

SPEAKER PACKAGE  
MOREL  
NOVA MKII



£ 595

**FOR**

Discreet; good soundstaging; sturdy build; detail and integration are impressive

**AGAINST**

Doesn't have the low-end fluency of some competitors

**VERDICT**

The new centre channel speaker is an improvement, but a price rise pegs the Morel to its old rating

Still a looker, and with a better centre speaker, but the price rise does it few favours

# Morels gain an air of authority

LAST DECEMBER, MOREL'S cute Nova MkII speaker package got a four-star verdict, an overwhelmed centre speaker being fingered as the weak link. At the time, Morel was talking about raising the price of £500 to £700, but in fact, it's only snuck up to £595, that money buying you the Bi-2 centre speaker instead of the Li-1 item that

caused the bulk of our qualms. The new speaker is no porker, and should be no more difficult to site, but it is significantly better.

Everything we admired about the MkII is present and correct. The five little speakers are solid, cute and well made, and the system as a whole looks tidy and stylish.

The bin-lid subwoofer is still novel, and still integrates well

with the little satellites. Movie soundtracks are treated to an expansive soundstage, details are retrieved without fuss and dynamic fluctuations cause no alarms. And, at last, dialogue is distinct and delivered with real authority.

But a rise in price brings a change of competition. In December, we worried this four-star £500 product

**“Finally, the dialogue is distinct and is delivered with superior gravitas”**

might struggle to hold its end up at a higher price and, to a certain extent, that's turned out to be the case. £600 buys KEF's iconic KHT 2005.2, and greater fidelity: the Morel sub, especially, can't rival the KEF's tonality and expression.

So the new centre speaker helps, but the new price doesn't. What has remained unchanged, though, is the fact that the Morel Nova MkII package offers a visually glamorous, sonically capable, and diverting alternative to its rivals.

