

BEST HARD DISK AUDIO COMPONENT



Cambridge Audio Azur 640 H

Price: € 1395,00 -contact Dimex, tel.: 070-4042647, fax: 070-3206079, e-mail: info@dimex.nl,

Cambridge Audio goes from strength to strength. Not content with a new up-market CD player and amp, the company launched its first music server, the Azur 640H. Easy to use and simple to integrate into the company's own Incognito

multiroom system, the 640H can store, sort and playback up to 3000 songs on its 160GB hard disk. It's flexible and great value for money, and it even makes a pretty tasty CD player!

In an earlier review Alan Sircom wrote: Eventually, by the time you get to 64kbps, the sound is only one stage up from a good quality telephone signal, and only fit to those in need of weeks of non-stop music in near mono. Alternately, it's good for downloading a small library of talking books.

External sources like the internet radio are similarly well treated, but this time the performance is beholden on the quality of the download itself. This is a bewildering but fascinating way of listening to sounds from around the world, and the sound quality is generally close to DAB. **Fortunately, those Wolfson DAC's make this the best sounding MP3 replay you'll probably ever hear from a PC.**

This has been the long-awaited product, the one that transforms music servers from being hidden away in multiroom installations to being right up front on the hi-fi table. And it was worth the wait. The more you put into it, the better the return, but even on a basic level, used as an uncompressed store for just over 240 CDs, it's well worth the asking price.

HFC, Alan Sircom

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