



MUSIC SERVER
Sooloos
£11,269



INTEGRATED AMPLIFIER
Audio Analogue Class A
Integrated £6250
Page 88



STEREO POWER AMPLIFIER
Audio Research VS115
£5395 Page 89

Temptations

THE WORLD'S MOST DESIRABLE KIT

MUSIC SERVER
SOOLOOS



£ 11,269

FOR

Simply remarkable user interface and user experience; deeply impressive sound quality; much flexibility

AGAINST

Not particularly affordable

VERDICT

Groundbreaking stuff. If this is the future of digital music in the home, then bring it on

This extraordinary **Sooloos** system is the ultimate jukebox for the home. If you've got 11 grand burning a hole in your pocket, we'd struggle to suggest a better way to spend it...

LET'S SAY THIS once: yes, the Sooloos music server is incredibly expensive. But you know what? Very few products have got every member of the WHAT HI-FI SOUND? AND VISION team quite so ready to cash in a kidney just to get one.

The essence of Sooloos is simple. It's designed to marry the best possible server interface with audiophile sound. As such, it has no truck with notions like compression: here, your music is stored at optimum-quality Flac for playback through your hi-fi. Sooloos will preload your CD collection (up to 2500) for free, and usefully it will also make a 192kbps MP3 file of the same tunes for transferring to your iPod.

"We never thought we'd find a music interface that made iTunes look slow, but this is it"

together a system based on multiple zones, each with a Control:One – but if you prefer, the interface can also be ported on to your iPod Touch or iPhone.

The Control:One links via Ethernet to a single Source:One, which is effectively the system's preamp. The line outputs of this connect to the line-ins on any hi-fi amp, just like a CD player would, so you'll need Source:Ones in each zone you

want music in. Finally, there are two Store:One Network Attached Storage boxes: one holds the music; the other is a back-up. Our test unit came with one terabyte of storage, enough for around 2500

albums in Flac, but up to 3TB can be installed in each mirrored pair (7200 albums in total) – and more Store:One components can be added.

Sooloos' silence is golden

There are various Sooloos products, but the combination on test is the top of the range, comprising three key components. The first is the Control:One, a glorious 17in touchpanel that displays all you need to drive the system, and which also includes a CD drive for ripping discs. It's a fanless, silent device – poised to take pride of place on your coffee table. Naturally, you can put

Incredibly rapid access to your tunes

We never thought we'd find a music interface that made iTunes look slow, but this is it: Sooloos writes its own software, and it really is as fast as you can think. The touchpanel makes operating the system child's play too, while info from the All Media Guide gives you sleeve art, album credits, release dates and even reviews.

In sound terms, we struggled to find fault either. It's an agile, articulate listen, its onboard digital-to-analogue conversion proving more than up to the task of relaying the music signal both accurately and energetically. With the likes of *Led Zeppelin II*, it punches through each crashing riff in forceful style.

This is a brilliant product, and the very fact that it exists is cause for celebration. Sooloos has just been bought by high-end specialist Meridian – for more information, see whathifi.com



The Sooloos Store:One hard-disks back each other up to ensure you never lose any tunes



CONTROL:ONE
DISPLAY 17in,
1280x1024
DIMENSIONS (HWD)
35x46x19cm
WEIGHT 10.7kg
SOURCE:ONE
AUDIO CONNECTIONS
Phono, digital coaxial
DIMENSIONS (HWD)
7x43x37cm
WEIGHT 5.8kg
STORE:ONE
STORAGE CAPACITY
1TB
DIMENSIONS (HWD)
7x43x37cm
WEIGHT 5.8kg



123 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ



PREVIOUS

NEXT PAGE

Displaying 221 of 2742 Albums

The Current Zone is: Living Room

The Sooloos has a dedicated website at www.sooloos.com.