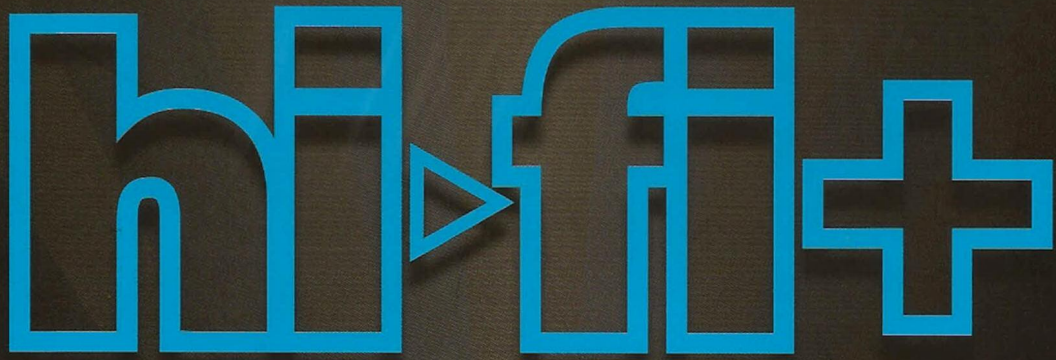


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computer audio of the year **Wadia 170i**

Reviewed in issues 61 & 63

Like it or not, the Apple iPod (and now the iPhone) revolutionised the way people approach their music listening. But, from an audiophile perspective, it's a bit of a closed-loop. The digital data inside an iPod stays in an iPod and most products that connect Apple's music player to the hi-fi system do so after the digital conversion process has taken place.

The Wadia 170i is different. It cracks open (not literally) the iPod and exposes the digital code. This allows the iPod's datastream to be read by a top-notch digital converter, as well as the standard audio and video outputs of any decent iPod dock. Coupled with a good DAC – another Wadia strength and a matching 1-series DAC and amp are expected any day now – the 170i turns the iPod into a pocket sized music server. If you run Apple Lossless or AIFF files on your iPhone, there is

nothing to prevent this from becoming a high-end source component you can send text messages from.

Other code-cracking Apple solutions are only now becoming available, but many rely on modifying the iPod and many cost many, many times the price of the Apple product. As it currently stands, the Wadia 170i is the most complete solution for those who want to welcome the iPod to the audiophile generation!

Price: £349

Manufactured by Wadia

Net: www.wadia.com

Distributed by The Musical Design Company

Tel: +44(0)1992 573030

Net: www.mdc-hifi.co.uk

Highly Commended Naim HDX

Reviewed in issue 65

Price: £4,500

Manufactured by Naim Audio

Net: www.naim-audio.com

Tel: +44 (0)1722 426600

Highly Commended HRT Streamer+

Reviewed in issue 64

Price: £299

Manufactured by High Resolution Technologies

Net: www.highresolutiontechnologies.com

Distributed by Audiofreaks Ltd

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Net: www.audiofreaks.co.uk

