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WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★

"STUNNING, TAKE-YOUR-BREATH-AWAY EASE."

"The Servo-15 is a monster. It roars through action movies, powering into large explosions with an effortless disdain."

Big place, Canada. Lots of space and only seals for neighbors. Perhaps that's why they build subwoofers that resemble power stations. Take the Paradigm Servo-15: it looks simply gargantuan in the modest environs of a British lounge. A sealed-box cabinet 53x46x56cm (hxwxd), it packs a single 38cm driver, a Kevlar-reinforced composite design that's driven by an internal 400W amplifier.

For the utmost in flexibility, there's an external crossover unit housed in a separate mains-powered box, offering fine control of volume, frequency response and phase adjustments, as well as line-level connection options.

The Servo-15 is a monster. It roars through action movies, powering into large explosions with an effortless disdain. Test it with the DTS-enhanced drama of True Lies, and it simply hammers out the bridge-destroying blasts of each Harrier's missiles with stunning, take-your-breath-away ease. The external crossover gives plenty of tweaking options.

"agile and articulate... for sheer drive it's outstandingly muscular and fast."

Used with music, the Servo-15 is agile and articulate: the effort put into making that big driver stop and start accurately pays off, the Paradigm biting into fast basslines gleefully. It's not the warmest of richest-sounding performer, but for sheer drive it's outstandingly muscular and fast.

Whether you want a Servo-15 will have much to do with whether your house can accommodate the beast. But if you're a thrill-seeker, strap in and press play...