

“...easily the

BEST-SOUNDING

speakers we've heard...”

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★★★★★

“Firing up our standard batch of DVDs ... showed just how awesome these speakers are. ... their clarity and range were awesome ... I've logged 50-plus hours playing [COUNTER-STRIKE] with these speakers, and the experience is unrivaled.”

by William O'Neal

A few months ago we received a call from Paradigm's PR representative, asking us if we'd be interested in reviewing a set of home theater speakers. “Sure,” we said, “we'd be more than happy to put 'em through their paces.” Imagine our surprise when *six* boxes showed up.

By gaming standards, Paradigm's Blockbuster Cinema™ Home Theater System is about as high end as high end gets. The satellites and center speaker pack 40 watts each and the ample subwoofer was so powerful that even with my office door closed, our managing editor could easily tell I was playing COUNTER-STRIKE as opposed to writing this story.

One significant thing needs to be made clear, though: These are not computer

PDR-8

Cinema™ satellites



Cinema™ CC

speakers; they're home theater speakers that are designed to connect to a standard AV receiver, not your run-of-the-mill sound card. Wishing to do these speakers justice, we got our hands on a Pioneer VSX-D510 AV receiver and Hercules' Game Theater XP sound card. We connected the speakers to the receiver, and the receiver to the Game Theater's coaxial audio cable. We then placed the

Cinema™ above the monitor, with the front satellites on either side of the monitor and the rear satellites on the stands that came with the package.

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Firing up our standard batch of DVDs—*The Thin Red Line*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *Gladiator*, and *The Matrix*—showed just how awesome these speakers are. They're easily the best-sounding speakers we've heard, and their clarity and range were awesome while watching the movies in 5.1-channel Dolby Surround. But this review wouldn't be complete without addressing the gaming experience. Since COUNTER-STRIKE is the game *du jour* in the CGW offices, I can safely say that I've logged 50-plus hours playing it with these speakers, and the experience is unrivaled. Their range is such that pinpointing where a firefight was occurring was a cinch, and more than once I was able to take out an opponent who was attempting to sneak up on me.

If your computer also serves as your home entertainment system, then the Paradigm Blockbuster Cinema™ Home Theater System is a great way to go.