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# Atlantic Technology System 1200

Release date: January 8, 2004

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## CNET editor's review



Reviewed by [Steve Guttenberg](#)  
Edited by [John P. Falcone](#)  
Reviewed June 14, 2004

**Editors' rating:**  
**Very good**  
**8.3**  
out of 10  
Editors' Choice



Atlantic Technology has always offered great-sounding speakers but with bland styling that left something to be desired. However, with its latest generation of speakers, Atlantic's gone for a *Swan*-like makeover--and better still, the upgrades are more than skin deep. In short, the System 1200 satellite/subwoofer system, which retails for \$1,200, not only looks good but sounds amazing, too.

## At a glance

- Editors' rating:** 8.3 Very good
- The good:** Rich sounding 5.1-speaker package; overachieving 10-inch powered subwoofer; high-end style and snazzy finish options.
- The bad:** Lacks dedicated center-channel speaker.
- What's it for:** Surround speaker package for small to medium-size rooms.
- Who's it for:** Those who want high-end sound from a relatively small, affordable speaker package.
- Essential Extras:** Speaker cable.
- The bottom line:** Atlantic Technology carried over much of the style and sound of its flagship speakers to this relatively affordable, compact package.





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## Performance

Classical music is the roughest test for "lifestyle-friendly" subwoofer/satellite systems; their smaller designs tend to result in a steely or harsh sound when attempting to reproduce the sweet sound of strings. But the 1200's purity and natural tonal balance demonstrated rare finesse on chamber and symphonic CDs. We credit the satellite/subwoofer's perfect blend with the system's affinity for classical music. Don't worry, they can rock out, too: their highly detailed sound with the Rolling Stones Four Flicks concert DVD was first rate.



The little system's visceral powers came to the fore when the rolling thunder of cannon fire lit up the Master and Commander DVD; the sound was truly awe-inspiring. Even as we pushed the volume higher and higher, the sound remained clean and clear. The five speakers' seamless surround field produced a grand panoramic scope that added excitement to these auditions. The 212 SB subwoofer's presence wasn't buoyed by bloated or booming bass--no, its deep bass extension, purity, and pitch definition were top notch. It's one of the better 10-inch subs we've heard, and the system is potent enough to fill even fairly large rooms with sound.

*Note: As reviewed above, the System 1200 is an exceptional package, but Atlantic lets you, at time of purchase, substitute individual speakers for its \$2,000-list System 2200 counterparts. We auditioned the 2200 LR front speakers (add \$170), and they sounded bigger and richer than the 1200 LRs. The 2200 center speaker (add \$230) fleshed out male voices a bit while the 2200 V-shaped surround speakers (add \$170) dispersed a more enveloping sound field. Lastly, the step-up 12-inch 422 SB subwoofer (add \$230) pumped out a slightly deeper bass response. The quoted additional costs are for the maple finish; the metallic-silver and gloss-black finishes are slightly more expensive*

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