

**“There’s one word that best describes the sound of this X Series collection - cinematic. In a movie role, the five speakers combine to sound totally cohesive. The uniformity of the drivers and the smoothness of their response serves to create a lush, powerful presentation, in which movie sounds have a real sense of space in which to breathe.”**

presence as the camera first pans across the huge spacecraft. The X Series’ soundstage is deep and impressively solid, especially for loudspeakers of their price, and for a slim pair of floorstanders, there’s an impressive amount of bass weight generated by the XM3s.

With the active sub turned down to a low output, the XM3s generate decent low-level response, especially when used with straight music.

In a real cinema you tend to hear a wall of sound from the front because the front speakers are identical and emerge from behind a uniform cinema screen. The same sort of effect is true to some degree with the Subsonics, because of the driver uniformity and the dispersion of the XC centre, the middle ground is so well covered, the mains and centre present a particularly united sonic front.

As for the rears, the XR2s contribute well from the back. I actually mounted them on the sidewalls, behind the listening position and as a result they filled in the ‘side’ gaps in the soundfield well to give greater credibility to front-to-back effects pans.

Revisiting the excellent DVD of *Ronin* always makes for a fantastic AV speaker system test. The accents and dialogue-heavy script provide the centre speaker with a challenge and to give all (including the sub) a good going over, you can’t beat the BMW v. Peugeot car chase through the streets of Paris. As the two cars battle it out, there’s a ton of surround information coming from all directions, and it hits hard. The X Series proved adept at picking up and maintain the frantic pace, delivering the transient effects with lightening speed and agility.

When the lights come up again and you fancy a bit of music, the XM3s are happy to oblige. They sound precise, separating layers of music into crisp component strands. Jazz, pop, classical, it all sounds big and spacious with plenty of energy and slam.



With the best car chase since *The Italian Job*, *Ronin* gives all AV speakers a run for their money.

Overall, this Subsonic set-up is a fabulous proposition for the home theatre buyer who wants an affordable system with an eye on hi-fi performance too. Whether they’re the best quality and value loudspeakers in Australia, I’ll leave Subsonic to lay claim to that one. 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

“For a new set of speakers, the collection didn’t need a great deal of running in. Straight from the off the SuBsonics settled nicely into their AV role.”

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