

TEST VERDICT**THE WINNER****Q Acoustics Concept 20**

£350 ★★★★★



All these speakers are terrific, but for their superb performance at an astonishing price, it's the **Q Acoustics** stunners that triumph

If you're looking for a great first or second pair of hi-fi speakers that represent top value for money, look no further. We've seen some of these speakers before, but this is the first time that they've faced each other.

They've all got their own strengths and none of them is to be scoffed at. Every one was a four- or five-star product at some point, so we knew we were going to have some fun.

The Tannoy DC4s offer a focused, cohesive sound, and do really well in smaller listening rooms. They're also the smallest set here - ideal if your space is a little tight. The Monitor Audio Silver RX1s, also quite small, have a lovely sense of refinement in both sound and build quality, although they don't let loose and play dirty as well as we'd like. For that we refer you to the KEF Q300s and B&W 685s, which are

capable of pumping out a much bigger, more dynamic sound.

It's a first *Group Test* for the Acoustic Energy 301s, which made their debut only in this year's March issue. We're impressed with their fuss-free nature and their overall performance, which posed a real threat to the old guard with greater integration and timing.

But there's no question that it's the Q Acoustic Concept 20s that steal this show. They're excellent all-rounders with a wide-open sense of space, tremendous sense of clarity and a look-again price tag.

At the end, three of our old favourites lost a star. That's not because there's anything wrong with them. The newcomers really are that good.

Despite being a young company, Q Acoustics has yet to disappoint - and it's just outdone itself.

SYSTEM BUILDER

Partnering kit that will make your beautiful new speakers truly shine

**CD PLAYER**

Marantz CD6004

£300 ★★★★★

A multiple Award-winner and still the finest budget CD player we know. It's built well and plays all types of music with ease.

**TURNTABLE**

Pro-ject Debut Carbon

£300 ★★★★★

Pro-ject is no stranger to making great budget turntables, but the Debut Carbon, with its strong dynamics, is one of its finest yet.

**AMPLIFIER**

Rotel RA-10

£350 ★★★★★

While the Q Acoustics are capable of working with far pricier amps, the RA-10 is a great starting point. It delivers a solid sound.

Total build £1300

For a full list of specifications and other useful info visit whathifi.com

Facts & figures

Acoustic Energy 301
£245 ★★★★★

Sensitivity 87dB/W/m •
Impedance 8 ohms •
Max power 150W •
Biwireable No • Finishes
2 • Dimensions (hwd)
30 x 19 x 25cm



B&W 685
£400 ★★★★★

Sensitivity 88dB/W/m •
Impedance 8 ohms •
Max power 100W •
Biwireable Yes • Finishes
4 • Dimensions (hwd)
34 x 20 x 33cm



KEF Q300
£450 ★★★★★

Sensitivity 87dB/W/m •
Impedance 8 ohms •
Max power 120W •
Biwireable Yes • Finishes
3 • Dimensions (hwd)
36 x 21 x 30cm



Monitor A. Silver RX1
£425 ★★★★★

Sensitivity 89dB/W/m •
Impedance 6 ohms •
Max power 80W •
Biwireable Yes • Finishes
6 • Dimensions (hwd)
31 x 19 x 24cm



Q Acoustics C'cept 20
£350 ★★★★★

Sensitivity 88dB/W/m •
Impedance 6 ohms •
Max power 75W •
Biwireable Yes • Finishes
2 • Dimensions (hwd)
26 x 17 x 28cm



Tannoy Rev. DC4
£380 ★★★★★

Sensitivity 89dB/W/m •
Impedance 6 ohms •
Max power 50W •
Biwireable Yes • Finishes
2 • Dimensions (hwd)
27 x 15 x 16cm