



NORGE NANO

**BEST BUY**  
**AV MAX**

# Sweet Little Norge

Proudly made in India, these bookshelves will go a long way in incorporating excellence that can deliver a kick. A true-blue Best Buy!

**N**orge Audiophile Systems has been giving AV MAX numerous audio products over the years. Although they have Audiophile in their name, they've managed to keep everything at a reasonable price. Sometimes surprisingly reasonable, as in this case with their Nano bookshelves. Clocking in at Rs 6,750, these guys are the least expensive pair we've got in this month's bookshelf special. However, 'least expensive' doesn't always mean 'cheap'.

## OUT OF THE BOX

The Nano is more like the speakers supplied with mini-systems: smaller than standard bookshelves that need to be fitted in smaller rooms like a bedroom. Each of them is about as light as a concise dictionary and you can pretty much put them on any surface on any stand in your bedroom. Their wood-finished, rather boxy cabinet and cute little drivers peaking out of the front baffle almost made us hug them like teddy bears. But then it hit us that we're grown men, so with a shrug, we passed over to the technological phase of testing.

## TECHNOLOGY

The Nano come sporting nano drivers, namely a 4.5-inch Wavecor ceramic magnet mid-bass woofer above which peaks the ¾-inch Peerless tweeter fitted with a radar waveguide atop of it for high-frequency dispersion and a wider sweetspot. As for the Wavecor driver, this is one of the latest versions available and has been built to toughen the mid and bass range without hampering either in the process. It can take anywhere between 60–100-watts of power and can go down to 60Hz as mentioned in the Norge specifications, and if so, it's quiet a remarkable feat for a speaker this size. As for its tweeter, they're claiming a super 22kHz.

The cabinet doesn't look like a lot has gone into its design, from the parallel sides and back, the standard banana connectors on the back and the crazy-ball sized hole as a bass reflex port on the back.

However, never judge a book by its cover or a speaker by its simple aesthetics. You must listen first.

## PERFORMANCE

We weren't expecting the world from the Nano, at least not as much as the world is expecting from the car by the same name. But we gave them all the standard treatment and attention we give to all our speakers: ample time to get them set up anywhere between 4ft–6ft apart and a good 6–8ft from the listening position. Plus, finding the sweetspot time. Surprisingly, the latter wasn't needed at all as just a little towing in during playback of Suzanne Vega's 'Beauty & Crime' was enough. From the rhythmic 'Pornographer's Dream' to 'Ludlow Street', we were immersed in a world of spectacular imaging! She was drop-dead in the centre, with all the instruments spread across the soundstage like we were listening to her live. Although there was the hovering 60Hz point the kickdrum and bass made these speakers reach, the lower-end sounded wholesome, and that's quiet a feat coming from these nano speakers.

For some mid-range testing, we dropped in Prince's 'Musicology' skipping over the last track 'Reflection'. We have to say, the snare during this track was mind-numbingly strong, forcing us to groove to the track's contemplation. Prince's voice was beautifully spaced out, and it seemed the space we had between the speakers which we initially thought might be too much for the Nano's to handle, came out to be something these little speakers love. That's the biggest difference between the Nano's and any ordinary mini-system speaker: the depth.

Getting back, the next vocal tester was Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan and Michael Brook's 'Night Song', an entire album dedicated to demonstrating the great dynamics of Nusrat's voice. From the very first track, we were transported to the vivid world of fusion audio waves, his voice blending with everything instrumental in the track but still holding the reigns of everything in the mix. There was however, an accentuated higher-end

## SPECIFICATIONS

<b>DESIGN</b>	2-way
<b>DRIVERS</b>	4.5" Wavecor Ceramic Magnet
	Mid-Bass Woofer; ¾" Peerless Tweeter
<b>FREQUENCY RESPONSE</b>	60Hz–22kHz
<b>IMPEDANCE</b>	4 Ω
<b>SENSITIVITY</b>	NA
<b>RECOMMENDED POWER</b>	60–100-watts
<b>DIMENSIONS (H x W x D)</b>	5.8" x 9.4" x 7.4"
<b>WEIGHT</b>	NA
<b>CONTACT</b>	www.norgeaudio.com

here, something we'd been hearing during the other tracks as well. It wasn't so much of a painful higher-end but more of a spike that added a sense of presence to the bass instruments but tweaked cymbals, hi-hats and sometimes even the voice (in Michael Jackson or Prince's track 'Musicology') to a certain degree.

## CONCLUSION

What can we say, Norge is really heading in the right direction with these Nano's. Priced under the Rs 10,000 range what makes them endearing is that their performance is incredible for speakers this size, and although they may have an 'uplifting' higher-end (which speaker in this price range doesn't), its projection of the entire frequency range is commendable. Comes tremendously recommended by us. 

**Karan Gour**

## TRIED & TESTED

### SUZANNE VEGA'S BEAUTY & CRIME



From the rhythmic 'Pornographer's Dream' to 'Ludlow Street', we were immersed in a world of spectacular imaging! She was drop-dead in the centre, with all the instruments spread across the soundstage like we were listening to her live.

**CD**

## NORGE

MODEL >> NANO  
CATEGORY >> BOOKSHELF SPEAKERS  
PRICE >> Rs 6,750  
WARRANTY >> 1 YEAR

### AESTHETICS

★★★★☆

### BUILD

★★★★☆

### AUDIO

★★★★★

### EASE OF USE

★★★★★

### VFM

★★★★★

### WHAT SAY AV?

Norge's molecular bookshelves, the Nano, have definitely struck a chord with us. And a strong, wholesome, rich, pristine, and so on, chord! These little guys are worth every penny and for what their worth, you're only paying pennies to match their price. A remarkable pair of sweet little sonic expressionists!

**AV MAX**  
OVERALL SCORE

★★★★★

