

“ An absolute joy... a brilliant all-in-one music solution ”

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Best all-in-one music system

Vita Audio R4i

If you want an iPod dock, but aren't quite ready to give up on CDs - or indeed, if you want a micro system but don't want to faff about with separate speakers, the Vita R4i is for you.

Notice the 'i' at the end there? That signifies that we're talking about the new, updated version of the R4.

It looks the same as the old one, but the 'i' has revised audio circuitry, a new CD suspension and an upgraded power supply, not to mention DAB+ (although still no word on when/whether this is coming to the UK) and an optional new 'Sparkling Graphite' finish, which costs £80 more than the standard maple, black or white finishes.

Whether you're listening to a CD, docked iPod or the DAB tuner, the Vita is an absolute joy. It projects vocals with superb clarity, and surrounds them with really well-defined instrumentation. There's width and separation to the soundstage, and a degree of stereo separation that's quite unexpected, given how close together the two speakers are. There's a downward-firing subwoofer built into the chassis, too, and it adds punchy bass with impressive cohesion.

The flying saucer-style remote takes a bit of getting used to, but this Vita remains a brilliant all-in-one music solution.

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