

CD PLAYER/INTEGRATED AMPLIFIER



Exposure 1010 Series

Available with black or silver anodised aluminium fascias, the 1010 CD player and 1010 integrated amp extol a rather British restraint. The steel casework isn't as robust as some, but construction is solid. The sharp lines of the CD front plate house a simple array of push-button relay controls that operate all functions with a gentle press. The CD tray feels a little flimsy, but operates smoothly enough. The matching amp is reassuringly weighty and sports the same silky aluminium fascia as the CD player. Around the back of both units connections are retained in sturdy backplates securely fixed to the chassis. Exposure claims some internal components in the 1010 series are shared from its higher priced models.

The amp has three pairs of RCA inputs, a fixed gain AV input and a tape record connection. Single-wire speaker connection is enabled by flush-mounted 4mm shrouded speaker sockets.

Sound quality

Right from the very outset this combination commands your attention. Together the components seem to deliver a passion for music that just gets your toes tapping, and they achieve a rare balance between accuracy and soul.

Ben Harper's *Gold to Me* leaps from a stable soundstage with absolute authority. Bass lines have powerful weight, yet clear leading edges that

help you lock into the compelling drive of the track. The Exposure combo comes across as having brilliant timing and infectious rhythm, especially around the lower registers. Yet this pair also possesses a true lightness of touch, a smooth, informative midband coupled with an airy treble that suggests the combination is very even-handed in delivering all the music on the disc. The CD player successfully picks up on Harper's subtle rubbing of guitar slide on steel strings way back in the mix. Equally, hand chimes in the track are tightly focused and continue long after some other budget CD players have lost some of the decay detail.

Switching to Mutya Buena's track *Just A Little Bit* confirms the system's natural ability with timing and rhythm. It locks straight into the funky groove, with cleanly separate bass, drums, vocals and brass all gelling into this modern soul classic.

Turning back the clock with a spin of Saint-Saëns' *Organ Symphony* can show up budget systems as they struggle to wrestle the bass weight with critical midband detail, but in this instance the combo doesn't panic. Organ weight is convincing, although things get a little congested when the full orchestra joins in.

Strong rhythmic bass control is usually the preserve of 'muscular' amps and smooth, lifelike vocals generally come from plenty of midband detail or valves. Given there's only a claimed 50W on tap and no tubes in sight, where is this magic coming from?

DETAILS

PRICE
CD player: £415,
integrated
amplifier: £445

ORIGIN
Malaysia/UK

WEIGHT
5kg/7kg

DIMENSIONS
(WxHxD) CD/amp:
440 x 90 x 310mm

FEATURES

- Analogue RCA output and optical out (CD player)
- 50W per channel RMS 8 ohms (amp)
- 3 analogue RCA inputs (amp)
- Fixed gain AV input; line level 'tape' output (amp)

DISTRIBUTOR
Exposure
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REVIEWED
HFC 379

The 1010 player excavates plenty of rich detail from CDs and treble energy feels extended. It gets to some extra truth that other players smooth off for an easier listen. In isolation this could be too revealing in the wrong system. At the other end of the spectrum, bass power can be punchy and full, so again, a mismatched amp or inefficient speakers could lose the quality message this player dredges up.

If the 1010 CD player is a class act for the money, then the 1010 amp is a bargain. Where the CD finds extra treble and bass detail along with great timing, the amp has a flair for relaying the emotion of music. Great timing is preserved and its wonderful midband helps get all the pivotal information and intonation around voices and instruments. Bass has weight and attack, yet also warmth and agility.

Conclusion

The real magic happens when these components work together. Where the CD could be too revealing, particularly on harsher tracks, the amp helps with some forgiveness and extra insight into the music. Like any great double act, they play to one another's strengths and support each other when things get tough ●

Hi-FiChoice

OUR VERDICT

SOUND QUALITY



LIKE: Rhythm and timing; treble detail and tuneful bass; understated looks

VALUE FOR MONEY



DISLIKE: Display hard to read; otherwise nothing at this price

BUILD QUALITY



WE SAY: Revealing player with great timing, extended treble and strong bass

FEATURES



OVERALL

