

WHAT HI★FI?

SOUND AND VISION

The world's No.1 home entertainment magazine

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AWARDS

2010

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SPEAKER PACKAGES

BEST TRADITIONAL SPEAKER PACKAGE UP TO £1000

**Q ACOUSTICS 2000
CINEMA PACKAGE**

BEST TRADITIONAL PACKAGE UP TO £1000

Q Acoustics 2000 Cinema Pack £550

There's no denying that most home cinema speaker packages at this sort of money tend to be of the style-conscious, sub'n'satellites type. And Q Acoustics' 2000 Cinema Pack hasn't retained its Award-winning status for a second year by default. Manufacturers as single-minded as Wharfedale and Teufel have tilted at this category lately, but when the performance-per-pound criteria are applied, the 2000 Cinema Pack remains the smartest

way to spend your money - and, because you're smart, you really ought to be able to do a bit better, price-wise, than we're indicating.

Attractive (and clever) design

The four Q2010 speakers, Q2000C centre and 2070S sub are nicely curvy, glossily finished (if you stump up an extra £100 - our figure is for the matt graphite finish) and look more purposeful than the price might suggest. Even the Q2010s' binding posts have had due consideration: they're sited at the bottom of the cabinet, which makes wall-mounting a more viable option.

All this would count for little, of course, if the 2000 couldn't cut the mustard, but its sound is every bit as encouraging as its appearance. Where movies are concerned it's an absorbing and immersive listen, able to relay the minutiae of tense dialogue just as capably as an in-er-face action-movie finale. The soundstage it produces is tight, there's considerable punch from the sub, crisp attack from the satellites, and centre-channel dialogue is well defined. Effects travel around the circle smoothly, dynamic variations are described in full and tonality is admirably neutral.

It can relay the minutiae of tense dialogue just as capably as an in-er-face action-movie finale

Ultimately the subwoofer lacks the last scintilla of authority, a tiny hint of softness rearing its head in extremis, but this is still emphatically an adept and adaptable system.

Music doesn't enjoy quite the potency of movie soundtracks, but by prevailing standards it's a stellar performer. When talk turns to timing, insight and detail, the Q Acoustics has the measure of any price-comparable rival.

So if it's full-size thrills on an economy-sized budget you're after, you should look no further than this, now two-time Award winner.

