

“FANTASTIC VALUE”

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“Performance exceeds expectations. ... The Paradigm blended seamlessly into the big sonic ‘picture’, reinforcing front effects and adding a richness to dialogue.”

by Bob Tomalski

Those enjoying Pro-Logic from satellite for the first time are often tempted to use the phantom mode on their Pro-Logic amplifier rather than buy a dedicated centre speaker.

This is false economy. When film sounds are mixed, dialogue and effects relating to on-screen action are panned to the centre of the screen.

If you set your system to phantom mode, this information can sound unbalanced—particularly if you sit off-centre to the screen. With a centre speaker the action is always anchored to the picture—dead centre as the director intended.

Centre speakers come in all sizes to suit all pockets. Here are a couple of contenders.



The New CC-170

(Improved over version CC-150 reviewed for even better sound.)

HARD CENTRE

Canadian manufacturer Paradigm's CC-150 looks expensive. For 527 (w) x 165 (h) x 216 (d) mm you get a superbly built cabinet made of high-density MDF designed to reduce resonance and improve rigidity.

Upfront, three drivers form a two-way bass reflex design with rear venting. This layout comprises two coupled 135 mm bass/mid units and a 19 mm polyamide tweeter.

Low-cost speakers often fit cheap and cheerless terminals. Not so this box. It has large binding posts which screw down upon bare cable or 4 mm banana plugs.

Technically, the specification is excellent for this price point. Paradigm quotes a frequency response from 70 Hz - 20 kHz within a tight +/-2dB margin and an

amplifier power range from 5-120 W. The sensitivity is also high at 91 dB / 1 W / 1 m and the nominal impedance is 8 ohms.

"... splashes and explosions were reproduced with tumultuous effect. ... Male and female voices sound mellifluous under the CC-150's influence."

In layman's terms this is a speaker that should go loud with a good tonal range.

Performance exceeds expectations. During the premiere of *Waterworld* on The Movie Channel the splashes and explosions were reproduced with tumultuous effect.

The Paradigm blended seamlessly into the big sonic 'picture', reinforcing front effects and adding a richness to dialogue.

And it's not only crashes and bangs that benefit from the bass. Male and female voices sound mellifluous under the CC-150's influence. Actress Jeanne Tripplehorn's character in the watery epic assumes a velvety voice.

Overall, this speaker is fantastic value for the money. It must be auditioned.