

“REALISM, PRECISION,  
PERFECTION ... just a few  
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**P**aradigm Studio speakers deliver vivid music and movie action. Realism, precision, perfection – these are just a few of the speakers’ virtues!

Mica is a mineral commonly found in the earth’s crust. We’re assuming it must also have good acoustic properties since it appears in the driver construction of Paradigm speakers. The front speakers were the Studio/40’s — a 3-driver, 2-1/2-way base reflex design displaying a high quality of construction that we seldom see. The high-frequency driver is a 25-mm pure-aluminum dome. Dual magnets, a high-temperature voice coil and ferro-fluid cooling and damping help minimize distortion when the Studio/40’s are operating at higher output levels.

The bass/midrange driver has an MLP™ (mica-loaded polymer) cone combining high membrane stiffness with relatively low body mass. The oversized magnet and AVS™ (airflow ventilation system)

guarantee high-power handling and exceptionally low distortion. The die-cast heatsink chassis and magnet in the bass/midrange and bass drivers are identical. The 2-1/2-way system allows both drivers to come in at the bottom of the speaker’s frequency range. The bass driver cuts out at 400 Hz and the bass/midrange driver continues on to 1.5 kHz. At the rear of the cabinet we find gold-plated binding posts used in other speakers in the Studio series. The Studio/20’s differ slightly from the Studio/40’s in that they do not have a lower bass driver.

The Studio/CC is a 3-driver, 2-way center channel with drivers that are similar to those in the other speakers. The high-frequency driver has a 25-mm pure-aluminum dome and two 165-mm bass/midrange drivers utilizing MLP™ cones.



STUDIO/40

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All Studio cabinets are made of 25-mm MDF composite material. The ones we reviewed were a Black Ash finish. A soft mat of UHP™ (ultra-fine high-loft polyfibre), the company’s own patented material, is used as damping material inside the cabinets. This polyfibre does a splendid job of absorbing rear and standing waves inside the cabinet to allow optimal bass performance.

According to Paradigm, the black cloth-covered grills on the Studios are an “anti-diffraction” design eliminating reflective edges and contributing to overall sound clarity. To achieve the best performance results the company recommends leaving the grills on when playing the Studios.

The PS-1200, the subwoofer Paradigm recommends as a match for the Studios, is an incredibly powerful performer. Mounted in a 2-chamber system the 12-inch woofer emits enormous amounts of articulate bass through three, 80-mm diameter ports. Mounted beside the ports is the amplifier control panel which holds the radiator for diffusing heat from the



PS-1200

amplifier and controls for level, phase alignment and cut-off frequency, as well as input/output level controls.

## SOUND

The Paradigm Studio speakers had a natural, dynamic and uniform sound. They produced an expansive soundstage for both music and home theater. High frequencies were rich, resonant and never tiring, with just the right amount of warmth. Whether it was home theater sound effects such as breaking glass, or the squeal of an automobile’s tires, or the strings of an acoustic guitar, the Studio speakers got it all down perfectly! The Studio’s midrange became the standard by which we judged all other speakers. Musical yet precise, detailed but still neutral—the Studios allowed us to forget that we were listening to the effects of an acoustical signal and simply immerse ourselves in the sound.

Listening to CDs in stereo mode reaffirmed our initial findings during multi-channel testing. The Studio/40’s offered perfectly balanced, managed sound across a wide, deep listening area. Even without the subwoofer, bass was deep and well controlled. Overall tonal balance was exceptional.

The Paradigm’s overall performance became our benchmark for judging speakers by other manufacturers. What about faults? The only concern one might have with these speakers is a purely practical consideration—space! The Studio speakers require a fair bit of room. However, those who view speakers as works of modern art to be enjoyed for their aesthetic appeal as well as their musical performance will certainly be satisfied with Paradigm’s Studio set.

STUDIO/20



STUDIO/CC