

“ ... SIMPLY THE BEST,  
BETTER THAN ALL THE REST.”

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“ ... crisp, clean and exceptional ... sound was wide and deep ... natural ... rich and soulful ... exceptional timbral quality ... up to now the words ‘quality’ and ‘Home Theater in a Box’ haven’t existed within the same sentence.”



by Murray G.

In the immortal words of Tina Turner “Simply the Best, better then all the Rest”. The Paradigm Cinema 110 CT compact home theater speakers in a box have set a new standard in quality. Up to now the words “quality” and “Home Theater in a Box” haven’t existed within the same sentence. The market is flooded with surround sound speaker systems that are priced under \$200 and are as hollow and tinny as they can get.

Paradigm has introduced a new line of “Home Theater in a Box” speakers. Paradigm is known for their high quality and high priced audiophile speakers. They have entered into the Home Theater in a box vertical market in a serious way with the introduction of the

Cinema system, a very smart move by this Canadian company. The home theater/entertainment market is one of the fastest growing markets and as surround sound receivers and amplifiers gain market share speaker manufacturers have to adapt as well.

I don’t like to compromise when it comes to sound, I’ve always spent a few extra dollars on speakers. No point in getting a Surround sound receiver and connecting a cheap set of “Home Theater in a Box” speakers to it. For one, the sound quality is tinny and hollow and to top it off your subwoofer usually blows after a couple months. Don’t scrimp on speakers, you’ll regret it.

The Cinema line comes in 3 formats, Cinema 70 CT, Cinema 90 CT and Cinema 110 CT set of speakers. The 70 set is mainly for apartment and small space usage. The 90's are for medium size rooms and for people who like a more robust sound. The 110's, speakers I tested, are for those who want the "Full Meal Deal" when it comes to sound. Of compact design the Cinema CTs fit into most living spaces and are lightweight in design.

*"... this subwoofer doesn't fool you by trying to be a BOOM box, as many cheap imitations try and do ... this bad boy handled everything I threw at it ... designed for the long haul ... earth shaking and articulate ..."*

As the phrase "home theater in a box" states the complete system came in a box. I could hardly curb my enthusiasm when it arrived at my front door. The box is heavy and large so make sure you have someone there to give you a hand. The speakers come with wall mount kits or stands which can be purchased separately. All the speakers are mounted to the walls in my home theater room and stands wouldn't be practical as we have 2 very large dogs (Laverne and Shirley — English Mastiffs). I highly recommend wall mounting, especially if you have pets or children.

I tested the speakers using my Kenwood 8070 7.1 surround sound receiver, pumping out 100 watts 7 ways. The VR-8070's digital surround-sound processing capabilities include THX Cinema Mode, THX Surround EX, Dolby Digital, and DTS-ES (Discrete, Matrix, Neo:6). Dolby Pro Logic IIx creates an incredible 7.1-channel experience with ordinary 2-channel sources like CDs, VHS tapes and even FM radio.

The first thing I noticed was that the 3 front speakers were essentially the same physical size, same driver size and the same specification wise. This ensures the "timbral Quality" is equal across the front of your system; timbral refers to the "quality" of tone, most cheap systems sound hollow and lack crispness.

My surround sound receiver is a 7.1 so instead of using the supplied ADP speakers as rear speakers I use them as side speakers. I use my existing Paradigm Mini Monitor speakers as the rear speakers.

The subwoofer has a 10" driver and is designed to handle 150 watts RMS/450 Watts Peak. This bad boy handled everything I threw at it and is designed for the long haul. This is probably the weakest link in most inexpensive "home theater in a box" systems. A quality subwoofer needs to have tremendous output, superb control and clean, articulate bass. This subwoofer doesn't try and fool you by being a BOOM box, as many cheap imitations try and do, the lows were subtle, earth shaking and articulate when they had to be.

*"... a new standard in quality ... the 'Full Meal Deal' when it comes to sound ... the best 'Home Theater in a Box' speakers available in or around the \$1,000 range."*

The 110 CT system is designed to fill a large room with rich and soulful sound. I tested the speakers in a medium sized room (23' L X 12.5 W) that has been converted into a home theater room.

Whether I was watching *The Incredibles*, or U2's *Elevation Tour*, the sound quality was crisp, clean and exceptional. I really don't want to send these back.

A surround sound speaker system has to function like a well-oiled machine, the subwoofer has to recreate the lows in a powerful yet subtle manner, the front

speakers need to be in harmony with each other and the sides and rear have to fill the room. These speakers did all that flawlessly and performed exceptionally well. The sound was wide and deep with an exceptional timbral quality creating a natural sound, the like I haven't heard before in "Home Theater in a Box" systems.

As far as I'm concerned, they are the best "Home Theater in a Box" speakers available on the market in or around the \$1,000 range.