

# Quad joins the CD player elite

## Quad 99 CD-P

CD player £1000

★★★★★

### FOR

Terrific all-round sonic performance; volume control; digital inputs; build; nice remote

### AGAINST

Limited fascia controls

### VERDICT

The 99 CD-P is yet another stonking Quad product. Good enough to meet the class leaders head-on

QUAD IS ON a roll: following on from its Award-winning IIL speakers and stunning amplifier range, we now have the source to match – the 99CD-P CD player.

Unusually, the new Quad includes an analogue volume control and six digital inputs: three optical and three co-axial. This isn't a CD/preamp combination in the traditional sense – there are no analogue inputs – but it will form the heart of a digital-biased system that has, say, a DAB tuner or a MiniDisc player. These sources can feed directly into the Quad's excellent 24 bit/192kHz DAC, with a typically massive gain in performance as a result.

The built-in volume control also means the 99 CD-P can run directly into a power amp. Bypassing the preamp altogether results in significant improvements in dynamics and

transparency. If you need a conventional preamp, because you also have analogue sources in your system, Quad has included a standard fixed output on the 99 CD-P, so that it can work as a normal CD player.

### LEADING RIVALS

#### Cyrus 7Q

£1150 ★★★★★ December 2002

A great-sounding CD player that is a pleasure to use and own

#### Roksan Caspian

£995 ★★★★★ December 2002

Getting on a bit, but still sounds and looks great

In action, the Quad proves itself one of the best players £1000 can buy. Low frequencies combine power and speed to great effect, while vocals are well projected and crystal clear. Spin Eminem's *Without Me* and the hard-charging rhythm blasts through the mix. And this player digs as deep into recordings as any rival we've heard.

You'd expect tonal balance from a Quad, but you get bags of attack and punch, too: this is a genuinely thrilling player when the music demands. No problem with finesse either, as playing Dvorak's *New World* shows.

Add solid build and an impressive finish, and the 99 CD-P is a winner. Our only gripe is the very basic front panel controls – don't lose the Quad's remote.



The Quad 99 CD-P has no less than six digital inputs