



7 | Shanling MC-30 £500
www.shanling.com

Valve amps were, until recently, the preserve of individuals with dubious facial hair and an almost compulsive devotion to sound. But now they're everywhere, from iPod docks to dodgy PC speakers. Dead audiophiles must be spinning in their graves. Probably at 78rpm. So thank heavens for the Shanling MC-30, a valve-powered system that sounds as good as it looks. This beautifully finished aluminium and acrylic system offsets the hot orange of burning valves with the cool blue LEDs that halo its built-in CD player. It also jams in an AM/FM tuner and a 3.5mm line input, and looks like a gargantuan throne with an iPod perched on top of it. Most importantly, it performs: while its 3W power output looks measly on paper, it sounds beautifully articulate and natural. Rest easy, valvetees.

