



## LOUDSPEAKERS

### USHER Be-10

**L**oudspeaker design is both a science and an art. Of course, if the perfect speaker could be concocted using just the former, then we'd have a world of perfect £119 boxes. For this reason, in discriminating audiophile circles, there's a huge amount of prominence paid to the latter intuitive side. Loudspeaker designers often like to think of themselves as artists - or at least master chefs - but not even they can transcend physics. With speakers, the quality of the drive units is paramount. You can make a half-decent sound from a bad box, but you'll never pull bad drivers up with a good cabinet. It's where Newton calls the shots...

Still, it's amazing how many high end speaker designers forget this. Perhaps it's because of budgetary constraints, allegiances to drive unit manufacturers or mere convenience, but there are many premium boxes out there with cheap, substandard or just plain poor drivers inside. Usher's Be-10 is not one of them. Of course, it's a dashing looking piece of furniture, but unlike so many derivative 'me too' designs, it runs superb drive units too, intelligently designed for the job in hand. Its treble and midrange domes are fashioned from Beryllium, which is both very expensive to produce for consumer loudspeaker applications and ideal for moving air at higher frequencies. As the lightest stable

metal on the planet, few materials work better here, giving a dizzyingly fast and uncoloured sound.

Usher's Be-10 is a big box alright, weighing no less than 92kg, but it needs this to be the true full range loudspeaker that it is, with flare flapping bass, breathtaking levels of detail and an almost supernaturally expansive soundstage. It is unremittingly dynamic too, making music sound 'live' in a way that nearly all hi-fi loudspeakers fail to do. Its massive visceral punch, allied to real silky smoothness and sophistication (when given the right ancillaries to work with) makes it an exceptional loudspeaker by any definition, and a worthy winner of its Hi-Fi World Award.

USHER BE-10  
 HIAudio Distribution  
[www.hiaudio.co.uk](http://www.hiaudio.co.uk)  
 tested:

£10,500  
 0845 052 52 59

May 2009