

Stuff



GADGETS / GAMES / GEAR

LIVE SMARTER, SLEEP BETTER

Have a healthier and more automated life with the latest gear and gadgets



ANDROID TABLETS TESTED

9 great slates for all budgets

PLUS!

- 2024's hottest apps
- Electric shavers compared
- Latest Apple TV tips & tricks
- The best Sony Walkmans ever

Watch your pets

Track your nights

Throw a new light

Tackle your stress

Clean every corner

Make the wall a TV

Wake up gently

Check on your home

Power up your soup

Unlock for your guests



£5.99 February 2024 www.stuff.tv

LIVE IN THE DREAM

Improving your home is about way more than just filling it with connected speakers and TV apps – this month's cover feature will help you to live, eat and sleep better with the latest gadgetry for a smarter, brighter and cleaner pad

[Words Lee Bell, Dan Grabham]



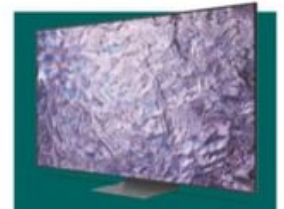
Cleaning

Because in the future there will be do dust. **p38**



Listening

Say hi to some high-end hi-tech hi-fi. **p40**



Watching

Do you fancy being an 8K couch potato? **p42**



Lighting

Knowing me, knowing Hue... a-ha! **p44**



Living

General gadgets for a tasty techy home life. **p46**



Eating

Store it, cook it, guzzle it down in seconds. **p48**



Sleeping pt1

Even sweeter dreams are made of this. **p50**



Sleeping pt2

And also this: more smart bedroom buys. **p52**



Roon age day stream
The ST5 is certified Roon Ready. It allows firmware updates via its app to ensure it always stays compatible with the latest audio tech.

DAC sing in the street
With its ESS ES9018 DAC, the ST5 promises best-in-class audio fidelity, enhanced by jitter elimination tech for a cleaner, more precise sound.

Beauty, add the beast
Get one of Arcam's matching A5 or A15 amplifiers – there's a connector cable in the box – and the two components can act as one.

LISTENING

Yes, you love your novelty Minion-shaped Bluetooth speaker... but why not enhance your living space with properly premium sound?

ARCAM ST5

£799 / go.stuff.tv/ST5

Arcam's ST5 is a fresh face in the competitive world of music streamers. Priced competitively, this high-end home audio device shares the same design language as the brand's Radia range, which has bagged wide acclaim for its hi-fi separates. Now it's the ST5's turn under the spotlight... but does it hit all the right notes?

With its anodised aluminium casing, the ST5's all-black build is robust and stylish, though with a more discreet appearance than its siblings. The design, free of any knobs or buttons, features a simple one-line text display; this is perfectly readable, if lacking the sharpness of full-colour displays as seen on competitors like the Cambridge CXN V2.

Arcam's focus on performance is pretty clear in that streamlined design, shunning elements like an OLED display. On the inside, it's an evolution of the (much pricier) ST60, with a more efficient single microprocessor and upgraded components, including an improved power supply.

Sound and wishin'
Tech-wise, the ST5 is more than capable: UPnP, AirPlay 2, Chromecast and internet radio are supported, along with Spotify Connect, Tidal Connect and Amazon Music. The connectivity options are comprehensive, with Wi-Fi, USB-A, optical and coaxial outputs, and line-level RCA. But it notably lacks a headphone output and Bluetooth.

As for hi-res audio, the ST5 supports a maximum resolution

of 24-bit/192kHz and DSD128, putting it behind some rivals.

While we enjoyed the sleek and compact aesthetics of the remote control, it's missing some features and commands that are only accessible through the on-unit menu – which can be less intuitive to navigate. On the other hand, the digital output options are versatile, with settings for different types of audio processing and output.

Place oddity
If we had to nitpick, we'd say the user experience on the ST5 can feel a bit all over the shop. Unlike more seamless interfaces from competitors, there isn't a central place where you can manage and control everything. The app is simple and functional for daily operations but doesn't integrate all of the ST5's features in a user-friendly way, which can be frustrating.

Sound-wise, however, the ST5 delivers full, easy-going and well balanced audio. Where it truly shines is with higher-quality digital files, offering rich detail and a warm, natural approach to vocals. The sound profile is definitely more on the smooth side, which might not suit those looking for an in-yer-face music experience. But one thing's beyond doubt: this handsome streamer will complement the most sophisticated living space.

KEY SPECS
● UPnP, AirPlay 2, Chromecast, Spotify Connect, Tidal Connect, Amazon Music, Qobuz ● USB-A, optical, coaxial, RCA line out ● 431x344x57mm, 3.5kg

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★
With robust audio performance and a sleek design, it's impossible not to be impressed by this streamer

MORE EAR-PLEASERS



MARANTZ MODEL 50 & CD 50N

Marantz's Model 50 and CD 50n are an audiophile's dream pairing. The Model 50 amp has 70W per channel to drive speakers with total control and low distortion; the CD 50n excels as a CD player and network audio source. **£1600 & £1600 / marantz.com**



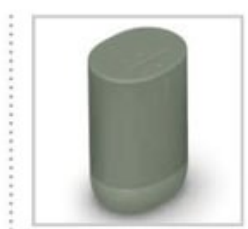
SENNHEISER ACCENTUM WIRELESS

When it's time to scale your home audio down to a more personal level, nothing beats a pair of noise-cancelling over-ears. These cans feed your ears big and balanced sound, with robust specs including 50hr battery life. **£160 / sennheiser-hearing.com**



TECHNICS SL 1200GR2

Looking to step up your vinyl game? The SL-1200GR2 is worth a spin. This mid-range deck has a new Delta Sigma motor-drive system and multi-stage silent power supply. The resulting audio is impeccable... and with its elegant S-shaped tonearm, it's a design gem. **£1799 / technics.com**



SONOS MOVE 2

This is not your average portable speaker – it's a beefy powerhouse that can bring the beats wirelessly over Bluetooth 5 and Wi-Fi 6. A great option if you want your music to travel around the house and garden with you, it also scores highly for battery life. **£449 / sonos.com**