

Technotalk

Product Type:

Floorstanding loudspeaker

Driver Complement:

3 x 150mm bass/mid woofers

1 x 25mm soft dome tweeter

Cabinet Type:

Bass reflex loaded, rear ported

Cabinet construction:

18mm MDF, triple braced

Frequency Response:

29Hz - 22kHz ($\pm 3\text{dB}$)

Sensitivity:

91dB (2.83V @ 1M)

Nominal Impedance:

Switchable 4 or 8 ohms

Total Harmonic Distortion:

Less than 0.5% @ 3kHz (90dB @ 1M)

Recommended Amplifier Power:

25 to 150W RMS

Connection Method:

Single or biwired

Finishes:

Black or Jarrah wood veneer

Technotalk specifications and recommended retail prices are supplied by the manufacturer

"Impressive though it is, allied to the grunt is a finely detailed midrange and treble, meaning the speakers' presentation of rock and dance music is fast, lucid and exciting."

grunt is a finely detailed midrange and treble, meaning the speakers' handling of rock and dance music is fast, lucid and exciting. Driven by an ME pre/power combo, the Subsonics don't mind being on the receiving end of some poke either. With a sensitivity of 91dB, the speakers don't present an awkward amplifier load, but thrive with plenty of current delivery and are very comfortable with high quality partnering equipment.

Boasting clout and finesse in equal measures, the Subsonic's sonic credentials are impressive. With the guitar thrashing rage that is Senser's *Stacked Up* disc, they strive and drive without any hint of losing their footing. The album's ferocious dub-based barbs are a challenge for any speaker, but here the dense mesh is hurled deep and wide, with strength of conviction and purpose that sets the fiery shards of the music blazing.

I was expecting some sort of bass resonance problem in the smaller room, but sure enough those switches and the Polymorphic technology really do work. Fed with the likes of Dario G's ambient dance anthem *Peaches*, the PM-1s bass remained thoroughly in check while pumping out the rhythms. Their thundering low-end and all-encompassing projection is a revelation with dance music, which pulses and flows with almost hallucinogenic effect.

Choosing some carefully crafted material and the Subsonic's presence allows well recorded material to really bloom. Those with an ear for revealing clarity are sure to appreciate the Subsonics' efforts. Vocals break free from the speakers and stride confidently into the room, similarly with classical music there's ample bass and treble detail allied with plenty of midrange substance that brings it all together. Play Mozart's *Clarinet Concerto K622* and the PM-1s give a powerful impression, full of emotion. As the moving piece builds, the Subsonics show off their unequivocal imaging to the full, the chamber orchestra rising and flourishing across the sonic spread, while the natural sounding clarinet is persuasively focused centre stage before the surging orchestral forces.

Instrumental separation is crisp and clear, with natural emphasis placed on both the soloist and supporting orchestra.

The PM's drivers are all magnetically shielded, and the PM-1s have been designed for both music and movie use. Combined with the companies Polymorphic home theatre speakers, the switchable centre and pair of bipolar

rears, it's possible to fine tune and match an entire home cinema speaker system to your particular room. In my AV system, the PM-1s musical substance translated perfectly with big-sounding movies. With more than its fair share of ambience and a wonderful classical soundtrack, the DTS-encoded DVD of *Hannibal* is a test and a half for any main AV speakers. Switching to 8 ohms, but keeping the other settings the same, the PM-1s multiple drivers and fast transient capability delivers fast-moving and dynamic movie moments with ease.

Applying more than their fair share of functional and practical technology, the Subsonic Polymorphic switching is a godsend in allowing you to tailor the performance of the loudspeaker to different room conditions and types of amplification. Subsonic hasn't simply come up with a speaker gimmick in order to sell more boxes - this is a genuine scientific principle that's been applied and implemented superbly.

AVL

Opinion

The 'Opinion' expressed here is that of the reviewer, summarised in the form of a 5-star rating system, and should be considered as an integral part of the full contents of this Audition Equipment Review. As such, each category should be judged on its own merits and not necessarily used as a comparison with other equipment reviews in this, or other editions of Audio & Video Lifestyle magazine.

★ Shocker
★★ Average
★★★ Good
★★★★ Excellent
★★★★★ Perfection

"Their thundering low-end and all-encompassing projection is a revelation with dance music, which pulses and flows with almost hallucinogenic effect."

Performance
★★★★½
Build Quality
★★★★★
Compatibility
★★★★★
Value For Money
★★★★½