

5.1 SPEAKER PACKAGE  
PMC DB1i 5.1  
★★★★★  
£ 4190

**↑ FOR**  
Impressive combination of dynamics, detail and cohesive sound field; subwoofer integrates brilliantly with the rest of the package

**↓ AGAINST**  
Not the last word in stylish modernity

**→ VERDICT**  
If you want a physically small but sonically brilliant surround package, and don't mind spending this kind of money, buy the DB1i 5.1 with confidence

# Petite PMCs pack full-sized punch

**ONLY A PERSON** who equates size with quality is likely to be disappointed by PMC's DB1i 5.1. This is a small package meant for small to medium-sized rooms, and in such an environment we haven't seen anything at this price that's likely to do the job better.

The use of two pairs of DB1i standmounts is a great start. In stereo form they're excellent little monitors that deliver a pleasing amount of detail in a natural and convincing manner. Despite measuring just 29cm high, they manage to offer decent bass weight and overall solidity, too.

Much of the credit for this goes to PMC's clever bass-loading technique. It's an evolved form of a transmission line, where the rearward output of the large driver is absorbed to a point

**"Once warmed up, this PMC 5.1 package gets things spot-on tonally"**

where just the lowest frequencies remain. These frequencies exit from a rear-mounted vent to augment the mid/bass's output to deliver a deeper, more powerful bass than would otherwise be the

case. Listen to the DB1i, and it's surprising just how much low-end heft these small speakers have.

The centre speaker is effectively a single DB1i tweaked to work on

**"These DB1i speakers may be small, but they are mighty with it"**

its side. Aside from the offset tweeter and repositioned badge, it looks identical. The advantage of using such closely matched speakers is an utterly seamless and cohesive soundstage.

The good news continues with the impressive insight into the dense fight scenes of *Blood: The Last Vampire*. It combines a decent amount of bite with the right level of refinement in the treble.

Once properly warmed up, the PMC package gets things spot-on tonally. It's helped massively by the TLE1 subwoofer, which integrates brilliantly. It's rare to find a sub that matches its satellites in terms of speed and agility, but the TLE1 does just that.

Downsides? Well, the surround speakers are all standmounters, so you'll have to factor in the price of sturdy supports. These are

The TLE1 sub is rather odd looking, but it's practical and performs outstandingly

traditional-looking speakers, so there's none of the glitz of style packages. Your four grand buys great sound, and great sound only.

Provided you partner this PMC package with quality electronics – at least a grand and a half on the partnering amplifier – you'll get a stunning performance.

Don't let the size fool you. The DB1i 5.1 package may be small, but they're mighty with it.



**SENSITIVITY**  
Front: 87dB  
Centre: 87dB  
Rear: 87dB  
**MAX POWER**  
Front: 150W  
Centre: 150W  
Rear: 150W  
**SUBWOOFER POWER** 150W  
**DRIVER** 2x17cm, forward firing  
**DIMENSIONS**  
**FRONT:** 29 x 16 x 23cm  
**CENTRE:** 16 x 29 x 23cm  
**REAR:** 29 x 16 x 23cm  
**SUBWOOFER:** 55 x 20 x 55cm



**JAMO C809 HCS3/C80 SUB**  
★★★★★  
£3600  
The bulky Jamos are capable of a huge sound. They lack the PMC's finesse, though, and won't work in a small room

**NAIM N-SYSTEM**  
★★★★★  
£3575  
Not as even-sounding as the PMCs but very entertaining all the same. They're compact, too



