

**Price:** \$899  
**Vendor:** Harman Kardon  
**Phone:** 1300 369 159  
**URL:** www.harmankardon.com

## High-end home theatre

★★★★☆ Harman Kardon HKTS7B

### SPECIFICATIONS

#### SUBWOOFER WATTAGE

100W

#### SATELLITE WATTAGE

80W

#### SUBWOOFER DIMENSIONS

479x340x340mm

#### SATELLITE DIMENSIONS

167x100x92mm

#### CENTRE SPEAKER DIMENSIONS

102x241x92mm

### WHAT'S HOT

Great sound quality, powerful subwoofer, attractive design.

### WHAT'S NOT

Requires the user to already have a receiver, bass isn't as customisable as we would have liked.



The Harman Kardon HKTS7B is a high quality home theatre system aimed at users who have a mid to high range budget. Although slightly expensive, Harman Kardon's exceptional design makes this a great value product. Combining an absolutely giant subwoofer, one centre and four satellite speakers, and a simple yet attractive design, the 5.1 surround sound system delivers fantastic audio quality in a package that suits almost any living room.

Sound quality is the most important part of any home theatre system, and Harman Kardon definitely doesn't disappoint in this area. Despite a heavy emphasis on bass, the entire sound range is very well represented by the HKTS7B. The sound coming from the speakers is very clean, with all five speakers delivering sharp and unbiased audio. At 80 Watts, they aren't the most powerful speakers on the market, but audio remains clear up until the highest volume levels.

The real powerhouse of this setup is the subwoofer. The 10in sub produces a huge amount of bass; it'll shake the floors, walls and anything attached to them. This isn't to say that mid and high levels are weak though, quite the opposite. Treble is sharp and well defined, while the mid-range played strongly without overpowering the rest of the audio. The bass itself, while forceful, does deteriorate slightly at the highest volume levels, where we found that it became a little distorted, despite our best efforts to counter this.

Setting up the system is a little time consuming, yet relatively easy, thanks to the colour-coded cables provided by Harman Kardon. However, it should be noted that the unit does not include a receiver, and one must be used in order to be able to connect all five speakers as well as the sub woofer. Whilst this might detract from the appeal for some users, the HKTS7B is a high-end unit and performs best as part of a high-end home entertainment setup.

We used Harman Kardon's AVR645 receiver to position and configure the speakers and, when properly calibrated, we found that the entire setup performed exceptionally, filling the room with full, rich sound. Sockets for wall mounting also come included with the unit, which is always nice to see.

The only drawback that we can readily identify with the setup is the lack of controls

on the subwoofer. With only a bass level knob and a few simple and situational switches on the rear, advanced bass controls are not available on this speaker system.

The design itself is fantastic. The speakers are relatively small considering their output capabilities, and they sit easily either on well balanced stands or wall brackets. The subwoofer is a huge box with its controls and connections neatly tucked away behind it, presenting a smooth outer face. Overall, we found the entire aesthetic to be quite pleasing, and with a little work invested into tucking away cables, the HKTS7B could fit seamlessly into almost any living room design.

**The Final Word:** Whether you're putting together a high-end home entertainment system or just looking to shake your walls a little, these speakers are well worth checking out. **BEN RUSSELL**