

STEREO
SPEAKERS
SPENDOR A6

★★★★★

£ 1895

FOR

A fast, detailed and dynamic sound; natural sonic balance; transparency; sturdy build

AGAINST

Unpretentious appearance may not impress all

VERDICT

These are brilliant speakers for the money. Their sound is a class-leading combination of insight and naturalness

The A6s may look ordinary, but the performance is anything but that

Spendors step out and dance

THESE SPENDOR A6S look ordinary, don't they? There's little to suggest there's going to be anything special here: a two-way floorstander at two grand is hardly cutting-edge.

Still, take a close look and it becomes clear that there's plenty of design depth here. The cabinet is beautifully made: it's damped and reinforced with a great deal of care. That 18cm mid/bass is a newly

"We weren't prepared for just how good these floorstanders sound"

developed in-house unit. That in itself is rare. Most small speaker manufacturers tend to buy in units from third party suppliers, because they have neither the design skill or manufacturing base to make drive units themselves. A 29mm wide-surround tweeter – also used on the four grand ST1 floorstander – completes the driver array.

None of this prepared us for just how good these floorstanders sound. There's no doubt neutrality

plays its part, but that's not the whole story. The A6's clarity is built on class-leading resolution and some lightening-fast reflexes.

Spendors, but with a difference

These speakers stop and start with the best of them, capturing the leading edge of notes brilliantly. These are hard-hitting towers, sounding as at home with Ice T as they do with Mahler. However, the traditional Sendor traits of refinement and naturalness aren't sacrificed in the quest for improved drive. By class standards these floorstanders remain eminently listenable, though the rest of the system needs to be chosen with care – the A6's transparency means it'll expose any flaws elsewhere. That said, they're not particularly fussy about positioning and sound balanced even when close to a wall.

If you've always thought of Sendor as some old-fashioned company that produces smooth yet dynamically dull speakers be prepared to change your mind.

The A6s are stunning.



ALSO
CONSIDER ?

PMC FB11

★★★★★

£1909

February 2009

These are a fine alternative to the Spendors. Not quite as insightful but have fuller tonal balance

DYNAUDIO
EXCITE X32

★★★★★

£1600

Awards 2008

Big, brawny speakers that deliver high volumes and plenty of bass, but they lack the Sendor's sophistication

See superSendor speakers

BRITISH SPEAKER company Sendor is looking to build on the acclaimed SA1 standmounter with two new floorstanding models, the A5 and A6. Their drive units are based on technology developed for the SA1, and the company says the speakers deliver

"The A5 speakers received a five-star verdict last month"

a "clear and natural mid-range and beautifully open treble".

The A5 speakers, which sell for £1495 a pair, stand 79cm tall and use a pair of 15cm drivers, while the larger A6 design, at 88cm tall, uses a single 18cm driver and a 29mm tweeter. Both sets of speakers appear in this issue of the magazine, and with each on the receiving end of five-star reviews, we suggest you check them out.



Simple design
but superb
performance