

Roth Audioblob 2



£150

AUDIOBLOB? WHAT'S IN a name, eh? That's exactly what we thought when we opened the box, so we asked the manufacturer what it meant... and the answer is that 'Audioblob' is memorable.

Mind you, the Hertfordshire-based company is also keen to establish that its system should be unforgettable for not just its name, but also its sound. To this end, during the design process, it sought the input of a leading British

“Roth sought the help of a leading speaker company during the design process”

speaker maker – who shall remain unnamed, but 'Tannoy' is thanked in the manual – to help get great sound.

So has the cross-border love-in (Tannoy is a Scottish company) been a success? In the main, yes. The system, available in black or white, looks one of the classiest here, and the little twin-driver satellites feel reassuringly solid. The matching powered sub features a line-in, and a bass-adjustment dial, and the package also includes feet for both the sub and satellites.

FOR

Good levels of detail; spacious sound; stylish looks and build

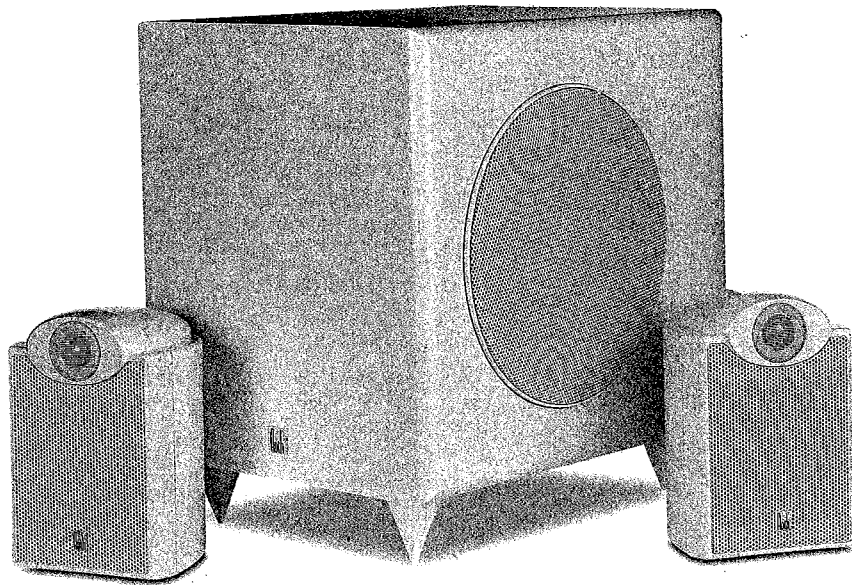
AGAINST

Doesn't integrate quite as well as we'd like; no remote

VERDICT

Above average sonic delivery, but still doesn't quite justify that £150 price tag

The Roth is one of the best-looking systems in this test, and feels reassuringly solid



This impressive state of affairs continues with the sound – though with two caveats: the sub doesn't quite match the high standards set by the dinky sats, and the complete system doesn't integrate quite as well as we'd like.

Sounds larger than it is in real life

Nevertheless, spin some tunes, and you hear excellent amounts of detail, making this an especially good choice if you enjoy acoustic and closely miked vocal

tunes. Delivery is nice and airy, too, giving you the impression you're listening to larger-size speakers than you are. Thumbs up for the package's timing, especially the sats, which nip along with verve, and a nod to the sweet top-end.

Our previously mentioned minor sonic concerns mean, at £150, this great-looking package loses a star, but our first experience of Roth is very positive. Indeed, tweak the Audioblob's sub, add a remote, and surely nothing can stop it.