Hear the real X factor

Fed up with surround sound amps that look like ugly silver slabs and boast features you'll never use? The stunning new Pathos Cinema X may be just the music and movie solution for you.

The treble has bags of headroom, and never sounds forced or hard. With some surround-sound equipment, stereo dynamics are often stunted, but not so here: it's just another polished facet to the Cinema X's gleaming, jewel-like sonic performance.

Watch it, or you'll get your fingers burned

When a movie soundtrack switches from vast expanses of open air to small rooms, the Pathos has no trouble conveying that shift, a challenge some more expensive, less-subtle kit struggles with. The soundfield is solid and engaging, never allowing any impression of a hole in the sound. However, make sure it has ample room to breathe, otherwise you'll be able to cook your breakfast on it after a couple of hours use.

Since the Pathos has no cinema decoding or processing of its own, the sonic results you get are also dependent on the quality of the DVD player you use. The Cinema X scores highly because no processing interferes with the signal path – it's just signal in and sound out – but by the same token, if the incoming signal is of low quality, you'll hear it. We used Denon's mighty £2500 DVD-A1XV; a Meridian G91DAB (£3895), with its analogue and digital audio inputs to support additional sources, would work well, too.

It says Pathos through and through

The Pathos Cinema X will astound you with its no-compromise approach to sound reproduction. If you're seeking exceptional stereo performance as well as stellar surround sound from one box, this is the amp for you. If you need more convincing, those heat-sinks say Pathos all the way...
“It looks like God spent an entire week carving the Cinema X from a solid block of metal – and didn’t rest until He’d got it absolutely right”