

Cambridge Audio Stream Magic system



₹88,500 | fxentertainment.in

This Cambridge Audio setup is a modern take on the classic hi-fi system of a matching CD player and amp — except that in place of a CD player, there's a streamer.

That means you get two boxes — the ₹45,500 Stream Magic 6 and the ₹43,000 Azur 651 amp — rather than one, but they're sleekly designed and will look the part stacked on any shelf. They're also among the best-equipped here,

capable of accepting music via every popular means of wired and wireless transmission other than AirPlay. You get access to some services, that means you needn't have a big catalogue of pre-ripped content to get up and running.

Sound-wise, it's got Wolfson DACs and 24-bit/384kHz ATF2 upsampling tech, which may sound like gibberish, but ensures it has the performance to match its flexibility.

The amp, meanwhile, is a muscular, occasionally boisterous 75W affair, which serves up serious detail, especially with 24-bit/192kHz files.

The only minor niggle is that it won't handle Apple Lossless, but a recent firmware upgrade added support for gapless playback, and we've heard Lossless is on the way. That aside, there's really very little to fault the Cambridge combo on — hence it's our winner.

STUFF SAYS

This Cambridge Audio combo is packed with features and sounds great — we're smitten

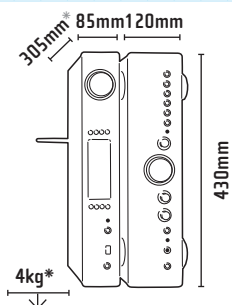


The CA has three USB inputs, of which one (on the rear) is a Type B socket — which means **it supports 24/192 high-res music files.**

The scroll-wheel on the fascia is a useful touch. **Just turn it to browse through your files,** and click to enter your choice. It's surprisingly intuitive to use.

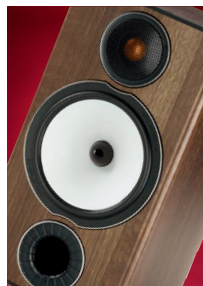


Plug in the optional BT100 Bluetooth receiver (₹4990) and you can **stream from your smartphone, iPhone, iPad or computer.** It supports high-spec aptX quality, too.



TECH SPECS

Formats WAV, FLAC, AIFF, WMA, MP3, AAC, HE AAC, AAC+, OGG
Streaming services individual internet radio services
24-bit audio? Yes
Inputs/outputs Stream Magic: Coaxial digital, optical digital, USB (x3), Ethernet, Wi-Fi
 Azur 651A: 3.5mm, headphone, RCA analogue (x5), USB



< Speaker selection

The Azur 651A is prone to excessive, tubby bass. The fast, agile-sounding Monitor Audio Bronze BX2s (₹32,000, theaudiopeople.net) offset that nicely.

Magic fingers >

Cambridge Audio offers a free Stream Magic control app for iOS and Android. It looks slick, and displays the quality of each track as it plays, but it is slow to scroll through.



*Weight and depth listed are for Stream Magic 6; for Azur 651A they are 8.5kg and 350mm respectively