

TOP TEN DESIGNS

In no particular order, here are our picks for the consumer electronics industry's most exemplary design. What all these devices have in common is that they not only work as visually and ergonomically stimulating objects, they also offer some of the best performance in the market.

Yes, almost every one of them can be out-performed by a less stylish (and often cheaper) competitor, but sometimes an almost-imperceptible falling in functionality is worth just having these things near you.

1. LOUDSPEAKER

Bowers & Wilkins Nautilus

Price: \$12,000 (approx.)

Web: www.e-hifi.com.au

www.bowers-wilkins.com

You've seen these astonishing speakers before. Probably on the cover of your favourite techno-classic fusion album. Mike Oldfield featured a set of them in his liner notes for *Tubular Bells III*. BSW is cagey about



exactly how the loudspeaker achieves "near-zero cabinet colouration" but you can bet the resemblance the Nautilus has to the structure of the human inner-ear is no co-incidence. Note the full price doesn't stop at the actual loudspeaker: you'll need to fork out for a pre-amp and eight mono bloc power amps, pushing an ideal 500 watts.