



Sooloos music server system

(\$7900-\$10,500; reviewed by Jon Iverson & Kalman Rubinson, Vol.31 No.9, September 2008 WWW)

This winner doesn't represent a hardware solution so much as it does a *software* solution. In a component category usually occupied by SACD players and D/A processors, and in a time marked by music lovers longing to reconnect with their libraries, the Sooloos hard-drive-based networked music system takes an undeniably fun and fresh approach to sorting, organizing, and experiencing music.

The Source:One currently uses RME-sourced 24-bit/192kHz converters, while the Twinstore hard drive is capable of holding over 2000 losslessly compressed CDs. What makes this product truly

special, however, is its 17" Control:One touchscreen, which allows the user to find and play music in several intuitive ways. After only a few taps on the screen, our reviewers were entranced and invigorated by the Sooloos's potential.

Jon Iverson was won over immediately: "Using the Sooloos got me more deeply involved with my music library than at any time since I began collecting many years ago." Kal Rubinson was similarly swayed: "I am now convinced that, if you can afford it, the Sooloos is the way to go for CD listening." High praise, indeed, for a highly ambitious product. Thank you, Sooloos, for bringing us closer to our music.



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2008 RUNNERS-UP

(in alphabetical order)

Ayre Acoustics CX-7e CD player (\$3500; reviewed by Robert Deutsch, Vol.31 No.1, January 2008 WWW)

Bel Canto DAC3 D/A processor (\$2495; reviewed by John Atkinson & Wes Phillips, Vol.30 No.11 & Vol.31 No.2, November 2007 & February 2008 WWW)

Benchmark DAC1 USB D/A headphone amplifier (\$1275; reviewed by John Atkinson, Vol.31 Nos.1 & 4, January & April 2008 WWW)

Esoteric DV-60 universal player (\$6000; reviewed by Kalman Rubinson, Vol.31 No.3, March 2008 WWW)

Grace m902 D/A preamplifier/headphone amplifier (\$1695; reviewed by Sam Tellig, Vol.31 No.10, October 2008 WWW)

Krell Evolution 50S SACD player (\$10,000; reviewed by Fred Kaplan, Vol.31 No.9, September 2008 WWW)

Linn Klimax DS network D/A processor (\$18,500; reviewed by Wes Phillips, Vol.31 No.3, March 2008 WWW)

Oppo DV-980H universal player (\$169; reviewed by Kalman Rubinson, Vol.31 No.5, May 2008 WWW)

PrimaLuna Prologue Eight CD player (\$2499-\$2734; reviewed by Fred Kaplan & John Atkinson, Vol.31 Nos.7 & 10, July & October 2008 WWW)

Simaudio Moon Andromeda CD player (\$13,500; reviewed by Brian Dampinger, Vol.31 No.1, January 2008 WWW)

Wadia Digital 170iTransport iPod Dock (\$379; reviewed by Wes Phillips, Vol.31 No.10, October 2008 WWW)