

# THE REAL FEEL

Need a bass boost without the noise? Try shaking your chair.

## Crowson TES-100 Stereo Motion System

Price: from \$749



Sound is a physical vibration; it is felt as well as heard. And in real-life situations many sounds are further accompanied by physical motions — the impact of an explosion goes beyond its sonic content; the sound of driving a car imparts nothing of the physical road vibrations that would really accompany the auditory experience.

Only in theme parks are you likely to find cinemas that have been rigged to add physical effects to the video and audio. Yet at home it is not impossible to add vibrations to your video entertainment. That's the goal of the Crowson Stereo Motion System.

### EQUIPMENT

The traditional method of delivering bass in a home theatre is to install one or more subwoofers that can shift enough air to create the necessary impact. The Crowson system takes a different path, placing between one and four actuators under your chair legs to transmit a genuinely tactile effect to your torso.

The actuators are solidly-constructed square slabs that sit under a leg each; they contain an electromagnetic motor that translates the movie's sonic action into sofa-shaking sensations.

They take their signal at speaker level from a dedicated A300 stereo amplifier — an extraordinarily high-spec full-size amplifier considering that a little signal noise here might not overly affect sofa-shaking performance. But no, it's "built to reference-grade specifications", offering 160W continuous per channel, which is more than enough to

drive four actuators. (It is possible to use a conventional amp, but the A300 is designed for the system, uniquely combining the LFE bass channel with front left and right.)

### PERFORMANCE

Our thanks to InSound of Crows Nest for their hospitality while we took a spin on the Crowson system. One of its great features is the ease of set-up — no need to tear up the floor or rebuild your furniture with this system. Just feed the signal to the A300 amplifier and run cables to the actuators, which you can place under all four chair legs in a LL-RR configuration, or under three rear sofa legs as L-LR-R, under just two legs (L-R), or even just one (L+R). Non-actuated legs get a high-quality rubber 'motion isolator', raising them to the required height while minimising any vibrations passing back to the floor.

We began with the actuators on the rear legs of a sofa, which usually does the trick according to the distributor — we certainly got rumbled nicely, but there seemed a disjointedness between front screen action and the rumble slightly behind you (the Crowson amp, as mentioned, takes its main cues from the front channels). We moved the actuators to the front legs and things were even better, both with movies, where a definite stereo effect was felt, and with music, where it had its most dramatic results with a bit of pumped-up dance music.

Overall the Crowson system is an entertaining option to add an extra dimension of immersion to your movies and music. We don't think the system can replace the

need for audible bass, but the actuators can certainly enhance it, and offer additional impact without having to raise audio levels to neighbour-scaring levels. Jez Ford —

## VERDICT

### Crowson TES-100 Stereo Motion System

Price: by package, see below

- Motion adds involvement for movies, music and games
- Stereo effect if using more than one actuators
- Not cheap

PACKAGES: various, including:

- \$749 for a single actuator and three motion isolators
- \$2499 for the stereo package of A300 amp, two actuators and two isolators

#### ACTUATORS

IMPEDANCE: 6 ohms  
 POWER HANDLING: 50W to 500W  
 QUOTED RESPONSE: 1Hz to 600Hz  
 DIMENSIONS (whd): 145 x 122 x 28mm  
 MAXIMUM LOAD: 450kg

#### A300 AMPLIFIER

POWER RATING: 160W per channel  
 INPUTS: left, right, LFE  
 DIMENSIONS (whd): 419 x 89 x 380mm

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