

SOUND & VISION

From test report on the Boston Acoustics Avidea 770 DVD system in September 2004 S&V. © 2004 by Hachette Filipacchi Media, U.S., Inc. All rights reserved.

in the lab

DVD-VIDEO PERFORMANCE

Maximum-white level error +1 IRE

Setup level +7.5/0 IRE (switchable)

Horizontal luminance response (re 1 MHz)

3/4/5 MHz -0.35/-1.31/-1.9 dB

6/6.75 MHz -2.0/-2.1 dB

Onscreen horizontal resolution 540 lines

In-player letterboxing good

SPEAKER PERFORMANCE

Bass limits (lowest frequency and maximum SPL with limit of 10% distortion at 2 meters in a large room)

satellite 250 Hz at 81 dB SPL

subwoofer 25 Hz at 87 dB SPL

101 dB average SPL from 25 to 62 Hz

110 dB maximum SPL at 62 Hz

Bandwidth uniformity 92%

The Boston Acoustics Avidea 770's performance as a DVD player was good. The slow rolloff of luminance response was visible as a slight softening on test patterns but not with most program material. Progressive-scan playback had less luminance rolloff and was free of anomalies like the color-smearing "chroma-upsampling bug." The player handled all recordable-DVD formats except DVD-RAM and DVD-RW in VR mode.

All of the speaker-response curves in the graph are weighted to reflect how sound arrives at a listener's ears with normal speaker placement. All six satellite speakers had amazingly uniform directivity at all listening angles but limited dynamic capability below 250 Hz and a small elevation between 3 and 8 kHz. The horizontally oriented center speaker had a relatively moderate off-axis notch (centered at 3 kHz) at listening angles beyond 30°.

Bass limits for the Avidea subwoofer were measured with it placed in the optimal corner of a 7,500-cubic-foot room. In a smaller room users can expect 2 to 3 Hz deeper extension and up to 3 dB higher sound-pressure level

(SPL). The subwoofer was more capable than those found in typical all-in-one systems. It had usable output down to 25 Hz and delivered 110 dB SPL at 62 Hz, but most of its dynamic capability was in the top part of its bandwidth. With much program material, the gap between the subwoofer and main-speaker response was not as audibly obvious as it looks in the graph. — David Ranada and Tom Nousaine

