

# DVD Player of the Year



**Marantz DV-9500  
Universal Player**

**\$2099**

**[www.marantz.com](http://www.marantz.com)**



Marantz's DV-9500 universal player occupies an interesting slot in the marketplace; it is expensive (okay, very expensive) by mainstream standards, yet it is relatively affordable compared to the top-tier, "unobtainium-class" players with which it competes. And that's the key point.

For years, we've been disappointed by would-be "do-all" universal players that did not, in fact, do all things well. Some offered great picture quality but so-so sound; others sounded great but not on all audio formats—the list goes on and on. Happily, Marantz's DV-9500 is different. First, the upscaling, HDMI-equipped player offers terrific picture quality that reviewer Manoj Motwani calls "the closest I have seen to the Krell DVD Standard." (The Krell sells for a steep \$8000.) Second, the Marantz offers balanced and uniformly high sound-quality for Red Book CDs, SACDs, and DVD-Audio discs—sound that Motwani describes as "open, warm, smooth, extended, with tight bass response." In fact, the DV-9500's sound invites comparisons to that of Simaudio's superb Moon Orbiter universal player (the Orbiter sounds better, but sells for whopping \$7150).

While Marantz's DV-9500 isn't cheap, it does fulfill the promise of being a true, do-all player with no weak spots. Considering that meaningful steps up the performance ladder will cost thousands more, the DV-9500 is an overachiever, and a bargain. [Reviewed in issue 62]

—Chris Martens