

“... POWERFUL

... extremely dynamic ... larger than life ...”

Reprinted with permission from



“... delivers music at a pace that never slows down ... blew away just about all the other speakers that I have reviewed ... Monitor 9s are speakers that really like to rock ... more accuracy and tonal accuracy than their price says they should.”

by Joel Kopping

ROCK ON

“How do they do it?” is a question I asked myself a number of times during my review of the Paradigm Monitor 9 speakers, or to be a little bit more precise, “How do Paradigm produce a range of speakers that perform so well for (relatively) so little?”

The Monitor 9s are floorstanding speakers coming in at a little over a metre tall, 24 cm wide and 37 cm deep, and are described as 3-driver, 2 1/2-way bass reflex, quasi 3rd order resistive port speakers. The crossover combines a third order crossover at 2 kHz and a second order electro acoustic crossover at 400 Hz. This implies that the low pass filtering is partly controlled by the bass loading characteristics of the speaker’s port.

The drivers for bass and midrange are 210-mm units with die-cast chassis, ICP injection moulded co-polymer polypropylene cones, and both use Apical voice coil formers. High frequencies are delivered via a 25-mm pure titanium dome and former tweeter. The tweeter also uses Ferrofluid for cooling and

The New Monitor 9
(Improved over version reviewed for even better sound.)



damping. The cabinets on the review speakers were finished in a black, deep grained veneer.

Two pairs of multi-way binding posts are found on the rear of the enclosures. The front baffle is finished in grey and to my eyes anyway is the only part of the speaker that looks a little downmarket. The supplied grilles have rounded top and bottom edges, with the top edge standing slightly above the top of the cabinet. This breaks the squareness of the cabinets and improves looks.

The cabinets themselves are manufactured from acoustically inert high-density hardboard, and use strategically-placed radial braces to limit unwanted resonance and prevent ballooning effects. Additionally, the interior walls are lined with acoustical damping material. By using the wholly unscientific method of showing my hand through the flared port on the front baffle, I could feel the damping material and one of the braces. The speakers are also

supplied with good-looking feet that bolt on to the cabinets and incorporate spikes.

“I don't know what Paradigm does to get such value out of a speaker; all I do know is that if you are looking for super floorstanding speakers, you have to try the Paradigm Monitor 9s.”

I have my listening room fairly well worked out, so placing the speakers for the most balanced sound was fairly simple. The speakers were placed across the widest section of the room, with all electronic equipment in-between. My listening position is opposite the speakers and forms roughly an equilateral triangle between speakers and listening couch. The speakers were hooked up to amplification and allowed to run in virtually for a whole weekend before I completed the final set-up and began listening.

Efficiency is the most immediately apparent sonic aspect of the Paradigms. The speakers seem to play several dB louder than my own pair of speakers. The high efficiency determines that you can get away with some fairly modest amplification. The speakers did however seem to be fairly reactive and this could cause some problems with some amplifiers.

The Paradigms are not what I would call a subtle speaker. All music is delivered in a way that is larger than life. The low frequencies are fat and full and the highs are powerful, bordering on becoming a little grating at times. With such dominant high and low frequencies, the midrange does seem a little thin at times, with this most noticeable on jazz and some female vocal CDs in my collection. The speakers are however extremely dynamic and deliver music at a pace that never slows down. On the latest *Everlast* CD, the speakers really started to deliver the goods and

blew away just about all the other speakers I have reviewed. The Monitor 9s are speakers that really like to rock.

But they are not so brutish as to limit their use to only rock music. Whilst they aren't the most subtle around, they will still play all music genres with more accuracy and tonal accuracy than their price says they should. I toned the speakers down a little by using speaker cables that sounded a little warmer than the ones I usually use, and you could place the speakers so that you are slightly off axis to the high frequency drivers. I would also recommend that the speakers be used in fairly large rooms as the low frequencies can dominate even more in small rooms.

It should also be mentioned that these speakers were straight out the box, and that Paradigm usually recommend a run-in period of seven days for the Titanium Dome tweeter to soften.

I don't know what Paradigm does to get such value out of a speaker; all I do know is that if you are looking for super floorstanding speakers, you have to try the Paradigms.

• peaks •

VERDICT:

The Paradigm Monitor 9s deliver exemplary value for money and are particularly suited to rock music.