

## Our Gadget of the Week: Home Opera



If music is the sound of love, the depth of your enchantment surely depends on your audio speakers, the units that ultimately bring those digital signals on a CD back to you as Mozart and Bach. If you want pure passion, take a look at the huge high-tech Purity speakers from Kansas-based MartinLogan, a private company getting attention for the excellence of its sound systems.

The Purity speakers, which rest on the floor and stand more than four-feet tall, depart from the norm in quite a few ways. Unlike 98% of speakers you can buy today, they have built-in amplifiers. That means you don't need a separate amplifier box (and remote) to use them. Instead, you just plug them into the audio jacks of your TV, CD player, iPod docking station or other source—and they work right off the bat.

More important, thanks to their innovative electrostatic design, the quality of the sound could be the best

you've ever heard. The upper part of each speaker consists of an ultra-thin film sandwiched between two metal mesh sheets. The sheets are electrically charged, one side to positive, the other to negative, causing the film to reverberate to the electrical sound inputs. Since the film weighs maybe 100 times less than the paper cone of a normal speaker—and is therefore far more sensitive—the system provides rare fidelity, speed and accuracy.

The speakers certainly sounded better than any we could recall as they pumped out, via our TV, the latest Met DVD recording of Renée Fleming singing in *Eugene Onegin*. It almost rivaled a real night at the opera.

—JAY PALMER

### MartinLogan Purity speakers

**Price:** \$3,000 a pair.

**Stats:** 52 inches high.

**Features:** Built-in 200-watt amplifier allows use with almost any output.

**Website:** [www.martinlogan.com](http://www.martinlogan.com)

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