



### ARCAM SOLO: MUSIC SYSTEM £1000

**CHOSEN BY IAN ANDERSON:** Why have over 20 BADA dealers voted the Arcam Solo Product of the year? Because it has substance as well as style and, surprisingly, is a very good piece of hi-fi. I say surprisingly because reviewers, dealers and public alike love the look of the Solo but were amazed at how well it delivered music in a coherent and enjoyable manner. There are better hi-fi separate systems but not at this price and the Solo will hold its own against systems twice the cost. It is a truly inspirational product and gets my vote for product of the year.



### BASIS 2200 SIGNATURE: TURNTABLE £3795

**CHOSEN BY DAVID ALLCOCK:** In the 2200 Signature, Basis has managed to distil the essence of the incredible sonic performance of the £10,000 Gold Debut Signature and repackaged it into a smaller model that embodies so much of the astonishing low frequency extension, imaging, transparency and dynamic range of the original, yet at under half the price. The 2200 has it all: stunning aesthetics, exemplary finish, and some of the finest engineering you'll see in audio today – at any price. This is a turntable that will serve you well for decades.

## PRODUCT OF THE YEAR 2006

To conclude the voting of the best products in the world of audio and music reproduction, all eight judges who took part in this year's Awards – featured below – were asked to give their choice of an overall product of the year. Here, we present some of those

choices, and as with the Highly Recommended citations in every other category, all these products can be deemed a winner in their own right, selected as they are by experts in their field who have carefully and thoughtfully settled on their final choice.



**Andrew Harrison** is Deputy Editor of *Hi-Fi News*, and committed to audio excellence from entry-level to high-end audio



**Steve Harris** was Editor from 1986 to 2005. Now Consultant Editor, he's an expert on jazz and blues and audio history



**David Allcock** is a freelance hi-fi writer, passionate about high-end analogue and digital music reproduction



**Paul Miller** is founder of Miller Audio Research, a test and measurement consultancy also specialising in AV



**Martin Colloms** is Technical Advisor to *Hi-Fi News* and respected the world over for his long-earned audio expertise



**Tony Bolton** has been writing for *Hi-Fi News* for seven years, and is particularly schooled in analogue and 78s



**Steve N Harris** – the 'other' Steve Harris – is an audio industry luminary, now Chairman of the British Federation of Audio



**Ian Anderson** is Chairman of the British Audio Dealers Association, a UK trade organisation established in 1984



### ISOTEK SIGMAS: MAINS FILTER £995

**CHOSEN BY TONY BOLTON:** The Isotek Sigma S combines technology from the award-winning Titan and the well respected Nova mains purifiers. Two of the six output sockets feed power amplifiers, the other four supplying power to source products. Each outlet is independently filtered so that there can be no cross contamination of the cleaned power supply, and automatically allocates power to sockets based on the demand from equipment at the time. The results of this "intelligent" system have been obviously beneficial in every system that I have tried so far.



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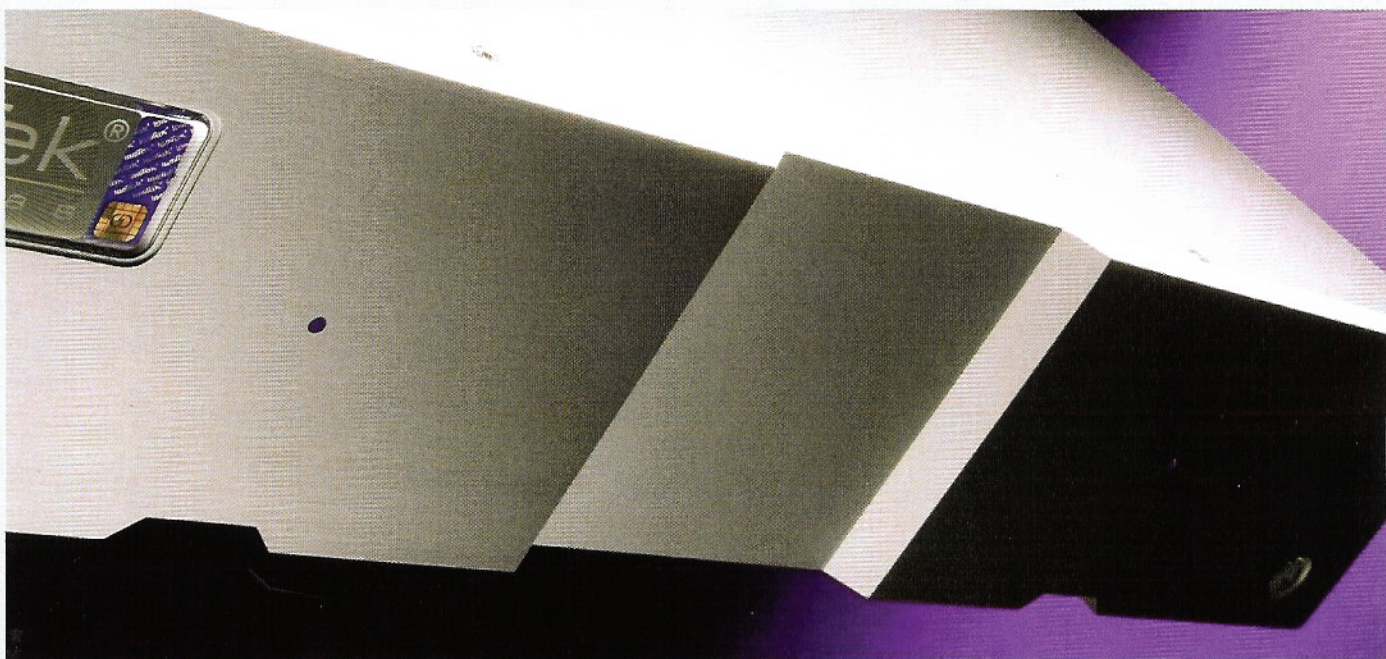


**CLEARAUDIO STYLUS CLEANER £12**

Conventional hi-fi wisdom says there's little need to clean your stylus with fluid. Not so, says Clearaudio. It says you should use Clearaudio Elixir Stylus cleaner every time you play a record – especially if you haven't removed residues from the record-pressing process by using Clearaudio Extra Strength Record Cleaner or other comparable cleaner. These sticky residues mount up and get 'baked' on your stylus by high stylus-tip temperatures. Containing almost no alcohol, Clearaudio Stylus Cleaner is safe for use with even the most delicate cartridges.

**ORIGIN LIVE ARM LOAD METER £57**

Until recently, a digital stylus balance would have set you back the price of fairly good cartridge, and at least one such offering proved to be nothing more than an existing jeweller's balance, re-stickered with a mark-up of several hundred per cent. Now Origin Live has brought some sanity into this situation with its Arm Load Meter, which reads out to three decimal places (0.001g), is consistently accurate and, above all, is reasonably priced. It measures 99 x 44 x 22mm and runs on two AG12 watch batteries (supplied).



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**ISOTEK SIGMAS £995**

Already established as a leader in mains conditioning products, Isotek really shook things up with the Titan – which won our Award in 2005, beating Isotek's own modestly priced Mini Sub GII into second place. There then followed the Nova, optimised for source components.

But never content to rest on its laurels, Isotek has found a way of giving us the best of both worlds with the Sigmas.

This six-outlet model uses the 'Direct Coupled Design' concept of the Titan, and was described by David Allcock in his October 2006 review as a Titan/Nova hybrid in

MiniSub style chassis. 'If you're thinking of buying a MiniSub,' David went on, 'My advice would be to... go for the Sigmas – your music will thank you for it.'

'Excellent build quality, protection circuits, a fully-adaptive filtration circuit and stunning performance make the Sigmas a true bargain.' ©