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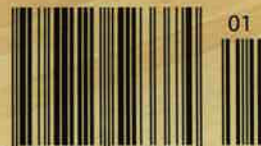
MULTICHANNEL SPEAKER PACKS

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Jamo C407 5.1-channel speaker package

With the C400 series, Danish speaker builder Jamo has come through again with a system that would enhance any listening room stylistically, and sounds wonderful as well.

Equipment

This package is built around the C407 floorstander, the top of the line unit from this range. This is a floorstanding three way loudspeaker, reaching a touch over 1100mm tall on the supplied spikes. At the top is a 25mm dome tweeter employing Jamo's 'DTT' technology. This is designed to isolate the driver from cabinet vibrations induced by the other drivers, giving it a cleaner platform from which to operate. Crossing over to it at 2500Hz is a 165mm midrange driver, while underneath that a pair of 165mm bass drivers handle frequencies below 150Hz. They are bass reflex loaded with a rear-mounted port.

Jamo says that their frequency range is 35 to 20,000Hz, their impedance is six ohms and their power handling is 150 watts long term, 220 watts short term.

For centre channel work the package includes the C400 CEN, a compact unit that also employs the DTT 25mm tweeter and a pair of 102mm bass/midrange drivers (the crossover is also at 2500Hz). This unit is only 138mm tall, 420mm wide and 211mm deep, but allow some space behind it so that the rear-mounted bass-reflex port can breathe. Jamo rates the sensitivity of this speaker at 88dB, its frequency range at 60 to 20,000Hz and its power handling at 100/140 watts long/short term, with an impedance of six ohms.

The pair of C400 SUR speakers are dipoles. That is, they have an identical driver on each end, operating out of phase. As one driver goes in, the other goes out. This delivers diffuse and difficult-to-locate sound into the room, especially if the speakers are mounted properly so that their 'null' area is pointed towards the listening area. These speakers don't have a tweeter, but rather two 102mm full range drivers. Bass reflex loaded, they are claimed to have a sensitivity of 88dB, power

handling of 80/120 watts long/short term, an impedance of six ohms and a frequency range of 80 to a relatively modest 15,000Hz.

Rather than one of the 'C' series subwoofers, this package included the more highly specified SUB 550. This offers a rated output of 550 watts behind its 254mm downwards firing driver for a frequency range of 26 to 150Hz. It has a slotted port on the rear panel and measures 396mm tall, 325mm wide and 530mm deep.

Performance

The automatic calibration routines of two different home theatre receivers examined the front speakers. One said 'full range', while the other said 'Small', but set the crossover to 40Hz, so they were effectively full range.


We discovered very soon that these speakers were quite sensitive to the quality of the home theatre receiver used to drive them. While moderately sensitive, they still liked plenty of power as shown when we switched to a more expensive receiver. Indeed, they then became positively lovely, or mighty, as required by the source material. In stereo mode we received extremely satisfying music, with a precise and well-rounded stereo stage. We found the best performance in this case was to switch off all processing in the receiver and operate them simply as full range speakers with no equalisation at all. The tonal balance was excellent, with good detail and a very natural presentation. With surround sound, we can't say that we noticed any diminution of surround performance from the relatively limited top end of the C400 SUR speakers. What they did provide was a nice sense of envelopment



and, in particular, seamless imaging both at the back of the room and down the sides.

The subwoofer was a little beauty. We're glad that the package received a higher grade of subbie than comes with the range (the Dark Apple finish was identical), because it was a great match in output level to the rest of the system. It delivered plenty of clean and strong bass into our average-sized room, and we're inclined to believe the specification that it does, indeed, deliver well under 30Hz.

Conclusion

This is one fine home theatre speaker system, both in sound and looks. It is most certainly worth an audition if this fits your price ambitions. 

JAMO C407 5.1-CHANNEL SPEAKER PACKAGE

Price: \$3746
Warranty: Five years



- Excellent sound quality
- Gorgeous styling
- Very good subwoofer performance



- Seems to require a high quality home theatre receiver

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