

“... COST TO PERFORMANCE
RATIO IS OFF THE CHART!”

Reprinted with permission from

HOME
Theater

“... covered every inch of my large home theater with sound ... timbre-matching is excellent, as is its coherency ... exacting precision ... spookily real-sounding ... played seriously loud ...”

by Steve Guttenberg

The Monitor Series speakers originally surfaced eight years ago, and Paradigm has revised them a number of times. These fourth-generation models feature upgraded crossover parts and tweeters that Paradigm deployed in their more-expensive Studio Series speakers. The other and more-visible change to the Monitor Series is a snazzy, brushed-platinum finish that complements the styling of current flat-screen TVs. Rosenut, light cherry, and black ash vinyl-wrap finishes are also available. The Monitor Series features four towers, three bookshelf models, a center speaker, and surround speakers. For this review, I went for the elegantly proportioned Monitor 11 towers, the CC-370 center, and the ADP-370 surrounds. Paradigm's PW-2200 expertly dispatched the subwoofering duties.

The Monitor 11 tower, CC-370, and ADP-370 share identical 6.5-inch co-polymer drivers and 1-inch titanium dome tweeters. The system's timbre-matching is excellent, as is its coherency; all of the Monitors speak with one voice. The Monitor 11 adds three 6.5-inch carbon-infused woofers to provide low-end muscle.

The wedge-shaped ADP-370 surround looks like a combo di/bipole design, but Paradigm's engineers cooked up a better idea. Under 150 hertz, the speaker operates in bipole mode, and everything over 150 Hz goes dipole. So the ADP-370 produces the best of both types: the open, non-localizable sound of a dipole surround speaker and the extended bass of a bipole. The CC-370 and ADP-370 are covered in cloth, and the ADP-370's grille covers its top, bottom, and drivers, as well as its front and sides. Methinks these speakers look classier than the Monitor 11 and PW-2200, whose cabinets are wrapped in vinyl.

The PW-2200 sub is a big mutha, so it naturally delivers the prodigious, low bass that only a grownup, 12-inch, 400-watt (or larger) beast can. No matter what comes its way, it's always cruising.

Monitor 11



"... incredible value! ... sound a lot more expensive than they really are ... The Monitor 11s sonically disappear like a set of mini satellites — or much more expensive big speakers."

It's worth noting that Paradigm has resisted the temptation to move their operations off shore. Everything that goes into a Monitor Series speaker—the cabinets, complete drivers, and even the subwoofer's internal electronics—was all designed, engineered, and manufactured by Paradigm in Canada. Keeping all of that under one roof is the only way to ensure the Monitor Series' quality standards. In their rigorous, double-blind listening sessions, Paradigm compares old models with the new ones, and entry-level models compete against pricier ones. Genuine sound quality and value improvements are all part of the design process.

"... PW-2200 delivers the prodigious, low bass that only a grown-up, 12-inch, 400-watt (or larger) beast can ... effortlessly dished out deep bass thrills ... perfectly gels with the Monitors."

SYSTEM SYNERGY

After I configured the Monitor 11 towers as "small," with the crossover adjusted to 40 Hz on the amplifier's speaker set-up menu, the dialing-in process was straight forward. I had started out running the Monitor 11s as large speakers, and they sounded great, but the small setting tightened up the bass, especially when I played the system really loud.



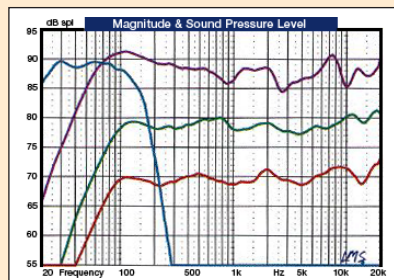
CC-370

The 45-inch-tall Monitor 11s sonically disappear like a set of mini satellites—or much more expensive big speakers. Thanks to the Monitors' unusually high efficiency (all boast in-room ratings of over 93 decibels at 1 watt), the system played seriously loud, and I never detected amplifier or speaker strain. Beyond that, the synergy between the receiver and the Paradigms was perfect; they sound like they were made for each other.

SOUNDS

The *i, Robot* DVD wasted no time pushing all of the right buttons of my persnickety reviewer brain. Will Smith battles a horde of athletic robot baddies while he drives his wowie-zowie 2035 Audi sports car. I gotta tell you, the sense of blinding speed clashing with twisting metal added immensely to this joy ride of a scene. The PW-2200 sub effortlessly dished out deep bass thrills, while the rest of the system covered every inch of my large home theater with sound.

HT LABS MEASURES: PARADIGM MONITOR SERIES SPEAKER SYSTEM



- **L/R Sensitivity:**
88 dB from 500 Hz to 2 kHz
- **Center sensitivity:**
88 dB from 500 Hz to 2 kHz
- **Surround Sensitivity:**
87 dB from 500 Hz to 2 kHz

This graph shows the quasi-anechoic (employing close-miking of all woofers) frequency response of the Monitor 11 L/R (purple trace), PW-2200 subwoofer (blue trace), CC-370 center channel (green trace), and ADP-370 surround (red trace). All passive loudspeakers were measured at a distance of 1 meter with a 2.83-volt input and scaled for display purposes.

The Monitor 11's listening-window response (a five-point average of axial and +/-15-degree horizontal and vertical responses) measures

I always knew Frank Zappa was a musical genius, perhaps the greatest rock composer of all time. When I checked out his surround mixes dating back to the 1970s on the recently released QuAUDIOPHILIAc DVD-Audio disc, I discovered another dimension of his music. His surround experiments sound better and make more musical sense than the vast majority of today's 5.1 recordings. If you get a chance to hear the system with this disc, you'll swear you're in the room with Frank and the guys. It's spookily real-sounding.

... (continued on page 3)



ADP-370

+2.60/-3.63 decibels from 200 hertz to 10 kilohertz. The -3 dB point is at 50 Hz, and the -6 dB point is at 42 Hz. Impedance reaches a minimum of 4.31 ohms at 162 Hz and a phase angle of -38.14 degrees at 84 Hz.

The CC-370's listening-window response measures +1.16/-1.78 dB from 200 Hz to 10 kHz. An average of axial and +/-15-degree horizontal responses measures +0.86/-1.80 dB from 200 Hz to 10 kHz. The -3dB point is at 82 Hz, and the -6dB point is at 68 Hz. Impedance reaches a minimum of 6.42 ohms at 8.7 kHz and a phase angle of -86.11 degrees at 96 Hz.

The ADP-370's three-face averaged response measures +2.14/-1.13 dB from 200 Hz to 10 kHz. The -3 dB point is at 76 Hz, and the -6 dB point is at 63 Hz. Impedance reaches a minimum of 3.92 ohms at 3 Hz and a phase angle of -35.15 degrees at 84 Hz.

The PW-2200's close-miked response, normalized to the level at 80 Hz, indicates that the lower -3 dB point is at 21 Hz and the -6dB point is at 18 Hz. The upper -3 dB point is at 129 Hz with the Subwoofer Cut-Off Frequency control set to maximum.

—MJP

"... everything that goes into a Monitor Series speaker — cabinets, complete drivers, and even the subwoofer's internal electronics — was designed, engineered and manufactured by Paradigm in Canada. Keeping all of that under one roof is the only way to ensure the Monitor Series' quality standards."

Peter Gabriel's *Play* DVD video collection may be the first to feature a high-resolution DTS 96/24 multichannel mix, and it's certainly more transparent and offers greater soundstage depth than everyday Dolby Digital tracks. The surround mixes vary from tune to tune, and the system delineates its spatial delicacies with exacting precision.

ADDING IT ALL UP

When you stop and consider that the suggested retail price of the system comfortably fits in the "affordable high-end" strata, it starts to look like an incredible value. Better still, it will appeal to music lovers and home theater mavens alike. If your room is smaller than my 800-square-foot theater, consider substituting Paradigm's PW-2100 10-inch sub and the Monitor 9 towers, and the price will plunge south. Thanks to the receiver's extra-nimble bass-management system, I can confidently recommend opting for the bookshelf Monitors in more-intimate spaces. Just add a TV, and you'll have yourself a first-class theater.



PW-2200

HIGHLIGHTS

- Paradigm's cost-to-performance ratio is off the chart
- Designed, engineered, and built entirely in Canada