

TEST VERDICT

THE WINNER

Marantz UD7006

£800 ★★★★★

Universal players have come a long way in a very short time - not least in price terms. The **Marantz UD7006** is the pinnacle, with its mix of sonic excellence and a jaw-dropping picture



If you've been waiting to take the plunge and buy a mid-range Blu-ray player, then jump straight in. There are some seriously good options out there - none more so than the outstanding Marantz UD7006.

While budget decks do a great job, they pale into comparison against these honed, focused machines. This sector of the market is where the action is.

The Arcam BDP100 arguably produces some of the most scintillating pictures and one the smoothest, most refined sounds in this test, but the Marantz pips it in terms of energy and enthusiasm. Add to that the fact that Arcam still hasn't addressed our issues with the BDP100 - including its lack of 3D and streaming functionality - and it's stalled on three stars, especially at this price.

Conspiracy theorists are going to love the fact that the Oppo and Cambridge Audio players share quite a few similarities, but we can confirm that they aren't just carbon copies of each other. While their video playback abilities are

on a par, the two machines do sound completely different. The Cambridge Audio player favours brawn and power, while the Oppo trades some of that action-packed sonic weight for a more even tonal balance. Add to that the Oppo's serious on-rack presence and the more intuitive remote. The 751BD, on the other hand, sounds more robust and

It's the Marantz that lofts the trophy: pound for pound, the UD7006 is one of the most capable and rewarding players around

costs £100 less. In our opinion, you can't really go wrong with either machine, hence both players walking away clutching a five-star rating.

But it's the Marantz that lofts the *Group Test* trophy and becomes the envy of all its peers. Pound for pound, the UD7006 is one of the most capable and rewarding disc-spinners of its kind.

SYSTEM BUILDER

A serious system for a serious Blu-ray player



PROJECTOR

JVC DLA-X3

£3500 ★★★★★



HOME CINEMA AMP

Pioneer SC-LX83

£1700 ★★★★★



SPEAKER PACKAGE

Dali Ikon 6 Mk251

£2900 ★★★★★

For a full list of specifications and other useful info visit whathifi.com

Facts & figures



Arcam BDP100
£1000 ★★★★★

Plays 2D Blu-ray, DVD, DVD-R/-RW, DVD R/RW, CD, AVI, DivX HD, WMA, MP3, JPEG • **Outputs** HDMI, component, phono, optical, coaxial, composite • **Inputs** Ethernet • **Output via** HDMI Dolby Digital/Plus/TrueHD, DTS-HD Master Audio • **On-board decoding** Yes • **Dimensions (hwd)** 10 x 43 x 40cm • **Weight** 6.2kg



Cambridge Audio 751BD
£800 ★★★★★

Plays 3D/2D Blu-ray, DVD, DVD-Audio, DVD-R/-RW, DVD R/RW, CD, DivX HD, AVCHD, AVI, MKV, XviD, JPEG, MP3, AAC, WMA, FLAC, WAV • **Outputs** HDMI, component, multichannel analogue, phono, coaxial, composite • **Inputs** Ethernet, USB, e-SATA • **Output via** HDMI Dolby Digital/Plus/TrueHD, DTS-HD Master Audio • **On-board decoding** Yes • **Dimensions (hwd)** 9 x 43 x 31 • **Weight** 5kg



Marantz UD7006
£800 ★★★★★

Plays 3D/2D Blu-ray, DVD, DVD-Audio, DVD-R/-RW, DVD R/RW, CD, DivX HD, AVCHD, JPEG, MP3, AAC, WMA, WAV • **Outputs** HDMI, component, multichannel analogue, phono, coaxial, composite • **Inputs** Ethernet • **Output via** HDMI Dolby Digital/Plus/TrueHD, DTS-HD Master Audio • **On-board decoding** Yes • **Dimensions (hwd)** 11 x 44 x 33cm • **Weight** 4.8kg



Oppo BDP-95EU
£900 ★★★★★

Plays 3D/2D Blu-ray, DVD, DVD-Audio, DVD-R/-RW, DVD R/RW, CD, DivX HD, AVCHD, AVI, MKV, XviD, JPEG, MP3, AAC, WMA, FLAC, WAV • **Outputs** HDMI, component, multichannel analogue, phono, coaxial, composite • **Inputs** Ethernet, USB, e-SATA • **Output via** HDMI Dolby Digital/Plus/TrueHD, DTS-HD Master Audio • **On-board decoding** Yes • **Dimensions (hwd)** 10 x 43 x 31 • **Weight** 7.3kg