

# hi-fi news

The No.1 for Home Entertainment Tests

## HIGH-POWER AMPS

### that don't cost the Earth!

### Exclusive 'green' amp group test

# WIN!

Exclusive Competition: One of ten AKG K701 headphones worth £270



### Bel Canto

Top-loading CD player with a twist

### Marantz

The 'Legendary' system: hit or myth?

### Tannoy

Signature speaker is a Revolution

### Grado

GS1000 headphones make a Statement



### EXTREME HOME CINEMA WE TEST YAMAHA'S DSP-Z11 11.2 CHANNEL AV RECEIVER

UK £4.00 US \$9.50 Aus \$9.95



9 771472 256226 0 4



# Curved Concentric

**TANNOY REVOLUTION SIGNATURE DC6 T** (£1000)

Tannoy's familiar Dual Concentric driver finds a new home in the company's latest Revolution Signature range with curved cabinets

**hi-finews**  
HIGHLY  
COMMENDED





The latest range from Tannoy is the new Revolution Signature series, a comprehensive line of speakers that can be configured to make up a full AV system, minus an active sub. Alternatively the front pairs alone can be used separately in a high-quality two-channel system.

Under scrutiny here is the DC6 T, an elegant three-way floorstander, employing twin six-inch woofers with edgewound coils. A pair will cost you £1000 in either of the light oak or espresso finishes available. The top unit has a 25mm titanium tweeter dome with a 'tulip' waveguide in a dual-concentric configuration, and all drive units are shielded to prevent their interference with traditional-style CRT TVs.

Common to the rest of the range, the DC6 T offers a number of novel solutions to some age-old problems. First up is the grille frame fixing; held in place here by magnets hidden under the veneered front baffle and within the grille frame itself, a particularly neat and well-executed solution. Next up, cabinet coloration and internal standing wave issues are dealt with by the contoured, trapezoidal cabinet and choice of cabinet materials. Tannoy's proprietary constant directivity Dual Concentric drive unit is called up for service [see boxout, below] and there's an option for driver earthing.

### SENSITIVE SOUNDS

Wired in to my resident system – Voyd Valdi/SME 309/Audio Note IQ3, Exposure 2010 CD player, Audio Note M3 preamp, and Audio Innovations Second Audio monoblocks – the DC6 Ts were given a four-day burn-in before the time came to spin some coasters. At kick-off time, what better than The Eagles' *Greatest Hits* [Asylum 7559-60511-2] for some aural stimulation?

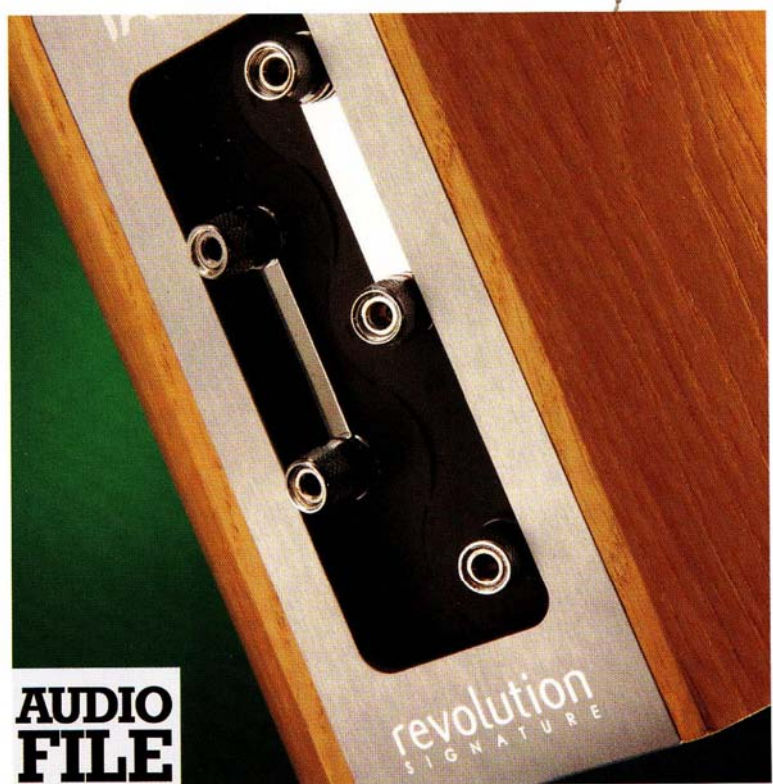
From track one, 'Take It Easy', the first thing to grab me was the level as these Tannoys are considerably more sensitive than my Snells – no mean feat. Admittedly the bass is not as extended, but in relation to the cabinet volume, overall sensitivity is impressive. So what of the bass? Bass lines were taut and kept good time, sitting just in front of the drum kit, offering a robust platform for the mid and vocals.

Here we move to what I believe is this speaker's forté, the midrange and in particular its handling of dynamics. Guitar riffs, soaring vocals and cymbal crashes sounded totally free of any compression, effectively stopping and starting on a sixpence,

### HEARD OVER THE TANNOY...

Tannoy was founded in south London in the early 1930s, and originally known as the Tulsemere Manufacturing Company. The Tannoy name was actually derived from the tantalum alloy used in the rectifiers developed by Tulsemere. Tannoy is now based in Coatbridge, Scotland and is part of the Danish TC group.

Tannoy subsequently became famous for its Dual Concentric drive units, where the tweeter is positioned behind the main driver, radiating coincidentally through its centre to give the effect of a point source. Gainfully employed in the new Revolution Signature series, the latest version of Tannoy's Dual Concentric drive unit now uses a 'WideBand' titanium tweeter dome for extended HF response with a 'Tulip WaveGuide'.



## AUDIO FILE

Two-way floorstanding loudspeaker with Dual Concentric main driver

Price: £1000

Made by: Tannoy Ltd

Telephone: 01236 420199

Web: [www.tannoy.com](http://www.tannoy.com)

ABOVE: The Tannoy Revolution Signature DC6 T includes an extra binding post for earthing the speaker's drive units' chassis, sited below the usual bi-wire terminals

the high sensitivity adding a welcome dimension to the overall musical message. And, thanks to the constant directivity of the Dual Concentric tweeter, vocals appeared with a rock-solid central image. The Tannoys did not dig particularly deep in terms of detail, preferring to play more on its sensitivity card. That's to say that it preferred to sacrifice some detail rather than dissect recordings in a forensic manner. Presentation of the mid was in character with the bass, that is, verging on the dry side. While the perspective of depth was considered reasonable, the overall sense of 'acoustic' was slightly lacking, resulting in a flatter soundstage

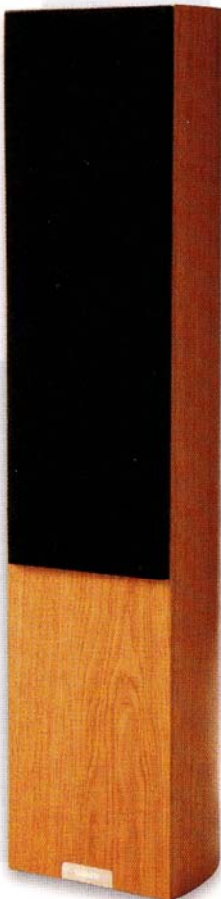
'Here we move to what I believe is its forté, midrange and its handling of dynamics'

presentation than one would have expected. Removing the grilles helped alleviate this, as did the connection of the separate drive unit earthing terminal.

### MIDRANGE MARRIAGE

Following a close second to the dynamics was the top, or high frequency, performance. Initially the top appeared to be lacking, certainly in terms of space and air, as with the mid. However, after listening for it, it was there, superbly integrated and married to the mid in a seemingly seamless fashion. It's difficult to imagine a conventional dome tweeter keeping up with the pace and speed of the rest of the system, not to mention the additional benefit of imaging and depth. Spurred on by such a dynamic performance, it was time for some classic rock in the form of UFO's *Obsession* [Chrysalis 07243 5 21310 2 0], with 'Pack It Up and Go'.

The drum kick intro was dry and tight with a great sense of energy, and the hi-hats had a rewarding sheen. Phil Mogg's vocals showed good phrasing and, surprisingly, the limitations in his range as he struggled







ABOVE: The DC6 T uses Tannoy's well-established Dual Concentric driver, with an additional bass driver below

to keep up with Schenker's acrobatics on lead guitar. This track certainly blew out the cobwebs and the Tannoys were more than up to it. A rock solid image, thanks to the excellent dispersion, enabled the Tannoys to drive the room to high levels, while staying in control where lesser speakers would fall apart.

### CLASSICAL SENSIBILITIES

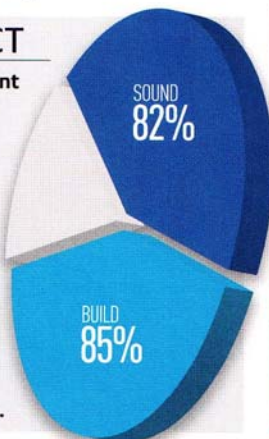
So much for the rock scene: it was time for some classical to check out the timbral accuracy of the DC6 Ts, so on went Strauss' *Death and Transfiguration* [DG 439 467-2]. The intro built softly with tympani and strings interplaying and I must admit that after the rock 'n' roll presentation I was expecting something 'full-on'. Instead I was pleasantly surprised by the delicacy of the strings and sweetness of tone from the violins. The ebb and flow of the orchestra was easily captured and portrayed by the Tannoys. Indeed they seemed even better suited to classical than rock and pop. In this instance the dynamic capabilities of the Tannoys, coupled with the lack of any high-frequency irregularities, resulted in a first-rate performance.

Suitably inspired, I went to Tchaikovsky's *Symphony 4 in F minor Op.36* [Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, CHAN 8316]. This is a delightful rendition, dramatic, powerful and challenging. In the first movement the trumpets blare out, the tympani crashes, demanding your attention, not in an aggressive manner, more like a communication direct from Tchaikovsky's compositional pen. Yet again the ability of the Tannoys to present such dynamics and stay in control impressed, and the design's synergy with classical programme easily surpassed that of the rock genre. ☺

### HI-FI NEWS VERDICT

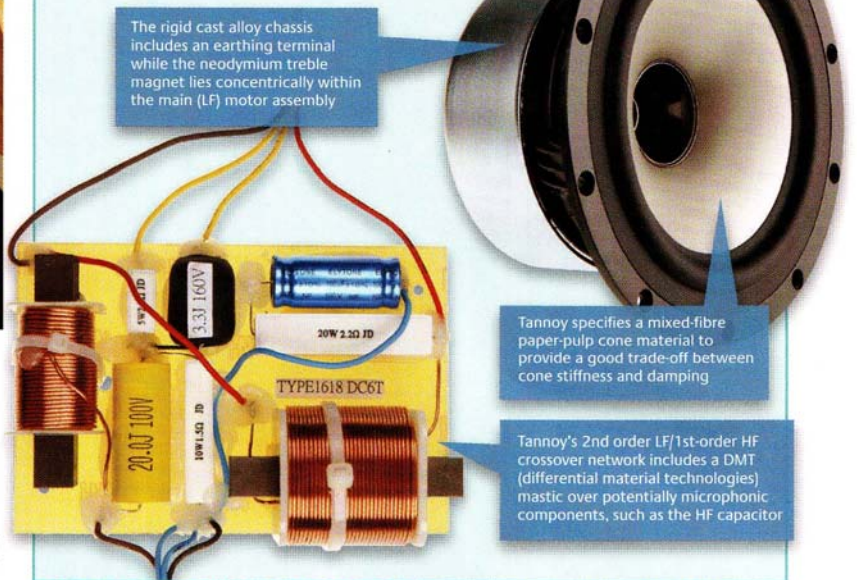
The DC6 T delivers an exuberant performance that is excellent on rock and pop, and simply outstanding on classical.

Key to this is its formidable dynamic capability, attributed to the dual-concentric drive unit dispersion and cabinet profile/construction. Add into the mix remarkable integration and the result is one of the most coherent speakers available at the price.



## TANNOY REVOLUTION SIGNATURE DC6 T / £1000

hi-finews  
LAB



The rigid cast alloy chassis includes an earthing terminal while the neodymium treble magnet lies concentrically within the main (LF) motor assembly

Tannoy specifies a mixed-fibre paper-pulp cone material to provide a good trade-off between cone stiffness and damping

Tannoy's 2nd order LF/1st-order HF crossover network includes a DMT (differential material technologies) mastic over potentially microphonic components, such as the HF capacitor

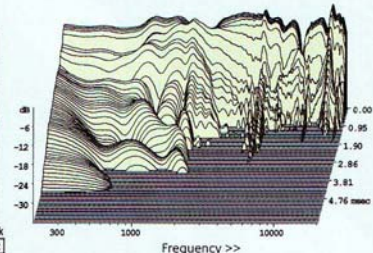
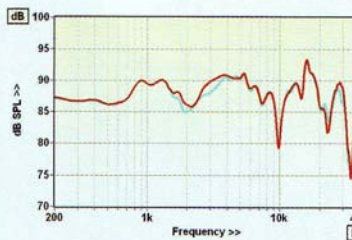
### HI-FI NEWS LAB REPORT

Tannoys usually have above average sensitivity and the DC6 T is no different, our measured 89dB coinciding exactly with the specified figure. In part this is achieved through reduced impedance, the DC6 T's 3.1ohm minimum modulus suggesting a 4ohm nominal rating rather than Tannoy's wishful thinking 8ohm figure. Impedance phase angles are sufficiently high for the minimum EPDR (equivalent peak dissipation resistance) to drop as low as 1.8ohm at 90Hz, which confirms that the DC6T is a fairly challenging load to drive.

On-axis frequency response errors are on the high side at  $\pm 7.0$  and  $\pm 6.8$ dB respectively because while the overall trend is flat the responses are especially uneven, particularly above 8kHz. Despite this the pair matching is good, though, at  $\pm 1.4$ dB. The cumulative spectral decay waterfall shows that a couple of

the high frequency peaks are associated with resonant ridges, but these are quite quickly damped. Otherwise the waterfall is surprisingly clean given the uneven response, with little sign of enclosure resonances below 1kHz suggesting that the curvature of the cabinet sides does an effective job of stiffening the DC6 T's largest panels.

Bass extension is only modest but given the DC6T's high sensitivity and modest cabinet volume this isn't a surprise. Careful exploitation of boundary reinforcement will allow a better extension to be achieved in practice. Note that the recorded  $>40$ kHz treble extension is due to there being a deep, narrow notch in its response at the 10kHz reference frequency, without which the treble extension would be less than indicated at a little over 30kHz. KH



ABOVE LEFT: Good pair-matching but there are some significant response variations above 8kHz; ABOVE RIGHT: Despite the response errors, the waterfall plot looks very clean – largely thanks to Tannoy's cabinet design

### HI-FI NEWS SPECIFICATIONS

Sensitivity (SPL at 1m for 2.83V rms input)	89dB
Impedance modulus min/max (20Hz–20kHz)	3.1ohm @ 102Hz 26.7ohm @ 3.0kHz
Impedance phase min/max (20Hz–20kHz)	-42° @ 78Hz 48° @ 2.0kHz
Pair matching (200Hz–20kHz)	$\pm 1.4$ dB
LF/HF extension (-6dB ref 200Hz/10kHz)	54Hz / $>40$ kHz
THD 100Hz/1kHz/10kHz (for 90dB SPL at 1m)	0.5% / 0.1% / 0.7%