

**WHAT HI-FI?**  
 SOUND AND VISION

 GROUP TEST **WINNER**
**Monitor Audio Silver RS1 AV**

**£1650**

**THIS IS THE** most expensive system on show, but it is pretty special. The Monitor Audio Silver RS1 AV package more than justifies the extra expense over the other three systems thanks to its amazing sonic ability.

In terms of outright resolution and its ability to uncover detail, the RS1 AV bosses the rest of this highly competitive field. The sound is spacious and lends itself to creating a fantastic atmosphere whether you're watching the gung-ho, explosive action of *xXx: The Next Level* or the more stirring, emotional soundtrack of *Gladiator SE*.

The package can be powerful and forthright, but is versatile enough to adapt to more subtle moments on a movie soundtrack or CD. Dialogue fired out via the RS-LCR centre channel (£250) sounds natural, emotive and clear. In *xXx: The Next Level*, it captures the moody gangster attitude in Ice Cube's voice absolutely perfectly.

A word of warning: ensure all the speakers are given a generous amount of time to run in or things will sound a touch bright at the top end. Also, you'll need to invest in a decent pair of

**FOR**

Transparent delivery with movies and music; superb detail; subwoofer integrates well delivering tight, punchy bass

**AGAINST**

Striking looks might not appeal to everyone

**VERDICT**

It might be the most expensive, but the Monitor Audio Silver RS1 AV is undoubtedly a class-leading set-up



Those distinctive, bold loudspeaker cones deliver some superb music and movie sound

speaker stands for – at least – the front RS1 speakers, which will cost you extra.

The rear speakers come with a wall-fixing kit, and can operate as bipole or dipole speakers. At the flick of switch the two drivers change the way they interact, and so subtly alter the sound. Just select the mode you like best.

The subwoofer also deserves a mention: it integrates with the rest of

the system seamlessly and delivers a hefty and precise low-end kick. Multichannel and stereo music sounds rhythmic and detailed, with excellent clarity and openness.

This system is the most expensive on test, but we're convinced it's worth every penny. If you want cinema sound without going to your multiplex, then the Monitor Audio is the pick of the bunch.

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**TEST RESULT**

Any of these set-ups could do a fine job, but one of them – the system from **Monitor Audio** – left us breathless

**FACTS AND FIGURES**

PRICE RANGE £1300 – £1650	ACOUSTIC ENERGY LINEAR 5.1	AUDIO PRO BLACK DIAMOND	KEF iQ5 AV	MONITOR AUDIO SILVER RS1 AV
<b>SPECIFICATION</b>				
PRICE	<b>£ 1300</b>	<b>£ 1550</b>	<b>£ 1450</b>	<b>£ 1650</b>
POWER-HANDLING	175w	150w	150w	120w
LOWEST SENSITIVITY (dB/w/m)	89	87	83	89
IMPEDANCE (OHMS)	8	8	8	6
DIMENSIONS (HWD)				
FRONT	90 x 24 x 27cm	101 x 19 x 32cm	82 x 18 x 26cm	31 x 19 x 28cm
CENTRE	18 x 62 x 20cm	19 x 56 x 27cm	17 x 51 x 26cm	19 x 50 x 24cm
REAR	36 x 19 x 26cm	34 x 25 x 25cm	18 x 36 x 18cm	29 x 29 x 13cm
SUBWOOFER	50 x 43 x 39cm	45 x 35 x 39cm	36 x 50 x 33cm	34 x 34 x 37cm
BIWIRABLE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
SUBWOOFER POWER				
FINISHES	2	1	5	5
<b>HOW THEY RATED</b>				
MOVIE SOUND	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
MUSIC SOUND	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
BUILD	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
VERDICT	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★

“It’s a tough call between the two five-star packages, but the Monitor Audios edge it”