



The 6-inch Iridium components from DLS are renowned for their quality, so we set out to see just how good they are

## DLS Ultimate

Iridium 6.2 6-inch 2-way component speakers

**SINCE** the Iridium 6.2 component speakers won the EISA (European Imaging and Sound Association) awards for Best Mobile Loudspeaker 2004/2005, I have been eager to get my hands on some to see for myself just how good they are. The team down at Car Toys in SA are the national distributors for DLS gear so, a quick phone call and a few days later, they arrived on my doorstep. I wasted no time in installing them for testing, and fired them up.

The funny thing about these DLS speakers is that the quality is so good, you almost think for a second that they sound bad. There is so much sound that you can mistake the additional notes as something out of place. I realised quickly that I had been listening to some 'commercial' speakers (let's just call them X-brand speakers) a little while before, and had become used to the somewhat lacking sound, hence my basis for comparison was somewhat obscured.

The mid-bass is extraordinary. Vocalisations are extremely clear, and must be heard to be believed. This fantastic mid-bass reproduction, coupled with an extremely well matched tweeter, make the DLS Iridium 6.2s a whole listening experience of their own.

Many installations require the tweeter to be under-driven to balance with the lack of mid-bass from the driver. This is definitely not the case with the 6.2s, and they too can be mistaken for sounding as if some sounds are lacking. What more can I say but – GET SOME! If you are in SQ competitions or just want fantastic sound, then you will have a hard time finding something to beat these. It is one of those products where the marketing hype doesn't do them justice.

The DLS Iridium 6.2 component speakers carry a RRP of AS1499. For more information, check out [www.dls.de](http://www.dls.de) or the Australian distributor, Car Toys, via [www.cartoys.com.au](http://www.cartoys.com.au).



### CQ-C9901W

On-board

amplification:

4 x 33W continuous,  
4 x 70W max

Equalisation:

Treble – 6kHz +/- 12dB  
Bass – 80Hz +/- 12dB  
EQ at 62.5Hz, 125Hz,  
250Hz, 500Hz, 1kHz,  
2kHz 4kHz, 8kHz,  
16kHz centre  
frequency +/- 12dB in  
2dB steps

RCA pre-outs:

3 sets at 5V – 2 full  
range, 1 subwoofer

## Panasonic CQ-C9901W CD tuner

Panasonic offers a vast range of source units, so we checked one from the top shelf

**I HAVE** always been a fan of Panasonic's source units. I don't know whether it is the look, feel, or operation, but I am definitely a softy for a Panasonic unit. The CQ-C9901W is a great looking unit, and offers a very colourful and interactive 512 colour OEL display to make navigation simple. As soon as it fires up you are greeted with images and welcomes that seem to help simplify everything.

Panasonic always include heaps of features to make the source unit able to run with or without a power amplifier, and the CQ-C9901W is no exception. Six major preset EQ selections are available, as well as nine-band adjustment and optimum listening position adjustment for driver, back seats, and more. All of them worked well, and the enhancement effects were actually quite surprising, even if they are not necessarily going to be used in the majority of installations. There are also basic +/- 12dB bass and treble controls for minor tweaking, along with the usual balance and fader controls.

The controls are well laid out, and function as much as you would expect them to. You can 'guess' which button to press to achieve the

desired function with a high degree of accuracy. I managed to sort out most tuning aspects without too much manual consultation.

The volume and four-way switch style controls dominate the face and take care of anything you might want to change on the fly, and smaller buttons are primarily for EQ and display settings, which you are more likely to set and leave alone. High and low pass filters can also be applied if desired. The 5V high output pre-outs made sure that the amplifiers ran efficiently, but if you are running straight to speakers, there are four channels of 33W continuous (70W peak) to keep the music flowing.

Panasonic CD and DVD multi-disc changers can be interfaced, expanding control to your multimedia system. There are a host of other great features and functions that I can't go into here, but check out the contact details below for more info. The overall functionality of this unit is quite simple (equalisation aside), but the sound quality is impeccable. All aspects of operation make sense, and I didn't find any 'useless features'. It is a great unit, and with a RRP of AS1199, it's worth every cent. For all the info, check out [www.panasonic.com.au](http://www.panasonic.com.au) or ask at your local dealer.