

STYLE SPEAKER
PACKAGE
KEF KHT2005.3



FOR

Influential good looks; excellent finish; impressive subwoofer; eloquent sound

AGAINST

Its composure and unambiguous nature means other systems offer a little more excitement

VERDICT

Take a proven winner, enhance the sub and sit back to receive the plaudits

The latest KEF KHT2005 speaker package is as stylish as its predecessors

KEF's eggs are still the ones to beat

READERS OF A certain age may recall the advertising strap-line: 'One instinctively knows when something is right'. Admittedly it referred to a brand of sherry rather than a speaker package, but it could just as easily apply to this KEF KHT2005.3 set-up.

The original system set a template that others imitated slavishly – the 2005 has dictated the look of style-orientated speakers for years, even if rivals have struggled to match its pound-for-pound performance.

Slick and subtle improvements

It's little wonder then that KEF hasn't felt the need to do anything but gently upgrade the 2005 package. Apart from their high-gloss finish, the 2005.3 satellite speakers' big change is the improved stability of their desktop mounts: a 10cm Uni-Q driver incorporating a 1.9cm tweeter at its centre and a cast aluminium enclosure.

The subwoofer, though, is the all-new Kube 2 – it's packing a

25cm driver with opposing 25cm passive radiator, generating 200W.

A state-of-the-art soundtrack like *Batman Begins* in Dolby TrueHD is detailed and expansive – effects are steered confidently, set pieces driven through without fuss.

Dialogue is chunky and freighted with character, and the sweep across the frequency range is smooth – this character means the KEF isn't the last word in excitement at this sort of price, but it's certainly the most

composed. The Kube 2 sub is a punchy, expressive and nicely inconspicuous performer.

That disposition is even more pronounced when the talk concerns music reproduction. Whether it's the virtuosity of Marcus Miller's *The Panther* or the stereo lo-fi stylings of American Analog Set's *Immaculate Heart*, the 2005.3 offers a poised presentation. On the end of a price-appropriate system, the KEF offers fluent sound and classic good looks.



ALSO
CONSIDER



Q ACOUSTICS
Q-AV



£600

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A good solution to a specific problem ("I don't have room for all those speakers"), the Q-AV sounds impressive. Bespoke bracket is pricey, though