

the absolute sound®

Issue 201

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TAS 2010 EDITORS' CHOICE AWARDS

2010 Editors' Choice Awards



Welcome to the 2010 edition of *The Absolute Sound's* Editors' Choice Awards, our annual Recommended Products list. On the following pages we present the gear that our editors and writers have selected as most worthy of your consideration. These are the components we ourselves would buy—or recommend to friends and family. Each product category is divided into price ranges, with components listed in order of ascending cost (though a few items, like cables and accessories, are listed alphabetically for clarity's sake). Each recommendation is also accompanied by a capsule review, the original reviewer's name or initials, and the issue the review appeared in. Products that have won a Golden Ear Award (GE) or Product of the Year Award (POY) are accompanied by icons indicating the award and the year in which the award was won. Note that in a few cases a product may have been reviewed in one of our sister publications, *Playback* or *AVguide.com*, or the review may be pending publication, or the product may not have been formally reviewed but earns a recommendation based on one or more writer's extensive experience with it. Given that this is the high end, where components generally have long lifespans, some of our recommendations look back several years. At the same time, in an effort to be as selective as possible, we have dropped some components that appeared on last year's list, usually because they have been discontinued but sometimes because fresh competition has caused us to reconsider.

TAS founder Harry Pearson's selections can be found in this issue's HP's Workshop.

Oppo BDP-83 Blu-ray/Universal Disc Player

\$499

oppodigital.com

The Oppo BD-83 is an answer to the dream of every audiophile who has wished for an affordable, truly universal disc player that performs on every format. It is compatible not just with CD, HDCD, DVD-A, DVD-V, and SACD, but also with Blu-ray Discs. The best part is that the BD-83 not only plays all these discs, but plays them well. The player is characterized by a warm, sweet, full-bodied sound that is a significant step up from Oppo's lower-priced players. Winner of *The Absolute Sound's* Budget Component of the Year Award. CM, 198



DVD-A, DVD-V, and SACD, but also by playing Blu-ray Discs. The BD-83 is truly the most "universal" universal player of them all.

The best part is that the BD-83 not only plays all these discs, but plays them well. The player is characterized by a warm, sweet, full-bodied sound that is a significant step up from Oppo's lower-priced players (which are outstanding for their price). Unlike many universal players, the BD-83 is equally adept at expressing the musical values of the high-res formats (DVD-A and SACD) and of CDs. With SACD, the Oppo presents a shockingly holographic soundstage that rivals players at five times the price. How Oppo delivers this level of sound quality and format compatibility for under five-hundred bucks is a mystery. But it's no mystery that the BD-83 was a shoe-in for *The Absolute Sound's* Budget Component of the Year award. (Issue 198)

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2009
PRODUCT
OF THE YEAR
AWARDS

Budget Component
of the Year

Oppo BD-83 Universal Disc Player

\$499

The Oppo BD-83 is an answer to the dream of every audiophile who has wished for an affordable, truly universal disc player that performs well on every format. This new Oppo delivers on that promise and more by offering compatibility not just with CD, HDCD,