

Epic High Performance

Edifier HCS5640

BY KEVIN BOEY



It has been a while since we've reviewed a 5.1 speaker system from Edifier, and the HCS5640 is the latest in a long line of multimedia-oriented surround sound systems which pack a punch without asking for too much. Like all other replacements to this line, this system now offers an additional USB-host as well as a SD card slot for you to play your media directly from flash memory. Akin to a 5.1 version of the popular C3 2.1 speakers, the HCS5640 also comes with its own amplifier which supplies the requisite amount of power to the other satellites. Without the amplifier, which also acts as its media hub, the satellites can also be connected to other systems - if the voltage and amperes line up, that is. This is all thanks to the spring-clip connectors on the satellites as well as cables that can be upgraded to your liking.

Acting as the heart and soul of the system, the amplifier is used to dictate the amount of power going to any of satellites at any one time. No time-alignment or fancy electronics available here folks; all placement has to be done with your good old ears, like in the old days. You are given settings to control the volume of each channel, although the reasons why bass and treble increments only affect the front two speakers are beyond us. Even the passive

subwoofer is given a volume control of its own. Controlling the system is easy; one is able to set the working parameters via the dial on the amp or use the bundled remote control which even allows for flash media control.

Giving owners an advantage over traditional multimedia surround sound systems, the HCS5640 is able to output stereo sound into its surround sound mode, immersing the listener in a wall of sound. We also like the fact that it is able to detect audio files in any flash storage without lag.

Although it does not support ID3 tag display, you can skip through tracks instantaneously, even when they are in separate branches of folders. One big letdown was the positioning of the USB port and SD card slot; located at the back of the amplifier unit along with the ports, it is a hassle to connect new media, especially if they are SD cards. We hope that the company relocates them to the front in the next model.

We can summarize the HCS5640's audio quality in just one word - epic! The system is powerful despite it's conservatively rated 70W RMS, and with the surround sound mode on, live albums suddenly feel as though they are

taking place around you. Instruments are clearly defined, vocals stand out on their own as the sound engineer wanted you to hear it and the atmosphere is truly awe-inspiring. While speaker clarity isn't as good as we liked it to be, it is capable of reproducing anything from the scratch of a finger on a double bass to the intake of air of a vocalist. It's that good!

SPECIFICATIONS

Power	Configuration	Color	Price
70W	5.1	Gray & Black	TBA

Total Power Output: 5x 8W RMS (sat.) + 30W RMS (sub)
Satellites (each): 1x 3.5" midrange & 1x 2.75" tweeter, magnetically shielded
Center speaker: 2x 3.5" midrange
Subwoofer: 1x 8.25" woofer
Frequency Response: 20Hz ~ 20KHz
Signal To Noise Ratio: ≥ 85dB
Total Harmonic Distortion (THD): 10%
Contact: Inter-Asia Technology Sdn Bhd
Telephone: (03) 6276 6292
URL: www.inter-asia.com.my

Available at
 PLAZA LOW YAT
 shopping centre

HWM'S VERDICT

Physique: **9.0**
 Features: **9.0**
 User Friendliness: **9.0**
 Sound Quality: **9.0**
 Value: **8.5**

9.0
 Out of 10

A powerful and great sounding multimedia surround system from Edifier



The simple bundled remote control



All inputs, including USB and SD card slot are on the reverse side



Chunky control surfaces make it easy to use