

# Cambridge Audio DVD89 £200

When it comes to picture and audio versatility, this corking DVD player is hard to beat, and will have wide appeal

The DVD89 is Cambridge Audio's latest flagship DVD player and its flexibility is breathtaking.

The lengthy feature list headlines with both HDMI and DVI socketry (with 720p and 1080i upconversion), meaning that it can be connected to any HD Ready flatscreen TV equipped with a digital video connection. It doesn't play hi-def DVDs, but its disc-spinning capabilities are still impressive, playing both DVD-Audio and Super Audio CDs, as well as DivX and photo discs. Surprisingly, it won't playback MP3 or WMA music files stored on CD-R/RWs.

As well as incorporating both types of digital video socketry, there's a standard assortment of analogue video connections, including component video enabled with PAL and NTSC progressive scan output, RGB Scart, S-video and composite video connections.

## Six of the best

Six-channel analogue audio output provides connection to a multi-channel amplifier or receiver for DVD-Audio and Super Audio CD playback. There's also a 5.1 Dolby Digital decoder onboard for those wanting to upgrade a Pro-Logic



Simple, streamlined yet stylish design



The jewels in the connectivity crown - HDMI and DVI outputs



Stylish with a neat button arrangement

surround sound amplifier, for example. Surprisingly, the DVD89 also offers multi-region playback straight from the box.

Onscreen graphics are basic for a player with such an impressive spec. Menu options are badly labelled too, and include common and

professional setup, but they do provide all the necessary adjustments to get the DVD89 tailored to your particular TV type. The

professional option allows you to tweak its picture output parameter.

Not that you're likely to need to tweak the pictures from their factory settings. With our test DVD of *Matrix Reloaded*, colours with component video signals are spot on, and the level of detail on offer is impressive, but a little soft. Further detail enhancements can be achieved by switching the sharpness mode to its medium or high mode, pulling finer details into focus without adding

much in the way of picture noise.

Motion is fluid and black levels are strong enough to ensure that there's a cinematic sense of picture depth without turning shadowy sequences into a black hole.

Movies with 5.1 audio are full of energy and free from noticeable flaws via the digital optical or coaxial outputs. There's a useful set of menus to tailor the six-channel output for DVD-A and SACD material to your speaker layout.

## Primal scream

The lack of MP3 music playback and the primitive onscreen menus are our only grumbles.

Everywhere else the DVD89 scores very highly indeed - it's among one of the most versatile models around. Its flexible capabilities ensure that it appeals to the broadest possible market. With its added bonuses like multi-region playback and multi-channel music compatibility, we reckon DVD89s will sell like hot cakes, even if stockists of Cambridge Audio products are limited to Richer Sounds outlets ■

90% **WHAT HOME CINEMA**

## RATINGS

STYLE	★★★★☆
EASE OF USE	★★★★☆
FEATURES	★★★★★
PICTURE	★★★★★
SOUND	★★★★★
VALUE	★★★★☆
OVERALL	★★★★★

## TEST SCENE

> *Matrix Reloaded*



Motion is very fluid and black levels have good depth, which results in a cinematic presentation from the DVD89

## AT A GLANCE

### FEATURES

PAL/NTSC progressive scan DVD-A and SACD playback DVD+R/RW and DVD-R/RW playback DivX playback JPEG photo playback 720p, 1080i upconverting

### CONNECTIONS

HDMI output DVI output RGB-enabled Scart output Component video output S-video output Composite video output Optical digital output Coaxial digital output Six-channel analogue output

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Can be connected to any HD Ready flatscreen TV equipped with a digital video connection

Multi-region playback straight from the box

