



# system of the year

## Cambridge Audio Azur 650A/650C

*Reviewed this issue*

Cambridge Audio isn't the sort of brand normally associated with winning Awards from *Hi-Fi+*. Indeed, our Award winning cables costs several times as much as this pair of budget beauties and it's not uncommon to find a reader who's spent more on special fuses than the cost of this CD player.

The company really pulled out the stops on these two. Thick front panels are only the start. Putting a pair of Wolfson chips and a high-precision clock in a CD player at this price is unheard of. The same applies to motorised ALPS pots, Sanken transistors and a non-invasive, adaptive protection circuit in the 75w dual mono in a single case integrated amplifier.

It's the sound that counts, though. As long as the speakers are not exceptionally bright or possessed

of insane loads, the Azur 650 models make a sound that is exceptionally detailed, exciting yet most of all 'likeable' – and more than capable of being used with some surprisingly high-end loudspeaker systems. And then, the duo really reveal their charms, "Suddenly, what most people consider as good mid-price electronics becomes a neutral platform to play music with a great deal of integrity."

Impressive at any price, at £700 for the pair, it's impossible not to be won over by the charms of the 650A and 650C.

**Price:** £350 per unit

**Manufactured by** Cambridge Audio

**URL:** [www.cambridgeaudio.com](http://www.cambridgeaudio.com)

**Distributed in the UK by**

Richer Sounds

**URL:** [www.richersounds.com](http://www.richersounds.com)

**Tel:** 0845 900 1230 (UK only)

### Highly Commended Sugden Mystro CD and amp

*Reviewed in issue 67*

**Price:** £1,319+£1,225

**Manufactured by** JE Sugden & Co

**Net:** [www.sugdenaudio.com](http://www.sugdenaudio.com)

**Tel:** +44 (0)1924 404088

### Highly Commended Carat i57

*Reviewed in this issue*

**Price** £1,499

**Manufactured by** InoVadis

**URL:** [www.inovadis.com](http://www.inovadis.com)

**URL:** [www.carat-audio.com](http://www.carat-audio.com)

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**Tel :** +44 (0)845 603 1375