

FURUTECH

What HiFi (UK)
ADL GT40 'system building' feature
October 2011



ULTIMATE SYSTEM BUILDER

All the best options for partnering a five-star product

GET THE BEST FROM YOUR KIT



Furutech ADL GT40 | £400 | ★★★★★

The definitive convergence product, Furutech's ADL GT40 is a headphone amp, a phono stage, a DAC and a preamp - all in one. Such extraordinary talents merit similarly extraordinary systems...

VINYL REVIVAL

The Furutech's mastery of the black arts is ably illustrated in this system

Rega RP3/Elys2 £550 ★★★★★

Recently revised and every bit as compelling as its forebears, this wonderfully detailed and lucid performer sounds even more dynamic in its latest guise.



Yamaha A-S500 £330 ★★★★★

The A-S500 has a phono stage of its own, but the Furutech's is a worthy upgrade, the two devices dovetailing nicely to fully exploit the Rega's sound.



B&W 685 £380 ★★★★★

Long in the tooth but far from withered by their age, the 685s remain the default choice here: they sound great, and are ideal partners for the Yamaha amp.



Total £1660

HI-FI HEAVEN FOR ONE

Make the most of your laptop's music with this detail-driven combination

Apple MacBook £870

Any decent laptop suits here, but the Apple is as good a choice as any. Fill it full of Lossless or WAV music and link it to the Furutech via USB.



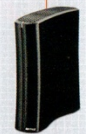
AKG Q701 £340 ★★★★★

This system is tailor-made to deliver superb hi-fi for one, so why not treat yourself? These superlative headphones are pricey, but they're so worth it.



Buffalo DriveStation USB £70 ★★★★★

Free up space on your laptop with this 1TB external drive. You won't need to use compression with this much disk capacity, so your music will sound better.



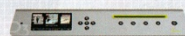
Total £1680

DELIGHTFULLY DIGITAL

This spartan system gets to the core of your music with rapier precision

Olive O3HD £925 ★★★★★

A recent USB audio upgrade has given the Olive even more appeal. It's easy to use and, in harness with the Furutech, it'll deliver excellent sound quality.



Apple iPod Touch 8GB £193 ★★★★★

A new Touch is sure to be on the way soon, but any iPhone, Touch or even iPad will suit here: the key is to use the Olive's control app as a remote.



Acoustic Energy AE22 Active £900 ★★★★★

Rare indeed are the speakers able to rival the AE22 Actives for accuracy: they're ruthless, but breathtakingly transparent.



Total £2418

PERFECT PARTNERS Total £4130

An inspired juxtaposition of the classic and the contemporary, our system covers the full gamut of modern music consumption, and sounds simply wonderful too

Apple Mac Mini £480 (typical)

The new Mini omits a disc drive, but you'll still find plenty of the older model (shown) at great prices, and it's a terrific cut-price music server used with the Furutech.

Furutech ADL GT40 £400 ★★★★★

Hi-fi's most versatile tool, the Furutech is a delight, its fine sound quality and sheer value cementing its status as one of the year's stars.

Roksan Kandy K2 £750 ★★★★★

Long a favourite around these parts, the Kandy is a no-brainer buy, its ample dynamics and scale ensuring the tall Tannoy's have plenty of muscle to play with.

Cleaudio Concept £1050 ★★★★★

You'll be thrilled at this deck's sound in harness with the Furutech. You can also use the GT40 to digitise your vinyl, should you want to.

Audio-Technica ATH-E555 £90 ★★★★★

Able to double up as both headphones for your iPad (on the go) and in this system (for private listening) these are great value cans.

Apple iPad2 £400 ★★★★★

Another regular in our pages, Apple's amazing über-tablet makes for a brilliant music browser here. Add in a Spotify Premium sub (£10/m) for extra versatility.

Synology DS211J £160 ★★★★★

Most Mac Minis have small hard-disks (and Apple's own upgrades cost a fortune). We'd use this NAS instead: it works well with iTunes, and it has ample space.

Tannoy Revolution DC6T £800 ★★★★★

These exciting designs are among the biggest bargains in hi-fi, their exciting and spacious sound quality belying their attainable price.

Finishing touches

You'll need a USB cable to link the Mac Mini into the Furutech. You'll want to try a few for yourself to see how much you feel you need to spend on this. For us, the WireWorld Ultraviolet 5 (£50) hits the spot, and is our first cable recommendation. Follow that with a pair of Chord Chameleon Plus interconnects (£125) to join the ADL GT40 into the Roksan. Then, finally, use DNM Solid Core speaker cable, at £1/m.



But what if...

You'd rather not link your computer to your hi-fi?

Best invest in a streamer, such as the NAD C446 (£695), below. True, you won't be able to link it to the Furutech digitally (it has an optical output, but not a USB), but even linked by analogue cables, it'll sound great.



You'd rather use standmount speakers?

You'll note we're saying 'standmount' not 'bookshelf' speakers: the ATC SCM11s (£960) we've chosen here should only be used with good speaker stands, costing at least £190 extra. But while they might lack some of the scale of the larger Tannoys, there's no disputing the sheer musicality of their sound, or their fidelity to the original signal.



You'd prefer a set of wireless headphones?

Choosing this option will remove some of the Furutech's utility in this system, but if you'd prefer cable-free music listening, there are few better choices than these Sennheiser PX3 310BTs (£190). Usefully, Mac Minis support better-sounding aptX-quality Bluetooth transmission, as do these cans. How, er, apt.

