

# HOME THEATER BUYER'S GUIDE

EDITORS' CHOICE: **150** Best Products!

## The Perfect Vision

WINTER 2007



**PLUS:**

**1080p HDTVs from Samsung, Toshiba, and Sharp**  
**Speaker systems from KEF and PSB**  
**Wireless Wonders: iPods On PDAs**  
**Top DVDs You Must Own**

2006  
The Perfect Vision  
Editors' Choice

This is a highly listenable system that can also be dynamically explosive as well as quite enveloping with surround sources.

*TPV Issue 54*

### KEF KHT 9000 ACE

**\$7300 • [www.kef.com](http://www.kef.com)**

KEF's KHT 9000 speakers are compact enough for wall-mounting, although ACE technology helps them sound much larger than they are. But the big news is the system's sonics, which strike that delicate balance between smoothness and naturalness on the one hand, and definition, focus, and clarity on the other. Even if this system weren't incredibly clever, compact, and convenient (which it is), you'd want it for its sound.

*TPV Issue 56*

### PSB Platinum M2

**\$8396 • [www.psbSpeakers.com](http://www.psbSpeakers.com)**

It's hard to think of how \$8k could be better spent in pursuit of the multichannel experience. The aluminum-sheathed Platinum M2 L/Rs, C2 center, and S2 surrounds aren't ruffled by any multichannel source, reproducing the weight, majesty, and complexity of music and soundtracks in stereo or 5.1. The entire system blends seamlessly with the Subsonic 10 subwoofer.

*TPV Issue 52*

### DALI Helicon 400

**\$9860 • [www.dali.dk](http://www.dali.dk)**

A premium, floorstanding 2.5-way that is as beautiful to look at as it is to listen to. The Helicon 400s combine warmth, ultra-quick transients, low-level resolution, full-bodied bass, and one of the most open top ends in any class, courtesy of DALI's unique ribbon-super-tweeter/dome-tweeter module. Though exceptionally uncolored due in part to their rigidly braced cabinets, the DALIs have a slight midbass bloom that mandates careful setup in medium-sized rooms.

*TPV Issue 56*

### Meridian DSP33

**\$14,445 • [www.meridian-audio.com](http://www.meridian-audio.com)**

A relatively compact and highly civilized powered speaker system, Meridian's DSP33 includes the DSP33 (main and surrounds), DSP33C (center), and D1500 (subwoofer). To take full advantage of the on-board 24-bit/96kHz digital-to-analog converters, the system begs for a Meridian digital processor. Taking a long-term view, Meridian has made the system fully software-upgradeable via RS232 ports. The plain black cabinet design is nothing to write home about, but the sound is—open, remarkably dynamic, and very detailed.

*TPV Issue 34*

### Revel F52

**\$14,491 • [www.revelspeakers.com](http://www.revelspeakers.com)**

"A dual-purpose system... worth exploring in depth," wrote Anthony Cordesman—very detailed, excellently matched in timbre, consistent in vertical and horizontal dispersion, with prodigious dynamic reserves and LF extension. The full-range F50a successfully anchored a multichannel system that included M20 surrounds and a C50a center speaker. Revel's sophisticated B15a subwoofer features parametric EQ. If you have the room and paycheck, "this is the kind of system you should buy," concluded Cordesman. F52, C52, and M22 replace F50a, C50a, and M20.

*TPV Issue 53*

### In-wall/in-ceiling Loudspeaker Systems

#### OEM Systems Preference K-5LCR

**\$299/each • [www.oemsystems.com](http://www.oemsystems.com)**

The Preference K-5LCR is an open-back in-wall intended for use with mid-sized flat-panel displays. Dual 5 1/4-inch midwoofers produce surprisingly deep bass; a 1-inch Teflon tweeter aids the spacious soundstage. Well-built and easy to install, they compete favorably with many more expensive products. "Tuning" with insulation in the wall in which they are mounted, and careful blending with a subwoofer are useful tricks to get the most out of the K-5LCR.

*TPV Issue 67*

### Angstrom Ambienti AV-6.5

**\$599/pair**

**[www.angstromloudspeakers.com](http://www.angstromloudspeakers.com)**

This affordable little two-way is the giant killer of in-walls, offering expressive dynamics and an articulate, engaging sound that puts some much more expensive competitors to shame. Not capable of true deep bass, the Angstrom can be quite compelling when coupled with the right subwoofer.

*TPV issue 67*

### BG PD-6

**\$599 • [www.bgcorp.com](http://www.bgcorp.com)**

The PD-6 combines the thrust of a Kevlar dynamic driver with BG's own 3" planar-



Angstrom Ambienti AV-6.5

magnetic ribbon for clean open mids and sweet highs, with excellent overall dispersion characteristics and a broad sweet spot. Designed for in-wall or in-ceiling installations. Solid value and build-quality, but make sure you include a subwoofer.

*TPV issue 62*

### PSB CW180R

**\$599 each • [www.psbSpeakers.com](http://www.psbSpeakers.com)**

The open mids and highs and dual-level controls are the prime attributes of PSB's coaxial in-wall. The pivoting SonicGuide feature (a constant directivity waveguide) makes the PSB ideal for both in-wall and in-ceiling mounting. Horizontal dispersion could use some improvement, and while bass response