

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

**Primare CD31**



**TEST RESULT**

The established players, such as Cyrus and Naim, got a bit of a beating here – now arise, Sir Primare!

**WHEN THE CHEAPEST** CD player in a test costs £1400, it might seem inappropriate to talk about 'bargains' – but that's what the Primare CD31 is. It's rare that a test (especially one as competitive as this) is won by a player other than the best sounding, but the Primare is breathing down the neck of the Copland on that score, and trounces it in other significant respects. As an all-round package, this Primare CD player impresses us hugely.

**“When the cheapest CD player costs £1400, you might think it wrong to talk about bargains, but it's what the Primare is”**

**Hedonists take note**

The Copland snatches defeat from the jaws of victory here – it's so unpleasant to use that we couldn't just concentrate on the sound. In fact, if the Densen had just a little more focus at the low end, it could have forced the best-sounding device into the bronze-medal position. As it is, the Densen is a diverting option that'll will appeal to hedonists especially.

**And the rest...**

The second tier are all capable devices: the Cyrus and Naim kit might have dropped down to four stars but they're still packed with talent, despite their relative shortcomings being exposed by the newcomers. The Myryad and Exposure players, though very different temperaments, are also worthwhile machines that any sensible person should audition. Happily, there's not a poor CD player here – these are four very capable devices that live up to their price tags, though they're demonstrably not quite the 'bargain' that the CD31 undoubtedly is. Congratulations to Primare all round.



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**NOW ADD THESE**

AMPLIFIER  
PRIMARE I30



August 2005  
Cracking dynamics, detail and timing. Superb build, looks and finish. The Primare I30 is a consummate music-making amp.

