

**TEST VERDICT****THE WINNER****Onkyo TX-SR608**

£450 ★★★★★

This has been, no exaggeration, the most fiercely fought *Group Test* ever. Its five amps are all worthy of their next-gen status, but it's the **Onkyo TX-SR608** that triumphs thanks to its refined, spacious sound and great specs.



**W**e've discussed this at length and we're all agreed: this has been the most aggressively contested *Group Test* any of us can remember. We've given the win to the Onkyo TX-SR608, but take note: you absolutely must try to hear the Yamaha RX-V667 and Pioneer VSX-920 before parting with any cash. They're both excellent performers, great value and entirely deserving of their five stars - and in a photo-finish, they'd both be breathing right down the Onkyo's neck.

Our decision was made in part thanks to the breadth of the Onkyo's spec, but mostly because of its refined, spacious sound, which doesn't sacrifice much in terms of drive or attack. The Yamaha is similarly refined, but can't generate quite the soundstage of the Onkyo, while the Pioneer lets itself down a little when upscaling DVDs. All three are five-star performers, though, and if you decide on the Yamaha or Pioneer over the Onkyo, you won't get any criticism from us.

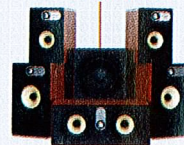
It's a mark of just how hard-fought this test has been that Denon has improved on its 2009 Award-winner and yet can't achieve the full complement of stars: the AVR-1911's a fine product in isolation but the three receivers ahead of it are more accomplished where subtlety and spaciousness are concerned.

**Onkyo's effort takes home the spoils, but in a photo finish the Yamaha and Pioneer receivers would be breathing down its neck**

It's strange to see a Sony product bringing up the rear of any test, but in this case the STR-DN1010 is simply outclassed. At first acquaintance it comes across as a spirited, good-time device but, much like Lindsay Lohan, its 'full attack' stance gets wearing and it doesn't have the refinement in reserve to make it more than an also-ran.

**SYSTEM BUILDER**

**Samsung UE40C7000**  
£1800 ★★★★★



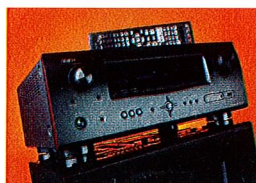
**B&W 685 Theatre**  
£1206 ★★★★★



**Sony BDP-S570**  
£230 ★★★★★



For a full list of specifications and other useful info visit [whatifi.com](http://whatifi.com)

**Facts & figures**

**Denon AVR-1911** £450  
★★★★★

Channels/power 7/160W  
● HDMI 1.4 Yes ● HDMI inputs 4 ● 3D capable Yes ● Network capable No ● Dimensions (hwd) 17 x 43 x 38cm  
● Weight 10kg



**Onkyo TX-SR608** £450  
★★★★★

Channels/power 7/160W  
● HDMI 1.4 Yes ● HDMI inputs 6 ● 3D capable Yes ● Network capable No ● Dimensions (hwd) 18 x 44 x 33cm  
● Weight 14kg



**Pioneer VSX-920** £500  
★★★★★

Channels/power 7/140W  
● HDMI 1.4 Yes ● HDMI inputs 4 ● 3D capable Yes ● Network capable Yes ● Dimensions (hwd) 16 x 42 x 38cm  
● Weight 10kg



**Sony STR-DN1010** £500  
★★★★★

Channels/power 7/100W  
● HDMI 1.4 Yes ● HDMI inputs 4 ● 3D capable Yes ● Network capable Yes, with Sony kit  
● Dimensions (hwd) 16 x 43 x 33cm ● Weight 9kg



**Yamaha RX-V667** £450  
★★★★★

Channels/power 7/140W  
● HDMI 1.4 Yes ● HDMI inputs 6 ● 3D capable Yes ● Network capable No ● Dimensions (hwd) 15 x 44 x 36cm  
● Weight 11kg