

“... **INFALLIBLE SOUND!**”

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“... the Cinema™ system’s ability to reproduce all sounds authentically and with precision is what distinguishes it from the competition. ... the speakers integrated beautifully ... I would not hesitate to recommend this system ...”

by Gregorz Buczek

The Cinema™ system consists of four identical palm-sized™ satellite speakers for the left/right front and surround channels, plus the Cinema™ CC (center channel). Cabinets are made of rigid composite plastic with internal bracing added to minimize cabinet resonances and increase stiffness. The speaker is trapezoid-shaped resulting in non-parallel sides—a style of construction that we feel suggests very good acoustic performance.

The high-frequency driver features a 5/8-inch (14 mm) polymer dome cooled by ferro-fluid. The dome is shaped like a small funnel and the cone meets up with the sloped faceplate to minimize edge diffraction, enhance the directional characteristics of the speaker, and protect it from damage. The bass/midrange driver is a 3-1/2-inch (90 mm) polypropylene cone, suspended on a stamped steel basket with rubber surround. Both

Cinema™ satellites



drivers are secured in the cabinet from within, providing a nice visual effect if the grille is removed.

The Cinema™ CC is constructed of the same rigid composite plastic but displays a unique horizontal orientation. Two bass/midrange drivers flank the high-frequency driver. A special base attached to the bottom of the Cinema™ CC provides increased stability and allows the center channel to be placed securely on top of a TV. Special rear openings can be used for wall mounting. As an option, Paradigm also offers special bases for use under the front and rear satellites.

The subwoofer included with the Cinema system was the PDR-10. Cabinet construction is a high-density hardboard finished in a black laminate. The 10-inch (255 mm) bass driver is a carbon-fibre-reinforced composite cone housed on the

subwoofer's front wall under a non-removable, black fabric grille. A flared heatsink that diffuses heat from the high-current amplifier is installed on the rear wall of the subwoofer in addition to line-level and speaker inputs, volume and cut-off frequency level controls.

We feel Paradigm speakers perform best in an area no greater than 15 m², offering music and home theater performance on a grand scale. If you're a fan of female vocals make a point of listening to these Paradigms—in this respect alone they're worthy of serious consideration.

SOUND

The Cinema™ system's ability to reproduce all sounds authentically and with precision is what distinguishes it from the competition. When it came to home theater sound, the speakers realistically recreated the atmosphere portrayed on the screen. High frequencies were musically rich, deep and full, lacking any harsh metallic sounds or other colorations. The titanium tweeter proved its mettle among the competitors we reviewed. Its precision, combined with a soft musicality provided by the poly-propylene driver served the midrange well, providing a natural and interesting tonal transition from midrange to high tones. Dialogue was perfectly clear across the entire listening area. Background music did its job well, never intruding upon the up-front action or dialogue. The Cinema™ system allowed the listener to feel actively involved in events transpiring on screen. I found it interesting that, despite the small room and my proximity to the Cinema™ speakers, they gave no specific impression of individuality, instead, the speakers



Cinema™ CC

integrated beautifully creating a wide, deep soundstage. We placed the speakers according to the manufacturer's recommendations for set-up, and once again the traditional 5.1-channel set-up proved to be the best.

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Because of the small diaphragms in the midrange drivers, we turned the subwoofer settings up high (80 Hz), however, no bothersome effects were noted and uniformity of sound was not affected.

During our stereophonic evaluation, Paradigm speakers were at their best when playing music performed by small instrumental bands. Jazz, chamber music and vocals all came across particularly well through the Cinemas. I was bewitched by the system's representation of female vocals—their natural warmth and precision, even at the higher frequencies, left me feeling as if I had made a connection with the performer, an extremely rare occurrence when listening to speakers in this price range. Rock, pop and other types of music came across dynamically, with precision and well-extended range. Demanding orchestral music involving a wide variety of instruments did not sound quite as good through the Cinema™ set.

Nonetheless, taking into consideration the size of these speakers, even large orchestral performances afforded me a great deal of musical satisfaction.

SUMMARY

I have written many complimentary things about these speakers made by Canadian manufacturer, Paradigm, simply because they truly are speakers of good quality. I would not hesitate to recommend this system to audiophiles. An added bonus is their color. Satellites and center are available in black and white, colors that will complement any interior. The one thing to keep in mind is the optimum room size for the Cinema™ system—about 15 m². However, having said that, connected to a high-quality amplifier, the Cinema™ system will provide infallible sound!



PDR-10