

“PHENOMENAL ALL-ROUNDERS”

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“The Monitor 7’s are not just good for budget speakers, they’re good, period.”

“For the price, you’ll be hard-pressed to find better budget floorstanding loudspeakers ... never before has such performance and nearly full-range sound been able to be had so cheaply ...”

by Andrew Robinson

When it comes to affordable, quality loudspeakers, it is possible that nobody does them better than Paradigm. Their Monitor 7 loudspeakers, reviewed here, may be the best value in their class, mating superb performance to an extremely affordable price per pair.

The Monitor 7’s are three-way, four-driver floorstanding loudspeakers that are beautifully finished and sonically refined across their entire frequency range. While

somewhat traditional in their appearance, the Monitor 7’s dress things up a bit with their four finish options, which include Wengé, Cherry, Rosenut and Black Ash. The Monitor 7 features a single one-inch ferro-fluid dome tweeter, mated to a five-and-a-half-inch bass/midrange driver, coupled to two five-and-a-half-inch bass drivers. The Monitor 7 has a reported frequency response of 54 Hz – 20 kHz and is very efficient with its 94 dB sensitivity rating into an eight-ohm load.



RECOMMENDED SUBWOOFERS

Paradigm's DSP-3200



Paradigm's UltraCube™ 10

**HIGH POINTS**

- In terms of performance, the Monitor 7s are phenomenal all-rounders, possessing a refined and smooth top end and a warm, non-fatiguing midrange. Bass-wise, the Monitor 7s are rather robust and can plunge deeper than their dual five-and-a-half-inch drivers would have you believe.

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- Dynamically, the Monitor 7s are surprising, possessing the sort of lightning reflexes you'd expect to pay much more for.
- Soundstaging and imaging are both superb with the Monitor 7s'. The Monitor 7s' soundstage is as deep as it is wide and very nicely detailed and natural in its presentation. In terms of imaging, especially center focus, the Monitor 7s react much more like mini monitors than floorstanding loudspeakers.

"... sonically refined across their entire frequency range ... smooth ... warm ... non-fatiguing ..."

- The Monitor 7s' fit and finish are first-rate, giving them a far richer appearance than their price tag would have you believe. They look like far more expensive speakers, especially in their Cherry, Rosenut or Wengé finishes.

"Soundstaging and imaging are both superb ... soundstage is as deep as it is wide and very nicely detailed and natural ..."

LOW POINTS

- The Monitor 7s are surprisingly full-range, though for bass-heavy soundtracks or action movie flair, you'll want to use a capable sub or two to get the most from your investment.
- You'll want to mate the Monitor 7s to a quality receiver or solid budget separates for them to sound their absolute best, which does drive the cost of ownership up a bit, but don't despair, for even if you put a few extra bucks into your power and/or source components, you're still coming out ahead over buying the competition.
- The Monitor 7s do respond better to some speaker cable than others, meaning you may do a bit of mixing and matching before settling on your final choice.

"... the sort of lightning reflexes you'd expect to pay much more for."

CONCLUSION

For the price, you'll be hard-pressed to find better budget floorstanding loudspeakers than the Monitor 7s from Paradigm. Never before has such performance and nearly full-range sound been able to be had so cheaply. The Monitor 7s are not just good for budget speakers, they're good, period.