

NEWS SONY Launches VPL-BW120S Short Throw Projector



PHILIPS Launches New Products In Entertainment Portfolio

MUSIC REVIEW
English
Vinglish



Vol 13 Issue 10

October 2012 ₹ 100

AVMAX

INDIA'S NO.1 AUDIO AND VIDEO MAGAZINE



FIRST LOOK
Focal Bird Pack 2.1 System

BIG IS BETTER

REVIEWED: 13 FLAT PANELS FROM 32" TO 85"

AOC 32" Samsung 51" B&O 85" Loewe 40" Mitashi 40"
Sansui 40" Sharp 60" Sony 40" Videocon 42" Panasonic 55"
Samsung 32" Sony 32" Mitashi 32"



BLU-RAY REVIEWS

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

JOURNEY 2:

The Mysterious Island



PRE-FESTIVAL
SPECIAL
20
PRODUCTS
REVIEWED

ALSO REVIEWED

Elipson Planet MHT Speakers
Marantz SR7007 AV Receiver



Network **18**



Mini Masters

Elipson's spheres catch your eye with their spacey designs and minimalist aesthetics. But that's not all. Load them with the most challenging tracks, and they will enchant with their mastery at reproducing the finest details meticulously.

Elipson is not a new name for us—their about 130kg Elipson 4260 floorstanding speakers had shaken the very foundations of our studio with their sheer power and great tonal quality, when we reviewed them back in (June 2011). When we learnt that they would be sending an HT speaker package, we envisioned a massive the set-up much like their cousins. Instead

we encountered these diminutive spheres clad in thick layers of gloss. We stared at the shiny disco balls that were christened 'Planet M' HT speaker package.

OUT OF THE BOX

The form factor of the Elipson M speakers just cannot be ignored—tiny circular structures that come with placement options that comprise table rings, wall hangings or even a good old stand. We reviewed Planet M, where the 'M' stands for Medium size; Elipson also has a Planet L (Large). The speakers are available in three colours—red, black and white.

At first glance, we thought that the speakers were delicate and would need extra care. However, once we held them, their sturdy feel and weighty 11kg banished all doubts from our minds.

TECHNOLOGY

This is not the first time we are standing face-to-face with sphere shaped speaker systems, although this Elipson package had a distinct appeal. A number of such speaker systems feature co-axial drivers, which form the key to the overall performance, as is the case with the Elipson Planet M as well.

The Planet M speaker houses a 4.5" doped paper type cone with a 1" soft dome tweeter sitting at the centre. Elipson has been making such spherical speakers for a long time and the experience has given them a chance to experiment with a range of materials to optimise the performance of the spherical cabinet. And the result of their intensive R&D through the years is fiberglass/resin mix named FRP (Fibre Glass Reinforced Plastic) for the latest Planet series—an unusual material for a hi-fi speaker cabinet.

The speakers' wall thickness varies from 0.31" to (near the drivers) to 0.474". Considering that the cabinet is made up of a fibre composite, almost 95 percent of the total weight of the speaker is attributed to the driver, which can compel one to guesstimate that the speaker is really good, but we will establish that later.

The Planet Subwoofer is a downward firing, ported, active design that is built around a 200W Class D amplifier and a 7.87" driver with a reasonably long

Specification

Planet M (Satellites)

- DESIGN** Co-axial
- DRIVERS** 1x1" Soft Dome Tweeter; 1x4.5" Doped Paper Cone Driver
- FREQUENCY RESPONSE** 90-22kHz
- NOMINAL IMPEDANCE** 8Ω
- POWER HANDLING** 30-80W
- SENSITIVITY** 88dB
- WEIGHT** 1.65Kg
- DIMENSIONS**



Planet Sub (Subwoofer)

- DRIVE** Units 1x8"
- FREQUENCY RESPONSE** 30Hz-240Hz
- POWER** 200W
- WEIGHT** 11.5Kg
- DIMENSIONS**





sensitivity (which they have modestly specified to be 88dB), particularly for a speaker of that size. The Planet M speakers along with the subwoofer will easily suffice for a room even as big as 250 to 300 sq ft. You can easily push them to their limits and yet, the speakers effortlessly continue to sustain the best audio that you can expect from a 5.1 set.

Sumit Bhosle



Elipson
Planet M & Planet Sub

PRICE	₹ 18,000 Each (Planet M) ₹ 33,500 Each (Planet Sub)
TOTAL	₹ 1,23,500*
WARRANTY	3 Years
CATEGORY	HT Speaker Package
AESTHETICS	★★★★★
BUILD	★★★★★
EASE OF USE	★★★★☆
VFM	★★★★★

WHAT SAY AV?
At a total price-tag of approximately Rs 1,25,000 for the entire 5.1 set, the Elipson set is an inviting deal. What we like about them is their well executed exquisite finish. The cherry on the Planet M's pie is that the speakers hardly need any maintenance or care. And after you get over their "out-of-the-world" looks, what seals the deal is that the speaker set offers true sound and near-perfect sound reproduction. They assure a worthy performance that will propel you deep into the audio spectrum before you realise you are safe on your seat. Sheer delight!

OVERALL ★★★★★
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*(for standard table ring) the pricing for other mounting options may vary.

throw. This is a relatively simple design by the standards of some similarly priced designs. High and low level inputs are supported and there are rotary controls for volume, crossover frequency and a phase switch. There is no on board EQ or panel on the rear panel to enable manual tweaks.

PERFORMANCE

Setting up for the Planet M speakers was smooth due to the mounting solutions that they come with—we used the table ring mounting option for convenience. The small size of the speakers makes it very easy for you to handle them and maneuver. The only blip was the lack of space between the two binding posts on each of the satellites—an additional cm of space between the posts would have made it easier to fix.

We had the speakers connected to different AV receivers—the Denon AVR 2113 and the Pioneer VSX-822-K. As we mentioned earlier, the co-axial driver arrangement is the core of the Planet speakers and the FRP cabinets have no practical influence at all—firstly for its light weight, coupled with a sturdy structure. Secondly, even if the cabinet material could play a role, the speakers' spherical shape would negate any resulting acoustic effect that the material may trigger. Thus, we expected a true colourless sound and that is what we got from the tiny satellites.

For the initial listening, the speakers were slightly bright but

TRIED & TESTED

KSHAY

This black and white thriller is replete with sounds as dark, as haunting and as mersmerising as its visuals. The soundtrack of the album is a great subwoofer test and proves to be a good work out for even the best of sub-sat systems.

DVD

as we continued with our listening, the sound gradually transformed from bright to smooth and linear. By linear, we mean that whatever we feed the system, the speakers consistently reproduced a balanced sound without any dips or peaks on the audio spectrum. The safest bet is to use the speakers with an AV receiver that has a slightly mellower high-end so that they balance out the inherent brightness of the speakers.

The neutral tonality was evident in all the movie samples and music that we auditioned on this set. We loaded an OST CD of 'Kshay', a recent Indie flick that boasts of a gripping soundtrack and the Planet Ms were able to keep us glued to our seats throughout the movie. The lower end in the soundtrack can be a real test for most HT speaker packages, but the Planet M set was apt and perfectly reproduced the grittiness and the tension that prevailed throughout the length of the movie, without coming across to heavily and ruining the dynamic response of the set.

What impressed us was the

