

All systems go!

Never mind huge plasma TVs, the centrepiece of any living room should be a fabulous hi-fi. Here, *Live* cranks up four of the best...



SYSTEM ONE: £15,500

TURNTABLE
Pro-ject RPM 9.1, £1,000 (without cartridge), henleydesigns.co.uk
Features Acrylic platter with motor in a separate housing. Supplied with a spirit level to ensure optimal positioning. Gold-plated outputs. ★★★★★

CD PLAYER
Denon DCD-SA1, £5,000, denon.co.uk
Features Advanced audio processing, balanced output option. ★★★★★

AMPLIFIER
Denon PMA-SA1, £5,500, denon.co.uk
Features 50W per channel power output. Eight line-level inputs. Two tape loops. Ultra-high-current transistors. Moving-

magnet phono stage for vinyl. Gold-plated speaker terminals. ★★★★★

SPEAKERS
Eclipse TD7122, £4,000, eclipse-td.com
Features Power-handling of 70W. Airtight 'eggshell' aluminium enclosure. Single 12cm fibre-glass full-range driver. ★★★★★

Verdict Well, here's a design statement. Have a deep kit-rack ready for the Denons, and the facts about these unique speakers at your fingertips – everyone will ask. The rich-sounding Denon duo will tame any excesses in the speakers' raw musicality, and are good to go with your LPs, too – just choose a moving-magnet cartridge for the deck.

SYSTEM TWO: £11,005

TURNTABLE
Wilson Benesch Full Circle, £2,150, wilson-benesch.com
Features Carbon-fibre construction is more durable than metal and remains unaffected by changes in temperature. ★★★★★

CD PLAYER
Bang & Olufsen BeoCenter 2, £2,800, bang-olufsen.com
Features Built-in amp, CD and DVD playback, DAB/FM/AM radio with touch-sensitive, button-free fascia. BeoLink support for multi-room audio. Wall-mount or floor-standing options. ★★★★★

SPEAKERS
Bang & Olufsen BeoLab 9, £5,060, bang-olufsen.com
Features Compact, active design with 700W of built-in amplification. ★★★★★

Verdict If you're after a minimalist set-up for a smaller room, the B&O brothers are all you need, offering slick sound and sleek style. Adding a hi-tech analogue element is the carbon-fibre turntable – and to complete the ancient and modern mix we'd suggest finding space for the Quad QC-24P (£995), a valve-based phono stage that provides the vinyl-boosting link between turntable and speakers.

SYSTEM THREE: £6,070

TURNTABLE
Clearaudio Bluemotion, £720, clearaudio.de
Features Integrates award-winning technology with aluminium/acrylic design. ★★★★★

CD PLAYER
Arcam FMJ CD36, £1,400, arcam.co.uk
Features CD text support. Four distortion-minimising digital-to-analogue converters, damped Acousteel chassis. ★★★★★

AMPLIFIER
Arcam FMJ A32, £1,250, arcam.co.uk
Features 100W per channel power output. Integrated phono stage for vinyl

turntables. Upgradeable for home-cinema use. ★★★★★

SPEAKERS
B&W 804S, £2,700, bwspeakers.com
Features Power-handling from 50W–200W. A superb option as front speakers in a home-cinema set-up. Three real-wood finishes. ★★★★★

Verdict If you like your music full on, then you'll appreciate the dynamic approach of this set-up. The Arcam amp has the necessary phono stage needed for the Clearaudio turntable, plus more than enough power for the B&W speakers. If you fancy a later upgrade to a full surround-sound system, both the Arcam and B&W ranges can oblige, too.

SYSTEM FOUR: £12,950

TURNTABLE
Roksan Radius 5, £750 (without cartridge), henleydesigns.co.uk
Features This lacquered-maple version of Roksan's award-winning acrylic model features anti-vibration engineering. ★★★★★

CD PLAYER
Classe CDP-202, £4,750, classeaudio.com
Features CD, DVD and two-channel DVD audio playback. Touchscreen display aids navigation. Slot-loading disc system. ★★★★★

AMPLIFIER
Classe CAP-2100, £3,950, classeaudio.com

Features 100W per channel, touchscreen display. Optional phono stage. ★★★★★

SPEAKERS
Mordaunt Short Performance 6, £3,500, mordauntshort.com
Features Power rating from 15W–250W. Brilliant silver or granite finishes. ★★★★★

Verdict Most realistic-sounding speakers you can buy for this money but can show up poorer recordings. Adding the Classe electronics helps smooth off rough edges. The Roksan turntable offers a strong analogue alternative to the Classe player's digital delights, but you'll need to budget for the amp's optional phono stage.

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