



Cyrus builds on its success

CD PLAYER
CYRUS CD Xt SE+/
DACX+/PSX-R (x2)



£ 4100

The British company has never rested on its laurels with its great CD players. After cleaning up at our Awards, it's back with a stunning four-box, high-end solution

FOR

Staggering resolution, agility and dynamics; impressive timing and stereo imaging

AGAINST

Most alternatives at this price have more lavish cosmetics

VERDICT

Cyrus's range-topper is another stunner. It's good enough to worry machines at triple the price



CYRUS CD Xt SE+ TYPE CD transport
LOADING Slot loader
DIGITAL OUTPUTS 1x co-ax, 1x optical
CD TEXT No
DISPLAY OFF Yes
MEMORY Yes
FINISH Black, silver
SIZE (HWD) 7x22x36 cm

CYRUS DAC X+ COAX DIGITAL INPUTS 4
OPTICAL DIGITAL INPUTS 2
USB No
BLUETOOTH No
FINISHES Black, silver
SIZE (HWD) 7x22x36 cm

CYRUS MUST BE a fan of Lego. Its building block approach to system engineering is taken to a logical conclusion with this four-box CD player. The quartet of boxes consists of a newly revised transport and digital-to-analogue converter, both identified by the '+' tagged on to their model names, and a pair of PSX-R outboard power supplies.

Externally, the £1500 CD Xt SE+ transport is unchanged from its predecessor, bar a smarter trim. It still uses Cyrus's CD engine, but now has a revised power supply arrangement with separate circuits for the servo motors and low-level signal sections. The main circuit board is also upgraded and the clocking arrangement improved to minimise timing errors.

The DAC X+ hasn't changed so much, though its price has also climbed to £1500. The '+' revisions amount to improved component quality, tweaks to the circuit and a retuning of the sound.

The Cyrus sound is not about easy listening. To be fair, it never has been, and the company's ultimate CD player takes things to an extreme. It sounds staggeringly fast, with amazing definition to the beginnings and ends of notes. This ability is true throughout the frequency range, but is especially impressive in the bass, where this player uncovers layers of low-frequency textures.

"Detail retrieval is staggering. There's a very real sense of it delivering everything that's on the disc"



You can add exquisitely precise stereo imaging and a stable presentation to the list of plus points, too.

Discard the pair of PSX-Rs and you'll save £1100 and still have a great-sounding CD player. Scale, power and resolution all take a notable dip, though. The four-boxer really is the ultimate configuration as far as all-round performance is concerned.

Cyrus's SE range of CD players have destroyed the competition when it comes to sonic ability. This range-topper does the same at its price level. ★

Madonna's *Frozen* is a track that can easily sound slow and plodding. Not here, as this Cyrus delivers the lows with class-leading agility and a truckload of slam. Even normally upbeat-sounding machines such as our reference Naim CDS3/555ps sound a little reserved in comparison.

The Cyrus's open, insightful presentation also works well with acoustic instruments. It delivers Shostakovich's *String Quartet No.7* with a great deal of passion and finesse while still having the dynamic reach to deliver Beethoven's *Fifth* with authority. Tonally, there's the slightest hint of leanness to the presentation, but nothing that would cause trouble to any reasonably balanced set-up.

Detail retrieval is staggering: there's a very real sense of the player delivering absolutely everything that's on the disc.

We had more than a few 'I've never heard that before!' moments during the testing process of the Cyrus

