

Best buy £250-£350

## Marantz CD6002 | £270

★★★★★ www.marantz.com

WHAT HI-FI?  
SOUND AND VISION

★★★★★

Marantz's mission to dominate the budget CD market continues: after the runaway success of its CD5001, here's the CD6002

## ↑ FOR

A fun-filled and insightful sound for the money; excellent build; nice remote

## ↓ AGAINST

Nothing

## → VERDICT

For the money, the CD6002 provides terrific detail, dynamic range and timing

THERE WAS A day when Marantz fairly dominated the budget and mid-priced CD markets. However, the company suffered a lull, and was eclipsed by Cambridge Audio, among others.

But, as the presence of this CD spinner here and the equally good value CD5001 (see p18) shows, the company's recent efforts have been very well received. And for good reason.

## Offers something for everyone

Maybe the return to form in the budget arena is related to Marantz's latest products near the top of the hi-fi tree. Its £5000 SA-7S1 CD player (see p39) earned enough plaudits to make its price tag look positively reasonable.

Whatever the truth, this CD6002 is good enough to have swept up the budget CD Award last year, and is firm favourite of our reviewers.

Unlike some recent Marantz players – which have tended to exhibit a rich and smooth character – this one is much happier with more dynamic material. It's still happy reproducing vocals and small-scale classical pieces well, but now has dynamics to spare. Drop in something like Nirvana's *Smells Like Teen Spirit*, and the Marantz can caress the more subtle moments, while spitting out all the angst and vitriol Kurt Cobain can muster for the chorus. It times beautifully, so a more hypnotic, beat-driven track such as The Rapture's *I Need Your Love* is endowed with the control and punch to draw you

in. Its fleetness of foot is allied to a genuinely engaging midrange that's fluid enough for all styles.

What's really impressive here is that Marantz hasn't just improved on its own players, but it's taken a giant leap forward, hurdling the very best that the rest can muster. The result is a CD player that doesn't sound out of

**“And the result is a CD player that doesn't sound out of sorts when partnered with much more heavyweight kit”**

sorts when partnered with much more heavyweight equipment.

We've had the pleasure of hearing the Marantz in a system comprising the £650 Roksan Kandy amp and ATC's £850 SCM11 speakers, and the CD6002 held its own in such illustrious company. Sure, you can improve on it in most areas, but to do so you're looking at spending big money on something like the £600 Rega Apollo before you significantly better this machine.

## A great-value all-rounder

If you're looking for a great-sounding budget CD player – which is also well built, is easy to use, and comes with an attractive remote control – then the £270 Marantz CD6002 should be at the top of your shopping list. Audition it!



Spend a bit more than the cheapest budget players, for stronger dynamics and fluidity

## WHAT MAKES IT SPECIAL?



## HDAM inside

The analogue circuits use Marantz's 'HDAM' modules built up of numerous discrete transistors. They're said to preserve the music's dynamics and tone with outstanding speed and timbre



## Display off mode

Like its baby sibling, the CD5001, the '6002 has a display that can be turned off. The idea is that it reduces electrical noise and improves the sound. In budget kit? Well, it might do



## MP3 support

Like most spinners of the silver disc nowadays, the CD6002 plays MP3 audio files. It'll also handle CD-R and CD-RW discs, a product of manufacturers using CD-ROM drives



## Support it well

Usefully, the Marantz's remote control has the necessary buttons on it to allow it to control amplifiers from the same company. The amp remotes also control CD functions

## TECHNICAL SPECS

AUDIO OUTPUTS  
RCA phono,  
coaxial digital,  
optical digital  
HEADPHONE  
OUTPUT Yes  
PLAYS CD, CD-R  
HD CD REPLAY No  
CD TEXT Yes  
MEMORY Yes  
DISPLAY OFF Yes  
FINISHES Two  
DIMENSIONS (HWD)  
9 x 44 x 28cm  
WEIGHT 5kg

Best buy £250-£500

## Marantz PM6002 | £270

WHAT HI-FI?  
SOUND AND VISION

★★★★★ www.marantz.com

★★★★★

From pulsating rock to soothing alt.country, this feature-packed, well-built Marantz is a friend to all those with wide musical tastes

## ↑ FOR

Sturdy feel and looks; full spec; vivacious, animated sound, especially with voices

## ↓ AGAINST

The deepest bass notes lack clarity

## → VERDICT

A superb amp for the money that'll provide you hours of music fun

**RATHER UNUSUALLY, OUR** first experience of this amplifier was as one-third of a deeply impressive one-make system in January 2008. Ever since, we've been anxious to test it in isolation against the best of its peers – and now that rather interesting opportunity has arisen.

Without a matching CD player and sympathetic speakers to team up with, how does the Marantz cope?

The short answer is: most splendidly. Obviously, you'd like a bit more detail than that, so we'll give you the long answer, too. In terms of build and

### "Amplifying Ike and Tina Turner's *You Got What You Wanted*, the Marantz serves up a confident and exhilarating presentation"

specification, the Marantz has nothing to fear from the opposition.

It's as robustly made as we've come to expect from the company – in fact, its budget price-tag is at odds with its beefy tactility.

Nifty things such as a full-featured remote control, switching for two pairs of loudspeakers, five line-level inputs (with two recording loops), and a moving-magnet phono stage make for an impressive specification – and when the discussion turns to sound quality, the good news just keeps on coming.

Amplifying a recording of Ike and Tina Turner's *You Got What You Wanted*, the PM6002 serves up a confident, exhilarating sound.

The Marantz is as upfront and enthusiastic as its price rivals, but manages to bring more discipline to bear: the PM6002 is the most communicative of amps in this category when it comes to vocal expression and resolution. It's happy to charge through up-tempo material but positively revels in the subtle light and shade of Lambchop's *Is A Woman*, exhibiting a surefooted delicacy of touch that belies its price-tag.

#### Stone-cold sound for the Queens

Even when the Marantz is knee-deep in the harsher, harder sounds of Queens of the Stone Age, and their underrated fifth album *Era Vulgaris*, the PM6002 still rifles through the tracks and presents a wad of detail. From the alienating, grinding sound of *Misfit Love* to the anxious, high-scaled *Into the Hollow*, the Marantz brings out the very best of the Queens' semi-raw, under-dubbed sound.

But, if we're to criticise (and if we can, we will), then we'd like a bit more expressiveness to the low end. The Marantz hits plenty hard – as the blast of the Queens will testify – but it's a bit monotonal where very low bass is concerned. That aside, this is an exciting amp, ideal for many budget systems.



This silver dream machine raises the bar for sub-£300 amplifiers

## WHAT MAKES IT SPECIAL?



#### Phono home

For all those who still enjoy the delights of vinyl polymer, or records, the Marantz PM6002 comes with a handy moving magnet (MM) phono input. Time for a trip to the loft...



#### Mains attraction

The importance of good cables can never be overstated. The Marantz kindly comes with a detachable mains cable. An affordable upgrade mains cable could give a cleaner sound



#### Room to move

The PM6002 also comes with a second set of speaker outputs for a multiroom set-up – ideal, if you want your every move around the house choreographed by the soundtrack to *Dirty Dancing*...



#### There be gold...

Gold-plated inputs. They sound cool when you're bragging to 50 Cent-wannabes about the '6002, but the gold serves a purpose – to reduce signal-path interference and cut surface degradation

## TECHNICAL SPECS

**POWER** 45 watts per channel  
**LINE-LEVEL INPUTS** 4  
**PHONO STAGE** Yes  
**PREAMP OUT** No  
**TAPE LOOPS** 2  
**SPEAKERS** 2  
**TONE CONTROLS** Yes  
**HEADPHONE** Yes  
**REMOTE** Yes  
**FINISHES** Black, silver  
**DIMENSIONS (HWD)** 12 x 44 x 34cm