

KEF KHT3005SE



WHAT HI-FI?
SOUND AND VISION
SUPERTEST WINNER

Quality control

The package oozes hi-fi separates quality at a price that seems incredibly generous

Solid performers

The four identical satellites are not only staggeringly well finished but are also solid and weighty enough to inspire confidence

Design classic

The stylish subwoofer has the air of a smaller, less expensive version of B&W's classic PV1



"No matter how hard you push it with the sonic onslaught, the system remains highly impressive, with a full and deep presence"

RECENT AWARD-WINNERS for best home cinema style speakers shouldn't expect to have their grasp on the crown tested so soon – and by such an impressive array of pretenders to the throne. But that's what these KEFs must face.

Saying that, they deserve to be confident: this stunning package oozes separates quality, but comes in a single box and at a price that does seem incredibly generous considering the quality of

"Set-up is a joy, with the connections feeling very solid and totally reliable"

the system. These are without doubt the best 'eggs' KEF has yet served.

Each of the four identical satellites is not only staggeringly well finished in attractive black (silver is also available), but they're also solid and weighty enough to inspire confidence. Add to that some clever positioning options, and KEF has thought of everything.

FOR
Good-looking system; detailed, composed, well integrated sound; luxury build; easy set-up

AGAINST
Nothing

VERDICT
Our Award-winner is still the undisputed king of style speakers

Along with the main speakers is an equally solid, but slightly larger centre speaker, designed to add a bit more weight to on-screen dialogue. Finally, there's an equally stylish subwoofer, which has the air of a smaller, less expensive version of B&W's classic PV1 (something B&W's MT-20 system is sorely lacking).

Award winner maintains its grip
Set-up is a joy, with connections feeling incredibly solid and reliable. In action, the system offers lashing of excitement and involvement. You get the next best thing to seamless integration, with only the Arcam beating it in this respect.

However, where the KEF excels is in its composure. No matter how hard you push it with the sonic onslaught on the *The Matrix*, the system remains highly impressive, with a full and deep presence that hammers home its quality.

It's also incredibly agile and light of touch when called upon, which also makes for a good performance with the Talking Heads' *Stop Making Sense* DVD.

It works with stereo, too: the whole system proving it has enough nous to make an impact with CD recordings, particularly in 2.1 mode, when it has enough oomph to fill a decent-sized lounge with an impressive sound.

This system was good enough for a major Award a few months ago, and nothing has come along to change our minds.

Test it with

Talking Heads: Stop Making Sense



One of the KEF system's biggest achievements is its musicality: there's **pace and agility** here to outgun almost any test rival (only Arcam is a challenge). You want to prove it? Play this: the remastered 'studio mix' **soundtrack sounds terrific**, offering gripping rhythms and wonderfully natural, agile basslines. The KHT3005SE laps it all up: it has accurate timing, an expressive way with voices and a **natural touch with instruments**.