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Sonodyne SAMA 6000 review: Strikes the right balance between bass and clarity

Arghanshu Bose (Https://Timesofindia.Indiatimes.Com/Toireporter/Author-Arghanshu-Bose-479255988.Cms) /
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Rating: 4/5

A good sound system does more than make music louder. It brings out details in songs and films that often get lost through a TV's built-in speakers. While deep bass adds weight to the audio, clear vocals and balanced highs are equally important for an engaging listening experience. However, finding a system that gets all these elements right can be a challenge.

Priced at Rs 60,000, the Sonodyne SAMA 6000 aims to deliver a more cinematic home audio experience. The 5.1-channel sound system supports Dolby Atmos, includes a wireless subwoofer, and claims a total power output of 700W. It also offers HDMI eARC, optical, AUX, and Bluetooth connectivity, giving users multiple ways to connect it to their TV and other devices.



In this review, we explore the design, sound performance, and connectivity of the Sonodyne SAMA 6000 to see whether it is a good fit for those looking to upgrade their home entertainment setup.

Design

The Sonodyne SAMA 6000 follows a minimalist design, with a long black soundbar and a matching wireless subwoofer. The soundbar has a clean front profile, with a dark grille that blends into most living room setups. Its elongated body allows it to sit neatly below a television, while the understated finish keeps it from drawing too much attention away from the screen.

The soundbar's controls are placed on the top panel. A row of touch-sensitive buttons provides access to basic functions while keeping the front free of physical buttons. A small display below the controls also indicates the selected input or mode. This makes it easier to check the system's current settings without relying entirely on the remote.



The connectivity ports are placed in a recessed panel at the back. This keeps the connections out of sight when the soundbar is placed against a wall or on a TV cabinet. The panel houses the available HDMI connections, USB-A, AUX, and power input, letting users connect the system to a TV and other compatible devices.

The wireless subwoofer follows the same black finish, with a box-shaped enclosure and a large circular driver panel on the side. A bass port is positioned near the bottom of the front panel, alongside the Sonodyne branding. Its separate enclosure gives the setup a more substantial presence, though buyers will need to set aside some floor space. As the subwoofer connects wirelessly to the soundbar, you can position it more flexibly without running an audio cable between the two units.

Sonodyne also bundles a dedicated remote control, which lets you access the system's playback and settings from a distance. This is useful when the soundbar is placed below a television and the top-mounted touch controls are not easily accessible.

Overall, the SAMA 6000 keeps its design simple and functional. The soundbar's understated appearance should fit most living rooms, while the separate wireless subwoofer handles low-frequency output without adding unnecessary cables to the setup.





Audio performance

The Sonodyne SAMA 6000 delivers powerful audio, but its sound signature doesn't rely on exaggerated bass to make music and movies engaging. The low frequencies have enough weight to add impact to bass-heavy tracks and cinematic scores, while the mids and highs remain audible without being overshadowed. This balance is one of the aspects we appreciated during our listening sessions.

We started our music tests with Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody, The Weeknd's Blinding Lights and Eminem's Lose Yourself. These tracks offer a mix of layered vocals, guitar, electronic beats and bass-heavy arrangements. The SAMA 6000 handled the different elements well, with the bass adding weight without making the overall presentation unnecessarily heavy. We also didn't notice any crackling at higher volumes.

We then moved to AR Rahman's Beats of Passion from Taal and Ella Fitzgerald's I Just Wanna Make Love to You to explore how the system handles Bollywood music and jazz. These tracks highlight different instruments and arrangements, making them useful for evaluating the balance between bass, vocals, and other elements. The SAMA 6000 maintained a relatively balanced presentation across the tracks, keeping the low end from drawing attention away from the rest of the music.

The sound signature is particularly useful for listeners who move between genres. Whether it is rock, pop, hip-hop, Bollywood, or jazz, the system delivers bass with enough impact while keeping the overall sound from getting excessively heavy. Of course, the final listening experience also depends on the recording, playback volume, and room acoustics.

We also tested the SAMA 6000 with movies, where a sound system handled dialogue, background scores and sound effects effortlessly without overpowering each other.

We watched No Time to Die, and the opening sequence set in Matera offered a useful test of the system's handling of cinematic audio. The sequence moves between quieter, tension-building moments and sudden bursts of action, with engine sounds, gunfire and music adding to the intensity. The SAMA 6000's bass response gave these scenes added weight without making the low frequencies the centre of attention.

Avengers: Endgame presented a different challenge. The scene in which the Avengers assemble before the final battle builds anticipation through dialogue and orchestral music before moving into a sequence filled with explosions, impacts and other sound effects. With several audio elements playing together, the system needs to deliver more than just loud output.

Here, the SAMA 6000's balanced tuning works in its favour. The subwoofer adds weight to the action sequences, while the soundbar handles the main audio channels. This combination makes the system well-suited for films with busy soundtracks, where the bass should complement the rest of the audio rather than dominate it.

The SAMA 6000 features a 5.1-channel configuration with left, right, centre and side-firing surround channels, alongside a dedicated wireless subwoofer. The centre channel is key for dialogue, while the side-firing drivers are designed to broaden the sound beyond the soundbar's physical width. Dolby Atmos support also makes the system compatible with suitable content.

However, the actual surround experience depends on factors such as room layout, speaker placement and the source material. Dolby Atmos support alone does not guarantee the same immersive effect in every living room.

Overall, the SAMA 6000 offers a sound signature that works well for both music and movies. Its bass has enough presence to make action sequences and music more engaging, while its relatively balanced presentation suits listeners who don't want low frequencies to overpower everything else.

Connectivity

The Sonodyne SAMA 6000 offers HDMI eARC, optical, AUX and Bluetooth 5.4 connectivity. HDMI eARC is a convenient option for compatible televisions, allowing audio to travel through a single cable while supporting compatible multichannel audio formats. The system also supports HDMI CEC, which can help compatible devices coordinate certain power and control functions.

For televisions and other devices without HDMI eARC, optical and AUX connections provide alternatives. Bluetooth connectivity, meanwhile, lets users play music wirelessly from a compatible smartphone or other device. This flexibility makes the SAMA 6000 suitable for households that want to use the same system for watching television, streaming films and listening to music.

The product documentation lists Dolby Digital, Dolby Digital Plus, and Dolby TrueHD as audio formats supported over HDMI. However, playback depends on the source device, the content and the connection used. Users should check their television's audio-output settings during setup to ensure compatibility with the desired formats.



The range of connectivity options makes the system relatively flexible, whether you use it primarily for TV audio or as a speaker setup for everyday music.

Verdict

Priced at Rs 60,000, the Sonodyne SAMA 6000 combines a 5.1-channel configuration, Dolby Atmos support and a wireless subwoofer to offer an upgraded home entertainment experience. Its biggest strength is its balanced sound signature, with bass that adds weight to music and movie soundtracks without overpowering the mids and highs.

During testing, the system handled a variety of music genres and cinematic sequences without relying on excessive bass for impact. Its HDMI eARC, optical, AUX and Bluetooth connectivity also makes it versatile enough to work with different devices.

The SAMA 6000 is worth considering for buyers looking for a home audio system that can handle both music and movies. Those who prefer an overwhelmingly bass-heavy sound signature may want to explore other options, but listeners looking for a balance between low-frequency impact and overall clarity should find plenty to appreciate here.



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