

PRODUCT OF THE YEAR

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

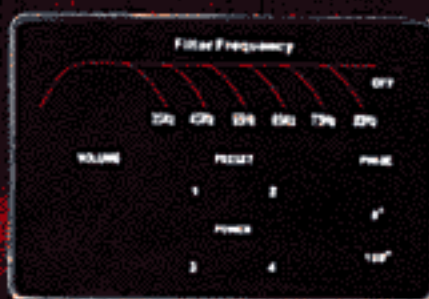
**AWARDS 2004**

**PRODUCT OF THE YEAR**  
FULL-SIZE SPEAKER PACKAGE  
QUAD 12L/L CENTRE/11L/L SUBWOOFER

**Quad**  
**L Series**      **£1930**

**VERDICT**

The Quad L package looks superb and sounds tremendous – it exudes quality in every department, with its whole being even greater than the sum of its very substantial parts



Quad's L Subwoofer, L Centre, 12Ls and 11Ls all in the same team? This is a speaker package of galacticos, but with a consistency and polish that Real Madrid would do well to copy

PLENTY OF PAGES in past issues of WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION have been filled with superlatives enthusing about the various individual components that comprise this package – so it should come as no surprise that this speaker compendium takes the podium in our full-size speaker category. After all, Quad's 12L fronts and the L Series

going to be a system to be reckoned with. Before you even power your system up you can't help but be overwhelmed by the standard of construction of these Quads. We've consistently marvelled at Quad's ability to build speakers with such a superb lacquered finish at this price, and we guess the competition would love to know how it does it, too.

And what's more, this beautifully finished package is, sound for pound, the most complete speaker system we've ever encountered.

The hi-fi quality front and rear speakers are wonderfully transparent, offering a precise, detailed presentation full of energy and insight – it's magic with music, and only extends further with movies.

Film soundtracks are delivered with detail and subtlety creating an open, three-dimensional sound stage that engulfs you in the action on-screen. Integration between the speakers is impeccable, and they

can be as astute as the soundtrack demands or bubbling with attacking potential if needs be. Thankfully, the

**“ This is a system that'll leave you smiling long after the final credits have rolled – it's outstanding ”**

dedicated centre is not embarrassed by the exclusive company it keeps, and only adds another outstanding dimension to the home cinema proceedings, providing an embarrassment of warmth and weight.

However, the highlight of the show is undoubtedly the L Series subwoofer, which brings an otherwise unheard of level of performance to a system at this price. Solid, taut and awash with tangible impact, the L Subwoofer is a world apart from the wavering instability offered by

many less capable models. And again, it integrates seamlessly with its partners, bringing scale and authority to even the most taxing material.

This is a system that'll leave you smiling long after the final credits have rolled. At almost any price it would be good value for money: the fact that it comes in at a shade under £2000, at least in 5.1 form, makes it an outstanding Product of the Year.

**TECH SPECS**

- DIMENSIONS (HWD)
- FRONT 96 x 30 x 33cm
- REAR 28 x 16 x 25cm
- CENTRE 17 x 44 x 25cm
- SUBWOOFER 47 x 37 x 40cm
- SENSITIVITY 85dB/w/m
- IMPEDANCE 8ohms
- FREQUENCY RANGE 80Hz-30kHz
- POWER-HANDLING 120w
- SUBWOOFER POWER 150w
- SUB FREQUENCY RANGE 36Hz-160Hz

**“ Sound for pound, this is the most complete speaker package we've ever heard ”**

subwoofer are both extremely talented five-star products in their own right, while the 11L rears have again retained their Award as 2004's best mid-priced stereo speakers.

In fact, unless the centre speaker arrived in pieces, this was always