

# HI-FI CHOICE

PASSION FOR SOUND

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**WIN!**

Eclipse TD510 speakers  
worth £1,200!  
See page 22



## BEST CD EVER

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from Rega, Cyrus, T+A  
and Audio Research

**Future**  
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MAY 2006



£3.90



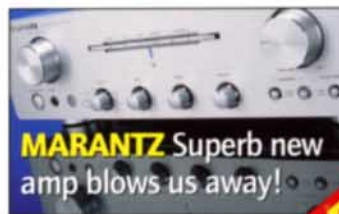
**THE BEST  
NEW HI-FI  
RATED  
INSIDE**



**ROKSAN** New British  
speakers you must hear!



**FUNK** Sexy vinyl sounds  
for less than £500!



**MARANTZ** Superb new  
amp blows us away!

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2nd hand hi-fi  
mini-mag!



**ULTIMATE GROUP TEST >>>  
SPEAKERS**

**FEATURING**

- > ALR Jordan Entry L
- > Arcam Alto
- > B&W CM1
- > Dynaudio Focus 110
- > Monitor Audio RS6
- > Opera Prima

**\* BUYER'S BIBLE**  
The world's best hi-fi rated



**PRODUCT** Marantz PM7001

**TYPE** Integrated stereo amplifier

**PRICE £350**

**CONTACT** ☎ 01753 680868 🌐 [www.marantz.com](http://www.marantz.com)

The amp gave a very impressive performance in our lab, noticeably (though not dramatically) better than the PM7200, which in itself is quite a feat. In fact, the results were broadly comparable to some of the better amps we've tested lately at twice the price or more.

Internally, the power amp section is mounted on a remarkably large heatsink and fed from a good-size frame transformer via low-noise Schottky diode rectifiers and generous supply capacitors. Input switching is via integrated circuits except, apparently, for the CD input, which has a relay. There's a phono stage, the usual single op-amp sort of thing, and this year's must-have feature, separate pre-out and main in sockets. Phono sockets eschew gold plating, surprisingly.

## SOUND QUALITY

There is no doubt that this is a highly capable amp. Right from the start of our tests, from stone cold as delivered, we found ourselves enjoying a presentation that's both punchy and detailed, with a real sense of musical engagement. Even at high listening levels, there's never any sense of a shortage of power, the amp's 100 or so watts (our finding, despite a 70-watt rating) being delivered with a confidence that can give quite a start even to power-hungry speakers. At the same time, fine details within the whole are lovingly preserved and convincingly portrayed.

It's not just a high-power, high-energy wonder, though. Subtle, small-scale music seems just as well served and even at background-music levels, there seems to be an unusual degree of listener involvement. The ever-popular combination of voice and guitar loses little or nothing in individuality or precision to the version presented by considerably more expensive amplifiers.

In terms of basic hi-fi requirements, bass seems to be cleanly and deeply extended and treble very open and sweet, without any obvious limitations in reach. As one expects these days, noise (on line inputs) is completely inaudible unless you're using incredibly high sensitivity speakers in a very quiet room, and manners in general are exquisite.

Is this the perfect high-end bargain? Not quite, though it comes pretty close. There is a very slight lack of bass authority with some heavily rhythmic dance stuff, and we heard a repeatable hint of chestiness in male vocals, though instruments seemed free of similar effects. All the same, this is one of Marantz's best and comes strongly recommended. **HFC**

Richard Black

**SOUND >> 86%**

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**FEATURES >> 88%**

**BUILD >> 83%**

**VALUE >> 95%**

Even viewed in the context of the recent trend among amps to deliver ever-increasing performance at ever-decreasing prices (witness also the Cambridge Audio 640A v2 on p57), this model performs well above expectations. We're impressed!

**HI-FI CHOICE** >> **91%**  
OVERALL SCORE

**BEST BUY**

**HI-FI CHOICE**  
magazine



# TOP 10

## FUTURE CLASSICS OF HI-FI

- |                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>1. Marantz</b>         | PM7001 integrated amplifier    |
| <b>2. Meridian</b>        | 808i Signature CD player       |
| <b>3. Cambridge Audio</b> | 640C v2 CD player              |
| <b>4. Funk</b>            | Funk turntable                 |
| <b>5. B&amp;W</b>         | 802D loudspeaker               |
| <b>6. Naim</b>            | NAC552/NAP500<br>pre/power amp |
| <b>7. Rega</b>            | R3 loudspeaker                 |
| <b>8. Denon</b>           | TU-1800DAB tuner               |
| <b>9. Avid</b>            | Acutus turntable               |
| <b>10. Apple</b>          | iPod                           |

