

“...verve and vigour...

excellent imaging and detail...clearly

A CLASS ACT...”

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“If a clear, well-defined and tonally satisfying centre channel speaker at a value-added price is what you’re looking for, the Paradigm CC-170 will provide just that ... and more.”

by Deon Schoeman

A MATTER OF FOCUS

It’s been a good three years since I first came across the Paradigm brand, then relatively unknown in South Africa, and was favourably impressed by the mix of value and performance speakers from this brand were able to provide.

If anything, the Paradigms keep on getting better, and the CC-170 centre channel is no exception. A member of Paradigm’s so-called Performance Series family, it is aimed at value-conscious buyers not prepared to compromise on actual sonic standards.

Sounds like a tall order, doesn’t it: but Paradigm’s designers appear to revel in such challenges, and the CC-170 proves that they can successfully overcome them, too. This compact centre channel speaker measures 17 x 56 x 20 cm (HxWxD) and employs a three-driver, two-way configuration.



CC-170

Mid/bass duties are the preserve of a pair of 140 mm polypropylene-coned units with die-cast chassis, which flank the centre-mounted 19 mm ceramic/metal composite dome tweeter. A second-order electro-acoustic crossover redirects the signal to the tweeter at 2.5 kHz.

Claimed frequency response is 70 Hz to 20 kHz, although in reality, the Paradigm reaches down as low as 50-odd Hz. Sensitivity is quoted at an easy-to-drive 90 dB, while the nominal impedance comes to some 8 ohms. Thus, even modest amplifiers will be able to drive this unit, while maximum power input comes to 80 watts.

The design and the finish of the CC-170 is pleasing, if not spectacular, which is in line with the marque’s focus on performance. And like most loudspeakers, ample power pays dividends as far as control and overall composure are concerned.

“Timbre and texture rendition were impressive, contributing to high levels of surround sound realism. And yes, this centre channel is accommodating, too, and will happily be linked to other speakers ...”

It certainly delivers the home theatre goods, despite its compact dimensions. Vocals, which form a key part of the CC-170's duties, sounded natural enough, and were projected with confidence. Not only that, but the Paradigm was able to successfully contribute to excellent imaging and detail, without obviously declaring its physical presence.

Timbre and texture rendition were impressive, contributing to high levels of surround sound realism. And yes, this centre channel is accommodating, too, and will happily be linked to other speakers, thanks to a friendly delivery that seems to easily match most ancillary speakers.

If a clear, well-defined and tonally satisfying centre channel speaker at a value-added price is what you're looking for, the Paradigm CC-170 will provide just that ... and more.

P E A K S

VERDICT

Clearly a class act, this centre channel speaker delivers dialogue with verve and vigour. Tonally friendly, it should dovetail with most systems, but matching it to Paradigm's own Performance series will probably up results even more.