

“ ... deep and true ...

clear and precise ...

WELL RENDERED ... ”

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QUÉBEC•AUDIO

“... a dependable and robust loudspeaker which cannot fail to please ... ”

by Pascal Debien

The Canadian hi-fi components manufacturing industry is prospering, and making its presence known on the world audio market, with help from the value of our Canadian dollar. One of the firms benefiting from this boom is Paradigm, the Ontario-based manufacturer of music and home theatre loudspeakers.

Paradigm markets two lines of high-performance speakers: the first line includes the Monitor Series, the second line is the Paradigm® Reference line. In this test report we deal with a speaker positioned within the Monitor Series: the Monitor 9.

TECHNICAL FEATURES

Monitor 9's are three-driver, two-way bass-reflex speakers. They are columnar-shaped with generous dimensions: 106 cm high, by 24 cm wide, by 37 cm deep. They are available in a choice of three

finishes, Light Cherry, Rosenut and Black Ash. Once the grille, which covers three quarters of the front facing, is removed the 25-mm diameter high-frequency driver, the 210-mm diameter bass/midrange driver and the 210-mm bass driver are visible.

All drivers are designed and manufactured in-house by Paradigm. The high-frequency driver consists of a PTD™ pure-titanium dome which is ferro-fluid cooled. Both the bass/midrange driver and bass driver are identical, and both are parallel-mounted. They consist of a transparent co-polymer polypropylene cone through which the inside of the cabinet can be seen. Highly flexible synthetic rubber is used for the suspension and a moulded die-cast aluminum chassis houses the speaker.

Monitor 9



The speaker enclosure is made of high-density hardboard. Radial braces are used for stiffness, and acoustical damping material is used to fill the inside of the enclosure. The Quiet™ Enclosure design is a registered trademark of Paradigm. The terminal block, allowing dual wiring and a variety of connections, is found at the back of the cabinet. The quasi-3rd-order resistive port is located at the back of the terminal block and the crossover divides the frequencies between the drivers at 400 and 2,000 Hz.

"These speakers can be integrated as main speakers in a home theatre without requiring the addition of a subwoofer."

LISTENING

After looking at the key technical features for this test report, a location had to be found that would bring out the intrinsic sound qualities of these generously-sized speakers. First of all, the speakers have to be slightly angled toward the listener. Secondly, they are at their best, in my opinion, when positioned close by; about three metres from the listener and 2 to 2.5 metres from each other. In my listening room, the Monitor 9's were located more than 1 metre away from any wall, but of course, best results will depend on placement in your own room.

Once they were installed, I began by listening to cello player Yo Yo Ma's tribute to Astor Piazzolla. Midrange frequencies were well rendered, guitars were good and true, and each of the instruments could be easily located, even though the higher ranges of the sound spectrum were slightly subdued. Blues musician Keb Mo's *Just Like You* CD was a feast for the ears. With the volume turned up high, the full depth of bass and low-pitched sounds that the Monitor 9's are capable of could be truly appreciated, although, in my opinion, it may have been a trifle overpowering. Lower frequencies tended to hum slightly. Rock

music is where the Monitor 9's showed their strongest performance. The late Jeff Buckley's CD, *Sketches for My Sweetheart the Drunk*, allowed me to enjoy the overall richness of tone of this recording. The guitar and Jeff's voice were heart rending, something that can be enjoyed over and over again. The percussion instruments and electric bass were deep and true, cymbals – clear and precise. These same sound qualities came out with different rock CDs, bestowing a "youthful" image on the Monitor 9's.

"Midrange frequencies were well rendered ... guitars were good and true ... each of the instruments could be easily situated ... overall richness of tone ... percussion instruments and the electric bass were deep and true ... cymbals – clear and precise."

TO SUM UP

With Monitor 9, Paradigm has succeeded in creating a dependable and robust loudspeaker which cannot fail to please a young audience. The speakers respond particularly well to rock music recordings, without being overly restrictive on other types of music. These speakers can be integrated as main speakers in a home theatre without requiring the addition of a subwoofer.

In this price range, competition is fierce! Several Canadian products are competing with international ones, each attempting to corner the market. As a result, prices are very competitive. Since the reputation and dependability of Paradigm's speakers is well established, I would recommend a comparative listening session at your dealer's location.

DISCS PLAYED:

- *Soul of the Tango*, Yo Yo Ma, Sony Classical CSK 63122
- *Just Like You*, Keb Mo, Okeh/Epic EK 67316
- *Café Blue*, Patricia Barber, Premonition Records PREM-737-2
- *The Joshua Tree*, U2, Island CCID 1127
- *Sketches for my Sweetheart the Drunk*, Jeff Buckley, Columbia C2K 67228