

Hi-Fi Racks Podium

TYPE Equipment rack

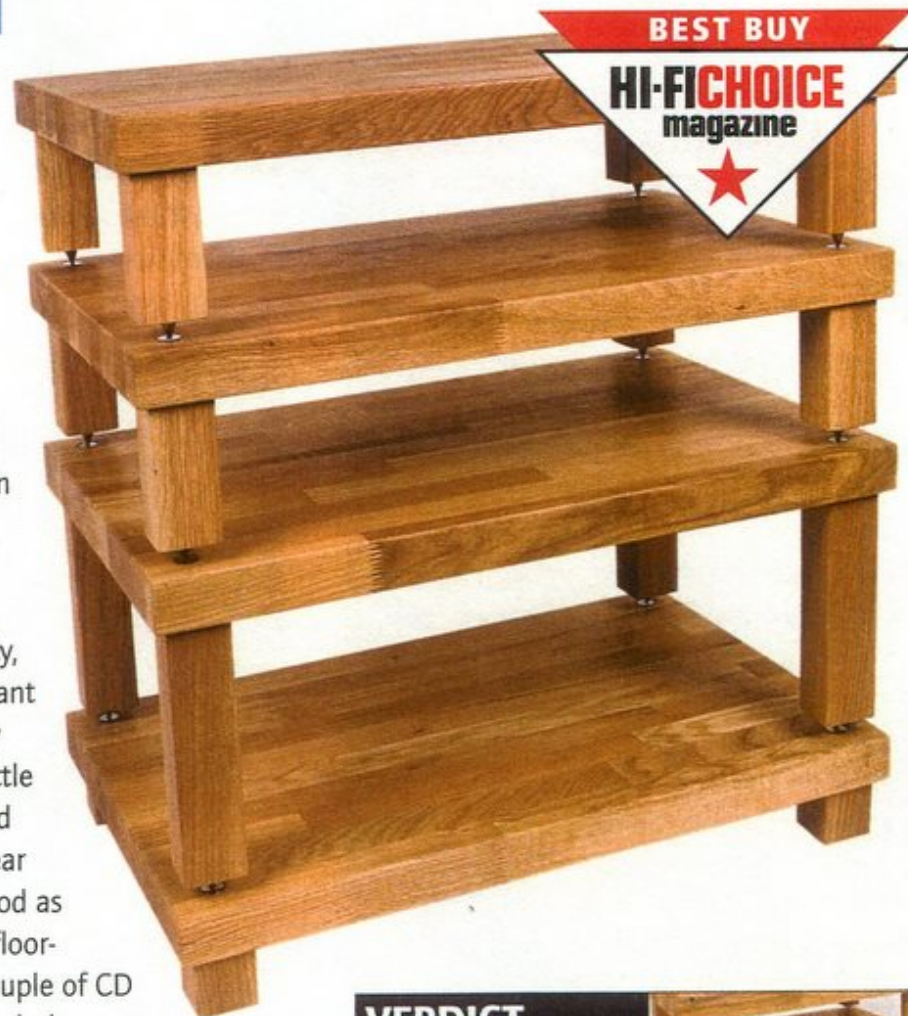
PRICE £500 as tested (£125 per tier)

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A fairly recent arrival on the scene, Hi-Fi Racks offers a simple, but adaptable range of products, all made from solid wood rather than the more common veneered particleboard. The Podium racks are basically a series of stacking tables, while the intriguing Tri Iso is a skeletal design with three legs. Various leg lengths are available as standard with custom to order, making the rack suitable for just about any kit. Each tier stands on spikes which locate on little dimpled discs on the tier below: the arrangement seems robust in practice and the resulting rack is stable and, to our eyes, particularly attractive. The only slight problem we found was that the legs don't always screw up tight at the right angle, but we got round this by swapping them around a bit until all four on each tier both looked and felt right. The review sample (as photographed) had no locknuts on the spikes, but we understand these will be provided as

standard by the time you read this.

We really liked the sound our equipment gave us when sitting on the Podium. There's a great sense of low-frequency solidity but also considerable clarity, with no sense of resonant overhang. A solid-body turntable sounded a little vague, but a suspended one was beautifully clear and open, about as good as we've heard from any floor-standing support. A couple of CD players sang out particularly convincingly and it's worth noting that a rather twitchy CD player seemed unusually tolerant of footfall when sitting on a Podium shelf. **HFC**



VERDICT

A keenly priced bit of high-class furniture that also happens to sound great under all sorts of kit. Easy upgrading is a welcome bonus.

HI-FI CHOICE

