

Definitive Technology ProCinema 1000

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5.1-Channel Speaker System

AUDIO REVIEW

The Perfect Vision

Innovative Technology Pays Big Dividends

Definitive Technology is known for building innovative loudspeakers that deliver high-end performance at modest prices, and historically some of the firm's most special products have come in small packages. One great example would be the firm's new \$1649 ProCinema 1000 5.1-channel speaker system.

"This compact system plays big—very big."

The deluxe version of the ProCinema 1000 system consists of four ProMonitor 1000 mini-monitors, a ProCenter 2000 center-channel speaker, and a ProSub 1000 sub-

woofer. At first, the ProCinema speakers look like truncated, jet-black versions of Definitive's Mythos speakers, though the designs are different from a technical standpoint. Sadly, Definitive's product styling has been widely imitated, so that the lovely ProCinema components look well finished but not particularly distinctive. From the outside, the ProCinema system looks much like any number of other good, "generic" sat/sub systems on the market. But once you hear the ProCinema system, you'll know in an instant there is nothing generic about its sound.

Big Dynamics

This compact system plays big—very big. We trotted out our favorite cinematic blockbusters—the "Echo Game" scene from *House of Flying*

Daggers, "The Flying Boat" scene from *The Aviator*, and the "Under Attack" scene from *Master and Commander*—and came away impressed with the way the

"The ProCinema 1000 system is a bargain, pure and simple."

system handled this dynamically demanding material. Many small systems can play fairly loudly, but few do so gracefully. The ProCinema system, however, almost always kept its composure, taking large-scale dynamic swells in stride, even in TPV's relatively large audio lab. Only at loony volume levels did the ProCinema rig start to show traces of hardness and compression.

"Value with a capital 'V'"

Innovations that Work

I attribute the system's fine dynamics to two design innovations. First, its speakers introduce spectacular new mid/bass drivers whose diaphragms are supported both by outer and inner suspension rings (traditional diaphragms are supported at their outer rims only), with cylindrical waveguides in the center. These might be the finest mid/bass drivers Definitive has ever produced; they deliver terrific dynamic punch with very low distortion. Second, the ProCinema speakers



The Last Word



- Clear highs, potent bass
- Midrange with true high-end sophistication
- Big dynamics from small enclosures
- Value with a capital "V"



- Could use a smoother tweeter
- You'll need great electronics to get this system's full measure

Specifications

2-way satellite speaker

- Driver complement: One 5.25" mid/bass driver, one 5.25" passive radiator, one 1" aluminum dome tweeter.
- Frequency response: 47Hz-30kHz
- Sensitivity: 90dB (1W/1m)
- Impedance: 4-8ohms
- Recommended amplifier power: 10-200Wpc
- Dimensions: 10.875" x 6.5" x 6.25"
- Weight: 7 lbs.

2-way center-channel speaker

- Driver complement: Two 5.25" mid/bass drivers, two 5.25" passive radiators, one 1" aluminum dome tweeter.
- Frequency response: 42Hz-30kHz
- Sensitivity: 91dB (1W/1m)
- Impedance: 4-8ohms
- Recommended amplifier power: 10-250Wpc
- Dimensions: 6.5" x 6.5" x 17"
- Weight: 12 lbs.

Powered subwoofer

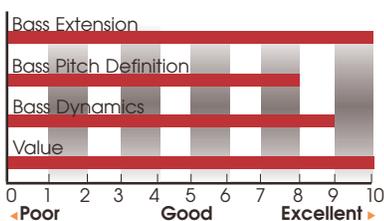
- Driver complement: One 10" polymer-cone woofer, one 10" infrasonic (passive) radiator
- Integrated amplifier power: 300 watts
- Dimensions: 12" x 17.875" x 14.4375"
- Weight: Not specified

System Price: \$1649

Satellites and Center Channel



Subwoofer



incorporate small passive radiators mounted in the tops (or ends) of their cabinets; these give the speakers a more full-bodied sound and better mid and upper bass (areas where other small monitors can sound "thin").

"they deliver terrific dynamic punch with very low distortion."

Killer Midrange

The ProCinema system serves up clean, clear highs and midrange that is shockingly detailed and nuanced. Sophisticated midrange sound is this system's crowning achievement, meaning these speakers reveal small textures and details that many small systems simply cannot reproduce. For example, the ProCinema system caught the eerie ping and shimmer of percussion instruments in the Reiner/Chicago recording of Bartok's *Music for Strings, Percussion and Celeste* [RCA Living Stereo, SACD], and the almost subliminal inflections of Valerie Joyce's voice on *New York Blue* [Chesky]. Lower down, the speakers nailed the plucked string sounds and earthy growl of Charlie Haden's acoustic bass in *Nocturnes* [Verve]. These rich midrange details pull you deep inside your favorite music and films.

"clean, clear highs and midrange that is shockingly detailed and nuanced."

The only small criticism I would offer is that Definitive's aluminum dome tweeters, though very good, are not as good as the low-distortion

ProCinema mid/bass drivers mentioned above. The drivers generally integrate well, but the tweeter sometimes shows a bright, hard-edged quality inconsistent with the speaker's otherwise smooth, open sound. Even so, the ProCinema tweeter is arguably as good or better than those used in other systems at this price.

"qualities you'd expect to find only in higher-end systems."

Bass Wallop

Completing the system is the 300-watt ProSub 1000, which borrows technology from Definitive's award-winning SuperCube subwoofers. Not surprisingly, the ProSub goes low, and produces energetic bass, with dynamic capabilities well matched to the rest of the system. Pitch definition is good, though not quite as good as the best I've heard from other subs in this price range (for example, Epos' ELS sub). Nevertheless, the ProSub 1000 offers greater bass wallop than most competitors, building a rock-solid mid-bass foundation that supports music and low frequency effects alike.

"looks small, plays big... high-end sophistication"

The ProCinema 1000 system is a bargain, pure and simple. For under \$2000 the system looks small, plays big, and gives you revealing midrange qualities you'd expect to find only in higher-end systems. **TPV**

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