



# Club Classé

If you want first class performance at a business class price, this player is just the ticket

**PRODUCT** Classé CDP-102  
**TYPE** CD player (with two-channel DVD-A/V playback)  
**PRICE** £2,950  
**KEY FEATURES** Size (WxHxD): 44.5x12.1x41.9cm  
 • Weight: 12.3kg • Analogue outputs: balanced and single ended (variable) • Formats supported: CD, CD-R, CD-RW, DVD-Audio/Video, VCD, SVCD, MP3, AAC, WMA, DTS CD, DVD-R, DVD+R, DVD-RW, DVD+RW  
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In HFC 284, we found the Classé CDP-202 to be an extremely refined and beautifully constructed CD player. The CDP-102 is that machine's doppelgänger. It's built into the same casework and supports the same features, but with different components and a price tag that's nearly two grand lower. The CDP-102 is essentially the platform from which the CDP-202 was created and you get a lot of the 'big' player for 'medium' player money.

Though high-quality, two-channel CD playback is their primary goal, both machines will also play DVD-Audio and Video discs alongside a plethora of other formats including

DVD-Video, MP3 and WMA. They also share a touch-screen display that allows you to navigate DVDs without the need for a monitor. This touch-screen gives access to a huge variety of other functions too, including some useful features for the two-channel enthusiast.

The CDP-102 has stereo-only analogue outputs in both balanced and single-ended form, but you can hook up the coaxial digital output to a processor for Dolby or DTS surround. The only thing you can't do is get hi-res multichannel signals from DVD-A discs, as that would require a Firewire/i.Link type digital interface or a 5.1 analogue output, and neither is fitted. We expect Classé surmised that people wanting to get the best from multichannel DVD-A would buy a player made for that job.

Video performance is a secondary function of the CDP-102 and its outputs reflect as much. You can choose composite or S-Video, but don't expect either to prove stunning on an HD monitor or projector. For that, you need component or DVI/HDMI outputs.

The player features a TEAC slot-loading disc drive selected for "superior disc handling

characteristics, reliability and control flexibility". It also makes for quick disc changes and a sleeker look to the front of the machine. Because the drive is flush mounted, the remote conveniently features an eject button as does the player, which is minimalist in the extreme thanks to its touch-screen controls.

Inside the curvy box, Classé has done its best to eliminate jitter as early in the signal path as possible, explaining that this timing error in digital signals "increases distortion and robs the playback system of resolution if allowed to get as far as the digital to analogue conversion process". The signal is passed through a block of programmable logic that acts as an interface between components in the circuit and controls clock distribution. The signal is also upsampled to 24-bit/192kHz and then converted using a Cirrus Logic CS4398 DAC. This is one area where the CDP-202 (with its separate Burr Brown DACs for each channel) has a concrete advantage over this player. As far as the Classé specs go, the only measured advantage this confers is greater channel separation, but we suspect that its unpublished tests reveal more.

