



HiFi Stacking System

It's a discussion that will probably never be resolved amongst music enthusiasts: all-in-ones, stacking systems or separates? There are those hifi devotees who insist that the only system to have is a collection of hand-picked separates. That means you need to find a lot of space to set it up and the funds to make a significant investment. The alternative, frowned upon by purists but actually a very high-performing and cost effective option, is an all-in-one hifi system with turn table that covers all contingencies.

What Makes a HiFi Stack System?

Essentially it is a hifi system that either has integral components or separates built specifically to complement each other. They perform all the functions of separates but rather than requiring you to shop around for different brands and specifications, stacking systems are far more conveniently sized, designed to be balanced and compatible, and a great deal kinder on the wallet. There is no reason why a good stacking system shouldn't deliver the same quality as a self-built collection of separates.



If your only experience of stacks is the midi hifi system that accompanied the demise of vinyl and the rise of CDs, then you'll be pleasantly surprised by the advances in audio technology. For one thing, now that vinyl is making a sustained comeback, it's possible to buy an all-in-one hifi system with turn table. This was an inevitable development since the whole purpose of a hifi stack system is to give you access to music from any source, from the most advanced digital formats to the resurgent analogue technology pioneered in the 19th century by Thomas Edison.

What Makes a HiFi Stack System?

It's an abbreviation of high fidelity, which describes a reproduction of sound that is the most faithful rendering of the original music that technology currently makes possible. The roots of hi-fi can be traced to the work of RCA Victor in the late 1940s and it really established itself in the 50s. It wasn't long before the term was co-opted by a certain kind of aficionado who perpetually chases after perfect high fidelity.

For modern purposes, now that audio technology is so sophisticated, hi-fi is available to anyone who has the money for a decent system. Fortunately, the flirtation by the iPod and Napster with file compression and the consequent loss of audio detail seems to have passed and quality is everywhere. With the return of vinyl, the hifi stack system with turntable is an increasingly common sight, while most streaming services offer different levels of sound quality.

What are the Components of a Hi-Fi System?

Any complete system needs to handle every source and format, delivering the best possible quality. That means you need an amplifier and speakers, plus a CD player, a turntable and, now that streaming is here to stay, a network player. That's a lot of kit and it doesn't come cheap.

A stacking system incorporates all these features but apart from price, the major difference is that the individual parts are constructed to work together without conflict or compromise. Depending on how you collect and listen to music, you could opt for a set-up designed just for CDs, digital files and streaming but for the fullest audio experience and if you still cherish your record collection, a hifi stack system with turntable will never let you down.

Ultimately no one can tell you how to listen to your music. What matters is what sounds the best to you. The important thing to remember is that you have options and they are all good ones.