



Verdict

An affordable route to big-sounding surround sound, but not at the cost of stereo enjoyment

Review Eltax Liberty What HI-FI April 2003



Statuesque Liberties



LIBERTY
Series

Eltax promises a surround-sound solution for everybody, and this Liberty package looks like the answer for those with larger rooms. We've reviewed the Liberties as a package, but they're actually available separately: The Power Tower fronts cost £500 a pair, the centre speaker £100 and the bipolar rears £150 a pair.

The crafty Power Towers each include a side-mounted 175-watt active 25cm subwoofer, which negates the need for a space-invading separate sub. The Towers also feature a 25mm soft-dome textile tweeter and a 16.5cm polypropylene driver to handle bass/midrange. The bipolar rear speakers enable a wider spread of sound and enhance surround effects...

The Power Towers sound best in free space, with the woofers facing each other, but controlled lower frequencies mean they retain composure if positioned closer to the wall. Take care placing the 17.5cm-tall two-way centre - it ne-

eds generous shelf space and sounds best at ear level.

Generous bass is the Eltax's key asset, and the Power Towers deliver a big yet controlled sound. Explosions during *Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the clones* sound powerful and the bipolars liberally spread the hectic surround effects around the room to further boost enjoyment.

This is a fun package that worships high volume, however the dialogue from 42-year-old classic *Breakfast at Tiffany's* keeps all its sparkle even at lower levels. The largish centre channel delivers vocals with weight and you're never left with the impression that you're just listening to the television speaker.

Overall, the Liberty package is great value for money and the appropriately named Power Towers mean stereo music sounds good. If you've got the space, think about taking a Liberty.

