

Canton

CD-100 Home Theatre Pack

Germany's Canton is famous for its metal-coned bass drivers (and its metal-domed tweeters), so we weren't surprised to find all the speakers in Canton's CD-100 system use either aluminium cones or aluminium domes.

Indeed, with the exception of the subwoofer, all the cabinets are alloy extrusions as well, so you might well regard the CD-100 as the ultimate 'metal' speaker system.

Equipment

The slim, columnar CD-100 front main speakers (\$1,699) are the slimmest we've ever seen—so slim we came close to being able to enclose the entire circumference in our palm. It's certainly easy to grasp and pick up the entire speaker in one hand—which could come in very handy if you regularly relocate your loudspeakers.

Such portability means, of course, that the speakers the column contains are necessarily small. However, each column does contain a number of speakers: two aluminium-coned bass drivers, two aluminium-coned midrange drivers and a single aluminium dome tweeter.

Canton says the bass and midrange drivers have 80mm diameters, but we measured (after removing the perforated metal grilles that protect the drivers) overall diameters of just 75mm. The Theile/Small diameter is a little smaller, at 63mm. This puts the effective cone area for the system at 62cm², equivalent to a single 100mm diameter bass driver.

The C-100 is a true three-way design, with the bass drivers handing over to the midrange drivers at 400Hz, and the midrange drivers to the tweeter at 3.5kHz. The tweeter has a small, 15mm diameter dome, hence the somewhat higher-than-usual crossover frequency.

There was applause all round when we unpacked Canton's CD-50 centre channel (\$499), because Canton seems to be the first company in the world to recognise that centre-channel speakers are difficult to position. The solution? Bolts located in the cabinet that can be used to fix the speaker to a stand, a wall, or even suspended just below the shelf supporting a TV. Our response? Sincere and most hearty congratulations!

Compliments, too, are due to Canton for using exactly the same driver layout in the CD-50 as in the CD-100. However, rather than use the same three-way crossover, Canton



has used a two-way, with a crossover frequency of 4.5kHz, in order to increase the centre-channel's volume and power-handling ability, and to minimise cancellation effects.

The tiny CD-10 rear speakers (which sell for \$399) contain just a single 80mm bass/midrange driver and a 50mm tweeter. (When we say they're 'tiny', the cabinets are just 134mm high, only a little taller than a CD is wide.) The CD-10s come with their own wall-mounting hardware, but their flat base means they'll also sit on a shelf. For our review, Australian distributor Canohm supplied Canton LS-90 speaker stands (which would add \$199 to the listed price) and we'd recommend you use these unless your couch is within a metre or so of the rear wall (or the side walls). This is because you'll get the best performance when the CD-10s are close to the listening position.

Canton's Karat AS 200SC powered subwoofer (\$1,599) is very unusual. It has a 205mm diameter (Theile/Small) down-firing bass driver and a bass reflex port.

One concern with this arrangement is that it tends not to work very well if you have a thick carpet. Canton's solution is to supply a special base plate. Put this on the carpet, the sub on the plate and ... Bob's your uncle—perfect performance.

If you have a wood or tiled floor, you can dispense with the base plate (unless you just like the look of it, which we did). The cabinet measures 335x450x470mm. The internal amplifier (rated at 140 watts continuous) has rotary volume, crossover frequency (50-150Hz) controls, and phase (0-180°) controls.

Performance

When setting up the Cantons, don't make the mistake we did and pull off the red and black plastic caps that indicate speaker polarity

expecting to find banana sockets underneath ... they're just plastic discs to indicate polarity, and you'll need them!

If previously you've been disappointed with the sound quality of so-called 'designer' home theatre systems, you should give Canton's CD-100 an unbiased audition, because it's among the best examples of its type we've heard. The sound is clean and direct, with very low distortion—not overly loud, but certainly more than most people will ever need.

The Canton CD-100 is at its most impressive when presenting movies (the centre-channel sound and front soundstage are very good indeed), and playing multi-channel sound from music DVD or two-channel in 5CH mode.

Conclusion

Sleek and svelte, this thoughtfully designed Canton system is sure to be a favourite with style-conscious consumers. **BB**

Canton CD-100 Home Theatre Pack	
Price	\$4,195
Warranty	Five years; one year
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superb, inconspicuous styling • Poor instruction manuals
Contact	Canohm 1800 636 026 www.canohm.com.au sales@canohm.com.au