

**1 THE IMAGE**

Hats off to Panasonic for making Blu-ray so affordable. Shame, then, that in the process they've made this player feel so light and cheap. Looks nice though.

**2 THE GRUNT**

The comparatively limited HDMI count (just two inputs) seems a bit mean. The rest is ace though – muscular and exciting, but also smooth, composed and listenable.

**3 THE NOISE**

KEF's egg speakers are everywhere, and it's easy to see why: well-made, easy to install and (above all) incredibly refined, they're the benchmark for compact style speakers.



## Budget Blu-ray blaster

**Panasonic DMP-BD35 £300**

[www.panasonic.co.uk](http://www.panasonic.co.uk)

**Yamaha DSP-AX793 £400**

[www.yamaha-uk.com](http://www.yamaha-uk.com)

**KEF KHT2005.3 £700**

[www.kef.co.uk](http://www.kef.co.uk)

**Who is it for?**

Someone looking for the very best sound and vision for their cash. This set-up's not cheap, but for vaguely sensible money it's hard to think of a better way into the world of home cinema separates. True, that AV amp is a lump, but there's enough panache about this package's performance to compensate.

**What can I expect?**

This Panasonic Blu-ray player is an affordable cracker with sizzling 1080p/24p pictures. It can also stream high-def audio formats into an appropriate surround sound amp, such as the forceful Yamaha here. Now just add suitable speakers. The Yamaha has plenty of power, so you could go big if you're not concerned with looks, but being us, we've opted for KEF's latest, rounding off the system elegantly without compromising on sound quality.

**Stuff says**

All the features you need and fantastic performance, though it's not quite so easy on the eye. ★★★★★

<b>Plays</b>	Blu-ray, DVD, CD, MP3, DivX
<b>Video out</b>	1080p/24p over HDMI, component
<b>iPod support</b>	Dedicated iPod dock available
<b>Power</b>	665W
<b>Automatic calibration</b>	Yes

**Show it off with...****Transformers (Blu-ray)**

In 1080p HD and endowed with Dolby TrueHD audio this looks and sounds amazing. OK, so it's woefully scripted and the plot's a mess, but ignore all that and just enjoy the special effects.