

“ ... neutral ... natural ...

**AUTHENTIC ...** ”

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**The New Titan**  
*(Improved over version reviewed for even better sound.)*



**T**he smallest speaker in Paradigm’s Performance Series is the Micro, followed by the Atom and then the Titan, the subject of this review. The Micro features a 115-mm treated composite bass/midrange driver; replaced in the larger units by a polypropylene driver. In the Titan this driver is 165 mm—a decent size—generating expectations that the Titan will perform well in the lower frequencies.

Most of Paradigm’s component parts are designed and manufactured in-house by this Canadian company, an abrupt departure from common practice, and one that allows the company to maintain strict control over quality and costs. It appears to be common practice within the industry to use a subcontracting procedure whereby drivers, component parts, etc., are manufactured using outside sources. This is usually considered a cheaper (albeit less flexible and adaptable) method of speaker manufacturing.

Titans are bass-reflex in style, vent in the rear, and come with one set of binding posts. They can be positioned on a bookshelf or on stands. For optimal performance they should be placed a minimum of 20 cm away from any wall.

**SOUND**

The difference in price between the Micro, Atom and Titan is minimal. However, from the first listen we were certain that the Titans are one of the best investments you could make on a modest budget. Certainly, you could buy, or do other things with your money. However, a sensible purchase like the Titans will bring you lasting pleasure, and we guarantee you will be more than satisfied with their sound. However, to say only that we were *satisfied* with their sound would be to sell these Titans short.

It's fair to say that, in fact, the Titans have few rivals. They are all about what audiophiles want—authentic, neutral, natural sound—not loudspeaker hype and fantasy.

Initially, it was the Titan's bass that caught our attention. It was deep and mighty bass, not at all intimidated by the demands of techno music or powerful operatic overtures. We're not suggesting the Titan's were perfect. At times we thought they were a little slow; but a word of criticism is out of place in this review. The Titan's dynamics were of a quality worthy of floorstanding speakers. Reproduction of stereo music was very, very good. And overall clarity? Far better than you'd expect at this price. However, having said all that, if we expect absolutely everything from the remarkable Titans, where will that leave the more expensive speakers?

#### **CONCLUSION**

In the group of speakers we reviewed the Titans reinforce Canada's track record of producing very good speakers.