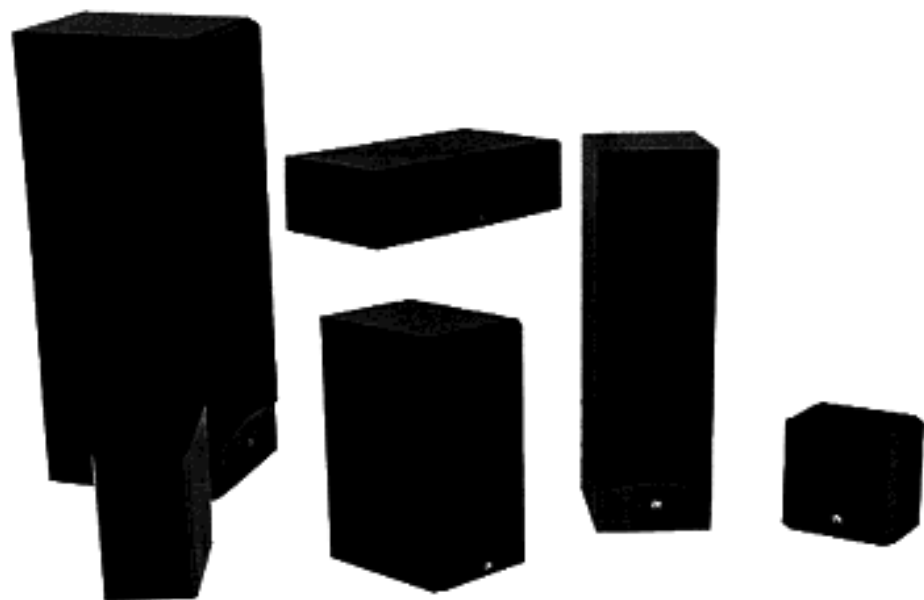


# Aaron

## MAXIMUS HOME THEATRE SYSTEM



Aaron is the only manufacturer in the world that appears to have solved all the problems inherent in centre-channel design. Its SS-240 centre is horizontally oriented, it's a wide-bandwidth, high power-handling design and it delivers the same frequency response on-axis as it does off-axis.

The only problem is that to achieve this, it's had to make the SS-240 quite large. At 695mm wide, it's probably the largest centre-channel you're likely to run across, but on the other hand, it's at least 100mm shorter than the average television, so it won't look at all out of place in your system. The CC-240 is also very deep (392mm), but once again any TV you put on top of (or under) it is likely to be at least 400mm deep, so once again, the size is inconsequential. As for the height... well the good news is that the Aaron CC-240 is no higher than any other centre-channel speaker, so in this dimension at least, there is no cause for concern whatsoever. Very sensibly, the two bass-reflex ports vent forward.

### SS-240 Bipolar Surrounds

Aaron's new SS-240 is a very unusual loudspeaker: a genuine full-range, high-power bipolar speaker specifically designed for use in THX, DTS and Dolby Digital home

theatre systems. It's also an unusual speaker for Aaron, because rather than being a bass-reflex design using Low-Q Ratio alignment, it's an infinite baffle type. The main advantage of using bipolar speakers as rear-channel (or more accurately, "surround") loudspeakers is that the sound becomes "defocused" and difficult to localise in the

Aaron Maximus Home Theatre System	
\$	53399
🔧	10 years
⬆️	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Superb centre-channel sound</li> <li>• Energetic, cohesive sound-field</li> <li>• Great value</li> </ul>
⬇️	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overkill in left/right</li> <li>• Forward bass sound</li> <li>• Rears look a bit 'boxy'</li> </ul>
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Circle 0421 on our Reader Service Card.	

listening position, but the frequency response is unaffected. For this to happen, the speakers have to be located appropriately, which in the case of the SS-240s

means they should be on the side walls directly alongside your listening position, and slightly above seated ear-level. With the SS-240, Aaron has managed to get a good radiation pattern by ensuring the woofer has a flatter-than-usual off-axis response. Also, designer Hume L'Estrange is operating Aaron's teardrop tweeters much lower than usual for a two-way system (down to 3.5kHz instead of 5kHz), ensuring a better polar plot match than if the crossover frequency were higher. The driver complement comprises two 25mm diameter 'teardrop' dome tweeters and two 136mm dual laminate cone drivers.

### Performance

We here at *Best Buys* are very familiar with Aaron's speakers and so, although we were highly impressed with the left/right fronts of the Maximus, we couldn't help but think the ATS-5s were a little bit like 'overkill' in this system. Unless you plan on listening to a hell of a lot of two-channel sound, we'd humbly suggest the smaller ATS-4s might be a better match. And although the ATS-4s would be great for hi-fi and home theatre, if you plan to use the system exclusively for home theatre, maybe even the ATS-3s might be an idea — not least because all the bottom-end grunt is being provided by the Sub-240 subwoofer. That said, the ATS-5s provided an enormous amount of bass energy yet for once, despite the level of bass provided by the ATS-5s, we found we were listening to a centre-channel that wasn't overwhelmed by the left and right channel speakers. Also, miraculously, you could actually move across in front of the centre-channel without getting dramatic tonal changes. Some slight tonal imbalances were still audible but they were far, far less than we've heard from any other horizontally-oriented centre-channel.

### Conclusion

A great-sounding system, at a great price. Even if you already own a home theatre system, consider upgrading to the CC-240: it will be an upgrade, no matter what centre-channel speaker you're currently using! **BB**