



Blow the budget £9400

What is it made of?

After the dinosaur-squashing meteorite fell to Earth, the people at Plinius had the grace to knock the rough edges off before they turned it into CD101 CD players and 9200 amplifiers (both £3000, www.pliniusaudio.com). These New Zealand bruisers are partnered by the far more French, but equally imposing Cabasse Altura Egea 3 loudspeakers (£3400, www.cabasse.com).

How does it sound?

In the right circumstances, this set-up sounds like God clearing his throat. Endlessly dynamic, fearsomely controlled and with the sort of implacable punch more usually associated with pay-per-view boxing channels, this system will make your CDs sound brand new all over again.

Stuff says

Beautiful, in the way a rhino or a mountain can be beautiful. ★★★★★

Tech specs

Amplifier power	200W
Inputs	5
Remote control	Yes, one
Headphone output	No
Speaker power handling	110W

Now add this

Slim Devices Transporter £1300

www.slimdevices.com
The only network music player worthy of being in the same room as this Plinius/Cabasse combo is the Transporter (£1300, www.slimdevices.com). It's as uncompromised as your networked music can sound. Truly amazing, in fact.

Heavy hitter

Keep the Plinius remote control handy. If someone breaks into your house, one swift blow to the head should incapacitate them.

The height of class

You'd think the Altura Egea 3 speakers were tall enough, but for technical reasons known only to Cabasse they stand on little stilts.