

CD PLAYERS

PRODUCT OF THE YEAR

Cyrus CD 6 SE

£800

IN OUR OPINION, Cyrus's new CD players all set new standards at their respective price levels. However, it's arguably the entry-level CD 6 SE that represents the best value. That's why it's picked up our top CD player Award this year.

The main change between this player and the old CD 6 is the transport: the DAC, power supply and audio circuits remain much the same as before.

Partner with care for the best results

The new transport uses a slot-loader – a more elegant solution than the over-grown drawer of before – and it's controlled by Cyrus's own software. That software governs everything from the loader to the laser sled and motors, and it's what the SE (Servo Evolution) in the product name refers to. A bit of software code may not sound like much, but it is a big deal.

We played everything from Grinderman to Stravinsky and this player never failed to impress. It's a fabulous all-rounder provided you have a system capable of revealing the magnitude of its talents. Normally

VERDICT

The Cyrus CD 6 SE is stonking value for money – it's by far the most capable sub-£1000 player we've ever seen

The Cyrus CD 6 SE even outperformed our £10,000 Naim CDS3/555PS reference set-up

we'd recommend a good sub-£1000 integrated amp with similarly priced speakers for a CD player at this price point. It would work just fine, and we

“The CD6 SE is a fabulous all-rounder... if we could award six stars, we would”

have no doubt the CD 6 SE would deliver a great sound. However, this player easily justifies more expenditure on the set-up.

Flaws? Sonically, no. But you'll have to avoid bright or thin-sounding systems,

otherwise the player's vivid dynamics and amazingly energetic delivery could well be too much of a good thing. Choose kit that's refined, but still has transparency, dynamics and timing to burn, and you won't go wrong. Also, the new slot-loader isn't the quickest thinker around. But if you're patient in setting-up your system, everything will be fine.

The CD 6 SE is a simply brilliant product that redefines the performance level at its price point. If we could award it six stars, we would.

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STEREO AMPLIFIER

CYRUS 8VS2

£850

Still one of the best integrated amps around, and a fine starter amplifier to use with the CD 6 SE

STEREO SPEAKERS

ATCSCM 11

£850

The SCM 11s have the dynamics to work well with Cyrus electronics. They need good stands, though