



Spin And Sound

Cambridge Audio has powered the DV30 with just the right sound and visuals that would spin you about and lift you out of your skin.

Cambridge Audio has been at the 'audio' game for quite some time now, and their main field of focus has definitely been in the sonic seas. However, that doesn't stop Cambridge Audio from swimming into the tides of video every once in a while with DVD players like this one here, the Sonata DV30, whose dimensions are best suited for the mini-system department.

OUT OF THE BOX

This was not like the Azur series we've been getting off-late by Cambridge Audio, especially when size and colour are concerned. For a 2.7" thick metal-chassis DVD player, this DV30 doesn't weigh at all, just like its cousins in this mini-system Sonata series that also share the 'black-as-the-darkest-night' finish (you can go in for the silver as well). But what has made its way onto the DV30 front panel from the Azur are the round, metallic buttons that pop out ever so slightly from the front-panel. As for the back, the DV30 is not needlessly decorated, keeping the organisation of the player in check.

TECHNOLOGY

The DV30 is a complete DVD player that's doing its very best to make it into the hi-fi bracket, or 'mini hi-fi' as Cambridge Audio prefers to call it. The player upscales all of the standard DVD signals to 1080p, including DivX, so that the single HDMI port on the back panel can be used to its optimal even without a

Blu-ray signal. However, this little bit of FYI isn't all that the DV30 boasts of. Let's take a closer look inside:

Besides being able to upscale all the way from 720i to 1080p, the player comes sporting a Wolfson Microelectronics WM8746 24-bit/192kHz DAC, a 6-channel DAC that's ideal for DTS, AC-3 and MPEG streams. Although this DAC is capable of 106 signal-to-noise ratio, the DV30 comes with <-90dB, primarily because of the rest of the electronics in the bucket that still do not make an audible difference despite the degrading. The front display illustrating the track number and time sparkles in the same blue as the Sonata sign above and to the right of it.

Getting to that chassis, looking macho isn't all it's doing. Its low resonance acoustically dampened quality helps the audio chipset by keeping out any sort of audio distortion that may be pounding on the player. The chassis is incredibly sturdy, even though it may not feel so when you lift the player up. The same goes for that remote control.

REMOTE CONTROL

Built with the same metal and organisation the player so rightfully boasts of, this controller is one for the palms. We've felt these before, on the Azur series, and it never gets easier letting go of them. And if just controlling the player wasn't enough, this remote can take charge of Cambridge amplifiers and receivers too, which is why you may feel there are too many buttons on the panel to manage. The DV30

SPECIFICATIONS

SUPPORTED FORMATS DVD, CD, DivX, MP4

RESOLUTION OPTIONS 720i, 720p,

1080i, 1080p

AUDIO DECODING Dolby Digital, DTS

HDMI SUPPORT Yes

DIMENSIONS (H x W x D) 2.7" x 10.8" x 11.4"

WEIGHT 2.3kgs

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should've come with its own little remote, sort of like a mini-version of this, and it should've been made available in black if that's the finish you've chosen for the player.

PERFORMANCE

With this player's versatility in video playback, we gave every format we had lying around a shot starting with 'The Godfather II', our newly acquired DVD. Needless to say, the film itself is so captivating that one doesn't mind bad sound, jittery video, or a lack of sharpness. Luckily for us, the sound was exquisite, the video didn't shake at all, even during the party scene in Havana. As for the sharpness, it could've done with a little more, especially when watching the footage on big-screen televisions, like our Hitachi 46" plasma.

Nevertheless, there is only so much you can restore digitally of the Godfather trilogy. Next, we dropped in 'Dancer In The Dark' and skipped through the ultra-saturated songs only to witness a spectacle of vivid greens, reds and blues. In the normal desaturated sequences, however, the skin-tones should've been toned down, which the DV30





THE DV30 IS A COMPLETE DVD PLAYER THAT'S DOING ITS VERY BEST TO MAKE IT INTO THE HI-FI BRACKET, OR 'MINI HI-FI' AS CAMBRIDGE AUDIO PREFERS TO CALL IT.



CAMBRIDGE AUDIO

MODEL >> SONATA DV30
 CATEGORY >> DVD PLAYER
 PRICE >> Rs 17,700
 WARRANTY >> 1 YEAR

AESTHETICS ★★★★☆	WHAT SAY AV? Loaded with more than satisfactory DVD playback and a stereo soundstage that was to be reckoned with, this mini-hi-fi DV30 DVD player fits well in the Cambridge Audio lineup. It comes with the same sturdiness, authority and simplicity as the rest of the members of this reliable audio/video manufacturer. Worth a shot if you've still not gotten jiggy with the Blu-ray world, and want some more time to hang out with your DVDs.
BUILD ★★★★☆	
VIDEO ★★★★☆	
EASE OF USE ★★★★☆	
VFM ★★★★☆	

AV MAX ★★★★★
OVERALL SCORE

had accentuated ever so slightly. Since the DV30 has a big 'CD Player' tag written across its box, we decided to let it have a solid stereo stream, namely Claude Debussy's 'Sonate For Flute, Viola & Harp — performed by Linda Chesis and Sara Cutler'. This CD brags of rapid harp arpeggios played with extreme care and extreme power (when needed), along with a flute and viola that do their rounds in going in and out of the mix. We must say that the DV30 is quite an authority in the 2-channel department. We were stunned at

the imaging and soundstage the player could create. The SNR felt like a solid 110dB as the music swooped from a soft pianissimo melody to a mercilessly plucked fortissimo, all the while never losing its texture and richness. We could almost taste it.

CONCLUSION

There are small points that can be looked at for the DVD playback section of the DV30, but considering this is a mini-system, all can be forgiven. It gives you everything you can ask for, except Blu-ray, which is sufficient enough in this price-range. The player's USP has to be its stereo playback, be it when playing back meticulously played solo instruments of the orchestra or a distortion sandwich of hard rock guitars. And if the exceptional sound is not enough, the DV30's hypnotising visuals and near natural skin tones are sure to seal the deal. ☉

Karan Gour

TRIED & TESTED

THE GODFATHER II



The sound was exquisite, the video didn't jitter at all, even during the party scene in Havana where Michael tells his brother Fredo "I know it was you!".

DVD

