

Crystal Audio and Acoustics: 'The Sound of Art'

## All-in-one audio wonder bar from Crystal Audio and Acoustics

The clean, compact lines of the new Crystal Audio and Acoustics £200 SSB-1 Surround Soundbar hide a glut of great technologies, which mean the discreet, one-box wonder has every base covered for home entertainment.

Whether you're connecting it to a screen, DVD player, a PC, an iPod or MP3 player, even a games console, the SSB-1 will greatly enhance the experience and without breaking the bank.

For starters it offers hassle-free home cinema thanks to its clever VSS (Virtual Surround Sound) DSP Digital processing technology and eight speakers, allied to an internal 100 watt subwoofer for extended bass. This technology provides room-filling sound, but without room-filling electronics or multiple speaker boxes.

The slim, elegant cabinet allows you to discreetly place the SSB-1 in any room, either on a shelf in a TV cabinet or even mounted directly to the wall, underneath a screen, thanks to the wall mounts included in the package.

Those eight drivers also mean the SSB-1 is a dab hand with music, where a range of digital signal processing technologies also enhance the sound. iPod users will appreciate the universal docking base on the top of the design that charges all units with 30-pin connectors, while MP3 players can also be plugged in and played via the 3.5mm jack.

But you needn't stop there - anything from a DVD player to PC to games console can be connected thanks to a healthy roster of five inputs. The SSB-1 is really a complete home entertainment solution.

Operation is a breeze thanks to the touch screen VFD front panel display and a fully functional remote control - which also controls the basic menu of iPod.

The dedicated Crystal Audio and Acoustics research & development division is based in Athens. The facility employs five acoustics engineers, who use the latest technology and only the best components in their search for acoustic excellence. Moreover, a team of 15 trained engineers in Crystal's factory in China works alongside the Athens R&D department.

This R&D team also works in close partnership with several European universities and technology institutes, such as the Laboratory of Electracoustics at Patras University in Greece, on research programmes with the aim of building the best possible products. The result of these development programmes are regularly presented as papers at the international conventions of AES (Audio Engineering Society), of which Crystal is a highly active member in both Europe and America.

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