

“A REAL WINNER”

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*“... an outstanding value ... Their full bass response, open midrange and detailed high frequency response are an impressive accomplishment for the price.”*

by Gary Altunian

I may be slightly biased, but my first reaction when listening to the Paradigm Titan Monitor Series speakers was that Paradigm has produced another winner. I say slightly biased because I own Paradigm Reference Studio 100 tower speakers as one of my reference speaker systems. I'll remain objective, however, there is a lot to appreciate about the sound qualities of the Titan Monitors.

**FEATURES AND DESIGN**

Paradigm is well known for the extensive research and development that goes into its speakers. They offer a wide range of floorstanding, bookshelf, in-wall, on-wall, in-ceiling and even speakers designed for use in a marine environment. The Monitor Series speakers are aimed at the budget-minded audiophile market — music lovers that want accurate sounding speakers but don't have an unlimited budget.

*“... quick transient response and sharp attack with excellent midrange definition ...”*

The Titan Monitor is a two-way bass reflex speaker with a 7-1/2-inch bass-midrange driver and a 1-inch dome tweeter. The bass-mid driver uses Paradigm's Glass-Reinforced Injection Molded Polymer frame (GRIP™) for rigidity and the cone is a polymer-based material with low-mass characteristics for quick transient response. It incorporates a phase plug to align mid-range signals in a phase-coherent wave and reduce distortion.

The H-PTD™ titanium dome tweeter provides a combination of rigidity and low

mass and is ferro-fluid cooled. The Titan Monitors are relatively efficient at 93 dB so a receiver with 50 watts per channel or more is enough power. They are available with optional magnetic shielding for placement close to a conventional television.

The Titan Monitors are offered in Rosenut, Black Ash, Cherry and Wengé finishes. My review samples were Wengé, a rich, dark brown color that seems to be growing in popularity. It's an attractive color that appears almost black before a closer look.

The only feature I thought the Titans lacked was bi-wire or bi-amp capability, but their sound quality easily compensated despite the absence of this feature. My review samples included the Paradigm S-22 speaker stands.

**PERFORMANCE**

For this review, the Anthem Integrated 225 stereo amplifier powered the Titan Monitors with 225 watts per channel, which is more than enough amplifier power for the Titans. The source was a Yamaha CD-1060 player.



The Titan Monitors have several distinguishing characteristics including a solid, warm bass foundation, very clear and focused center imaging and a strong midrange presence with good resolution of detail.

*"... bass produced by the Titans has a full and warm sound quality with plenty of low-end ... very clear and focused center imaging ... strong midrange presence with good resolution of detail."*

The bass produced by the Titans has a full and warm sound quality with plenty of low-end for a two-channel system. A subwoofer may be a good idea if the Titans are used in a home theater system, but the bass is just right for two-channel listening. My carefully preserved vinyl recording of "Home" by Honk, a rock group from the 70s had the same natural, balanced bass that music lovers enjoy

about listening to long-play records. I previously converted this LP recording to CD using my AT-LP2D-USB turntable.

Steely Dan uses lots of percussion instruments in their recordings and the vibes in "Negative Girl" from the *Two Against Nature* CD, (a more recent recording), revealed quick transient response and sharp attack with excellent midrange definition. "Jack of Speed", from the same album had great detail.

Center imaging was tight and very focused in "Max-O-Man", the lead cut from the *Best of Fourplay* album.

*"... easy on the ears ... very well balanced ... a real pleasure to listen to for long periods of time."*

The Paradigm Titan Monitors were easy on the ears and overall were very well balanced

— a real pleasure to listen to for long periods of time.

*"... based on my listening it's clear that Paradigm has designed a real winner with the Titan Monitor bookshelf speakers."*

#### CONCLUSION

The Paradigm Titan Monitors have many of the sound characteristics I appreciate in my Paradigm Reference Studio 100 monitors, even though the Studio 100s are floorstanding towers and far more expensive than the Titans. This makes the Titan Monitors an outstanding value. Their full bass response, open midrange and detailed high frequency response are an impressive accomplishment for the price. I pledged to remain objective and I have, but based on my listening it's clear that Paradigm has designed a real winner with the Titan Monitor bookshelf speakers.