



# on the radar

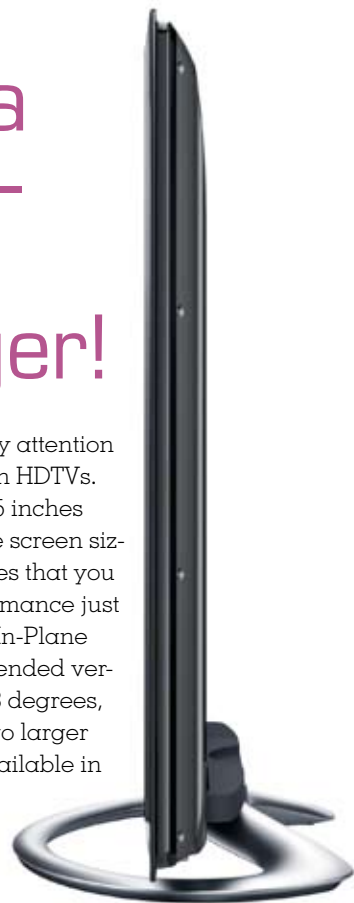
PROMISING NEW PRODUCTS by Suzanne Mahadeo



## Hey, Ultra Thin TV— Go Eat a Cheeseburger!

If you like meat on your TV, better not pay attention to Hitachi's new upscale line of Ultra Thin HDTVs. These slim LCDs are an unbelievable 1.5 inches deep and will initially be offered in three screen sizes (32, 37, and 42 inches). Hitachi promises that you won't have to sacrifice features or performance just because they look like they're on a diet. In-Plane Switching (IPS) is said to produce an extended vertical and horizontal viewing angle of 178 degrees, while "Anti-Judder" technology in the two larger models keep images looking smooth. Available in early 2008 at prices to be announced.

[hitachi.us/tv/](http://hitachi.us/tv/)



## That KID Has My iPod!



So you want primo sound from your iPod when you jack it into your home stereo, huh? Look no further than Krell's new KID—a high-end iPod docking station featuring balanced differential Class A circuitry, an opto-isolated iPod connector, and digitally controlled analog bass and treble controls (what'd you expect from Krell?). The Krell Interface Dock includes a remote control and offers balanced and regular audio outputs as well as composite and S-video outputs. KID can be used with almost any amplifier, but Krell is creating a special amp for it called the Papa Dock (clever...) that will deliver 150 watts per channel (the price of Papa is still yet to be determined).

**\$1500 • [krellonline.com](http://krellonline.com)**

## Time for a PC Sound Upgrade? >>

Let's face it...the speakers that came with your computer suck. There's no way around that tinny sound—unless, of course, you upgrade to a serious set of speakers like Bose's Computer Music-Monitors. A pair of these tiny, self-powered speakers are designed to produce the kind of full-bodied sound you expect from a three-piece system with a separate bass module. The secret to getting big sound from such small enclosures lies in the proprietary use of opposing passive radiators—two per speaker. Hookup is a simple matter of running one (supplied) cable to your computer. A mini remote control is included.

**\$400 • [bose.com](http://bose.com)**



## Another Soldier in the Blu-ray Army

As the Great Format War between HD DVD and Blu-ray was raging into the brisk winter, Panasonic rushed to market its new DMP-BD30, hailing it as the first Blu-ray player to incorporate "picture in picture" and "audio mixing" features. PIP lets you display supplemental images—an actor's commentary, for example—in an onscreen window with sound, if so desired. The 1080p player also includes an SD memory card slot so you can pop in cards with high-def (AVCHD format) camcorder footage or still images. Other features include an HDMI (1.3b) jack and 1080p/24 playback to keep hard-core enthusiasts happy. The battle continues...

**\$500 • [panasonic.com](http://panasonic.com)**





## Play HD DVDs on Your Lap

If you want to relax in bed and watch an HD DVD, check out Toshiba's Qosmio (G45-AV680). It's the first notebook computer to have an HD DVD-R (rewriteable) optical drive and 1080p playback resolution. Equipped with a 17-inch widescreen 1920x1200 display, the 10.6-pound multimedia powerhouse has a 320GB hard drive, a Harman Kardon sound system with four speakers plus "subwoofer," and an HDMI output for connection to a high-def TV (when you're ready to get out of bed). The Qosmio G45 comes with a remote and an external USB HDTV tuner, and it has a built-in Webcam and microphone.

**\$3000 • toshiba.com**

## SOS for Your Home Theater? Try SSX

Ideal for use with a flat-panel TV, Marantz's SSX (Simple Surround Xperience, model ES7001) is a one-piece home theater sound system that can be placed on a shelf above or below the screen or mounted on the wall. Featuring six speakers, each with its own amplifier, the system is easy to set up and use and employs surround image processing to create "big home theater" sound. SSX has three optical digital and two analog inputs plus two HDMI inputs for making simple single-wire connections to a DVD player, gaming console, cable box, or satellite receiver. An optional subwoofer is available.

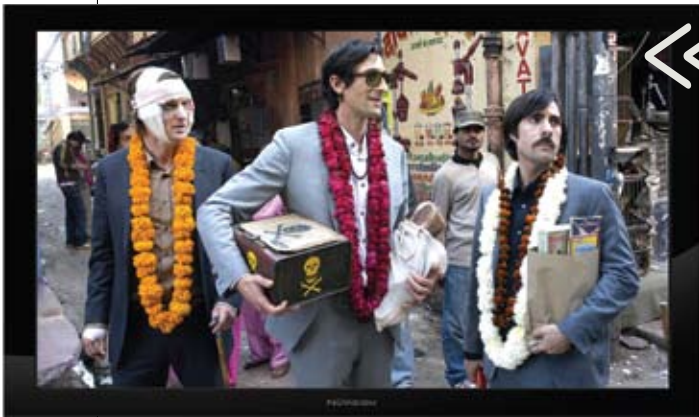
**\$1300 • marantz.com**



## Total Control

Universal Remote Control's MX810 universal remote control (how's that for redundant?) is ideal for operating multiple components in a home theater or A/V entertainment system. It has a bright LCD display and can be customized with up to 24 activities on eight LCD pages for each of 24 different devices. The handset features radio frequency (RF) addressability when used with an optional RF base station (\$149), which means you won't have to aim the remote at your equipment. Instead, you can control components up to 100 feet away—even those concealed in cabinets or in another room. Requires a Windows-based PC for setup.

**\$399 • universalremote.com**



## Hard Core LCD TV

NuVision's 65-inch Lucidium HDTV just might be a home theater enthusiast's dream come true. In addition to employing the highly regarded Silicon Optix Realta video processing system, the 1080p LCD set combines Deep Color Spectrum and Deep Black technology to achieve "a nearly limitless range of color and depth of field" by increasing the number of grayscale steps from the blackest of black to the subtlest shade of gray. The TV is compatible with 1080p/24fps signals and offers many professional settings, including selectable color temperature (by input/scan rate), independent RGB offset adjustment, peak white/black level adjustments, adjustable backlight/black level modes, and more.

**\$12,000 • nuvision.com**

## Get Sirius About Satellite Radio

Most satellite radio listening is done in the car these days, but with Polk Audio's SR-H1000 tuner, you can enjoy Sirius' 69 commercial-free music channels over your home audio system. The tuner's coolest feature is Instant Replay—think TiVo here—which lets you store up to 44 minutes of audio for later playback. A composite video jack is provided so you can display song titles and artist names on your TV. Other highlights include 30 channel presets, a remote control, and a Game Zone mode that displays sports scores on the tuner's LCD screen.

**\$350 + Sirius subscription • polkaudio.com**



## Tabletop Music for Audiophiles

Music lovers take note: Pioneer is targeting you with its Elite X-Z9 stereo system, which comprises a pair of compact speakers (based on the company's high-end EX Series) and a 50-watt-per-channel receiver with a built-in Super Audio CD (SACD)/CD player that also supports MP3 and WMA playback. The tabletop system can be linked to a home network so you can stream Internet radio or listen to music stored on your PC and includes a USB slot for quick media fixes. It also comes with an iPod cable for your most cherished portable music player. Long live stereo.

**\$1799 • pioneerelectronics.com**







## Centralize Your Digital Media

Keeping track of all your digital music, videos, and photos can be quite a chore. With HP's MediaSmart Server (a perfect companion to HP's MediaSmart TV), you can store everything in one central place so it can be shared with other computers on your home network as well as with Internet-connected Windows XP/Vista computers. The server, which runs on the Windows Home Server platform, has an HP Photo Webshare feature that allows you to quickly create and access a photo Web site for sharing pictures and video files with family and friends. Two models are available: the 500GB EX470 and the 1-terabyte EX475.

**\$600 (500GB), \$750 (1TB) • [hp.com/go/mediasmartserver](http://hp.com/go/mediasmartserver)**

## Subwoofer, Subwoofer On the Wall

Sunfire's SubRosa—Latin for "behind the scenes"—is one of very few subwoofers that won't look out of place near a sexy flat-panel TV. Also known as the SRS-210R, the svelte sub is designed to be mounted on a wall and houses a 2700-watt amplifier and a pair of 10-inch woofers that are 30 percent thinner than the woofers used in other Sunfire speakers. Patented anti-shake technology is said to reduce unwanted vibrations by as much as 300 percent so the sub won't rattle your TV off the wall. The cabinet is 14 inches tall by 44 inches wide and only 3 inches deep.

**\$3500 • [sunfire.com](http://sunfire.com)**



## Super Duper Power Strip

Don't even think of calling the Panamax M8-HT-PRO a power strip. Besides offering a place to plug in eight A/V components, it filters incoming AC power to eliminate line noise that can cause pops, hisses, and hums as well as visual artifacts in your HDTV picture. The M8 also monitors incoming voltage and, in the event of a catastrophic electrical surge or brown out, disconnects the power to protect your gear (AC is restored when voltage levels return to normal). It also has coaxial connections to protect against electrical surges that travel over cable, satellite, and antenna lines and a 12-volt trigger for four of the outlets.

**\$149 • [panamax.com](http://panamax.com)**