

# What HiFi? Sound and Vision (September 2010)

## Loewe Mediacenter DR+

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What HiFi? magazine  
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Dit is een verbluffend mooi en stijlvol toestel; slechts 7 cm diep met een glanzend zwart scherm en een behuizing van geborsteld aluminium.

Zijn prestatie is chic en nauwkeurig: het haalt de diepste bassen naar boven wat de algemene beeldklank ten goede komt.

Sluit je iPod aan en prestaties met niet gecompriëerde muziek zijn even indrukwekkend als met lokaal bewaarde muzieknnummers. Stem af op BBC 6 muziek via internetradio en het levert duidelijke stemmen en muziek met pit.

“Performance is snappy and precise: it digs deep for low bass, enhancing the overall soundstage”

this is a stunningly stylish device, just 7cm deep with glossy black screen and brushed-metal housing. You can either wall-mount it or attach it to the pedestal or floortand, both of which have channels to hide cables.

The Mediacenter is designed to be used in conjunction with a TV to navigate menus. If that sounds a bit fiddly, you can also use the bright, clear menus, simple settings, and a vibrant, iPod-style coverflow. Surprisingly, though, the unit doesn't respond to the remote control straight away, which robs the coverflow system of fluidity.

Dock your iPod and, with uncompressed tunes, performance is as impressive as with locally stored music. Tune to BBC 6 Music on internet radio and it delivers clear voices and punchy tracks.

... heldere menu's, duidelijke instellingen en een levendig coverflow-systeem in ware iPod-stijl.

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Uiterst stijlvol; werkt zonder enige rompslomp; uitstekende geluidskwaliteit

Speel Crystal Castle's Empathy af en het laat zijn immense meesterschap zien.

... werking is buitengewoon eenvoudig

**DIGITAL MEDIA PLAYERS**  
Best of the rest



**Loewe Individual Mediacenter DR+**  
★★★★★  
£3675

**IN THE PAST**, Loewe has been decidedly slow to offer partnering equipment to its TVs. While the likes of B&O and Bose have steamed ahead, the German firm resisted introducing its own line of Blu-ray players and speaker packages. And although those are available now, what's far more impressive and interesting is the new Individual Mediacenter: a stylish DVD-playing, CD-ripping, internet radio-streaming, iPod-docking box of tricks.

Actually, 'box' isn't really the right word to describe the Mediacenter, because this is an elegant device.

**FOR**  
Ultra-stylish; totally fuss-free operation; excellent sound quality; decent DVD pictures; multi-room ability

**AGAINST**  
A Blu-ray drive and bigger hard disk would be nice; takes a second to respond to commands

**VERDICT**  
It's not quite perfect, but the Mediacenter's an exciting, fuss-free option for premium buyers, especially if you already own Loewe equipment

the slot-loader and it automatically downloads the cover art and album info, and then, depending on your selection, either starts playing or rips and spits-out the disc.

Unfortunately, unlike some music servers we've seen, the Loewe relies on just one database, Gracenote, and it's not always perfect. Plus, for your four grand you get just 160GB of storage (plus a 160GB for back-up), which seems incredibly stingy.

hugely impressive and punch, ensuring that the music noise is snappy and precise. That Lossless tunes via your computer and the quality is just as impressive. And when you tune to 6 Music on the internet radio, it delivers clear and punchy tracks.

Although we understand why, Loewe's decision to offer DVD instead of Blu-ray seems short-sighted. That aside, this is an ultra-stylish and hugely impressive device.

**SPECIFICATION**  
Type Media centre Hard disk 160GB Audio PCM, WAV, FLAC, AAC, WMA, MP3 (playback) Video DVD Video out HDMI, component, composite Connectivity Ethernet, Wi-Fi, USB 2.0 Outs RCA, coaxial Size 32x48x7cm

www.loewe-uk.com 0800 0276 465

**“Play Crystal Castles’ Empathy, and it shows hugely impressive grip”**

Also, Loewe knows that media centres are inherently complicated, and assumes its customers expect a tweak-free experience in return for their cash, so after your dealer's installed the unit, operation is exceptionally simple. Slide a CD into