

# WHAT HI★FI?

## SOUND AND VISION

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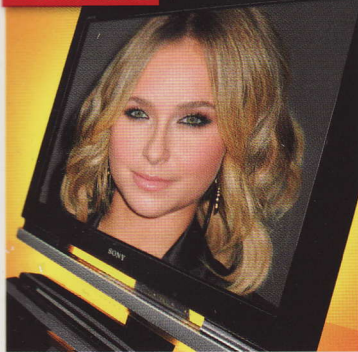
# AWARDS

# 2008

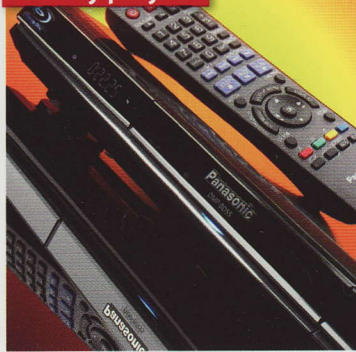
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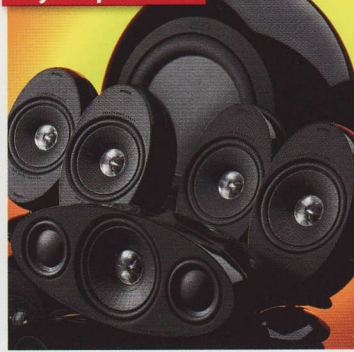
Televisions



Blu-ray players



Style speakers

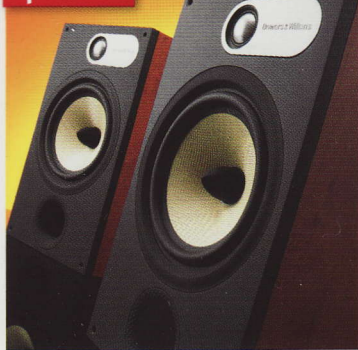


Radios

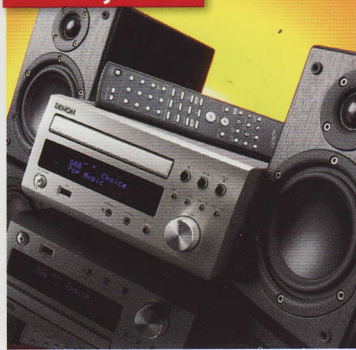


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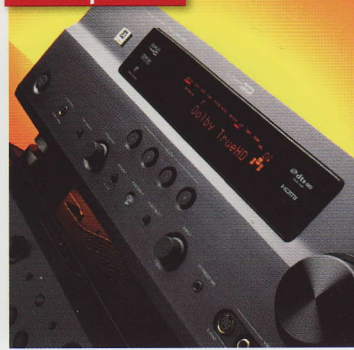
Speakers



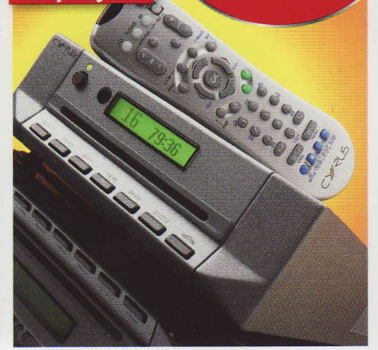
Micro systems



AV amplifiers



CD players



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**FIRST TESTS**

**DIGITAL MUSIC PLAYER • HEADPHONES**



**Archos has form and function**

**DIGITAL MEDIA PLAYER**  
**ARCHOS 5 60GB**  
★★★★★  
**£ 280**

**VERDICT**  
A good all-rounder from Archos, and if it wasn't for pesky Apple, this would be a real winner

**THE 5 IS** from Archos's 'internet tablet' range. It's a sleek device, but just a touch big and heavy to be entirely pocket-friendly.

This video and music player boasts a 4.8in, 800x480 LCD screen, complete with touchscreen controls. There's a 60GB hard disk drive to fill, and you'll get 12 hours of music and four hours of video on a charged battery.

The feather in this machine's cap is Internet access. The Opera browser included allows you to connect to a Wi-Fi network.

There are plenty of add-ons to buy, the main one of interest being the £80 DVR, which allows you to

record programmes straight from TV and stream content from a PC.

Video performance is good, but... it's not quite as clean, sharp and stable as the iPod Touch or iPhone (though the screen is bigger). Watching *My Name Is Earl* we're absorbed by good insight, natural colours and fair contrast levels.

Flick to music and it's not quite as solid and detailed as you-know-what but again it's listenable, nicely balanced with decent timing.

The Archos 5 has plenty going for it in terms of features, functions and performance, it's just a shame its thunder is stolen by the usual suspects from Apple.

**Smooth Complys offer comfort**

**EARPHONES**  
**COMPLY NR-10**  
★★★★★  
**£ 66**

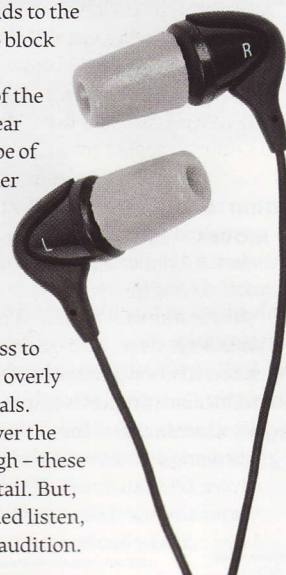
**VERDICT**  
Not the best for outright detail, these in-ears offer more comfort than most, and are good for lengthy listening sessions

**COMPLY CLAIMS MILITARY** grade noise reduction for these headphones. The foam used for the buds is incredibly soft, and moulds to the shape of your ear canal to block out external sound.

The NR-10s are some of the real burrowers of the in-ear world, with a plastic probe of around 5mm hidden under the buds; but the foam does its job well once it's had time to expand.

The sound produced is easy to listen to, with a commendable mellowness to it that is at odds with the overly bright sound of many rivals.

There's a slight haze over the entire proceedings, though – these aren't the last word in detail. But, for a comfortable, extended listen, the NR-10s are worth an audition.



**ALSO CONSIDER ?**

**DENON**  
**AH-C551**  
★★★★★  
**£70**  
November 2008  
Good range and richness, but a tendency to be a little bright when pushed. One for detail lovers

**SHURE SE110**  
★★★★★  
**£80**  
Awards 2008  
Once again an Award winner, the Shures are comfortable, great-sounding in-ear phones