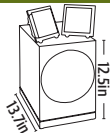




NEED TO KNOW

CONSIDER IF

You spend more than 4-5 hours working on your desk everyday



YOU'LL NEED

A source with a variable output level such as an iPod or CD player

MAKE SURE

The subwoofer phase control is set to 180 degrees as specified

AVOID

Keeping them too wide apart as this might spoil their imaging abilities

HIGHLIGHT?

The bass extension is perfectly mated to crisp and clean highs

Waterfall Pack Multimedia 2.1

₹65,000

If you're French, you really can't be agnostic about style. But usually, your religion will be deeply embedded in style and that's what Waterfall Audio believes in. A firm that is deeply rooted in style and substance, with a flair for visual grandeur. Glass is their element of choice and they have etched their stamp of authority all over it with established speakers such as the Niagara and the Iguascu Evo. With the Pack Multimedia 2.1, they aim to bring some of the style and the substance to more affordable and desktop friendly levels by combining the Serio satellites with a new subwoofer that packs in all the requisite amplifiers to power your iTunes library or any other source with a variable output level.

The satellites are dressed up in a glass bezel but their good looks run deep. The patented Heatstream tech allows them to handle higher power thanks to the voice coil being cooled by the magnet being coupled directly to the aluminum heatsink at the back of the cabinet. This was evident when we tested the Burmester Sampler disc

version of Pink Floyd's *Another brick in the wall* in its entirety and the entire office gathered around one desk to experience the phenomenal resolution and the bass depth that this tiny system was managing to project out into the open. The HFM 2.1 subwoofer features everything else you need to convert your idyllic desk into a party hub. Three amplifiers, one each for the satellites and one for the subwoofer driver, together pack in a 180-watt punch that will force you to reinforce your desktop

It packs a 180-watt punch that force you to reinforce your desktop and items atop

and items atop. They also go a significant length in lending a classy look to your workspace or bedroom with the choice of coloured magnetic grilles that can simply be latched on to the frame without a fuss.

The Pack Multimedia 2.1 gives you a variety of mounting options, including wall mounting brackets and floor stands, using which they form an elegant pedestal with special channels to completely conceal the speaker wires within. Our review was done on a desktop though, flanking a MacBook

Pro laptop and quickly, they showcased their strengths. The transparency, width of the soundstage and the deep bass extension were a quantum leap from lesser multimedia speakers with poor crossover design and low power on tap. Even with the relatively high crossover of 180Hz from the satellites to the subwoofer, not once did the bass give away its true location and just filled up the space with a seamless transition without a hole in the middle. The mids and highs were perfectly acceptable with a fine grasp on pitch and tonal balance. For their asking price, you could buy some highly respected bookshelf speakers but the Waterfall is an ideal combination of good looks and good sound and is poised to spend more time with you than your high-end living room system.

Rating

FOR Clean sound, well-mated satellites and subwoofer, clean and uncluttered look

AGAINST Optional white grille cloth stains easily, pricey

VERDICT The best sound you could stylishly have on your desktop and in this size

TECH SPECS

Design 2-way **Crossover** 180Hz **Frequency response** 40Hz-20kHz **Sensitivity** 87dB