

Mordaunt-Short Avant 900i **£880**

This system delivers an impressive soundstage even with challenging material – a gem of a performer at the price

With this 5.1-channel system, Mordaunt-Short is mindful of putting the buyer right in the customising hot-seat.

Each model in the seven-strong line-up is available individually. You can select a configuration to suit your specific requirements. Also, you can tailor the number of speakers to your budget and add additional models to the system for six or seven-channel configurations.

Channel number five

This 5.1-channel set up comprises two 906i floorstanders (£350), two 903i bipole surrounds (£180), a 905i centre (£120) and a 309i subwoofer (£230).

Installation is straightforward

and the system appears well constructed – the 906i and 905i front speakers are fitted with top-grade biwiring speaker connections.

Behind the speaker grilles, the 906i floorstanders are a two-and-a-half-way design employing two 13cm mid/bass drivers and a refined metal dome tweeter for smoother high frequency performance. The lower of the two mid/bass drivers handles bass frequencies only, while the radial ribbing on the surface of both anodised aluminium drivers helps improve their efficiency.

The matching 905i centre speaker employs identical drivers in a well-proportioned cabinet, and is perfectly voiced to match seamlessly



Top-grade biwiring connections on the 905i

The beefy Avant 309i sub is fitted with a mighty 175W amp

Design ensures even dispersion of effects

with the floorstanders. The 903i surrounds used here are bipole models, fitted with smaller 10cm mid/bass drivers and matching tweeters. Their unusual design

provides a more even dispersion of rear sound effects and achieves a subtler surround performance. They can easily be wall mounted

via the keyhole slot at the back.

The 309i subwoofer completes the 5.1 speaker package and is fitted with a 175W amplifier powering a 26cm long-throw bass driver. As well as level, crossover and phase control, there's also a notch filter to further

integrate it with your room acoustics and the rest of the speaker system.

When it comes to conveying movie soundtracks, the Avant 900i system is tough to beat at the price. With our *Moulin Rouge* test DVD, there's a tonal naturalness that lesser systems fail to deliver.

Voices in the sky

Voices via the centre speaker are extremely convincing. Bass levels dig deeply with the aid of the well-tuned sub. The soundstage is remarkably airy. The main floorstanders also have a great sense of space.

The Mordaunt-Short Avant 900i system is ideal for those looking for a full-size speaker package combining decent hi-fi and surround sound without breaking the bank ■

BASS LEVELS DIG DEEPLY WITH THE AID OF A WELL-TUNED SUBWOOFER

Surrounds are easily wall-mounted thanks to a keyhole slot at the rear

The lower mid/bass driver handles bass frequencies

Two 13cm mid/bass drivers and a metal dome tweeter



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RATINGS

STYLE	★★★★☆
BUILD	★★★★☆
FEATURES	★★★★★
SOUND	★★★★★
VALUE	★★★★★
OVERALL	★★★★★

TEST SCENE

> *Moulin Rouge*



The Avant 900i does a remarkable job with the frenetic soundtrack, while musical numbers sound a lot less chaotic and easier on the ear

AT A GLANCE

FEATURES

906i floorstanders:

Two-and-a-half way
13cm Avant CPC mid/bass driver
13cm Avant CPC bass driver
25mm tweeter
90dB sensitivity
4-8Ω impedance
Magnetic shielding
850 x 165 x 295mm

905i centre:

Two-way
2x 13cm Avant CPC mid/bass driver
25mm tweeter
90dB sensitivity
4-8Ω impedance
Magnetic shielding
165 x 485 x 200mm

903i surrounds:

2x 10cm Avant CPC mid/bass driver
2x 25mm tweeter
87dB sensitivity
4-8Ω impedance
225 x 200 x 155mm

309i subwoofer:

175W amplifier
35-200Hz frequency range
26mm long-throw driver
370 x 370 x 370mm

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