

# 226 HOT GADGETS INSIDE

# Stuff

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## SOUND ADVICE

Revealed: Speakers, systems, turntables and players to rock your world



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# HI-FI HEDONISM

Proper speakers, proper amp, proper nerd... but wireless technology hasn't muted traditional hi-fi just yet



## Rumble trip

There's a pre-out for a subwoofer on the active speaker in case you need even more bass. Be prepared for tremors.

## KLIPSCH THE FIVES

£829 / [stuff.tv/TheFives](http://stuff.tv/TheFives)

**G**ot ears? Then you know the best way to hear your favourite music is through a hi-fi. But if you've got eyes too, you know a traditional system can be a cabled eyesore that takes up altogether too much space. Unless, of course, you can incorporate the majority of the necessary components into a couple of fairly compact speakers. Which, basically, is what Klipsch has done with The Fives.

One half of this handsome pair is a fairly typical passive speaker (albeit with Klipsch's

customary 'horn-loading' arrangement around its 25mm titanium tweeter), but the other packs 160W of amplification, which it splits 50/50 with its partner. It also has Bluetooth 5.0 and a stack of physical inputs, including everything from a phono stage for your turntable to HDMI ARC for connecting your TV.

There's 24-bit/192kHz hi-res audio decoding on board, nicely integrated controls for volume and input selection on top of the active unit's cabinet,

and a remote control. Wire one speaker to the other, plug the boss into the mains, fire up your smartphone and *voilà*: a 'hi-fi' system.

As far as sound goes, The Fives are a typically Klipsch product – that's to say they serve up a big, burly sound with absolutely as much emphasis on bass frequencies as is acceptable. Klipsch is proud of its 'Dynamic Bass EQ' technology, which is intended to give the lowest frequencies a bit more prominence when listening at lower volumes, and The

Fives end up sounding very confident indeed where the low end is concerned. But stereo focus is good, the midrange is detailed and communicative, and the tweeters sound crisp and clean. As the heart of a hi-fi system, The Fives sound big and bold for the money.

### Key specs

- 1 woofer, 1 tweeter (x2)
- Bluetooth 5, phono, line-in, digital optical, USB, HDMI ARC
- Mains power
- 300x230x170mm, 5kg

**STUFF SAYS** Stacks of functionality in a couple of tidy speakers that make up a one-plug hi-fi system ★★★★★