

Cyrus CDi | CD player | £975

Masters of CD raise the bar higher still

Upgrade when you want
 The CDi carries a connection for an outboard power supply, the Cyrus PSX-R (£500), for when the upgrade bug strikes you.

Cyrus has a brilliant track record with CD players. We can't think of a rival company that has produced so many great players over the last decade or so. So when we say we think the CDi is arguably the best integrated machine the company has ever made, we don't do so lightly.

The CDi replaces both the CD6 SE2 and CD8 SE2 players in the company's range. It falls between them in price, but easily eclipses them both in performance. You'd never guess it from the outside - which looks just like any slot-loading Cyrus we've seen in recent years - but there's been a lot of work put into this player.

Revised transport mechanism

It uses the latest version of the company's transport mechanism. Cyrus has continued to develop this system and the software behind it, and is particularly proud of the transport's ability to read the data from the disc correctly the first time rather than relying on error correction to fill in the gaps.

The company claims 20 per cent fewer reading errors with this transport than the best off-the-shelf alternatives it could find. That's a huge reduction.

less taken with the player's display, unchanged and starting to look dated.

Look around the back of the player and there are two pairs of single-ended analogue outputs and the traditional digital duo of optical and coaxial outputs.

This really is a terrific machine. In true Cyrus tradition it puts detail resolution,

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There is a downside to this latest version of the transport though, and that's the agricultural sound it makes when loading a disc. Once it starts playing though, it's as quiet as we would hope for.

The other technical highlight with the CDi is an upgraded DAC section that uses a new 32-bit design. The aim, as always, is to improve resolution and dynamics while keeping noise and distortion to a minimum.

Build quality is good. The CDi is built into one of Cyrus's half-width casings, which give a rigid, low-resonance structure. The company has finally changed the remote control and it's a nice back-lit affair. It's also easier to use than the previous effort. We're

agility and dynamic expression above all else. We certainly haven't come across a more insightful performer below £1500.

Authoritative and expressive

Eminem's *Marshall Mathers LP 2* is a hard-sounding album, but this Cyrus takes it all in its stride. The presentation has greater weight and low-end authority than its predecessors, but it's the CDi's way with rhythms that really catches our attention. It's dazzlingly expressive, capturing the changes of pace and momentum superbly.

Move onto Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture* and we're taken by the Cyrus's dynamic



reach and its ability to keep track of delicate musical strands when the piece gets busy. We've heard more expansive soundstages (something the addition of a PSX-R improves) but the Cyrus counters with impressive precision and focus. All in all, a performance full of finesse and drama.

The CDi is an exceptional player that's as insightful as it is entertaining. Naim's Award-winning CD5 si now has a rival to fear.

Rating ★★★★★

FOR Exceptional resolution and agility; terrific dynamics; a wonderful way with rhythms; precise sound-staging; upgrade potential

AGAINST It's noisy when loading a disc

VERDICT Arguably the best, most insightful integrated CD player Cyrus has ever made

Needs to beat

Naim CD5 si
£995 ★★★★★

Our current favourite is impressively talented but still has much to fear from the Cyrus.



System builder Total build £3675

Stereo amplifier

Cyrus 8a
 ★★★★★ **£1200**

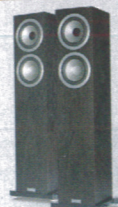
The natural partner. Will complement the CDi's agility and resolution.



Stereo speakers

Tannoy DC6 T
 ★★★★★ **£1000**

Terrific floorstanders that will really echo the Cyrus's dynamic and rhythmic abilities.



Power supply

Cyrus PSX-R
 ★★★★★ **£500**

The PSX-R improves pretty much every area of performance.

