe Audio Audio 6L II	3,469
Classe Audio Audio 6 II	3,817
Counterpoint SA-3000E	2,195
Counterpoint SA-5000E	3,995
Counterpoint SA-9	3,995
DNM 3B Twin E	3,050
DNM 3B Primus E	3,630
DNM 3B Six E	4,780
EAR 802MC	2,599
EAR G88	6,999
Electrocompaniet EC-3MC SF	2,135
Gamma Acoustics Era Ref	3,999
Jadis DEFY-P60	3,774
Jadis JPL	4,720
Jadis JPP-200	4,998
Jadis JP-30MC	5,978
Jadis JP-S2	7,900
KAL Empress	3,660
Krell KSL-2	3,331
Krell KRC-2	4,190
Krell KRCS	6,949
LFD Disc Preamp	4,499
Lumley Reference L/R M100	2,250
Lumley Reference L/R LS2	3,250
Lumley Reference L/R PS2	3,550
Lumley Reference PS2	3,550
Lumley Reference L/R M140	4,250
Lumley Reference ST150	4,350
Mark Levinson 38	3,995
Mark Levinson 38S	6,495
Matisse Fantasy	2,300
Matisse Reference	3,500
McIntosh C38	2,095
McIntosh C22	2,099
McIntosh C39	3,129
McIntosh C40	3,239
Meracur PRETARE	2,195
Meridian 601	2,750
Naim Audio NAC82	2,058
Naim Audio NAC52	3,190
Sonic Frontiers SFL-2	3,795
Sumo Model Ten/M	4,080
Tesseract TAP-A	5,300
YBA 1 Pre	3,750



Power Amps

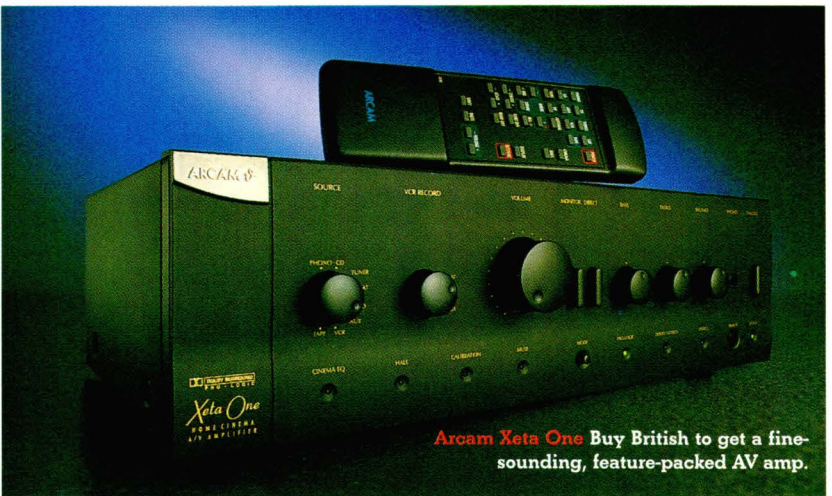
Up to £500

AMC 2445	299
----------	-----

AMC 2030	449
Arcam ALPHA 9P	400
Arcam Delta 290P	400
Creek A42	279
Crimson CS620C	450
Denon PMA-250SE	160
Denon PMA-350SE	200
Denon PMA-725R	350
Harman-Kardon PA2100	400
LFD Powerstage PA0	499
Marantz MA500	250
Marantz AV600	250
Marantz MA-500	250
Marantz MM-500	450
Moth 30 Series Power	239
Moth 30 Mono/40	459
Myrrad MA 120	450
Naim Audio NAP90/3	428
Onix 0A401	400
Rotel RB970BX MkII	225
Rotel RB980BX	450
Technics SE-A1000	400

£501 to £2000

Alchemist Forsetti Pwr	1,309
Arion EOS Export Mk II	1,299
Arion Triton Mk II	1,399
Arion Tycho Pwr Mk II	1,850
Art Audio Quintet	1,393
Art Audio Quintet SE MB	1,500
Art Audio Concerto	1,669
Audio Innovations Ser 800	999
Audio Innovations First Audio	1,749
Audio Innovations Ser 1000	1,799
Audiolab 8000P	750
Audiolab 8000M	800
Audiolink PR401	583
Aura PA200	1,200
AVI S2000MA	849
AVI S2000MM	1,249
Bryston 2B-LP	639
Bryston 3B-ST PRO	987
Bryston THX3B	1,074
Bryston 3B-NRB	1,159
Bryston 7B-ST PRO	1,545
Bryston THX7B	1,605
Bryston 5B-ST PRO	1,610
Bryston 4B-NRB	1,756
Bryston 7B-NRB	1,815
Bryston THX4B	1,858
Bryston 8B-ST PRO	1,868
Chimera X-150P	1,200
Classe Audio Audio 70	1,399
Copland CSA 8	950
Copland CTA-501	1,599
Copland CTA-504	1,999
Counterpoint Solid 1EM	995
Counterpoint SA100E	1,495
Counterpoint Solid 1E	1,495
Counterpoint NPS-100E	1,995
Credo PMP154	1,699
Credo PMP303	1,699
Crimson CS630C	800
Dawn Audio Cmd 2 by 200	890
DNM PA1	1,750
ECA Lectern S	880
ECA Lectern HD	1,480
Electrocompaniet AW60B	1,185
Electrocompaniet AW60B SF	1,358
Exposure XVII Super	850
Exposure XVIII (pr)	1,599
Grant G50A	1,128
Grant G100AMS	1,528
Harman-Kardon PA2200	700
Harman-Kardon PA2400	1,000
LFD PA1 Powerstage	999
LFD Powerstage PA2	1,599
LFD Powerstage PA2M	1,999
Linn LK100	650
Linn Klout	2,000
Lumley Reference ST40	1,250
Lumley Reference ST70	1,950
Lynwood Ruby	985
Magnum MF330	685
Marantz MA-23	1,800
McIntosh MC7100	1,259
Meracur CIERE	1,095
Meridian 555	750
Michell Alecto Stereo	1,150
Michell Alecto Mono	1,989
Michi RHB-05	1,100
Michi RHB-10	2,000
Micromega Amp	1,250
Monrio MC-25	895
Monrio HP1	1,995
Moth 30 Stereo/60	549
Moth 30 Mono/100	879
Musical Fidelity FX2	799
NAD Monitor 208	999
Naim Audio NAP140	722
Naim Audio NAP180	1,016
Naim Audio NAP135	1,576
Naim Audio NAP250	1,576
Onix 0A601	699
Onix 0A801	849



Arcam Xeta One Buy British to get a fine-sounding, feature-packed AV amp.

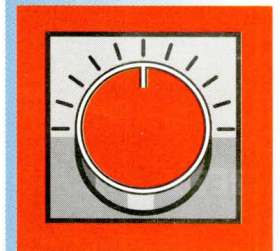
Papworth TVA50	1,425
PS Audio 100 Delta	1,499
Quad 77SA	600
Quad 707	800
Rega EXS	598
Rega EXON	598
Rose RP-190 (Dual Mode)	550
Rotel RB990BX	625
Shearpe Phase 3	619
Shearpe Phase 5 Mono	879
Sonic Frontiers SFS-40	1,695
Technics SE-A2000	1,100
Thorens TRA3000	550
Thorens TRA3000	2,000
Thorens TRA3000	2,000
Thorens TRA 3000	2,000
Thule PA200	1,798
Tube Tech Unisis Pwr Amp	1,099
Woodside ISA 240	949
Woodside MA50 Class A	1,224
Woodside STA35	1,323
XTC POW-1	2,000
Yamaha MX-2	750
YBA 3 Power	1,199

Over £2000

+ ROK-M1.5	4,500
Adyton CORDIS 1.6	3,495
Alchemist Alchemist Stereo	3,995
Alchemist Alchemist Mono	8,995
Art Audio Tempo	2,499
Art Audio Quintet SE	2,500
Art Audio Maestro	3,524
Audio Innovations Ser 1000SE	2,499
Audio Innovations Second Audio	3,299
Audio Research VT60	2,645
Audio Research D-200	3,248
Audio Research V35	3,355
Audio Research V70	4,480
Audio Research D-300	4,800
Audio Research VT130	5,994
Audio Research D-400II	6,600
Audio Research VT150	7,200
Audio Research V140	8,960
Bryston THX8B	2,030
Bryston 8B-NRB	2,195
Classe Audio Audio 10	2,299
Classe Audio Audio 15	3,399
Classe Audio Audio 25	4,639
Classe Audio Audio M-700	7,690
Classe Audio Audio M-1000	9,968
Copland CTA-505	2,099
Counterpoint Solid 2E	2,495
Counterpoint NPS-200E	2,995
Counterpoint SA4	3,575
Counterpoint Nat Progress	4,125
Counterpoint NPS-400E	4,395
Counterpoint NPM-E	8,995
Credo PMP102	2,181
Credo PMP252	2,509
DNM PA2BE	4,250
DNM PA2BS	5,250
DNM PA2BS-1	5,650
Dynavector HX7.5	2,195
Dynavector HX1.2	3,995
EAR 509 Mk II	3,499
EAR 519	4,699
EAR 549	6,999
Electrocompaniet AW100DMB	2,115
Electrocompaniet AW100DMB-SF	2,298
Electrocompaniet AW250DMB	3,983
Electrocompaniet AW250DMB-SF	4,215
Electrocompaniet AW180MB	4,673
Electrocompaniet AW180MB-SF	4,910
Exposure IV	2,199
Exposure XVI	4,000
Gamma Acoustics Aeon 211/VT4C	4,999
Gamma Acoustics Space Ref	5,999

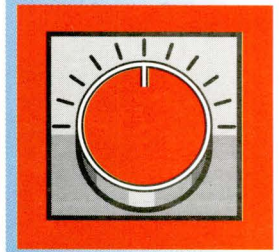
Graaf 5050	2,100
Grant G350A	3,455
Grant G200AMS	3,760
Jadis JA-30	2,880
Jadis JA-80	4,956
Jadis DEFY-7	5,290
Jadis JA-200	7,759
KAL Emperor	4,375
Krell KSA-50s	3,690
Krell KSA-100s	5,843
Krell KSA-200s	7,987
Krell KSA-300s	9,500
Lumley Reference M120	3,200
Marantz MA-24	2,600
Mark Levinson 29	3,450
Mark Levinson 331	4,495
Mark Levinson 27.5	5,399
Mark Levinson 332	6,495
Mark Levinson 23.5	7,399
Mark Levinson 333	8,495
Matisse Ref Monoblocks	7,800
McIntosh MC7108	2,249
McIntosh MC7150	2,295
McIntosh MC7104	2,729
McIntosh MC150	2,855
McIntosh MC7300	3,195
McIntosh MC7106	3,425
McIntosh MC275	3,595
McIntosh MC300	3,765
McIntosh MC2600	5,395
McIntosh MC500	6,265
Meracur TENTARE	2,245
Meracur CANTARE	8,995
Musical Fidelity F16	2,499
Musical Fidelity F19	3,999
Papworth M100	2,645
Papworth M200	3,825
PS Audio 200 Delta	2,279
PS Audio 200b Delta	2,490
PS Audio 250 Delta	2,980
Shearpe Phase 1 Pwr Ref	2,199
Sonic Frontiers SFS-80	2,895
Sonic Frontiers SFS-160	5,495
Tesseract TAMP-60	7,350
Tube Tech Genesis	2,599
Unison Research Smart 845	2,995
YBA 2 Power	2,150
YBA 1 Power	4,250

Sony TA-VE700	350
Sony TA-AV590	399
Sony TA-AV570B	400
Technics SL-EX100	200
Technics SL-EX300	250
Yamaha DSP-A590	349
Yamaha DSP-A780	599
Yamaha DSP-A2070	1,099



AV Receivers

Denon AVR-900	350
Harman-Kardon AVR-20	499
Harman-Kardon AVR-25	699
Harman-Kardon AVR-30	1,000
JVC RX-416VBK	270
JVC RX-616RBK	350
Marantz SR-82	900
NAD AV713	480
NAD 917	550
NAD AV716	600
Onkyo TX-SV424PR0	450
Onkyo TX-SV525PR0	600
Onkyo TX-SV727PR0	900
Onkyo TX-SV919THX	2,000
Philips FTR731	250
Philips FR751	300
Pioneer VSX-804RDS	399
Sony ST-AD54B	280
Sony STR-D615	300
Sony SMD611B	330
Yamaha RX-V390RDS	299
Yamaha RX-V590RDS	449



**AV Loudspeakers
Centre Channel Speakers**

B&W Solid HCM1S	125
B&W CC3	150
B&W CC6	200
Boston Acoustics 404V	100
Boston Acoustics CR1	100
Boston Acoustics Centre 6	130
Boston Acoustics 525V	150
Boston Acoustics Centre 7	200
Boston Acoustics VR12	300
Canon S-C10	129
Canon S-C20	199
Celestion CSC	129
Celestion Centre 2	189
JBL MR Centre	100

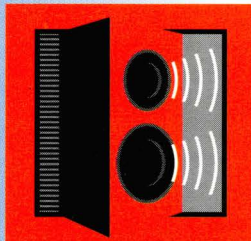


GLL Arena AV System Deploys GLL's revolutionary ICT technology for ace AV sound.

JBL TLX103	130
JBL SC305	150
JBL Centre	180
JPW Center 160	170
KEF 200C	699
Kenwood CS-6	150
Keswick Audio Centrali	359
Linn Centrik	298
Meridian DSP5000C	1,750
Meridian DSP6000C	4,900
Mission 75C	248
Monitor Audio CC200	200
Monitor Audio CC900	400
NAD 808CC	170
Polk CS200	170
Polk RM2500C	249
Polk CS250	250
Polk CS350	450
Royd AV77	250
Yamaha NS-C60	60
Yamaha NS-C105	80
Yamaha NS-C150	110
Zyp A1TAV	109

AV Speaker Packages

Aiwa TS-W5	150
Aiwa TS-W7	200
B&W Solid System	685
B&W THX System	4,395
Boston Acoustics THX System	2,500
Canon S-KT2	229
Canon S-KT1	279
Celestion CS2	149
Dali Surround Sound Sys	1,240
GLL Arena AV	89
Harman-Kardon HT-1 System	2,500
JBL Control 1	119
JBL Control 4	249
JBL SAT2	299
JBL Control 25	599
JBL Music/Movies One	650
JBL / REL System	995
JBL Music/Movies Two	1,100
JBL HT-1 System	2,500
JBL Synthesis Three	15,000
JBL Synthesis Two	22,500
JBL Synthesis One	32,000
JPW Gold Monitors	80
JPW MM Package	199
JPW Gold Monitor	280
JPW AV2	300
JPW AV1	300
JPW AV4	400
JPW AV3	400
KEF 80C	129
Pioneer S-V201	250
Pioneer S-V401	700
Polk RM3000 II/M3/CS200	1,088
Polk SRT	9,500
REL/JBL System	1,000
Sony SA-VA1	599
Sony SA-VA3	799
Sony SA-V55	800
Wharfedale Movies 4	349
Wharfedale Movies 7	459
Wharfedale Movies 9	489

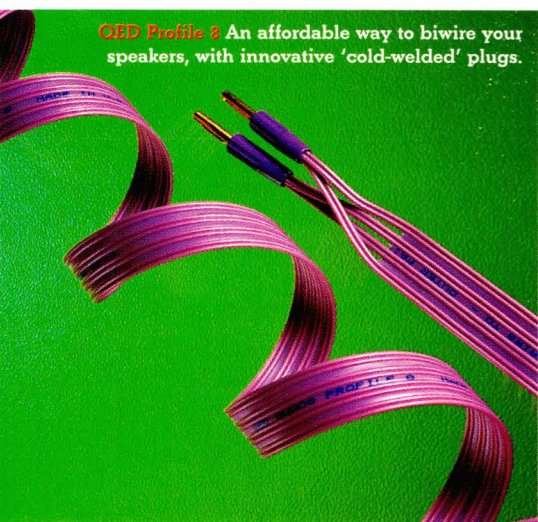


Surround Speakers

Aiwa SX-R220	50
B&W SCM8	550
Boston Acoustics VRS	429
Boston Acoustics 575X	450
Canon V-100	210
Musical Technology Merin	200
Polk M3 II	220
Polk M5	300
Polk LS t/x Surround	449

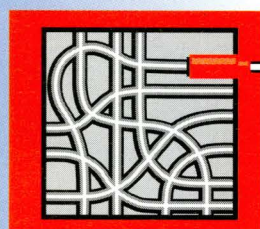
Subwoofers

B&W Solid Powerbass	300
B&W PCS8	750
B&W 800ASW	1,500
Boston Acoustics VR500	400



OED Profile - An affordable way to biwire your speakers, with innovative 'cold-welded' plugs.

Boston Acoustics SW10	450
Boston Acoustics 595X	455
Canon S-B20	200
JBL PS60	399
JPW Satellites	80
JPW Subwoofer	130
JVC SX-SC1VBK	60
Kenwood CM-5ES	80
Kenwood RS-05	80
Kenwood CM-7ES	100
Kenwood SW500	250
Meridian Sub 1	1,500
Polk PSW100	499
Rel Stadium II	1,000
Rel Stentor 2	1,800
Rel Studio 2	4,000
Wharfedale Modus Sub-Bass	180



CABLES
Analogue Interconnects

Arion SA0.5	75
Arion SA1	125
Arion SA2	199
Cable Talk Improved 2/CD	25
Cable Talk Advanced 2	35
Cable Talk Improved 2/T	50
Cable Talk Studio 2	65
Cable Talk Professional 2	85
Cable Talk Broadcast 2	130
Cable Talk Reference 2	180
Chord Chrysalis	30
Chord Cobra	49
Chord Siren	65
Chord Chameleon	68
Chord Solid	99
DPA Slink	41
DPA White Slink	75
Electrocompaniet EC-K4/S	165
Electrocompaniet EC-K4/X	214
Ixos 104	20
Ixos 103	40
Ixos 102	60
Ixos 101	100
Kimber Cable Illuminati DX50	350
Kimber Cable Orchid	750
Kronos Konnekt 3	49
Kronos Konnekt 2	99
Kronos Konnekt 1	199
Naim Audio SNAIC-5	47
Nordost Magic 1	30
Nordost Black Knight	50
Nordost Blue Angel	80
Nordost Blue Heaven	120
Nordost Red Dawn	250
QED P2 Gold	20
QED Incon P2 Screened	23
QED Incon P1 Screened	26
QED Incon Pink	35
Sonic Link Red	45
Sonic Link Derwent	50
Sonic Link Violet	85
Sonic Link Blue	115
Sonic Link Black	165
Trichord Pulsewire 75	150

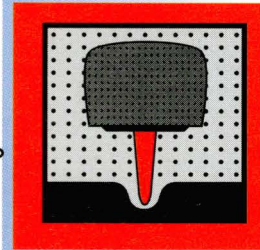
Digital Interconnects

Arion DAC1	99
Arion DAC2	199
Audioquest Video Z	50
Audioquest Digital PRO	90
Cable Talk Digital 2	75
Chord Codac	33
Chord Prodac	50
DPA Digi-link	28
Ixos 105	25
Monster Datalink 100	45
Moth Leyline Datalink	140
Nordost Moonglo Digital	135
QED DigiFax	20
QLN Nordost Moonglo	130
QLN Nordost-XLR	165
Sonic Link Light Brown	30
Sonic Link Green	50
Trichord Pulsewire 75/D	64
Van Den Hul MV Videolink 75	30

Speaker Cables

Bandridge LC7409	4
Cable Talk Overture 2	4
Chord MYTH	6
Chord LEGEND	15

Electrocompaniet EC-K2	119
Gale XL315	2
Gale XL160-2	3
Grado 450CM	25
Ixos 607	2
Ixos 605	5
Ixos 606	8
Ixos 605/5	15
Lumley Reference Silver	35
Naim Audio NACA 5	5
Puresonic 7845	2
Rega	2



CARTRIDGES
Up to £100

Arcam C77	30
Arcam C77MG	40
Arcam E77	50
Arcam E77MG	60
Arcam P77	63
Arcam P77MG	73
Audio Technica AT-91	13
Audio Technica AT-95E	19
Audio Technica AT-110E	24
Denon DL110	70
Denon DL160	90
Denon DL103	100
Goldring Elan P	17
Goldring Elan	19
Goldring Elektra	29
Goldring 1006	69
Goldring 1012GX	65
Goldring 1012 GX Cartridge	79
Goldring 1022GX	99
Grado ZTE+1	27
Grado ZCE+1	37
Grado Z3E+1	47
Grado Prestige Black	49
Grado Prestige Green	59
Grado Prestige Blue	69
Grado ZFI+	82
Grado Prestige Red	99
Linn K5	65
Nottingham Analogue Tracer I	98
Ortofon VM52	14
Ortofon OMP-5E	20
Ortofon OM-5E	20
Ortofon OM10 Super	30
Ortofon OMPRO-S	38
Ortofon OM Pro S	38
Ortofon 510	38
Ortofon OMDJ'S	50
Ortofon OMPRO-S+2	60
Ortofon OM Night Club S	65
Ortofon 520	65
Ortofon Concord PROs	70
Ortofon OM20 Super	70
Ortofon OM Night Club E	70
Ortofon MC1 Turbo	70
Ortofon Concord Pro S	70
Ortofon MC1 Turbo	70
Ortofon Condcard DJ's	80
Ortofon OMDJ'S+2	80
Ortofon OM30 Super	90
Ortofon Concord PRO-S+2	95
Ortofon OMNC+2	100
Ortofon MC10 Super	100
Ortofon 530	100
Pickering TE-15	20
Pickering VE-15	25
Pickering T-E	25
Pickering V15-DJ	28
Pickering TL-E	35
Pickering TL-2E	45
Pickering XV15-625E	50
Pickering XV15-150-DJ	50
Pickering TL-2-S	55
Pickering XV15-757S	60
Pickering XV15-625DJ	60
Pickering XV15-1800S	70
Pickering TL3S	80
Pickering XEV-3001E	95
Pickering XLV-3500	100
Pickering TL-4-S	100
Pro-Ject 78rpm Kit	20
Rega Bias	39
Rega RB78	39
Rega Super Bias	59
Rega Elys	85
Shure SC35C	29

Shure ME95ED	38
Shure M70BK	38
Stanton 500AL II	34
Stanton 500EL	37
Stanton 680ALX	56
Stanton 680ELX	70
Sumiko Oyster	30
Sumiko Black Pearl	50
Sumiko Pearl	70
Sumiko Blue Point	100

Over £100

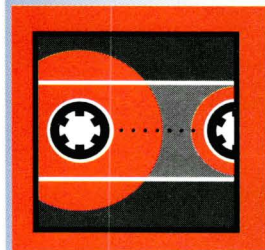
Roksan Corus Black	130
Roksan Shiraz	970
Audio Technica AT-OC9	245
Audio Technica ART-1	944
Audioquest MC5	250
Audioquest 404L	599
Audioquest 404MH	899
Audioquest 700BNSX	1,495
Denon DL304	200
DNM Reson Mica	150
DNM Reson Aciore	199
DNM Reson Recla	225
DNM Reson Etlie	299
DNM Reson Lexa	899
Dynavector 50X	159
Dynavector 10X	189
Dynavector 23RS	375
Dynavector 1702	450
Dynavector XX-1L	998
Dynavector XX-1	998
Dynavector TE-KAITORA	1,698
Goldring Eroica LX	110
Goldring Eroica	110
Goldring 1042	120
Goldring Elite	220
Grado Prestige Silver	149
Grado Prestige Gold	119
Grado Signature Junior	149
Grado Signature BMZ	250
Grado Signature MCZ	375
Grado Signature TLZ	650
Grado Signature XTZ	975
Koetsu Red T	1,550
Koetsu Red K Sig	1,998
Koetsu Urushi	2,297
Koetsu Signature	3,218
Linn K9	150
Linn K18/II	250
Linn Klyde	500
Linn Arkiv	1,060
London Decca Maroon	259
London Decca Gold	299
London Decca Maroon Dp	339
London Decca Gold Dp	379
London Decca S Gold	399
London Decca S Gold Dp	479
London Decca Jubilee	999
Lyra Lydian	699
Lyra Clavis Da Capo	1,069
Lyra Parmassus	2,295
Nottingham Analogue Tracer II	175
Nottingham Analogue Tracer III	350
Nottingham Analogue Tracer IV	550
Ortofon Concord NC S	110
Ortofon OMNC+E	120
Ortofon Concord NC E	120
Ortofon MC3 Turbo	130
Ortofon MC15 Super II	130
Ortofon 540	130
Ortofon Concord NCS+2	150
Ortofon Concord DJS+2	150
Ortofon Concord NC+E	165
Ortofon MC25E	180
Ortofon MC25FL	249
Ortofon MC10 Supreme	300
Ortofon MC20 Supreme	425
Ortofon MC30 Supreme	525
Ortofon MC2000II	750
Ortofon MC3000II	1,100
Ortofon MC5000	1,500
Ortofon MC7500	2,000
Pickering TL-3003	145
Pickering XLZ-4500	150
Pickering TL-4004	175
Pickering XSV-5000U	200
Pickering XLZ-7500	200
Pickering TLZ-7500-S	200
Pro-Ject 6/A30	1,000
Pro-Ject 6/A35	2,350
Stanton 890ALX	118
Sumiko BPS	250
Transfiguration SPIRIT	1,000
Transfiguration AF-1 Mk II	1,595
Transfiguration Temper	1,950
Transfiguration Supreme	1,995
Van Den Hul MM-1	250
Van Den Hul MM-2	299
Van Den Hul DDT-II	699
Van Den Hul MC-10	799
Van Den Hul MC-One	999
Van Den Hul MC-One/Hi	1,149
Van Den Hul MC-Two	1,349



Pioneer CT-S830S This impressive recorder is expensive but still great value for keen recordists.

Van Den Hul Grasshopper IISLN	2,200
Van Den Hul Grasshopper IICMN	2,750
Van Den Hul Grasshopper IISLA	2,999
Van Den Hul Grasshopper IIGLN	2,999
Van Den Hul Grasshopper IIGLA	2,999
Van Den Hul Grasshopper IICHN	3,400
Van Den Hul Grasshopper IVGLA	3,450

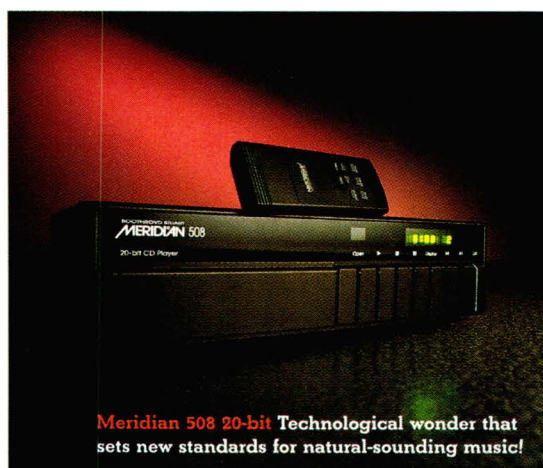
Teac W-780R	170
Teac R-560	180
Technics RS-TR373	200
Technics RS-BX501	200
Yamaha KX-390	150
Yamaha KX-W392	180
Yamaha KX-490	199



CASSETTE DECKS
Up to £200

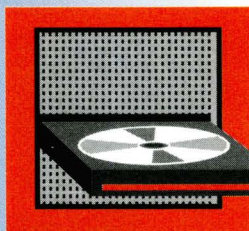
Aiwa AD-F450	120
Aiwa AD-WX727	170
Denon DRM-550	160
Denon DRW-580	200
Denon DRS-640	200
Dual CC8000 RS	200
Grundig CCF3	200
Grundig CCF3	200
JVC TD-W218BK	170
JVC TD-X372BK	170
JVC TD-R472BK	200
JVC TD-W318BK	200
Kenwood KX-W4080	160
Kenwood KX-3080	160
Kenwood KX-W6080	200
Kenwood KX-5080S	200
Luxman K-322	200
Marantz SD-53	200
Pioneer CT-S330	170
Pioneer CT-W503R	200
Pioneer CT-S430S	200
Sony TC-KE200	120
Sony TC-WE405	150
Sony TC-KE400S	180
Sony TC-WE505	200
Teac W-416	100
Teac V-610	100

Over £200	
Aiwa AD-F850	230
Aiwa AD-S950	300
Arcam Delta 100	899
Denon DRM-740	270
Denon DRS-810	310
Harman-Kardon TD420	280
Harman-Kardon TD450	350
Harman-Kardon TD470	450
JVC TD-V562BK	220
JVC TD-W718BK	250
JVC TD-V662BK	270
Kenwood KX-7060S	330
Luxman K-373	400
Marantz SD-535	250
Marantz SD-63	270
Marantz CP-430	600
NAD 613	230
NAD 614	270
NAD 616	299
Onkyo TA-RW311	320
Onkyo KR-609	350
Onkyo K-W606	370
Onkyo K-611	430
Pioneer CT-W603RS	230
Pioneer CT-W803RS	300
Pioneer CT-S630S	300
Pioneer CT-M601R	380
Pioneer CT-S830S	500
Pioneer CT-95	1,000
Sony TC-KE500S	230
Sony TC-WE80S	250
Sony TC-KE600S	300
Sony TC-K611S	300
Sony TC-KA6ES	550
Teac W-850R	250
Teac V-1030	250
Teac V-6000R	450
Teac V-6030S	550
Teac V-8030S	650
Technics RS-TR474	220
Technics RS-AZ6	230
Technics RS-TR575	280



Meridian 508 20-bit Technological wonder that sets new standards for natural-sounding music!

Technics RS-AZ7	300
Yamaha KX-W592	280
Yamaha KX-690	400
Yamaha KX-W952	599



CD PLAYER
Up to £250

Aiwa XC-300	150
Cambridge Audio CD4	150
Denon DCD-625	200
Denon DCD-825	240
Dual CD1135RC	140
Dual CD1150RC	150
Dual CD1006RS	170
Dual CD1180RC	180
Eclipse CD101a	80
Grundig CDII	170
Harman-Kardon HD710	250
JVC XL-V184BK	120
JVC XL-V284BK	140
JVC XL-F116BK	180
JVC XL-F216BK	200
JVC XL-V574BK	250
Kenwood DP-M5570	250
Kenwood DP-5060	250
Luxman B-322	200
Marantz CC-47	250
NAD 510	199
NAD 512	250
Onkyo DX-710	200
Onkyo DX-703	240
Philips CD711	120
Philips CD721	130
Pioneer PD-77	100
Pioneer PD-103	140
Pioneer PD-203	160
Pioneer PD-S504	200
Pioneer PD-M603	250
Rotel RCD-930AX	180
Sony CDP-XE200	120
Sony CDP-K1303	130
Sony CDP-XE300	140
Sony CDP-XE500	160
Sony CDP-CE405	180
Sony CDP-XE700E	200
Sony CDP-C325M	230
Sony CDP-761E	250
Teac CD-P1800	130
Teac CD-P3450	150
Teac CD-P3450	179
Teac PD-D2200	250
Technics SL-PG380A	120
Technics SL-PG480A	140
Technics SL-PG580A	160
Technics SL-PG570A	170
Technics SL-PS670A	200
Technics SL-PS770	250
Yamaha CDC-555	199
Yamaha CDC-655	249

£251 to £500	
Aiwa DX-C100M	500
AMC CD6	349
Arcam Alpha One	300
Arcam Arcam 7	320
Arcam Alpha 5 Plus	470
Audio Innovations Alto	399
Audio Innovations Alto Chr	449
Aura CD100	450
Creek CD42	500
Denon DCD-1015	350
Grundig CDC14	300
Harman-Kardon HD7325	299
Harman-Kardon FL8450	300
Harman-Kardon HD730	300
Harman-Kardon HD7425	349
Harman-Kardon HD7525	400
JVC XL-Z674BK	300
Micromega Minium CD	350
Musical Fidelity E60	300
NAD 514	370
NAD 517	400
Onkyo DX-7210	260
Onkyo C721	290
Onkyo DX-7510	400
Orelle CD-100	500
Pioneer PD-S703	300
Pioneer PD-M703	300
Pioneer PD-S904	400
Pioneer PD-DM802	450
Pioneer PD-S901	499

Pioneer PD-TM3	500
Rotel RCD-965BX	300
Rotel RCD-970BX	375
Sony CDP-XE900E	300
Sony CDP-XA3ES	350
Sony CDP-CX153	450
Teac CD-5	350

£501 to £1000

Arcam Alpha 8	520
Arcam Alpha 6	600
Arcam Delta 250	750
Arcam Delta 270	800
DPA Renaissance	950
Harman-Kardon HD7625	550
Harman-Kardon HD7725	800
Linn Mimik	875
Luxman D-373	550
Marantz CD-72 Mk II	600
Meridian 563	795
Meridian 200	895
Meridian 506	995
Myryad MC100	700
Naim Audio CD3	977
Onix CD33	999
Pioneer PD-F100	600
Quad 77B	700
Quad 77M	900
Teac VRDS-10SE	850
Technics SL-P2000	1,000
Thule CD100	849

Over £1000

Roksan ATT-DP3P	1,595
AVI S2000MC	1,249
Copland CDA277	1,800
Copland CDA-288	2,200
Jadis JS-1	8,068
Krell CD-DSP Mk II	5,000
Krell CD DSPII 5000	5,000
Krell KPS20i	9,990
Luxman D500XS	4,500
Marantz CD-23	4,000
Mcintosh MCD7008	2,195
Mcintosh MCD7009	2,635
Meracus AJURIGA	1,295
Meracus FLAGRARE	2,495
Meracus AMAGO	3,995
Meracus IMAGIO	4,495
Meridian 606	1,350
Meridian 508	1,685
Micro-Seiki CD-M2DC	3,695
Micro-Seiki CDM2000X	4,689
Mission Disc/Dacmaster	1,900
Musical Fidelity FCD	1,499
Naim Audio CD2	1,977
Naim Audio CD5	3,751
Pioneer PD-95	2,500
YBA 2	2,999
ADT Drive 1	3,499
Atd Drive 1	3,499
Audio Alchemy DDS III	700
Audiolab 8000CDM	1,400
Audiomeca Damnation	950
Audiomeca Damnation SE	1,100
Audiomeca Kreatura SE	1,250
Audiomeca Kreatura	1,299
Audiomeca Kreatura SE	1,450
Audiomeca Mephisto	2,100
Counterpoint DA-11E	1,495
DPA Enlightenment	725
Jadis JCdT	8,000
Krell KSP20i/1	1,100
Krell MD-20	4,999
Krell MD-10	7,990
Krell KPS 20T	8,490
Krell DT-10	9,090
Linn Kank	1,750
Meridian 500	1,245

Meridian 602	1,750
Micromega Drive 1	700
Pink Triangle Cardinal	795
PS Audio Lambda tr	2,250
Teac VRDS-TI	550
Teac VRDS-7	599
Teac P-700	900
Teac P-30	2,500
Theta Data Basic II	2,298
Theta Data III NTSC	5,345
Theta Data III NTSC/PAL	5,879
Thorens TCD2000	900
Wadia 8	3,195
Wadia 20	4,370
XTC CDT-1LE	1,250
Arcam Black Box 50	480
Arcam Black Box 500	750
Counterpoint DA-10E	1,895
Linn Numerik	1,400
Pink Triangle Ordinal	837
Pink Triangle DaCapo	1,536
PS Audio UltraLink 2 HDCD	2,650
PS Audio Ref Link	4,550
Teac D-TI	500
Trichord Pulsar Ser One	1,395



DIGITAL RECORDERS

JVC XM-D1BK	900
Meridian CDR	4,500
Philips DCC730	250
Philips DCC170	250
Pioneer D-05	800
Pioneer D-07	1,150
Pioneer PDR-05	1,300
Sharp MD-R1H	400
Sharp MD-MS100H	400
Sony MDS303	500
Sony MDS535	550
Sony MDS503	550
Sony MDA-JA3ES	700
Sony DTC60ES	800
Teac R-9	1,200



HEADPHONES
Up to £40

Aiwa HP-X201	13
Aiwa HP-A360	13
Aiwa HP-X301	20
Aiwa HP-VX303	25
Aiwa HP-X705	40
Audio Technica ATH-P1	10



Beyer DT321 Just one in this company's extensive range of ear-cossetting cans.



Mordaunt-Short MS16i Officially declared "a kickin' little box" in our recent review.

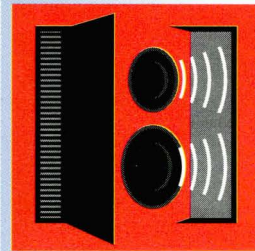
Audio Technica ATH-P3	15
Audio Technica ATH-P5	20
Beyer DT111 Alpha	13
Beyer DT111 Beta	17
Beyer DT111 Gamma	21
Beyer DT211	34
Denon AH-C33	26
JVC HA-22	6
JVC HA-CD88	18
JVC HA-DS25	20
JVC HA-F65	20
JVC HA-D626	25
Kenwood KH-535	15
Kenwood KH-757	20
Kenwood KH-959	25
Kenwood KH-1000	25
Kenwood KH-2020	40
Maxell EB-125	4
Maxell HP-200	5
Maxell EB-225	8
Maxell HBS-150	8
Maxell HP-300	8
Maxell HBS-325	9
Maxell EB-425	10
Maxell HP-700	10
Maxell HP-500	13
Maxell HP-1000	19
Maxell HP-2000	20
Maxell HP-3000	26
Pioneer SE-5	16
Pioneer SE-15	20
Pioneer SE-32	23
Pioneer SE-52	25
Pioneer SE-15V	30
Pioneer SE-330D	35
Pioneer SE-400D	37
Ross RE-233	5
Ross RIH-150	6
Ross RE-235	6
Ross RE-234	6
Ross RE-229	6
Ross RE-2030	6
Ross RMH-300	7
Ross RE-280	7
Ross RE-246	7
Ross RE-223	7
Ross RMH-500CD	9
Ross RIH-360CD	9
Ross RE-2060CD	9
Ross RMH-310TV	10
Ross RIH-550	10
Ross RIH-460CD	12
Ross RDH-200CD	13
Ross RDH-100CD	15
Ross RDH-300CD	17
Ross RDH-400CD	22
Sennheiser HD26	10
Sennheiser HD36	13
Sennheiser HD56	15
Sennheiser Vegas	28
Sennheiser Manhattan	28
Sennheiser HD60TV	38
Sony OPEN MDR005EL	6

Sony MDR-E505	8
Sony MDR007MK2	8
Sony FONTOPIA MDR5801	8
Sony MDR-009	10
Sony MDR-W07L	11
Sony MDR-A009	12
Sony MDR-V50	13
Sony MDR15	15
Sony MDR-A009	15
Sony MDR-W24V	15
Sony MDR-25	16
Sony MDR-W12L	16
Sony MDR-E837	18
Sony MDR-009TV	19
Sony MDR-35	20
Sony MDR-CD30	20
Sony MDR009TV	20
Sony MDR-A34L	20
Sony MDR-E848KP	20
Sony MDR-E848	20
Sony MDR-CD170	20
Sony MDR-P1TV	22
Sony MDR-P1TV	25
Sony MDR-CD250EX	28
Sony MDR-CD270	30
Sony MDR-CD370	40
Technics RP-HT300	40
Vivanco SR60	3
Vivanco SR12	3
Vivanco SR52	5
Vivanco SR54	7
Vivanco SR14	7
Vivanco SR16	8
Vivanco SR120	15
Vivanco SR250	19
Vivanco SR150	20
Vivanco SR200	25
Vivanco SR300	30

Over £41	
AKG K222IR	100
AKG K333IR	150
AKG K444IR	180
AKG K1000	700
Audio Technica ATH910PRO	90
Beyer DT311	57
Beyer DT411	69
Beyer DT331	82
Beyer DT431	98
Beyer DT511	117
Beyer DT770 Pro	129
Beyer IRS790	130
Beyer DT531	135
Beyer DT990 Pro	160
Beyer DT100	160
Beyer DT801	172
Beyer DT811	200
Beyer IRS890	222
Beyer DT901	222
Beyer DT911	235
Denon AH-D210	45
Denon AH-D350	65
Denon AH-D550	80

Denon AH-D650	95
Denon AH-D750	130
Denon AH-D950	150
Ergo 1	120
Ergo Model2	140
Grade SR80	110
Jacklin Float Model 1	79
Jacklin Float Model 2	99
Jacklin Float ELS	399
JVC HA-D727	43
JVC HA-D910	65
JVC HA-D1000	250
JVC HA-F25	699
Kenwood KH-5000	70
Pioneer SE-500D	48
Pioneer SE-700D	60
Sennheiser HD414 Class	50
Sennheiser HD445	50
Sennheiser HD455	50
Sennheiser HD465	65
Sennheiser IS360/AJK	70
Sennheiser HD475	75
Sennheiser HD25 SP	85
Sennheiser HD535	100
Sennheiser HD545 Ref	120
Sennheiser HD565 Ovat'n	140
Sennheiser HD265 Linear	140
Sennheiser IS450	150
Sennheiser HD25	160
Sennheiser IS550	180
Sennheiser HD 580 P'cision	200
Sennheiser IS850	860
Sennheiser HE60/HEV70	998
Sennheiser Orpheus	9,652
Sony MDR-IF210	50
Sony MDR-CD470	50
Sony MDR-CD570	70
Sony MDR-IF210K	80
Sony MDR-CD770	100
Sony MDR-D77	130
Sony MDR-CD1700	200
Stax SR34	169
Stax SR Gamma	239
Stax SR84	259
Stax SR Lambda	349
Stax Gamma Pro	399
Stax Lambda Pro	449
Stax Lambda Sig	549
Stax Omega	1,695
Technics RP-HT400	50
Technics RP-HT600	60
Technics RP-HT700	70
Vivanco IR5700	50
Vivanco IR5000	50
Vivanco SR850	50
Vivanco SR650	50
Vivanco SR750	60
Vivanco IR6000	70
Vivanco SR909	70
Vivanco IR6500	90
Vivanco SR10001FL	110
Vivanco IR7100	120
Vivanco IR7600	140

Vivanco SR200IFL 140



LOUDSPEAKERS
Up to £130

Advent Mini	99
Atison AL100	100
AMC WM50	120
B&W Solid HCM1S	125
B&W DM302	130
B&W Solid HCM2	130
Bose XL1000	130
Canon SV15	100
Canon S-C10	130
Celestion CC1	90
Celestion Little 1	99
Celestion Impact 10	129
Celestion CSC	129
Denon SCM2	80
Gale Ref Monitors	100
Genexa GX330	80
GLL Arena HF	99
Goodmans Active 75	65
Interaudio XL1000	100
Jamo Studio 80	70
Jamo D100	80
Jamo sat90	90
Jamo Studio 110	100
Jamo D110	100
Jamo Cornet 20.4	100
Jamo SAT170	110
Jamo Artina	120
Jamo D115	120
Jamo Cornet 30.4	120
Jamo JAMO 28	125
Jamo SAT 200.II	130
JBL Control One	115
JPW Minim SGL SHD	89
JPW Minim Pair Solid	50
JPW Sonata Vinyl	100
JPW Sonata	120
JVC SX-SCLVBK	60
JVC SP-V50	80
JVC SP-X20TBK	100
JVC SP-X550BK	130
KEF Coda 7	129
Mission 73	100
Mission 731i	130
Mordaunt-Short MS05i	100
Pioneer CS-3030	120
Realistic Minimus 3.5	30
Realistic Minimus 21	30
Realistic M'imus 26	56
Realistic Minimus Pro-7	60
Realistic Minimus Pro-77	100
Revolver Beretta	100
Sony SS-E300	50
Sony SS-E300	50
Sony SS-E500	80
Sony SS86E	100
Sony SS125E	130
TDL NUCLEUS 1	60
TDL NFM1	120
Teac LS-CT8	80
Teac LS-X8	80
Technics SB-CS55	80
Technics SB-CS75	100
Visonik 5202	129
Wharfedale Centre Cube	49
Wharfedale Valduis 100	79
Wharfedale Diamond 6R	99
Wharfedale Valduis 200	109
Wharfedale Modus Micro	109
Wharfedale Modus Centre	119
Yamaha NS-C80	99

£131 to £200

Acoustic Energy AE100	200
Advent Baby 2	149
Allison AL105	170
AMC WM75	160
B&W CWM5	150
B&W DM601	199
B&W Solid Monitor	200
Bose 101 M'ble Monitor	190
Bose XL2000	200
Boston Acoustics HD5	139
Boston Acoustics 325	139
Boston Acoustics CR6	149
Boston Acoustics Runabout	169
Boston Acoustics 350	179

Boston Acoustics 335	179
Boston Acoustics Satellites	179
Boston Acoustics 351	180
Boston Acoustics CR7	199
Boston Acoustics Runabout II	200
Canon S-25	150
Canon S-30	180
Canon S-B20	200
Celestion CS135	139
Celestion 3 MkII	139
Celestion Impact Centre	149
Celestion MP1	149
Celestion Centre 2	189
Celestion STYLE 1	199
Celestion Impact 15	199
Cerwin Vega HED165	200
Denon SC-E313	160
Gale Model 4	200
Genexa GX650	140
GLL Arena SW	139
GLL Imagio IC100	170
Grundig BX1	160
Harman-Kardon LS0200	149
Harman-Kardon LS0300	199
Heybrook Prima	139
Heybrook Solo	199
Infinity SM65	150
Infinity Reference Li	150
Infinity Reference 11i	200
Interaudio XL2000	140
Interaudio XL3000	160
Interaudio XL4000	200
Jamo Studio 140	140
Jamo SAT300.II	150
Jamo D135	160
Jamo Studio 180	180
Jamo 38	180
Jamo Converta	180
Jamo D165	200
JBL TLX111	140
JBL TLX121	170
JPW P1 Vinyl	150
JPW P1	170
JPW AP2	200
KEF Coda 8	189
KEF 60S	199
Kenwood LS-200G	150
Mission 73C	150
Mission 732	200
Monitor Audio MA301	200
Mordaunt-Short MS10i	140
Mordaunt-Short MS20i	200
Naim Audio NA PX0	133
Ortofon Concord 2	170
Philips Legend FB720II	200
Pioneer CS-5030	170
Polk RT3	200
QLN PROJEKT A3	135
QLN PROJEKT A4	180
QLN QuBic111	200
Rega KYTE	198
Revolver Colt	139
Revolver Purdey Mk II	199
Rogers LS1	149
Royd The Herald	198
Sequence 200	199
Sony SS-176E	200
Tanmay 631	149
Tanmay 632	189
TDL RTL1	180
TDL SBR	200
Technics SB-CS95	150
Technics SB-M20	200
Visonik 6003	143
Visonik 5001	170
Wharfedale Modus Mini	139
Wharfedale Valduis 300	149
Wharfedale Modus One	159
Wharfedale Modus Sub-bass	179
Wharfedale Modus Three	199
Wharfedale Valduis 400	199
Zyp A1	199

£201 to £300

Advent Graduate	219
Advent Prodigy	299
Allison MS200	220
Allison AL110	220
Allison AL115	280
AMC CD6	300
AMC WM100	210
Audio Gem Opal	230
B&O Beovox CX50	300
B&W CWM6i	240
B&W Solid HCM1	249
B&W DM602	300
B&W Solid Powerbass	300
B&W CWM8i	300
Bandor Loudspeakers VOICE	270
Bandor Loudspeakers PICTURES	300
Bose XL3000	230
Bose 151 Environmental	270
Bose 161 Freestyle	275
Bose 201 Ser III	290

Bose XL4000	295	Polk M5	300
Boston Acoustics 360 Ser II	209	QLN Projekt A5	225
Boston Acoustics 361	210	QLN Projekt B3	240
Boston Acoustics CR8	239	QLN QuBic 121	250
Boston Acoustics 380	249	QLN 122	270
Boston Acoustics 381	250	QLN A6	270
Boston Acoustics CR9	279	QLN Projekt B3i	285
Boston Acoustics Voyager	299	Rega EL8	298
Boston Lynnfield VR10	250	Rogers LS33	249
Boston Lynnfield VRS	300	Royd Minstral	269
Boston Lynnfield VR12	300	Royd Merlin	298
Canon SV15KIT2	210	Sequence 300	249
Canon V-100	210	System FW120	249
Canon V-100W	220	System Audio 905	250
Canon V-100EX	240	Tannoy 633/II	300
Canon SV15KIT1	250	TDL RTL 2	280
Canon S-35	250	Visonik 7003	203
Castle ISIS	229	Visonik SUB5	259
Castle Durham 903	300	Wharfedale Modus Five	259
Celestion Impact 20	279	Wharfedale Valduis 500	299
Celestion CSW	299	Yamaha NS10M	300
Celestion STYLE 2	299	Zyp A1T	219
Celestion Impact 23	300	Zyp A2S	275
Cerwin Vega HT120	250	Zyp A2ST	295
Cerwin Vega VS8	250		
Cerwin Vega HED265	300		
Cerwin Vega SAT-6	300		
Dali 102B	260		
Faraday FS1	245		
GLL Imagio IC110	300		
Heybrook HB1	269		
Infinity SM85	230		
Jamo 68	250		
Jamo 307A	230		
Jamo ART	270		
Jamo ATMOSPHERE	280		
Jamo Deco Art	300		
Jamo D265D	300		
Jamo D265C	300		
Jamo Classic 4	300		
JBL TLX50	250		
JBL TLX60	300		
JPW AP3	230		
JVC SX-SW10	300		
KEF Q10	229		
KEF Coda 9	299		
KEF 70S	299		
Kenwood LS-300G	300		
Lumley Reference Premenade SP1	299		
Micromega Reference MS1	300		
Monitor Audio Monitor 1 Gold	245		
Monitor Audio Monitor 7 Gold II	299		
Monitor Audio Sub W/200/92	300		
Monitor Audio MA201	300		
Mordaunt-Short MS30i	275		
Mordaunt-Short MS25i	300		
NAD 802	279		
Ortofon Concord 4	230		
P oneer CS-7030	230		
Pioneer S-4UK	250		
Pioneer S-60	270		
Pioneer CS-9030	280		
Polk M3 II	220		
Polk RT5	250		
Polk RT7	300		

£301 to £500

Acoustic Energy AE109	330
Advent Legacy 2	349
Advent Laureate	499
Allison CD7	380
Allison AL120	420
Audio Innovations Alto	329
AVI Neutron	499
B&O Beovox CX100	400
B&O Beovox RL6000	450
B&O Beovox 4500	475
B&W CDM2	400
B&W Solid Verticale	400
B&W AS6	500
B&W DM603	500
B&W Signature 7	500
Bose 301 VM	380
Bose 305	430
Bose A'mass AM3 II	500
Bose 401	500
Boston Acoustics SW10	449
Boston Acoustics SubSat 6	449
Boston Lynnfield VR20	380
Boston Lynnfield VR500	450
Castle York	370
Castle Severn	500
Celestion Impact 25	399
Celestion STYLE 4	399
Celestion STYLE 3	399
Celestion Impact 30	429
Celestion SL6Si	429
Celestion CS6i	449
Celestion CS6i	499
Cerwin Vega VS10	350
Clements 300Si	395
Dali 104B	370
Dawn Audio Chorus BS	482
Epos ES12	499
Faraday SG	345
Faraday Siren	445

Fullers Sultan	349
Fullers Sultan H.E.	475
GLL Imagio IC120	420
Grundig BK3 Mk II	350
Heybrook Trio	373
Heybrook Heylo	389
Heybrook Haystak	499
Infini by SM105	350
Infinity SM115	450
Infinity SSW-10 Sub	500
Jamo 407A	350
Jamo JAMO 98	360
Jamo CLASSIC 6	360
Jamo BX 100A	370
Jamo D365B	400
Jamo THX SUB ONE	400
Jamo THX LCR ONE	400
Jamo GRAPHIC	400
Jamo CLASSIC 8	430
Jamo BX 150A	460
Jamo JAMO128	500
Jamo 477A	500
Jamo CONCERT CENTRE	500
Jamo SILHOUETTE	500
JBL TLX151	350
JBL TLX70	400
JBL TLX161	400
JBL TLX171	500
JPW Ruby 1	500
KAL Mini-Ref MKII	395
KEF Q30	379
Keswick Audio Aria II	329
Linn Tukun Passive	500
Lumley Reference LM4	375
Lumley Reference PREMENADE SP2	399
Lumley Reference LM5	499
Lumley Reference PREMENADE SP3	499
Mission 733	330
Mission 751 Freedom	348
Mission 734	499
Monitor Audio Monitor 9 Gold II	350
Monitor Audio MA302	400
Monitor Audio MA202	450
Monitor Audio MA303	500
Monitor Audio Monitor 14 Gold II	500
Monitor Audio MA700 PMC	500
Mordaunt-Short MS40i	450
Musical Technology Harrier	400
Neat CRITIQUE	445
Or g'n Live QL-1AS	399
Or g'n Live Monarch	399
Origin Live QL-2A	470
Ortofon Concord 6	330
Pentachord A	469
Pioneer S-80	370
Polk RT8	400
Polk LS 1/x Surround	449
Polk RT10	500
Prof Monitor Co TB1S	366
Prof Monitor Co TB1SM	403
Prof Monitor Co TB1	410
Prof Monitor Co TB1M	447
Prof Monitor Co XB1	499
QLN Projekt B4	329
QLN Projekt B3ii	329
QLN Projekt C3	330
QLN Projekt B MULTI	330
QLN Projekt D3	360
QLN Projekt C3i	370
QLN QuBic 222	400
QLN Projekt C3ii	400
QLN Projekt B5	400
QLN Projekt C3iii	400
QLN Projekt D3i	440
QLN Projekt C3iv	440
QLN Projekt C4	440
QLN Projekt C3iv	440
QLN Projekt D3ii	470
QLN Projekt D4	480
QLN Projekt CMULTI	500
Rega ELA	498
Rogers AB33	379
Rogers DB101	399
Rogers LS55	429
Rogers Studio 3	499
Royd The Squire	350
Royd Doublet	450
Ruark Swordsman Plus II	329
Ruark Icon	359
Ruark Sabre II	449
Ruark Templar	499
Sd Acoustics SD3R	399
Sequence 400	329
Spendor 2020	399
Tannoy Subsat3	399
Tannoy 636	419
Tannoy 637	499
TDL RTL 3	400
TDL RTL 3	400
Technics SB-M300	350
Technics SB-M500	450
Totem Mite	495
Triangle Titus TZe	325
Triangle Comete TZe	475

UKD-Opera Prima	450
Visonik TB1S	366
Wharfedale Modus Seven	339
Wharfedale Modus One-Three	439
£501 to £800	
Roksan 1	595
Roksan Ojan Sub	795
Roksan Ojan 3 Black	795
Acoustic Energy AE1-II	795
Advent Heritage	579
Allison CDB	500
Allison AL125	650
Allison AL130	800
Audio Gem Emerald	540
B&W CDM1	600
B&W P4	675
Bandor Loudspeakers TRIDENT	720
Bose SE-5 Ser II System	760
Bose A'mass AM511	800
Roksan Acoustics SubSat 7	549
Boston Lynnfield VR30	600
Canon V-200	600
Castle Chester	700
Castle Harlech	799
Celestion Impact 35	529
Celestion 100	539
Celestion 100	539
Celestion Impact 40	629
Celestion IMPACT 45i	670
Cerwin Vega VS12	550
Cerwin Vega DC10	550
Cerwin Vega DC12	650
Cerwin Vega VS15	700
Clements 600Si	595
Dawn Audio Chorus FS	698
Epos ES14	675
Faraday FS10	795
Fullers Sultan H.E.	625
Fullers Pharaoh 1	749
GLL Imagio IC130	530
Harbeth BBC LS3/5A	699
Harbeth HL-P3ES	799
Heybrook Quartet	575
Infinity SM125	500
Infinity SM155	650
Jamo BX 200A	550
Jamo THX SURR ONE	550
Jamo CLASSIC 10	700
Jamo 507A	700
JBL TLX181	600
Jordan Watts JH200	510
Jordan Watts JHFLG	560
JPW Ruby 2	700
JVC SX-911WD	660
JVC SX-500 Spirit	700
KAL Mini-Tower	619
KAL Compact Ref	650
KAL Tunejal	795
KEF Q50	529
KEF LS3/5a	649
KEF Q70	729
Keswick Audio Volante	629
Lineaum LFX Wood	649
Linn Sekrit Aktiv	650
Linn Kelidh Passive	700
Lumley Reference LM6	650
Lumley Reference PREMENADE SP4	650
Mant core Minaret	580
Meridian A500	695
Mission 752	578
Mission 735	650
Mission 753 Freedom	798
Monitor Audio Studio 2	600
Monitor Audio 702PMC	799
Monitor Audio MAG901	800
Mordaunt-Short MS50i	550
Naim Audio INTRO	596
Naim Audio NA PX03	705
Naim Audio S-NAOX 3-6	719
Naim Audio S-NAOX 2-4	719
Neat Petite	595
Neat Mystique	650
Neat Petite II	745
Orelle Orator II	699
Origin Live Resolution	732
Origin Live Victory	750
Pentachord B	519
Pentachord Pentode	729
Pioneer S-200	600
Polk RTL2	600
Polk LS50	800
Proac Response 1	599
Proac Tablette 50	599
Proac Studio 100	699
QLN 313	600
QLN 929	700
QLN Classic One	800
Quad Q7710L	600
Technics SB-400	549
Rogers AB1	549
Rogers LS3/5A	699
Rogers Studio 5	699
Royd The Sorcerer	595
Royd Abbot	665

Ruark Talisman II	749
Shahinian Super Elf	790
Spendor 2030	599
Spendor LS3/5A	630
Spendor SP3/1	795
Tannoy 625	595
Tannoy 638	599
Tannoy D100	649
TDL T-Line 2	550
TDL RTL4	650
TDL T-Line3	750
Totem Rokk	695
UKD-Opera Seconda	550
UKD-Opera Riferimento	595
UKD-Opera Operetta	660

£801 to £1500

Roksan Ojan 3 Rosewood	1,995
Roksan Ojan 3X Black	1,995
Roksan Ojan 3X Rosewood	1,995
Acoustic Energy AE2-II	1,095
ATC SCM10	1,000
ATC SCM20	1,500
Audio Physic Step	1,299
Audiovector 2X	850
Audiovector 3X	1,500
B&O Beolab 4500	1,200
B&O Beolab 6000	1,450
B&W P5	875
B&W Matrix 805 V	995
B&W DM604	1,000
B&W P6	1,095
Bandor Bandora	1,140
Bandor Bandora/Mora	1,260
Bandor Mora	1,260
Bose A'mass AM7	900
Boston Lynnfield VR40	1,000
Canon S-75	1,000
Castle Howard S2	1,100
Celestion SL600Si	820
Celestion 300	1,099
Celestion 700SE	1,435
Cerwin Vega DC15	850
Cerwin Vega 1515	1,300
System Audio Signature	850
Clements Reference 1	995
Electrocompaniet Qubette	1,195
Electrocompaniet Qube	1,390
Epos ES22	1,185
Fullers Pharaoh 2	1,400
Gamma Acoustics Epoch Five	1,499
Harbeth HL-K6	975
Harbeth BBC LS5/12A	1,259
Harbeth HL Compact 7	1,329
Heybrook Sextet	1,129
Impulse Kora	1,250
Infinity Kappa 6.1i	995
Infinity Kappa 7.1i	1,195
Jamo 707i	900
Jamo Concert 8	1,300
JBL L20	850
JBL L40	1,100
JBL L60	1,200
JBL L80	1,300
JBL L90	1,300
JBL L90	1,500
Jordan Watts JH400	820
Jordan Watts JH400M	970
JPW Ruby 3	1,000
JPW Ruby 4	1,300
KAL Trans-double	1,500
KEF Model One	1,099
KEF Model Two	1,499
Keswick Audio Torino	899
Keswick Audio Figaro Evolution	899
Keswick Audio Milano	1,099
Keswick Audio Alto	1,299
Keswick Audio Amber	1,399
Lineaum LSII	991
Lineaum LFX Corian	1,399
Linn Tukun Aktiv	1,000
Living Voice Auditorium	1,300
Lumley Reference LM3	895
Lumley Reference LM3.5	1,050
Magnepan SMG-C SE	990
Magnepan MG-0.6 SE	1,370
Magneplanar MG-0.6 SE	1,370
Mantecore Matisse	1,390
Meridian Argent 1	995
Mission Freedom 5	1,298
Monitor Audio 703PMC	899
Monitor Audio Studio 6	900
Monitor Audio Studio 12	1,000
Monitor Audio 705PMC	1,499
Mordaunt-Short Performance 820	1,495
Morel 704/2	1,000
Naim Audio Credo	987
Origin Live Sovereign	975
Pink Triangle Ventral	896
Pioneer S-400	950
Polk LS70	1,200
Proac Tablette 50	899
Proac Response 1S	999
Proac Studio 150	1,399



You must listen to...Mission's 731i.
 "A combatant truly worthy of the budget speaker challenge" - Alan Sircom, Hi-Fi Choice, July/August 1996
 Call 01480 451777 for more information or your nearest stockist.

MISSION

Atacama SE24 Support your local speaker!
And a pair of these are an ideal way to do it...



Prof Monitor Co LB1	935
Prof Monitor Co AB1	1,496
QLN Signature	1,000
QLN Prestige	1,500
QLN Sig Splitfield	1,500
Rega XEL	1,040
Rogers Studio 7	899
Royd The Albion	1,270
Ruark Broadsword II	899
Ruark Paladin	1,099
Sd Acoustics SD5	1,235
Sonus-Faber Minuetto	898
Sonus-Faber M Amator	1,498
Spendor 2040	899
Spendor SP2/3	930
Spendor SP1/2	1,330
Tannoy O500	1,470
TDL Studio 1m	899
Technics SB-M1000	1,500
Thiel SCS	1,379
Thiel 2	1,499
Thiel CS-5	1,499
Totem Model One	1,195
Triangle Antal	975
Triangle Zays	1,399
UKD-Opera Super Pavarotti	875
UKD-Opera Callas II	895
UKD-Opera Callas Gold	995
UKD-Opera Divina	1,390
Vandersteen 2Ce	1,395
Visonik LB1	935

£1501 to £3000	
Acoustic Energy AE1 Sig	1,695
Acoustic Energy AE2 Sig	2,695
Allison I.C. 10	2,500
ATC SCM20 Tower	1,999
Audio Physic Spark 2	1,749
Audio Physic Tempo	1,999
Audiovector 5	2,500
B&O Beolab 8000	1,999
B&O Beolab Penta 3	2,500
B&W Matrix 804	1,595
B&W Matrix 803s2	1,995
B&W Matrix 802s3	2,795
Bose 901 V1	1,650
Boston Acoustics Lynfield 300L	2,000
Boston Acoustics Lynfield 300L	2,000
Castle Winchester	1,650
Celestion Kingston	2,500
Clements Reference 7	1,995
Dawn Audio Symphony	1,995
ECA SERV0 A.2	2,450
ECS ES25	1,655
Fullers Pharaoh 3	2,800
Fullers Sphinx 2	3,000
Gamma Acoustics Epoch Ref Five	2,999
Genelec 1019A	1,572
Genelec Blamp 1031A	2,068
Harbeth HL-5ES	1,799
Harbeth HL-S8	1,895
Helius Syrius II	2,395
Helius Syrius I	2,850
Impulse Lali	1,850

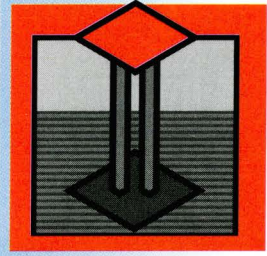
Jamo CONCERT 11	2,000
Jamo THX SYSTEM	2,500
JBL Ti 1000	1,600
JBL L100	1,800
JBL Ti 2000	2,000
JBL Ti 3000	2,700
Jordan Watts JH1 + 1 Aspect	1,730
Jordan Watts JH1 + 1 Aspect K	2,310
Jordan Watts Aspect JH1 + 1	2,745
KAL Warlock	1,600
KEF 104/2 REC	1,799
KEF Model Three	1,999
KEF Model Four	2,999
Linn Kaber Passive	1,800
Linn Kaber Aktiv	2,440
Lowther Fidelio	1,999
Lowther Academy	2,399
Lowther Bel Canto	2,699
Lumley Reference LM2	2,500
Lumley Reference L/M 2	2,795
Magneplan MG-10 SE	1,650
Magneplan MG-1.5 SE	1,780
Magneplan MG-2.7 SE	2,650
Magneplan MG-10 SE	1,650
Magneplan MG-1.5 SE	1,780
Magneplan MG-2.7 SE	2,650
Martin-Logan Aerius	2,288
Martin-Logan Stylos	2,993
Monitor Audio Studio 20SE	2,200
Mordaunt-Short Performance 860	1,895
Mordaunt-Short Performance 880	2,795
Naim Audio SBL Active	1,743
Naim Audio SBL Passive	1,876
Origin Live Conqueror	1,600
Pentachord P'column	1,649
Polk LS90	1,700
Posselt Albatros	2,200
Proac Response 2S	2,000
Proac Studio 250	2,249
Proac Response 2.5	2,700
QLN Reference	2,000
QLN Ref HDII	2,500
Rehdeko RK115	1,550
Rehdeko RK125	2,750
Rogers LS5/9	1,531
Rogers Studio 9	1,549
Ruark Crusader II	1,599
Ruark Equinox	1,849
Ruark Accolade	2,699
Sd Acoustics SDIE	2,695
Shahinian Arc	1,675
Shahinian Obelisk	2,490
Sonus-Faber Electa	1,790
Sonus-Faber Amator	2,992
Spendor SP7/1	1,990
Spendor SP100	2,030
Tannoy Sterling TW	1,750
Tannoy D700	2,100
Tannoy Edinburgh TW	2,700

TDL Studio Monitor m	2,449
TDL Studio	2,450
Thiel CS3.2	2,749
Totem Mann-2	2,795
Triangle Atinix	1,950
Triangle Altair	2,850
UKD-Opera Caruso II	2,250

Tannoy Canterbury 15	7,000
TDL Ref Standard-m	4,999
Thiel CS3.6	3,899
Triangle Octant TXe	3,950
Wilson WAP Puppy II	5,600
Wilson Puppy 5	7,290
Wilson WATT 5	8,800

Over £3000

Acoustic Energy AE5	7,995
Allison I.C. 20	5,500
ATC SCM50	3,499
ATC SCM100	4,149
ATC SCM50A	4,999
ATC SCM100A	5,699
Audio Physic Virgo	3,399
Audio Physic Terra	3,499
Audio Physic Avanti	5,599
Audio Physic Caldera	9,999
Audiovector 6	4,600
B&W Matrix 801s3	3,795
B&W Silver Signature	5,000
Boston Acoustics Lynfield 500L	4,449
Boston Lynfield 500L	4,500
Bravura Brio	4,750
Bravura Accelerando	5,500
Definitive BP2000	3,600
Genelec Triamp S30	3,055
Genelec Triamp 1037A	4,982
Horning Aristophane	3,570
Impulse Ta'us	3,100
Infinity ARS Epsilon	9,995
Jamo OREL	7,000
JBL S2600	3,500
JBL Ti 5000	3,700
Jordan Watts JH2K	3,230
Jordan Watts Classic JH2KM	4,250
Jordan Watts Classic JH5K	4,875
Jordan Watts Classic JH5KM	5,860
Jordan Watts Classic JH10K	9,340
KEF 107/2 REC	3,999
Keswick Audio Zero2	6,000
Linn Keltik Aktiv	4,400
Lowther Delphic	3,999
Lumley Reference L/M 2 SIGNATURE	4,500
Lumley Reference LM1	8,500
Lumley Reference L/M 1	9,500
Magneplan MG-3.5 SE	3,800
Magneplanar MG-3.5 SE	3,800
Martin-Logan Sequel II	3,399
Martin-Logan CLS IIz	4,555
Martin-Logan Quest Z	5,350
Martin-Logan Monolith III P	8,730
Meditian DSP5000	3,295
Meditian DSP6000	9,400
Monitor Audio Studio 50	4,000
Monitor Audio Studio60	7,000
Naim Audio DBL Active	7,414
Proac Response 3.5	4,250
Prof Monitor Co MB1	4,370
Prof Monitor Co MB1P	4,681
Prof Monitor Co BB 5	6,270
Prof Monitor Co BB5P	6,754
QLN Artec 1600	4,500
Quad ESL63	3,450
Rehdeko RK145	4,250
Rehdeko RK175	7,750
Shahinian Hawk	4,950
Shahinian Diapason	8,350
Sonus-Faber Guarneri	5,500
Sonus-Faber Extrema	5,991
Spendor SP9/1	3,400
Tannoy GRFM TW	3,500
Tannoy Canterbury 12	5,500
Tannoy Westminster TW	6,000



EQUIPMENT SUPPORTS
Speaker Stands

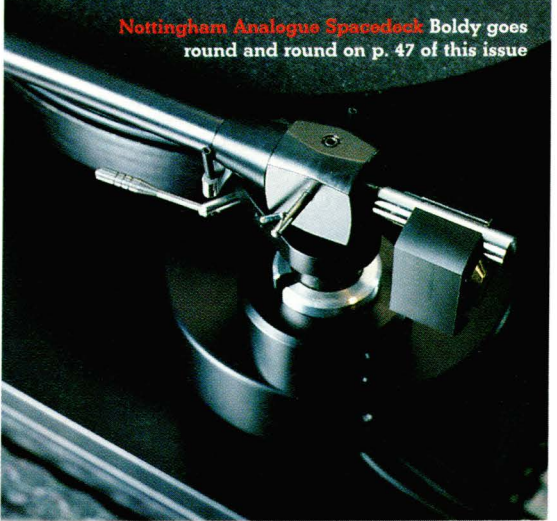
Canon STD525	70
Deadrock 903	60
Deadrock 902	60
Deadrock 901	60
Harbeth HL-Stands	199
Royd	99

Equipment Supports

Alphason R24/24	100
Alphason R17/17	100
Alphason R12/12	100
Alphason GR24/24	130
Alphason GR17/17	130
Alphason GR12/12	130
Alphason VR24/24	160
Alphason VR17/17	160
Alphason VR12/12	160
Audiophile Furniture Base	480
Deadrock 701	60
Deadrock 703	130
Deadrock 704	190
Deadrock 705	230
Fi-Rax R4	321
Isos 800	35
Isos 701	40
Isos 711	60
Isos 802	70
Isos 803	90
Isos 802P	100
Isos 703	100
Isos 803P	110
Isos 804	110
Isos 713	130
Isos 804P	140
Isos 704	140
Isos 705	170
Isos 714	190
Isos 715	230
Jamo TLS1	40
Jamo ST80	130
JPW Add-on	50
JPW 3 tier	80
JPW 5 tier	100
Kenwood SR-CM7	45
Kenwood SR-W67	100
Mana Acoustics Sound Frame	125
Mana Acoustics Mini Table	150
Mana Acoustics Sound Table	235
Mana Acoustics Reference Table	350
Mana Acoustics 2 Tier Amp stand	375
Mana Acoustics 3 Tier Amp Stand	450



KEF 30B Packaged with the 60S surrounds and 80C centre, it has won two major awards this year.



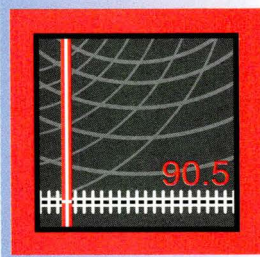
Nottingham Analogue Spacedeck Boldy goes round and round on p. 47 of this issue



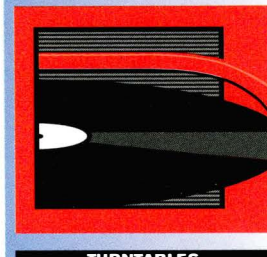
Micromega Minium FM	300	Sony PSLX150H	90
Micromega Tuner	700	Systemdek I/920	136
Mission Cyrus FM7	400	Systemdek IX/900	230
Musical Fidelity E50	300	Systemdek I/920/Moth	235
Musical Fidelity E500	499	Systemdek IXE/900Ap	388
NAD 412	190	Technics SL-BD20	160
Naim Audio NATO3	566	Technics SL-BD22	180
Naim Audio NATO2	1,028	Technics SL-1210MkII	500
Naim Audio NATO1	1,645	Technics SL-1200MkII	500
Onix BWD1	420	Thorens TD-180 AT91	190
Onkyo T-409	230	Thorens TD180/S500	200
Onkyo T-411RDS	280	Thorens TD280 IV/UK	200
Onkyo R-811RDS	420	Thorens TD166 VI/UK/BC	200
Pioneer F-203RDS	130	Thorens TD-280 IV UK AT95E	209
Pioneer F-303RDS	180	Thorens TD-180 STANTON 500	219
Pioneer F-502RDS	250	Thorens TD166 VI/UK/AT	270
Quad FM66	554	Thorens TD-166 VI UK BC	300
Rega RADIO	229	Thorens TD166 VI/UK/REGA	300
Rotel RT-990BX	500	Thorens TD166 VI I/REB 250	400
Sony ST-SE200	100	Thorens TD31111 TP50	500
Sony STS-E300	120		
Sony ST-S117	120		
Sony STS211LB	130		
Sony ST-S261	140		
Sony ST-S361	180		
Sony STS-E700	180		
Sony STS-5200	200		
Sony STS-A3ES	250		
Teac T-R400	120		
Teac TB-X10	400		
Technics ST-GT350L	150		
Technics ST-GT550L	200		
Technics ST-GT650L	250		
Thorens TRT2000	450		
Yamaha TX-480L	120		
Yamaha TX-590RDS	180		

Mana Acoustics 4 Tier Amp Stand	500
Mana Acoustics 5 Tier Amp Stand	600
Mana Acoustics 6 Tier Amp Stand	700
Projekt A3	125
Projekt A4	165
Projekt A5	205
Projekt A6	245
QLN Moduluss	125
Quadraspire Q4	200
Sound Organisation Z022	60
Sound Organisation Z230	70
Sound Organisation Z201	75
Sound Organisation Z030	95
Sound Organisation Z060	115
Sound Organisation Z550	125
Sound Organisation Z038	130
Soundstyle X300	180
Soundstyle X053	200
Soundstyle X050	200
Soundstyle X305	210
Soundstyle X100	220
Soundstyle X058	230
Soundstyle X310	250
Soundstyle X120	250
Soundstyle X105	250
Soundstyle Select 6105	280
Stands Unique Sound Tower	249
Target B5	175

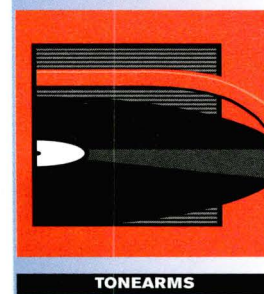
Roksan Tabriz Basic	275
Roksan Tabriz Zi	420
Roksan Artemis	895
Air Tangent Tangent 10B	7,777
Air Tangent Ref. Sig.	11,000
Alphason Xenon	286
Alphason Xenon MCS	370
Alphason HR100S	490
Alphason HR100S MCS	550
Audiomeca SL5	1,999
Decca LI Arm	49
Decca LIR Arm	99
Dynavector 507	2,175
Graham 1.5T	2,550
Heliuss Orion 4 Copper	549
Heliuss Orion 4 Silver	725
Heliuss Cyalene 2	1,495
Linn Akito	350
Linn Ekos	1,500
Manticore Musician	425
Manticore Magician1	750
Manticore Magician2	850
Moth Arm	95
Moth Mk III	146
Naim Audio ARO	992
Nottingham Analogue Space	350
Nottingham Analogue Mentor	750
Nottingham Analogue Alien	1,200
Rega RB250	109
Rega RB300	174
Rega RB900	598
Sme 3009 Ser II Imp	294
Sme 3009 S2 Ser II Imp	321
Sme Series II 3009-R	490
Sme Series II 3010-R	501
Sme Series II 3012-R	538
Sme Series 300-309	657
Sme Series 300-310	672
Sme Series 300-312	763
Sme Series IV	936
Sme Series V	1,391
Townshend Excalibur	799
Wilson Benesch ACT1	975
Zeta as	469



TUNERS	
Arcam Alpha 5 Plus	220
Arcam Alpha 7	230
Arcam Alpha 8	280
Arcam Delta 280	399
Audiolab 8000T	800
Aura TU80	350
AVI S2000MT	599
Day Sequerra FM Ref	5,937
Day Sequerra S B'dcast Mon	14,640
Denon TU-260L	120
Denon TU-215RD	150
Denon TU-380RD	200
Grundig T12	170
Harman-Kardon TU930	180
Harman-Kardon TU950	200
Harman-Kardon TU9400	299
Kenwood KT-2080	130
Kenwood KT-3080	180
Linn Kudos Sneaky	500
Linn Kudos	775
Linn Kremlin	2,600
Luxman T-353	200
Marantz ST-55	150
Marantz ST-72	300
Mcintosh MR7084	1,550
Meridian 504	695
Meridian 604	1,350
Michi RHT-10	895



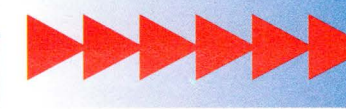
TURNTABLES	
Up to £500	
Roksan Radius	460
Akai AP A950	179
Ariston Pro-1200	160
Dual CS3700/3701	85
Dual CS435	130
Dual CS503-2	170
Dual 505-4 UK	200
Dual CS750-1	350
Dual Golden II	500
Genexxa Lab-710	60
Genexxa Lab-810	70
Grundig TT1	180
Kenwood KD-492F	100
Michell Mycro	435
Moth Alamo	175
Moth Turntable	199
Moth Kanoot Mk I Arm	249
Moth Kanoot Mk III Arm	299
Pioneer PL-225	120
Pioneer PL-335	150
Pro-Ject 0.5 (OM10)	160
Pro-Ject 1 ct (1510)	200
Pro-Ject Project 2 MC10	300
Pro-Ject Project 6(MC15)	450
Rega Planar 78	214
Rega Planar 2	214
Rega Planar 3	274
Rega PLANAR 3 COLOUR	289
Sony PS-LX56	70



A photograph of the Audiolab 8000T tuner, showing its digital display and control buttons. The display shows "FM 91.30 MHz".

Audiolab 8000T Acclaimed as a frequency-fondler of note. On your wavelength, missus!

Remember that all entries printed in **RED** refer to hi-fi products that we have reviewed. Turn to page 122 for a full summary of test results!



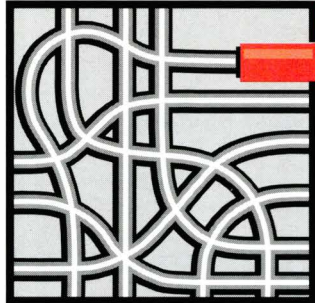
INTEGRATED AMPLIFIERS

Product	Price(£)	Comments	MM PHONO INPUT	MC PHONO INPUT	HEADPHONE SOCKET	REMOTE CONTROL	POWER OUTPUT(W)	FACTSBACK RECEIVER	ISSUE NUMBER	
Onix OA31	480	Eager to please, dynamic and fresh sounding, but it's grip is wafer thin	5	●	●	●	60	1587	140	
Oralle SA-100	449	A musically rewarding amplifier that grows on you. Trace of coarseness in treble.	5	●	●	●	50	1749	154	
Pioneer A-303R	200	Fresh and uncomplicated sound bests much of the audiophile competition.	5	●	●	●	45	1129	134	
Pioneer A-300X	230	This revamped version of the A300 sounds more confident via CD than MM, yet our panel was unmoved.	5	●	●	●	40		116	
Pioneer A-400X	300	On second audition, this amp was tonally unchanged but less compelling	6	●	●	●	50	1545	138	
Pioneer A-503R	300	Best via MM disc, the dull and claustrophobic sound is otherwise deeply uninspiring.	5	●	●	●	70	1544	138	
Pro-ject Model 7	259	A minimalist amplifier brimming with good intent, but too quirky for its own good. Either MM or MC.	5	●	●	●	40	1264	142	
Quad 77	650	Stylish remote driven amp, bright and lively. Tested in Sessions	4	●	●	●	50		139	
Rega Elex	398	Minimalist amplifier sounds forward, hard and unforgiving.	4	●	●	●	50		116	
Rotel RA920AX	120	Commendable performance at the price. Tuneful, robust bass	4	●	●	●	32	1808	157	
Rotel RA970BX	300	Lively, fresh and perky with plenty of power, but not so clever with complex recordings.	6	●	●	●	60	1546	138	
Sonic Frontiers SFC-1	1,795	Smooth, sophisticated Canadian valve amp with a decent direct input and more features than average.	6	●	●	●	50		126	
Sony TA-F448E	250	Confused and coloured sounding, it needs a large dose of delicacy adding to its presentation	5	●	●	●		1809	157	
Technics SU-A600 Mk2	230	An amplifier that's great fun to be with, but a little untidy from time to time	5	●	●	●	37	1472	149	
Technics SU-A900 Mk2	450	Jeckyl and Hyde amplifier with a dismal-sounding phono stage but transparent CD input.	5	●	●	●	90	1547	138	
Woodside ISA230 Disc	899	Smooth and inoffensive valve amplifier, though it lacks the sparkle and euphony required for a truly entertaining sound.	3	●	●	●	30		116	
Yamaha AX-490	250	Widgets aplenty, but unemotional sound evoked an uncertain response from panel	5	●	●	●	85	1473	149	
YBA Integre	1,199	Audiophile spec French integrated with good resolution and nice phono stage.	5	●	●	●	45		121	
Preamplifiers										
Alchemist Kraken/Pre	380	Quirky Class A design with an equally warm and colourful sound.	4							124
Audio Innovations L1	369	Reviewed with S800 Anniversary — Explicitly detailed, conveys the message of the music as a whole	4							1300
Audiolab 8000C	520	Distinctive, stark neutrality that will not appeal to all. Good value engineering.	5	●	●	●				97
Audiolab 8000Q	1,000	Tested with 8000M monoblocks	6	●	●	●				1301
Conrad-Johnson PV-10A	1,250	Beautiful imaging, superb detail, plenty of gain on the phono input; classy build too. Tested in Sessions	4	●	●	●				1560
Conrad-Johnson Premier 7	11,000	The 7 is designed without compromise, and is clearly one of the finest (valve) preamplifiers money can buy.	5							C91
Copland CTA-301MKII	1,349	Sweet sounding - but never gets bogged down in audio treacle	4	●	●	●				1630
Creek P42	279	Tested with bridged A42 power amps, an articulate and open combo with tight tuneful bass (optional phono stage & remote)	6			●				155
Cyrus Pre	650	Tested with Cyrus Power. High tech design Punchy, light footed character with a sense of substance and natural warmth	5	●	●	●				155
DPA DSP200S	495	Dramatic but detailed and transparent sound belies modest power rating (tested with DPA-200S).	6							124
EAR 802MC	2,599	Tested with £3499 509 Mk II - see comments in power amp section	4	●	●	●				63
ECA Vista	760	Wind up the volume and blow a breath of fresh music into your system (tested with Lectern).	5							1302
Exposure XVII	849	Superbly rhythmical; maybe a tad overpowering in the midband. Tested in Sessions with XVIII Super	5	●	●	●				142
Jadis JP-30MC	5,978	French tubes, JP-30MC has beautiful build, nostalgic styling and delightful midrange. (tested with JA30).	5	●	●	●				60
Krell KRC-2s	4,190	This is an exquisitely refined and transparent design (tested with KSA-50S in Statements)	6			●				141
Meridian 501	695	Tight, positive sound, but dispassionate; intense at high levels. Tested with 555	5	●	●	●				1303
Meridian 562V	995	Transparent and capable preamp, also features 6 digital inputs	9	●	●	●				140
Moth 30 Passive	149	Modular system gives cracking results. Passive preamp and power amp warrant Best Buy (tested with 30/Stereo 60).	4							109
Moth 30 Active	249	Tested with 100W monoblocks. While demonstrating solid, even balance it proved adept at delivering vital musical qualities	4							155
Musical Fidelity E200	599	Weighty, luxuriant but hardly scintillating. Tested with MF E300	7			●	●			1304
Rose RV-23	450	You can pay more to get a more transparent sound, but it's hard to criticise at the price.	3	●	●	●				77
Rotel RC970BX MkII	175	Confident, consistent sound. reviewed (in Sessions) with RB970BXMkII power amps	5			●				144
Rotel RC980BX	375	Tames enthusiastically recorded material with a laid back and occasionally smeared sound (tested with RB980BX).	5	●	●	●				155
Sumo Athena IIB	767	Tested with Polaris III. Big, natural and tidy sounding with very natural reproduction of acoustic and electric instruments	6							1305
Thorens TTP2000	500	Minimalist shoebox preamp, rhythmical, warm balance. Tested in Sessions with TTA2000	4	●	●	●				139
Woodside SC26 Phono	1,931	Synergistic with STA35, with a cool, controlled sound, good focus and transparency (tested with STA35).	5	●	●	●				100
YBA 3 Pre	1,250	See-through, ethereal stereo images, but more convincing towards centre of soundstage (tested with £1199 3 Pwr).	4	●	●	●				72
YBA 2 Pre	1,699	Superbly finished, good space and transparency. Needs transformer for MC cartridges (tested with £2150 2 Pwr).	4	●	●	●				56
YBA 1 Pre	3,750	Tested with £4250 1 Pwr - see power amp section for comments.	5	●	●	●				62
Power amplifiers										
Acurus A150	1400	Price includes RL11 preamp with which it was tested. Powerfull remote control US combo with a slightly forward inclination	1				150			151
Alchemist Kraken/Pwr	399	Hardly accurate, but entertaining nevertheless.	1				60			124
Art Audio Quintet	1,393	Switchable triode, ultralinear output stage. In triode mode, these are 15 of the sweetest Watts around. Surprisingly gutsy.	1				15			109
Audio Innovations S800 Anni	1475	Reviewed with L1 — Explicitly detailed, conveys the message of the music as a whole remarkably well	1				25			1300
Audiolab 8000M	750	Strong, controlled sound; confident bass, but colourless. Tested with 8000Q	1				125			1301
Audio Research VT60	2,645	Ranks as 'must try' American cultural item (tested in Statements). Tube design	1				35			1179
Copland CTA-505	2,099	Grown up amplifier with a refined, yet never over-civilised air	1				67			1630
Creek A42	279	Tested with bridged P42 pre in bridged mode. Articulate and open combo with tight tuneful bass	1				100			155
Cyrus Power	450	Tested with Cyrus Pre. Punchy, light footed character with a sense of substance and natural warmth (bridgeable)	1				50			155
DPA 200S	750	Dramatic but crisp, open sound belies power rating (tested with DSP-200S).	1				60			124
EAR 509 Mk II	3,499	Combining sonic strengths of transistors and valves, this amp warrants attention (tested with £2599 802).	1				100			63
ECA Lectern	880	Tested with Vista. Wind up the volume and blow a breath of fresh music into your system	1				50			1302
Exposure XVIII Super	849	Slight dullness and hardness, but great 'boogie factor'	1				70			142
Jadis JA-30	2,880	French tubes, JP-30MC has beautiful build, nostalgic styling and delightful midrange (tested with £5978 JP30).	1				30			60
Krell KSA-50s	3,690	Stretches the performance margins of difficult speakers - state of the art at the price	1				50			141
Meridian 555	750	By providing an open window on the music, this amp is wide open to RF and low level IM distortions	1				60			1303
Moth 30 Stereo/60	549	Tested with 30 Passive. Modular system gives cracking results	1				60			109
Moth 30 Series Monoblocks	879	Tested with Active Preamp. While demonstrating solid, even balance it proved adept at delivering vital musical qualities	1				100			155
Musical Fidelity E300	699	Tested with E200. Weighty, luxuriant but hardly scintillating	1				100			1304
Musical Fidelity F18	3,999	Belongs to the rarified group of refined, high resolution amplifiers	1				220			1508
NAD Monitor 208	1100	Truly a beefy amplifier, but no mad cow!	1				250			124
Rotel RB-970BX MkII	225	Tested with RC970BX MkII in Sessions (see preamp section)	1				60			144
Rotel RB-980BX	475	Tames enthusiastically recorded material with a laid back and occasionally smeared sound (tested with RC980BX).	1				120			155

POWER AMPLIFIERS (CONTINUED)

ISSUE NUMBER
FACTSBACK NUMBER
RECEIVER
POWER OUTPUT(W)
HEADPHONE SOCKET
REMOTE CONTROL
MM PHONO INPUT
MC PHONO INPUT
LINE INPUTS

Product	Price(£)	Comments	1	164	1305	145
Sumo Polaris III	898	Tested with Athena IIB. Big, natural and tidy sounding with very natural reproduction of acoustic and electric instruments	1	164	1305	145
Thorens TTA2000	550	Tested with TTP2000 (see preamp section) in Sessions	1	35		139
Woodside STA35	1,323	Synergistic with SC26, with a cool, controlled sound, good focus and transparency. More poise than grunt (tested with SC26).	1	35		100
YBA 3 Power	1,199	Tested with £1250 3 Pre - see preamp section for comments.	1	45		72
YBA 2 Power	2,150	Superbly finished, but with slightly softened bass (tested with YBA 2 Preamp).	1	70		56
YBA 1 Power	4,250	Well finished pre/power amp with front rank imaging and transparency (tested with YBA 1 Preamp).	1	85		62



Cables

Cables are not accessories, but an integral part of a system. Inevitably some cables are better than others. The best cable for your system will only be found through trial and error, but by combining our recommendations with those of a dealer, you will end up with something suitable. Generally speaking, budget to spend about ten per cent of the total system cost on cables.

- Analogue interconnects are the leads that connect source components to amplifiers and pre to power amps. The cables in this section are priced for a one-metre terminated pair.

- Digital interconnects connect CD transports to DACs, and are traditionally coaxial with a 75 Ohm impedance. They come in optical and electrical varieties, the former being made of plastic or glass. The prices shown are for a terminated linear metre.
- Speaker cables are used between the amplifier and speaker. Our prices are per unterminated metre. Termination (plugs and soldering) costs vary with brands.

B Best buy **R** Recommended

KEY	SOLID CORE:	FACTSBACK NUMBER:	BACK ISSUE:
SYMMETRICAL: A twisted pair of conductors.	single or multiple individually insulated strands.	The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback information page.	The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.
COAXIAL: A central 'hot' conductor and a shield that carries the negative signal.	COPPER: Material used for conductor.		
STRANDED: Multiple strands with no intervening insulation.	SILVER: Material used for conductor.		
	DIG CABLE TYPE: O - optical digital, E - electrical digital.		

CABLES

ISSUE NUMBER
FACTSBACK NUMBER
DIG CABLE TYPE
COPPER
SILVER
SOLID CORE
STRANDED
COAXIAL
SYMMETRICAL

Product	Price(£)	Comments	1	1687	131	1687	131	1687	131	1687	131	1687	131	1687	131	1687	131
Analogue Interconnects																	
Audio Note AN-A	29.50	Not especially impressive, warm but well rounded balance that restricts 'air' but is not unclear	●	●	●												108
Audio Note AN-C	59.50	Neutral but lacking in subtle texture and unable to distinguish fine detail				●	●										1687 131
Audio Note AN-S	139	Up-beat and enthusiastic sound with satisfyingly deep and grumbly bass				●											1687 131
Audio Note AN-V	219	15 individually insulated silver strands make up this very clean and dynamically unchallenged cable	●			●											1687 131
Bandridge AL421	5	Light and airy sound lacks authority, splashy treble		●	●												1688 131
Bandridge AL426G	10	Gold plated plug OFC version of AL421 with same ineffectual sound quality		●	●												1688 131
Bandridge SG AL4720	13	4N OF copper, full smooth balance but a little plodding and relentless, lacks panache		●	●												1688 131
Bandridge SG+ AL4820	25	4N OF copper, distinctly teutonic, thrusting detail forward but still plodding and relentless		●	●												1688 131
Chord Chameleon	68	Anomalous treble with a dry but vaguely sibilant quality, sometimes sounds smooth, sometimes harsh!				●											108
Chord Solid	99	Thin but very stiff with excellent resolution of subtle timbral detail and fine dynamics		●		●	●										108
DNM TCC75	34	Price for 0.75m length. High resolution cable, but best in short runs due to higher than average series impedance						●	●								1690 131
DPA Slink	41	Slightly bright and zingy sound with flat soundstaging and hollow sounding bass, vocals and strings sound convincing though						●	●								1690 131
DPA White Slink	75	Highly expressive, very easy on the ear and attractively detailed though not entire characterless at high frequencies						●	●								1691 131
DPA Black Slink	220	Initially dark and meaty but becoming lucid and transparent with running in. Quad geometry, Gore-tex dielectric	●					●	●								1691 131
Ixos 104	20	Open and detailed presentation, full bass and silky if overly smooth treble		●	●					●							1692 131
Ixos 103	40	Even handed and generous sound, bass has a well rounded, bouncy quality		●	●					●							1692 131
Ixos 101	100	A cable with personality, its veiled and shut in quality brings an earthiness to vocals and rhythm guitar alike		●	●					●	●						1693 131
LFD Spirolink I	35	Price for 0.7m length. Dynamic but smoothly detiled performance, but gives the impression of looking down on the music								●	●						1694 131
LFD Spirolink II	70	Price for 0.7m length. Strong and confident sound enhancing bass depth and subtlety, concentrates of nthe meat of the music	●							●	●						1694 131
LFD Trilink	150	Price for 0.7m length. Warm and luxurious sound but a little too fruity in balance, treble is a little subdued, bass detached		●						●							1695 131
Linn Phono to Phono	47	Encourages a delicate performance underpinned by a strong and authoritative bass		●	●					●	●						1695 131
Monster Interlink 200	20	Colourful in an appealing rather than contrived sense, bass is slightly over-blown, large and ingratiating sound stage	●							●	●						1696 131
Mon ter Interlink 300	30	Richer, smoother more civilised sound than 200 with improved articulation and reduced sibilance	●							●	●						1696 131
Monster Interlink 400	40	Compromised by a grainy top end, treble and vocal range sound particularly sharp and untidy	●							●	●						1697 131
Monster Interlink 500	50	Sounds rather good, providing a livelier and more interesting account of music than most sub £100 cables	●							●	●						108
Monster Interlink 800	80	Not as bright or aggressive as the 400 but treble is trangelly lumpy, muted and manipulated - odd cable	●							●	●						1697 131
Monster Interlink Reference 2	100	Easy on the ear but rather contrived, slightly clanky treble fails to integrate with the smoother but splodgy midband								●	●						1697 131
Moth Ley Line Black	100	Offers a full and big sound, neutral yet very solid and confident in delivery. Expansive imaging retains music's energy	●							●	●						108
Moth Ley Line Grey	200	Detailed enough but there's a sense of distance between the music and the listener, vox are course rather than liquid	●							●	●						108
Panasonic RP-CA910	50	Uncongested and even handed balance if slightly flat imgewise, retains impact but has a vaguely untransparent quality		●	●					●	●						108
SonicLink Crimson	55	Using PTFE insulated nickel conductors this is a rather matter of fact cable that can inject a little bit of mirth	●							●							1698 131
SonicLink Blue HPMC	115	Flat and matter of fact, but grasps music firmly and remains in control. Not very 'hear through'. Nickel conductors								●							1698 131
SonicLink Black	165	Encourages an upbeat and snappy sound that's driven by leading edges, full and rumbustious bass maintains an even tempo								●	●						1699 131
Tara Labs Prism 11	45	Very compatible cable that wins through with a naturally balanced and realistically dynamic sound. 6N purity copper	●							●	●						1699 131
Tara Labs Prism 22	56	Delivers a fresh and detailed sound with clear and bright treble giving it a free, quick and dynamic character		●	●					●	●						1700 131
Tara Labs Quantum CD	75	Lacking in obvious vices, neutral and transparent, there's also a good solid bass. Vox are not always as intimate as possible	●							●	●						108
Tara Labs Prism 33	90	A pedestrian cable that sounds lively but muddled. Quite dynamic, quite rich, quite smooth but also quite indistinct		●	●					●	●						1700 131
Transparent Audio Music Link	119	No aggressive nasties to tax the ears, neither does it sparkle with inspirational detail. Only suited to low output impedances		●	●					●	●						1701 131
van den Hul The Storm	25	Price for 0.8m length. Rich and warm but bass is rolled off, however there's plenty of drive and high frequencies are clean		●	●					●	●						1701 131
van den Hul The Source	50	Price for 0.8m length. Good foot tapping sound that accurately reflects the life of the music without throwing detail at you		●	●					●	●						108

CABLES (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comments						ISSUE NUMBER	FAXBACK NUMBER
			SYMMETRICAL	COAXIAL	STRANDED	SOLID CORE	COPPER		
van den Hul The First	210	Using 12,000 carbon fibres, a gentle and subtle sounding cable that conveys oodles of information but lacks dynamic punch			●	●			1702 131
van den Hul The Second	225	Wonderfully open and relaxing but also intimately detailed, slightly softens percussive dynamics	●		●	●	●		1702 131
XLO Type 150	50	A restrained but useful cable for taming lively CD players, dynamics lack freedom, treble lacks clarity			●	●	●		1703 131
XLO Type 0.1	180	Unusual but highly expressive and detailed with a hint of graininess on powerful vocals					●	●	1703 131
Digital Interconnects									
Audio Note AN-V	110	Ostensibly an analogue cable but gives a meaty and natural performance when used for digital duty	●				●	●	E 1704 131
Audioquest Video X	40	A decent level of detail, imparts a gentle lift from vocal to high treble that can sound a little splashy		●		●	●		E 1705 131
Audioquest Video Z	60	The very best available, with an expressive sound, but generously priced.	●	●	●	●	●		E 108
Audioquest Optilink Z	120	Good level of midband detail but frequency extremes lack depth and extension.							O 108
Audioquest Digital Pro	100	A silver cable with all the drive of Video Z but lacking its clear cut transparency.			●	●			E 108
Bandridge AL4900G	40	Lacks deep rounded bass and treble is coloured with a spittiness, a little rough and ready				●	●		E 1705 131
Chord Codac	32	A connection with a stranded inner core and a sound that lacks integration.			●	●		●	E 108
Chord Prodac	50	Price for 0.6m length. Lively detailed treble, drives music along confidently with no hint of fizz			●		●	●	E 1706 131
DPA Opti-link	20	Very similar to Bandridge AL560; sound is lacklustre							O 108
DPA Digi-link	28	Can seem slightly impassive but there's no avoiding its exceptionally detailed sound.			●	●	●		E 108
Ixos 105	25	Extended but soft edged treble that's mercifully free of fatiguing colourations, plenty of weight, smooth vox			●		●	●	E 1707 131
Kimber Cable PSB D'link	39	Priced for 0.5metre. Analogue cable inappropriately pressed into digital service. A visible deterioration in the signal results.			●	●		●	E 108
Kimber Cable KC-1 D'link	55	This cable adopts a woven construction with the addition of a conductive screen. Music lacks detail and spirit.			●	●			E 108
Kimber Cable Opti-link	70	Hardly cheap for what appears to be a bog-standard PMNA fibre, yet it sounds a little brighter and livelier than most.							O 108
Kimber Cable KC-AG D'link	136	Priced for 0.5metre. Asymmetric cable that deviates from the 75ohm standard. Not ideal for digital applications.			●	●		●	E 108
LFD DigiLink Copper	30	Slightly grainy highly compatible cable with coherent and forward dynamic quality			●		●	●	E 1708 131
Monster Interlink LS100	45	Well constructed stepped-index fibre with polished ends and connectors. Lean, fuzzy, engaging performance.							O 108
Monster Datalink 100	45	Price for 0.5m. A colourful coaxial interconnect with an equally colourful and up-beat sound. Very compatible.			●	●		●	E 108
Moth Leyline Datalink	140	A thin, coaxial version of Leyline Black with a rather hard and unforgiving character. Too expensive.			●	●	●	●	E 108
QED DigiFlex	20	A top performance, low-loss 75ohm coax with a very open, almost liquid quality.			●	●	●	●	E 108
Siltech HF-6	150	Sounds detailed, very clean and very extended, but bass is less well resolved - a treat for high end systems			●		●	●	E 1709 131
SonicLink Light Brown 75	30	Hampers life like dynamics, stripping out vigour but will never sound harsh			●	●	●		E 1709 131
SonicLink Green	50	Spacious, positive and engaging if a tad over crisp at times, very compelling however			●		●	●	E 1709 131
van den Hul MC Videolink 75	48	An AV-cum-digital cable that nearly beats QED's DigiFlex, but emphasises sibilants.			●				E 108
van den Hul The First	120	Exceptionally natural albeit slightly dark or cautious compared to some, plenty of subtle information and beautiful integration			●	●			E 1710 131
Loudspeaker Cables									
Audio Note AN-D	4.50	Supplied in linear, non-polarised lengths that should be twisted into stereo pairs. Sounds rather grippy and forward.					●	●	109
Audio Note AN-B	16.50	Well suited to valve systems, elastic bass, methodical but unintrusive and musical					●	●	1711 133
Audio Note AN-L	29.50	Fruity bass and expressive vocal rendition was appreciated by the panel which was happy to accept its foibles	●				●	●	1712 133
Audio Note AN-SP	125	A calm and civilised presentation, very quiet in the way it reveals subtle low level detail. Great poise and clarity	●				●	●	109
Audioquest F-14	1.95	Ideal for laying under carpets, F-14 encourages a slightly warm and vibrant sound					●	●	109
Audioquest Type 4	4.95	Four 18-gauge OFHC copper conductors wound in a Litz-type fashion increases capacitance but restrains the cable's 'bite'.			●	●	●		109
Audioquest Cobalt 2	45	A rather polite and anemic sound that bubbles gently with detail and is largely uncoloured and cautiously spacious			●	●	●		133
Bandridge SF LC1070	42p	Basic figure 8 bellwire, lightweight balance and a softness that dilutes even the strongest bass			●	●	●		1713 133
Bandridge SF LC1259	1	Fresh and open, bubbly and naturally colourful soundstage that's neither forced or unduly edgy. Treble is slightly messy	●		●	●	●		1713 133
Bandridge Highflex LC2604	3.50	Substantial 6mm ² conductor produces weighty but ploddy music that lacks transparency			●	●	●		1714 133
Bandridge LC7409	3.85	Detailed and up-beat cable. A bit too steely for classical strings					●	●	1800 157
Cable Talk 3	3	Easy on the ear but far from lazy, should yeild a round, smooth yet colourful sound in most systems					●	●	1714 133
Cable Talk 4	4.25	Smooth and cultured sound that lacks fine detail and is a bit too restrained					●	●	1800 157
DNM LSCB500	5.95	High impedance can influence the treble response, but this was a winner on sound per pound. Bi-wire					●	●	1716 133
DPA Black Sixteen	90	Unflappable resolution of fine musical details, there's no dampening of dynamics simply oodles of taut information	●				●	●	1717 133
Gale XL315	2	A little lacking in detail but plenty of life and excellent value					●	●	1800 157
Gale XL160-2	2.50	Rhythmic and bouncy sounding bi-wire cable. Slightly manipulative sounding					●	●	1800 157
Heybrook Heywire	4	This well-meaning facsimile of earlier ribbon cables ends up sounding lumpy and uneven.					●	●	109
Ixos 603	2	Big and expansive sounding cable, full and engaging while retaining a high degree of neutrality					●	●	1718 133
Ixos 604	5	Midrange is detailed and surprisingly smooth but treble is hard and synthetic and the bass no better					●	●	1719 133
Mission Quartet	7.90	Mixed, inoffensive sound, adds guttural resonance to vocals and could be generally more coherent. Bi-wire.					●	●	1722 133
Monster Cable XP	1.50	XP offers plenty of slightly soft bass and a slightly rounded treble, a relaxed cable whose indiscretions are not bothersome			●	●	●		1723 133



Just pure music

The PRISMA Phono Amplifier

The VISTA Line Amplifier

The LECTERN Power Amplifier

The ECA A.2 True Ribbon Speakers



ECA DISTRIBUTION
BOX 3023 London NW2 7RW
Tel/Fax: 0181 998 1086

"speakers disappear completely"

CHOICE SESSIONS
July/August Issue 1996

BEST BUY AWARD

Issue 145 - 1995

Hi-Fi CHOICE

BEST BUY AWARD

Issue 145 - 1995

Hi-Fi CHOICE

AUDIO CHOICE 1996

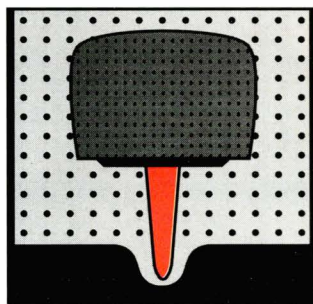
GRAMAPHONE

The PANDORA Mains Conditioner

The Naturally Neutral Chain

CABLES (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	SYMMETRICAL	COAXIAL	STRANDED	SOLID CORE	COPPER	DIAGRAM	ISSUE NUMBER
Naim NACA 5	4.96	Described as a 'dinosaur of a cable', this stiff wire rod doesn't belong outside Naim systems. But it works a treat in them				●	●		109
Ortofon SPK100	3	Grey sounding and strips instruments of their natural richness and resonance, a bit bass shy too				●	●		133
Ortofon SPK300	8	Tremendously open and atmospheric with robust full blooded bass, and dynamic too if slightly bright at times				●	●		133
Puresonic 7845	1.95	Big, weighty sound — but too messy and bloated for its own good				●	●		1800 157
Puresonic 7891	2.85	Chunky cable design, shame about the sound quality	●			●	●		1800 157
QED Qudos	2.50	Despite high tech design and excellent Air-Loc plugs, the music failed to gel				●	●		1800 157
QED Profile 8	5	Sophisticated flat cable that lacks decent bass and get up and go				●	●		1800 157
SonicLink AST50	5	It may look like bell-wire, but AST50 sounds detailed, ordered and balanced				●	●		1800 157
SonicLink Grey	9	A spaghetti-thin silver plated cable lacks bass impact and treble 'air'					●	●	109
SonicLink Care Music	15	Lack of conviction and integration through treble and relatively shallow bass but waffle free and open at high frequencies				●	●	●	1724 133
SonicLink Blue Bi-wire	20	Small sounding and bass light with limited subtle detail and a dirtiness to percussion					●		1724 133
Tara Labs Rectangular SCM	725	Price for terminated 2m pair. Dynamics are exquisite, luxurious smooth sound, brimming with unforced detail				●	●	●	1725 133
Transparent Audio Musichord	11.42	Sweet, open and refined treble, a bit of breathy exuberance and can sound slightly lackadaisical				●	●		1728 133
Transparent Audio Wave	22.84	Very close to the sound of 'no cable', one of the very best. Slightly softens treble detail	●			●	●		1728 133
Tech+Link OFC79	1	Bargain basement cable that sounds cosy, but suffers from a wobbly bass				●	●		1800 157
van den Hul The Clearwater	6	Despite its evocative title, the Clearwater turns out to be a disappointingly murky sounding cable.				●	●	●	109
van den Hul CS122	19	Smooth and articulate with superb focus and control, its sheer coherence makes it a winner (tested in Sessions)				●	●	●	153
van den Hul The Magnum	31	Touted as vdH's most prestigious twinlead cable, Magnum sounds soft and old fashioned.				●	●	●	109
van den Hul The Wind	35	'The Wind' kicks up a storm with its lush midrange and bone-crunching bass!				●	●	●	109
van den Hul Revolution	64	Silver plated OFC combined with carbon fibre prompts a sombre character with an easy and relaxed treble				●	●	●	1726 133
XLO Pro Type 625	4	Lively but natural and relaxed sounding but a hint of congestion at frequency extremes				●	●	●	1726 133



Cartridges

Cartridges fall into two groups: high output MM (moving magnet) models, capable of working directly into most phono inputs; and generally more expensive low and very low output MC (moving coil) models. MC cartridges usually have better mechanical integrity, tighter tolerances and give better performance. Many amplifiers are no longer equipped with the necessary phono input for a cartridge, and a separate phono stage is necessary. Phono input equipped valve designs need a

transformer to cope with MC cartridges.

Cartridge/amplifier interfacing can be very subtle, but even basic high output MM designs benefit in overall balance from optimised amplifier capacitance loading.

Best buy

Recommended

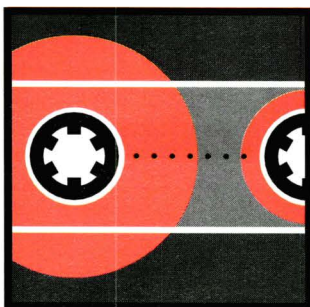
KEY	REPLACEABLE STYLUS: Most MM cartridges have a stylus that can be removed and replaced	OUTPUT (MV): Cartridge output in millivolts.	copy of the review.
MM: Moving magnet cartridge with a normal output suitable for all vinyl disc amplifier inputs.	sensitivity vinyl disc amplifier inputs	MASS (g): Cartridge mass can affect arm choice	BACK ISSUE: The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared
MC: Moving coil cartridge with a low output only suitable for high	can be removed and replaced	FACTSBACK NUMBER: The Factsback reference for ordering a fax	

CARTRIDGES

Product	Price(£)	Comment	REPLACEABLE STYLUS	OUTPUT (MV)	MASS (g)	ISSUE NUMBER
Arcam C77	30	A sensible moving magnet package with good bounce at a competitive price.	●	●	4.0	6 48
Arcam C77MG	40	Punchy, with plenty of energy to liven things up. The solid body is well worth the extra £10.	●	●	4.0	6 67
Arcam E77MG	60	Our sample had a disappointing stylus, but gave a coherent, rich and laid back sound.	●	●	4.0	6 48
Arcam P77MG	73	Preferred to its cheaper partner thanks to a better tip. Channel balance poor	●	●	4.0	6 48
Audio Note Io IIV	1,395	One of the best, giving an extraordinarily relaxing midrange clarity. Needs a transformer.		●	0.1	100
Audio Technica AT-95E	19	Clear and dynamic, though richly balanced.	●	●	2.8	48
Audio Technica ART-1	944	This is a delicate and very fluid-sounding MC that tracks well.		●	0.4	9 72
Audioquest 404L	599	Slight harshness detracted from the performance of this otherwise clear-sounding and detailed cartridge.		●	0.5	6 84
Audioquest 7000NSX	1,495	Stunning stereo imaging and detail spoiled by poor tracking and high sensitivity to arms.		●	0.4	6 91
Denon DL110	70	A fine all-rounder, this high output MC model is likely to perform well		●	1.0	6 48
Denon DL160	90	Although listeners just preferred the 110, its brother here survived lab tests and is still 'thoroughly competent'.		●	0.1	6 43
Denon DL103	100	Good performance in bass and good 'life' is seriously let down by its spherical stylus which kills subtle detail.		●	0.1	6 103
Denon DL304	200	Uncoloured, detailed, tracks superbly. Top notch altogether and a top notch bargain too.		●		103
Dynavector Karat 17D2 mk2	449	Clean and controlled sound with taut, tuneful bass. Detailed and musically cogent.		●	0.15	5.3 158
Dynavector XX-1L	998	Very clear, very detailed; a response lift around 20kHz seems to do no harm.		●	0.25	12 84
Dynavector XX-1	998	Good, but not immensely competitive at the price, and not helped by comparison with the low output version.		●	2.0	12 84
Goldring Elan	17	A lightweight and frisky-sounding MM apparently based on Nagaoka MM4 body	●	●	5.0	7 67
Goldring 1012GX	65	Slightly harsh but plenty of life and detail. Some high frequency colouration apparent.	●	●	6.5	7 85
Goldring 1022GX	85	As with 1012, a touch harsh; detail and transient purity improved	●	●	6.5	7 85
Goldring Eroica LX	100	Not the most subtle cartridge in the world: can sound edgy at times, but lively and informative.		●	0.5	8 84
Goldring 1042	105	Not terribly subtle, and not such good value alongside 1012 and 1022. Quite lively though.		●	6.5	6 91
Goldring Elite	200	The basics are right, and it will cheerfully tackle any source material, but its sound has a certain dirtiness.		●	0.5	8 103
Grado Prestige Gold	150	Rich sounding with an unusually refined top-end for a moving magnet-type cartridge	●	●	4	6 158
Linn K5	65	Not as crisply focussed as the other Linn magnetics, but the K5 is smoother.	●	●	4.5	6 67
Linn K9	150	Linn improved this model by beefing up the Basik's bodywork and adding a super stylus.	●	●	4.5	5 Col
London Decca Maroon	199	Now manufactured under the London brand name, this Decca cartridge is as iconoclastic as ever.		●	5.0	6 67
London Decca S Gold	339	Immediate and detailed, but coloured, nonlinear with a questionable effect on records.		●	5.0	6 84
Lyra Lydian	699	Superbly capable all-round musical performer that improves markedly when its body cover is removed	●	●	0.3	7 158

CARTRIDGES (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comment	REPLACEABLE STYLUS		OUTPUT (MV)	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
			MM	MC			
Lyra Clavis Da Capo	1,069	A stable tracker, and one of the finest cartridges we've heard		●	0.1	7	143
Milltek Aurora	299	An overall feeling of relaxed ease characterised this clear and atmospheric Kiseki-built cartridge.		●	2.0	0.1	299
Ortofon 510/P	32	For the price, a good blend of virtues - weight, clarity and neutrality	●		3.0	5	85
Ortofon 520/P	55	Sensitive to load capacitance, the 520/P has a lively, effervescent sound.	●		3.0	5	6
Ortofon MC10 Super	85	'What a delightfully sweet-sounding cartridge this is....' we said.		●	3.0	7	48
Ortofon MC3 Turbo	110	The 3 Turbo is bright, cheerful and bouncy, but subtle - take it as it comes.		●	3.3	4	103
Ortofon MC15 Super II	110	A good all-rounder, with outstanding resolution, if slightly bright and clos up.		●	0.35	7	103
Ortofon MC25E	160	An excellent upgrade for a mid-price turntable		●	0.5	11	139
Ortofon MC25FL	210	A bit too stark and honest, but faithful to what's on the LP		●	0.5	11	139
Ortofon MC30 Supreme	450	Highly detailed and even-sounding cartridge that has a special affinity with female vocal recordings		●	0.5	10.7	158
Ortofon MC3000II	950	A real eye-opener. Nothing to criticise anywhere, one of the very best.		●	0.12	10	84
Ortofon MC5000	1,500	Limited tracking ability, bright and forward sound, but good stereo		●	0.12	10	91
Rega Bias	34	Difficult to mount in some arms due to its shallow build, the Bias offers a gentle, refined sound.	●	●	5	4	67
Rega Elys	74	Clearly superior to the Bias, the Elys is both more detailed, accurate and convincing.	●	●	5.0	5	67
Roksan Corus Black	130	Recognisably related to the Corus Blue, but more civilised and smoother.	●	●	6.5	5	91
van den Hul MM-1	250	If woody midrange could be tamed, imaging and security would pull it through	●	●	5.5	6	103
van den Hul DDT	699	Outstanding stereo imaging and neutral balance are appealing but rhythmically the DDT-II is a bit lazy		●	0.35	7.6	158
van den Hul MC-10	799	A neutral, balanced performer gives, fine depth and focus and a firm, extended bass		●	0.4	6	60
van den Hul MC-One	999	This extended all the positive qualities of the '10, but added greater authority and scale - worth all the extra money.		●	0.4	6	60
van den Hul MC-Two	1,349	MC-Two rewards with a highly detailed yet fluid and musically convincing portrayal.		●	0.4	6	72
van den Hul G' hopper III GLA	2,999	Undoubtedly one of the finest cartridges available, it has tremendous bandwidth, energy and finesse.		●	0.4	6	122
Wilson benesch Matrix	689	Extraordinarily well balanced cartridge: neutral and detailed yet lively and rhythmically assertive.		●	0.58	6	158



Cassette Decks

The compact cassette is still the world's most versatile and ubiquitous music storage medium. Buffs may wrinkle their noses, but they all use it.

There should be no problems in connecting a cassette deck to any normal amplifier, but some care needs to be taken in choosing the best tapes for a specific machine. (Trial and error is one effective technique, but many decks have manual bias adjustment and some match up to the tape automatically.) Twin decks offer the option to dub tapes and play two cassettes

sequentially. Autoreverse is a useful feature, but usually implies some mechanical compromise. The sort of facilities that are useful include tape monitor switching and Dolby S.

B Best buy **R Recommended**

KEY

DOLBY C: A rather extreme noise reduction system not usually associated with high sound quality.
DOLBY S: A desirable derivative of the Dolby SR professional noise reduction system.
DOLBY HX PRO: System designed by B&O to extend headroom

for cassette recording.
3-HEAD: If you want to monitor a recording whilst you are making it a third head is essential.
TWIN DECK: Contains two decks for dubbing and continuous play, in most instances only one deck will record.

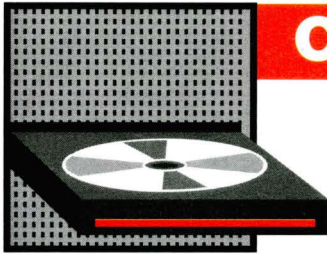
AUTOREVERSE: Automatically plays both sides of the cassette.
AUTO CALIBRATION: The deck will automatically set up bias and EQ for any tape.
ADJUSTABLE BIAS: Bias can be manually set to suit the tape being used.

FACTSBACK NUMBER: The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback information page.
BACK ISSUE: The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared

CASSETTE DECKS

Product	Price(£)	Comments	DOLBY C	DOLBY S	DOLBY HX PRO	3-HEAD	TWIN DECK	AUTOREVERSE	ADJUSTABLE BIAS	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER	
												▲ Aiwa AD-F450
▲ Aiwa AD-WX727	170	High class twin for those who want bells, whistles - and music.	●		●			●		1377	146	
▲ Denon DRM-550	160	There are some technical limitations, but this remains a fine sounding deck, and excellent value.	●		●					158		
▲ Denon DRS-640	200	Drawer loading deck, with simple facilities and smooth, well adjusted sound.	●		●			●		1591	140	
Denon DRM-740	270	Breathed-on DRM-710, with good external treatment offers good, if somewhat detached sonics.	●		●			●		1514	136	
Denon DRS-810	310	Drawer loading deck, carefully designed yet lacking in subtlety on audition.	●		●			●			127	
Grundig CCF3	200	Simple, sensible and well built twin, but lack of pitch stability compromises performance	●		●			●		1379	146	
Harman/Kardon TD420	280	Minor inconsistencies detract from a well conceived, minimum features design	●		●			●		1592	140	
▲ JVC TD-R472	200	Excellent auto-reverse deck which doesn't suffer the usual disadvantages and is very sharply priced	●		●			●		158		
▲ JVC TD-V562BK	220	Ultra-sophisticated transport at a silly price; sound quality is stable but slightly opaque.	●		●			●			123	
▲ JVC TD-V662BK	270	Assured, clean and agile sounding recorder, if not quite the most refined in its class.	●		●			●		1380	146	
▲ Kenwood KX-5060S	235	Well engineered transport and Dolby S star in this refined and detailed design.	●		●			●		1593	140	
▲ Kenwood KX-7060S	329	Although slightly dull sounding with prerecorded tapes, this is a well equipped and fine sounding deck.	●		●			●		1381	146	
Luxman K-322	140	Gives best value results with lower bias tapes, helped by a successful Dolby C installation.	●		●			●		1382	146	
Luxman K-373	350	Decent performance, but a little costly. Includes microphone inputs.	●		●			●			158	
Marantz SD-53	200	Modestly equipped player is short-changed by a rough transport, and dull prerecorded quality.	●		●			●		1383	146	
Marantz SD-63	270	Poor pitch stability is a major snag in an otherwise nondescript design.	●		●			●			158	
NAD 602	199	Minimalist deck for the audiophile market. Unfortunately engineering is minimalist too.	●		●			●			127	
NAD 613	230	Rough and ready, but enjoyable sound, though marred by mechanical motor noise.	●		●			●			158	
NAD 616	320	Double deck whose music sounded shut in and prosaic, as though its energy content had been ironed flat	●		●			●			1648	152
▲ Onkyo K-611	430	Cute drawer loading mini-size component with 3-heads and dual capstan transport.	●		●			●		1384	146	
▲ Pioneer CT-S830S	500	High class mechanism, if lacking in battleship externals, and superb sound.	●		●			●		1385	146	
▲ Sony TC-KE600S	300	Mild setting-up problems notwithstanding, this UK-tweaked design has a smooth, open and un-cassette-like sound.	●		●			●			158	
▲ Technics RS-AZ7	300	Thin-film head gives a solid, almost CD-like bass and midrange. A clear advance in the state-of-the-art.	●		●			●		158		
▲ Yamaha KX-490	199	Electrifyingly transparent and capable deck, whos only flaw is a trace of audible wow and flutter.	●		●			●			158	
▲ Yamaha KX-580	250	Stable and clean, if bright. Play Trim helps wake up recalcitrant recordings.	●		●			●		1388	146	

CD Players brought to you in association with



All CD players offer a basic selection of facilities, and some can keep you entertained for hours as you programme in disc names and track orders. All but the excessively inexpensive feature remote control. Most CD players can be upgraded by adding an outboard DAC (see below). To do this the player needs a digital output of either electrical or optical persuasion; sonically the former is preferable. A CD player can be split into two basic components: the disc drive or

transport, and a device which turns the digital bitstream coming off the disc into an analogue audio signal. This is called a digital to analogue converter, or DAC. Although most players are contained in a single box, expensive players are usually two-box affairs.



Best buy



Recommended

KEY

<p>ELECTRICAL DIGITAL OUTPUT: For electrical connection to an outboard DAC.</p> <p>AES/EBU ELEC DIG OUTPUT: Balanced digital output to be used with similarly equipped DACs.</p> <p>OPTICAL DIGITAL OUTPUT: For optical connection to an outboard DAC.</p>	<p>AT&T OPT DIG OUTPUT: High speed optical output to be used with similarly equipped DACs.</p> <p>BAL. ANALOGUE OUTPUT: Balanced analogue output for amplifiers equipped with balanced inputs.</p> <p>HEADPHONE SOCKET: For can users.</p> <p>VARIABLE OUTPUT: Remotely adjustable volume controlled output.</p>	<p>output.</p> <p>MULTI-DISC: Equipped with a carousel or multi-tray system for continuous play of multiple discs.</p> <p>DAC TYPE: Digital to analogue converter: BS - Philips Bitstream, MB - multibit, Hyb - hybrid of multibit and bit-stream technologies, 1bit - single bit types such as MASH, bitstream, PWM etc.</p> <p>FACTSBACK NUMBER: The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback information page.</p> <p>BACK ISSUE: The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.</p>
---	--	--

CD PLAYERS

Product	Price(£)	Comments	DIGITAL OUTPUTS					MULTI-DISC	DAC TYPE	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
			ELEC DIGITAL OUTPUT	OPTICAL DIGITAL OUTPUT	AT&T OPT DIG OUTPUT	BAL. ANALOGUE OUTPUT	HEADPHONE SOCKET				
AMC CD6	349	Based on Rotel's RCD-965BX, but has a raunchier, beefier but less transparent sound.	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	124	
Arcam Delta 270	800	Dry, tightly-focussed sound will either beguile or aggravate, depending on taste!	●	●	●	●	●	●	Hyb	124	
Audio Innovations Alto	399	Refreshing piece of audio sculpture belies inconsistent audio behaviour	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1635 151	
Cambridge Audio CD4	150	Basic appearance and sluggish track access/track search belies its up and at 'em sound quality.	●	●	●	●	●	●	Hyb	1268 147	
Cambridge Audio CD6	300	A sharp, lively and articulate player, a real thoroughbred in fact, perhaps too sharp and lively for some systems.	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	159	
Denon DCD-625	200	DCD-615 replacement is generously equipped but lacks sophisticated sound of its forebear.	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1269 147	
Denon DCD-825	240	Despite extensive revisions, this latest player still sounds like a typical 18-bit Denon, which is no bad thing!	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1531 137	
Denon DCD-1015	350	Excellent, middle range player - fast, fluid and lean	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1599 141	
Dual CD1000RS	170	Old fashioned sound and appearance, though well suited to light classical music	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1562 139	
Eclipse CD101a	80	If you want to know the sound of high order distortion, this is probably as good a place to start as any	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	144	
Goodmans Delta 700	110	A 16-bit alternative to the CD650II that furnishes a colourful and animated sound.	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	128	
Harman/Kardon HD710	250	Player of integrity, but can sound a tad hard and rough when extended, and is somewhat amplifier fussy.	●	●	●	●	●	●	1bit	159	
Harman/Kardon HD7425	349	Needs a touch of Oxy-10 to clean up its complexion	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1600 141	
Harman/Kardon HD7525	400	Glorious sounding player, if slightly inconsistent	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1636 151	
Harman/Kardon HD7625	550	Crisply styled, well equipped and slick, sound quality is fast and assured, if slightly 'obvious'	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1761 155	
Harman/Kardon HD7725	800	This flagship implementation of RLS sounds impressively bold and dynamic.	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	124	
JVC XL-V284BK	140	Featuring a new set of bitstream innards, this flexible player has a refined, if occasionally unpredictable sound.	●	●	●	●	●	●	1bit	1270 147	
JVC XL-Z574	250	Strong resolving power and good midband and dynamics, but slightly raw and thin.	●	●	●	●	●	●	1bit	159	
JVC XL-Z674BK	300	Even handed, but glosses over the most intimate moments	●	●	●	●	●	●	1bit	1637 151	
Kenwood DP-3080	170	Bold, dynamic and outgoing sound, though somewhat aggressive. Poor build quality and finish	●	●	●	●	●	●	1bit	159	
Kenwood DP-7060	380	Fleet-footed, but will appear bright in lightweight systems	●	●	●	●	●	●	1bit	1601 141	
Krell KPS 20i	9,900	Forthright, edge of the seat sound with outstanding bass performance (tested in Statements)	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1734 155	
Linn Mimik	875	Useful multiroom features matched to strong bass, but poor imagery and transparency	●	●	●	●	●	●	Hyb	1762 155	
Luxman D-322	200	Well bred player sounds smooth and cultured without appearing grey or boring.	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1272 147	
Marantz CD-53	200	Looks identical to CD-63, but internal costs are cut, exposing a slightly ragged performer.	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1565 139	
Marantz CD-67	270	Dynamic, authoritative, and wide tonal response, but also shut-in and mid-forward balance	●	●	●	●	●	●	1 bit	159	
Marantz CD-17	800	Fabulous packaging and an excellent all round performer: smooth, detailed and consistent	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1763 155	
Meridian 506	995	Crisp, clean and detailed player now seems a little flat and mechanical: a dated balance	●	●	●	●	●	●	Hyb	1764 155	
Meridian 508	1,685	Excellent partner for Meridian digital systems, and one of the best neo-high end systems (tested in system)	●	●	●	●	●	●	DS	140	
Micromega Minium	350	Dynamically weak and some roughness offsets the pleasing tonal balance, articulate mid and strong bass	●	●	●	●	●	●	1 bit	159	
Mission DAD7	900	Pleasant but not particularly exciting, but this remains a classy, sharply etched performer	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	145	
Musical Fidelity FCD	1,499	Remarkably coherent and three-dimensional performer, and an inspiring piece of audiophilia	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1051 131	
NAD 512	250	Simple, well focused presentation, and articulate with it, though hard nosed quality is not everyone's cup of tea.	●	●	●	●	●	●	1 bit	159	
NAD 514	370	Boisterous sound, but undeniably attractive	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1639 151	
Naim Audio CD3	978	The idiosyncratically packaged CD3 is solid and highly articulate. Always has its feet on the ground though	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1765 155	
Nakamichi MB4s	350	Entry level Music-Bank player has plenty of dynamics and detail but little stereo depth.	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1074 132	
Onkyo DX-7210	260	Well-bred CD player features an unusual digital filter is smooth and cultured without appearing grey or boring.	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1273 147	
Onkyo DX-7510	400	Strongly flavoured, assertive sound	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1640 151	
Orelle CD-100	500	Excellent information retrieval and convincing with a wide range of music. HF could be more natural though	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1628 151	
Orelle CD-100SE	549	Articulate and solid performer, with a simple, purposeful; interface and attractive pricing	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1766 155	
Philips CD-721	130	Surprisingly well sorted, articulate if slightly lossy and attractively presented sound. Captive signal lead.	●	●	●	●	●	●	1 bit	159	
Philips CD-740	170	One of several Philips players using hybrid DAC technologies. Still sounds insufferably boring, however.	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1567 139	
Pioneer PD-204	150	Generally easy on the ear, but can bite back, especially with complex high frequency music content. Well endowed.	●	●	●	●	●	●	1 bit	159	
Pioneer PD-S904	400	Too much legato - literally - in sound, but a very smooth performer	●	●	●	●	●	●	1bit	1641 151	
Quad 77	850	This player knows how to sing. Pity the control system is so buggy.	●	●	●	●	●	●	Hyb	1767 155	
Quad 67	875	Powerful, fluid and captivating sound reminiscent of Meridian's 206.	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	124	
Rotel RCD-940BX	250	A sea change in transport and DAC technology lies behind this untidy-sounding and irritating player.	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1535 137	
Rotel RCD-975	849	Bright and superficially detailed, this deck can sound coarse and inarticulate	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1767 155	
Sherwood CD-4030R	180	Easy on the ear, smooth sounding player, with limits set by the slightly soft, compressed quality - and messy facia	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	159	
Sony CDP-361	150	Bantamweight it capable and resolute machine with no serious shortcomings at the price	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1628 151	
Sony CDP-XE500	160	Fine all-rounder, and a good match for middle ranking systems. Jog dial works well, but display is messy	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	159	
Sony CDP-761E	250	Tarted up CDP-561E with less widgets and a slightly overcooked but nonetheless fine performance.	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1267 147	
Sony CDP-XE900E	300	Refined and analytical disc scavenging tool, but there are some distinctive colourations making auditioning vital.	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	159	
Sony CDP-XA2ES	400	Strong-willed, heavyweight sound; not for the faint-hearted	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1642 151	
Teac CD-P3200	150	A primitive looking CD player, housing 16-bit electronics delivering an equally primitive and uninspiring sound.	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB	1277 147	

CD PLAYERS (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	FEATURES										ISSUE NUMBER			
			AES/EBU ELEC DIG OUT	OPTICAL DIG OUT	AT&T OPT DIG OUT	BAL ANALOGUE OUT	HEADPHONE SOCKET	VARIABLE OUTPUT	MULTI-DISC	FACTSBACK NUMBER	DAC TYPE					
Teac CD-5	350	Bright, breezy and up-beat - but short in the trouser department	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1643	151	
Teac VRDS-7	599	Although bold and outgoing, this player can sound both intrusive yet lacking fine detail	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1769	155	
Teac VRDS-10	770	A basic analogue stage compromises performance. Lacks bass energy.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS		119	
Technics SL-PG480A	140	Full driving sound, but somewhat uneven in balance with a unsubtle, slightly harsh top end.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1 bit		159	
Technics SL-PS770A	250	A mellow sounding player that never quite rouses from its slumber to really tackle the music at hand.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1278	147	
Thorens TCD 2000	900	Lacks midband separation and clarity and is short on dynamics but looks great (tested in Sessions)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1729	155	
Thule CD100	849	A little muddled via single ended output, but the sound comes alive when balanced connections are used	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1770	155	
Trichord Genesis	549	Modified Pioneer PD-S504 that's a bit like a Williams Renualt Clío — astonishing at the price (tested in Sessions)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	BS	1753	155	
Yamaha CDX-490	170	Big, blowsy sound, is undermined by lack of precision and focus	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1 bit		159	
TRANSPORTS																
Arcam Delta 250	750	Arcam's best effort yet is a new design based on Philips CDM9 transport. Specification includes Sync Lock facility.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		-	1491	130
Audiomeca Kreatura SE	1,450	Superb combo for those who like the sound of valves (tested with Elixir DAC in Sessions)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	MB		141	
Audiomeca Mephisto	2,100	Tested with Trichord Pulsar, the duo provides a highly composed and tactile sound.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		-	1320	144
Linn Karik	1,750	Based on early Linn transport, the Karik is dry but very positive, detailed and engrossing	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		-	1323	144
Meridian 500	1,245	Used with the 563 DAC, the combination is thin, brash and uncomfortable.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		-	1103	133
Mission Discmaster	1,500	Powerful performance - large and beefy without sounding fierce or aggressive (price includes Dacmaster)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			1104	133
Pink Triangle Cardinal	875	Sound quality is warm but over-polished compared to PT Ordinal (tested with DaCapo and DC PSU).	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		-	1324	144
PS Audio Lambda	2,250	With Ultralink Two, sound positively sparkles with colour and resonant detail.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		-	1106	133
Teac VRDS-T1	550	Superb quality engineering is mated to tidy and composed sound (tested with D-T1).	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		-	1325	144
Teac P-700	900	Tested with D-700, low resolution sound is warm, bubbly and entertaining.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		-		120
Teac P-2S	4,000	The latest version of Teac's luxury P-2 transport sounds as over-engineered as it looks.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		-	1493	130
Theta Data Basic II	2,298	Uses a Philips CDM-9 Pro mechanism a works a treat with more lively DACs	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		-	1494	130
Wadia 8	3,195	Budget version of Teac's VRDS mechanism in a fancy case; just too expensive for the performance on offer.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		-	1495	130
DACS																
Arcam Black Box 500	750	Sophisticated unit with Sync Lock and discrete DAC. Early samples sounded grubby and restrained.												BS	1519	136
Audio Alchemy DAC-in-a-Box	230	This giveaway DAC may still rescue the oldest of players from obsolescence.												MB		127
Audio Note DAC1	600	Oddball DAC with manual de-emphasis switch. Needs a high preamp input impedance or bass will suffer.												MB		127
Audiolab 8000DAC	800	Just as smooth and refined as its predecessor yet, sadly, still manages to obscure the passion or fire of music.												BS		127
Audiomeca Elixir	745	DAC was tested with Kreatura SE - see below												BS		141
Cambridge Audio DACMagic 2	200	Superb value DAC that makes the jump from good to outstanding if balanced outputs are used (tested in Sessions)									●			Hyb	1521	136
DPA PDM256	2,995	Highly advanced, with adjustable dither. but the different settings only lead to compromise.												BS		133
Linn Numerik	1,400	A new 20 bit DAC and revised Karik transport have cleaned up, but sounds a tad dry and humourless.												MB	1323	144
Meridian 563	795	Warmer but no less detailed than the earlier 200-series, the 563 flies with a top rate transport.												DS	1103	127
Mission Dacmaster	1,500	Powerful performance - large and beefy without sounding fierce or aggressive (price includes Discmaster)												MB	1104	133
Pink Triangle Ordinal	925	The cheapest dual-differential DAC7 converter available offers top-flight sound quality.												BS	1524	136
Pink Triangle DaCapo	1,765	With Cardinal and DC PSU, the DaCapo is best with its 22bit option. It is warm but over-polished.												BS	1324	144
Pink Triangle DC Supply	1,750	Battery power supply for Cardinal and DaCapo													1324	144
PS Audio UltraLink 2 HCD	2,590	With Lambda transport, the sound positively sparkles with colour and resonant detail.												MB	1106	133
PS Audio Ref Link	4,550	Consolidates reputation of PS Audio for high performance digital electronics										●		MB	1069	132
QED Digit Plus	139	Bearing in mind its expensive but very forgiving performance, the Digit is almost embarrassingly cheap.												BS		113
Teac D-T1	500	Teamed with VRDS-T1 for test, this superb quality unit is tidy and composed.												BS	1325	144
Teac D-700	600	With P-700, the D-700 may lack the resolution, but is bubbly and entertaining.												MB		120
Trichord Pulsar Series One	1,395	Richly detailed and honest sound from a very capable and natural DAC. Switchable phase, dither etc												Hyb	1320	144
Woodside DAC2	509	Sharp, dynamic sound is captivating for its lack of grain and 'tizz'.												MB		101
Woodside DAC1	909	Fine but slightly dated and costly package in performance terms - but flexible, musical and well built.												MB		87

You must listen to  For details of your nearest stockist, ☎ 01480 451777. Or visit the company's WorldWideWeb site - <http://www.mission-cyrus.com>



Digital Recorders

Digital recorders come in a variety of different guises, but have yet to make much of an impact on the domestic market. At present there are four types to choose from: DAT (digital audio tape), MD (Mini Disc), and DCC (digital compact cassette) and CD-R (CD Recordable). DCC is backwards compatible inasmuch as the machines can play regular audio cassette. MD's claim to fame is its optical disc format, which offers instant track access and can't be worn out like a tape. DAT has been on the market for quite some time now, but has never really 'made it' as a consumer medium due to the dearth of pre-recorded material. However it has begun to carve itself a niche in the top end of the market, replacing reel-to-reel as the audiophile's tape based medium. Home CD-R is coming into its own with Pioneer's PD-R05 machine attempting to set a trend.

B Best buy **R Recommended**

KEY	FORMAT: Type of recorder, see above for descriptions.	ADC TYPE: Analogue to digital converter types as per DACs.	ELECTRICAL IN/OUTPUTS: Digital socketry for electrical cable.	BACK ISSUE: The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.
	DAC TYPE: Digital to analogue converter: BS - Philips Bitstream, MB - multibit, Hyb - hybrid of multibit and bitstream technologies, 1bit - single bit types such as MASH, bitstream, PWM etc	PORTABLE: Can be run off batteries but not necessarily personal stereo size.	FACTSBACK NUMBER: The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback information page.	
		OPTICAL IN/OUTPUTS: Digital socketry for optical cable.		

DIGITAL RECORDERS

Product	Price(£)	Comments	FEATURES				ISSUE NUMBER		
			DAC TYPE	ADC TYPE	PORTABLE	FACTSBACK NUMBER			
Philips DCC170	250	Good sound quality for a portable that records as well, beating competition from MD in its group	DCC	BS	BS	●	1237	141	
Philips DCC951	280	Offering 18-bit record and replay this does an impressive job in many ways but PASC is still a limitation	DCC	BS	BS	●		139	
Pioneer D-05	800	Second generation 96kHz DAT recorder can offer startling realism with the right software - ie first generation	DAT	BS	BS	●		1652	152

DIGITAL RECORDERS (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	FORMAT	DAC TYPE	ADC TYPE	PORTABLE	ELECTRICAL IN/OUTPUTS	FAXBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
Pioneer D-07	1,150	96kHz double sampling mode gives this deck a sense of naturalness missing from most DAT recorders	DAT	BS	BS	●	●	1089	133
Pioneer PDR-05	1,300	CD recorder that uses domestic blanks only (limited to 62 minutes), write once but excellent sound quality	CD-R	BS	BS	●	●	1652	152
Pioneer D-C88	2,000	State of the art portable 96kHz DAT recorder, the size of a lap-top computer this Nagra country on the cheap	DAT	BS	BS	●	●	1431	150
Sharp MD-M11	450	Slick MD personal with recording capabilities and rapid track access but less stunning sound quality	MD	BS	BS	●	●		139
Sony MDA-JA3ES	800	Full width MD recorder that makes a decent job of recordings but is less impressive with pre-recorded material	MD	BS	BS	●	●	1216	152



Headphones

There are a variety of different approaches to headphone design. Among the more expensive models, electrostatic drivers are used in open-backed phones. Most models feature dynamic (moving coil) drivers in circular, open or closed-back designs. The advantage of open backs seems to be a correspondingly open sound, but one can also hear external noise, of course. Closed-back designs are useful in situations where it is necessary to block out noise.

There are three styles of headphone: circumaural models enclose the ear; supra-aural designs feature a flat pad which presses on the outer ear; and intra-aurals (in-ear) rest inside the ear itself, à la personal stereos. For best results a separate headphone amplifier is recommended.

B Best Buy **R Recommended**

KEY				
TYPE: Operating principle: D - dynamic, E - electrostatic.	CLOSED BACK: Keeps out external noise.	3.5MM JACK ADAPTOR: Can be used with mini-jack-equipped components such as personal stereos.	to find the Factsback information page	
SUPRA-AURAL: Style where a flat pad presses on the outer ear.	WEIGHT (G): Mass in grams	FACTSBACK NUMBER: The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page	BACK ISSUE: The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.	
CIRCUM-AURAL: Style which encloses the ear.	IMPEDANCE (Ω): Load offered to the headphone amplifier. The higher the impedance the louder the sound for a given amplifier output.			
OPEN BACK: Offers an open sound but lets in noise.				

HEADPHONES

Product	Price(£)	Comments	CIRCUM-AURAL TYPE	OPEN BACK	CLOSED BACK	3.5MM JACK ADAPTOR	WEIGHT(G)	IMPEDANCE(Ω)	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
AKG K240 Monitor	82	Something of a classic, these AKGs are very user-friendly in all respects; sonically on the warm side of normal.	D	●	●	●	240	600		63
AKG K1000	646	One of the best dynamics on the market, hooks directly into speaker outputs.	D	●	●	●	270	120		99
Audio Technica ATH910PRO	80	The closed back 910s are an improvement on the 909s, with a nice rhythmic quality rarely found with headphones.	D	●	●	●	280	40		55
Beyer DT100	152	Rugged, modular professional design, but bass is woolly and treble lacks detail.	D	●	●	●	350	600		157
Beyer DT311	49	Uncharacteristically tight, unrefined sound quality from this otherwise well engineered 'phone.	D	●	●	●	124	40	1098	133
Beyer DT331	82	Tonally bright and deficient in bass, but exceptionally comfortable, articulate, detailed and refined.	D	●	●	●	210	40	1801	157
Beyer DT411	69	A reasonable but not very thrilling headphone that doesn't really offer enough at the price.	D	●	●	●	120	250		111
Beyer DT531	129	A good buy for serious, heavy-duty music making	D	●	●	●	245	250		144
Beyer DT911	219	Probably too revealing for many headphone amps, these are very subtle and fine, if expensive cans.	D	●	●	●	275	250		111
Denon AH-D550	80	A competent 'phone with integrity, but little panache or charisma. Hard headband causes brain strain.	D	●	●	●	200	35	1801	157
Grado SR-80	110	Clear, open and dynamic with pedantically open mid-band. Crude physical design, rough frequency extremes.	D	●	●	●	60	8	1801	157
Jacklin Float Model 1	75	Whilst very unusual in appearance, the Floats give remarkable sound quality and openness at a reasonable price.	D	●	●	●	400	200		55
Jacklin Float Model 2	99	Helmet shaped, but open sounding and comfortable in long term, despite lack of adjustment.	D	●	●	●	400	200		63
JVC HA-D910	65	Broadly acceptable if unexciting design with low level losses and some colourations.	D	●	●	●	220	32		121
Kenwood KH-1000	20	First step up from a true mini: a near miniature which is cheap, comfortable and inoffensive	D	●	●	●	30	32		121
Maxell HP-3000	30	Solid, smooth sounding supra-aural headphone, but congested and undynamic. Includes in-lead controls.	D	●	●	●	120	32	1099	133
Pioneer SE-400D	37	Acceptable, if unexciting all-rounder, this supra-aural phone has good long-term comfort levels.	D	●	●	●	185	35	1099	133

BEST BUY VIVANCO - THE NAME BEHIND THE BEST BUYS

SR 606

"An excellent buy"
WHAT HI-FI
December 1993

IR 7600

"It sounds open and clean, with a warmth and graciousness denied most of its competitors"
Hi-Fi Choice
August 1994

SR 250

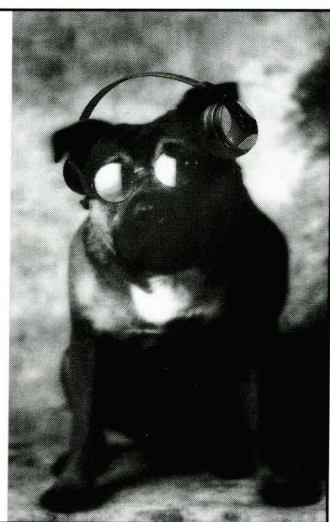
"Clear sound; controlled bass; comfortable cordless"
WHAT HI-FI
June 1995

SR 850

"A real bargain and an obvious Best Buy to boot"
Hi-Fi Choice
March 1995

SR 850

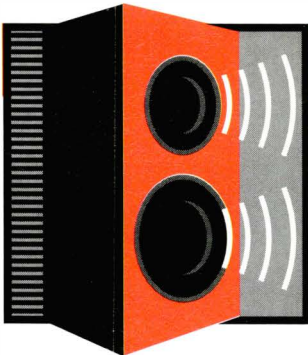
"All round giant-killer"
Hi-Fi Choice
March 1995



VIVANCO Vivanco UK Ltd, Unit C, Boundary Way, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7SS
Tel: 01442 231616 Fax: 01442 235421

HEADPHONES (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	CIRCUM-AURAL TYPE	OPEN BACK	CLOSED BACK	3.5mm JACK ADAPTOR	WEIGHT(g)	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER	
Ross RDH-300CD	17	In-lead controls are the highlights of this shoddy, sometimes aggressive sounding design.	D	●	●	●	155	8	●	133
▶ Sennheiser HD445 II	40	Still the one by which others at the price are measured, though now slightly leaden sounding, with a cold treble	D	●	●	●	125	52	●	121
▶ Sennheiser HD455	50	Inoffensive, if nondescript sound, modular, but can become dislodged from head.	D	●	●	●	185	60	●	1801 157
▶ Sennheiser HD565 Ovation	140	Wide bandwidth design which is refined, expressive and extremely comfortable.	D	●	●	●	255	150	●	1801 157
Sony MDR-CD770	100	Neutrality and comfort make the Sony easy to live with. Technically correct sounding too, yet musically unrewarding.	D	●	●	●	-	-	●	1801 157
▶ Stax Lambda Pro	449	Tested with SRD-7B PSU, this is an industry reference, and is frighteningly revealing.	E	●	●	●	325	-	●	55
▶ Stax Lambda Sig	549	With SRM-T1. Electrostatic - the Signature must be the most transparent headphone available.	E	●	●	●	325	-	●	72
Technics RP-HT700	70	Well-finished but physically crass and grubby sounding.	D	●	●	●	255	-	●	1801 157
▶ Vivanco SR606	40	Although slightly overblown at times, this model is easy on the ears and essentially enjoyable	D	●	●	●	225	32	●	1101 133
▶ Vivanco SR650	50	Unusually comfortable 'phone with excellent detail resolution but aggressive, thanks to tweeter resonance.	D	●	●	●	175	-	●	1801 157
▶ Vivanco SR750	60	Cossetting physical design, attractive sound an pricing, though suffers overhang and lacks ultimate dynamics.	D	●	●	●	188	-	●	1801 157
Vivanco IR7100	120	Infra-red phones that work well but suffer from the limitations of the medium ie compression and hiss(Sessions)	D	●	●	●	265	-	●	149



Hi-Fi Loudspeakers

As the last item in the hi-fi chain, the loudspeaker is merely the slave of what has gone before; it is only as good as the signal it is fed. Nevertheless, the distortions introduced by loudspeakers (and rooms) tend to be the most obvious. The average loudspeaker consists of an enclosure plus a couple of drive units behind a removable grille. Inside the box lurks a simple electrical circuit known as a crossover, which divides the incoming (full range) signal into the right bits for the drivers to handle. The designer's primary

task is to balance the 'sensitivity' of the loudspeaker (how loud it goes for a given electrical input) against the bass extension (how low it goes), for the given box size.

Subwoofers augment the bass and come in passive and amplified active form, they are less sensitive to placement than regular speakers.

B Best Buy **R Recommended**

KEY

SIZE WxHxD (cm): Width by height by depth in centimetres.
FLOORSTANDER: As opposed to requiring a dedicated stand.
SENSITIVITY (dB/W): Efficiency: how much volume you get for a given input, the higher the louder.
IMPEDANCE (Ω): Measured in Ohms impedance it is a measure of how hard a loudspeaker is to drive: the lower the number the more powerful the amplifier needs to be.
BASS FROM (Hz): The lowest frequency that a speaker can reproduce, based on in-room measurements.
FREE SPACE: Speakers should be placed away from walls.
CLOSE TO WALL: It is recommended that these speakers be placed close (between 3 and 12cm) to the rear wall.
FACTSBACK NUMBER: The reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback page.
BACK ISSUE: The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.

HI-FI LOUDSPEAKERS

Product	Price(£)	Comments	SIZE WxHxD(CM)	SENSITIVITY(dB/W)	IMPEDANCE(Ω)	BASS FROM (Hz)	FREE SPACE	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
Acoustic Energy AE1	764	Exceptional mid focus and coherence, but it is pricey and could be more agile.	26,30,18	88	8	48	●	●	102
▶ Allison AL100	100	Loud and lively budget wall-mount is big and beefy, but lacks sparkle and refinement	24,33,19	90	4	30	●	●	94
Allison AL105	170	Pretty enough in appearance; sonically the AL105 doesn't really make the grade at the price.	24,37,21	90	4	45	●	●	78
▶ Allison AL110	220	Compact bookshelf model is a little dry and mid-forward, but bass is extended and solid.	24,40,23	90	4	28	●	●	102
Allison AL120	420	Pretty well balanced if slightly mid-forward, but sound quality is disappointing at the price.	28,61,29	●	90	4	30	●	98
▶ Apogee Caliper Sig	3,998	Remarkable transparency and delicacy; loudness and 'grunt' are a bit lacking.	58,127	●	87	4	30	●	81
ATC SCM20	1,499	Massively built, invariably informative but the rather forward presentation can be uncomfortable.	24,44,31	83	8	28	●	●	86
Audio Innovations Alto	329	Styling makes competition look old-fashioned, but sound is thin and cold	20,38,26	88	6	45	●	●	1653 152
▶ Audio Note AN-J/B	799	Light damping and local unevenness adds some colouration, but doesn't spoil the very speaker.	38,58,25	93	8	25	●	●	110
▶ Audio Note AN-E/B	1,299	Coherent dynamic and transparent. with extended bass and high sensitivity - but ugly!	36,84,28	●	94	8	20	●	106
Audio Physic Tempo	1,999	Tall and unusually styled floorstander has stunning stereo but suspect bass tuning.	22,107,47	●	88	8	28	●	1344 143
▶ Audiovector 3K	1,500	Superior time coherence, a wide dynamic range and exception bass/mid balance.	19,32,98	●	89	8	20	●	1345 143
▶ B&W DM302	130	highly competent and neutral all rounder; clever Prism enclosure	19,32,22	88	4	45	●	●	1778 156
▶ B&W DM601	200	Great main driver for the price, entertaining dynamics	20.5,35.5,23	88	6	30	●	●	1779 156
▶ B&W DM602	280	Prefers tall stands and space, but offers impressive midband dynamics and musical tension	24,49,31	90	8	30	●	●	1654 152
▶ B&W Matrix 805 V	995	Stylish, remarkable imaging, good balance and low colouration.	33,33,21	87	8	30	●	●	98
▶ B&W Matrix 801S3	3,795	Lacks transparency and the drama of the best dynamics, but acoustically a tour de force.	44,100,56	●	87	8	20	●	81
▶ Bose 305	430	Fine dynamic liveliness and a good room match counter strange imaging and treble.	23,45,28	-	8	40	●	●	78
Bose 401	500	Cheaply built but distinctively styled, the 401 suffers from heavy midband.	30,30,76	●	-	4	28	●	110
Boston Acoustics HD5	139	Pretty miniature lacks boxiness, but is short of drama and dynamic drive.	16,25,18	89	8	30	●	●	110
▶ Canon S-30	180	Moulded design has lively coherence, with 'wide imaging stereo'.	23,27,24	90	6	50	●	●	114
▶ Castle Isis	230	Expressive with a full upper bass, tonally colourful with a big, dynamic sound (tested in Sessions)	17,35,19.5	87	8	60	●	●	1729 154
▶ Castle Durham 900	300	Lovely veneer and lots of engineering create a very upfront, coherent and exciting sound.	22,40,23	90	8	60	●	●	1162 135
▶ Castle York	370	Real wood compact has an engaging transparency: fine balance and timing, but could use some authority.	26,43,22	89	8	50	●	●	110
▶ Castle Severn	500	Light and bright, but sound is open and communicative. Looks good too.	23,77,20	88	8	47	●	●	1655 152
▶ Castle Chester	700	A brilliant throwback, using a horn type approach to provide startling dynamics and coherence.	23,91,25	●	90	8	44	●	98
▶ Castle Howard S2	1,100	Ablly fills the gap between Chester and Winchester; has a rich, laid back balance.	26,104,41	●	90	8	40	●	1078 132
▶ Castle Winchester	1,650	Large for its bass extension but engagingly agile, open and airy.	42,108,23	●	90	8	35	●	90
▶ Celestion 1	99	It sounds a bit scrappy and untidy, but its heart is in the right place.	16,27,21	86	8	50	●	●	114
▶ Celestion 3 MKII	139	Smooth and polished by budget speaker standards, if a bit laid back for some tastes.	21,31,18	88	8	45	●	●	1036 130
Celestion 9	269	Nicely presented and fair material value, with impressively flat mid to bass balance.	21,50,25	89	8	30	●	●	102
Celestion Impact 23	300	Big, cheap and loud. Sounds coloured and old fashioned, lacks subtlety	28,82,29	89	8	30	●	●	1656 152
▶ Celestion 15	389	Big box and but short on subtlety and control though long on both enthusiasm	21,100,25	●	89	8	28	●	114
▶ Celestion Impact 25	400	Both capable and enjoyable these rock boxes are real contenders in the bang-for-the-buck stakes	27,82,29	●	89	8	43	●	1758 155
Celestion SL6SI	429	This stereotype luxury compact can sound a bit dull and congested; favours CD.	20,38,27	84	8	30	●	●	94

HI-FI LOUDSPEAKERS (CONTINUED)

SIZE WHXHD(GM)
SENSITIVITY(DB/W)
IMPEDANCE(Ω)
BASS FROM (Hz)
FACTSBACK CLOSE TO WALL
FREE SPACE
ISSUE NUMBER

Product	Price(£)	Comments	SIZE WHXHD(GM)	SENSITIVITY(DB/W)	IMPEDANCE(Ω)	BASS FROM (Hz)	FACTSBACK CLOSE TO WALL	FREE SPACE	ISSUE NUMBER
Celestion SL600si	820	Some will find this speaker irresistible, but it needs careful system and room matching.	20,37,24	82	8	52	●		68
Celestion 300	1,099	Splendid bass extension and fine panel-like openness, but dynamics and timing are suspect.	21,97,33	●	84	8	20	●	118
Cerwin-Vega VS10	350	Not all that refined but ballsy as heck, these rock boxes have no shortage of gung ho	33,70,29	●	95	6	37	●	1758 155
Dali 104B	370	Lively, rich sounding and communicative. Shame about bland styling and dull balance.	22,86,27	●	93	4	28	●	1657 152
Dawn Audio Chorus FS	698	Compact floorstander with superb coherence but rather forward midband. Would suit smaller rooms best.	26,88,21	●	89	8	30	●	114
Epos ES11	445	Integral baffle/driver gives remarkable colouration, transparency and speed.	20,38,25	●	87	8	45	●	94
Epos ES14	675	Substantial stand mount delivers delightful midrange focus and delicacy with good bass control.	23,49,29	●	87	8	25	●	98
Epos ES22	1,185	Elegant floorstander with 'safe' balance that can be enlivened with the right cable and energetic material (Sessions)	21,88,25	●	87	6	58	●	1629 151
Epos ES25	1,655	Handsome floorstander with a rather uneven and bass heavy balance.	24,90,35	●	88	6	22	●	1346 143
Faraday Siren	445	High mass concrete cabinet is let down by imbalance of ageing driver combination.	25,27,46	●	90	4	48	●	94
Gale Model 4	200	Low cost floorstander, sounds a bit edgy, with detached bass	19,79,22	●	87	8	28	●	1780 156
Harbeth BBC LS3/5A	699	Still a classic miniature, though not to every taste, and none the better for the recent update.	19,30,18	●	82	10	80	●	66
Harman/Kardon LS0200	149	Laid back to a fault but entertaining nevertheless, and a big box for the price.	21,35,30	●	87	8	30	●	1037 130
Heybrook Prima	139	Fine pace and timing, but balance is forward and bass is tight.	20,29,18	●	87	6	50	●	110
Heybrook Solo	199	Untidy bass and treble, but handles complex rhythmic material well.	23,36,23	●	89	6	28	●	90
Heybrook Trio	373	HBS1 drivers in real wood enclosure give a sweeter and more forgiving sound.	24,47,25	●	89	8	45	●	118
Heybrook Heylo	389	Good vocal reproduction, but sounds thin and bass seems an afterthought.	23,73,19	●	88	8	30	●	1658 152
Heybrook Heystak	499	Elegant, highly detailed and level-headed sound, but could use injection of life	22,98,28	●	89	8	38	●	141
Heybrook Quartet	575	Solidly large bookshelf model with good sensitivity and a lively, forward sound.	24,41,22	●	90	8	48	●	122
Heybrook Sextet	1,129	Coherent and highly analytical, partly due to distinct upper-mid forwardness.	27,90,20	●	88	8	25	●	102
Infinity Reference 1i	150	Although not to our tastes, this is a competent speaker, and decent material value	20,34,20	●	89	6	50	●	1403 148
Infinity Kappa 6.1i	995	Good extension, but bass is fat and slow, and dynamics are unconvincing.	31,95,25	●	89	6	25	●	1080 132
Jamo Cornet 40.4	150	Pretty presentation and a strong box, but poor driver fixing. Decent if bright sound.	20,32,22	●	89	8	48	●	1038 130
Jamo BX100A	370	A cracking output for their size these rock boxes can be a tad bright but have decent bass	31,5,54,28	●	91	8	40	●	1758 155
Jamo Classic 8	430	A lot of speaker for the money; good when playing quietly, but boom 'n tizz character sounded crude	22,90,29	●	90	4	28	●	1659 152
Jamo 477	500	Very prettily styled, but build and sound quality are disappointing at the price.	19,77,28	●	88	4	40	●	1549 138
Jamo 707A	900	Superb styling and cosmetics and decent balance apart from detached bass.	26,38,104	●	90	4	25	●	1085 132
JBL Control One	115	Sub-miniature with forward midrange and real bass; price justified by build	24,156,14	●	87	4	100	●	90
JBL TLX70	400	Startling bass weight from party animal that is let down by rather bland high frequencies	27,88,28	●	88.5	8	50	●	1758 155
JBL L20J	850	Pricy, heavy and a bit laid back, but this is a fine rock'n'roller which is dynamic and communicative	26,42,28	●	86	8	30	●	1550 138
JBL L90	1,300	A classic monitor which communicates with gusto and enthusiasm, though it can sound a tad crude	24,94,35	●	91	6	23	●	143
JBL Ti 1000	1,600	Performance compromised by over enthusiastic midbass output from port.	20,30,13	●	89	4	45	●	118
Jordan Watts JH400	820	Piano finish hexagon has controversial sound, with uneven balance but delightful mid.	28,38,21	●	86	8	50	●	106
JPW Mini Monitor	60	Ultra-cheap miniature works well in a limited way	18,27,17.5	●	86	8	50	●	1781 156
JPW Gold Monitor	80	More informative than Mini Monitor - but fiercer too	18,27,17.5	●	86	8	50	●	1782 156
JPW Sonata	120	Fine sound if limited bass and dynamic range, wood veneered at a silly price.	23,32,22	●	87	8	70	●	71
JPW P1 Vinyl	150	Competent loudspeaker for the price, with a safe sound that won't disappoint.	26,44,25	●	89	8	65	●	102
JPW P1	170	Longstanding design is remarkable material value (real wood etc) and sounds pretty too.	26,44,25	●	89	8	65	●	1611 141
JPW AP2	200	Real wood finish, and performance is cleaner but similar to P1 Vinyl overall.	26,44,25	●	89	8	65	●	106
JPW AP3	230	Good stereo and well balanced overall; character is well suited to vinyl replay.	26,52,29	●	88	8	55	●	46
JPW Ruby 1	500	Very pretty but pricey luxury metal-cone miniature has good, if slightly edgy balance.	19,32,21	●	87	6	55	●	1572 139
KEF Coda 7	130	Lovely open voice reproduction, but bass could be tauter; build tougher	18,30,23	●	88	6	50	●	1783 156
KEF Coda 8	190	Outstandingly well balanced, bass is deep but a little vague	20,32,5,29	●	86	6	28	●	1784 156
KEF Coda 9	300	Uneven budget 3-way floorstander with poor bass definition	20,86,28	●	89	6	30	●	1785 156
KEF Q30	379	Fine focus from Uni-Q driver, but lacks drive and time coherence.	19,73,30	●	88	6	44	●	126
KEF Q50	529	Compact twin-driver floorstander with Uni-Q treble and a rather midbass, heavy overall balance.	19,83,30	●	89	6	50	●	1573 139
KEF 104/2	1,799	A reference point for dynamics, best without KUBE, suited to many rooms.	28,90,41	●	92	4	50	●	60
Keswick Audio Aria II	329	Confident and dynamic sound, if a little crude and shut in	21,42,24	●	89	8	20	●	1405 148
Linn Keilidh Passive	700	Stunning timing and coherence, and awesome bass drive.	20,83,28	●	87	4	22	●	1552 138
Linn Kaber Passive	1,800	Dry, bright balance emphasises dynamics and transients, but can sound unforgiving.	20,90,28	●	87	4	25	●	118
Living Voice Air Partner S	27,000	Outstanding transparency and dynamics from remarkably solid and fast mega horn	64,160,90	●	108	8	40	●	138
Lumley Reference LM4	375	Metal diaphragm and wood veneer; balance uneven upper and has suspect timing.	18,36,22	●	86	6	44	●	126
Lumley Reference LM3	895	Despite indifferent bass alignment, LM3 is fast, coherent, solid and informative	27,87,28	●	90	8	30	●	106
Meridian DSP6000	8,500	Sophisticated digital design, with a wide ranging, refined and detailed sound. Has onboard amplification	28,133,43	●	-	-	35	●	1226 140
Meridian DSP5000	2,995	State of the active loudspeaker art, a high grade design with unique capabilities. Has onboard amplification	21,90,30	●	-	-	35	●	1226 140
Mission 731	130	Much improved bass but dull top; likes to play loud	17,5,31,18	●	87	6	45	●	156
Mission 732	200	Attractive presentation but a rather dull and thick sounding speaker, and a tad pricey too.	20,41,30	●	89	8	45	●	1613 141
Mission 733	300	Duller than before, though still an honest all-round package	20,5,87,30	●	87	8	45	●	1786 156
Mission 751	300	Gorgeous looking, very petite; boogies with a sting at the top	17,5,32,26	●	87	8	45	●	1788 156
Mission 734	430	Fine all rounder, and good value, but dynamically a bit lazy, and tweeter quality limited.	21,84,33	●	90	8	43	●	1660 152
Mission 752	500	Brilliant style, engineering and sound	20,88,26	●	90	8	50	●	1553 138
Mission 753	700	Gorgeous presentation and potential for open transparency.	21,88,32	●	90	6	45	●	114
Monitor Audio MA201	300	Lively and coherent with good power handling, but also a bit shut in and coloured.	22,41,40	●	90	8	40	●	1164 135
Monitor Audio MA202	450	Uneven, informative and easy-listening floorstander delivers decent scale.	22,89,27	●	90	8	50	●	1575 139
Monitor Audio MA700 PMC	500	Good looking luxury compact with all-metal diaphragms, lovely midrange, but occasionally edgy	22,35,26	●	89	8	45	●	1661 152
Monitor Audio Studio 6	900	Metal diaphragm compact has transparent midband but lacks vigour and drive.	22,35,25	●	88	8	45	●	118
Monitor Audio Studio 12	1,000	A real looker, but sound and content are a bit on the small side for the price.	17,92,20	●	90	8	28	●	1349 143
Mordaunt-Short MS10i	140	Up front, bouncy and a whole lot of fun	18,5,30,5,20	●	86	8	50	●	1789 156
Mordaunt-Short SW1	150	Prettily finished and inexpensive passive subwoofer is only really useful with sub-miniature speakers	24,58,26	●	90	8	40	●	128
Mordaunt-Short MS30i	275	Slightly shut in and coloured quality is compensated by fine bass and impressive communication.	25,43,28	●	90	8	28	●	1662 152
Mordaunt-Short Perf 860	1,695	Although a very neutral loudspeaker it can, with the right ancillaries, pack a serious punch (Statements)	26,86,35	●	90	6	35	●	1367 146
Morel 704/2	1,000	There's real potential here, but it's not fully realised	23,80,21	●	88	8	20	●	1350 143

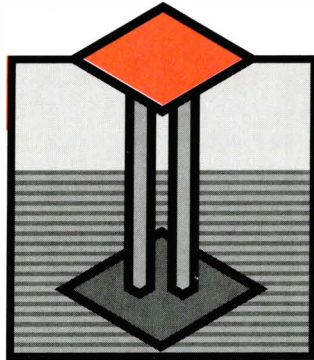
HI-FI LOUDSPEAKERS (CONTINUED)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	SIZE WxHxD(CM)	SENSITIVITY (dB/W)			BASS FROM IMPEDANCE(L)			FACTSBACK CLOSE TO WALL FREE SPACE			ISSUE NUMBER	
				▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
Musical Technology Harrier	400	Very pretty package, good measured performance and even sound. Sensitivity is low, and dynamics limp	25,80,23	●	86	8	25	●				1663	152	
Naim SBL Passive	1,878	Lively and punchy - smoother but more upfront than before.	27,89,27	●	88	6	25	●				1352	143	
Neat Petite	595	Among the most entertaining and enjoyable, despite colourations	20,30,18		87	6	33	●					102	
Origin Live OL-2A	470	Fine dynamics and a good looking, well engineered package, though presence bland and treble restrained.	19,80,19		86	8	45	●				1664	152	
Origin Live OL-1	499	Luxury miniature has very good overall balance, sacrificing sensitivity for bass.	20,30,19		86	8	25	●					106	
Philips Legend FB720II	200	Liveliness, coherence and fine information retrieval justifies the odd looking baffle.	21,37,31		90	6	50	●					122	
Pink Triangle Ventrical	896	If you are after Quad Electrostatic type transparency but can't afford the price . . . (Sessions)	15,80,32		86	11		●					142	
Pioneer S-4UK	250	Latest version now balances pretty well, with a coherent lightweight bass.	21,37,28		88	6	50	●				1157	139	
Poik LS50	800	No enthusiast tweaks here, but powerful and beautiful balance	27,83,29		89	8	25	●				1155	138	
Poik LS70	1,200	High sensitivity, but balance has too much midbass boom; mid-to-p is laid back.	31,94,37	●	90	8	22	●				1084	132	
Proac Response 2.5	2,700	For aspirant high-enders looking for seriously good conventional boxes, this speaker should be fist port of call	22,107,25	●	86	8	30	●				1457	149	
Prof Monitor Co LB1	998	Delightful smoothness and transparency, though bass and treble are both limited.	18,53,25		89	4	33	●					110	
Prof Monitor Co AB1	1,598	Lovely panel-like transparency, slightly shut-in balance, needs a big room.	26,79,43		89	6	22	●					114	
Quad ESL-63	2,860	Classic electrostatic lacks punch, but has strengths some can't live without.	66,93,27	●	86	8	34	●					60	
Rega Kyte	198	Has splendid timing and coherence, sounds very explicit and informative.	19,31,19		87	8	50	●					114	
Rega EL8	298	Kyle drivers in compact floorstander gives more bass but less coherence.	17,72,20	●	86	8	55	●					122	
Rega ELA Mk II	498	Pretty and smooth, the latest incarnation has a superb midband and excellent communicative skills	30,80,20	●	87	8	40	●				1578	139	
Rega XEL	1,040	Looks and sounds great: balance bright but even, with delightful coherence and timing.	20,82,30	●	89	6	40	●				1083	132	
Revolver Beretta	100	Great bass for the price, a bit crude further up	19,35,22		87	8	45	●				1790	156	
Revolver Colt	139	A good all-rounder, if a little bland, and excellent value for money	30,19,22		88	6	48	●				1407	148	
Revolver 260	350	A no nonsense presenter of rock with plenty of dynamics, not too refined (tested in Sessions)	21,5,91,6,30	●	89	6	40	●				1731	154	
Rogers LS1	149	High grade miniature	20,20,30		87	6		●				1408	143	
Rogers AB1	499	Designed as partner for LS3/5a or similar miniatures	19,57,16	●	82	8		●				1354	143	
Rogers Studio 3	499	Pricey LS3/5A derived miniature, excitingly coherent if lightweight, can't go loud.	19,30,16		85	8	30	●					118	
Rogers LS3/5A	699	Clever AB1 stand/subwoofer helps the classic 3/5A monitor give its best shot.	19,31,17	●	82	12	45	●				1354	143	
Rogers Studio 5	699	Luxury finish bookshelf size model has genuine monitoring capabilities.	25,25,48		89	8	40	●				1556	138	
Rogers Studio 7	899	Latest variation on classic BBC-monitor theme has beautifully voiced, laid back sound.	30,63,30		90	8	30	●					122	
Roksan Ojan 3 Black	795	Squat, stylish and black, great bass extension and somewhat uneven balance.	28,76,46	●	88	8	20	●				1082	132	
Royd Minstrel	249	Not much wellie or loudness but fine coherence and timing, a bit bright.	18,69,12		86	8	30	●				1167	135	
Royd Merlin	298	Invigorating and exciting design with plenty of upfront detail, but balance lacks warmth and a tad overpriced	20,31,18		86	8	33	●				1409	148	
Royd The Sorcerer	595	Extremely musical and communicative speaker that fun to listen to. Aesthics could use improving though	20,31,18		86	8	35	●					139	
Royd Abbot	665	Dynamic and fine transient qualities are hampered by a rather coloured mid-forward balance.	20,81,30	●	90	8	43	●					118	
Ruark Templar	499	Striking baffle gives decent bass/mid but dull treble; could tame over-bright system.	19,70,27		87	8	25	●					122	
Ruark Talisman II	749	Less ideologically committed than some, strength lies in fine all-round coherence.	23,84,32	●	88	8	30	●					118	
Ruark Equinox	1,849	The primary strength of this speaker is its ability to remove itself from the picture	25,88,34	●	88	6	45	●				1227	140	
SD Acoustics SD3R	399	New SD3 has the agility and charm of a quality miniature, good bass and low sensitivity.	20,38,30		87	8	25	●					106	
SD Acoustics SD5	1,235	Bass suspect but forward midband is delightfully smooth. Has ribbon tweeter.	20,110,30	●	88	8	30	●				1081	132	
Shahinian Arc	1,675	Occasionally wonderful small floorstanding omni; bright but coherent and revealing.	35,69,25		88	6	24	●					110	
Spendor 2020	399	Utilising an oval drive unit in a stylish cabinet this is a neutral design with AV inclinations (tested in Sessions)	18,34,26		87	8		●				1756	155	
Spendor S20	760	Maintains Spendor's tradition for peerless mid-to-treble coherence and perspectives..	22,38,26		84	8	25	●					102	
System Audio 905	250	Fine coherence and remarkable dynamic freedom some something so small, though there's little real weight	15,27,21		89	8	60	●				1410	148	
Tannoy 631	149	Balanced, open, unboxy and quite lively, but lacks muscle.	19,34,15		87	6	60	●				1616	141	
Tannoy 631SE	170	Very refined midband; maybe too laid back for some	13-19,34,16		86	7	45	●				1791	156	
Tannoy 632	189	Clever cabinet avoids boxiness and promotes focus imaging and bass	43,51,27		88	20	25	●				1168	135	
Tannoy 633/II	300	Impressive bass and balance from very compact floorstander. Upper midband could be cleaner.	29,75,28	●	89	85	20	●				1665	152	
Tannoy 638	599	Big value vinyl big box has good balance and lots of loudness, but needs a good amp.	33,96,32	●	91	6	25	●				1558	138	
Tannoy D500	1,470	Plenty of muscle and stereo, but short of poise and delicacy. Hard work for amps.	31,93,34	●	91	6	20	●				1355	143	
Tannoy Westminster TW	6,000	These awesome horn loaded speakers are remarkably controlled and impressive.	large	●	99	8	38	●					C93	
TDL Near Field Monitor	100	Despite low price, this is an unimpressive performer, poor low frequency resolution and analysis being main flaws	18,30,17		87	8	50	●				1043	130	
TDL RTL2	300	Spacious, weighty and enveloping sound if you can accept the laid back balance	20,73,22		87	8	25	●				1412	148	
TDL RTL3	400	Bargain price floorstander has rich, heavy and bright sound with a good scale.	20,90,37	●	90	8	25	●					126	
TDL Studio 0.5	499	Tiny floorstanding transmission line lacks coherence or the balance of Studio 1.	20,62,30		85	8	40	●					94	
TDL Studio 1	699	Genuinely extended bass from a compact enclosure, very detailed but a shade clinical.	23,77,33		86	8	25	●					78	
TDL Studio 1m	899	Transmission line helps bring the best from metal cone driver.	23,77,34		86	8	20	●					118	
Technics SB-M20	200	Well balanced with natural perspectives and fine midband coherence, but bass is a bit boxy and uneven	20,32,23		70	8	50	●				1413	148	
Technics SB-M500	450	This model offers a clean, open sound, offset by midbass heavy balance and low sensitivity.	25,78,37	●	100	8	25	●				1666	152	
Thiel SCS	1,379	Class leading coherence and communication, but can sound shut-in and dark	23,92,41	●	87	4	45	●					114	
Totem Model One	995	Utterly delightful but exasperatingly expensive luxury miniature sets the benchmark for its size.	17,31,23		87	4	28	●					122	
Triangle Octant TXe	3,950	Errs on side of extremism. High sensitivity and beguiling midband make a persuasive case for valve partnership	42,150,19	●	94	4	50	●				1539	137	
Vandersteen 2Ce	1,395	Elegant staggered baffle contributes to a refreshing freedom from boxiness.	41,101,27	●	88	7	23	●					86	
Visonik David 6001	163	Sharp styling, but the complex grillwork worsens a sound which starts off with too much top and not enough bottom.	13,20,12		87	8	130	●					74	
Wharfedale Valdus 400	199	Goes very loud with a minimum of amplification, but the sound is very thick and uneven, with a heavy upper bass	25,80,26	●	91	8	30	●				1414	148	
Wharfedale Valdus 500	299	Offering a large version of events these rock boxes can move plenty of air, albeit not as subtly as alternatives	25,108,26,5	●	91	4	40	●				1758	155	
ZYP AI	199	Cute metal cased micro-miniature is quite coloured but great fun.	14,22,12		88	8	30	●					110	
Subwoofers														
B&W AS6	500	Good material value with a fair amount of low bass from 100W active design	45,51,45,5	●			30					1736	154	
Boston Acoustics SW10	450	A little thumpy but transparent with good timing and goes loud (active)	28,5,50,42	●			33						128	
Celestion CS135	139	Compact hideaway passive sub lacks deep bass: for high sensitivity speakers	52,19,34	●	86	8	45	●					128	
Infinity RS10	500	A very cute cube of an active sub but midbass is boomy with no real extension	34,34,34	●			38						128	
Jamo SW600	530	Has some neat styling touches and remote control but deep bass is limited (active)	38,41,53	●			30					1736	154	
KEF Model 30B	500	Commendably discreet with good sense of timing but limited extension (active)	38,5,37,43	●			45					1736	154	
KEF AV1	2500	Works well, looks great, shakes the windows but costs a lot and is bulky	56,43,50	●			45						128	

SUBWOOFERS (CONTINUED)

ISSUE NUMBER
FACTSBACK NUMBER
CLOSE TO WALL
FREE SPACE
BASS FROM (Hz)
IMPEDANCE(Ω)
SENSITIVITY(dB/W)
FLOORSTANDER
SIZE WxHxD(CM)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	35,25,37	●	40	1736	154
M&K VX-7B	450	Baby of a big range this active design delivers deep, plenteous bass albeit lacking in transparency	35,25,37	●	40	1736	154
Mordaunt-Short SW1	150	Fair value, can help sensitive small speakers but no serious extension to match upper bass	58,24,25	●	85	45	128
REL Q-Bass	350	Smashes the price barrier for deep bass performance	40,41,5,40	●	20	1670	154



Stands & Supports

Hi-fi furniture is more important than you might imagine. The effect it can have on the sound of your system is far from subtle. Hi-fi furniture can be split up into two categories — equipment supports and loudspeaker stands. It is not entirely clear what makes a great equipment support, but some are definitely more equal than others. There's a variety of approaches and materials used, including particle board, glass and all

manner of steel tube and section. Speaker stands come in a variety of sizes and styles to suit different models. Use dealer or manufacturer recommendations to narrow down the choice, but as a rule you want the tweeter at ear height.

B Best buy **R Recommended**

KEY

HEIGHT (CM): Height of stand or equipment shelf.
TOP PLATE SIZE (CM): Dimensions of top plate on speaker stand or equipment support.
FILLABLE: Some speaker stands can be filled with sand and/or lead to increase mass, which affects sound.
WELDED: The better stands and supports are welded rather than bolted together.
NUMBER OF SHELVES: The amount of tiers on an equipment rack or support.
SHELF TYPE: Material that shelves are made of on an equipment rack. Wood generally means MDF.
FACTSBACK NUMBER: The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback information page.
BACK ISSUE: The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.

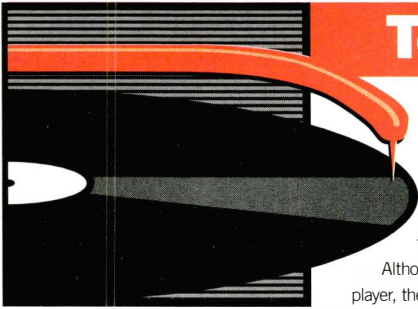
STANDS & SUPPORTS

ISSUE NUMBER
FACTSBACK NUMBER
SHELF TYPE
NUMBER OF SHELVES
WELDED
FILLABLE
TOP PLATE SIZE(CM)
HEIGHT(CM)

Product	Price(£)	Comments	40			4	Wood 1633	151
Equipment Supports								
Audiophile Furniture Base	480	Easy to set up, well ordered sound	40			4	Wood 1633	151
Fi-Rax R4	250	Lively, exuberant sound, slightly weak bass				5	Glass 1633	151
Mana Acoustics Ref. Table	350	King of its type, angle iron, chipboard and glass combined to make a significant difference to sound quality			●	1	Glass	147
Mana Acoustics 5 Tier Amp Stand	600	Infinitely upgradable. Persuasive and thrilling glass and angle iron design that adds speed and bandwidth to components upon it			●	5	Glass 1633	151
Quadraspire Q4	200	Easy to live with, and tonally neutral				4	MDF 1633	151
Sound Organisation Z038	130	Too lively and lacking order - but cheap	50	40,84	●	5	Wood 1633	151
SoundStyle Select 6105	280	Respectable sonics, structurally solid and smart				5	Glass 1633	151
Stands Unique Sound Tower	249	Adds colouration, and lacks weight. Optional Isolation Platform	81	72,42		5	Glass 1633	151
Target B5	175	Free of colourations, fine grip and good value			●	5	Wood 1633	151
Speaker Stands								
Alphason NC I	45	Filled single column design without threaded spike holes that's appropriate for non-critical applications	40-60	16,16	●			1373 146
Alphason NCII	80	Tall, slim and elegant, though sound and value are unexceptional	40-60	17,17	●			159
Alphason Titan	120	Excels in the midband and allows voices to come across in a detailed and expressive fashion	40-60	16,16	●	●		1373 146
Apollo A26	80	Fine engineering value, but sound unexceptional and top-plate small	66	15,13	●	●		159
Atacama BD21	55	Good looking and good value but doesn't match the SE24's sound quality	56	15,17	●			159
Atacama SE24	70	Stand out from the budget crowd because of the consistency and overall quality of the performance	61	19,5,17	●	●		1373 146
AVF Tower 400	35	Ridiculously cheap and much better than no stand at all	54	17,20	●			159
Ixos Deadrock 903	50	Smooth and tonally even but short on definition. Deep bass is soft which doesn't help timing	60					1373 146
Gale Reference 600	60	Smooth sounding with impressive bass well suited to less civilised speakers			●	●		1373 146
Kudos S50	100	Better sound than the budget stands, particularly at the bottom end	60	15,21	●			159
Kudos S100	270	The best all round stand around... Probably...	63	15,21	●			159
Mana Soundframes	125	For use under floorstanders and equipment racks these make music effortless and natural, can be stacked for greater effect	5			●		1373 146
Partington New Merlin	60	Although light in weight, the stands performance seemed remarkably muscular but musical rendering lacked a little precision				●	●	1373 146
Partington Discovery	80	The depth and substance of the presentation truly added to the convincing nature of the system's portrayal				●	●	1373 146
Partington Trophy	100	Four column design with damped top and base plates, sound is tight and cogent with smoothly integrated detail				●	●	1373 146
Revolver RS1	70	A good blend of performance and appearance for the price	53	18,18	●			159
RMS/Stands Unique Vivus	550	Pricely carbon fibres give ultra-clean sound with exceptional voices	50	N/A				159
Soundstyle 124	100	Big, shiny and solid, with fine midband projection	65	17,16	●			159
Sound Style Z024	100	Three pillar triangular based design with high gloss finish. Enthusiastic sound suited to better systems	61		●	●		1373 146
Stands Unique HP	220	Real wood disguises high performance tuned technology	59	22,23				159
Sound Organisation Z124	80	Atacama style big pillar. A pleasantly balanced performer, tonally even with good timing and dynamics, but leaks sand!	61		●			1373 146
Sound Organisation Z129	110	Heavy four pillar design, extracts detail well and very little colouration together with an excellent sense of timing	74		●			1373 146
Target R1	280	Truly high mass four pillar design with superb weight and speed, giving music delicious attack and outstanding imagery	53	15,21	●	●		1373 146
Target TR60	67.50	Lively, dynamic midrange and detailed treble from a less than audiophile oriented twin column design	60	15,15	●			1373 146

TO ORDER COPIES OF REVIEWS IMMEDIATELY BY FAX SEE PAGE 136

Tonearms



Turntables at the cheaper end of the market tend to be supplied with a matching tonearm, and often include a 'starter' cartridge. Still better quality is found at higher prices among the separate motor units and tonearms. Careful partnering and set-up is essential for these components.

Although the turntable is the most important part of a record player, the tonearm is the second most important, and the quality of

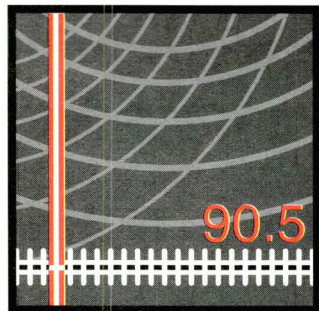
its construction and design have a significant bearing on sound quality. There are three basic types of arms listed in the key and each has its strengths, but pivoted designs are the most popular, for reasons both practical and economical.

B Best buy **R** Recommended

KEY	
EFFECTIVE MASS: This relates to cartridge compliance. Generally high mass arms are suitable for low compliance cartridges and vice versa.	PARALLEL TRACKING: An arm which allows the cartridge to track the disc in a linear fashion.
PIVOTED: Arms which allow the cartridge to describe an arc as they traverse the record.	UNI-PIVOT: Pivoted arms with a bearing that allows movement in two planes.
EFFECTIVE LENGTH (cm): Length of arm from bearing to cartridge mounting.	ADJUSTABLE HEIGHT: Important for accurate cartridge set-up.
FACTSBACK NUMBER: The reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback	BACK ISSUE: The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.

TONEARMS

Product	Price(£)	Comments	PARALLEL TRACKING	EFFECTIVE LENGTH (cm)	ADJUSTABLE HEIGHT UNI-PIVOT	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
A Alphason HR100S	490	S-shaped arm sounds smooth, but nevertheless reproduces transients with fine attack.	Medium	●	229	●	86
A Kuzma Stogi Ref	1,000	Large, solid and well made arm, gives exceptionally clear sound with just a hint of brightness.	High	●	●	●	79
A Linn Ekos	1,297	Superb, state of the art design which builds significantly on predecessor's strengths.	Medium	●	229	●	6
A Moth Arm	95	The ultimate budget arm? Refined, sweet, detailed and natural.	Low	●	237	●	60
A Rega RB300	139	Despite its modest price it sets exceptional standards and could be used on many high end turntables.	Low	●	237	●	60
A Roksan Tabriz Basic	275	Targetted at the Xerxes, this is a good alternative to the Rega arm in many cases - a touch bright though.	Low	●	240	●	91
A SME Series 300-309	657	Beautifully made and finished: fully adjustable and a highly neutral performer.	Low	●	238	●	79
A SME Series IV	936	Superb engineering and finish with a finely balanced sound, impressive stereo focus and low colouration.	Low	●	233	●	60
A SME Series V	1,391	Excellent in all respects, this arm arguably sets the standards for pivoted arms, regardless of price.	Low	●	233	●	60



Tuners

The radio medium operates at a lower profile than TV, but in areas outside pop music the BBC service is the envy of the world. Live concerts rival all other sources from a hi-fi perspective. Though tuners might seem something of a hi-fi afterthought, the task they discharge is far from simple, since it requires the skills of RF (reception) and audio (signal processing) engineering. The importance of the former will depend on reception conditions, but a high-quality aerial system is

well worth having. Tuners come in two basic types. Analogue models tune gradually and can have analogue or digital displays; they are often preferred for sound quality. Digital tuners offer convenient automatic tune facilities and pre-set memories.

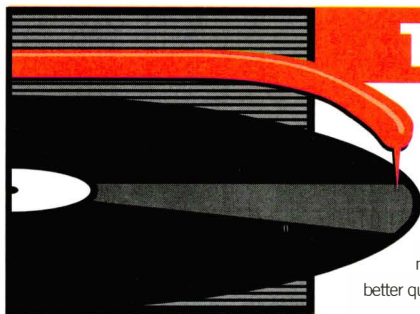
B Best buy **R** Recommended

KEY	
WAVEBANDS: Only the FM (VHF) bands give stereo hi-fi sound, though AM (MW & LW) are useful for receiving certain transmissions in the UK.	PRESETS: Number of station frequencies that can be stored.
RDS: (radio data system) was originally designed for in-car applications. Basically RDS tuners can identify and display the name of the radio station being received, but they offer a variety of other features as well.	REMOTE CONTROL: Couch-potato friendly.
SIGNAL STRENGTH METER: Indicates strength of signal from aerial, useful for aligning your 'twig' during installation	ROTARY TUNING KNOB: The ergonomically attractive approach to dial-surfing.
FACTSBACK NUMBER: The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page	to find the Factsback information page
	BACK ISSUE: The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.

Tuners

Product	Price(£)	Comments	WAVEBANDS	PRESETS	RDS	SIGNAL STRENGTH METER	ROTARY TUNING KNOB	FACTSBACK NUMBER	ISSUE NUMBER
Arcam Alpha 5 Plus	220	Selectivity modest and there is some susceptibility to front end overload, though basic sound quality is pretty good	FM,M,L	24	●	●	●	1254	142
Arcam Delta 280	399	Fine sound quality marred by mild synthesiser whine, RF performance only average. remote £60 extra	FM	20	●	●	●	120	
A Audiolab 8000T	750	Unusually combination of fine sound quality and RF performance (inc AM), and superb ergonomics	FM,M,L	39	●	●	●	1254	142
A Denon TU-260L	120	Careful minimalist design promises a surprisingly open and vivacious sound.	FM,M,L	20	●	●	●	1810	157
A Harman/Kardon TU950	200	Sound quality is among the best in its price range, only exposing its rough edges at high playback levels	FM,M,L	30	●	●	●	1810	157
A Harman/Kardon TU9400	299	This striking tuner exceeded our expectations. On stereo FM, it's HK's best yet	FM,M	24	●	●	●	1254	142
A Linn Kremlin	2,600	Controversially good sound at a very high price. The reviewer's saving up but you should check it out for yourself.	FM	80	●	●	●	1254	142
A Magnum Dynalab FT101	825	Although fairly expensive given its minimum set of facilities, its excellent sound provided ample compensation.	FM		●	●	●	72	
A Micromega Tuner	700	Has digital output but even without the Micromega DAC, this provides exceptional sound quality. Looks good too.	FM	39	●	●	●	1810	157
A Mission Cyrus FM7	400	Open, generous soundstaging gives the music plenty of foundation, if a touch shut in at the top	FM	29	●	●	●	1254	142
A Musical Fidelity E50	300	Sounds involving if coloured and with a subjectively larger than life presentation	FM	20	●	●	●	1810	157
A Naim NATO1	1,645	There may be better sounding tuners in the world, but we have yet to hear one.	FM		●	●	●	1254	142
Onkyo T-430RDS	190	Pleasingly neutral, but rather undynamic and congested	FM/MW	30	●	●	●	1254	142
Quad FM66	554	Very pretty and compact but technically unadventurous. Sound is smooth, but only makes sense in Quad system context.	FM	19	●	●	●	1254	142
Sony ST-SA3ES	250	Clean, lean presentation but needs a quality aerial to its best	FM,M,L	30	●	●	●	1810	157
Technics ST-GT350L	150	Decent RF performance is offset by sound quality more typical of a mini/midi system	FM,M,L	30	●	●	●	1254	142
Thorens TRT2000	450	Not exactly neutral sounding, it nonetheless makes listening fun	FM,M	59	●	●	●	1810	157

Turntables



Specialist turntables are what high fidelity sound is all about. CD players may offer silent backgrounds and flat frequency responses, but they can't match the dynamics and superlative timing that serious turntable users take for granted. Turntables at the cheaper end of the market tend to be supplied with a matching tonearm, and often include a 'starter' cartridge. Still better quality is found at higher prices among the separate motor units

and tonearms. Careful partnering and set-up is essential for these components, but many so-called 'sympathetic' combinations exist.

Because turntables are mechanical devices that are designed to retrieve modulations as small as a micron, engineering quality is of paramount importance. It is also the reason why turntables cost as much as they do, and require high quality support systems.



KEY

MANUAL: You do it all: put the needle on the record and take it off.
AUTO: The record player does it all.
SEMI-AUTO: You share the work: you put it on, it takes it off.
SPEEDS: In RPM to correspond with your platters.
SUSPENDED SUBCHASSIS: Sprung suspension to minimise

structural interference.
EXTERNAL PSU: Outboard power supply, generally it indicates high quality.
SUPPLIED WITH ARM: Many turntables require a separate arm to be fitted; if not, this tells you so.

SUPPLIED WITH CARTRIDGE: Most turntables do not come supplied with a needle.
FACTSBACK NUMBER: The Factsback reference for ordering a fax copy of the review. Use the contents page to find the Factsback information page.

BACK ISSUE: The issue of Hi-Fi Choice in which the original review appeared.

TURNTABLES

Product	Price(£)	Comments	MANUAL		SEMI-AUTO		SUSPENDED SUBCHASSIS		SPEEDS		SUPPLIED WITH CARTRIDGE		EXTERNAL ELECTRONIC PSU		SUPPLIED WITH ARM		FAXBACK NUMBER		ISSUE NUMBER		
			▲	▼	▲	▼	▲	▼	▲	▼	▲	▼	▲	▼	▲	▼	▲	▼	▲	▼	▲
Alphason Sonata	835	Good sound in all areas - bass, clarity and neutrality all in top class (tested with HR100S MCS).	●								33	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	79	
Clearaudio Reference	2,500	Opulent beast tested with Souther TQ-1 arm. Tends to gloss over detail with a fizzy character but is quite bold	●								33/45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1328	144	
DNM Rota 2	4,800	Tonally slightly bleached, but extracts detail like few others. Works well on own table	●								33/45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1328	144	
Dual CS503-2	170	Coarse and woolly sound - not offensive, but be tered by the CS-505-3.									33/45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		91	
Dual 505-4 UK	200	Consistent sounding and well isolated turntable. It is slightly lacking in oomph.									33/45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		103	
Kuzma Stabi/PS	1,200	(Tested with Stogi Reference) Solid oak plinth; sound is very clear, detailed and extended.	●								33/45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		91	
Linn LP12 Basik	1,050	Trails the full LP12 significantly, but pace, rhythm, timing etc still top rank	●								33	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		103	
Linn LP12 Lingo	1,750	The classic reference is improved by the Lingo, but charming character remains.	●								33/45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		91	
Michell Gyrodek	765	Sweet and natural sounding player, well matched to Rega RB300 arm	●								33/45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		55	
Notts Analogue Spacedeck/Arm	1,125	No frills, just a first rate, outstandingly natural sounding deck that will last forever.	●								33/45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		159	
Pink Triangle Anniversary	1,980	Possibly the most detailed, clear and neutral sounding deck around. Likeness to master tape is uncanny.	●								33/45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		91	
Pro-ject 6/Sumiko	699	Don't think of this as a mid price deck with a good arm, but as a scaled down Oracle Delphi - it's that good	●								33/45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		138	
Rega Planar 2	214	A remarkable product at the price, surprisingly articulate and confident	●								33/45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		48	
Rega Planar 3	274	The '3 (with RB300 arm) sounds musical in a balanced and coherent manner, needs decent isolation	●								33/45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		48	
Rega Planar 9	1,598	Featuring the RB900 arm and a ceramic plinth this deck puts Rega into contention with the best decks available	●								33/45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		151	
Reson RS1	675	Supplied set-up and ready-tuned, this unconventional deck is packed with mid-band detail.	●								33/45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		159	
Rivelin Eclipse	1,100	Tested with SME 309. Tends to simply things and add a slightly ragged edge to the proceedings	●								33/45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1328	144	
Roksan Radius 3/Tabriz zi	890	Elegant looking turntable with a tidy, ordered sound. Bright and breezy if a shade high weight.	●								33/45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		159	
SME Model 20A	4,631	Supplied with Series V arm. Engineered to last a lifetime, giving excellent stereo and detail retrieval.	●								33/45/78	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		118	
Systemdek 1/920/Moth	235	The motor is derivative of the Rega Planar 2 with a Moth arm. Uptempo, even bright at times but never lacks enthusiasm.	●								33/45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		115	
Systemdek 2X2	499	Neutral, flexible and dynamic deck that begs to be used with a good arm and cartridge.	●								33/45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		159	
Thorens TD166 VI/UK/RB	300	Refined and solid sound with well focussed imagery; suitable for use with good MM and budget MC cartridges.	●								33/45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		103	
Thorens TD2001	700	Balances convenience and sound well, but deck lacks detail and bass could be be ter controlled									33/45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		159	
Thorens TD3001/UK	770	Excellent middle ranking esoterica, with strong all-round abilities rather than excellence in particular areas.	●								33/45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		103	
Voyd 0.5	3,940	Cross between standard and Reference Voyds. Superb finish, colourful and dynamic.	●								33/45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1328	144	
Voyd Reference	6,962	Voyd's flagship, equipped with three substantial motors, is a strong contender for world's best.	●								33/45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		91	
Well Tempered Record Player	1,800	Intriguing and challenging. Musically it is not ideal, but has a limpid quality and a lack of artificiality that sets standards.	●								33/45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1180	136	

Ever wanted to look back at a Hi-Fi Choice review or needed some sound independent advice to make up that 'Best Buy' system? Factsback is a personal service designed to help you navigate the ever-increasing list of available products. Now, our reprints are instantly available to you via your fax (or fax/modem) 24 hours a day. You get the review you need, just when you need it. International readers can order copies of reviews (£1.50 per page with a credit card) by calling Starcomm on 44 1132 940600

How much will it cost?

The cost of our easy-to-use service is 39p per minute off-peak and 49p per minute at all other times. The pages you will receive have been designed to keep user costs to a minimum. The Factsback system was put together by Starcomm Ltd (01132) 940600

Factsback



How Hi-Fi Choice Factsback works

- 1 Call the Factsback system from the handset of your fax machine. The handset must be switched to 'tone'.
- 2 Following voice prompts, select either an index of documents or specific documents by a known document number from the keypad of your fax machine.
- 3 Factsback delivers your choice of documents to your fax machine complete with coversheet.

CALL 0891 616518

MANUFACTURER & DISTRIBUTOR CONTACT NUMBERS

A

Acoustic Energy Ltd • tel 0181 840 6305 • fax 0181 579 1761
 Adcom • Celestion International Ltd • tel 01473 322222 • fax 01473 729662
 ADT • Aanvil Audio • tel 01359 240687 • fax 01359 240687
 Advent • Entel Ltd • tel 01483 425702
 Adyton • Aanvil Audio • tel 01359 240687 • fax 01359 240687
 Air Tangent • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962
 Aiwa UK • tel 0181 897 7000 • fax 0181 564 9446 • Dealers 2000+
 Akai (UK) Ltd • tel 0181 897 6388 • fax 0181 897 1508 • Dealers 250
 ARG • Harman Audio UK Ltd • tel 0181 207 5050 • fax 0181 207 4572 • Dealers 30
 Alamo • Moth Marketing • tel 01234 741152 • Dealers 50
 Albarry • Ortofon UK Ltd • tel 01753 888949 • fax 01753 889636
 Alchemist Products • tel 0181 883 3008 • fax 0181 883 1160
 Allison Acoustics Ltd • tel 01484 603333 • fax 01484 607774
 Alphason • tel 01942 678000 • fax 609913 • Dealers 700
 Apollo Hi-Fi Furniture • tel 0121 520 5070 • fax 0121 522 2055
 AMC • Campus International Ltd • tel 01494 431290
 ARC • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962
 Arcam • A&R Cambridge Ltd • tel 01223 440964 • fax 01223 863384 • Dealers 211
 Arion • Kronos Distribution • tel 018687 48632 • fax 018687 48281
 Ariston • Hi-fi Direct • tel 0171 827 9827 • fax 0171 827 9009 • Dealers 23
 Art Audio • tel 0115 965 3604 • fax 0115 963 7795
 Atacama • Sambell Engineering • tel 01455 283251
 ATC Loudspeaker Technology Ltd • tel 01285 760561 • fax 01285 760683 • Dealers 25
 ATD • Aanvil Audio • tel 01359 240687 • fax 01359 240687
 Audio Alchemy • Path Premier • tel 01494 441736 • fax 01494 461209
 Audio Innovations • Hi-fi Direct • tel 0171 827 9827 • fax 0171 827 9009 • Dealers 23
 Audio Note • Audio Note UK • tel 01273 220511 • fax 01273 731498 • Dealers 15
 Audio Physic • Aanvil Audio • tel 01359 240687 • fax 01359 240687
 Audio Research • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962
 Audio Technica Ltd • tel 0113 2771441 • fax 0113 2704836 • Dealers 100
 Audiolab • Cambridge Systems Technology Ltd • tel 01480 52521 • fax 01480 52159
 Audiomeca • Kronos Distribution • tel 018687 48632 • fax 018687 48281
 Audiophile Furniture • tel 01342 826262
 Audioquest • A&R Cambridge Ltd • tel 01223 440964 • fax 01223 863384
 Audiostatic • Audiofreaks • tel 0181 948 4153 • fax 0181 948 4250 • Dealers 12
 Audiovector • The Chord Company • tel 01722 331674 • fax 01722 411388
 Aura • B&W Loudspeakers (UK Sales Ltd) • tel 01903 750750 • fax 01903 750694
 AVI • AV International Ltd • tel 01453 765682 • fax 01453 752777 • Dealers 23

B

B&O • Bang & Olufsen UK Ltd • tel 01734 692288 • fax 01734 693388 • Dealers 167
 B&W Loudspeakers (UK Sales Ltd) • tel 01903 750750 • fax 01903 750694 • Dealers 400
 Bandrige • tel 0181 543 3633
 Basis • RT Services • tel 01235 813058
 Benz-Micro • Audiofreaks • tel 0181 948 4153 • fax 0181 948 4250 • Dealers 12
 Beyerdynamic • tel 01273 479411 • fax 01273 471825 • Dealers 300
 Bose UK Ltd • tel 01795 475341 • fax 01795 427227 • Dealers 496
 Boston Acoustics • Portfolio Marketing • tel 01494 890277
 Bravura • Thomas Transducers • tel 01732 851408
 Bryston • Professional Monitor Co • tel 01923 249119 • fax 01923 249219

C

Cable Talk • tel 01252 373434 • fax 01252 371818
 Cambridge Audio • Hi-fi Direct • tel 0171 827 9827 • fax 0171 827 9009 • Dealers 23
 Canon Audio Ltd • tel 01256 841300 • fax 01256 841333
 Castle Acoustics Ltd • tel 01756 795333 • fax 01756 795335 • Dealers 264
 CAT • Reference International • tel 01435 868004
 Celestion International Ltd • tel 01473 322222 • fax 01473 729662 • Dealers 200
 Cerwin Vega • CSE Administration • tel 01423 359054 • fax 01423 359058 • Dealers 98
 Chimera International Amplification • tel 0181-441 1951
 Chord • The Chord Company Ltd • tel 01722 331674 • fax 01722 411388 • Dealers 210
 Chord Electronics • tel 01622 764874 • fax 01622 764874
 Classe Audio • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962
 Clearaudio • Heatherdale Audio • tel 01903 261213
 Clements • Wollaton Audio • tel 0115 928 4147
 Concordant • Sambell Engineering • tel 01455 283251
 Conrad-Johnson • Audiofreaks • tel 0181 948 4153 • fax 0181 948 4250 • Dealers 12
 Copland • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962 • Dealers 32
 Counterpoint • MPI Electronic UK Ltd • tel 01483 454993 • fax 01483 454992
 Credo • Townshend Audio • tel 01784 455866
 Creek Audio Ltd • tel 0181 361 4133 • fax 0181 361 4136 • Dealers 40
 CR Developments • CR Developments Ltd • tel 01702 469055 • fax 01702 601883
 Crimson • Virtual Reality Audio Systems • tel 01277 227355 • fax 01277 224103
 Croft • Eminent Audio • tel 0121 373 1442 • fax 0121 377 8309

D

Dali • Onkyo UK • tel 0181 343 2082 • fax 0181 346 4925
 Dawn Audio Ltd • tel 01932 355040 • fax 01932 355041
 Day Sequerra • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962
 Deadrock • Path Distribution • tel 0121 749 2240 • fax 0121 748 3838 • Dealers 700
 Denon • Hayden Laboratories Ltd • tel 01753 888447 • fax 01753 880109 • Dealers 350

Densen • Russell Kauffman Distribution • tel 01582 561227
 DNM • Virtual Reality Audio Systems • tel 01277 227355 • fax 01277 224103
 DPA • tel 01222 795621 • fax 01222 794267 • Dealers 17
 Dual • RAM UK Ltd • tel 0161 973 0505 • fax 0161 905 1965 • Dealers 450
 Dynavector • Pear Audio Ltd • tel 01665 830862

E

EAR • Yoshino • tel 01480 467788
 ECA Distribution • tel 0181 998 1086 • fax 0181 998 1086 • Dealers 5
 Eclipse • Hi-fi Direct • tel 0171 827 9827 • fax 0171 827 9009 • Dealers 23
 Electrocompaniet • Esoteric Audio Imports • tel 01243 533030 • fax 01243 533030
 Electrostatic Research • Audusa & Co • tel 0181 942 6241 • fax 0181 395 0793
 EMF Audio • tel 0181 361 6734 • fax 0181 361 4136
 Epos Acoustics • tel 01705 407722 • fax 01705 400099 • Dealers 68
 Exposure Electronics • tel 01273 423877 • fax 01273 430619

F

Faraday Sound • tel 01603 762967
 Fi-Rax • JEM Distribution • tel 01924 277626
 Forte Audio • Acoustic Energy Ltd • tel 0181 840 6305 • fax 0181 579 1761
 Fullers • Fuller's Audio • tel/fax 01702 612116

G

Gale • Hi-fi Direct • tel 0171 827 9827 • fax 0171 827 9009 • Dealers 23
 Gallo • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962
 Gamma Acoustics • Gamma Acoustics • tel 01753 526939 • fax 01753 526939
 Genelec • Project • tel 0171 359 0400
 Genexa • Intertan Ltd • tel 01922 434000 • fax 01922 710789 • Dealers 346
 Glanz • Presence Audio • tel 01444 461611 • fax 01444 461510
 GLL • Goodmans GLL • tel 01705 492777 • fax 01705 470875 • Dealers 250
 Goldring Products Ltd • tel 01284 701101 • fax 01284 750040 • Dealers 100
 Goodmans Industries Ltd • tel 01705 673763 • fax 01705 664333
 Grado • Goldring Products Ltd • tel 01284 701101 • fax 01284 750040 • Dealers 50
 Graham • Reference International • tel 01435 868004
 Grant Amplifiers • tel 01705 837392
 Grundig International Ltd • tel 01788 577155 • fax 01788 562354
 GT Audio • tel 01895 833099

H

Harbeth Acoustics Ltd • tel 01444 440955 • fax 01444 440688
 Harman/Kardon • Gamepath Ltd • tel 01908 317707 • fax 01908 322704 • Dealers 85
 Helius Designs • tel 01386 830083 • Dealers 5 + direct
 Heybrook Hi-fi Ltd • tel 01579 342866 • fax 01579 342833 • Dealers 75
 Horning • Definitive Audio • tel 0115 981 3562

I

Impulse Loudspeakers • tel 0181 766 0474 • fax 0181 766 0468 • Dealers 11
 Infinity • Gamepath Ltd • tel 01908 317707 • fax 01908 322704 • Dealers 85
 Interaudio • Bose UK Ltd • tel 01795 475341 • fax 01795 427227
 Ixos • Path Distribution • tel 0121 749 2240 • fax 0121 748 3838 • Dealers 700

J

Jadis • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962
 Jamo UK Ltd • tel 01327 301300 • fax 01327 300511 • Dealers 300+
 JBL • Gamepath Ltd • tel 01908 317707 • fax 01908 322704 • Dealers 85
 Jecklin • May Audio Marketing (UK) Ltd • tel 01943 864930 • fax 01943 863814
 John Shearne • tel 01438 740953
 Jordan Watts Acoustics Ltd • tel 0181 985 1646 • fax 0181 986 0112
 JPW Loudspeakers Ltd • tel 01752 607000 • fax 01752 607001 • Dealers 200
 JVC UK Ltd • tel 0181 450 3282 • fax 0181 208 3038 • Dealers 5000

K

KAL UK Ltd • tel 01303 245005 • fax 01303 221736
 KEF Audio Ltd • tel 01622 672261 • fax 01622 672939 • Dealers 240
 Kenwood • Trio-Kenwood UK • tel 01923 816444 • fax 01923 819131 • Dealers 1000
 Keswick Audio • tel 01977 671823 • Dealers 13
 Kimber Cable • RATA Ltd • tel 01539 823247 • fax 01535 823317
 Kiseki • Presence Audio • tel 01444 461611 • fax 01444 461510 • Dealers 10 + direct
 Koetsu • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962 • Dealers 20
 Koss • HW International • tel 0181 808 2222 • fax 0181 808 5599
 Krell • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962 • Dealers 17
 Kronos Distribution • tel 018687 48632 • fax 018687 48281
 Kudos • tel 01732 461648 • fax 01732 462949
 Kuzma • Audiofreaks • tel 0181 948 4153 • fax 0181 948 4250 • Dealers 12

L

LAT International • Audusa & Co • tel 0181 942 6241 • fax 0181 395 0793
 LFD • tel 01255 422533 • fax 01255 221370 • Dealers 7
 Linæum • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962
 Linn Products • tel 0141 644 5111 • fax 0141 644 4262
 Living Voice • Definitive Audio • tel 0115 981 3562
 London • Presence Audio • tel 01444 461611 • fax 01444 461510 • Dealers 10 + direct
 Lowther Voight Ltd • tel 0181 300 9166
 Lumley Reference • Reference International • tel 01435 868004
 Luxman • Hi-fi Direct • tel 0171 827 9827 • fax 0171 827 9009 • Dealers 23
 Lynwood Electronics • tel 01709 873667 • Dealers 25
 Lyra • Path Premier • tel 01494 441736 • fax 01494 461209



MANUFACTURER & DISTRIBUTOR CONTACT NUMBERS (CONTINUED)

M

MAG Audio (UK) Ltd • tel 0181 555 1222
 Magnepan • Audionord UK • tel 01235 813058
 Magnum • Hailey Audio Ltd • tel 01992 442425 • Dealers 6
 Magnum Dynalab • Reference Imports • tel 01435 868004 • fax 01435 864481
 Mana Acoustics • tel 0181 868 2788 • fax 0181 429 0118
 Manticore Audio Visual • tel 01767 318437 • Dealers 5 + direct
 Marantz Hi-fi UK Ltd • tel 01753 680868 • fax 01753 680428 • Dealers 200 +
 Mark Levinson • Path Premier • tel 01494 441736 • fax 01494 461209
 Martin-Logan • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962 • Dealers 20
 Matisse • GT Audio • tel 01895 833099
 Maxell UK Ltd • tel 01923 777171
 McIntosh • MPI Electronic UK Ltd • tel 01483 454993 • fax 01483 454992
 Meridian Audio Ltd • tel 01480 434334 • fax 01480 432948 • Dealers 98
 Metaxas • UK Distribution • tel 01753 654531
 Michell Engineering • tel 0181 953 0771 • Dealers 8
 Michi • Gamepath Ltd • tel 01908 317707 • fax 01908 322704 • Dealers 18
 Micro-Seiki • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962
 Micromega DA Ltd • tel 0181 502 1416 • fax 0181 502 1438 • Dealers 104
 Minstrel • Quantum Audio Ltd • tel 01563 571122 • fax 01563 571133
 Mission • Centralforce Ltd • tel 01480 451777 • fax 01480 432777 • Dealers 259
 Mohr Audio Ltd • tel 01223 242898 • fax 01223 214532 • Dealers 45
 Monrio • UK Distribution • tel 01753 654531
 Monster • Gamepath Ltd • tel 01908 317707 • fax 01908 322704 • Dealers 181
 Mordaunt-Short Ltd • tel 01705 407722 • fax 01705 400099 • Dealers 200
 Morel • Clere Electronics Ltd • tel 01635 297717 • fax 01635 297717
 Moth Marketing • tel 01234 741152 • Dealers 30
 Musical Fidelity Ltd • tel 0181 900 2866 • fax 0181 900 2983 • Dealers 145
 Musical Technology • tel 01494 793137
 Myriad Systems Ltd • tel 01705 265508 • fax 01705 231407

N

NAD Marketing Ltd • tel 0181 343 3240 • fax 0181 346 4925 • Dealers 380
 Naim Audio • tel 01722 332266 • fax 01722 412034 • Dealers 70
 Nakamichi • B&W Loudspeakers (UK) Ltd • tel 01903 750750 • fax 01903 750694
 Neat Hi-Fi • tel 01325 460812 • Dealers 15
 Nottingham Analogue • tel 01773 762947 • fax 01773 533566 • Dealers 4
 NVA • tel 01763 272707 • fax 01763 271694 • Dealers 3

O

Onix Electronics • tel 01273 517358
 Onkyo UK • tel 0181 343 2082 • fax 0181 346 4925 • Dealers 120
 Orelle Hi-fi • tel 0181 908 4126 • Dealers 30
 Origin Live • tel 01703 442183 • Dealers 25
 Ortofon UK Ltd • tel 01753 888949 • fax 01753 889636 • Dealers 200

P

Panasonic UK Ltd • tel 0990 357357 • fax 01908 681931 • Dealers 3000 +
 Papworth Audio Technology • tel 01480 830345
 Partington • tel 01322 383712
 Pentachord Loudspeakers • tel 0181 788 2228 • Dealers Direct
 Perception • Kinshaw Electronics Ltd • tel 01209 715878 • fax 01209 711939
 Philips Consumer Electronics Ltd • tel 0181 689 2166 • Dealers 5000 +
 Pickering Cartridges • tel 01904 642463 • fax 01904 652225
 Pink Triangle Projects • tel 0171 703 5498 • Dealers 47
 Pioneer High Fidelity (GB) Ltd • tel 01753 789564 • fax 01753 789536 • Dealers 500
 Polk Audio • tel 01727 827311 • fax 01727 827284 • Dealers 104
 Posselt • GT Audio • tel 01895 833099
 Pro-ject • Ortofon UK Ltd • tel 01753 888949 • fax 01753 889636 • Dealers 70
 Proac • DNA Marketing • tel 01403 753180 • fax 01403 753181 • Dealers 19
 Professional Monitor Co • tel 01923 249119 • fax 01923 249219 • Dealers 12 + direct
 PS Audio • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962

Q

QED Audio Products Ltd • tel 01276 451166 • fax 01276 452211 • Dealers 150 +
 QLN UK Ltd • tel 01352 730251 • fax 01352 730251
 Quad Electroacoustics Ltd • tel 01480 52561 • fax 01480 413403 • Dealers 130
 Quadraspire Ltd • 01634 296615 • Dealers 50

R

RCF Electronics • tel 01268 570808 • fax 01268 570809
 RA Labs • RDL Acoustics • tel 01484 603333 • Dealers 4 + direct
 Realistic • Intertan Ltd • tel 01922 434000 • fax 01922 710789 • Dealers 346
 Rega Research Ltd • tel 01702 333071 • fax 01702 432427 • Dealers 54
 Rehdeko • Virtual Reality Audio Systems • tel 01277 227355 • fax 01277 224103
 REL Acoustics Ltd • tel 01656 766093 • Dealers 80
 Reson • Virtuall Reality Audio Systems • tel 01277 227355 • fax 01277 224103
 Revolver UK Ltd • tel 0161 973 0505 • fax 0161 905 1965
 Richard Allen Loudspeakers • tel 01274 872442
 Rivellin Audio • Sonic Link • tel 01332 674929 • fax 01332 361390
 Rogers • Swisstone Electronics Ltd • tel 0181 640 2172 • Dealers 100 +
 Roksan • Centralforce Ltd • tel 01480 451777 • fax 01480 432777
 Rose Industries Ltd • tel 01235 847023 • Dealers 10

Ross Consumer Electronics Ltd • tel 01703 666363 • fax 01703 666190
 Rotel • Gamepath Ltd • tel 01908 317707 • fax 01908 322704 • Dealers 232
 Royd Loudspeakers Co Ltd • tel 01952 290700 • fax 01952 290190 • Dealers 65
 Ruark • tel 01702 601410 • fax 601414

S

Sansui UK • tel 01204 700139
 SD Acoustics • tel 0181 399 6308 • fax 0181 399 6308
 Sennheiser UK Ltd • tel 01628 850811 • fax 01628 850958 • Dealers 850
 Sentec • MAG Audio (UK) Ltd • tel 0181 555 1222
 Shahinian • Pear Audio Ltd • tel 01665 830862 • Dealers 15
 Sharp Electronics (UK) Ltd • tel 0161 205 2333
 Shearne Audio • tel 01438 740953 • fax 01438 740995
 Sherwood • Hi-fi Direct • tel 0171 827 9827 • fax 0171 827 9009 • Dealers 23
 Shun Mook • Audiofreaks • tel 0181 948 4153 • fax 0181 948 4250
 Shure • HW International • tel 0181 808 2222 • fax 0181 808 5599
 Siltech • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962
 SME Ltd • tel 01903 814321 • fax 01903 814269 • Dealers 125
 Sonic Frontiers • MPI Electronic UK Ltd • tel 01483 454993 • fax 01483 454992
 SonicLink • Audiokits • tel 01332 674929
 Sonus-Faber • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962 • Dealers 30
 Sony United Kingdom Ltd • tel 0181 784 1144
 Sound Organisation • Goldring Ltd • tel 01284 701101 • fax 01284 750040
 Sound-Lab • Audiofreaks • tel 0181 948 4153 • fax 0181 948 4250
 Soundstyle • Goldring Products Ltd • tel 01284 701101 • fax 01284 750040 • Dealers 170
 Spendor Audio Systems • tel 01323 843474 • Dealers 17
 Spica • Presence Audio • tel 01444 461611 • fax 01444 461510
 Stands Unique • tel 01933 461058
 Stanton • Lamba Electronics plc • tel 017278 40527 • fax 017278 37811
 Stax • Path Premier • tel 01494 441736 • fax 01494 461209
 Stemfoort Audio • Audio Synergy Ltd • tel 01924 406016 • fax 01924 410069
 Sugden • Audio Synergy Ltd • tel 01924 406016 • fax 01924 410069 • Dealers 12
 Sumiko • Path Premier • tel 01494 441736 • fax 01494 461209
 Sumo • Audusa & Co • tel 0181 942 6241 • fax 0181 395 0793
 System Audio • The Chord Company • tel 01722 331674 • fax 01722 411388
 Systym • Systemdek Ltd • tel 01294 271251 • fax 01294 277095

T

Tannoy Ltd • tel 01236 420199 • fax 01236 428230 • Dealers 400
 Tara Labs • Acoustic Energy • tel 01285 654432 • fax 01285 654430
 Target Audio Products • tel 01582 401244
 TDL Electronics Ltd • tel 01628850111 • fax 01628 850130 • Dealers 274
 Teac UK Ltd • tel 01923 819630 • fax 01923 236290 • Dealers 200
 Technics • Panasonic UK Ltd • tel 0990 357357 • fax 01908 681931 • Dealers 2000
 Tessera Research Ltd • tel 0181 669 0011 • fax 0181 773 0406
 Theta • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962
 Thiel • MPI Electronic UK Ltd • tel 01483 454993 • fax 01483 454992
 Thorens • Portfolio Marketing • tel 01494 890277
 Thule • Virtual Reality Audio Systems • tel 01277 227355 • fax 01277 224103
 Totem • May Audio Marketing (UK) Ltd • tel 01943 864930 • fax 01943 863814 • Dealers 6
 Townshend Audio • tel/fax 0181 979 2155
 Transfiguration • Reference International • tel 01435 868004
 Transparent Audio • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962
 Triangle • Kronos Distribution • tel 018687 48632 • fax 018687 48281
 Trichord Research Ltd • tel 01684 573524 • fax 01684 577380
 Tube Technology • tel 01932 850354

U

UKD-Opera • UK Distribution • tel 01753 652669
 Unison Research • UK Distribution • tel 01753 652669

V

van den Hul UK • tel 0181 810 9388 • fax 0181 810 9365 • Dealers 160
 Vandersteen • A&R Cambridge Ltd • tel 01223 440964 • fax 01223 863384
 Visonic • Canford Audio • tel 0191 415 0205
 Vivanco UK Ltd • tel 01442 231616 • fax 01442 235421 • Dealers 1000 +
 Voyd Turntables Ltd • tel 01242 574528
 VPI • Audiofreaks • tel 0181 948 4153 • fax 0181 948 4250

W

Wadia • Woodstock • tel 01865 883535 • fax 01865 881012
 Well Tempered • Pear Audio Ltd • tel 01665 830862 • 01665 830051
 Wharfedale Loudspeakers Ltd • tel 0113 2601222 • fax 0113 2600267
 Wheaton • Audiofreaks • tel 0181 948 4153 • fax 0181 948 4250
 Wilson • Absolute Sounds • tel 0181 947 5047 • fax 0181 879 7962 • Dealers 7
 Woodside Electronics • tel 01934 520248

Y

Yamaha Electronics UK Ltd • tel 01923 233166 • fax 01923 244930
 YBA • Kronos Distribution • tel 018687 48632 • fax 018687 48281
 Yoshino • tel 01480 467788

Z

Zeta • Moth Marketing • tel 01234 741152 • Dealers 50
 ZYP • Presence Audio • tel 01444 461611 • fax 01444 461510 • Dealers 2 + direct

AUDIO T, 190 West End Lane, West Hampstead, London NW6 1SQ (0171) 794 7848. Fax (0171) 431-3570. Great Value on Acoustic Energy, Arcam, Audiolab, B&W, Denon, Linn, Marantz, Meridian, Micromega, Mission, Nakamichi, NAD, Proac, Rotel, Technics, Yamaha & many more. Tues-Sat 10-6 Late Thurs until 8.00. 3 year guarantee on Hi-Fi. Free delivery & installation. 30 day free upgrade scheme. Home demonstrations. Part exchange. Interest Free Credit on selected items. 2 listening rooms. BADA bonded.

BILLY VEE SOUND SYSTEMS, 248 Lee High Road, Lewisham, London SE13 5PL. Tel (0181) 318 5755/0181-852 1321. Arcam, Denon, Marantz, Linn, Mission, Cyrus, Naim, Nakamichi, Quad, Rega, etc. 2 domestic style listening lounges. Apts required, service dept, home trial facilities, Int. free credit, instant credit. Access, Visa. Open Mon-Sat 10-6.30, Closed Thurs. BADA

THE CORNFLAKE SHOP, 37 Windmill Street Fitzrovia, London W1P 1HH. Tel (0171) 631 0472. Fax (0171) 436 7165. Open Tues-Sat 10-6, 10-7 Thurs. The specialists for the highest quality of sound, for one room or many more. Friendly advice, full delivery and installation service available. 2 listening rooms (appointments preferred), service department. Access, Visa, Amex, Switch. Worldwide mail order service. Brands include: ATC, AVI, Arcam, Mark Levinson/Procead, Naim, Nakamichi, Rega, Royd, Audio Alchemy and many more... We are simply the best CORNFLAKE SHOP in the world.

GRAHAMS HI-FI, Canonbury Yard, 190a New North Rd, London N1. Tel (0171) 226 5500. Winner Sony/HFN Greater London Dealer Award 1986/89/90. "One of the 5 best hi-fi shops in the world". Arcam, Linn, Meridian, Naim, Rega, etc. Systems from £500. FREE PARKING. 4 dem rooms, service dept, open Tues-Sat. RING FOR APPOINTMENT. BADA

HI-FI & COMPONENTS, 84 Battersea Rise, London, SW11 1EH. Tel (0171) 223 1110. ESTABLISHED 31 years. Beyer, Celestion, Denon, Dual, Gemini, Goodmans, Harman Kardon, Jamo, Kenwood, NAD, Ortofon, Rotel, Sennheiser, Shure, Stanton, Tannoy, Wharfedale, etc. Apts nec, Service Dept. Access, Visa, Diners, Amex, Open 10-6 Closed Wed.

HI-FI EXPERIENCE, Lion House, 227 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P -HX. Tel Help Line 0171-580 3535 24 hour, Fax 0171-436 4733. Agencies include: Arcam, Audiolab, Bang & Olufsen, Castle, Celestion, Chord, Cyrus, Denon, Heybrook, Harman, IMF, KEF, Marantz, Mission, Musical Fidelity, Meridian, Nakamichi, Nad, Pioneer, Quad, Rotel, Shearpe, Tannoy, TDL, Yamaha. 8 listening rooms, 3 years guarantee. Free delivery and simple installation (M25 periphery), home cinema specialist. BADA

INFIDELITY, 9 High Str, Hampton Wick, Kingston-upon-Thames. Tel (0181) 943 3530. For full details see entry under SURREY. BADA

K.J. WEST ONE, 26 New Cavendish St, London, W1M 7LH. Tel (0171) 486 8262/63. Fax (0171) 487 3452. Most established brands stocked. Two Hi-Fi and two Home Cinema dem studios Apts nec Home trial. Free installation. Service dept. Major credit cards. Interest free credit usually available - ask for details. Open 10am-6pm 5 days - closed Weds and Sunday.

KAMLA 251 Tottenham Court Rd, London, W1P 9AD. Tel (0171) 323 2747. Kenwood, Pioneer, JVC, Philips, Toshiba, Boston, B&W, AR, Mitsubishi. Demonstration room available. Apts required. Service dept. Access, Visa, Amex, Diners. Open Mon-Sat 9-6.

MARTIN KLEISER LTD - CHISWICK W4, 109 Chiswick High Road, London, W4 2ED. Voice (0181) 400 5555 Fax (0181) 400 5550 email 100614.3026@compuserve.com Good Hi-Fi systems from £800 Home cinema Multi-room sound systems Authorised dealer Linn, Naim etc Home trial and installation 30 day free upgrade scheme Part exchange Interest free credit Service department Tuesday - Saturday 10am to 6pm Bada bonded BADA

MUSICAL IMAGES LTD, 173 Station Road, Edgware HA8 7JX. Tel (0181) 952 5535, Fax (0181) 951 5864. BADA

MUSICAL IMAGES LTD, 45 High Street, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 1IR. Tel (0181) 569 5802, Fax (0181) 569 6353. BADA

MUSICAL IMAGES LTD, 18 Monmouth Street, Covent Garden, London WC2H 9HB. Tel (0171) 497 1346, Fax (0171) 497 9205. Main authorised dealers for over 100 manufacturers. Interest free credit, anywhere in the UK, subject to status. Demo rooms including big screen TVs. Repairs and service. Open all week including Sundays. Home cinema specialist. Mail order worldwide. Part exch. Musical Images club. BADA

ORANGES & LEMONS, 61-63 Webbs Road, Battersea SW11. Tel (0171) 924 2040/3665. Juicy fruit from London's newest, freshest hi-fi/home cinema retailer. Telephone demonstrations or just pop in. All the usual, ie friendly and efficient service, free home installation, credit cards, 0% finance available, plus all the very best from: Cable Talk, Chord Co, Demion, Denon Lifestyle, Epos, Micromega, NAD, Naim, QED Multiroom, Quad, Rega, Roksan, Rotel, Royd, Ruark, Soundstyle, Stands Unique, with more to come. The innovative Audio/Visual retailer.

STUDIO 99, 79-81 Fairfax Road, Swiss Cottage, London NW6. Tel (0171) 624 8855, Fax (0171) 624 5315. Naim, Meridian, Quad, Mission/Cyrus, Rega, KEF, Arcam, Epos, Acoustic Energy, Yamaha, Nakamichi, NAD, Sonus Faber, B&O etc. Single speaker dem room, AV demos. Multiroom. Service dept. Visa/Access credit facilities. 10-7 Mon-Fri, 10-6 Sat. BADA

THOMAS HEINITZ, 35 Moscow Road, Bayswater, London, W2 4AH. Tel (0171) 229 2077. Fax (0171) 727 9348. Nearest tube stations Queensway and Bayswater. Plenty of parking meters available. Demonstration room available by appointment. Stockists of B&O, Naim, Rega, Micromega, Cyrus, Denon and Epos. Payment via, ACCESS, VISA, cheques, cash and interest free credit facilities (details on request). Open 10.30am-6.00pm, Tuesday-Saturday. BADA

GREATER MANCHESTER

AUDIO COUNSEL, 14 Shaw Road, Oldham, OL1 3LQ. Tel (0161) 633 2602 Fax (0161) 633 2502. Linn, Naim, Rega, Arcam, Rotel, Royd, Mission, Micromega, Marantz, Shahinian, Celestion, Nakamichi, Dynavector. Free installation. Record club. Major credit cards and credit facilities. Open Tuesday-Saturday 10.00 to 5.30, 8pm on Thurs. BADA

SWIFT OF WILMSLOW, 4-8 St Annes Parade, Wilmslow. Tel (01625) 526213. Aura, B&W, Denon, Kenwood, Marantz, NAD, Pioneer, Rotel, Tannoy, Revolver, JPW. Open 9:30am-6:00pm 2 dem rooms. No pressure!

MIDDLESEX

AUDIO T, 159a Chase Side, Enfield, Middlesex EN2 0PW. Tel (0181) 367-3132, Fax (0181) 367-1638. Great Value on Acoustic Energy, Arcam, Audiolab, Celestion, Cyrus, Denon, Kenwood, KEF, Linn, Marantz, Meridian, Micromega, Mission, NAD, Quad, Rotel, Yamaha & many more. Tues-Fri 9.30-6. Sat 9.30-5.30. 3 year guarantee on Hi-Fi. Free delivery & installation. 30 day free upgrade scheme. Home demonstrations. Part exchange. Interest Free Credit on selected items. 2 listening rooms. Home Cinema specialists. BADA

RIVERSIDE HI-FI LTD, 422 Richmond Road, East Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 2EB. Tel (0181) 892 7613. Fax (0181) 892 7749. Arcam, Audiolab, Audio Research, Audio Alchemy, B&W, Bose, Copland, Castle, Denon, Dual, Krell, KEF, Meridian, Marantz, Monitor Audio, Musical Fidelity, Michell, Micromega, Mission, Martin Logik, Nakamichi, Pioneer, Quad, Rotel, Sony, Sonus Faber, Tannoy, Theta, Wilson, Yamaha. Appointments recommended. Finance available. All major credit cards accepted. Mon-Sat 10-6, Thurs 10-7 BADA

UXBRIDGE AUDIO LTD - UXBRIDGE, 278 High Street, Uxbridge, Middx, UB8 1LQ. Voice (01895) 465 444 Fax (01895) 465 440 email 100614.3026@compuserve.com Good Hi-Fi systems from £800 Home cinema Multi-room sound systems Authorised dealer Linn, Naim etc Home trial and installation 30 day free upgrade scheme Part exchange Interest free credit Service department Monday - Saturday 10am to 6pm BADA

WEST MIDLANDS

AMADEUS SOUND & VISION, 10 Boldmere Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, Tel (0121) 354 2311. Audio Innovations, aura, B&O, B&W, Castle, Marantz, Micromega, Musical Fidelity, Nakamichi, Harman Kardon, QED. Single speaker demo, apts preferred, service available, installations, B&O link install, home trials. Access, Visa, interest free credit available subject to status. 9.30-6pm, 6 days. BADA

EMPIRE ELECTRICAL SUPERSTORE, 21-22 Stephenson Street (behind New Street, opposite Pollasades car park), Birmingham City Centre, West Midlands B2 4JD. Tel (0121) 643 0972. Birmingham's biggest Hi-Fi superstore. Every top brand & all the best buys at guaranteed unbeatable prices. Aiwa, Akai, Arcam, B&W, Bose, Castle, Celestion, Denon, Hitachi, Infinity, JBL, JVC, Kef, Kenwood, Marantz, Mission, Mordaunt Short, NAD, Panasonic, Pioneer, Rotel, Sony, Tannoy, TDL, Technics, Toshiba, Yamaha. 2 Dedicated Hi-Fi Demo rooms and 2 A.V Demo rooms, no appointments required. Service department, free installation, home trial facilities. Access, Visa, Amex, Diners. Interest free credit. Open Mon - Fri 9.30-6.00. Sat 9.00-5.30 BADA

FRANK HARVEY HI-FI EXCELLENCE, 163 Spon Street, Coventry. Tel (01203) 525200 Fax (01203) 631403. E-MAIL: frank@hiflex.demon.co.uk 4000sq feet on 3 floors of the very Best Hi-Fi. Audiolab, Audio Alchemy, Arcam, Audio Quest, B&W, Bang & Olufsen, Castle, Canon, Cable Talk, Chord, Cyrus, Definitive Technology, Denon, Kef, Marantz, Meridian, Miller & Kreisell, Mission, NAD, Pioneer, Quad, REL, Rega, Revolver, Rogers, Rotel, Sennheiser, Sharp Projection, Systemdek, Teac, TDL, Van Den Hul, Yamaha. 3 Floors with 3 Dedicated Hi-Fi Demo Rooms. Apts Necessary. Service Dept. Free install & Home Trial. Interest Free Credit on selected products. Open 9.30am to 5.30pm Monday to Saturday. BADA

GRIFFIN AUDIO, 94 Bristol Street, Birmingham, West Midlands. Tel (0121) 622 2230/(0121) 692 1359. 40 years in Hi-Fi and still the best in the Midlands. We sell great Hi-Fi from Arcam, Denon, Linn, Marantz, Musical Technology, Nakamichi, Naim, Quad, Rega, Shahinian and Loewe Television. Arcam Xeta Home Theatre. Open Tues-Sat 10.00-5.30. BADA

MUSIC MATTERS, 351 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B17 8DL. Tel (0121) 429 2811. Rotel, Denon, Lexicon, Tannoy, Ruark, Alchemist, Exposure, Pioneer, Roksan, Nakamichi, Arcam, Audiolab, Musical Fidelity, Mission/Cyrus, Meridian, KEF, Monitor Audio, Pink Triangle. 2 single speaker luxury demo rooms. Apts nec, home trial facilities, free installation, service dept. Access, Visa, instant credit up to £1000, interest free credit available. Tue-Thur 10.30-6, Fri 10.30-8, Sat 10-6. Branches also at 93-95 Hobs Moat Road, Solihull, W Midlands B92 6HJ. 0121-742 0254. 156-157 Lower High Str, Stourbridge, W Midlands D18 1TS. (01384) 444184. BADA

SOUND ACADEMY, 152a High Street, Bloxwich, Nr Walsall, W Midlands Tel (01922) 493499/473499. Please see entry under BIRMINGHAM. BADA

NORFOLK

AUDIBLE DIFFERENCE, Near Diss, Norfolk. Tel (01379) 740227. Absolute Sounds, Audion, Art Audio, ATC, Audio Innovations, Audio Note, AVI, DPA, EAR, Impulse, LFD, Pink Triangle, Unison Research, SME, Tube Technology. Full demonstration facilities including evenings. Apts required, free installation, home trial facilities. Open Mon-Fri 12-9pm, Sat 9-5pm. BADA

AUDIO IMAGES, 7 All Saints Road, Pakefield, Lowestoft, NR33 0JL. Tel/Fax (01502) 582 853. Please see main entry under SUFFOLK.

BASICALLY SOUND, The Old School, School Rd, Bracon Ash, Norwich NR14 8HE. Tel (01508) 570829. Audio Alchemy, Arcam, Audiolab, Beyer, Cabletalk, Denon, Dynavector, Epos, Grado, Heybrook, Micromega, Naim, Nakamichi, Sound Organisation, Rotel, Royd, Spendor, TDL, etc. 2 comprehensive dem rooms. Home trial. Free installation. Visa, Access, HP facilities. Tues-Sat 9.30-1, 2-5.30. BADA

MARTIN'S HI-FI est. 1968, Ber St, Norwich. Tel (01603) 627010 Fax (01603) 611302. Arcam, Atacama, Audiolab, Audioquest, Cable Talk, Celestion, Cyrus, Denon, GLL, KEF, Marantz, Mission, Meridian, Monitor Audio, NAD, Pioneer, Quad, Rotel, REL, Ruark, Sennheiser, Soundstyle and Target, separate AV and Hi-Fi demo rooms,

Home Cinema specialists, Open Monday to Saturday 9-5.30. Home delivery and installation available. Interest free credit. Price promise - we will match any genuine local price. BADA

ZEROTH AUDIO, Tel (01493) 443693. System consultant, computer-aided design and analysis of your system. Stockists of Serpant high quality handmade cables. Agents for Bandor speaker systems. Modifications to your own equipment. New and used sales. Appointments only, please ring for details.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

AUDIOCRAFT, 23-25 Dergate, Northampton, NN1 1TY. Tel (01604) 36291 Fax (01604) 21786. Bang & Olufsen, Kenwood, Technics, Marantz, Celestion, KEF. No apts nec. Free installation. Service Dept open Mon-Sat 9-5.30pm. BADA

CLASSIC HI-FI + VIDEO, School Lane, Kettering, Northants. Tel (01536) 310855. Aura, B&W, Exposure, Harmon Kardon, Heybrook, JBL, Kef, Kenwood, Marantz, Nad, Orelle, Pioneer, Rogers, Rotel, Shearpe, Sugden, Tannoy, Yamaha and many more. Home trial, free installation, service department. All major credit cards. Open 9.30-5.30pm. BADA

LISTEN INN, 32 Gold Street, Northampton. Tel (01604) 37871 Linn, Naim, Rega, Audiolab, Arcam, Mission, KEF, Epos, Royd, Nakamichi, Micromega, Minium, Myrrad, Denon, Rotel, Marantz, Yamaha, Sennheiser, Chord Co, Cabletalk. 2 Listening Rooms. Free Installation. Part Exchange. All Major Credit Cards. Interest Free Credit Subject to Status. BADA Bonded BADA

NOTTINGHAM

DEFINITIVE AUDIO serves the first time purchaser and the seasoned audiophile with the same high level of care and interest. Our aim is long term customer satisfaction. We achieve this with quality impartial advice, quality back up and service and genuine interest in your needs. We have an established reputation for achieving sound quality benchmarks with innovation. We have an extensive range of carefully selected agencies. We are open Mon-Fri 9.30-6.30, Sat 10.00-1.30. Visa / Mastercard / Amex. Deliveries nationwide and worldwide. Extensive second hand stock. Components from £10.00 to £75000. Call for more information. Tel/Fax (0115) 9813562. BADA

JOHN KIRK, 70 Chilwell Rd, Beeston, Nottingham. Tel (0115) 9252986. Est 1970. Professional advice and service. Demo room, Free installation, Service Dept. Arcam, Atacama, Aura, B&W, Canon, Castle, Denon, Dual, Marantz, Mordaunt Short, Nakamichi, Quad, Rogers, TDL, Technics, Thorens. Tues-Sat 9.30-5.30. Access/Visa/Switch. BADA

NOTTINGHAM HI-FI CENTRE, 120-122 Alfreton Road, Nottingham. Tel (0115) 9786919. The area's oldest established specialist (Est. 1969). Two superb demonstration rooms, easy free parking. Home Cinema and Multi Room. Stockists of: Arcam, Audiolab, Celestion, Denon, KEF, Linn, Loewe T.V., Marantz, Micromega, Michell, Mission-Cyrus, Rotel, Sennheiser, Yamaha. Mon-Sat 9.00-5.30. BADA

PETER ELLIS AUDIO 29 Kirkgate Newark, Nottingham, NG24 1AD. Tel (01636) 704571. Quad, Castle, JBL, Arcam, JVC, B&W, Jamo, Minium, Mordaunt Short, QED, Sugden, Tannoy, TDL, Thorens, Marantz, Denon, Teac. Demo room, Free install, Service Department. Home cinema dem room. Home trial facilities. Switch, American Express. Access. Visa, Mon-Sat 9-5.30 Close at 1:00pm on Thursday. BADA

OXFORDSHIRE

ASTLEY AUDIO LTD, 3 Marketplace, Wallingford. Tel (01491) 839305. Aura, B&W, JPW, Technics, Panasonic, Pioneer, Kenwood, Marantz, Sony, Yamaha, Denon, Dual, Mission, TDL, Tannoy. Home trial, free installation. Service dept. Access, Visa, Amex, Diners. Instant credit. Tue-Fri 9-5.30, Sat 9-5. Records & CDs stocked. BADA

DEALER Directory

DEVON (CTD)

CHELSTON HI-FI 38 Walnut Road, Chelston, Torquay, Devon TQ2 6HS. Tel (01803) 606863. Where you can compare a range including Acoustic Energy, Bose, Castle, Celestion, Creek, Denon, Heybrook, JPW, Kenwood, Marantz, Musical Fidelity, Pioneer, Rotel, Sony etc. Two dem rooms (including AV room 25 x 18ft.) Free installation. Free delivery up to 15 miles. Access, Visa, Amex, Diners. Credit facilities. 9.30 - 7.30. Mon-Fri. 9.30-6.00 Sat.

RADFORDS, 28 Cowick Street, St Thomas, Exeter, EX4 1AL. Tel (01392) 218895 (Contact Peter Smith). Premier HiFi & Home Cinema, carefully selected to offer outstanding sound and picture quality, whatever your budget. Staff who care about what they sell and have the ability and knowledge to demonstrate the differences. Full workshop, delivery, installation and part-exchange facilities available. **BADA**

RADFORDS, 107 Cornwall Street, Plymouth, PL1 1PA. Tel (01752) 226011 (Contact Colin Massey). Premier HiFi & Home Cinema, carefully selected to offer outstanding sound and picture quality, whatever your budget. Staff who care about what they sell and have the ability and knowledge to demonstrate the differences. Full workshop, delivery, installation and part-exchange facilities available. **BADA**

DORSET

DAWSONS, 23 Seamore Road, Westbourne, Bournemouth, Dorset. Tel (01202) 764965. B&O, Castle, Canon, Jamo, JBL, Pioneer, Sony, Target, TDL, Technics. No appts necessary. Free install. Service separate. Various credit facilities available. Open 9-5.30 6 days a week.

SUTTONS HI-FI, 18 Westover Road, Bournemouth. Tel (01202) 555512. Linn, Arcam, Mission, Quad, Audioblab, Rotel, Yamaha, Denon, etc. 2 Single Speaker Listening Rooms, Home Demonstrations. Free Installations. Open Mon-Sat 9-5.30. Call for details. **BADA**

DOVER

JOHN MARLEY HI-FI CENTRES LTD, DOVER HI FI, 43 High Street, Dover. Tel (01304) 207562. Arcam, Aura, B&W, Heybrook, J.P.W., NAD, Pioneer, Panasonic, Rotel, Ruark, Tannoy, TDL, Technics. AV Dem Room. Full service department. Mon-Sat 9-5.30. Free installation. Credit to £1000. Access, Visa, Switch, Electron. Established 24 years. Expert advice. Friendly service.

DURHAM

HI-FI EXPERIENCE, 17 Coniscliffe Road, Darlington DL3 7EE. Tel Help Line (01325) 481418. Agencies include: Arcam, Audioblab, Bang & Olufsen, Celestion, Cyrus, Denon, Harman, IMF, KEF, Marantz, Mission, Musical Fidelity, Meridian, NAD, Pioneer, Quad, Rotel, Shearman, Tannoy, Yamaha. 3 listening rooms. 3 years guarantee. Free delivery and simple installation North Yorks/South Durham. Home cinema specialist. **BADA**

ESSEX

AUDIO T, 442-444 Cranbrook Road, Gants Hill, Ilford, IG2 6LL. (0181) 518-0915. Fax (0181) 554 8463. Great Value on Acoustic Energy, Arcam, Audioblab, B&W, Cyrus, Denon, Jamo, KEF, Linn, Marantz, Mission, Micromega, Monitor Audio, Rotel, Technics, Yamaha & many more. Tues/Thur/Fri 10-7. Wed/Sat 9.30-5.30. 3 year guarantee on Hi-Fi. Free delivery & installation. 30 day free upgrade scheme. Home demonstrations. PX. Interest Free Credit on selected items. 2 listening rooms. Home Cinema specialists. **BADA**

RAYLEIGH HI-FI, 44a High Street, Rayleigh, Essex. Tel (01268) 779762/747571. 216 Moulsham St, On-the-Parkway, Chelmsford. (01245) 265245. 132-134 London Road, Southend-on-Sea. (01702) 435255. A&R, Audioblab, Cyrus, Denon, Epos, Linn, Marantz, Meridian, Mission, Naim, Quad, Rega, Roksan, Royd. 0% finance. Excellent audio visual range, home cinema Dolby Pro-Logic, multi-room specialist. **BADA**

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

AUDIO EXCELLENCE, 58 Bristol Road, Gloucester. Tel (01452) 300046. All that's best in Hi-Fi carefully selected and demonstrated by

friendly knowledgeable staff, at prices to suit all budgets. Delivery and installation, home dems, part exchange, in-house workshops, full credit facilities with interest free on selected items. Tues-Sat 9.00-5.30. Closed Mon. **BADA**

AUDIO T, 40-42 Albion Street, Cheltenham, GL52 2RQ. Tel (01242) 583960. Fax (01242) 226435. Great Value on Acoustic Energy, Arcam, Audioblab, Denon, Dynaudio, KEF, Linn, Marantz, Meridian, Micromega, Mission, NAD, Quad, Rotel, Technics, Yamaha & many more. Tues-Fri 9.30-6. Sat 9.30-5.30. 3 year guarantee on Hi-Fi. Free delivery & installation. 30 day free upgrade scheme. Home demonstrations. Part exchange. Interest Free Credit on selected items. Listening room. **BADA**

THE RIGHT NOTE - see Bath/Bristol.

HAMPSHIRE

AUDIO T, 4 Feathers Lane, Basingstoke, RG21 1AS. Tel (01256) 24311. Fax (01256) 24430. Great Value on Acoustic Energy, Arcam, Audioblab, Cyrus, Denon, Dynaudio, Linn, Marantz, Micromega, Mission, NAD, Naim, Quad, Rotel, Royd, Technics, Yamaha & many more. Tues-Sat 9-5.50. 3 year guarantee on Hi-Fi. Free delivery & installation. 30 day free upgrade scheme. Home demonstrations. Part exchange. Interest Free Credit on selected items. Listening room. Home Cinema. **BADA**

HAMPSHIRE AUDIO LTD, 2-12 Hursley Rd, Chandlers Ford, Hants SO53 2FU. Tel (01703) 252827/265232. 3 hi-fi and 2 home cinema /Dolby surround sound demo studios. 'Winner for Southern England Sony/Hi-Fi News Dealer Awards.' Projection TV with 8' Screen. Thurs late eve, closed Mon (except in Dec). 2-year guarantee, service dept. on site, large free car park, junctions 4 (M27/M3), 5(M27), 12(M3), 13(M3) all within 3 miles. Est 1969. **BADA**

JEFFRIES HI-FI, 29 London Road, Portsmouth. PO2 0BH. Tel (01705) 663604. Hi-fi, home cinema and multi-room specialist. Range includes Acoustic Energy, Arcam, Beyer, Celestion, Chord, Definitive Technology, Denon, Harbeth, Heybrook, KEF, Lexicon, Linn, Loewe, Miller & Kreisel, Naim, Panasonic, Polk, Rega, REL, Rotel, Royd, Ruark, Selego, Sennheiser, Sound Organisation, Sound Style, Top Tape, Yamaha. 2 dem rooms. Open Tues-Sat, late night Wed. Free parking, bus route, credit facilities. Winner Sony/Hi-Fi News Best Southern Dealer. **BADA**

NOW THATS HI-FI 32 Arundel St., Portsmouth. Tel (01705) 811230. Pioneer, Yamaha, Marantz, Kenwood, Mission, T.D.L., REL, Attacama and much more. Laserdisc and AC3 specialists. Accessory centre at 24 Arundel Way, Portsmouth. Tel (01705) 811618.

SEXTONS, 81 High Street, Aldershot, Hants GU11 1BY. Tel (01252) 20728 Fax (01252) 319635. Most major manufacturers stocked including Marantz, Mission, Pioneer, Technics, B&W, NAD, and Yamaha. Two demonstration lounges including full Home Cinema suite. Knowledgeable staff offer a friendly unbiased service. Monday to Saturday 9.00 to 6.00. Access, Visa, Amex and Switch accepted. Mail order service also available.

HEREFORDSHIRE

ENGLISH AUDIO, 37 Whitecross Road, Hereford HR4 0DG. Tel (01432) 355081. Arcam, A.T.C., Audioblab, Audion, B&W, Castle, Celestion, Cyrus, Denon, Exposure, KEF, Marantz, Michi, Micromega, Mission, Musical Technology, Naim, Nakamichi, Pink Triangle, Pioneer, REL, Rotel, Ruark, Shearman, Stax, Systemdek, TDL, Yamaha and others. Single Speaker Dem room. Home trial. Free install. Service dept. Access, Visa, Credit arranged. Open Mon-Sat 9.30am-5.30pm. **BADA**

HERTFORDSHIRE

ACOUSTIC ARTS LTD, 101 St Albans Rd, Watford, Herts. Tel (01923) 245250. Fax (01923) 230798. Apogee, Audioblab, Audio Research, B&W, Bose, Castle, Celestion, Chord, Classe, Copland, Denon, KEF, Magneplanar, Marantz, Martin Logan, Michell, Micromega, Orelle, PS Audio, Professional Mottor, Roksan, Ruark, SME, Sonus Faber, Sonic Link, TDL, Theta, Thorens, Wilson. 4 demonstration rooms. Purpose built AV studio. Credit available, 100 yards from Watford Junction station. Open Tues-Sat 10-5.30 (Thursday open until 8pm). **BADA**

AUDIO FILE, 27 Hockerill St, Bishops Stortford, Herts CM23 2DW. Tel (01279) 506576. 9.30-5.30 open 6 days. 9.30-8pm Thursdays. Linn, Naim, Quad, Cyrus, Arcam, Roksan, Denon, Epos, KEF, Marantz, ProAc, Rega, Yamaha. 0% credit. **BADA**

DARBY'S OF ST. ALBANS 6 Market Place, St. Albans, Herts. Tel (01727) 851596. Hertfordshire's premier Hi-Fi/AudioVisual specialists est. 1946. Full Home Cinema demonstration suite. Whether your needs are large or small, we stock it all; Arcam, Yamaha, Quad, Denon, Musical Fidelity, Sony, Bang & Olufsen, Pioneer, Nokia, REL, JVC, JBL, TDL, KEF, Mission, Ruark, Celestion, Polk, and many more. Free planning service, free delivery and basic installation. Full workshop facilities. Open 9-6 Mon-Sat. **BADA**

HAILEY AUDIO LTD, 328 Ware Road, Hailey, Hertford SG13 7PG. Tel (01992) 442425, Fax (01992) 448387. Enjoy choosing your system in one of our three listening rooms. Relax with coffee or something from the bar. Demonstrations include Lexicon CP3 with THX surround sound with the guaranteed deepest, tightest bass available. Choose your hi-fi (top valves and MOS-FETS), LD, CDI etc in a realistic domestic environment. Brands include: REL, AC Magnum, CR Devs, Rotel, Celestion, Micromega, Lumley Reference, Acoustic Energy, Royd, JPW, Sonic Link, Harmon, etc. We deliver anywhere in the UK for home audition, or mail order, Access, Visa etc. **STUDIO 82** (Harpenden) Ltd, 82 High Street, Harpenden, Herts AL5 2SP. Tel (01582) 764246, Fax (01582) 467022. Arcam, ATC, Audioblab, Aura, AVI, Bang & Olufsen, Bose, Castle, Chord Co, Denon, Harbeth, KEF, Marantz, Mission, Musical Technology, NAD, Naim Audio, Nakamichi, Panasonic, Quad, Roberts Radio, Sennheiser, Soundstyle, Tannoy, Target, TDL. Single Speaker Demonstration room. Free installation. Service dept. Access, Visa, Switch. Open 9am-5.30pm Mon-Sat. **BADA**

HUMBERSIDE

ZEN AUDIO, 35 George St, Hull. Tel (01482) 587397. "Comfortable listening rooms; Home dems; Personal, friendly service; Free installations. Agencies include: Arcam, Aura, Audioblab, Atacama, Audio Note, Audion, Alchemist, B&W, Cable Talk, The Chord Company, D.P.A., Denon, Denon, E.A.R., Exposure, Harbeth, Heybrook, Impulse, KEF, Michell, Micromega, Monitor Audio, Mordaunt-Short, Myryad, NAD, NAIM, Pioneer, REL, Rehdeko, Rotel, Royd, Ruark, Shearman Audio, Stands Unique, Sugden, Spendor, Sonic Link, TEAC, TDL, Tube Technology, Vivanco... and many others."

KENT

ASHFORD SOUNDRAFT HI-FI, 40 High Street, Ashford. Seeking music lovers, male or female any age, to share common interest in, musical Pro-aktiv Hi-Fi Systems, Multi Room or Home Cinema. Attractive unusual equipment in unusual setting, your place or ours. We guarantee lasting pleasure. Open Mon-Sat, Appointment Service or just pop in. Tel (01233) 624441. **BADA**

HALKSWORTH WHEELER, 85 King Street, Maidstone ME14 1BG. Tel (01622) 756756. Bang & Olufsen, Bose, Denon, Grundig, JVC, Jamo, KEF, Mordaunt Short, Marantz, NAD, Onkyo, Panasonic, QED, Sony, Sennheiser, Technics, Target. Hi-Fi, Home Cinema, Multi-Room Custom Installation Specialists Part Exchange, Service Dept Full Finance Facilities. **HALKSWORTH WHEELER**, 34 Guildhall Street, Folkestone Tel (01303) 255688. See above entry. **LINN STUDIO**, 123 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent, CT17 9AP. Tel (01304) 201525, Fax: 01304 240135. Sondek LP12*, Knekt*, Karik*, Kairn*, Klout*, Kremlin*, Keltik*, Kaber*, Keiledh*, Numerik*, Tukan*, Wakonda*, Majik*, Mimik*, LK100*, Ekos*, Kudos*, Arkiv*, Brilliant*, Lingo*, Valhalla*, Sekrit*, Aktiv*... Dream systems for everyone from £2000 to £30000+. A new dealership from a specialist family business, established in 1948. Outstanding service and facilities. Multi-room specialist.

UNILET SOUND & VISION 24-26 Union Street, Maidstone ME14 1ED. Tel (01622) 676703. 5 minutes from M20. Three superb hi fi and home cinema demonstration rooms. Most leading brands. Home survey and set up. Friendly and interested staff. Interest free credit and credit cards. "The best place in town for hi fi and home cinema." Bada Bonded. **BADA**

V J HI-FI, 29 Guildhall St, Folkestone. Tel (01303) 256860. Mission, Kenwood, Tannoy, Marantz, Sony, Rogers, Denon, Musical Fidelity, Quad, Yamaha. Dem and home trial facilities, free local install. No appts necessary, service dept. Amex, Diners, Visa, Access, Int free credit, instant credit. Mon-Sat 9-6. **BADA**

V J HI-FI, 119 High Street Margate. Tel (01843) 226977. For full details see our above entry. **BADA**

LANCASHIRE

AUDIO EXCELLENCE, 131 Friargate, Preston, Lancs PR1 2EE. Tel (01772) 253057 Fx (01772) 267231. All that's best in Hi-Fi carefully selected and demonstrated by friendly knowledgeable staff, at prices to suit all budgets. Delivery and installation, home dems, part exchange, in-house workshops, full credit facilities with interest free on selected items. Tues-Sat 9.00-5.30. Closed Mon. **BADA**

CLEARSTONE, 235 Blackburn Road (1/2 mile from city centre on the A 666 Blackburn Road), Bolton, Lancs BL1 8HB. Tel (01204) 531423. Bolton's biggest Hi-Fi superstore. Every top brand & all the best buys at guaranteed unbeatable prices. Aiwa, Akai, Arcam, Audioblab, B&W, Bose, Castle, Celestion, Denon, Hitachi, Infinity, JBL, JVC, KEF, Kenwood, Marantz, Meridian, Mission, Mordaunt Short, NAD, Panasonic, Pioneer, Rotel, Sony, Tannoy, TDL, Technics, Toshiba, Yamaha. 2 Dedicated Hi-Fi Demo rooms and 2 AV Demo rooms, no appointments necessary. Service department, free installation, home trial facilities. free parking. Access, Visa, Amex, Diners. Interest free credit. Open Mon - Wed 10.00-6.00, Thurs - Fri 10.00-7.00, Sat 9.00-6.00, Sun 11.00-5.00

LEICESTERSHIRE

LEICESTER HI-FI CO, 6 Silver Walk, St Martins Square, Leicester LE1 5EW. Tel: (0116) 2539753. Fax (0116) 2626097. Arcam, B&W, Mission Cyrus, Marantz, Harman Kardon, Quad, KEF, Sonus Faber, Roksan, Aura, Copland, Pink Triangle, Musical Fidelity, Nakamichi, Rotel, Technics, Michell and more too numerous to mention. 2 Dem rooms. We can demonstrate deliver and install. Credit Facilities. All cards taken, 6 days 9.30-5.30. **BADA**

LISTEN INN, 6 Hotel Street, Leicester., LE1 5AW Tel (0116) 262 3754 Fax (0116) 262 3758. Arcam, Audioblab, Cable Talk, Chord Co, Denon, Epos, Heybrook, KEF, Linn Hi-Fi, Linn AV51, Micromega, Myryad, Projekt Furniture, Rega, Rotel, Royd, Multiroom Design and Installation Service. 4 Listening Rooms. Home Demonstrations and Free installations. Finance available. Open 6 days 10.00-5.30. **BADA**

STERED SHACK, 1-3 Guildhall Lane, Leicester. Tel (0116) 2530330. Fax (0116) 2620977. Yamaha, Kenwood, NAD, Mission, Teco, Aiwa, Carvin Vega, Pioneer, TDL, Thorens, JBL, Rotel, Celestion, Jamo and many more. We are A.V. specialists, 2 dem rooms. We can demonstrate, deliver & install. Credit facilities and all cards taken. 6 days 9.30-5.30.

WILMSLOW AUDIO, 50 Main St, Broughton Astley, Leicester LE9 6RD. Tel (01455) 286603. Suppliers of high quality loudspeaker kits, drive units, acoustic sound damping, cross-overs, and components. ATC, Dynaudio, KEF, Morel, Peerless, Scanspeak, Seas. All major credit cards taken. Open 9-5.30 Mon-Fri, 9-1 Saturday.

LINCOLNSHIRE

STAMFORD HI-FI CENTRE, 9 Red Lion Square, Stamford, Lincs PE9 2AJ. Tel (01780) 62128. Pioneer, Technics, Marantz, Cyrus-Mission, Rotel, NAD, Yamaha, Kenwood, Quad, plus all major speaker manufacturers. Expert advice, comparison demonstrations, on two floors, part exchange Hi-Fi purchased for cash. No appointments necessary, home trial facilities, free installation, service department. Mastercard, Visa & credit charge, finance available. Mon-Sat 9-5.30pm, closed Thursdays.

LONDON

AUDITORIUM, 119 Middlesex St, Bishops Gate, London E1 7JF. Tel (0171) 247 5000; Fax (0171) 247 0990. 2 mins walk from Liverpool St station. Friendly and professional advice on all your hi-fi, home cinema and television requirements. Experienced engineers for all your multi-room and multi-broadcast installation needs. Range includes Arcam, Bang & Olufsen, Cyrus, Denon, KEF, Micromega, Mission, Naim Audio, Neat Acoustics, Pioneer, REL, Shanhinai. Mon-Fri 10.30am-7.00pm; Sat 11.00am-4.00pm.



INDICATES MEMBERSHIP OF THE BRITISH AUDIO DEALERS ASSOCIATION

Choosing a good hi-fi dealer is the most vital step in acquiring the system that is right for you. This unique directory gives full information on dealers able to help in your area.

DEALER Directory

Members of the British Audio Dealers Association are able to offer:



- Two year guarantee, transferable to another BADA dealer should the purchaser move more than 30 miles from his/her original address
- low cost five year guarantee option
- proper demonstration facilities
- seven day exchange or refund scheme if the dealer's advice is taken on product selection
- fully guaranteed service work
- customer complaints procedure in the event of problems

For more information, contact BADA on (0171) 226 4044

BATH/BRISTOL

AUDIO EXCELLENCE, 65 Park Street, Bristol. Tel (0117) 9264975. All that's best in Hi-Fi carefully selected and demonstrated by friendly knowledgeable staff, at prices to suit all budgets. Delivery and installation, home dems, part exchange, in-house workshops, full credit facilities with interest free on selected items. Tues-Sat 9.00-5.30. Closed Mon. **BADA**

PAUL GREEN HI-FI LTD, c/o Harper Furnishings, Kensington Showrooms, London Road, Bath BA1 6AD. Tel (01225) 316197. Technics, Denon, Sony, Rotel, AVI, Quad, Rogers, Mission, Tannoy, Aura and many many more. 2 demo rooms, home dems, appointments required, service dept, free install, home trial. Access, Visa, Int free credit, instant credit. Tue-Fri 9-5.30, Sat 9-5, closed Monday. **BADA**

RADFORDS, 12 James Street West, Bath, BA1 2BX. Tel (01225) 446245 (Contact Iain Marshall). Premier HiFi & Home Cinema, carefully selected to offer outstanding sound and picture quality, whatever your budget. Staff who care about what they sell and have the ability and knowledge to demonstrate the differences. Full workshop, delivery, installation and part-exchange facilities available. **BADA**

RADFORDS, 10-12 Gloucester Road, Bristol. Tel (0117) 944 1010 (Contact Chris Tuck). Premier HiFi & Home Cinema, carefully selected to offer outstanding sound and picture quality, whatever your budget. Staff who care about what they sell and have the ability and knowledge to demonstrate the differences. Full workshop, delivery, installation and part-exchange facilities available. **BADA**

THE RIGHT NOTE, Tel (01225) 874728. Major new brands join our select group of products from reliable, high-quality suppliers with international reputations who are dedicated to sound and build quality. We have many customers thrilled that they discovered these superb performers rather than the magazines' favourites. Believe your own ears in your home where you can best judge the benefits. We aim for long-term satisfaction, not just a quick sale. Ask about our ex-dem and mint used items. Brands: Lumley (valve amps and speakers), RESTEK, Copland, Audio Synthesis DAX2, Michell, Oreille, Enlightened Audio Design, Koru, Tube Technology, CAT, Chameleon, Magnum Dynalab, Stratosphere, Morch, Graham, Sumiko, Transfiguration, Sendor, Keswick, Mirage, Harbeth, NEAT, Sequence, Air Pods, cables - Silver Sounds, Cogan Hall, DNM, Sonic Link.

V AUDIO, 36 Druid Hill, Stoke Bishop, Bristol B59 1EJ. Tel (0117) 9686005. Alon, ATC, AVI, Acoustic Energy, Audio Technica, AMC, Analogue Electronics, Cadence Valve, Chord Amps, Electrocompaniet, Exposure, Goldring, Harman Kardon, Heybrook, Jamo, LFD, Pink Triangle, Pro-Ac, Michell, REL, Ruark, Sansui, SME (inc20A), Sonic Link, Stax, Townshend, Wadia. Demos by appt only, home trial facilities, free installation, service facilities. Access, Visa. For full product listing please see Dealer Guide.

BEDFORDSHIRE

RICHARDS AUDIO VISUAL, 4 Greyfriars, Bedford, Tel (01234) 365165. Stockists of Arcam, Audioquest, Aura, Beyer, B&W, Bose, Celestion, Cyrus, Denon, Heybrook, Marantz, Mission, Moth, Nakamichi, Ortofon, Pioneer, Pro-ject, REL, Rotel, Royd, Ruark, Sennheiser, Systemdek, Target, Thorens, Van den Hul & more! Hi-Fi Listening Room. Open 6 days 9.30-5.30

BERKSHIRE

AUDIO T, 4 Queens Walk, Broad Street Mall, Reading. (0118) 958 5463. Fax (0118) 956 6417. Great value on Acoustic Energy, Arcam, Audiolab, B&W, Cyrus, Denon, Dynaudio, Linn, Marantz, Micromega, Mission, Naim, Quad, Rega, Rotel, Royd, Yamaha and many more. Tues-Sat 9-5.30. 3 year guarantee on Hi-Fi. Free delivery and installation. 30 day free upgrade scheme. Home demonstrations. Part exchange. Interest free credit on selected items. 2 listening rooms. Home Cinema specialists. **BADA Bonded**

B&B HI-FI, 11-12 Market Place, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 2EG. Tel (01734) 583730. Aiwa, Denon, Kenwood, Mission, NAD, Panasonic, Pioneer, Rotel, Sony, Technics. Free installation, Service dept. Access, Visa, Credit Facilities including interest free credit subject to status. 9.30-5.30, Sat 9-5.30. Also at Bracknell, Maidenhead, High Wycombe, Newbury.

FRASERS, Unit 32 Observatory Centre, High Street, Slough, Berks, SL1 1LE. Tel (01753) 531875. Stockists of Pioneer, JVC, Denon, Yamaha, Mission, TDL, KEF, Quad, NAD, Onkyo. Sound and vision demonstration room, service dept, free installation. Access/Visa/Amex/Diners. Instant credit and interest free credit. Open Mon-Sat 9-5.30.

LAKES, 254 High Street, Slough. Tel (01753) 538288. For better hi-fi in the Thames Valley. Agents for: Aiwa, B&W, Infinity, JVC, Kenwood, Mitsubishi, Mordaunt Short, Nakamichi, Panasonic, Philips, Rotel, Sony, Tannoy, Technics. Free delivery. Dem rooms at High Wycombe, Aylesbury, Marlow, Maidenhead, St Albans, Chiswick High Road, London, and Bracknell. Please see our advert in the Dealer Guide or ring for your nearest branch

RADFORDS, 43 King Edward Court, Windsor, SL4 1TG. Tel (01753) 856931 (Contact Pete Budd). Premier HiFi & Home Cinema, carefully selected to offer outstanding sound and picture quality, whatever your budget. Staff who care about what they sell and have the ability and knowledge to demonstrate the differences. Full workshop, delivery, installation and part-exchange facilities available. **BADA**

BIRMINGHAM

SOUND ACADEMY 152a High Street, Bloxwich, Nr Walsall W. Midlands, Tel (01922) 493499/473499. Audio equipment from leading and specialist brands on two floors, with 3 demo floors, home trials, home cinema with instore demo theatre, evening dems by appointment. In house service dept. Mail order avail. Int free credit subject to status. Open 6 days 9am - 6pm. Late night Friday. Expert advice, cable dressing and free installation is what makes Sound Academy the Midlands most exclusive Hi-Fi studio.

FOR FULL PRODUCT LISTING SEE ADVERT IN THE DEALER GUIDE **BADA**

GRIFFIN AUDIO, 94 Bristol Street, Birmingham. Tel (0121) 692 1359/(0121) 622 2230. Please see full entry under Wst Midlands

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

NORTHWOOD AUDIO II, 98 Cambridge St, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1BA. Tel (01296) 28790 (A/P). Selected sounds from Alchemist, Audio Meca, Aura, Boston, B&W, Cabeltalk, Castle, Celestion, Chord Company, Denon, D.P.A., Exposure, Grado, Harman Kardon, Heybrook, Kef, Marantz, Michell, Micromega, Monitor Audio, Moth, Musical Technology, NAD, Nakamichi, Pink Triangle, Pro-Ac, Rega, Rel, Rose, Rotel, Royd, Ruark, Systemdek, Tannoy, TDL, Teac, Thorens.

NOBODY EVER REGRETTED PURCHASING THE BEST. Export orders welcome. 2 Dem rooms. Credit facilities available.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

THE AUDIO FILE, 41 Victoria Road, Cambridge CB4 3BW. Tel (01223) 68305. See our main entry under Hertfordshire. **BADA**

THE HI-FI COMPANY, SOUND AND VISION STUDIO 42 Cowgate, Peterborough, Cambs PE1 1NJ. Tel (01733) 341755. The region's largest range of new and used hi-fi and audio visual equipment. Dedicated hi-fi and AV demonstration rooms, including LaserDisc and Projection TV. Arcam, Audiolab, Aura, Celestion, Denon, JBL, JVC, KEF, Kenwood, Marantz, Meridian, Mission, Mitsubishi, NAD, Pioneer, QUAD, Sony, REL, Revolver, Rotel, TDL, Technics, Yamaha, and many more. Laser Disc to projection TV. Part exchange especially welcome. All major credit cards and interest-free credit on many items. Open Mon-Sat 10am - 5.30pm.

UNIVERSITY AUDIO, 1-2 Peas Hill, Cambridge. Tel (01223) 354237. Acoustic Energy, Mission-Cyrus, Arcam, Rotel, Denon, Meridian, Ruark, ATC, AVI, Quad, Linn. 3 dems, 1 single speaker. Home trial, free install, Service Department Visa, Access, Amex, Credit. Open 9-5.30. **BADA**

CHESHIRE

ACOUSTICA, 17 Hoole Rd, Chester CH2 3NH. Tel (01244) 344227. All that's best in Hi-Fi from Arcam, Audiolab, Linn, Michell, Naim, Rega, Rotel, Royd, Ruark, Teac and many more. Multi room systems from Linn Knekt. Superb demonstration facilities, home demonstrations and installations a pleasure. We offer the best products, the best service and the best sounds. Open Tuesday to Saturday, evenings by appointment.

ACTON GATE AUDIO, 4 Ruabon Rd, Wrexham. Tel (01978) 364500. Arcam, Audio Alchemy, Bose, B&W, Cannon, Castle, Celestion, Denon, Jamo, Marantz, Michell, Micromega, Mission, Mordaunt-Short, Musical Fidelity, Myryad, NAD, Quad, Rotel, Rogers, Ruark, Sendor, Tannoy, TDL, Thorens, UKD, Unison, Yamaha and AV specialists. Demonstration room, installation service. Easy parking and motorway access. Access, Visa etc.

ASTON AUDIO, 4 West St, Alderley Edge. Tel (01625) 582704. For the very best in hi-fi separates and home cinema. Wide range of specialist audio, interest free credit. Visa, Access. Home trial. **BADA**

AUDIO COUNSEL, 14 Stockport Rd, Cheadle, Cheshire. Tel (0161) 428 7887. Please see entry under Greater Manchester. **BADA**

AUDIO EXCELLENCE, 86-90 Boughton, Chester, CH3 5AQ Tel (01244) 345576. All that's best in Hi-Fi carefully selected and demonstrated by friendly knowledgeable staff, at prices to suit all budgets. Delivery and installation, home dems, part exchange, in-house workshops, full credit facilities with interest free on selected items. Tues-Sat 9.00-5.30. Closed Mon. **BADA**

CHRIS BROOKS HI-FI, 29 Gaskell St, Stockton Heath, Warrington. Tel (01925) 261212. Tues-Sat 10-6. 3 dem rooms. Credit facilities. All credit cards. Total absence of bull****. **BADA**

CONGLETON HI-FI, 1/1a Duke St, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1AP. Tel (01260) 297544. Arcam, B&W, Canon, Definitive, Denon, Epos, Kef, Linn, Miller & Kreisel, NAD, Onix, Royd, Target, Yamaha, etc. Superb single speaker demo facilities, 3 listening rooms with one dedicated to Home Cinema. No appts nec, home trial facilities, free installation. 2 year guarantee on all equipment. Access, Visa. Credit facilities available on request. Open Mon-Sat. **BADA**

DOUG BRADY HI-FI, Kingsway Studios, Kingsway North, Warrington, WA1 3NU. Phone (01925) 828009, Fax (01925) 825773. For the widest range of high quality hi-fi in the Northwest. Family business est. 35 years. 3 dem rooms, incl home cinema, home trials; deliveries throughout NW; Access, Visa, Credit Facilities. Open 10-6; 6 days. Send for free map and/or 5 page sale list **BADA**

HALE HI-FI, 2 Bold St, Hale Road, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 2ER. Tel (0161) 929 0834. Open Mon-Sat 10-6 & later by appointment. Specialising in equipment by: Naim, Quad, Royd, NAD, Denon plus selected others. Large range of quality accessories. On site service department. Installation & delivery. Home demonstrations a pleasure.

THE HI-FI SHOWROOMS, 12A West Str, Congleton, Cheshire Tel (01260) 280017. Celestion, Creek, Exposure, Musical Fidelity, Naim, Project, Rotel, Royd, Ruark, Tannoy, TDL, Technics, Thorens, UKD opera. 5 Dem Rooms, Home trial, Free install, Service dept. Access, Visa, Lombard Tricity. Open 9-5.30. Closed Wed.

SWIFT HI-FI, St Ann's Parade, Wilmslow. Tel (01625) 526213. Audiolab, Aura, B&W, Caste, Celestion, Denon, KEF, Kenwood, Marantz, Mission, M-Short, NAD, Onkyo, Pioneer, Rotel, Royd, Teac, Thorens, Technics. Open 10.00am-6.00pm. Closed Wed. Dem room, Service Dept., Free Parking. NO PRESSURE! Est: 1969

CLEVELAND

ACTION ACOUSTICS, 155-157 High Street, Redcar, Cleveland TS10 3AN. Tel (01642) 480723. Audio Innovations, Audio Note, Denon, Harman-Kardon, JBL, Michell, Musical Fidelity, Pink Triangle, Rogers, Sonic Link, Sugden, Teac, Thorens, Townshend etc. Dem Room. Appts nec. Home trial facilities, free installation, service dept. Access, Visa & H.P. Open 9.15-5.30. Interest free credit.

CORNWALL

RJF AUDIO VISUAL, 84 Pendarves Str, Tucking Mill, Camborne, Cornwall TR14 8NJ. Tel (01209) 710777/612260. Audio Note, Audio Innovations, Impulse, TDL, Musical Fidelity, NAD, Nakamichi, SME, Micromega, Pro-jekt, Harman Kardon, Triangle, Parasound, Analysis, Macintosh, Monitor Audio, J.P.W., JBL, Klipsch, Sugden, XLO, Audioquest, Sonic Link, Rotel, Kinshaw, Integral Demo room/showroom and special home dems. Appts nec, home trial, free install, service dept. All cards, switch and transax. Open Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30.

CUMBRIA

MISONS SOUND & VISION, Victoria Viaduct, Carlisle, CA3 8AN. Tel (01228) 22620. Bang & Olufsen, Quad, Exposure, Harbeth, Sugden, Castle, Aura, B&W, Sony, NAD, Heybrook, Yamaha, Philips, Panasonic and many other fine brands. Demo suite, home trials, free installation, service dept. Open 9-5 Mon to Sat.

DEVON

AUDIO EXCELLENCE, 156 Sidwell St, Exeter EX4 6RT. Tel (01392) 491194. All that's best in hi-fi, carefully selected and demonstrated by friendly knowledgeable staff at prices to suit all budgets. Delivery and installation, home dems, part exchange, in-house workshops, full credit facilities with interest free on selected items. Tues-Sat 9.00-5.30. Closed Monday. **BADA**



INDICATES MEMBERSHIP OF THE BRITISH AUDIO DEALERS ASSOCIATION

OXFORDSHIRE (CTD)

AUDIO T, 19 Old High Street, Headington, Oxford OX3 9HS. Tel (01865) 65961. Fax (01865) 60415. Great Value on Acoustic Energy, Arcam, Audiolab, Cyrus, Denon, KEF, Linn, Marantz, Meridian, Micromega, Mission, NAD, Pioneer, Quad, Rotel, Technics, Yamaha & many more. Tues-Fri 10-6. Sat 9.30-5.30. Late Tues until 8.00. 3 year guarantee on Hi-Fi. Free delivery & installation. 30 day free upgrade scheme. Home demonstrations. Part exchange. Interest Free Credit on selected items. 2 listening rooms. Home Cinema specialists. BADA bonded.

OVERTURE HI-FI, 3 Church Lane, Banbury, OX16 8LR. Tel (01295) 272158. Arcam, Heybrook, Mission, Quad, Denon, Linn Products, Naim Audio, N.A.D., Nakamichi. For sensible unbiased advice, call Oxfordshire's audio experts. Superb demo facilities. No appts nec, service dept, free install, home trial. Access/Visa, instant credit. Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 9.30-5.30.

OXFORD AUDIO CONSULTANTS, Cantay Hse, Park End Street, Oxford OX1 1JE. Tel (01865) 790879 Fax (01865) 791665. Quad, Denon, Spondor, Aura, Micromega, Ruark, B&W, Pink Triangle, Roksan, Krell, Sonus Faber NAD, Rotel, Musical Fidelity, Pioneer, Marantz, Rogers, TDL. Demo room. Home trial and free installation. Instant credit, Access, Amex, Visa. 10-6 Mon-Sat.

RADFORDS, 6 South Parade, Summertown, Oxford, OX2 7JR. Tel (01865) 511241. (Contact Mark Franks) Premier HiFi & Home Cinema, carefully selected to offer outstanding sound and picture quality, whatever your budget. Staff who care about what they sell and have the ability and knowledge to demonstrate the differences. Full workshop, delivery, installation and part-exchange facilities available.

WESTWOOD AND MASON, 46 George St, Oxford. Tel: (01865) 247783. Aura, Arcam, Denon, Epos, Kef, Infinity, Marantz, Mission, Monitor Audio, Nakamichi, Naim, Quad, Rega, Rotel, Royd, Solid, TDL, Yamaha. Open 10-5pm. Dem room. Closed Thur. Access/Visa

SHROPSHIRE

CREATIVE AUDIO, 9 Dogpole, Shrewsbury. Tel (01743) 241924. One of the largest ranges of quality hi-fi/audi visual equipment outside of London. Arcam, Audiolab, Celestion, Cyrus, Denon, Epos, KEF, Meridian, Mission, Nad, Naim, Quad, Rega, Roksan, Rotel. Comfortable listening room, home installation, specialist workshop and service department. Access/Visa/Switch/Amex and low cost finance from £350 up to £15,000. Tues-Sat 9.30-5.30.

SOMERSET

MIKE MANNING AUDIO - The HiFi and AV specialists. The best in HiFi from: Arcam, ATC, Aura, B&W, Castle, Denon, Heybrook, KEF, Marantz, Naim Audio, NAD, Pioneer, Rega, Rotel, Royd, Shahinian, TDL, Teac. Somerset's Bang & Olufsen centre. Dedicated listening lounge for relaxed and unpressured demonstrations. Home installations on most systems. Full service department. Access, Visa, Instant Credit. Closed Mondays. 110, Middle Street, Yeovil, Somerset BA20 1NE **FREEPHONE 0800 627 627. (01935-79361)**
THE RIGHT NOTE - see Bath/Bristol.

STAFFORDSHIRE

GRANGE HI-FI LTD, 153 Branston Rd, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3DQ. Tel (01283) 533655. Arcam, Cabeltalk, Castle, Denon, JPW, KEF, Marantz, Mission, Moth, Musical Technology, Pink Triangle, Pioneer, Polk, Rogers, Systemdek, Yamaha. Home cinema and Hi-Fi demo rooms, appts nec on Sat, Service dept. Access, Visa, interest free credit available, subject to status. Open Tues-Sat 9.00-5.30pm.

SUFFOLK

AUDIBLE DIFFERENCE, Near Diss, Norfolk - see main entry under Norfolk.

AUDIO IMAGES, 7 All Saints Road, Pakefield, South Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR33 0JL. Tel/Fax (01502) 582 853. Arcam, Castle, Denon, Marantz, Michell, Moth, Orfon, Pioneer, Project, Quad, Revolver, Rotel, Royd, Sugden, Triangle, Yamaha, Grundig, Nokia AV. plus amazing Rothwell amps. Separate Demo room. 10-6.30 Tues-Fri, 5.30 Sats. All main credit cards. Home trial.

BASICALLY SOUND, The Old School, School Rd, Bracon Ash, Norwich. Tel (01508) 570829. For full details see entry under Norfolk.

EASTERN AUDIO, 41 Bramford Rd, Ipswich. Tel (01473) 217217. Established over 21 years. Easy parking, dem room. Mon-Sat 9.30-6. Quad, Arcam, Marantz, Meridian, Denon, Nakamichi, Audiolab, Technics, NAD, Castle, Celestion, Mission and B&W.

SURREY

AUDIO DESIGNS, 26 High Street, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 3AS. Tel/Fax (01342) 314569. See main entry under West Sussex.

INFIDELITY, 9 High Str, Hampton Wick, Kingston Upon Thames, Surrey. Tel (0181) 943 3530. Arcam, Creek, Epos, Heybrook, Micromega, Naim Audio, Roksan, Rega Research, Shaninian, TEAC. Single speaker listening room. Appts pref, free installation, service dept. Major credit cards. Closed Mon, Tue-Fri 10.30-7, Sat 10-6.

PJ HI-FI, 3 Bridge Street, Guildford, GU1 43Y. Tel (01483) 504801/304756. Mon-Sat 9-6pm. Authorised dealer for:- Linn, Meridian, Rega, Mission/Cyrus, Arcam, Quad, Audiolab, KEF, Rotel, NAD, Marantz, Musical Fidelity, TDL, Nakamichi, EPOS, Target, Stands Unique. Home Cinema & HiFi Demonstration rooms; Free parking, Delivery & Installation service. Service department on the premises.

RIVERSIDE HI-FI, 422 Richmond Road, East Twickenham, TW1 2EB. Tel: (0181) 892 7613. Fax: (0181) 892 7749. See main entry under Middlesex.

ROGERS HI-FI, 13 Bridge Street, Guildford, Surrey. Tel (01483) 561049. B&W, Castle, Denon, Harman-Kardon, Marantz, Micromega, Mordaunt-Short, Musical Fidelity, Ruark, Systemdek, and many more. Demonstration facilities available, no appointment necessary. Free installation. Service department. Access/Visa. Instant credit up to £1,000 subject to status. Monday-Saturday 9.30-6pm, later by appointment.

SPALDINGS HI-FI, 352-4 Lower Addiscombe Rd, Croydon, Surrey CR0 7AF. Tel (0181) 654 1231/2040. Linn Naim, Quad, Meridian, Audiolab, Mission, Marantz, Denon, Ruark, Tannoy, Arcam. 3 dem rooms including AV room. Service dept, free install, home trial facilities, appointments advisable. Access, Visa, Amex, interest free credit, instant credit. Mon-Sat 9-5.45. Tues-8. Closed Wed. Service dept.

SURREY HI-FI, 45 High St, Godstone, Surrey RH9 8LS. (Just off J6 - M25) free parking, closed Wednesdays. Tel (01883) 744 755. Home Cinema on demo. Arcam, Alphason Atacama stands, Audiolab, Beyer headphones, Bose, Cabeltalk, Denon, JPW, KEF, Marantz, Michell, Musical Fidelity, Partington stands, Qudos Cable, REL, Rogers, Seismic sink, Sennheiser, Sound Style, Tannoy, Target, TDL, Thorens, Van den Hul cables, Yamaha. Interest free credit.

UNILET SOUND & VISION, 35 High Street (Opposite Waitrose), New Malden, Surrey. KT3 4BY. Tel (0181) 942 9567. The very best hi fi and home cinema brands on show with 3 hi fi PLUS 3 home cinema demonstration rooms fully equipped at New Malden. Knowledgeable staff. Free car parking. Open Sundays.

SUSSEX (EAST)

JEFFRIES HI-FI, 69 London Road, Brighton BN1 4JE. Tel (01273) 609431. Hi-fi, home cinema and multi-room specialist. Range includes Acoustic Energy, Arcam, Beyer, Celestion, Chord, Definitive Technology, Denon, Harbeth, KEF, Kinshaw, Lexicon, Linn, Loewe, Miller & Kreisel, Naim, Panasonic, Rega, REL, Rotel, Royd, Ruark, Sennheiser, Shahinian, Sound Organisation, Sound Style, Top Tape, Yamaha. 2 dem rooms. Open Tues-Sat, late night Wed. Free parking, bus route, credit facilities. Winner Sony/Hi-Fi News Best Southern Dealer.

JEFFRIES HI-FI, 4 Albert Parade, Green Street, Eastbourne BN21 1SD. Tel (01323) 731336, Fax (01323) 416005. Hi-fi, home cinema and multi-room specialist. Range includes Acoustic Energy, Arcam, Beyer, Celestion, Chord, Definitive Technology, Denon, Harbeth, Heybrook, KEF, Lexicon, Linn, Loewe, Miller & Kreisel, Naim,

Panasonic, Polk, Rega, REL, Rotel, Royd, Ruark, Seleco, Sennheiser, Sony, Sound Organisation, Sound Style, Top Tape, Yamaha. Two demonstration rooms. Open Tues-Sat, late night Wed. Free parking, bus route, credit facilities. Winner Sony/Hi-Fi News Best Southern Dealer.

THE POWERPLANT, 66 Upper North Street, Brighton BN1 3FL. Tel (01273) 775978. Arcam, ATC, Audiolab, Cyrus, Epos, Marantz, Micromega, Mission, Neat Acoustics, Proceed, Rega, Rotel, Yamaha. Single speaker demonstration room, home trial available, no appts required, service dept, free installation. Access, Amex, Visa, interest free credit. Open 10-6pm

SUSSEX (WEST)

AUDIO DESIGNS, 26 High Street, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 3AS. Tel/Fax (01342) 314569. Hi-Fi, Home cinema + multi-room specialists. Authorised stockists of: Arcam, Audiolab, Castle, Cyrus, Epos, Kef, Linn (inc. AV51), Marantz, Mission, Naim, Quad, Rel, Rotel, Sony, Soundstyle, Stands Unique, Target, Thorens, Yamaha & more. 3 dedicated demonstration rooms - Hi-Fi & Home cinema. Service dept. 0% finance available. 9.30-6.00 Mon-Sat. Late by appointment.

BOWERS & WILKINS LTD. (Est. 1945) 1 Becket Buildings, Littlehampton Rd, Worthing. Tel (01903) 264141. 1 minute from A24 & A27. Free local parking. Aura, B&W (inc. Matrix), Castle, Denon, Mission, Nakamichi, Quad, Teac, Technics, Thorens, and many more in 4 Dem Rooms. Systems, Hi-Fi and Home Cinema. Service Dept., Installations. Open 6 days a week. Access, Visa, instant credit to £1000 subject to status.

PHASE 3 HI-FI, 215 Tarring Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 4HW. Tel (01903) 245577. The South's leading Hi-Fi specialists. Premise facilities include listening rooms and dedicated 'Home Cinema' demonstration rooms. Adcom, Arcam, B&W, Castle, Celestion, Denon, Heybrook, KEF, Reference, Kenwood, Lexicon, Marantz, Meridian, Monitor Audio, NAD, Shearpe, Spondor, Tannoy, Thorens, Yamaha.

WARWICKSHIRE

FRANK HARVEY HI-FI, 163 Spon Street, Coventry, Warwickshire, CV1 3BD. Tel 01203 525200. Arcam, Mission, Cyrus, Musical Fidelity, Marantz, Rotel, NAD, Tannoy, Yamaha, KEF. Open 9.30-5.30 closed Thursday.

SOUNDS EXPENSIVE, 12 Regent Str, Rugby. Tel (01788) 540772. Arcam, Audiolab, Quad, Meridian, Marantz, Mission, Celestion, KEF, Rotel, Ruark, Rotel, Heybrook. IMPROVE YOUR IMAGE, BE SEEN WITH US. Appts required, no service dept, free install, home trial facilities. Access, Amex, Visa, Diners, instant credit. Open 9-5.30pm Mon-Sat.

STRATFORD HI-FI, 10A Chapel Street, Stratford Upon Avon, Warwickshire. Tel (01789) 414533. Arcam, B&W, Bose, Cyrus, Denon, KEF, Marantz, Micromega, Mission, Monitor Audio, NAD, Panasonic, Onkyo, Pioneer, Rotel, Sony, Technics, Yamaha. Demonstration room, Service facilities, Mail Order. Interest free credit. Open 9.30-5.30 Monday to Saturday. All major credit cards.

THE HI-FI COMPANY, 23a Regent Street, Leamington Spa. Tel (01926) 888644. A superb range of hi-fi and audio-visual equipment. Dedicated hi-fi and AV demonstrations. Arcam, Audiolab, Aura, Celestion, Denon, JBL, JVC, KEF, Kenwood, Marantz, Meridian, Mission, Mitsubishi, NAD, Pioneer, QUAD, Sony, REL, Mitsubver, Rotel, TDL, Technics, Yamaha, and many more. Part-exchange, especially welcome. All major credit cards and interest free credit on many items. Open Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm.

WILTSHIRE

AUDIO T, 60 Fleet St, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN1 1RA. Tel (01793) 538222. Fax (01793) 487260. Great Value on Acoustic Energy, Arcam, Audiolab, Cyrus, Denon, KEF, Linn, Marantz, Meridian, Micromega, Mission, NAD, Naim, Quad, Rotel, Technics, Yamaha & Hi-Fi more. Tues-Sat 9.30-6. 3 year guarantee on many items. Free delivery & installation. 30 day free upgrade scheme. Home demonstrations. Part exchange. Interest Free Credit on selected items. 2 listening rooms. Home Cinema specialists. BADA Bonded

THE RIGHT NOTE - See Bath/Bristol.

WORCESTERSHIRE

WEST MIDLANDS AUDIO, 158 Ombersley Road, Worcester WR3 7HA. Tel (01905) 58046. Audiolab, Arcam, Naim Audio, Rega, Kef, Roksan, Epos, Quad, Nakamichi, Absolute Sounds and lots more. 4 demo rooms for budget & high-end audio. Dedicated DSP room. Appointments required. Free install, service dept. Access, Visa, Amex, Diners, Switch. Chartered Trust. Mon-Sat 9.00-5.30 late evenings by appt.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH)

HARROGATE HI-FI, 15 Commercial Str, Harrogate, N Yorks. Tel (01423) 504274. One of the best ranges of quality hi-fi in the North of England, including: Lumley valve amplification, Audio Research, Musical Fidelity, Martin Logan, Sonus Faber, Castle, Orelle, Michell, Ruark, Stax, Copland, Tannoy, NAD, Onkyo, Rotel, Meridian, Lexicon, Project, Silversounds, Cogan Hall, DNm. Home cinema dems. Home dems (appts not always reqd.). Service dept. All major credit cards accepted. Credit facilities available. Open 10-6pm. Why? Because music matters.

SOUND ORGANISATION YORK, 2b Gillygate, York YO3 7EQ. Tel (01904) 627108. Carefully chosen Hi-Fi & AV equipment includes Arcam, B&W, Denon, Linn, M&K Subwoofers, Naim, Rega, Rotel, Royd etc. 3 Dem rooms incl Home Cinema & Multiroom facilities. Service department. Home installations. Instant Credit and Major credit cards. Closed Mondays. Phone for a chat & more details.

YORKSHIRE (SOUTH)

HI-FI STUDIOS, Sunnyfields, Doncaster, DN5 85A. Tel (01302) 781387. TDL, Audio Alchemy, Sugden, Audiolab, Electrocompaniet, Proac, Ruark, Castle, Teac, Unison valves, Impulse Horns, Apogee, Stemoort, Pink Triangle, Heybrook, Monitor Audio, Harbeth, Keswick Audio Research, Michell Turntables, CR Developments (valves), Art Audio (valves), R.E.L. Subwoofers, Pro-ject, Plus Yamaha and Klipsch Home Cinema Pro-Logic Demonstrations, Systemdek, Alphason, Target Sonic Link, Chord, Hoffi, Q.L.N., Audio Quest. Listening room, dems, home trial, free delivery and install, 2 year guarantee. Access, Visa. 10-8pm Tues-Fri, 10-6 Sat. Closed Monday. Phone for further info. & FREE fact pack.

YORKSHIRE (WEST)

AUDIO REFLECTIONS, Specialist ATC distributors from one of the longest established UK ATC dealers. You are cordially invited to audition perhaps the finest loudspeaker range available in the world today from the largest selection of ATC monitors and electronics assembled in the UK. Also AVI, Bryston, Chord Electronics, Castle, Harbeth, Marantz, Spondor, Sumo, Teac, Van den Hul etc. For further details contact John Bleakley Phone/fax Leeds (0113) 2528850 (evening calls welcome). Generous part exchange and second hand equipment available.

ASTON AUDIO, 19 Crossgate, Otley, Leeds, LS21 1AA. Tel (01943) 467689. Naim, Mission Cyrus, Arcam, Audiolab, Meridian, TDL, Micromega, Quad, B&W, Nakamichi, Denon. Home Cinema, dem rooms, int free credit, Visa, Access. Open Tues-Sat 9-6pm.

CLEARSTONE (FORMERLY ERRICKS), Rawson Square, Bradford City Centre, BD1 3JR. Tel (01274) 309266. Bradford's leading Hi-Fi specialists. Every top brand & all the best buys at guaranteed unbeatable prices. Aiwa, Akai, B&W, Bose, Celestion, Denon, Grundig, Hitachi, Ino, JVC, JVC, KEF, Kenwood, Marantz, Micromega, Mission, Mordaunt Short, NAD, Panasonic, Pioneer, Rotel, Sony, Tannoy, TDL, Technics, Toshiba, Yamaha. 2 Dedicated Demo rooms, no appointments required. Service department, free installation, home trial facilities. Access, Visa, Amex, Diners. Interest free credit. Open Mon - Sat 9.30-5.30.

EMPIRE ELECTRICAL MEGASTORE, Ingleby Road, (Girlington), Bradford, BD8 9AN. Tel (01274) 575000. The North's biggest electrical megastore. Every top brand & best buy at guaranteed unbeatable prices. Aiwa, Akai, B&W, Bose, Celestion, Denon, Grundig, Hitachi, Jamo, JVC, KEF, Kenwood, Marantz, Mission, Mitsubishi, Mordaunt Short, NAD, Panasonic, Pioneer, Rotel, Sony, Tannoy, TDL, Technics, Toshiba, Yamaha. 3 Dedicated Hi-Fi & AV Demo rooms, no appointments required. Service department, free installation. Free parking, Access, Visa, Amex, Diners. Interest free credit. Open Mon - Fri 9.30-8.00, Sat 9.30-6.00, Sun 11.00-5.00.



INDICATES MEMBERSHIP OF
THE BRITISH AUDIO DEALERS
ASSOCIATION

DEALER Directory

YORKSHIRE (WEST)

EMPIRE ELECTRICAL SUPERSTORE. The Clock Buildings (formerly the Super Cinema), Roundhay Road, Leeds (on the junction of the A 58 & Roundhay Road), LS8 2SH. Tel (0113) 2351701. Leeds's largest range of Hi-Fi separates & systems including all the best buys at guaranteed unbeatable prices. Aiwa, Akai, B&W, Bang & Olufsen, Bose, Castle, Celestion, Denon, Hitachi, JVC, Kef, Kenwood, Marantz, Mission, Mitsubishi, Mordaunt Short, NAD, Panasonic, Pioneer, Rotel, Sony, Tannoy, TDL, Technics, Toshiba, Yamaha. 2 Dedicated Hi-Fi Demo rooms and 2 AV Demo rooms, no appointments necessary. Service department, free installation, home trial facilities. Free parking. Access, Visa, Amex, Diners. Interest free credit. Open Mon - Wed 10.00-6.00, Thurs - Fri 10.00-8.00, Sat 9.30-5.30, Sun 11.00-5.00.

EMPIRE (EC) LTD. 94 Kirkgate, Wakefield City Centre, (opp. Canon Cinema) West Yorkshire WF1 1TB. Tel (01924) 361736. Wakefield's leading Hi-Fi store. Every top brand & best buy at guaranteed unbeatable prices. Aiwa, Akai, B&W, Bang & Olufsen, Bose, Celestion, Denon, Hitachi, JVC, Kef, Kenwood, Marantz, Mission, Mitsubishi, Mordaunt Short, NAD, Panasonic, Pioneer, Rotel, Sony, Tannoy, TDL, Technics, Toshiba, Yamaha. Full demonstration facilities, service department, free installation. Access, Visa, Amex, Diners. Interest Free credit. Open Mon - Sat 9.30-5.30.

Huddersfield Hi-Fi Centre, 4 Cross Church St, Huddersfield. Tel (01484) 544668, Fax (01484) 423140 Also at 3-5 Kings Cross Street, Halifax, West Yorks. Tel: (01422) 366832 Fax (01422) 349954. B&W, Cyrus, Kenwood, Denon, Rotel, Arcam, Musical Fidelity, Quad, Audio Lab, Marantz, Mission, etc. Dem facilities - appointment reqd. Mon-Sat 9-5.30, Thurs 9-8. Closed Wed. Free installation, credit facilities. Access, Visa.

IMAGE HI-FI, 17 The Springs, Wakefield, WF1 1QE. Tel (01924) 200272. Fax (01924) 200404. The finest in Home Cinema, Multiroom installation and classic stereo systems from Arcam, B&W, Cyrus, Denon, Linn, Mission, Quad, Rega, Yamaha DSP. Open Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 5.30pm

BADA

IMAGE HI-FI, 8 St Annes Road, Headingley, Leeds, LS6 3NX. Tel (0113) 2789374, Fax (0113) 2754252. The finest in Home Cinema, Multiroom installation and classic stereo systems from Arcam, B&W, Cyrus, Denon, Linn, Mission, Quad, Rega, Yamaha DSP. Open Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 6.00pm

BADA

READYVISION LTD, 92-94 Lockwood Road, Lockwood, Huddersfield. Tel (01484) 532294. We've been giving sound advice and personal service for over 20 years. Specialist main agents sales and service. Bose, B&W, Dolby, Hitachi, Jamo, JVC, KEF, Panasonic, Prologic surround sound, Sony, Technics, Toshiba. Huge range of home cinema TV's, Satellite, Video, Hi-Fi systems and separates all at the lowest prices. Free parking. Free delivery and installation. Open Mon-Sat 9-6 Sunday 11-4pm.

NORTHERN IRELAND

BELFAST

LYRIC HI-FI, 161/163 Stranmillis Road, Belfast. Tel (01232) 381296, Fax (01232) 661115. Linn, Naim, Rega, Arcam, Castle, Denon, Rotel, Royd, Epos, Shalinian, Sehring etc. Free delivery and installation, service dept, 3 single speaker demo rooms, interest free credit available. Open Mon-Sat 10-6, Late night Thurs, closed all day Wednesday.

SCOTLAND

AYRSHIRE

THE SOUND FOUNDATION, 22 Nelson St, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, KA1 1BA. Tel (01563) 574185, Fax (01563) 574186. Equipment by Sugden, Audio Note, DPA, Electrocompaniet, Pink Triangle, Pro Ac, Harbeth, Neat, Michell. Demonstration by appointment. Open Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 late night Thursday til 7pm. Home dems and delivery, installation service available. Contact Kevin for more information and directions.



EDINBURGH

MUSIC MILL, 72 Newhaven Rd, Edinburgh EH6 5QG. Tel (0131) 555 3963, Fax (0131) 555 3964. Absolute Sounds, Naim, Audio, Macintosh, DPA, AV1, Alchemist, Pro-Ac, Marantz. Mon-Sat 10-6pm. Closed Wednesdays. Contact Al, Mark, Fraser or Mike.

GLASGOW

STEREO STEREO, 260 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5RL. Tel (0141) 248 4079. Email stereo@cix.computlink.co.uk We will help you choose a system to suit your needs precisely. Whether it's a complete distributed audio and video system or just a repair to your old speakers. WE'RE NOT JUST STEREO STEREO. Open 10-6.00pm closed Sunday, Tuesday. Interest free credit available.

STIRLING

STIRLING AUDIO, 19 Barrton Street, Stirling, FK8 1HF. Tel (01786) 479958. For central Scotland's best selection of quality Hi Fi at all prices demonstrated and installed to suit your needs. B&W, Aura, Crimson, Ruark, Audiolab, Arcam, Marantz, Thule, Rotel, Impulse, Polk, Audio Innovations, Royd, Infinity, DNM Reson, NHT, REL, Revolver, Micromega, Beyer, Sennheiser, Harman Kardon, QLN, Target + Stands Unique and many more. Plus custom cable service + QED multiroom installation. Contact Barry or John for more information. Interest free credit available

WALES

CLWYD

ACTON GATE AUDIO, 4 Ruabon Rd, Wrexham Tel (01978) 364500. Audio Visual specialists. Aiwa, Arcam, AMC, Bose, B&W, Beard, Canon, Celestion, Castle, Cyrus, Jamo, Marantz, Michell, Mordaunt-Short, Musical Fidelity, NAD, Nakamichi, Micromega, Quad, Radford, Rotel, Rogers, Rega, Ruark, Spendor, Tannoy, Wharfedale, UKD, Yamaha DSP member. Demonstration room, installation service. Easy parking and motorway access. Access, Visa etc.

SOUTH GLAMORGAN

AUDIO EXCELLENCE, 134 Crwys Road, Cardiff. Tel (01222) 228565. All that's best in Hi-Fi carefully selected and demonstrated by friendly knowledgeable staff, at prices to suit all budgets. Delivery and installation, home dems, part exchange, in-house workshops, full credit facilities with interest free on selected items. Tues-Sat 9.00-5.30. Closed Mon.

BADA

AUDIO EXCELLENCE, 9 High St, Swansea. Tel (01792) 474608. All that's best in Hi-Fi carefully selected and demonstrated by friendly knowledgeable staff, at prices to suit all budgets. Delivery and installation, home dems, part exchange, in-house workshops, full credit facilities with interest free on selected items. Tues-Sat 9.00-5.30. Closed Mon.

BADA

RADFORDS, 449-451 Cowbridge Road East, Canton, Cardiff CF5 1JH. Tel (01222) 398121 (Contact Andy Baker) Premier HiFi & Home Cinema, carefully selected to offer outstanding sound and picture quality, whatever your budget. Staff who care about what they sell and have the ability and knowledge to demonstrate the differences. Full workshop, delivery, installation and part-exchange facilities available.

BADA

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

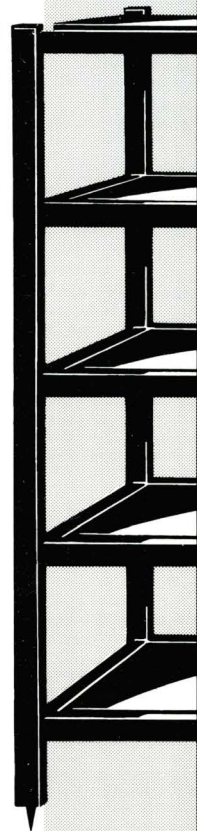
DUBLIN

DUBLINN HI-FI, 38 Aungier Street, Dublin 2. Tel: (00 353) 1 4785205 Fax: (00 353) 1 4785219. We all have two ears and one mouth - use them accordingly. We only stock the best products, based on performance and reliability - not reviews or sales patter! Call Mark or drop in for a listen. Three single speaker demo rooms. Free delivery and installation. Full service department. Open Mon-Fri 10-7, Sat 10-6.

INDICATES MEMBERSHIP OF
THE BRITISH AUDIO DEALERS
ASSOCIATION

If you're picking up bad vibes, pick up one of our brochures.

You can spend a fortune on your hi-fi, but without proper support it won't sound as good as it should. Sound waves bounce off the walls, your floor and components, causing distortion. It's a problem we've been working on since 1975, resulting in some of the finest speaker, hi-fi and audiovisual supports available today. For example, the Adagio table shown here boasts a fully assembled, welded tubular steel frame, braced at the corners for extra rigidity. The legs and top shelf are supported on isolation spikes to minimize sonic interference. It's just one of many Apollo designs free of bad vibrations. For full details return the coupon or ask your hi-fi dealer.



I want good vibes. Please send me a brochure.

Name _____

Address _____

Post code _____

WHF

APOLLO

HI-FI FURNITURE

Our components improve yours

Zenith Crown Ltd., Tipton Road, Dudley,
West Midlands, DY1 4SQ Tel: 0121 520 5070/1432

NEW ISSUE

THE MAGAZINE FOR MEN

MAXIM

NOVEMBER 1996

£2.50

PURE SEX!

*Is Caprice the world's
hottest blonde?
(You're the jury, p16)*

HOW TO...

- Manage** your boss
- Train** for the marathon
- Stop** your car getting nicked
- Brew** your own-label beer

CAN YOU TELL A VIRGIN FROM A TART?

Test your skills, p72

'WHOSE LEG IS THIS ANYWAY?'

The war training
course from hell

YOU OLD FAT CAT!
Four steps to
money heaven

**HI-TECH THAT
WON'T DATE**

OVERSEAS £2.00
NFL \$3.75



WIN

**THE NEW RENAULT
MAXIM!**

(So good, they
named it after us)

PLUS! R.E.M.: ALBUM OF THE YEAR?... RENE RUSSO ... ELMORE LEONARD...
DENZEL WASHINGTON... BILL WYMAN... SAM SHEPARD... MEG RYAN

On sale 3 October

HI-FI CHOICE

The small print...

● QUERIES AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

● SUBSCRIPTION PROBLEMS

In all instances contact our subscription fulfilment company, Customer Interface, on ☎ (01454) 620070, or by fax on (01454) 620080. Quote your subscriber number, which is printed at the top of your subscription address label.

● NEW PRODUCT INFORMATION

We welcome information on all new and upgraded products. In all instances manufacturers should contact the editorial department on the telephone numbers below. However, the Publisher respectfully points out that the magazine is obliged neither to review nor return unsolicited products. The Editor-in-Chief is always pleased to receive ideas for articles, but does not accept responsibility for unsolicited copy.

● PHOTOCOPIES

We cannot supply photocopies of articles that are out of print, but do try our Factsback service (p. 136).

● COPYRIGHTS & REPRINTS

Material in *Hi-Fi Choice* is copyright and may not be reproduced in any form without written permission from the Publisher. Address requests for re-use of copyright material to Edward Pizey, Reprint Sales Executive, Dennis Publishing Ltd., 19 Bolsover Street, London W1P 7HJ. ☎ 0171-917 3946.

● DISCLAIMER

Every care has been taken in the preparation of this journal, but the publishers cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of the information contained herein, or for any consequence arising from it. All judgements have been made in the context of equipment that was available to *Hi-Fi Choice* at the time of review. 'Value for money' comments are based on UK prices at the time of going to press, which are subject to fluctuation, and are only applicable to the UK market.

Editorial Editor-in-Chief ATW 'Stan' Vincent ☎ 0171-917 7747 • Deputy Editor Jason Kennedy ☎ 0171-917 7746 • Reviews Editor Alan Sircom ☎ 0171-917 7751 • Art Editor Del Gentleman ☎ 0171-917 7748 • Production Gary Cockburn • ZiggYOpoczynska • Leah Batham • Naj Marcuard ☎ 0171-917 7745 • Consultant Editor Paul Messenger • Technical Editor Paul Miller • Editorial Fax 0171-917 5512 • e-mail 100433.1130@compuserve.com • Contributors Alvin Gold • Jimmy Hughes • Malcolm Steward • David Vivian • Photography • Chris Foster • Chris Richardson • Advertising Group Ad Manager Rob Debenham ☎ 0171-917 3834 • Deputy Ad Manager Sean Gibson ☎ 0171-917 3932 • Sales Executive Gina Cady ☎ 0171-917 3935 • Advertising Fax 0171-917 5555 • Production Manager Simon Maggs ☎ 0171-917 7676 • Advertisement Controller Jane Shepherd ☎ 0171-917 3885 • Production Fax 0171-580 6430 • Circulation Director Sean Farmer ☎ 0171-917 7654 • Manager James Burnay ☎ 0171-917 7810 • Marketing Director Alison Townsend ☎ 0171-917 7675 • Market Research Manager Lesley Downey ☎ 0171-917 7702 • Co-Operative Manager Cheryl Hamer ☎ 0171-917 7802 • List Rental Sales Exec Laura Stephens ☎ 0171-917 3943 • Reprint Sales Exec Edward Pizey ☎ 0171-917 3946 • PR & Sales Marketing Manager Amanda Barker-Davies ☎ 0171-917 7742 • Events Marketing Manager Rashmi Sehgal ☎ 0171-917 7784 • Marketing Assistant Lee Goodger ☎ 0171-917 7768 • Mail Order Exec Sarah Burton ☎ 0171-917 7807 • Designer Dave Hilton ☎ 0171-917 7800 • Circulation & Marketing Fax 0171-636 5668 • Men In Suits Publisher Simon Davies ☎ 0171-917 7718 • Advertising Director Ian Westwood ☎ 0171-917 7618 • Publishing Director Eric Fuller ☎ 0171-917 7686 • Managing Director Alistair Ramsay ☎ 0171-917 7661 • Chairman Felix Dennis • Film Output & Image Manipulation Elements, London W1 • Web Offset Printing St Ives (Plymouth) Ltd. • Distribution USM Distribution Ltd, 86 Newman Street, London W1P 3LD ☎ 0171-396 8000 Fax 0171-396 8002 • Published by Dennis Publishing Ltd, 19 Bolsover Street, London W1P 7HJ • Company registered in England, number 1138891 • Entire contents of this issue © 1996 Felden Productions • ISSN 09551115



NEXT MONTH

CARRY ON WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER'S WHAY-HAY-HI-FI CHOICE!

STYLISH SYSTEMS

Oooh-er, that's a nice big sleek one you've got there, Missus. How do you keep it so shiny, then? Polish it, do you? Oooh, I say! Sexy systems from saucy stunners like Technics, Denon, B&O and the like, all line up for a right seeing to. Phwoarr-r-r-r.

CABLES

Just the thing to get tied up over. Ten sets of interconnect cables strip down to their undies and cavort about in the campsite.

Letch at the lovelies from Cable Talk, Sonic Link, vdH and many others. See that AudioQuest *Turquoise* strain as it does its morning exercises... "bend and fling, exhale and fli... ooh, matron!"

LOUDSPEAKERS

Cor, look at the size of those. Blimey, they're huge! Loudspeakers, that is. 14 of them, between £400 and £1,000, in groups of little tiddlers from Epos and Roksan and great big whoppers from Polk, Monitor Audio and Castle (left). Oomigawd!

IT'S ME KRELL'S, NURSE

EISA award-winning hi-fi doesn't come much better than the Krell *KAV-300i* integrated amplifier. Faster than the Rumpo Kid, the new line-integrated amplifier really recharges those batteries when it's plugged into the mains, yet it doesn't run so hot that you have to yell 'Frying Tonite' when you switch it on! Join *Hi-Fi Choice* experts Sir Sidney

Ruff-Diamond, Gladstone Screwer, Odd-Bod Junior, Hengist Pod and Bungdit In as they get knee-deep in Krell. Yak, yak.

PLUS

Exclusive first UK review of Jamo's £1,300 *Concert 8* speakers • Plenty of double entendre jokes about marrows, melons and other plant-related fun in *Sessions* • Win loads of saucy stuff • Infamy, infamy, they've all got it in for me, etc...



Get your titters out for the next issue of *Hi-Fi Choice* on Friday 1st November, 1996.

Ultra

What can DSP do for music? David Vivian grapples with spiffing home cinema kit in the hope of finding pan-dimensional musical enlightenment!

Vivian Scene

Yamaha's Ian Galloway and Mr Stan (Editor) Vincent shoot the breeze over a brew. Ian to Stan: "Reviewers always miss the point about our Cinema DSP A/V amps. They bang on about 'enhanced Dolby Surround' and processing speed and all the flashy cinema stuff, but they never mention what DSP can do for music."

Galloway's point, also espoused in Yamaha's ads, is that heavy-duty DSP electronics are just as capable of enhancing straight-ahead music, as of simulating the cinema thrill. 'More dimension' is the phrase. Sounds far out. Can I try?

One of the obstacles that has dissuaded me from the A/V phenomenon is lack of house room: if a full-on home theatre system moved in, I'd have to move out. The proliferation of mini systems totting Dolby Pro-Logic processors, and a pair of tinpot speakers to hang on the wall behind, suggests that the concept is so sexy, everyone wants a slice of it.

Now my friend Steve has a fair-sized basement den in which resides the Hulk Hogan of cathode-ray-tube televisions. I helped him get it down there, and it was like lowering a hippo down a lift shaft. Of course, now I could find out what the fuss is all about, and whether you can justify having an A/V system in one room and a music-only system in another. Given the disposable income and available floor area of a middle-class American family, then maybe. But here in Blighty you need a system that will do it all: match action and sound, rattle the windows and, crucially, move you with music.

So we set about putting such a system together. Every component seemed to carry a scary four-figure price-tag, including the cables and interconnects, custom-made for the exercise by Audioquest. The American cables, marketed by Arcam, have many friends in audiophile circles.

Yamaha's contribution was its legendary £1,100 DSP-A2070 — regarded by home cinema buffs as the gov'nor of A/V amps. I was hoping we might get the even more densely featured DSP-A3090, but its AC-3 circuitry would doubtless have shifted my attention towards the cinema aspect when I should have been listening to music. Ah well.

Source responsibilities were shared between a Pioneer CLD-DS15 LaserDisc player and my Meridian 602/603 CD player,



while the speaker arrays were supplied by Harman/Kardon (big-boy *Citation 7.2s* main front and centre; meaty bi-polars front and rear effects) and REL (*Stentor II* subwoofer). All in all, about £10,000-plus of kit. Phew!


What makes the Yamaha different is its use of front- as well as rear-effects speakers in enhanced DSP modes, making seven channels in all — and that's not including the sub. The idea of the extra front speakers is to project depth and a sense of spaciousness behind the plane of the TV screen to bring you that much closer to the real Leicester Square experience. It also allows a far more realistic portrayal of the tweakable (room size, liveness, reverb and so forth) digital soundfields stored in the 2070's memory.

Finally, it was time to get to grips with this mutha of a system. Much of the first evening was spent fine-tuning the REL (because the *Citations* are quite bassy, we had it coming in low and hard) and playing with the settings of the various enhanced DSP modes. The second evening passed in the company of Arnie (*T2*), Sandra Bullock (*Speed*) and Tom Hanks (*Apollo 13*). By the time we called it a night, I was both elated and

exhausted. It wasn't just the depth-charge bass from the REL that left me with wobbly knees; all my senses were shattered and shocked. On the third evening we listened to music — first in plain stereo, then, one by one, in the whole panoply of DSP modes.

Plain stereo sounded dull, dull, dull, and we couldn't decide which mode was best with different types of music. Unsurprisingly, 'Jazz Club' sounded *grreatt* with jazz, but it sounded *grreatt* with just about every other style of music, too. 'Rock' was less spacious but had amazingly wide applications. Personally I'd have relabelled it the 'Active Naim' mode. Only the hugely reverberative 'Church' proved unlistenable, but with a Saturn V taking off it was a blast.

It's a good demonstration of just how much the Yamaha's sophisticated computer adds to the sound, but it can't make music more musical, it can only manipulate it. I'm not going to condemn it for that, though — the 2070 is possibly the most impressive piece of hi-fi kit I've ever used, and by a long way, the most versatile.

So what if it isn't purist hi-fi? It's fun on a galactic scale. I felt the force... 

I M A G I N E



I M A G I O SERIES

Imagine a world where sound has no boundaries, where perfect stereo images combine with magical sound quality to create the perfect high fidelity experience. A dream? It needn't be, with GLL's new Imagio range of loudspeakers.

The first hi-fi loudspeakers to incorporate GLL's world-beating

ICT drivers, they are capable of superb stereo performance thanks to their unique point source design. And because they have no crossover to intrude on the music, they bring real freedom to music.

The Imagio series from GLL...

*Sound
without walls*



INTRODUCING THE NEW 600 SERIES

Don't believe all that
you read in the press...



just this bit:

B&W has pulled the stops well and truly out for these speakers, and boy does the result sound good... the 601's sound like the voice coils of God. Up-to-the-minute design, gold-plated biwirable sockets: they're a bargain - magnificent for £200.



What Hi-Fi, November 1995



L I S T E N A N D Y O U ' L L S E E

For details and stockists of the 600 range of loudspeakers, phone B&W UK on 01903-750750