



SYSTEM: NAIM UNITI

In the old days, it was simple. If you wanted an all-in-one system then you bought yourself a music centre, and if you wanted something better then it was the Bang & Olufsen version of the same. Now though, there's a recognition that some people actually want a serious sounding modern one box machine, such as Naim's new £1,995 Uniti. As its name suggests, it brings together a host of music sources; CD, FM, DAB, internet radio and computer audio, and it's even got a built in DAC with five 24/96 capable inputs, two analogue inputs, a bespoke phono input and iPod connectivity, plus a USB input for memory stick or MP3 player, and one of those quaint old 3.5mm

inputs for your Walkman. It's got a litany of inputs then, but that's not what distinguishes it - it's how it brings them together...

Naim call the Uniti an "audio source hub", but effectively it's a Nait 5i amplifier and CD5 CD player sandwiched together, along with all that extra radio and networking functionality. But it's very well done, so for example you can set the radio presets regardless of source (FM, DAB or Internet Radio). The CD mechanism swings out in its sturdy draw beautifully, and spins up quickly, and the Naim n-Link iPod connector works a treat. The bright green fascia mounted OLED display is lovely, as are the front panel buttons, and the compact non-resonant, non-magnetic

aluminium casework confers a sense of solidity.

A solid 50W per channel underwrites the performance, giving a fast, strong, dynamic sound from any of its radio sources, Compact Disc or one of the vast number of music files it supports (including WMA, MP3, AAC, Apple Lossless (from an iPod), WAV, FLAC and OGG Vorbis). Naim devotees may criticise it for not having the absolute, out and out performance of the company's specialist separates, but it's excellent at the price all the same, and makes most so-called 'style systems' sound distinctly past their sell-by date. An excellent all-in-one from a company that's very much on the resurgent.

NAIM UNITI
Naim Audio Ltd.
www.naimaudio.com
tested:

£1,995
+44 (0) 1722 426600

May 2009