

High fidelity

The best in audio and new technology

COMING SOON

Naim SuperNAIT

£2350 spring

The long-awaited upmarket integrated amplifier from the Salisbury company. Expect digital inputs as well as analogue, and high standards of performance

Musical Fidelity new product

£tba 10.10am, June 1

Musical Fidelity has been running "teaser" adverts on its www.musicalfidelity.com website suggesting that, to achieve realistic dynamic range, you need much more amplifier power than you may think. And it adds that "you can get all the power you need without chucking out any part of your system". How? All will be revealed, we're told, on the site at 10.10am on June 1

MERIDIAN

Taking the one-box AV route

New unit combines player, processor and five-channel amplification

Meridian has become the latest manufacturer to launch a one-box home cinema solution: the £3995 G95 packs into one compact unit a DVD/CD player, DAB/FM tuner, pre-amp/surround processor and five 100W power amplifier channels, making it a system to which the buyer need only add a TV and surround speakers.

The G95 plays DVD-Video and DVD-Audio discs, CDs, MP3 files on CD-R and Video CD, and has onboard processing for Dolby Digital, DTS, PCM and MLP datastreams. The ROM drive used has enhanced error-correction, allowing the delivery of a cleaner digital output, and as well as feeding its own processor and power amps the unit also has 5.1-channel analogue outputs, allowing it to be used with external power amplification. It can also deliver both stereo and multichannel audio at up to 192kHz to an external processor via

its HDMI output. The same output allows the unit to deliver video from DVD upsampled to 720p, 1080i or 1080p resolutions into suitable screens or projectors, and there are also inputs for external sources, including two electrical digital, two optical digital and three analogue stereo.

The digital amplification has been designed for audio quality combined with cool running, while power comes from a toroidal transformer, used as part of a linear power supply. The disc transport is of a slot-loading DVD-ROM design, usually running at standard speed but capable of much faster read speeds to compensate for disc errors. This, combined with an anti-vibration buffer and Meridian's triple buffering system to reduce digital jitter, ensures a clean datastream.

The unit can be controlled completely from the front panel,



Simple and elegant: Meridian's one-box solution

or via remote control, and the pre-amp uses a hybrid digital/analogue volume system similar to that found in the company's reference 800 Series components. An RS232 port is provided for computer control of the unit, or to upgrade the software, which is stored in Flash ROM memory, and there's also a 12V trigger connection, component video output and composite/S-video inputs and outputs, with comprehensive onboard video conversion.

Meridian Audio Ltd

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B&W hits the road with Jaguar



Bowers & Wilkins has developed an audio system for Jaguar's C-XF concept car shown at the 2007 Detroit Motor Show. It's said to mark the beginning of an ongoing relationship between the Sussex speaker firm and Jaguar.

The system uses Kevlar-cone drivers in the dashboard and doors, while diamond-dome tweeters derived from the Nautilus 800D speakers are also used, their tapered Nautilus tubes in a new spiral form. Selective-directivity speaker arrays, controlled by digital signal processing, improve the sound in the back of the car without distracting the driver.

But the most striking aspect of the B&W/Jaguar design is the use of Bass Beams in the doors, which add structural integrity while also delivering powerful low frequencies.

Bowers and Wilkins
www.bwspeakers.com

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www.jaguar-design.com

AUDIO PARTNERSHIP launches the lot

The Audio Partnership is launching new Cambridge Audio electronics and a Mordaunt-Short speaker package.

The £500 Cambridge Audio Azur 740A amp is a 2x100W design with six inputs, and can integrate with

the company's multiroom system. The Azur 740C CD player, also £500, uses twin Wolfson DACs and upsamples to 24-bit/384kHz for enhanced resolution, while the £600 Azur 640R surround receiver, delivering 7x100W, is said to have been designed as much as an audiophile music amplifier as a home cinema device.

Finally Mordaunt-Short's Alumni package, at £600 for a complete 5.1-channel system, uses the company's dish-like Continuous Profile Cone metal mid/bass drivers in high-gloss cabinets.

The Audio Partnership

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www.cambridge-audio.com

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Mordaunt-Short's Alumni speakers