



Panasonic PMX100 / PMX70

Last year marked the return of the electronics giant known as Panasonic to South Africa's shores. After laying low for a few years, the company has announced that it's ready to come back onto the scene with an impressive array of high-quality products across a wide spectrum of categories that will give the recent influx of Korean brands a serious run for their money.

I've always liked Japanese brands – they're efficient and have seemingly always been on the cutting edge of modern technological development, so unsurprisingly I couldn't wait to see what was in store for me.

This turned out to be a double dose of sonic and user-friendliness in the form of the PMX100 and PMX70 CD micro-systems: two eager performers packed with features and ready to connect with just about

anything. The PMX100 takes the spotlight in this review, with one of its primarily acclaimed features being its Super Sonic Tweeter, capable of stretching its legs to 100 kHz on the frequency band. But while that was unexpectedly impressive from the audio department, what really impressed me was just how much you can cram into a little box these days.

The PMX100 is the classic three-piece design, which reminds me why micro systems garnered such popularity so quickly a few years back. They're simple! Two speakers connect to the centre unit where all the magic happens.

This kind of familiarity ensures that the initial setup is quick and painless and I found myself up and running in a matter of minutes, only reaching for the user manual for the more in-depth explanations of its more contemporary connection options.

The elegant silver box is pleasantly offset against the gloss black speakers for a modern, sophisticated look and feel. The button layout and basic, text-based LCD screen again, feel familiar, which is comforting. With this and the remote control, I easily managed to play CDs, operate the radio, control my iPod via the USB port (which also charges), make a hard connection via USB to my computer and play with the basic equalizer settings.

But download the app and tap into the system's wireless capabilities, and the PMX100 becomes a different beast altogether. From this perspective, the system betrays its modest physical appearance to reveal its wireless talents that support Bluetooth, DLNA, Airplay and Panasonic's own AllPlay system, complete with a dedicated app that allows you to connect all your AllPlay-compatible devices together for complete





audio synchronicity and personalisation.

The control app is simple and intuitive, allowing for multiple levels of user customization. The other wireless options provide quick, easy connectivity with a particularly nice emphasis on Bluetooth tailoring that allows prioritization over either connectivity or sound-quality.

While the PMX100 can connect to just about anything, including all your favourite online music streaming services, the best sonic results come from the hard USB connection to a computer, which thankfully is my preferred method of connection. From here you can really stretch the PMX100's legs. This 24-bit/192 kHz connection, combined with Panasonic's third generation LincSD-Amp and digital variable gain amplifier come together to provide an unexpected sonic treat.

The sound is detailed with an overall natural character, which Panasonic claims is due to the Bamboo Opal material that makes up the woofers. I noticed a good amount of expression in both instruments and voice and, while I definitely thought the PMX100 displayed good definition throughout the sound spectrum, it does have a warm, sugary coat that makes the listening experience enjoyable rather than clinical. It's a kind balance between what the composer and sound engineer listen for and what the end-user listens to – high definition with a touch of spice!

Panasonic's PMX70 offers up the same kind of quality in the hard/wired connection, radio and sound departments minus the Wi-Fi option. It does however employ the same comprehensive Bluetooth capabilities that the PMX100 enjoys.

Both systems display good sound quality for their small dimensions, with a bevy of connections and functions for a price that should help get fledgling audio enthusiasts start their journey down a road that gets very expensive!

Justin Beachcroft-Shaw



VITAL STATS

Amplifier	60 watts x 2
Dimensions (WxHxD)	211 x 114 x 267 mm
Weight	3 kg
Radio	FM, DAB
Disc player	CD, CD-R/RW, MP3
Inputs	USB, PC-IN, Ethernet, Headphones, AUX
Wireless	Bluetooth 2.1+EDR, Wi-Fi, Airplay, DLNA, AllPlay
Speakers	1x woofer, 1x tweeter, 1x piezoelectric super tweeter
Dimensions (WxHxD)	161 x 238 x 264 mm

Verdict
A modern remake of an old favourite at an excellent price.

Price	
PMX100	R7 999
PMX70	R3 999

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OUR RATING: 87/100