# Andromeda can take the strain

There aren't many players that leave our seven-thousand-and-a-bit pound reference CD spinner in the shade – but the **Moon Andromeda** is one of them. We envy the privileged few who will own a work of art such as this...

CD PLAYER
**MOON ANDROMEDA**
★★★★★
£ 8995

**FOR**
Exquisite build quality; awe-inspiring sonic performance; explosive dynamics; unbelievably detailed sound

**AGAINST**
Nothing – not even the price, because this is an absolutely outstanding player

**VERDICT**
If your system demands this kind of source, and you have the money, we order you to listen to the Andromeda

**IN GREEK MYTHOLOGY,** Andromeda was known as the 'Ruler of Men', but this CD player namesake is no figment of an overactive imagination. It's real enough, and could quite easily cement its own legendary status as the 'Ruler of Music'.

Unfortunately, fame does come at a price: the Andromeda has a tag that would make most mere mortals cry into their CDs. Then again, it also delivers the kind of sonic brilliance that could boost your music collection to bursting point.

The Moon Andromeda is a two-box, dual-mono design: one chassis has the transport and digital-to-analogue convertors, the other houses a power supply.

> "Lay down some hip-hop beats, and the Andromeda displays top-notch timing, encouraging a frenzied flurry of foot-tapping"

And as you'd expect, build quality is exemplary: there's not a sharp edge in sight. Each component boasts a beautifully crafted chassis, including heat-dissipating fins and chunky aluminium corner sections.

Plenty of thought has also gone into this high-end design – the control buttons are responsive and easily accessible on top of the CD player, next to the loading drawer. The player's fascia even boasts a huge, dot-matrix display that's bright enough to attract light aircraft (don't worry, it can be dimmed). Finally, don't forget to give it the full 400 hours of 'running-in' that Moon recommends.

## You'll never want to say goodbye

Why? Because once it's fully operational, you'll want to listen for another 400 hours, non-stop! Dynamically, it's outstanding. Whether you're listening to John Williams' theme to *Jurassic Park* or the more boisterous and brazen soundtrack of *Gladiator*, you can't fail to be blown away. It reaches amazing sonic heights, and manages to uncover notes from previously unheard depths.

Switch over and lay down some hip-hop beats from the likes of Kanye West, and the Andromeda fires out taut, well-defined bass that hits you with drive and determination. Tracks such as *Through the Wire* highlight this player's top-notch timing, and encourage an unstoppable flurry of foot-tapping.

Even when faced with a track that demands a more caring and emotive touch, such as Radiohead's *Street Spirit (Fade Out)*, the Andromeda reveals that it also has a more sensitive side. Vocals sound terrifically moving and haunting. The delicacy of the gentle guitar strumming and tender drum beats will have you wilting with emotion.

## There's no dark side to the Moon

It's extremely rare that you hear kit blessed with this kind of sonic ability. Even comparing it to our £7450 reference Naim CD player, it's obvious the Moon more than justifies the extra expense. Suffice to say that – in principle anyway – we would be willing to part with the extra cash in a heartbeat.

If you're lucky enough to own a high-end system in need of a new source – one able to do this player justice – then the Andromeda could very well redefine your listening experience. No doubt about it: this Moon is cosmic hi-fi.

**TECH SPECS**

**TYPE** Dual-mono two box
**DIGITAL OUTPUTS** Coaxial
**ANALOGUE OUTPUTS** Phono, balanced
**DIGITAL INPUTS** Coaxial
**HEADPHONE OUTPUT** No
**REMOTE CONTROL** Yes
**DISPLAY** Eight-character dot-matrix LED, with dimmer
**DIMENSIONS (HWD)**
CD player 14 x 48 x 42cm
Power supply 10 x 48 x 42cm
**WEIGHT** 35kg