

## Primare CD31



£1500

## Primare I30



£1500

## ProAc Studio 140



£1400



Once, twice, three times an Award winner, and we love this Primare and ProAc combo

TECH SPECS



**CD31**  
CD PLAYER  
TYPE Integrated  
ANALOGUE  
OUTPUTS  
Phono, XLR  
DIGITAL  
OUTPUTS  
Coaxial, optical  
DIGITAL INPUTS  
None  
HDCD No  
CDTEXT No  
MEMORY No  
DISPLAY OFF Yes  
FINISHES 2

**I30**  
AMPLIFIER  
TYPE Integrated  
LINE LEVEL  
INPUTS 6  
PHONO STAGE No  
TAPE LOOPS None  
BALANCED  
PREAMP OUTPUT  
Yes  
SPEAKERS  
Single pair  
TONE CONTROL No  
HEADPHONES No  
REMOTE  
CONTROL Yes  
FINISHES 2

**STUDIO 140**  
SPEAKERS  
TYPE Two-and-a-half-way floorstander  
DRIVERS  
Two x 12cm bass/midrange, 25mm soft dome tweeter  
IMPEDANCE 4ohms  
MAX POWER-HANDLING 250w  
BIWIREABLE Yes  
FREQUENCY  
RESPONSE  
32Hz-25kHz (±3)  
SENSITIVITY 87dB  
FINISHES 4  
SIZE 98x20x30cm  
WEIGHT 19kg

## Primare/ProAc



£4400

**IN HORSE RACING** terms this system is known as a 'sure thing'. Take an Award-winning Primare CD player, add the Award-winning Primare integrated stereo amp, and complete the set-up with a pair of Award-winning stereo speakers. It's a dead cert, surely?

Well, as any gambler knows 'sure things' don't always win, and it wouldn't be the first time, in a **WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION** system test that five-star individuals have fumbled their way to a four-star verdict overall.

**The love affairs starts here**

However, on this occasion, the favourite wins by a neck, mane, hoof, tail, and whatever other horse parts you care to name. Up and running, this trio rocks.

Presentation is, how do you say, **BIG!** The powerful amp combines with the gutsy CD player to feed

**↑ FOR**

Grand scale performance; impressive authority; class-leading detail; even tonal balance

**↓ AGAINST**

Strapping electronics and big towers need plenty of space to breathe their magic

**→ VERDICT**

We know it's not cheap, but this system delivers everything you ask of it – a perfectly matched trio

the formidable floorstanders just what they need to blow the cobwebs out of any dingy listening room. Introduce the queen of hi-fi test discs, Ms Kate Bush, and you get a wonderfully airy soundstage. Choose *Sunset*, and the '140s delve impressively deep to deliver the underpinning bass with authority, definition and weight.

Even better, as the tune switches tempo, this muscular system

**“The ProAc speakers dig impressively deep, giving the bass solid authority”**

instantly responds, rattling along with unbridled enthusiasm. Of course, you can't discuss Kate Bush without talking vocals, and here the Primare/ProAc selection continues to make you grin.

The '140s also offer a good, solid, midrange, but not at the expense of detail. The result is tremendously realistic vocals – if we didn't know Kate was at home writing songs about washing machines, we

would soon believe she was living inside one of these ProAc speakers.

Other kit on test, however, has received a glowing report only for another musical test to trip it up. A lack of aggression for rock, or perhaps a deficiency of finesse for more subtle tunes, can result in stars disappearing – but that is categorically not the case here. From Underworld's dance, to Eminem's hip-hop, to Holst's classical, this well-balanced system doesn't disappoint at all.

**Solid build is out of this world**

Sure, it doesn't offer quite the detail of the Densen system or quite the drive of the Naim kit, but – hey! – those systems cost thousands of pounds more than this one.

So, we're chuffed with the sound, and we're equally happy with build. The handsome Swedish electronics feel like they've been chiselled from a single meteorite, while the ProAc towers offer super-solid, if not the most visually enticing, cabinets. Will you love this system? Sure thing, we know you will.