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SOUND AND VISION

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SPEAKER PACKAGE



SPEAKER PACKAGE
CANTON
CHRONO 5.1

★★★★★

£ 1100

FOR

Widescreen sound; shiny good looks; lots of material for the money

AGAINST

Lacks ultimate focus; needs plenty of space

VERDICT

If you're looking for all-out cinematic attack, jump right in. If you've got the room, that is...

Canton super-sizes your sound

'THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE for cubic inches' is a common aphorism in the motor industry. If it makes perfect sense to you, you're going to love this Canton Chrono 5.1 system before you've even heard it.

Though this is the most compact incarnation of a Chrono multichannel package (two pairs

"Not the most faithful we've heard, but it's among the most fun"

of 502 standmounters, 505 centre speaker and AS525SC subwoofer), it's still a sizeable proposition.

Those with small listening rooms must look elsewhere.

Everybody else should give the Chrono full consideration. It's a well-finished system, with nice, even panel gaps and chunky gold'n'plastic speaker binding posts. Those sparkly, chromed driver surrounds may not be to

everybody's taste, but Canton can't be faulted for making an effort when many rivals look humdrum.

Delivering a player-decoded HD DVD of *Hot Fuzz*, the Canton impresses with its scale and confidence. It generates a wide, tall soundstage and establishes effects on it with precision – the Chrono handles movement and placement without alarms.

The centre speaker, as seems only reasonable from such a buxom cabinet, is richly communicative, investing dialogue with detail and character.

Integrated sub with slam

This same movie raised a few questions about the AS525SC subwoofer's firepower and expressiveness, but a switch to Jonathan Demme's *Stop Making Sense* (on DVD, and decoded by our reference amplifier) reveals all to be satisfactory. This Canton bassbin is punchy and eloquent,

Not for small listening rooms or for those with an aversion to chrome

and integrates with its surround sound partners smoothly.

Used for stereo listening, the Canton maintains its form. Music is big and bold, with particularly enjoyable levels of authority. Class leaders offer greater detail and focus, and therefore greater fidelity, but none approaches the Chrono's expansive nature.

If you crave super-sized movie sound from shiny speakers, this Canton is a front-runner. It's not the most faithful we've ever heard, but it's among the most fun.

KNOW HOW SYSTEM OPTIONS

THIS CHRONO 5.1 package uses Chrono 502 standmounters in each corner of the surround-sound ring (like boxing rings, surround-sound rings are square) but, in case you've got additional front-room space to spare, Canton can offer you larger speakers from the same range.

The Chrono 507 are floorstanding speakers, sporting the same woofer and tweeter from the 502s

but adding a 180mm midrange driver and power-handling ability up to 170 watts.

If that sounds a bit tentative, consider the 509s. These are a 3-way design that add a second 180mm woofer and 10cm in height to the 507 recipe. They should satisfy the volume cravings of almost anyone.

Looking for more options? The cabinets also come in black or silver finishes (beech is shown above).



TECH SPECS
SYSTEM MAX POWER (W) 130
LOWEST SENSITIVITY (DB/W/M) 88
NOMINAL IMPEDANCE (OHMS) 8
DIMENSIONS (HWD)
FRONT 36 x 19 x 28cm
CENTRE 17 x 46 x 31cm
REAR 36 x 19 x 28cm
SUBWOOFER 45 x 26 x 37cm
BIWIRE No
FINISHES 3



TANNOY MERCURY F1 CUSTOM
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