

BUYER'S GUIDE



LOUDS

Loudspeakers have an incredibly complex job to do because they are transducers whose mission is to convert one form of energy (electrical signals representing music and film soundtracks) into another form of energy (acoustic pressure waves that fill your home theater with sound). The trick, of course, is that speakers must accomplish this task with sufficient precision for the resulting sounds to remind listeners of the real thing—the sounds of real instruments and vocalists, of real people conversing and interacting, and of ordinary and extraordinary events occurring in real and imaginary acoustic spaces. How's that for a tall order?

Happily, speaker makers have been perfecting their art and science for

decades, and we all reap the benefits. Still, in a world where mass marketers claim cheap speakers are all you need, we wonder how many enthusiasts have ever experienced firsthand the huge difference today's best mid-priced speaker systems can make. No other class of component (except, perhaps, for video displays) has greater impact on the perceived quality of the home entertainment experience, so it's worth the effort to choose loudspeakers carefully.

To help you move forward in your quest for superior sound, this Buyer's Guide Plus feature focuses on complete surround speaker systems priced from \$2k to just over \$6k. We chose this price/performance window in order to cover speakers that offer a

PLUS:

by Chris Martens and the TPV staff

SPEAKERS

big—in some cases extremely big—performance step up from entry-level models, yet are not insanely expensive. Our Buyer's Guide Plus contains four elements:

- **A Guide to Choosing Speakers:** We offer practical advice on picking speaker that will thrill you today—and keep on satisfying you tomorrow.
- **Manufacturer Overviews:** We discuss a select group of speaker manufacturers whose products have established track records for value and performance.
- **Product Reviews:** We evaluate five representative mid-priced speaker systems, rating each in comparison

to the best \$7k systems our reviewers have heard.

- **Speaker Chart:** We provide critical specifications and pricing data for one or two mid-priced speaker lines per manufacturer, indicating those models that have been reviewed by, or received awards from, TPV or its sister publications (the TPV digital edition provides live links to archived articles). Finally, TPV editors show the models they regard as Top Picks with a red star next to the series name.

The TPV team wishes you happy hunting, and even happier listening. Enjoy.





Choosing Loudspeakers to Thrill Your Soul

—now, and for the long haul

Many enthusiasts believe choosing loudspeakers is roughly like choosing pasta sauces—you find a blend that tastes good to you, make a purchase, and call it a day. However, our hard-won experience suggests there's more to the process than that, or at least there should be if long-term sonic satisfaction is your goal. With that thought in mind, we'd like to walk you through the process many of our editors use when choosing speakers for themselves, but first let's set three ground rules.

Rule 1: If you enjoy both music and films, then use both to evaluate speakers. This one seems pretty obvious, but you'd be surprised to learn how many buyers choose speakers after being wowed by spectacular film clips, only to discover later that their new speakers sound pretty lame on music. Don't let this happen to you!

Rule 2: You'll learn more from test material that sounds natural than from material designed to sound spectacular. Believe it or not, it's harder for speakers to sound natural and realistic than for them to impress listeners on brief, spectacular demo tracks. Our ears can be fooled by sonic hoopla, but never by natural sounds that seem unnatural. For this reason we recommend using accurate, realistic music recordings and film soundtracks to evaluate speakers (remember: *natural* sound is the key to long-term satisfaction).

Rule 3: Set the performance bar high. Today's best mid-priced speaker systems deliver better sound quality per dollar than ever before, but you may have to

work a bit to find dealers who sell them. Our advice: Don't settle for mediocre products just because they're easier to find. Instead, seek out specialty A/V retailers in your area (or even in neighboring cities, if need be). Take your time, and enjoy the search. Your efforts will pay huge sonic dividends in the long run.

Speaker Selection Criteria (also the review criteria TPV uses in evaluating speakers)

Tonal Balance: Look for speakers whose output is evenly (or neutrally) balanced from the lowest to the highest frequencies, with no areas that sound overly prominent or recessed. Avoid speakers that impart signature tonal colorations on all material.

Transparency and Focus: Look for speakers that clearly resolve small, delicate sonic details and textures, and that do so without resorting to artificial edge enhancement. Caution: Overly bright speakers often sound detailed, but for all the wrong reasons.

Imaging and Soundstaging: Look for speakers that create the sonic equivalent of pictorial images, where sounds seem to originate from precise locations on a stage (or from within the setting of the scene in film soundtracks). In surround systems, listen for wrap-around, three-dimensional soundstages that place you in the center of the action. Remember this: 3D sound, good; flat, two-dimensional sound, bad.

Dynamics: Look for speakers that can handle loud passages in music and films without distortion. Two important tips: Evaluate speakers in rooms about the same size as your own using electronics roughly as powerful as your own. Also, look for speakers that can clearly reveal even small and extremely subtle dynamic shadings and contrasts.

Evaluating Subwoofers (and full-range speakers)

Bass Extension: Look for speaker systems (or subs) whose bass response goes truly low. Suggestion: Try using concert bass drums or pipe organ pedal tones as useful low-bass tests. Note: Extremely low bass can be something you feel more than hear.

Bass Pitch Definition: Look for speaker systems whose bass output is not only strong, but—more importantly—clean and clear. Good systems should reveal subtle bass textures. Hint: Kick and concert drums, tympani, acoustic and electric basses, and low brass and wind instruments make highly effective bass tests.

Bass Power: It takes more power to reproduce bass frequencies than middle or high frequencies of equivalent volume. Check to make sure speakers (or subs) can handle the loudest bass levels you will require. Hint: The low-frequency effects that announce the emergence of the alien tripods in *War of the Worlds* make a brutally revealing test.





LOUDSPEAKERS

B&W

www.bwspeakers.com

The initials B&W stand for Bowers and Wilkins—the names of the founders of this venerable British speaker maker—but over time the B&W name has become associated with ongoing advancements in the science of speaker manufacturing (and also with the science of speaker-performance measurement). In particular, B&W pioneered use of various exotic materials and construction techniques as applied both in speaker drive units and enclosure systems. But while B&W's high-end credentials are impeccable, the firm also has—and has always had—a pragmatic, value-oriented streak, as evidenced both by the 700-Series and 600-Series 3 speakers featured in our comparison chart. B&W speakers have received multiple awards from the staffs of *The Perfect Vision* and its sister magazine *The Absolute Sound*.

Canton

www.cantonusa.com

Canton is one of the largest and most popular speaker makers in Germany, with products known for their Mercedes Benz-like workmanship and clean, clear sound. Many enthusiasts associate the name Canton with the firm's beautiful but comparatively expensive Vento and Karat product lines. However, enthusiasts seeking high-end Canton sound at more accessible prices will be pleased by the Ergo speaker lineup featured in our chart. The Ergo line draws heavily on Canton's top-tier technologies, but offer prices geared to fit the budgets of surround-sound enthusiasts.

DALI

www.dali-usa.com

No, this company's name is not an allusion to the famous surrealist painter; instead, the name is an acronym that stands for Danish

Audiophile Loudspeaker Industries. Followers of *The Perfect Vision* and *The Absolute Sound* know that our reviewers think highly of DALI products in general, and especially of the excellent though premium-priced Helicon series speakers. However, at CES 2006 we learned of a new line of DALI speakers called the IKONS, which promised much of the goodness (and technol-

ogy) of the Helicons, but at about half the price. Who wouldn't like that math? We summarize the IKON family in our chart, and review a complete IKON system in this issue.

Definitive Technology

www.definitivetech.com

If you spend much time with Definitive Technology president Sandy Gross, you quickly learn that the man has a tremendous passion for sound quality and for value, and you see both influences at work in his firm's products. Our chart features offerings from Definitive's BP-series (BP for bi-polar) loudspeakers—speakers that feature matched sets of front- and rear-firing drivers and, in most cases, built-in powered subwoofers. For a fascinating inside look at the philosophy behind Definitive's bipolar speakers, download a free copy of *AVguide Monthly* Issue 3 from our *AVguide.com* Web site; the issue features a Sandy Gross-authored "Sounding Board" article on loudspeaker design.

Dynaudio

www.dynaudio.com

In Denmark, a nation famous for producing world-class loudspeaker drive units, Dynaudio stands out by building all of its own drive units and offering no fewer than five complete lines of speakers for home use (six lines if you count the in-wall models as a separate line), one line of subwoofers, three lines of pro-sound speakers, and three lines of automotive speakers. Yet despite the breadth of its product offerings, Dynaudio's speakers never look or feel like commodity products; instead, they show terrific attention both to cosmetic and sonic details. For our chart, we selected speakers from Dynaudio's Audience line—a line we think will make a just-right fit for enthusiasts shopping for systems that fall in the \$2k-\$6k price window.



The Fine and Affordable
Canton Ergo

Experience It for Yourself,

**NEW
ARCAM
PRODUCTS**



Every Arcam Product Brings Movies to Life.



DV137

- Latest generation Zoran 888s processor
- Supports DVD Video, DVD Audio, CD audio, SACD, DiVX, VCD, SVCD, DVD-r, DVD-RW, DVD+R, DVD+RW, MP3, WMA, Photo CD & J-Pegs
- Selectable ABT Scaler outputs 720p, 768p, 1080i, 1080p
- NO Chroma Upsampling Error
- HDMI v1.1 (up to 6ch 24bit 192kHzPCM), plus DTS and Dolby Digital streams
- On Board "set up wizard" for display calibration



AVR350

- 2 way HDMI switching
- Utilizes "Mask of Silence" technologies found in Arcam's FMJ series
- Pre-amp stage improved over AVR300
- 7 x 100 wpc (all channels driven)
- Direct analogue signal path for stereo
- EX, DTS, ES, DTS24/96 & Pro-Logic IIx

Contact your dealer for an audition today.

**Audiophile
Systems**



Arcam • dCS • Nordost • Nottingham Analogue

www.audiophilesystems.com

Visit our website for more information and to find your local dealer

ARCAM



Energy

www.energy-speakers.com

The Canadian speaker manufacturer Energy Acoustics is, along with its sister company Mirage, intent on pushing the edge of the envelope in terms of building speakers that offer terrific performance per dollar. There is perhaps no better example of this trend than Energy's new Reference Connoisseur speakers, which are targeted toward customers who want sound quality approaching that of Energy's famous flagship Veritas-series speakers but whose budgets require something more affordable. We provide an overview of the Reference Connoisseur line in our chart, and review a complete system in this issue.

Epos

www.epos-acoustics.com

British-made Epos speakers are famous for their suave, mellifluous voicing, which—for many enthusiasts—is the very definition of the term musicality. The Epos line divides into two ranges: the excellent entry-level ELS-series and the even more polished, and slightly more upscale, M-series. Our chart summarizes both Epos's ELS- and M-series offerings. We draw readers' attention in particular to the superb, award-winning Epos ELS subwoofer, which was painstakingly developed by famous electronics designer Mike Creek (of Creek Electronics renown).

Final Sound

www.finalsound.com

For the past several years the Dutch firm Final Sound has been a company on a mission, and that mission is to make the effortless, see-through transparency of electrostatic loudspeakers accessible to more listeners than ever before. Historically, critics have raved about the clarity of electrostats, but criticized them for being costly, sometimes finicky, limited in

dispersion and dynamic range, and for being difficult to drive. Final Sound has addressed all these issues with its new inverter technology, which makes electrostatic speakers much easier to drive, and with its new high-dispersion, high-output electrostatic diaphragms. We thought highly of Final's original Modular Home Theater system, and the firm's new



Energy—Refined Value

150i system, summarized in our chart, promises to be even better.

Focal

www.focal.tm.fr

Focal is one of the largest speaker manufacturers in France, and even if the firm had never manufactured finished loudspeakers, it would still be famous for its high quality drive units. But happily, Focal manufactures multiple ranges of speakers based, naturally, on the firm's own drive units, with offerings to fit every budget. For our chart, we chose Focal's middle range of speakers known as the Cobalt S-series. Focal's longstanding tradition is to promote technology migration, so enthusiasts should not be surprised to see various design elements from previous Focal cost-no-object models reappearing in the affordable Cobalt S models. Technology trickle-down is a big part of what make this line an exceptional value.

Gallo Acoustics

www.anthonygalloacoustics.com

Two years back, we were blown away by Gallo's futuristic-looking Nucleus Reference 3 floorstanders, which garnered accolades both from *The Perfect Vision* and from *The Absolute Sound*. Today, Gallo has improved the original speaker to create the new Nucleus Reference 3.1 and has added sibling models in the form of Reference AV L/R main and center channel speakers, forming a complete Reference-series surround system. Reference models are chockfull of advanced technologies such as distinctive semi-cylindrical Kynar tweeters that require no separate crossovers, or carbon fiber midrange drivers housed in ultra-low-diffraction spherical enclosures that are loaded with Gallo's proprietary S2 damping material (the list of technical advances goes on and on). We outline the now complete Reference product family in our chart, including a summary of Gallo's family of small but potent powered subwoofers.

Infinity

www.infinitysystems.com

Very few product announcements have fired our imaginations in the way that Infinity's rollout of its new Cascade-series speakers has. The Cascades feature distinctive, oblong MTS-drivers whose diaphragm surfaces are ribbed for exceptional rigidity and stiffness, and whose voice coils are also oblong (to distribute driving forces more evenly over the entire surface area of the drivers). Many Cascade models are configured so that they can serve either as standalone or as wall-mount speakers, giving users a broad range of placement/installation options. We provide details on all announced Cascade models in our chart and hope to do a full review of the system in the near future. Stay tuned.

KEF

www.kef.com

The British firm KEF (the acronym stands for Kent Engineering Foundry,

the firm's original home base) enjoys a reputation as one of the prime movers and shakers of loudspeaker development in the UK. For this Buyer's Guide Plus feature, we highlight two KEF product lines: the XQ and iQ-series. KEF's XQ speakers offer much of the technology of the firm's widely admired flagship Reference-series models, yet at prices that make it possible to assemble an all-XQ surround system without raiding junior's college fund. The even more affordable and appropriately named iQ models, in turn, feature KEF's signature Uni-Q drivers (where dome tweeters are coaxially-mounted in the throats of ring-shaped midbass drivers); iQ models offer astounding value for money.

Magnepan

www.magnepan.com

Magnepan's tall, wafer-thin, dipolar, planar magnetic loudspeakers don't look or sound like any other speakers on the market. Magnepan's signature sound emphasizes terrific levels of

transparency, with exceptionally good top-to-bottom coherency, and complete freedom from cabinet-induced colorations common in traditional box-type speakers (Magnepans are box-less speakers whose membrane-like diaphragms are suspended in open frames). Our chart includes those models that represent the broad mid-section of the Magnepan product line, starting with the wall-mount MC1s and progressing upward to the large, floorstanding MG3.6s. Looking back, Magnepan speakers have won product awards from *The Perfect Vision* and *The Absolute Sound* with remarkable consistency—a tribute to the enduring value these systems offer.

MartinLogan

www.martinlogan.com

Lawrence, KS-based MartinLogan has earned a reputation as America's premier manufacturer of hybrid-electrostatic loudspeakers (where the term hybrid implies speakers that use traditional piston-type woofers com-



The KEF XQ5 Series



bined with tall, thin, highly-responsive electrostatic tweeter/midrange panels). MartinLogan has developed a comparatively affordable range of hybrid electrostats and matching powered subwoofers that can be combined to create superb, mid-priced surround systems. We summa-

price/performance envelope, but with a twist—virtually all Mirage speakers are omnidirectional (or as Mirage terms them, Omnipolar), meaning that they disperse sound evenly in all directions. Mirage is not the only manufacturer offering omnidirectional speakers, but it is one of the



Monitor Audio RS Series

rize the more affordable elements of MartinLogan's extensive electrostatic speaker range in our charts, along with their associated woofers. However, for listeners with somewhat more ample budgets, we encourage exploration of MartinLogan's spectacular, though admittedly more upscale, Vista, Vantage, and Summit models.

Mirage

www.miragespeakers.com

The Canadian firm Mirage, along with its sister company Energy, looks to offer speakers that push the

few whose products are designed to fit average household budgets. Most models feature a special Mirage-developed 360-degree dispersion pod that provides a clever, cost-effective solution. Omnidirectional sound isn't for everyone since some listeners prefer the arguably more focused sound that traditional direct-radiating speakers provide. But for those who appreciate the broad, spacious soundstages that omnis afford, no other design approach offers greater musical realism. For our chart, we selected Mirage's new Omnisat V2 speaker line, which is just one step down from the firm's flagship OM line of speakers.

Monitor Audio

www.monitораudio.com

The British firm Monitor Audio is famous for the lead role it has taken in development of advanced metal-alloy and metal/ceramic drive units, which are desirable in high-end audio applications because they are inherently light, stiff, and responsive. Accordingly, Monitor has named its top three lines after precious metals: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. We chose to cover Monitor's newly revamped Silver RS-series speakers for our chart, since we think this line represents a particularly attractive price-performance sweet spot within the broader Monitor lineup.

NHT

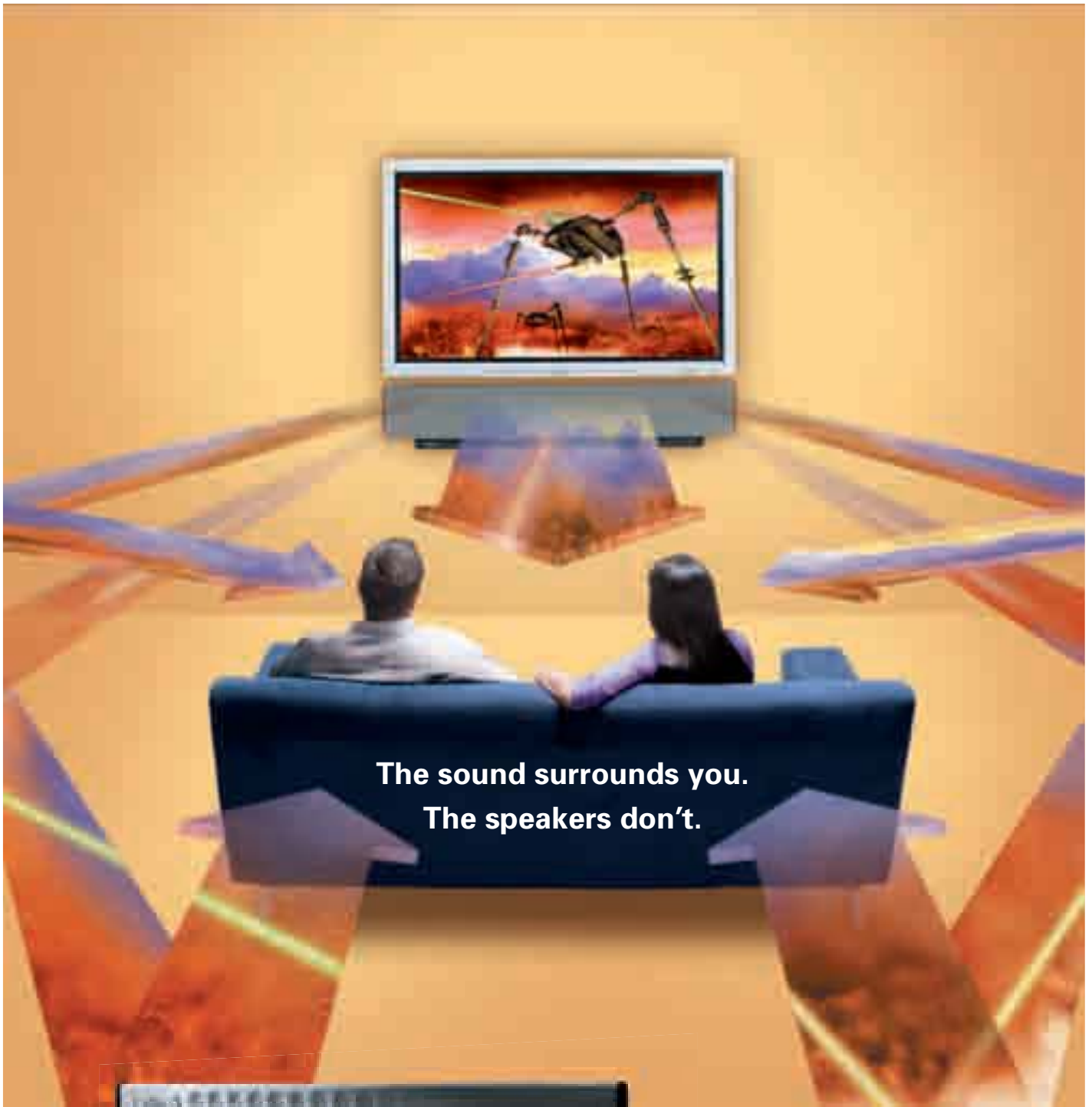
www.nhthifi.com

Much of the press buzz surrounding speaker-manufacturer NHT (the acronym stands for Now Hear This) has centered on the firm's flagship, self-powered, DSP-controlled Xd satellite/subwoofer-type loudspeaker system. In our opinion, the Xd's are a technical *tour de force* and worthy of the coverage they have received, but we think NHT's new Classic family of speakers is equally deserving of attention for two reasons. First, the Classic models leverage everything NHT learned about driver and enclosure construction during development of the Xd's, applying those discoveries in a series of passive (not self-powered) speakers. Second, the Classic models were designed with affordability in mind; where the least expensive Xd system starts at around \$6k/pair, the most expensive Classic models (the Classic Fours) sell for a much more manageable \$1800/pair. We cover the Classic line in our chart, and hope to review a full Classic system soon.

Paradigm

www.paradigm.com

Paradigm speakers have been consistent award-winners in the pages of *The Perfect Vision* and *The Absolute*



**The sound surrounds you.
The speakers don't.**



YSP-1000

Simple fact. Sound beams bounce. We took advantage of that to create true multi-channel surround sound from just one component. No extra speakers. No messy wires. Just rows of individual sound beam amplifiers and drivers, calibrated to convince your ears into thinking that there are speakers all around the room. But there aren't. There's just the Digital Sound Projector. And one simple fact. Installing and enjoying your home theater is now easier than you ever imagined.

Visit yamaha.com/soundprojectors for more information.



©2006 Yamaha Electronics Corporation, USA. IntelliBeam is a trademark of Yamaha Corporation.

Place this tiny microphone in your room and Yamaha's IntelliBeam™ technology automatically calibrates the sound beam angles for acoustically optimized surround sound.

IntelliBeam™





Sound for two simple reasons: they deliver unusually high performance at unexpectedly reasonable prices. For this feature article, we revisit Paradigm's Reference Studio V3 family of speakers, which offers many of the technical advancements seen in Paradigm's flagship Signature models, but at more affordable prices. Like the Signatures, Studio-series speakers feature woven Kevlar, phase-plug-equipped midbass drivers and advanced technology metal-dome tweeters that yield notably crisp and transparent midrange and treble response. Studio floorstanders also use multiple mid-sized woofers (rather than a single large, and potentially sluggish, woofer) to achieve taut, deep bass. We detail the Reference Studio line in our chart, and review a somewhat unusual, full-range, subwoofer-less Reference Studio system in this issue.

Polk Audio

www.polkaudio.com

From its earliest days, Polk Audio has always been about building speakers that pursue the elusive point of diminishing returns—the point where performance and price are both optimized. Today, that same pursuit continues at Polk and is expressed particularly well in the firm's LSi and RTi product lines, both of which are covered in our chart. Both lines offer

good value for money, but of the two the more expensive, award-winning LSi-models focus more on pushing the performance envelope. Though it may be a bit of an oversimplification, the RTi models could be viewed as cost-reduced versions of equivalent LSi-models. We would point readers toward the LSi-15 floorstander, in particular, as a good example of a speaker whose robust performance belies its modest price.

PSB

www.psbSpeakers.com

PSB loudspeakers have consistently found favor among staff writers for *The Perfect Vision* and *The Absolute Sound*, partly because the firm has the know-how to produce serious high-end speakers (for example, the famous but expensive Platinum models). But PSB has also mastered the art of compromise to create speakers that offer affordable excellence, such as the award-winning Image T-series speakers. Astute observers have noticed, however, the relatively broad price gap between the Image and Platinum range—a gap that recently has been filled by PSB's innovative VisionSound models. The VisionSound models, which are offered in both floorstanding and combo stand-alone/wall-mount formats, represent a new breed of performance-oriented

plasma speakers. The VisionSound models, which are meant for use with PSB's SubSonic-series subwoofers, combine sonic elements of both the Image and Platinum models. Our chart covers the VisionSound, Image, and SubSonic product families, and we review a VisionSound system in this issue.

Quad

www.quad-hifi.co.uk

Ask any ten audio journalists to name the most significant high-end loudspeaker of all time and odds are that the British Quad electrostatic speaker will appear on more than half their lists. Quad's original ELS, introduced in 1957, was incredibly far ahead of its time, so that for many enthusiasts the Quad became forever associated with high-performance electrostats. Imagine the industry's collective surprise, then, when Quad rolled out its elegant and very affordable L-series piston-type loudspeakers. Some listeners have never quite forgiven the L models for not being electrostats, but the fact is that they carry forward the Quad family values of openness, neutrality, and overall accuracy in fine style, and with drop-dead gorgeous cabinetry, to boot. We summarize the L-models in our chart, and encourage open-minded readers to seek them out.



PSB's plasma-friendly VisionSound

RBH

www.rbhsound.com

For more than 27 years, Layton, UT-based RBH sound has been developing what it terms high performance loudspeakers that deliver superior acoustic reproduction at sensible prices. We're all for that, and for our chart chose to cover RBH's MC series speakers, which fall just one small step down from the firm's top-of-the-line Signature-series models. Actually, the step may not be a downward one at all, except in price, since RBH says its MC speakers feature the very same technology you will find in its flagship products. That technology includes aluminum-coned drive units, computer-optimized crossover networks, robust enclosures, and a distinctive front-baffle technology called RDAB (Resonance Damping Alloy Baffle).

Revel

www.revelspeakers.com

Many enthusiasts regard the speaker maker Revel as one of the crown jewels in the Harman International product family. One reason why is that Revel, led by chief technologist Kevin Voecks, has taken an empirical, research-driven approach to speaker development, using extensive blind-listening tests to determine which characteristics make speakers sound accurate and natural to most listeners. As a result, Revel's top-tier Ultima and Performa-series speakers have won critical acclaim, though both lines are priced beyond the budgets of many mainstream listeners. We were delighted, then, when Revel announced its markedly less expensive Concerta line of speakers, summarized in our chart. Based on our favorable experiences with the Concerta F12 floorstander (see the product review and Budget Speaker of the Year Award in *The Absolute Sound*), we think this line will be a great success.

Sonus faber

www.sonusfaber.com

Sonus faber is an Italian speaker maker that draws both design and

product implementation inspiration from the great Italian violin builders of Cremona (think Stradivarius and Guarneri). You can see the connection in the exquisite woodwork and rich amber-red finishes seen on many Sonus faber models, and hear it the warm, rich, resonant sound the speakers produce. The only catch? Most Sonus faber models have been very expensive, until the recent release of the Domus line of speakers. The Domus series represents a serious attempt to make Sonus faber sound-and-build quality available at mainstream prices. Our chart describes the Domus family offerings in detail, while we review a full Domus-series surround system in this issue.

Totem Acoustic

www.totemacoustic.com

Perhaps it has something to do with the mystical aspect of the company's name, but loudspeakers from Totem Acoustic have always enjoyed a reputation for enchantingly warm, organic voicing and magically three-dimensional imaging. Most Totem models share these qualities, though there are subtle variations from range to range, which may explain why company president Vince Bruzzese is fond of saying (with an audio shaman's grin), "You don't choose your Totem; your Totem chooses you." One Totem product line that has chosen a number of our reviewers is the Rainmaker



Revel's F12 Concerta





LOUDSPEAKERS

series, detailed in our chart. The Rainmakers have repeatedly received awards from *The Perfect Vision* and *The Absolute Sound*.

Triangle

www.triangle-fr.com

Triangle Electroacoustique is one of the three largest speaker makers in France, and the firm's products have consistently enjoyed an across-the-board reputation for producing a sound that is vibrant, lively and engaging, yet never exaggerated. Many of the firm's top models are targeted toward two-channel enthusiasts, but the Odyssey line, covered in detail in our chart, is different. In fact, the *raison d'être* of the Odyssey speaker family is to make the sound quality of Triangle's high-end models available in an affordable, compact, surround sound-friendly format. Also see the Triangle ES-series speakers featured in our chart.

Usher Audio

www.usherusa.net

The Taiwanese firm Usher Audio shows just how eclectic today's global audio industry has become. Many of Usher's speakers represent a successful collaboration between company president Lien-Shui Tsai and consulting engineer Dr. Joseph D'Appolito. Tsai establishes overall model concepts and provides precision manufacturing and testing know-how, while D'Appolito helps flesh out Tsai's ideas with his special expertise in speaker voicing and crossover design. The resulting speakers look and sound exceptionally refined and offer terrific value for money. For our chart, we chose two intersecting Usher product lines: the 6- and X-series speakers, which share a common center-channel speaker. At present, Usher does not offer powered subwoofers, but we suspect many listeners will find the 6-series floorstanders need no bass reinforcement.

Vienna Acoustics

www.vienna-acoustics.com

Some speaker manufacturers pursue high fidelity sound to a point where their products present an initially exciting (but ultimately fatiguing and false) illusion of clarity—an illusion created by exaggerating high frequencies or overdoing the edges of sharp transients in music and soundtracks. Happily, Vienna Acoustics has always thought differently, building speakers that offer understated, natural warmth and clarity that might seem unspectacular at first, but whose essential rightness wears well and grows on listeners over time. Would you expect anything less from a speaker company that hails from Mozart's hometown? For our chart, we highlight a range of models from Vienna's Grand-series lineup whose models are named for

famous composers. Despite their European origins and presently unfavorable euro-to-dollar exchange rates, the beautifully made Grands are surprisingly affordable.


Von Schweikert Audio

www.vonschweikert.com

There was a time when Von Schweikert Audio focused primarily on upscale, purist-oriented loudspeakers for two-channel enthusiasts, with top models selling for well over \$100k/pair (yowza!). But the good news for those of us who don't own multi-million dollar homes or use Lamborghinis to pick up groceries is that Von Schweikert has spent the last three or four years in painstaking development of highly affordable extensions to the firm's VSA-series speaker line, as highlighted in our chart. Today, Von Schweikert offers matched surround systems comprised of various VSA-series elements offered at special, deeply discounted package prices; complete 5.1-channel systems start well below \$4k.

Wharfedale

www.wharfedale.co.uk

Wharfedale is one of the oldest and most widely-known speaker manufacturers in Britain, but rather than resting on laurels from the past the company has pressed forward to develop international manufacturing capabilities that enable the firm to produce high performance products at very competitive prices. For our chart, we opted to include both Wharfedale's top-of-the-line Opus-series speakers and the famous Diamond 9-series models, which have earned a worldwide reputation for delivering exceptional value-for-money. The award-winning Diamond 9 models have been reviewed extensively in *The Absolute Sound* and in *AVguide Monthly* (a digital magazine that was one of the precursors to *The Perfect Vision*). 



Vienna Acoustics Mozart

Great theater deserves a great setting.



©2006 Sanus Systems. All Rights Reserved. Sanus, the Sanus logo, Steel, and The Union of Form and Function are trademarks of Sanus Systems.

One look and you understand the meaning of “timeless beauty” and the phrase, “rock-solid.” Such is the inspiration of Sanus Steel Furniture.

This exquisite family of flat panel TV bases and audio-video stands is designed to stand the test of time in strength and style. Constructed of heavy-gauge steel with a luxurious powder-coated finish, Steel Furniture is accented with polished-edge tempered glass shelves and engineered with an integrated wire management path. For contemporary style and a quality commitment that’s cast in stone, look to Sanus.

SANUS | **SYSTEMS**

THE UNION OF FORM AND FUNCTION

www.sanus.com 800.359.5520

Under \$4000



Paradigm Reference Studio V3 5-channel Speaker System

Full-range sound is its own reward. — by *Chris Martens*

The Paradigm Reference system reviewed here is based on two full-range Studio 100 floorstanders, two near full-range Studio 20 monitors used as surrounds, and a wide-range Studio CC-470 center channel—with no powered subwoofer at all. It's been a while since I tried a full-range system without a sub, and the results proved gratifying. The Studio system impressed me with its natural and neutral tonal balance, its effortless full-range sound, and especially with its transparency.

The system's accurate, well-balanced voicing became obvious as I sampled a broad range of musical and cinematic materials. Rather than imposing a characteristic sound of their own, the Studios always remained faithful to the program material at hand, meaning dark recordings sounded dark, bright recordings sounded bright, and accurate recordings sounded fabulous. In

particular, the Paradigms performed beautifully in the tricky transition region between upper bass and lower midrange—a region that often exposes jarring discontinuities in satellite/subwoofer systems. But with the Paradigm rig there were few discontinuities to reveal in the first place.

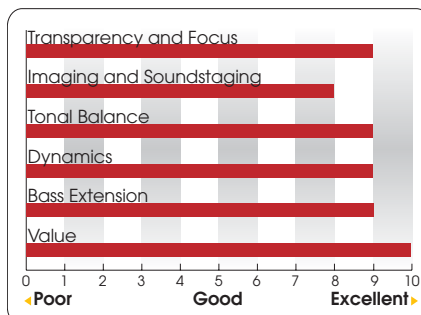
Did I miss having a sub? No, not one bit. On recordings such as Patricia Barber's "Regular Pleasures" from *Verse* [Blue Note], which features a recurrent concert bass drum theme, the Paradigms went down low with authority, and without boominess. In fact, bass was much better integrated than in most subwoofer-equipped systems. The only caveat is that the accuracy-oriented Paradigms won't produce the artificially souped-up bass some listeners prefer. So if you like your bass extra juicy, plan on using tone controls to fatten up the sound (or add one of Paradigm's powered subs).

Finally, I was drawn to the Studio system's transparency and resolution. Many otherwise good systems in this price range leave me feeling as if I have been listening through a thin layer of gauze, but not the Paradigms. They have an unexaggerated openness and clarity that make intricate passages and subtle details just plain fun to listen to. One such detail-rich passage is "The Flying Boat" sequence from *The Aviator*, which begins with Howard Hughes's and the flight engineer's tense voices and a delicious, three-dimensional swirl of engine startup sounds. In that scene, the Paradigms put listeners right on the flight deck.

Two minor flaws I would mention are a slight (very slight) tendency for upper midrange and extreme highs to sound a touch dry, and imaging that, though very tightly focused, is not quite

holographic—perhaps because Paradigm uses fairly large seven-inch mid-bass drivers that don't disperse as well as smaller drivers do. But these very minor shortcomings pale alongside the many things this system does right.

This system is a strong performer on films, but it's on music—especially complex and richly textured music—that the Paradigms' broad strengths shine most brightly. What's more, the Studios incorporate technology and design DNA from Paradigm's flagship Signature speakers (which I had on hand for comparison), making the affordable Studios a flat out bargain. **A+**



The Last Word



- Accurate tonal balance
- Top-to-bottom transparency
- Full range sound without a sub
- Value



- Slight upper midrange/treble dryness
- Focused but not quite holographic imaging

System Price

Studio 100 V3, \$2300/pair; Studio 20 V3, \$800/pair; Studio CC-470 V3, \$650

Manufacturer Information

Paradigm Electronics, Inc.
(905) 564-1994
www.paradigm.com



DALI IKON Loudspeaker System

Exotic, hybrid technologies at down-to-earth prices.

— by Barry Willis

IKON speakers employ DALI's signature hybrid tweeter modules and proprietary wood pulp/paper fiber woofers, with front-ported speakers offering extraordinary performance at a very accessible price.

I installed a pair of IKON 6 columns (\$1595/pair) as the front left/right pair, the \$595 IKON Vokal 2 as the center channel, and a pair of IKON 1 bookshelf speakers (\$795/pair) as surrounds in my review system. Later, I added the powerful and beautifully made \$995 IKON Sub to round out the system.

DALI's hybrid tweeters and wood-pulp woofers are a match made in heaven. Combining a 1-inch dome tweeter and small ribbon super-tweeter in close proximity, the hybrid tweeter module gives exceptionally smooth, extended high-frequency response. The woofers impart warmth without sacrificing dynamics or clarity.

The sonic result—open and airy treble, intimate but startling midrange clarity, effortless dynamics, good bass punch, and with the IKON Sub, wall-shaking power. As a stand-alone system the IKON 6 offers impressive bass per-

formance—amazingly deep for a loudspeaker its size, with a smooth low-end rolloff that implies bigger bass capability than the speaker really has. Adding the IKON Sub improved the sonic foundation, but not its tunefulness. Less-than-precise pitch definition makes the IKON Sub more a LFE home-theater device than a musical instrument.

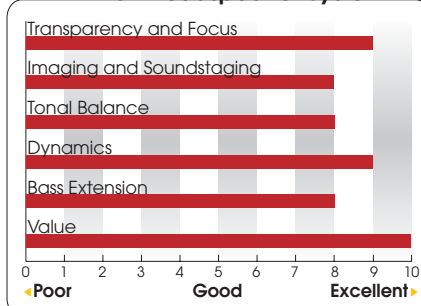
Compact size prevents the IKON Vokal 2 and the IKON 1 models from delivering really deep bass. They share all the positive characteristics of the IKON 6—open, extended treble; warm, clear mids, and punchy bottom end. In surround mode, the front three speakers presented a huge, seamless sonic wall. With the IKON 6's in stereo mode, imaging was deeper, more three-dimensional, but in both cases music was deeply involving. The IKON 1s also excelled as two-channel desktop hi-fi system using a Red Rose Music Spirit integrated amp.

The only thing the IKON system lacks is some weight and authority in the lower midrange/upper bass. Gary Karr's double bass, for example, had a lighter, cello-like tonality through the IKONs, a forgivable departure from absolute accuracy considering all they do right. As one colleague observed, "The little guys come so close to sounding like the big-buck DALI Helicons that it's downright scary." The IKON system is excellent by any measure, but at under \$4000 total is an outrageous bargain. The sub is decent, but the weak link in the system. Those who value low-frequency musicality should consider subwoofers from other makers. There are plenty of good ones at this price. Action movie fans will be delighted, however.

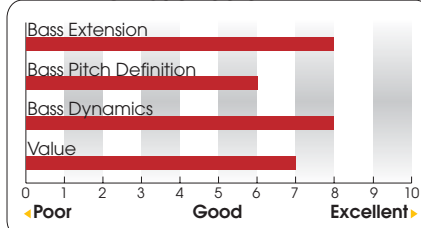
With high-def 50-inch plasma displays approaching the \$2000 price

point, and excellent A/V receivers available for \$1000, you can create home entertainment systems approaching state-of-the-art for well under \$10,000. The trend bodes well for everyone. **5.0**

DALI IKON Loudspeaker System



DALI IKON Subwoofer



The Last Word



- Pleasant, very musical tonality
- Open, airy treble presentation
- Warm, clear midrange
- Punchy bass
- Good build and finish quality
- Extraordinary value




- Diminished weight and authority in lower mids/upper bass
- Imaging more three-dimensional in stereo mode
- Subwoofer has mediocre pitch definition

System Price

\$3845 (IKON 6, \$1595/pair; IKON Vokal 2, \$595; IKON 1, \$795/pair; IKON Sub, \$995)

Manufacturer Information

DALI USA
(360) 733-4446
www.dali-usa.com

Under \$4000 

Energy Reference Connoisseur Series 5.1-channel Speaker System

Sophisticated, well-balanced, and oh-so-refined. — by Arnie Williams




During the three decades that Energy has been in business, the company has learned a thing or two about loudspeaker aesthetics, and we found the refined cherry wood finish of our Reference Connoisseur review system breathtaking. For main speakers we chose the tall, stately three-way, four-driver RC-70 floorstanders, while for the center channel we chose the RC-LCR. The RC-LCR has two outboard woofers with an oblique tweeter-between-two-mid-range-cones array that allows the speaker to work equally well in horizontal or vertical orientations. Rounding out the system were the four-driver RC-R surrounds (which come only in black ash), featuring user-selectable settings for dipolar, bipolar, or direct output. Since most of the speakers in the system are capable of reasonably extended low-frequency response, one could stop with this 5-channel system and have ample bass support, especially for music listening. But we chose to add the S12.3 subwoofer, just to give *Master and Commander* and other bass-rich films a thorough exploration.

The word refined, which I used to describe the appearance of the RC-70 and RC-LCR speakers, also is an apt description of the sound of the entire Reference Connoisseur system. It was as if my provincial country abode had

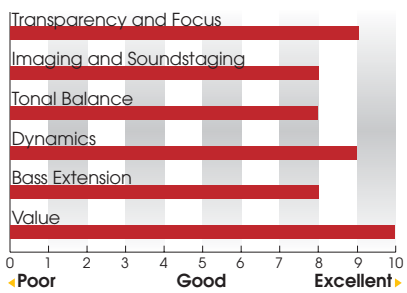
been visited by our distant sophisticated Manhattan-reared cousins. Energy recommends 100 hours of break-in for its speakers, but even after only 50 or so hours the Reference Connoisseurs improved considerably and on many levels. In my musical tests, the Reference Connoisseurs produced broad and deep soundstages, placing individual instrumentalists and voices in realistic 3D spaces. Cuts from Nickel Creek's eponymous album [Sugar Hill, SACD], Diana Krall's *The Girl in the Other Room* [Verve], and from James Taylor's *Hourglass* [Columbia, SACD] sounded more finely resolved than on any system I've heard recently. Small sonic textures that are often lost with lesser systems, were captured in fine detail by the Reference Connoisseurs.

Classic film sequences such as *Under Attack* from *Master and Commander* and *Echo Game* from *House of Flying Daggers* were superbly rendered. Thanks to the panoramic sound of the front and center channels, the atmospheric details provided by the surrounds, and the foundational power of the subwoofer, the sound of these films came alive as the directors intended. Rather than overpowering the room, the subwoofer presents bass so that the sound permeates the floor and spreads out in a lifelike way.

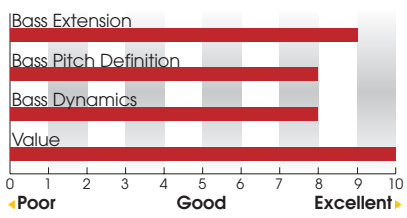
For under \$4k, you can sidestep all

those country-cousin speakers out there. This grouping is aptly named as a reference system for its acoustic refinement, which offers reference-level performance, which—with a bit of prudent saving—almost any enthusiast can afford. 

Energy Reference Connoisseur system



Energy S12.3 subwoofer



The Last Word



- Neutral tonal balance
- Overall refined sound
- Design technology
- Transparency
- Soundstaging and 3D detail
- Exquisite appearance



- Need robust components for system support (which could be a plus)
- Other room furniture may "pale" in comparison

System Price

\$3700 (RC-70, \$2000/pr.; RC-R, \$600/pair; RC-LCR, \$300; S-12.3 subwoofer, \$800)

Manufacturer Information

Audio Products International
(416) 321-1800
www.energy-speakers.com

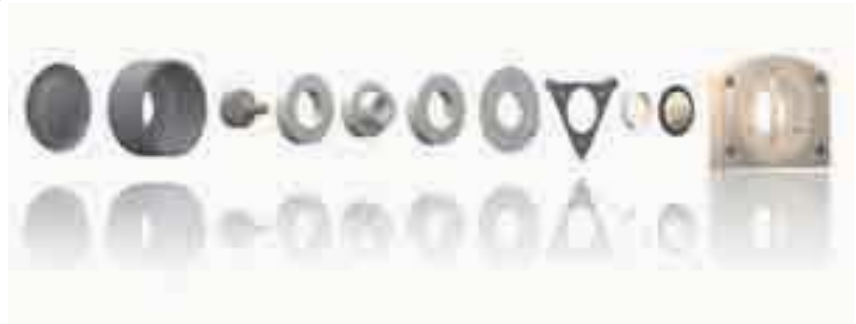
“... incredible performance ... simply spectacular ... you're in the presence of EXTRAORDINARY SOUND.”



— Marc Mickelson, SoundStage! on the S8



Signature Series



In designing Signature our objective was clear—to move significantly beyond anything currently available by applying the highest level of design and technical innovation. Signature's tweeter is just one example. The deep gold-anodizing process used on the G-PAL™ dome provides exceptional rigidity, without adding mass. Innovative ARB™ Aperiodic Resonance Breakup fins capture and disperse even the smallest residual internal resonance. Super Neodymium magnets and unique external heatsinks ensure vastly superior power handling. Power response is uncompressed and immediate, with lightning speed.

What emerges is an audiophile's dream—breathtaking clarity, exquisite detail, completely uncolored, uncompromised sound. In reviewing Signature, perhaps *SoundStage!* puts it best: “... a technical tour de force ... one of the best ... the one others have to rival.”

We invite you to visit your local dealer to experience the extraordinary sound of Paradigm® Reference Signature for yourself.



Signature Series

A HIGHER LEVEL OF TRANSPARENCY™

\$4000-\$6000



PSB VisionSound 5.1-channel Speaker System

Versatile with a capital "V." — by Chris Martens

PSB's plasma-friendly VisionSound speaker line includes the floor-standing VS400 and the stand-alone/wall-mount VS300, available in black or titanium finishes. Our review system consisted of five VS300 satellites plus a 150-watt SubSeries 5i subwoofer.

The flexible VS300s work equally well in vertical or horizontal orientations, and as freestanding or on-wall speakers. The speakers provide two switch-selectable crossover settings—NORMAL, for freestanding applications, and ON-WALL, a setting that compensates for wall bounce and other on-wall response anomalies. The VS300s ship with adjustable wall-mount brackets and center-channel feet, but can be converted for vertical, tabletop use via a kit that provides bolt-on, pedestal-type stands. We used our VS300 mains and surrounds in tabletop configurations.

The VS300 system's tonal balance falls just on the warm side of neutrality,

with punchy bass, a vibrant midrange, and clear but slightly understated highs. This balance represents a smart compromise on PSB's part because it makes the VS300s relatively tolerant of modest electronics while still enabling the system to sound vivid and engaging. I was impressed by how articulate and detailed the VS300's midrange was, and by how loudly the system could play.

PSB's VisionSounds use new long-throw, four-inch midbass drivers that push bass response down to a respectable 68Hz. More importantly, the drivers reproduce midrange details with terrific subtlety and nuance. On "Speak" from Nickelcreek's *This Side* [Telarc, SACD], they rendered the delicate inflections of Sara Watkin's lead vocals and the surround-channel whippers with downright eerie accuracy.

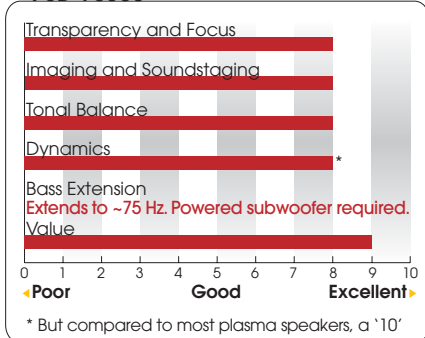
Spatially, the VS300s reach for, and almost achieve, holographic surround-sound imaging. The only problem is that faint traces of upper midrange/lower treble coarseness occasionally disrupt the system's otherwise three-dimensional presentation. Fortunately, the problem occurs infrequently, and can be mitigated by extended break-in, which helps smooth the VS300's sound.

The SubSeries 5i subwoofer sounded punchy, providing very good bass pitch definition, and decent though not exceptional bass extension. At first, the system's mid-bass sounded overly ripe, but careful placement and bass management adjustments yielded clear and potent bass sufficient even for the overblown effects heard in *King Kong*.

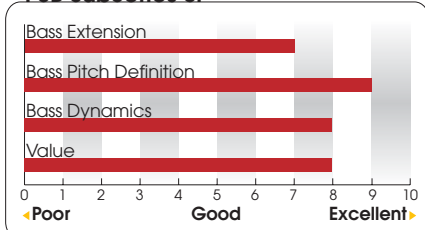
In fact, the VS300s and SubSeries 5i could really crank when the need arose, maintaining composure even during the abrupt dynamic shifts that accompany several of the jump-cut scenes in *Crash*. More than most plasma speaker systems, the VisionSound rig offers serious dynamic wallop.

PSB's VisionSound 300 system offers the rich, suave, sound quality you'd expect from a big freestanding speaker system, but in the sleek, visually unobtrusive format of a plasma system. Add to that the VS300's flexible mounting options and sophisticated crossover networks, and you've got speakers whose versatility is tough to beat. **5.0**

PSB VS300



PSB SubSeries 5i



The Last Word



- Articulate midrange
- Good bass pitch definition
- Gutsy dynamics
- Versatility



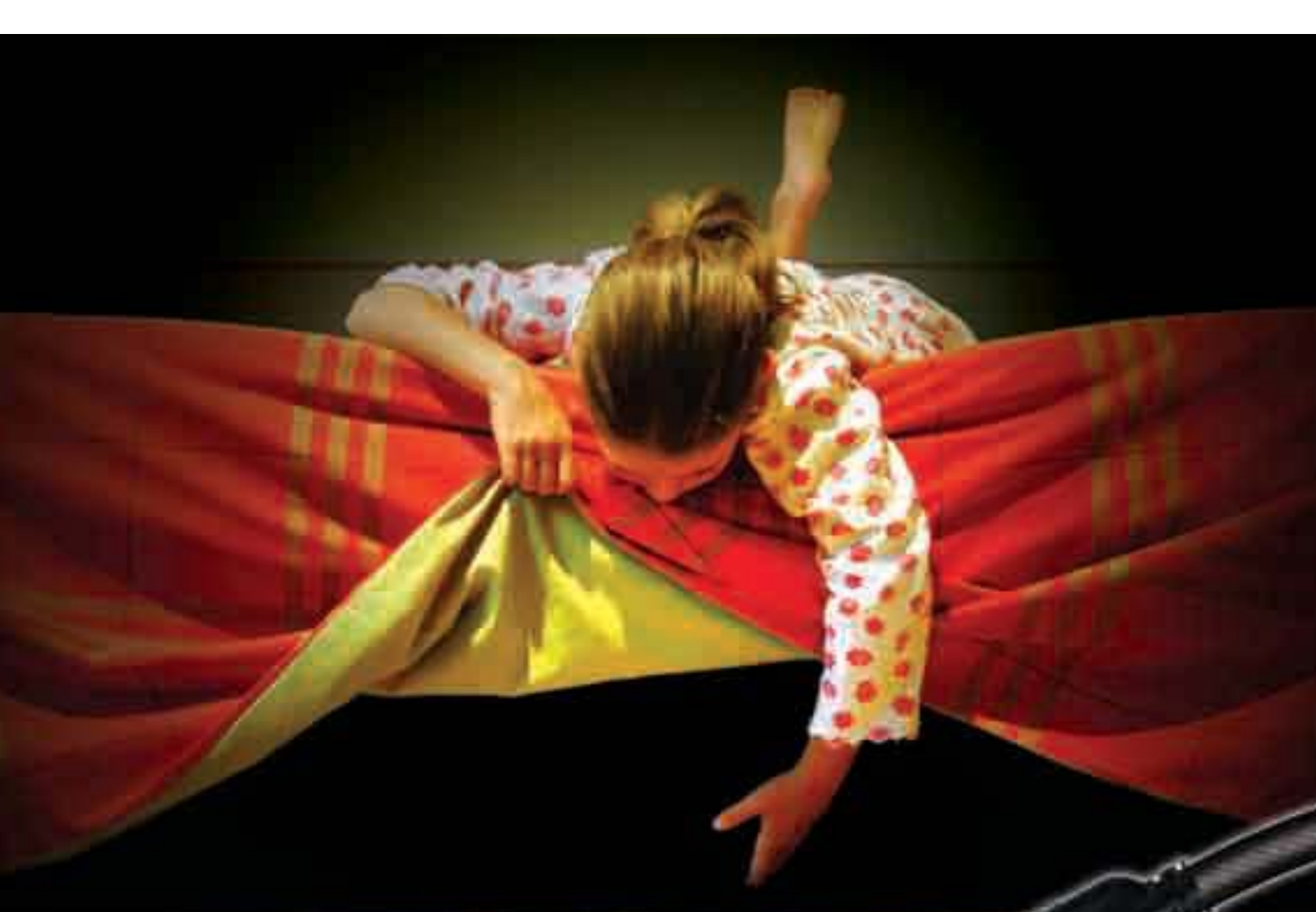
- Occasional upper midrange/lower treble coarseness mars 3D imaging
- Bass could go even lower

System Price

\$4742 (VS300s, \$749 each; VS300 stands, \$249/pair; SubSeries 5i, \$499)

Manufacturer Information

PSB Speakers
(888) 772-0000
www.psbSpeakers.com



NOT UNDER YOUR BED.
NOT IN YOUR CLOSET.
AND FOR GOODNESS SAKE,

**NOT IN YOUR
HOME THEATER**

Ethereal's EM Series cables deliver performance surpassing other brands' upgrade lines. The EM Component cable uses Ethereal's compression shield termination to eliminate noise and interference for accurate sound and vibrant pictures. The EM HDMI cable is HDMI-certified to ensure your system receives the high-definition quality for which you made your investment.

Ethereal's flagship Elite HDMI cable delivers five gigabytes of data per second, leaving plenty of bandwidth to accommodate future standards. Believe in facts, not myths.



ethereal

GROW UP!

www.etherealhometheater.com



HDMI

The HDMI logo and High-Definition Multimedia Interface are trademarks or registered trademarks of HDMI Licensing LLC.



Over \$6000



Sonus faber Domus 5-channel Speaker System

A delicious taste of egalitarian refinement. — *by Neil Gader*

Few loudspeaker companies are more intimately connected with high-end audio than Italy's Sonus faber. Its aristocratic designs evoke the craftsmanship and the culture of the legendary Cremonese violin makers and a taste of *la dolce vita*. But there is another facet to the Sonus faber personality that is not immediately evident as you sip your espresso and admire the speakers' lute-inspired woodwork, a facet summed up in the word Domus, Latin for *house* or *home*. Domus is Sonus faber's latest collection of loudspeakers, which have been purposefully designed to fit any media habitat—a quality that should resonate with both music and home theater aficionados.

The Concerto Domus, a two-way, bass-reflex design, is the smaller of two floorstanders that the Domus series offers. Attention to detail is evident everywhere you look—for example, in the way that the tweeter nestles close to the mid-bass driver thanks to its scalloped mounting plate. The mid-bass driver features a vented phase plug design for low-compression performance. A heavy, crackle-finished steel pedestal bolts to the Concerto's base for stability, while adjustable spikes tilt the Concerto back a few degrees for transducer time alignment. The Center Domus is a dual woofer, three-way center channel speaker that sports a 3.5-inch midrange unit, plus an integral mounting plinth. The Concertino

Domus, in turn, is ideal for surround duty where a petite monopole is desired.

The voice of the Concerto Domus is expressive on macro and micro levels, and its seductive warmth is non-fatiguing across the octaves. The speaker's generally well-controlled bass offers good pitch definition and confident extension down to the upper 30Hz range. There is, though, a mid-bass warmth region that, at its best, enriches acoustic bass lines, bassoons, and bass drums. The treble range, while not anvil flat owing to a shallow dip in the presence region, has an inherent sweetness that reflects the quality of the Concerto's ring radiator tweeter. The most obvious beneficiaries are vocals of all stripes. For example, the deep sonorities of bass-baritone Bryn Terfel on "Shenandoah" [*Sings Favourites*:

DG] are lush and expressive, while deep waves of energy from lower strings have cushion-like underpinnings that give the orchestra a much needed foundation.

Soundstages are wide with better than average dimensionality, and the sweet spot invitingly large. Images and low-level details are cleanly drawn

REL R-305 subwoofer

For those seeking another half an octave of bass slam from the Domus system, REL Acoustics has your ride with its new R-Series subwoofers. The R-305 is a small footprint, sealed-box unit with a 10-inch woofer backed by 300W Class D power. Beautifully executed in a black piano finish with sporty panel strakes and aluminum accents, it offers a front panel control module with controls for phase, low pass, and gain. The module is easily removable for placement in a location of the users choosing. Performance is as visceral as it is musical, with bass extension to the mid-20Hz range. The match between the REL R-305 subwoofer and Sonus satellites is so pure that the sub almost seems to intuit what the other speakers are thinking.





without artificially etched edges. During Jackson Browne's "Color Of the Sun" [*Greatest Hits*: Asylum] there's an alternating hi-hat figure that varies in intensity and character with each strike—a distinction the Concertos make clear, conjuring up the live listening experience.

Topping my list impressions is the Concerto's combination of midband dynamic liveliness and lower range oomph—muscular attributes I don't normally associate with Sonus speakers. Whether it's the propulsive kick drum intro of the Police's "Murder By Numbers" [*Synchronicity*: A&M] or the bottomless, flat-pick electric bass of Mary Chapin-Carpenter's "Stones in the Road" [*Party Doll*: Columbia], a bit of the beast hides beneath this system's beauty. Fortunately, low-end guttiness rarely interferes with the finer points of bass pitch and definition. Only near its prodigious limits does the Concerto give the sense that its reflex port is shouldering too much of the

burden, making the bottom end sound somewhat under damped. There is also a slight softness on upper-midrange and lower-treble transients.

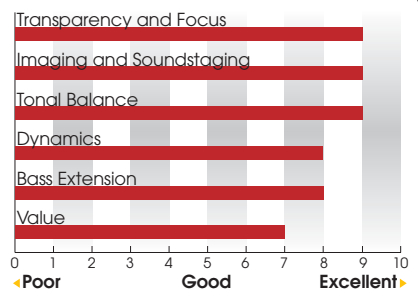
Two factors elevate the performance of the Domus multichannel system. The first is the performance of the Center Domus—home theater's perennial beast of burden. Atypically, Sonus has added a midrange transducer to create a center channel that can master not only the dynamic demands of summer blockbusters, but also the delicate details of low-level dialogue or of solo violins. The Center Domus showed unflinching energy and dynamism in the face

of the T-Rex tag-team ambush during *King Kong*—where the scale and weight of Kong's labored breathing blew me back in my seat!

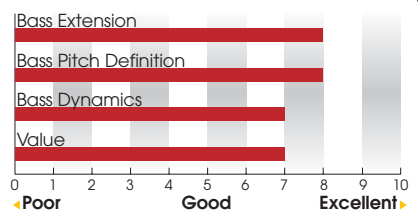
The second essential ingredient is the unified family voicing of the system, which empowers a soundfield to reproduce ambient cues while simultaneously reproducing a barrage of bullets from *The Matrix*, or the buttery smooth panning heard during a dynamite sequence early on in *North Country*. Continuity of voice is exceptionally important if you enjoy multichannel music, such as Elton John's multichannel SACD remixes of *Honky Chateau* or *Captain Fantastic*, where surround channels not only provide ambience, but also the punctuated sounds of a mandolin, a horn section, or a vocal chorus. The fact is that our ears are keenly sensitive to whatever timbral discontinuities there might be in multichannel speaker systems—a problem that never arises with the Domus system because its elements speak with one common voice.

The Sonus faber Domus System combines refinement, evanescent musicality and excitement in equal measures—and a free-wheeling character that's as much at home in the mosh pit as in the orchestra pit. Whatever theater of entertainment you choose, Sonus faber has designed the Domus to make you feel right at home—perhaps to never leave home. **5.0**

Sonus faber Domus system



REL R-305 subwoofer



The Last Word



- Exceptional balance for music and cinema
- Dynamite center channel
- Gorgeous fit and finish



- Transient softness
- Conservative styling not for everyone

System Price

\$6285, or \$7880 with REL subwoofer (Domus Concerto, \$3495/pair; Domus Concertino, \$1495/pair; Domus Center, \$1295; optional REL R-305 subwoofer, \$1595)

Manufacturer Information

Sonus Faber
www.sonusfaber.com

Rel Acoustics
www.rel.net

Distributor Information

Sumiko Audio
(510) 841-4500
www.sumikoaudio.net

BG+ PRODUCT LISTING

MANUFACTURER/ SPEAKER FAMILY	(SYSTEM PRICE STARTS AT)	MODEL	DESCRIPTION	INTENDED APPLICATION	UNIT PRICE	TPV/TAS	TPV/TAS PRODUCT REVIEWS	TPV/TAS PRODUCT AWARDS?	DRIVER COMPLEMENT	FREQUENCY RESPONSE	IMPEDANCE	SENSITIVITY	POWER HANDLING	SPECIAL FEATURES	AMP POWER (SUBWOOFERS)	
B&W																
700-Series ★, 600-Series 3 [\$3050 (700-Series); \$1650 (600-Series 3)]	703	Floorstander, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$3000/pr	TPV 54	TPV EC '04, '05	2w+1m+1t	38 Hz - 25 kHz	8 Ohms	90 dB	50 - 200 watts	Woven Kevlar cone	—	—	—	
	704	Floorstander, 2 1/2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$2200/pr	TAS 147	TAS EC '04, '05 TAS Golden Ear '04; TAS PDV '04	1w+1m+1t	40 Hz - 25 kHz	8 Ohms	90 dB	50 - 150 watts	Woven Kevlar cone	—	—	—	
	705	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1500/pr	TPV 54	TPV EC '04, '05	1w + t	46 Hz - 25 kHz	8 Ohms	89 dB	50 - 120 watts	Woven Kevlar cone	—	—	—	
	HTM7	Monitor, 2-way	Center Channel	\$750/ea	TPV 54	TPV EC '04, '05	1w + t	50 Hz - 25 kHz	8 Ohms	91 dB	50 - 120 watts	Woven Kevlar cone	—	—	—	
	DS7	On-wall Surround, 2-way	Surround	\$1500/pr	TPV 54	TPV EC '04, '05	1w+2m+1t	80 Hz - 22 kHz	8 Ohms	89 dB	25 - 120 watts	Dipole/Monopole	—	—	—	
	DM604 S3	Floorstander, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1400/pr			2w+1m+1t	39 Hz - 22 kHz	8 Ohms	90 dB	25 - 200 watts	Woven Kevlar cone	—	—	—	
	DM603 S3	Floorstander, 2 1/2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1000/pr			1w+1m+1t	44 Hz - 22 kHz	8 Ohms	90 dB	25 - 150 watts	Woven Kevlar cone	—	—	—	
	DM602.5 S3	Floorstander, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$700/pr	TAS 137	TAS EC '04	1w + t	50 Hz - 22 kHz	8 Ohms	88 dB	25 - 100 watts	Woven Kevlar cone	—	—	—	
	DM602 S3	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$600/pr			1w + t	49 Hz - 22 kHz	8 Ohms	90 dB	25 - 150 watts	Woven Kevlar cone	—	—	—	
	DM601 S3	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$450/pr	TPV 53		1w + t	60 Hz - 22 kHz	8 Ohms	88 dB	25 - 100 watts	Woven Kevlar cone	—	—	—	
	DM600 S3	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$350/pr	TPV 53		1w + t	75 Hz - 22 kHz	8 Ohms	88 dB	25 - 100 watts	Woven Kevlar cone	—	—	—	
	LCR600 S3	Monitor, 2 1/2-way	L/R Main, Center Ch.	\$500/ea			1m + t	60 Hz - 22 kHz	8 Ohms	89 dB	25 - 150 watts	Woven Kevlar cone	—	—	—	
	LCR60 S3	Monitor, 2 1/2-way	L/R Main, Center Ch.	\$350/ea	TPV 53		1m + t	70 Hz - 22 kHz	8 Ohms	88 dB	25 - 120 watts	Woven Kevlar cone	—	—	—	
	DS6 S3	On-wall Surround, 2-way	Surround	\$700/pr			1w+2m+1t	85 Hz - 22 kHz	8 Ohms	89 dB	25 - 100 watts	Dipole/Monopole	—	—	—	
	CD S6 S3	On-wall Surround, 2-way	Surround	\$700/pr			1w+2m+1t	85 Hz - 22 kHz	8 Ohms	89 dB	25 - 100 watts	Dipole/Monopole	—	—	—	
	ASW 600	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$500/ea	TPV 53		1sw	26 Hz - 150 Hz	—	—	150 watts	Paper/Kevlar cone	150 watts	—	—	
	ASW 650	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$700/ea			1sw	25 Hz - 150 Hz	—	—	200 watts	Paper/Kevlar cone	200 watts	—	—	
	ASW 675	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$1000/ea			1sw	22 Hz - 110 Hz	—	—	500 watts	Paper/Kevlar cone	500 watts	—	—	
ASW 700	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$1300/ea			1sw	22 Hz - 110 Hz	—	—	500 watts	Paper/Kevlar cone	500 watts	—	—		
ASW 750	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$1600/ea	TPV 54	TPV EC '04, '05	1sw	20 Hz - 110 Hz	—	—	1000 watts	Paper/Kevlar cone	1000 watts	—	—		
PV1	Powered Subwoofer	Compact Subwoofer	\$1500/ea			2sw	21 Hz - 110 Hz	—	—	500 watts	Round like bowling ball	500 watts	—	—		
Canton																
Ergo-Series [\$5,300]	Ergo 611 DC	Floorstander, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$4000/pr			2w+1m+1t	20 Hz-40 kHz	4..8 Ohms	89 dB	200 - 350 watts	Displacement Control technology	—	—	—	
	Ergo 609 DC	Floorstander, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$3200/pr			2w+1m+1t	20 Hz-40 kHz	4..8 Ohms	88 dB	170 - 320 watts	Displacement Control technology	—	—	—	
	Ergo 607 DC	Floorstander, 2 1/2 way	L/R Main, Surround	\$2400/pr			1w+1m+1t	25 Hz-40 kHz	4..8 Ohms	87.5 dB	110 - 170 watts	Displacement Control technology	—	—	—	
	Ergo 605 CM	Monitor, 2 1/2 way	Center Channel	\$1000/ea			1w+1m+1t	26 Hz-40 kHz	4..8 Ohms	87.9 dB	110 - 160 watts	None	—	—	—	
	Ergo 603	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1600/pr			1w + t	27 Hz-40 kHz	4..8 Ohms	87 dB	90 - 140 watts	None	—	—	—	
	Ergo 602	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1400/pr			1w + t	33 Hz-40 kHz	4..8 Ohms	86.5 dB	90 - 130 watts	None	—	—	—	
	Ergo 601	On-wall Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1000/pr			1w + t	40 Hz-40 kHz	4..8 Ohms	86 dB	60 - 100 watts	None	—	—	—	
	Ergo AS650 SC	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$1800/ea			1sw	20 Hz-200 Hz	—	—	200 - 350 watts	Room compensation switch	350 watts	—	—	
	DALI															
	IKON-Series ★ [\$2,980]	IKON 7	Floorstander, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$2100/pr			3w + 2t	36 Hz-30 kHz	6 Ohms	92 dB	25 - 200 watts	Bi-wire	—	—	—
IKON 6		Floorstander, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1895/pr	In this issue...		2w + 2t	37 Hz-30 kHz	6 Ohms	91.5 dB	25 - 150 watts	Bi-wire	—	—	—	
IKON 5		Floorstander, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1350/pr			2w + 2t	39 Hz-30 kHz	8 Ohms	88 dB	30 - 125 watts	Bi-wire	—	—	—	
IKON 2		Monitor, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1050/pr			1w + 2t	42 Hz-30 kHz	8 Ohms	88 dB	30 - 120 watts	Bi-wire	—	—	—	
IKON 1		Monitor, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$795/pr	In this issue...		1w + 2t	43 Hz-30 kHz	8 Ohms	87 dB	25 - 100 watts	None	—	—	—	
IKON Vokal 1		Monitor, 3-way	Center Channel	\$595/ea	In this issue...		2w + 2t	55 Hz-30 k Hz	8 Ohms	89 dB	25 - 150 watts	Bi-wire	—	—	—	
IKON Vokal 1		Monitor, 2-way	Center Channel	\$395/ea			2w + t	78 Hz-26 kHz	8 Ohms	87.5 dB	25 - 100 watts	None	—	—	—	
IKON On-Wall		On-wall Monitor, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$950/pr			1w + 2t	57 Hz-30 kHz	8 Ohms	89.5 dB	25 - 100 watts	Designed to be wall-hung	—	—	—	
IKON Sub		Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$995/ea			1sw	26 Hz - 200 Hz	—	—	250 watts	None	250 watts	—	—	
IKON Phantom		In-wall Monitor	L/R Main, Surround	\$495/ea			N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	In-Wall	—	—	
Definitive Technology																
BiPolar Series ★ [\$2995 with built-in powered subs in all channels; \$2197 with passive surrounds.]	BP 7002	Floorstander, 3-way w/ built-in Powered Subwoofer	L/R Main, Surround + Subwoofer	\$1099/ea			1w+4m+2t	15 Hz - 30 kHz	8 Ohms	92 dB	20 - 400 watts	w/2 Infrasonic Radiators	300 watts	—	—	
	BP 7004	as above	as above	\$799/ea	TAS 148	TAS EC '04, '05	1w+2m+2t	16 Hz - 30 kHz	8 Ohms	92 dB	20 - 350 watts	w/2 Infrasonic Radiators	300 watts	—	—	
	BP 7006	as above	as above	\$599/ea			1w+2m+2t	17 Hz - 30 kHz	8 Ohms	92 dB	20 - 250 watts	w/2 Infrasonic Radiators	300 watts	—	—	
	C/L/R 3000	Monitor, 3-way, with built-in Powered Subwoofer	Center Channel, L/R Main, Surround + Subwoofer	\$999/ea			1w+2m+1t	19 Hz - 30 kHz	4..8 Ohms	91 dB	20 - 400 watts	D'Appolito Array	150 watts	—	—	
	C/L/R 2500	as above	as above	\$799/ea			1w+2m+1t	20 Hz - 30 kHz	4..8 Ohms	91 dB	20 - 300 watts	D'Appolito Array	150 watts	—	—	
	C/L/R 2300	as above	as above	\$599/ea			1w+2m+1t	22 Hz - 30 kHz	4..8 Ohms	91 dB	20 - 250 watts	D'Appolito Array	150 watts	—	—	
	BPVXP	Surround, 3-way, with built-in Powered Subwoofer	Surround + Subwoofer	\$749/ea			2w+2m+2t	23 Hz - 30 kHz	4..8 Ohms	91 dB	20 - 400 watts	Gloss black	125 watts	—	—	
	BPVX	Surround, 2-way	Surround	\$549/ea			4m + 2t	31 Hz - 30 kHz	4..8 Ohms	90 dB	20 - 400 watts	Black or white	—	—	—	
	BPX	Surround, 2-way	Surround	\$450/ea			4m + 2t	38 Hz - 30 kHz	4..8 Ohms	90 dB	15 - 350 watts	Black or white	—	—	—	
	BP2X	Surround, 2-way	Surround	\$250/ea			2m + t	45 Hz - 30 kHz	4..8 Ohms	90 dB	10 - 200 watts	Black or white	—	—	—	
BP1.2X	Surround, 2-way	Surround	\$175/ea			2m + t	52 Hz - 30 kHz	4..8 Ohms	90 dB	10 - 125 watts	Black or white	—	—	—		
Dynaudio																
Audience-Series, Focus-Series, associated sub-woofer family [\$3,150 (Audience Series); \$4,800 (Focus Series)]	Audience 122	Floorstander, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1800/pr			2w + t	41 Hz - 22 kHz	6 Ohms	86 dB	up to 200 watts	Magnetically-shielded	—	—	—	
	Audience 82	Floorstander, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$2800/pr			2w+1m+1t	26 Hz - 21 kHz	4 Ohms	87 dB	up to 300 watts	Separate mid-range chamber	—	—	—	
	Audience 72 SE	Floorstander, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$2500/pr	TPV 66, TAS 160		2w + t	28 Hz - 24 kHz	4 Ohms	86 dB	up to 210 watts	Special Edition - Upgraded Drivers	—	—	—	
	Audience 72	Floorstander, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1900/pr			1w + t	28 Hz - 25 kHz	4 Ohms	86 dB	up to 210 watts	None	—	—	—	
	Audience 62	Floorstander, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1400/pr			2w + t	38 Hz - 25 kHz	4 Ohms	86 dB	up to 150 watts	None	—	—	—	
	Audience 52 SE	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1500/pr	TPV 66, TAS 149	TAS EC '04, '05	1m + t	45 Hz - 26 kHz	4 Ohms	86 dB	up to 150 watts	Special Edition - Upgraded Drivers	—	—	—	
	Audience 52	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1100/pr			1w + t	52 Hz - 24 kHz	4 Ohms	86 dB	up to 150 watts	None	—	—	—	
	Audience 42	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$850/pr			1w + t	53 Hz - 28 kHz	4 Ohms	86 dB	up to 150 watts	None	—	—	—	
	Audience 42 W	On-wall Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$950/pr			1w + t	56 Hz - 22 kHz	4 Ohms	86 dB	up to 150 watts	On-Wall	—	—	—	
	Audience 122 C	Monitor, 2-way	Center Channel	\$900/ea	TPV 66		2w + t	46 Hz - 23 kHz	6 Ohms	86 dB	up to 200 watts	Magnetically-shielded	—	—	—	
	Audience 42 C	Monitor, 2-way	Center Channel	\$450/ea			1w + t	55 Hz - 27 kHz	4 Ohms	85 dB	up to 150 watts	Magnetically-shielded	—	—	—	
	Focus 220	Floorstander, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$3000/pr			2w + t	32 Hz - 25 kHz	4 Ohms	87 dB	up to 250 watts	Esotec+ Drivers	—	—	—	
	Focus 140	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1800/pr			1w + t	41 Hz - 25 kHz	4 Ohms	87 dB	up to 200 watts	Esotec+ Drivers	—	—	—	
	Focus 110	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1400/pr			1w + t	45 Hz - 25 kHz	4 Ohms	85 dB	up to 150 watts	Esotec+ Drivers	—	—	—	
	Focus 200C	Monitor, 2-way	Center Channel	\$1000/ea			2w + t	38 Hz - 25 kHz	4 Ohms	87 dB	up to 250 watts	Magnetically-shielded, Esotec+ Drivers	—	—	—	
	Sub 500	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$2000/ea			1sw	18 Hz - 250 Hz	—	—	up to 250 watts	None	250 watts	—	—	
	Sub 300	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$1500/ea			1sw	25 Hz - 250 Hz	—	—	up to 250 watts	None	250 watts	—	—	
	Sub 250	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$1000/ea	TPV 66		1sw	29 Hz - 250 Hz	—	—	up to 200 watts	None	200 watts	—	—	
Energy																
Reference Connoisseur-Series ★ [\$1,750]	RC-70	Floorstander, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$2000/pr	In this issue...		2w+1m+1t	31 Hz - 30 kHz	8 Ohms	92 dB	up to 250 watts	None	—	—	—	
	RC-50	Floorstander, 2 1/2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1500/pr			2w + t	33 Hz - 23 kHz	8 Ohms	91 dB	up to 225 watts	None	—	—	—	
	RC-30	Floorstander, 2 1/2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1000/pr			2w + t	40 Hz - 23 kHz	8 Ohms	92 dB	up to 200 watts	None	—	—	—	
	RC-10	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$550/pr			1w + t	50 Hz - 23 kHz	8 Ohms	88 dB	up to 175 watts	Magnetically-shielded	—	—	—	
	RC-LCR	Monitor 3-way	L/R Main, Center Channel, Surround	\$300/ea	In this issue...		2w+2m+1t	48 Hz - 23 kHz	8 Ohms	89 dB	up to 200 watts	Magnetically-shielded	—	—	—	
	RC-R	Surround, 3-way	Surround	\$300/ea	In this issue...		1w+2m+1t	58 Hz - 23 kHz	8 Ohms	90 dB	up to 125 watts	Dipole/bipole/direct radiating	—	—	—	
S-12.3	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$800/ea	In this issue...		1sw	19 Hz - 120 Hz	—	—	up to 300 watts	None	300 watts	—	—		

LEGEND: ★ = top pick m = midrange t = tweeter w = woofer sw = subwoofer e = electrostatic

BG+ PRODUCT LISTING

MANUFACTURER/ SPEAKER FAMILY	SYSTEM PRICE STARTS AT	MODEL	DESCRIPTION	INTENDED APPLICATION	UNIT PRICE	TPV/TAS PRODUCT REVIEWS	TPV/TAS PRODUCT AWARDS?	DRIVER COMPLEMENT	FREQUENCY RESPONSE	IMPEDANCE	SENSITIVITY	POWER HANDLING	SPECIAL FEATURES	AMP POWER (SUBWOOFERS)
Epos														
		S-10.3	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$500/ea			1sw	21 Hz - 120 Hz	—	—	up to 200 watts	None	200 watts
		S-8.3	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$350/ea			1sw	27 Hz - 120 Hz	—	—	up to 100 watts	None	100 watts
M-Series, and ELS-Series ★ (\$2595 (M-Series w/ELS sub); \$1653 (ELS-Series))														
		M22	Floorstander, 2 1/2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1995/pr	AVG M 10		1w+1m+1t	38 Hz - 20 kHz	6 Ohms	87 dB	up to 150 watts	Tri-wirable	—
		M15.2	Floorstander, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1895/pr			1w + 1t	48 Hz - 20 kHz	8 Ohms	87 dB	up to 120 watts	Bi-wire	—
		M12.2	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$895/pr			1w + 1t	58 Hz - 20 kHz	8 Ohms	87 dB	up to 120 watts	Bi-wire	—
		M5	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$650/pr			1w + 1t	60 Hz - 20 kHz	4 Ohms	88 dB	up to 100 watts	Fully shielded	—
		M8	Monitor, 2-way	Center Channel	\$600/ea			2w + 1t	60 Hz - 20 kHz	8 Ohms	87 dB	up to 100 watts	Magnetically-shielded	—
		ELS 303	Floorstander, 2 1/2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$695/pr			2w + 1t	48 Hz - 20 kHz	4 Ohms	87 dB	50 - 200 watts	None	—
		ELS 3	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$329/pr	AVG M 13, TAS 152	TPV EC '03	1w + 1t	65 Hz - 20 kHz	4 Ohms	87 dB	25 - 100 watts	None	—
		ELS 3C	Monitor, 2-way	Center Channel	\$300/ea	AVG M 13, TAS 153	TPV EC '04	2w + 1t	65 Hz - 20 kHz	8 Ohms	87 dB	25 - 100 watts	None	—
		ELS Sub	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$695/ea	AVG M 13, TAS 154	TPV EC '05	1sw	20 Hz - 150 Hz	4 Ohms	89 dB	300 watts	None	300 watts
Final Sound														
150i-Series (\$3,649)														
		150i	On-wall Electrostatic Monitor	L/R Main, Surround:	\$1250/pr			Electrostatic	130 Hz-25 kHz	8 Ohms	86 dB	35 - 50 watts	Electrostatic;2-in. deep	—
		150i Center	On-wall Electrostatic Monitor	Center Channel:	\$750/ea			Electrostatic	130 Hz-25 kHz	8 Ohms	86 dB	35 - 50 watts	Electrostatic;2-in. deep	—
		Sub 200	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$999/ea			1sw	25 Hz - 225 Hz	—	—	160 watts	None	160 watts
		Sub 100	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$799/ea			1sw	35 Hz - 240 Hz	—	—	100 watts	None	100 watts
		Sub 90	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$399/ea			1sw	40 Hz - 300 Hz	—	—	60 watts	None	60 watts
Focal														
Cobalt S-Series (\$3,935)														
		Cobalt 826 S	Floorstander, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$2695/pr	TPV 50	TPV EC '04, '05	2w+1m+1t	40 Hz - 22 kHz	8 Ohms	92 dB	25 - 125 watts	None	—
		Cobalt 816 S	Floorstander, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1895/pr			1w+1m+1t	43 Hz - 22 kHz	8 Ohms	91.5 dB	25 - 100 watts	None	—
		Cobalt 806 S	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1095/pr			1w + 1t	50 Hz - 22 kHz	8 Ohms	90 dB	20 - 60 watts	None	—
		Cobalt SR 800 S	Monitor, 2-way	Surround	\$795/pr	TPV 50	TPV EC '04, '05	1w + 1t	65 Hz - 22 kHz	8 Ohms	90.5 dB	20 - 60 watts	None	—
		Cobalt CC 800 S	Monitor, 2-way	Center Channel	\$650/ea	TPV 50	TPV EC '04, '05	2w + 1t	60 Hz - 22 kHz	8 Ohms	92.5 dB	20 - 80 watts	None	—
		Cobalt SW 800 S	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$1095/ea	TPV 50	TPV EC '04, '05	1sw	30 Hz - 180 Hz	—	—	175 watts	None	175 watts
Gallo Acoustics														
Reference Series (\$6,425)														
		Nucleus Reference 3.1	Floorstander, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$2995/pr	TAS 150	TAS EC '04, '05; TAS Golden Ear '04; TAS POY '04	1w+2m+1t	34 Hz - 35 kHz	4...8 Ohms	88 dB	up to 350 watts	Unique design	See below
		Reference S.A.	Optional Subwoofer amplifier for Ref. 3	Subwoofer Amp	\$900/ea	TAS 150		NA	10 Hz - 28 kHz	4 Ohms	130mV	240 watts X 2	Subwoofer Amplifier	240 watts X 2
		Reference AV	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround:	\$1200/ea			4w + 1t	55 Hz - 35 kHz	4...8 Ohms	88 dB	up to 150 watts	Unique design;Inc.Wall-mount	—
		Reference AV Center	Monitor, 2-way	Center Channel:	\$1200/ea			4w + 1t	55 Hz - 35 kHz	4...8 Ohms	88 dB	up to 150 watts	Unique design;Opt.Pedestal	—
		TR-2	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$700/ea			1sw	22 Hz - 180 Hz	—	—	250 watts	Cylindrical steel enclosure	250 watts
		TR-1	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$425/ea			1sw	26 Hz - 180 Hz	—	—	100 watts	Cylindrical steel enclosure	100 watts
		MPS	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$825/ea			1sw	24 Hz - 160 Hz	4 Ohms	—	240 watts	Unique design; Amp separates	240 watts
Infinity														
Cascade-Series (\$4,594)														
		Model Nine	Floorstander, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$999/ea			2w + 1t	80 Hz - 20 kHz	8 Ohms	87 dB	10 - 150 watts	New MRS flat-panel driver	—
		Model Seven	Floorstander, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$799/ea			1w + 1t	100 Hz - 20 kHz	8 Ohms	85 dB	10 - 100 watts	New MRS flat-panel driver	—
		Model Five	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround:	\$699/ea			1w + 1t	100 Hz - 20 kHz	8 Ohms	85 dB	10 - 100 watts	New MRS flat-panel driver	—
		Model Three V	Monitor, 2-way	On-wall, Bookshelf as above	\$849/ea			2w + 1t	80 Hz - 20 kHz	8 Ohms	87 dB	10 - 150 watts	New MRS flat-panel driver	—
		Model Three C	Monitor, 2-way	Center Channel:	\$799/ea			2w + 1t	80 Hz - 20 kHz	8 Ohms	87 dB	10 - 150 watts	New MRS flat-panel driver	—
		Model Fifteen	Powered Subwoofer	On-wall, Bookshelf	\$1499/ea			4sw	32 Hz - 150 Hz	—	—	800 watts	Complements Cascades	800 watts
		Model SW-12	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$999/ea			1sw	28 Hz - 150 Hz	—	—	500 watts	Bas Optimization System	500 watts
KEF														
XQ-Series, iQ-Series (\$4,797 (XQ-Series); \$1,449.94 (iQ-Series))														
		XQ five	Floorstander, 4-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$2999.98/pr	AVG M 21		2w+1m+1t	45 Hz - 55 kHz	8 Ohms	90 dB	15 - 150 watts	Magnetically-shielded, Uni-Q driver, Hypertweeter	—
		XQ one	Monitor, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1499.98/pr			1w+1m+1t	60 Hz - 55 kHz	8 Ohms	89 dB	15 - 120 watts	As above	—
		XQ two c	Monitor, 4-way	Center Channel	\$1199.99/ea			2w+1m+1t	60 Hz - 55 kHz	8 Ohms	89 dB	15 - 150 watts	As above	—
		iQ9	Floorstander, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$599.99/ea			2w+1m+1t	38 Hz - 40 kHz	8 Ohms	91 dB	15 - 200 watts	Magnetically-shielded	—
		iQ7	Floorstander, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$449.99/ea			1w+1m+1t	40 Hz - 40 kHz	8 Ohms	90 dB	15 - 150 watts	Magnetically-shielded	—
		iQ5	Floorstander, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$349.99/ea			1w+1m+1t	43 Hz - 40 kHz	8 Ohms	88 dB	15 - 150 watts	Magnetically-shielded	—
		iQ3	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$224.99/ea			1m + 1t	45 Hz - 40 kHz	8 Ohms	89 dB	15 - 120 watts	Magnetically-shielded	—
		iQ1	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$149.99/ea			1m + 1t	50 Hz - 40 kHz	8 Ohms	88 dB	15 - 100 watts	Magnetically-shielded	—
		iQ6c	Monitor, 3-way	Center Channel	\$499.99/ea			2w+1m+1t	65 Hz - 40 kHz	8 Ohms	90 dB	15 - 150 watts	Magnetically-shielded	—
		iQ2c	Monitor, 2-way	Center Channel	\$249.99/ea			1m + 1t	70 Hz - 40 kHz	8 Ohms	89 dB	15 - 100 watts	Magnetically-shielded	—
		iQ8ds	Monitor, 2-way	Dipole Surround	\$289.99/ea			2m + 2t	65 Hz - 40 kHz	8 Ohms	83 dB	15 - 100 watts	Dipole design	—
		PSW 2500	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$599.99/ea			1sw	33 Hz - 150 Hz	—	—	250 watts	Curved cabinet design	250 watts
		PSW 3500	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$1199.99/ea	AVG M 19, TPV 65, TAS 158		1sw	30 Hz - 250 Hz	—	—	300 watts	Curved cabinet design	300 watts
Magnepan														
Ribbon & Quasi-Ribbon-Series (\$2,250 (does not include required subwoofer))														
		MG 3.6	Planar magnetic floorstander, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$4450/pr	TPV 33	TAS EC '04, '05	Ribbon Planar	34 Hz-40 kHz	4 Ohms	85 dB	Varies	True Ribbon Planar - magnetic	—
		MG 1.6 QR	Planar magnetic floorstander, 2-way as above	L/R Main, Surround	\$1775/pr	TAS 113, 114, 115	TAS EC '04, '05; TAS GoldenEar '04	Ribbon Planar	40 Hz-22 kHz	4 Ohms	86 dB	Varies	Quasi Ribbon Planar - magnetic	—
		MG 12	Planar magnetic on-wall monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1099/pr	AVG M 2	TAS EC '04 '05	Ribbon Planar	45 Hz - 22 kHz	4 Ohms	86 dB	Varies	Quasi Ribbon Planar - magnetic	—
		MC1	Planar magnetic on-wall monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$750/pr	TPV 68	TPV EC '04, '05	Ribbon Planar	80 Hz-24 kHz	4 Ohms	86 dB	Varies	Quasi Ribbon Planar - magnetic	—
		CC3	Planar magnetic monitor, 2-way	Center Channel	\$990/ea		TPV EC '04, '05	Ribbon Planar	80 Hz - 20 kHz	4 Ohms	85 dB	Varies	Quasi Ribbon Planar - magnetic	—
MartinLogan														
Entry-level ESL & Design-Series (\$6,780)														
		Clarity	Floorstander, Hybrid Electrostat	L/R Main, Surround	\$2795/pr			1w+1e+1t	46 Hz - 22 kHz	6 Ohms	89 dB	200 watts	Hybrid Electrostatic panel;Air Coils	—
		Script i	On-wall Hybrid Electrostatic Monitor	L/R Main, Surround	\$2195/pr			1w + 1e	70 Hz - 20 kHz	6 Ohms	89 dB	150 watts	Hybrid Electrostatic panel;Air Coils	—
		Cinema i	Hybrid Electrostat	Center Channel	\$1795/ea			2w+1e+1t	80 Hz - 20 kHz	6 Ohms	89 dB	150 watts	Electrostatic mid-range driver	—
		Depth	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$1795/ea	TPV 48	TAS EC '04	3sw	20 Hz - 150 Hz	—	—	300 watts	Force-cancelling configuration	300 watts
		Grotto	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$1195/ea			1sw	22 Hz - 150 Hz	—	—	250 watts	None	250 watts
		Dynamo	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$895/ea			1sw	25 Hz - 120 Hz	—	—	200 watts	None	200 watts
Mirage														
Omnisat v2 (\$2,250)														
		Omnisat v2 FS	Floorstander, 2 1/2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$500/ea			1w+2m+1t	50 Hz-20 kHz	8 Ohms	94 dB	10 - 175 watts	w/4 passive radiators	—
		Omnisat v2	Monitor, 2-way	Surround/Rear: Standmount	\$250/ea			1w + 1t	70 Hz-20 kHz	8 Ohms	89 dB	10 - 150 watts	Magnetically-shielded	—

BG+ PRODUCT LISTING

MANUFACTURER/ SPEAKER FAMILY	SYSTEM PRICE STARTS AT	MODEL	DESCRIPTION	INTENDED APPLICATION	UNIT PRICE	TPV/TAS PRODUCT REVIEWS	TPV/TAS PRODUCT AWARDS?	DRIVER COMPLEMENT	FREQUENCY RESPONSE	IMPEDANCE	SENSITIVITY	POWER HANDLING	SPECIAL FEATURES	AMP POWER (SUBWOOFERS)
		Satellite OmniSat v2 CC	Monitor, 2-way	or On-Wall or On-Ceiling Center Channel: Standmount or On-Wall	\$400/ea			2w+1m+1t	70 Hz - 20 kHz	8 Ohms	91 dB	10 - 175 watts	Magnetically-shielded	—
		Omni 10 Omni 8	Powered Subwoofer Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer Subwoofer	\$500/ea \$350/ea			1sw 1sw	21 Hz - 120 Hz 27 Hz - 120 Hz	— —	— —	200 watts 100 watts	inc. Elliptical Surround component inc. Elliptical Surround component	200 watts 100 watts
Monitor Audio														
Silver RS-Series (\$2,796)		Silver RS8 Silver RS6 Silver RS1 Silver RS LCR Silver RS FX Silver RS W12	Floorstander, 3-way Floorstander, 3-way Monitor, 2-way Monitor, 2-way Surround, 2-way Powered Subwoofer	L/R Main, Surround L/R Main, Surround L/R Main, Surround L/R Main, Center Ch., Surround Surround Subwoofer	\$1499/pr \$999/pr \$599/pr \$599/pr \$699/pr \$999/pr	AlgM 18, TAS 158 TAS 158		2w+1m+1t 1w+1m+1t 1m + 1t 2m + 1t 1m + 2t 1sw	33 Hz - 30 kHz 38 Hz - 30 kHz 43 Hz - 30 kHz 45 Hz - 30 kHz 60 Hz - 30 kHz 21 Hz - 120 Hz	6 Ohms 6 Ohms 6 Ohms 6 Ohms 6 Ohms —	91 dB 91 dB 90 dB 91 dB 89 dB —	up to 175 watts up to 120 watts up to 80 watts up to 120 watts up to 100 watts 500 watts	Twin Reflex Ported Twin Reflex Ported None Rear Ported None w/3-in. Voice Coil	— — — — — 500 watts
NHT														
Classic-Series (\$1,900)		Four Three Two Absolute Zero Three C Two C Twelve Ten	Floorstander, 4-way Monitor, 3-way Monitor, 2-way Monitor, 2-way Monitor, 3-way Monitor, 3-way Powered Subwoofer Powered Subwoofer	L/R Main, Surround L/R Main, Surround L/R Main, Surround L/R Main, Surround Center Channel Center Channel Subwoofer Subwoofer	\$1800/pr \$400/ea \$300/ea \$200/ea \$600/ea \$500/ea \$850/ea \$600/ea	Upcoming TPV		1sw+1w+1m+1t 1w+1m+1t 1w + 1t 1w + 1t 2w+1m+1t 2w+1m+1t 1sw 1sw	27 Hz - 20 kHz 45 Hz - 20 kHz 51 Hz - 20 kHz 71 Hz - 20 kHz 73 Hz - 20 kHz 78 Hz - 20 kHz 27 Hz - 180 Hz 31 Hz - 180 Hz	6 Ohms 8 Ohms 6 Ohms 6 Ohms 8 Ohms 8 Ohms — —	86 dB 86 dB 86 dB 86 dB 87 dB 87 dB — —	NS NS NS NS NS NS 250 watts 150 watts	w/Side-firing subwoofer None None None None None None None	— — — — — — 250 watts 150 watts
Paradigm														
Reference Studio-Series ★ (\$3,750 (5-ch); \$3,850 (5.1 ch))		Studio 100 v.3 Studio 60 v.3 Studio 40 v.3 Studio 20 v.3 Studio CC-570 v.3 Studio CC-470 v.3 Studio ADP-470 v.3 Seismic 12 Seismic 10	Floorstander, 3-way Floorstander, 2 1/2-way Monitor, 2 1/2-way Monitor, 2-way Monitor, 3-way Monitor, 3-way Powered Subwoofer Powered Subwoofer	L/R Main, Surround L/R Main, Surround L/R Main, Surround L/R Main, Surround Center Channel Center Channel Subwoofer Subwoofer	\$2300/pr \$1600/pr \$1200/pr \$800/pr \$850/ea \$650/ea \$970/pr \$1600/ea \$1650/ea	In this issue... TPV57	TPV EC '04, '05; TPV Golden Eye '04 TPV EC '04, '05; TPV Golden Eye '04 TPV EC '04, '05; TPV Golden Eye '04 TPV EC '04, '05; TPV Golden Eye '04	3w+1m+1t 2w + 1t 2w + 1t 1w + 1t 2w+1m+1t 2w+1m+1t 1sw 1sw	44 Hz - 22 kHz 46 Hz - 22 kHz 62 Hz - 22 kHz 54 Hz - 22 kHz 60 Hz - 22 kHz 65 Hz - 22 kHz 90 Hz - 22 kHz 35 Hz - 150 Hz 35 Hz - 150 Hz	8 Ohms 8 Ohms 8 Ohms 8 Ohms 8 Ohms 8 Ohms 8 Ohms — —	91 dB 91 dB 92 dB 90 dB 91 dB 90 dB 90 dB — —	15 - 350 watts 15 - 200 watts 15 - 180 watts 15 - 150 watts 15 - 200 watts 15 - 180 watts 15 - 180 watts 1200 watts 1200 watts	Opt.MagnaShield Opt.MagnaShield Opt.MagnaShield Opt.MagnaShield Inc.MagnaShield Inc.MagnaShield Optimized reverberant soundfield w/Dual Passive Radiators w/Dual Passive Radiators	— — — — — — — 1200 watts 1200 watts
Polk Audio														
LSI & RTI-Series (\$3,019.80 (LSI-Series); \$1,360 (RTI-Series))		LSI25 LSI15 LSI9 LSI7 RTI12 RTI10 RTI6 RTI4 LSIC CSI5 CSI3 LSIFX FXI5 FXI3 PSW1000 PSW505 PSW404	Floorstander, 3-way Floorstander, 3-way Monitor, 2-way Monitor, 2-way Floorstander, 3-way Floorstander, 3-way Monitor, 2-way Monitor, 2-way Monitor, 2-way Monitor, 2-way Center Channel Center Channel Center Channel Surround, 2-way Surround, 2-way Surround, 2-way Powered Subwoofer Powered Subwoofer Powered Subwoofer	L/R Main, Surround L/R Main, Surround L/R Main, Surround L/R Main, Surround L/R Main, Surround L/R Main, Surround L/R Main, Surround Center Channel Center Channel Center Channel Center Channel Center Channel Surround Surround Surround Subwoofer Subwoofer Subwoofer	\$2995.95/pr \$1849.95/pr \$1149.95/pr \$919.95/pr \$1679.95/pr \$1139.95/pr \$459.95/pr \$319.95/pr \$699.95/ea \$479.95/ea \$239.95/ea \$1149.95/pr \$599.90/pr \$419.90/pr \$1199.95/ea \$589.95/ea \$479.95/ea	TAS 135 TAS 135 TAS 135	TAS EC '04	1sw+2m+1t 1sw+2m+1t 2m + 1t 1m + 1t 3sw+2m+1t 2sw+1m+1t 1m + 1t 1m + 1t 2m + 1t 2m + 1t 2m + 1t 2m + 1t 2m + 2t 1m + 2t 1m + 2t 2sw 1sw 1sw	20 Hz - 27 kHz 22 Hz - 27 kHz 38 Hz - 27 kHz 45 Hz - 27 kHz 18 Hz - 27 kHz 20 Hz - 27 kHz 40 Hz - 27 kHz 50 Hz - 27 kHz 40 Hz - 27 kHz 45 Hz - 27 kHz 55 Hz - 27 kHz 40 Hz - 27 kHz 45 Hz - 27 kHz 50 Hz - 27 kHz 50 Hz - 27 kHz 20 Hz - 160 Hz 23 Hz - 160 Hz 25 Hz - 200 Hz	4 Ohms 4 Ohms 4 Ohms 4 Ohms 8 Ohms 8 Ohms 8 Ohms 8 Ohms 4 Ohms 8 Ohms 8 Ohms 8 Ohms 8 Ohms 8 Ohms 8 Ohms 8 Ohms — — —	88 dB 88 dB 88 dB 88 dB 90 dB 89 dB 89 dB 89 dB 88 dB 90 dB 89 dB 89 dB 88 dB 88 dB 88 dB 88 dB — — —	20 - 300 watts 20 - 250 watts 20 - 200 watts 20 - 150 watts 50 - 500 watts 20 - 300 watts 20 - 125 watts 20 - 125 watts 20 - 200 watts 20 - 200 watts 20 - 180 watts 20 - 200 watts 20 - 125 watts 20 - 150 watts 400 watts 300 watts 200 watts	w/Side-firing subwoofer w/Side-firing subwoofer Magnetically-shielded Magnetically-shielded w/Front-firing subwoofer w/Front-firing subwoofer None None Magnetically-shielded Magnetically-shielded Magnetically-shielded Switchable Dipole/Bipole Switchable Dipole/Bipole Switchable Dipole/Bipole w/Slot-Load Vent & PowerPort w/Slot-Load Vent w/Slot-Load Vent; Magnetically-shielded	150 watts — — — — — — — — — — — — — — 400 watts 300 watts 200 watts
PSB														
VisionSound & Image-Series ★ (\$3,244 (VisionSound Series); \$1,376 (Image Series))		VisionSound V5400 VisionSound V5300 Image T65 Image T55 Image T45 Image B25 Image B15 Image C60 Image C40 Image S50 SubSeries 6i SubSeries 5i SubZero i	Floorstander, 2-way Monitor, 2-way Floorstander, 2-way Floorstander, 2-way Floorstander, 2-way Monitor, 2-way Monitor, 2-way Monitor, 2-way Monitor, 2-way Surround, 2-way Powered Subwoofer Powered Subwoofer Powered Subwoofer	L/R Main, Surround L/R Main, Center Channel, Surround: On-wall, Standmount L/R Main, Surround L/R Main, Surround L/R Main, Surround Center Channel Center Channel Center Channel Surround Surround Subwoofer Subwoofer Subwoofer	\$999/ea \$749/ea \$1099/pr \$899/pr \$749/pr \$449/pr \$349/pr \$449/ea \$349/ea \$749/pr \$699/ea \$499/ea \$329/ea	In this issue... TPV 59, TAS 152	TPV EC & POY '05; TAS EC '05 TAS EC '05 TPV EC & POY '05; TAS EC '05 TPV EC & POY '05; TAS EC '05 TPV EC & POY '05; TAS EC '05 as above	4w + 1t 2w + 1t 3w + 1t 2w + 1t 2w + 1t 1w + 1t 1w + 1t 2w + 1t 2w + 1t 2w + 1t 2w + 2t 1sw 1sw 1sw	65 Hz - 18 kHz 75 Hz - 18 kHz 42 Hz - 20 kHz 45 Hz - 20 kHz 48 Hz - 20 kHz 59 Hz - 20 kHz 70 Hz - 20 kHz 50 Hz - 20 kHz 65 Hz - 20 kHz 65 Hz - 23 kHz 29 Hz - 150 Hz 30 Hz - 150 Hz 36 Hz - 150 Hz	6 Ohms 6 Ohms 6 Ohms 6 Ohms 6 Ohms 6 Ohms 6 Ohms 6 Ohms 6 Ohms 6 Ohms 15 kOhms 22 kOhms 22 kOhms	88 dB 86 dB 92 dB 91 dB 90 dB 89 dB 89 dB 90 dB 90 dB 91 dB — — —	25 - 250 watts 25 - 100 watts 10 - 200 watts 10 - 175 watts 10 - 150 watts 10 - 100 watts 10 - 80 watts 10 - 175 watts 10 - 150 watts 10 - 200 watts 350 watts 225 watts 130 watts	Designed to complement flat-panel TVs as above None None None None None None D'Appolito design None Bi-Polar w/2-in. Voice Coil w/1.5-in. Voice Coil; Video Shielded w/1-in. Voice Coil; Video Shielded	— — — — — — — — — — 350 watts 225 watts 130 watts
Quad														
L-Series (\$3,400)		22L 21L 12L 11L L-Centre L-Subwoofer	Floorstander, 2 1/2-way Floorstander, 2-way Monitor, 2-way Monitor, 2-way Center Channel Powered Subwoofer	L/R Main, Surround L/R Main, Surround L/R Main, Surround L/R Main, Surround Center Channel Subwoofer	\$1600/pr \$1350/pr \$1000/pr \$700/pr \$500/ea \$1500/ea	AlgM 13, TAS 156	TAS EC '05	1w+1m+1t 1w + 1t 1w + 1t 1w + 1t 2w + 1t 1sw	30 Hz - 43 kHz 35 Hz - 24 kHz 35 Hz - 24 kHz 45 Hz - 24 kHz 70 Hz - 24 kHz 25 Hz - 90 Hz	6 Ohms 6 Ohms 6 Ohms 6 Ohms 6 Ohms —	89 dB 88 dB 88 dB 86 dB 88 dB —	up to 300 watts up to 200 watts up to 200 watts up to 150 watts up to 120 watts 300 watts	Kevlar drivers Kevlar driver Kevlar driver Kevlar driver Kevlar drivers 4 Programmable memory settings	— — — — — 300 watts
RBH														
MC Series Mk II (\$2,410)		MC-6CT MKII MC-6C MKII MC-4C MKII MC-616C MKII MC-414C MKII TS-12A	Floorstander, 2 1/2-way Monitor, 2-way Monitor, 2-way Monitor, 2-way Monitor, 2-way Powered Subwoofer	L/R Main, Surround L/R Main, Surround L/R Main, Surround L/R Main, Center Ch., Surround L/R Main, Center Ch., Surround Subwoofer	\$1199.99/pr \$849.99/pr \$479.99/pr \$539.99/ea \$449.99/ea \$999.99/ea			3w + 1t 1w + 1t 1w + 1t 2w + 1t 2w + 1t 1sw	45 Hz - 20 kHz 60 Hz - 20 kHz 85 Hz - 20 kHz 50 Hz - 20 kHz 85 Hz - 20 kHz 27 Hz - 200 Hz	6 Ohms 8 Ohms 8 Ohms 6 Ohms 6 Ohms 4 Ohms	88 dB 86 dB 84 dB 89 dB 87 dB —	up to 200 watts up to 120 watts up to 120 watts up to 150 watts up to 150 watts 200 watts	None None None None None None	— — — — — 200 watts
Revel														
Concerta-Series (\$2,793)		Concerta F12	Floorstander, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1298/pr	AlgM 17, TAS 157	TAS EC '05; TAS POY '05	2w+1m+1t	33 Hz - 18 kHz	6 Ohms	90.5 dB	NS	Magnetically-shielded	—

LEGEND: ★ = top pick m = midrange t = tweeter w = woofer sw = subwoofer e = electrostatic

The Power of Knowledge

In this competitive environment, you need to have highly educated employees, training on the most updated technologies, extremely effective business and marketing strategies—all at the best value for your time and money.

CEDIA EXPO is where you can find this wealth of information and get your competitive edge.

Only CEDIA EXPO delivers the most:

- New products
- Product training
- Marketing classes
- Exhibitors
- Business strategies
- Education

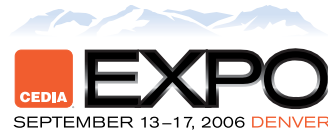
All this at a great value for your time and money!

Learn more about CEDIA EXPO. Request your free information right now at www.cedia.org/expo or call 800-669-5329. Then save these dates on your schedule: September 13–17, 2006, Denver, CO. Don't miss the expanded 4-day trade show September 14-17!

Learn how to profit at the industry's #1 show for residential electronic systems contractors.

Cutting edge technology with learning opportunities for the following:

- Home Theaters
- Multi-Room Audio
- Home Integration
- Information Systems
- Home Automation
- Lighting Control
- Environmental Control
- Home Security
- Home Entertainment
- ... and more!



New! 4-day Trade Show



BG+ PRODUCT LISTING

MANUFACTURER/ SPEAKER FAMILY	SYSTEM PRICE STARTS AT	MODEL	DESCRIPTION	INTENDED APPLICATION	UNIT PRICE	TPV/TAS PRODUCT REVIEWS	TPV/TAS PRODUCT AWARDS?	DRIVER COMPLEMENT	FREQUENCY RESPONSE	IMPEDANCE	SENSITIVITY	POWER HANDLING	SPECIAL FEATURES	AMP POWER (SUBWOOFERS)
		Concerta M12	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$648/pr			1w + 1t	65 Hz - 15 kHz	8 Ohms	87 dB	NS	Magnetically-shielded	—
		Concerta C12	Monitor, 3-way	Center Channel	\$499/ea			2w + 1m + 1t	85 Hz - 15 kHz	6 Ohms	90 dB	10 - 150 watts	Magnetically-shielded	—
		Concerta S12	Surround, 2-way	Surround	\$998/pr			2w + 2t	60 Hz - 20 kHz	8 Ohms	87 dB	650 watts	Switchable Bipole/Dipole/Monopole	—
		Concerta B12	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$999/ea			1sw	20 Hz - 150 Hz	—	—	—	Symmetrical Field Gap technology	650 watts
Sonus Faber														
Domus-Series [\$3,880]		Grand Piano Domus	Floorstander, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$4795/pr			1w+1m+1t	30 Hz-20,000 Hz	4 Ohms	90 dB	30 - 200 watts	Front Reflex Port	—
		Concerto Domus	Floorstander, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$3495/pr	In this issue...		1m + 1t	35 Hz-20,000 Hz	4 Ohms	88 dB	30 - 200 watts	Lute-shape design	—
		Concertino Domus	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1495/pr			1m + 1t	50 Hz - 20,000 Hz	4 Ohms	88 dB	30 - 150 watts	Lute-shape design/Magnetically-shielded	—
		Wall Domus	On-wall Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$695/pr			1m + 1t	55 Hz - 20,000 Hz	4 Ohms	88 dB	30 - 150 watts	Sound Diffuser design	—
		Center Domus	Monitor, 3-way	Center Channel	\$1295/ea	In this issue...		1w+1m+1t	40 Hz-20,000 Hz	4 Ohms	88 dB	30 - 200 watts	Front Reflex Port/Magnetically-shielded	—
		Gravis Domus	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$2495/ea	In this issue...		1sw	NS	—	—	200 watts	w/Passive Radiator	200 watts
Tom														
Rainmaker-Series ★ [\$3,795]		Rainmaker	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$950/pr	TPV 55, TAS 151	TPV EC '04, '05; TAS EC '05	1w + 1t	42 Hz - 20 kHz	4 Ohms	87.5 dB	up to 100 watts	None	—
		Rainmaker Center Lighting	Monitor, 2-way Powered Subwoofer	Center Channel Subwoofer	\$900/ea \$1750/ea	TPV 55	TPV EC '04, '05	2w + 1t	44 Hz - 20 kHz	8 Ohms	87.5 dB	30 - 120 watts	Fully Shielded	200 watts
		Thunder	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$1595/ea	TPV 55	TPV EC '04, '05	1sw	20 Hz - 200 Hz	—	—	500 watts	For Home Theater applications	500 watts
		Storm	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$995/ea			1sw	26 Hz - 350 Hz	—	—	300 watts	Automatic Power Down	300 watts
		Drum	Powered Subwoofer	Tactile Subwoofer	\$450/ea			1sw	10 Hz - 150 Hz	8 Ohms	—	100 watts	Geo Subwoofer System	100 watts
Triangle														
Odyssey-Series ★, ES-Series [\$3,644 (Odyssey Series); \$3,796 (ES Series)]		Odyssey Major	Floorstander/Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround: Floorstander or On-Wall	\$799/ea	AVGM 16, TPV 63; TAS 155	TPV EC '05	2m + 1t	100 Hz - 20 kHz	8 Ohms	90 dB	up to 160 watts	Special Magnetic Shield	—
		Odyssey Minor	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround, or Center Channel; Standmount or On-Wall Monitor	\$599/ea	AVGM 16, TPV 63; TAS 155	TPV EC '05	2m + 1t	100 Hz - 20 kHz	8 Ohms	90 dB	up to 160 watts	Special Magnetic Shield	—
		Antal Esw	Floorstander, 3-way	L/R Main	\$999.50/ea			2w+1m+1t	43 Hz - 20 kHz	8 Ohms	91 dB	up to 120 watts	None	—
		Heliade Es	Floorstander/Monitor, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$599.50/ea			1w+1m+1t	50 Hz - 20 kHz	8 Ohms	91 dB	up to 100 watts	None	—
		Noxa Major Es	Monitor, 2-way	Center Channel	\$749/ea			2m + 1t	55 Hz - 20 kHz	8 Ohms	90 dB	up to 90 watts	None	—
		Meteor 0.1	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$649/ea	AVGM 16, TPV 63; TAS 155	TPV EC '05	1sw	35 Hz - 160 Hz	—	—	100 watts	None	100 watts
		Meteor 0.1.5	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$999/ea			1sw	33 Hz - 160 Hz	—	—	120 watts	None	120 watts
		Meteor 0.2.5	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$2199.45/ea			2sw	28 Hz - 120 Hz	—	—	600 watts	None	600 watts
Usher Audio														
6-Series, X-Series [\$5,200 (6-Series); \$3,520 (X-Series)]		CP-6381	Floorstander, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$3400/pr			1w+1m+1t	29 Hz - 20 kHz	8 Ohms	87 dB	up to 150 watts	None	—
		CP-6371	L/R Main, Surround	L/R Main, Surround	\$2900/pr	AVGM 6	TAS EC '04, '05	2w + 1t	30 Hz - 28 kHz	4 Ohms	90 dB	up to 110 watts	None	—
		CP-6311	Floorstander, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$2100/pr			1w + 1t	34 Hz - 28 kHz	8 Ohms	87 dB	up to 80 watts	None	—
		X-929	Floorstander, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$2490/pr			2w + 1t	29 Hz - 28 kHz	4 Ohms	90 dB	up to 110 watts	None	—
		X-719	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Surround	\$1340/pr			1w + 1t	38 Hz - 28 kHz	8 Ohms	87 dB	up to 80 watts	None	—
		X-718	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Surround	\$1300/pr			1w + 1t	42 Hz - 28 kHz	8 Ohms	87 dB	up to 80 watts	None	—
		X-708	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Surround	\$1260/pr			1w + 1t	45 Hz - 28 kHz	8 Ohms	87 dB	up to 70 watts	None	—
		X-616	Monitor, 2-way	Center Channel	\$1000/ea			2w + 1t	38 Hz - 28 kHz	4 Ohms	91 dB	up to 100 watts	None	—
Vienna Acoustics														
Grand-Series [\$3,285]		Beethoven Concert Grand	Floorstander, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$4500/pr			3w+1m+1t	28 Hz - 22 kHz	4 Ohms	91 dB	50 - 300 watts	Spidercone drivers	—
		Beethoven Baby Grand	Floorstander, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$3500/pr			2w+1m+1t	30 Hz - 22 kHz	4 Ohms	91 dB	40 - 250 watts	Spidercone drivers	—
		Mozart Grand	Floorstander, 2 1/2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$2750/pr	AVGM 21, TAS 158		2m + 1t	32 Hz - 22 kHz	4 Ohms	90 dB	30 - 200 watts	None	—
		Bach Grand	Floorstander, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1995/pr			1m + 1t	35 Hz - 22 kHz	4 Ohms	90 dB	30 - 200 watts	None	—
		Haydn Grand	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$1295/pr			1w + 1t	42 Hz - 22 kHz	4 Ohms	89 dB	25 - 180 watts	Bass Reflex Port Airflow Control	—
		Maestro Grand	Monitor, 2-way	Center Channel	\$1195/ea			2w + 1t	38 Hz - 22 kHz	4 Ohms	91 dB	30 - 200 watts	Spidercone drivers	—
		Theatro	Monitor, 2-way	Center Channel	\$695/ea			2m + 1t	44 Hz - 22 kHz	6 Ohms	91 dB	30 - 200 watts	Spidercone drivers	—
		Waltz Grand	On-wall Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Center Channel, Surround	\$695/ea			2m + 1t	70 Hz - 20 kHz	4 Ohms	91 dB	25 - 180 watts	None	—
Von Schweikert Audio														
VSA-Series ★ [\$3,650 (special bundled system price)]		VR-4jr	2-piece, Floorstander, 4-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$4500/pr	TAS 151		2w+1m+1t +Ambience driver	20 Hz - 25 kHz	6 Ohms	89 dB	20 - 300 watts	2-piece enclosure, Ambience driver w/Volume Control, Magnetically shielded	—
		VR-2	Floorstander, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$2750/pr	AVguide.com	TAS EC '04, '05	2w+1t +Ambience drive	25 Hz - 25 kHz	8 Ohms	87.5 dB	20 - 200 watts	Ambience driver w/Volume Control, Magnetically-shielded	—
		VR-1	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$995/pr			1w + 1t	40 Hz - 25 kHz	8 Ohms	89 dB	up to 100 watts	Magnetically-shielded	—
		LCR-15	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Center Ch., Surround	\$795/ea	AVGM 9	TPV EC '04, '05; TPV Golden Eye '04	2w + 1t	37 Hz - 25 kHz	8 Ohms	87.5 dB	20 - 200 watts	Magnetically-shielded	—
		TS-150	Surround, 2-way	Surround	\$1195/pr	AVGM 9	as above	2w + 2t	40 Hz - 25 kHz	6 Ohms	90 dB	up to 200 watts	Switchable Monopole/Dipole	—
		VRS-1	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$1495/ea	AVGM 9	as above	1sw	20 Hz - 100 Hz	20 kOhms	—	300 watts	None	300 watts
Wharfedale														
Opus-Series, Diamond 9-Series ★ [\$5,099.95 (Opus Series); \$1,199.94 (Diamond 9-Series)]		Opus 3	Floorstander, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$3499.98/pr			2w+1m+1t	30 Hz - 44 kHz	6 Ohms	91 dB	up to 300 watts	None	—
		Opus 2	Floorstander, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$2999.98/pr			2w+1m+1t	33 Hz - 44 kHz	6 Ohms	90 dB	up to 250 watts	None	—
		Opus 1	Floorstander, 3-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$2499.98/pr			1w+1m+1t	37 Hz - 44 kHz	6 Ohms	89 dB	up to 150 watts	None	—
		Opus Tri-Centre	Monitor, 3-way	Center Channel	\$1199.99/ea			2w+1m+1t	75 Hz - 44 kHz	6 Ohms	89 dB	up to 200 watts	None	—
		Opus Tri-Surround	Monitor, 3-way	Surround	\$1399.98/pr			1w+2m+2t	60 Hz - 44 kHz	6 Ohms	89 dB	up to 100 watts	Tri-Pole Surround	—
		Diamond 9.6	Floorstander, 4-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$999.98/pr	AVGM 12-13, TAS 153	TAS EC '05	1w+2m+2t	28 Hz - 24 kHz	6 Ohms	90 dB	40 - 200 watts	None	—
		Diamond 9.5	Floorstander, 4-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$799.98/pr			1w+1m+1t	30 Hz - 24 kHz	6 Ohms	88 dB	30 - 150 watts	None	—
		Diamond 9.4	Floorstander, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$599.98/pr			1w + 1t	40 Hz - 24 kHz	6 Ohms	86 dB	20 - 100 watts	None	—
		Diamond 9.2	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$499.98/pr			1w + 1t	45 Hz - 24 kHz	6 Ohms	86 dB	20 - 100 watts	None	—
		Diamond 9.1	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$349.98/pr			1w + 1t	50 Hz - 24 kHz	6 Ohms	86 dB	20 - 100 watts	None	—
		Diamond 9.0	Monitor, 2-way	L/R Main, Surround	\$249.98/pr			1w + 1t	60 Hz - 24 kHz	6 Ohms	86 dB	15 - 75 watts	None	—
		Diamond 9.SR	Surround	Surround	\$249.98/pr	AVGM 13		1w + 1t	70 Hz - 24 kHz	6 Ohms	88 dB	10 - 69 watts	None	—
		Diamond 9.CM	Monitor, 3-way	Center Channel	\$449.99/ea	AVGM 13		2w + 1t	70 Hz - 24 kHz	6 Ohms	90 dB	30 - 150 watts	None	—
		Diamond 9.CS	Monitor, 2-way	Center Channel	\$349.99/ea			2w + 1t	70 Hz - 24 kHz	6 Ohms	89 dB	20 - 120 watts	None	—
		Diamond 9.CC	Monitor, 2-way	Center Channel	\$249.99/ea			2w + 1t	80 Hz - 24 kHz	6 Ohms	88 dB	15 - 120 watts	None	—
		SW 380	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$1999.99/ea			1sw	25 Hz - 90 Hz	—	—	600 watts	Kevlar Cones	600 watts
		SW 300	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$1299.99/ea			1sw	25 Hz - 90 Hz	—	—	300 watts	Kevlar Cones	300 watts
		SW 250	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$699.99/ea			1sw	30 Hz - 110 Hz	—	—	250 watts	Kevlar Cones	250 watts
		SW 150	Powered Subwoofer	Subwoofer	\$449.99/ea	AVGM 13		1sw	30 Hz - 110 Hz	—	—	150 watts	Kevlar Cones	150 watts

LEGEND: ★ = top pick m = midrange t = tweeter w = woofer sw = subwoofer e = electrostatic