

**WATERFALL HURRICANE SAT 5.1**

# Floating in space

It's easy to dismiss Waterfall speakers as being aimed solely at the lifestyle market that cares more about what a product looks like, than what they sound like.

This would however be doing the company a disservice, as based on my experience, they take sound quality rather seriously too.

You do admittedly pay a small premium for the style of the speakers, but this is more than offset when the speakers begin to sing, and sing the Hurricane satellite and High Force I subwoofer certainly do.

Before moving on, I should perhaps explain what exactly it is that makes the Waterfall Hurricane speakers, in the case of this review supplied as part of a 5.1 set-up, just that little bit different to the slew of other sub/sat

. p e a k s .

**VERDICT**  
Some lifestyle systems only look good. The Waterfall Hurricane system sounds good too. The HF1 sub is worth a special mention.

**PRICE** ..... R34 995

**SUPPLIED BY** ..... Audiomania  
086-112-8346

**WEBSITE** ..... [www.audiomania.co.za](http://www.audiomania.co.za)

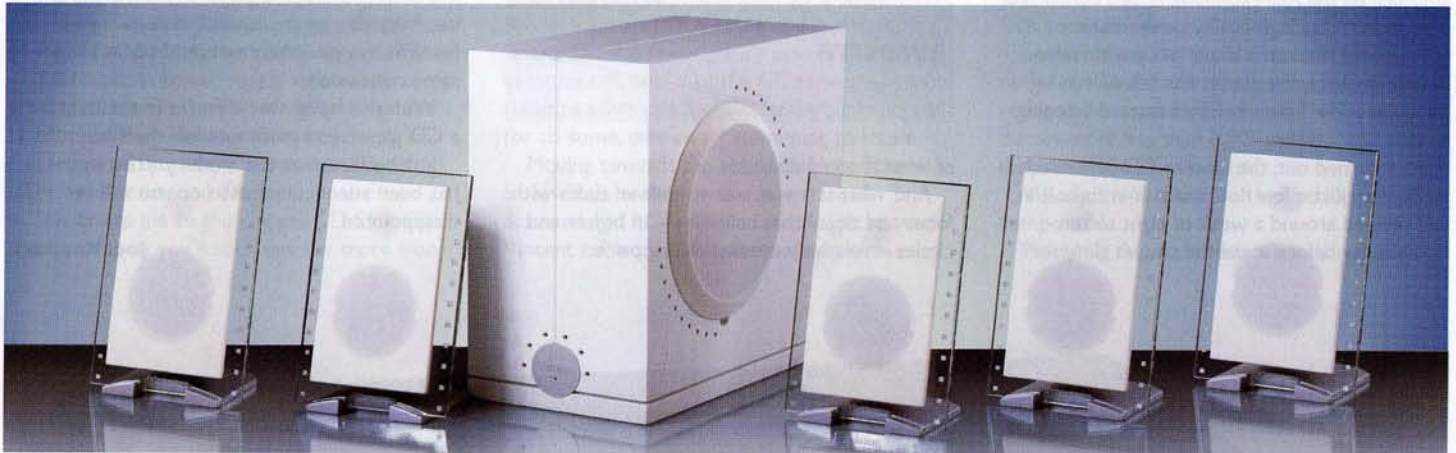
in the drivers to the aluminium cabinet of the satellite. The body of the satellite then effectively becomes a radiator and draws heat away from the driver voice coils.

Waterfall hasn't kept all their technology for the full range speakers either, and the cute (it measures in at 25 cm x 28 cm x 26 cm) High Force I subwoofer had its fair share too, with the most important one being DRC. This, according to Waterfall, is a system that controls and lowers the inductance of the woofer voice coil and leads to a more linear-sounding speaker.

The company also managed to pack a 150 watt amplifier into the small, and in the case of the review unit, hefty white cabinet.

For my review of the Waterfall Hurricane system I mounted the rear speakers on the sidewalls of our studio, and after some experimentation aimed them towards the rear wall of the room. The three front speakers were placed in a standard configuration across the front.

Typically I find that even when a system is profiled towards lifestyle, and in particular home theatre applications, the sub tends to be a little boomer. Or in other words, one that initially sounds loud and impressive, but ultimately is found wanting.



speakers available on the market today.

The most unmistakable aspect of the Hurricanes is that from the front, they simply look like a speaker grille floating on the front of a piece of glass.

From the top, you notice a triangular section on the rear of the glass, and on the top of this section a pair of high quality binding posts. This initially seems like an unusual place for posts, but the reason for them being there is to a degree explained when you look at the bottom of each speaker: Here you see a round hole into which the pin of the supplied wall brackets insert.

There's no space down there for the slot and binding posts.

The next reason that the binding posts live atop the speaker cabinet is because the bottom edge of the glass surrounds slots into a cut-out on the table stands. If you look carefully at the stands, you will see two small holes. These line

up with channels at the rear of the speakers, and just happen to be exactly the right size for Waterfall speaker cable to fit through.

Unfortunately there's no prize for guessing that the channels line exactly up with the binding posts.

Technically, the Hurricane Sat speakers are rather interesting too.

Despite their compact dimensions, and only being equipped with a 100 mm bass/mid driver and a 20 tweeter, Waterfall rate the speakers to handle up to 200 watts of power. In fact Audiomania (the Waterfall distributors) requested that we use an amplifier with a minimum rating of 70 watts per channel, so they aren't too worried about the speakers being driven too hard.

One of the reasons for the high power handling is the fact that Waterfall use what they call 'Heatstream', a patented technology where excess heat is dissipated from the voice coil by coupling the neodymium magnets used

The only thing I wanted to do with the HF1 sub, was to keep on listening. Sure it's initially not as impressive as the normal run-of-the-mill low frequency driver, but it was extremely punch and musical. It did what a sub is supposed to, do with this being to reinforce the sound of the main speaker and not dominate them.

Main/sat speakers too also proved to be good to listen to and delivered a smooth, if somewhat laid back sonic delivery. I found that in both movie and music modes that upper frequencies were a little rolled off and that I would have liked a tad more detail in the mid range.

The package was however extremely capable of delivering an engrossing surround sound experience, and one that had enough focus to maintain ones attention throughout a movie.

Overall, as you can see, I liked both the sonics and the style of the Waterfall Hurricane system.

**Joel Kopping**