

**NEED TO KNOW**

**Consider if**

You've had enough of your budget Blu-ray deck and want to upgrade

**Make sure**

You experiment with the player's Pure Direct sound modes when listening to music

**Avoid**

Stacking the player on any other kit - this won't help its performance

**You'll need**

You tell the Marantz the size of your 3D TV, or 3D images won't look right

**Highlight**

The player's DVD upscaling is among the finest in its class



**EXCLUSIVE** Marantz UD7006 | Universal player | £800

Universal player is master of all trades – including 3D

Entry-level Blu-ray players are ten-a-penny, but there's very little choice over £400. And it's this dearth of talent which means there's a vacancy for a player like the UD7006 universal disc spinner.

This is Marantz's first 3D-enabled Blu-ray deck. It also boasts onboard audio decoding and a set of eight-channel analogue inputs, so owners of older home cinema amps with no HDMI inputs can enjoy high-def audio too. DLNA certification means so you can use the UD7006 to stream music, video and photos stored on a home network, too.

The player's also a little slower to load and respond than lower-priced Panasonics and Sonys, but that's a small price to pay for the audio/visual treat that awaits.

**Top-notch picture and sound**

Picture quality is outstanding straight out of the box. We didn't even have to revert to tweaking the picture using the Marantz's built-in picture adjustments. Fed *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, the UD7006 paints a wonderfully detailed and texture-rich picture. Edge definition

is pin-sharp, while its vice-like grip on vertical and horizontal motion is virtually unbreakable. Contrast and black levels are all mighty impressive, too.

The 3D Blu-ray of *Despicable Me* is handled in equally sublime fashion. The attention to detail is stunning, while the depth of the 3D action is handled with style and finesse. It arguably delivers the best 3D picture we've seen to date.

Anchor Bay's 2015 VRS chipset gives the UD7006 a leg-up with DVD playback. The player does a great job with *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo*, minimizing noise and digital artifacts and maximizing the amount of detail on display.

The Marantz proves equally potent with sound. During the opening chapter from *Harry Potter*, the UD7006 easily conveys the sadness and gravity of the situation facing Harry, Hermione and Ron. The Marantz mixes weight and drama with subtlety and emotion in equal measure.

Spin a music disc, be it CD, DVD-A or SACD - it's a universal player, after all - and there's clear distance between

Universal players such as this are designed to perform as well with music as with video

the Marantz and budget disc-spinners. Timing is excellent by Blu-ray player standards, as is the UD7006's dynamic reach. It's a high-quality sound.

Those of you wanting to take the leap from budget Blu-ray to the next level will be served well by the UD7006 - it's a fabulous machine for the money.

**Rating ★★★★★**

**FOR** Fine build and spec; awesome 3D and 2D picture; impressive upscaling; exciting sound

**AGAINST** Can be slow to react; limited 'smart' functionality (but modern TVs take care of that)

**VERDICT** The splendid UD7006 deserves a huge chunk of anyone's home cinema budget

**TECH SPECS**

Plays 2D/3D Blu-ray, DVD, DVD±R/RW  
DVD-A, CD, AVCHD • Outputs HDMI, component, composite, multichannel analogue, phono, coaxial • Inputs Ethernet  
• Dimensions (hwd) 11 x 44 x 33cm/4.8kg

**System builder**

**Pioneer SC-LX83 £1700**

★★★★★

The LX83 will feed off the Marantz's punchy character and deliver a surround sound experience to remember



**Monitor Audio Silver RX6**

AV12 £2200 ★★★★★

A great match for the Pioneer amp, this attractive speaker package has agility, detail and excitement in spades



**Panasonic TX-P50VT30**

£2200 ★★★★★

One of the finest plasma TV's we've seen for quite some time, with top-drawer 3D images - see for yourself on page 8

