

# WHAT HI★FI?

## SOUND AND VISION

ISSUE 2007 £3.95

The World's No.1 home entertainment magazine

# YOUR NEXT TV

tangent

Tangent Evo review next page ▶ a flatscreen until you've read our big-name TV update

# REVEALED

OVER  
**1400**  
REVIEWED & RATED  
STAR BUYS



HI-FI SOUND FROM YOUR PC

+ PIONEER'S STUNNING CD COMEBACK



> **A FERRARI FOR £1500?**  
We take Meridian's F80 system for a test drive



> **HIGH-DEF HEARING**  
Movie-boosting speakers & amps



CABLES & BEAMS | BLUETOOTH HEADPHONES RATED



STEREO SPEAKERS  
TANGENT  
EVO  
★★★★★  
£80

**FOR**  
Excellent build and finish, good choice of colours; solid, reliable sound

**AGAINST**  
No giant-killers; slightly shut-in sound is best for micro system upgrades

**VERDICT**  
A classy way to make more of a micro, but there are better loud-speakers for not much more cash

## Evolution goes off at a Tangent

**JUST WHEN YOU** think you've got the hang of how budget speakers are developing, along comes something to alter your perceptions. Taking on QAcoustics' 1010 and Tannoy's Mercury F1 Custom, here's Eltax-owned Tangent's sub-£100 speaker contender, the Evo. They stand just 19cm tall – and they're lime green.

Actually, they're lime green, red, yellow, black or white, and in every

**"The little Evos stand just 19cm tall – and come in five colours"**

instance, rounded corners and a high-gloss finish give them a sense of class. Inside, the sealed-box cabinet houses a 25mm neodymium magnet soft-dome tweeter and a 10cm bass unit. Mountings for wall brackets are provided.

The Evos have been designed to be easy to drive, with 89dB/w/m sensitivity and 4-8ohm nominal impedance. That makes them ideal for use with micro systems: their bass is fast and tight, but won't challenge the likes of the Qs or Tannoys, while the midband and treble are clean and informative,

but never quite as explicit as we'd like. Rather than a sound full of space and air, but with the risk of hardness, the Evos play it safe.

**Easy-going, and cool-looking**  
The easy-going sound flatters even modest electronics, while the range of colours and the quality finish makes them a refreshing change from boring black or wood-effect vinyl-wrap boxes. We have a feeling they might do rather well...

**ALSO CONSIDER ?**

**QACOUSTICS 1010**  
★★★★★  
£100  
April 2007  
Best under £100 in our 2006 Awards, these compact speakers remain an excellent buy for use in modest stereo systems

**TANNOY MERCURY F1 CUSTOM**  
★★★★★  
£109  
April 2007  
£10 more than the QAcoustics rival, and we reckon they're worth it: a fabulously involving and musical design for the money

UNIVERSAL CHARGER  
NETHERLANDS  
SOLIO  
★★★★★  
£60

**FOR**  
Innovative design, minimalist styling, including guitar-style volume knob

**AGAINST**  
Can't reliably fit into car power socket in our British-variant model

**VERDICT**  
Stylish, portable, it's worth a punt or simply treat it as your business. The Solio is an impressive addition



◀ tangent  
for your iPod

**IF YOUR GADGET** habit is giving you a sixth-sense carbon footprint, here's a gadget that could reduce your guilt and your fossil-fuel consumption.

The Solio's pocket-sized hybrid charges when plugged into adapters allow it to juice up everything from your iPod, digital camera, PSP or PDA, to most Nokia, Motorola, BlackBerry and Samsung mobiles.

It's essentially a lithium-ion battery, which is recharged when by surfacing the Solio and stacking its solar panels to direct sunlight, or via mains power or

**"A fully charged Solio powers up to 10 hours of iPod music action"**

your car's power socket. All the necessary adapters are included – even international mains plugs.

An hour of sun translates into an hour of iPod playback, so minutes of so-called talk-stimulus (back of scenery) – with no time that power available from a fully charged Solio.

After an initial battle with all its bits (not helped by the manual), we found the Solio quickly paired with our iPod (and even a go Nokia phone).

In short, we like the way being enough to give it five stars.



It's silver and green, but the Solio's panels will be a range of colours. It's your power's best defence to charge the rest