

HIGHER FIDELITY

CAST OUT YOUR EARBUDS AND INDULGE IN SPEAKERS CAPABLE OF SHAKING HEAVEN AND EARTH

• Earbuds can't do justice to the intricacies of *Kid A*. It's a question of scale: When you listen with headphones, tiny vibrations are set loose on your tiny eardrums. Crank up a real amp attached to a pair of well-tuned open-air two-channel speakers and the music vibrates the whole room and you in it. We'd go so far as to call it a massage for the soul. Here are four speakers that deliver impeccable sound. Listen up.—*Scott Alexander*



1

Shelf Life

→ A solid high-end stereo setup delivers a large soundstage and killer dynamics. HSU Research's horn-loaded HB-1 MK2 (\$400 a pair, hsuresearch.com) packs all that into a bookshelf-size speaker that rocks in a two-channel setup or as the start of a surround system.



2

Bulletproof Sound

→ Bowers & Wilkins's CM10 (\$4,000 a pair, bowers-wilkins.com) is armed with a re-engineered tweeter for high frequencies, along with one mid-range driver and three bass drivers made of Kevlar for low-end sounds at air-strike levels.



3

Knockout Punch

→ The Mistral Bow-A2 (\$2,299 a pair, napa.acoustic.com) is a 60-pound monster loaded with two four-inch mid-range drivers, a 10-inch side-mounted woofer and an outboard supertweeter. Frequency response from 30 Hz to 45 kHz makes this a heavyweight champ.



4

Solid Gold

→ Newcomer GoldenEar has already built a golden reputation among audiophiles for its amazing sound. The Triton Seven (\$1,400 a pair, goldenear.com) uses passive radiators (instead of powered subwoofers) to pack a mean bass punch.