

Simply blown away

While the HT405.1 may be the larger of Gale's two new subwoofer and satellite loudspeaker combinations, it could never be classed as anything but compact and discreet. The elegant package is finished in smart silver and thanks to its diminutive dimensions is easily concealed in any listening room.



Gale HT405.1

£299.95

Value for money: ✓✓✓✓✓

Not that you would know this from its performance. Gale has managed to squeeze a six centimetre mid/bass driver and a 25mm tweeter into each solidly built satellite speaker. This means they deliver a much larger sound than most satellite speakers are capable of, and work wonders with either music or movies. The Gale system plays anything well, with accurate timing and midrange clarity, plus a smooth expansive top-end with bags of bite.

What's more, the satellites are magnetically shielded for ultimate placement flexibility and can be discretely wall mounted using brackets for the best possible sound.

The integration between the subwoofer and satellites is as good as we've heard, which again makes you think you're listening to a much larger speaker, whether it's with a large sweeping classical piece or a thumping action movie soundtrack.

Take the beginning of Saving Private Ryan and the Gale combination puts you firmly in the middle of the action, with sound effects flying around the room, wrapping you in the soundtrack. Explosions also have a chillingly realistic character.

This is because the subwoofer, despite its small footprint, offers seriously impressive levels of low-end grunt. For a package at this price to deliver this kind of power is nothing short of astonishing, the Gale having a depth, slam and sheer energy that takes the breath away. This clout comes thanks to a 20cm unshielded long throw woofer, which is powered by an equally hefty 65Watt amplifier.

All in all, the Gale belies both its compact size and price tag, with a stunning performance.

Reviewed by Richard Penny