

66 ... neutral and authentic

...limitless scope...

A FLAWLESS PERFORMANCE."

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... The entire soundstage remained neutral and authentic. ... Bass was deep and plentiful with seemingly limitless scope."

While there are a number of speaker manufacturers with a lengthier history in business than Paradigm, this Canadian company has been making exceptionally good speakers over the past twenty years.

CONSTRUCTION

The review set we assembled consisted of a pair of Studio/40s, two Studio/ADPs and the center-channel Studio/CC. The PS-1200 completed the review set, although this subwoofer doesn't belong to the Studio Series (the PS-1200 was reviewed by *Hi-Fi & Music*, September, 1998).

All of the speakers were manufactured with high precision. With or without the grilles on they were aesthetically pleasing and we felt the Rosenut represented the utmost in good taste. Simply belonging to the Paradigm® Reference series implied

these speakers were a step up in quality. All cabinets were made from medium density fibreboard (MDF).

In the 2-1/2-way Studio/40s, three different drivers were used—a 25-mm high-frequency driver with an aluminum dome; a 165-mm bass/ midrange driver with a mica-polymer cone and high-pressure, die-cast aluminum basket; and a 165-mm filled polypropylene cone with a 38-mm voice coil. The Studio/40s are a bass-reflex style with one port that vents through the rear. The same drivers are also found in the Studio/ADP 2-way surround speaker.

The Studio/CC's high-frequency driver utilizes a 25-mm aluminum dome and two 165-mm bass/midrange drivers. The Studio/CC comes magnetically



shielded. For an additional cost, the Studio/40 is also available with MagneShield™. The CC has a slightly angled front panel to make positioning the speaker under a video screen or television easier. If you want to place the Studio/CC on top of the TV, angled toward the listener, we suggest placing a thick layer of rubber or cork underneath it to prevent it slipping or sliding out of place.

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The cabinet of the PS-1200 is 2-cm thick hardboard finished in a black ash veneer. The subwoofer has two enclosures, one closed, the other open. A 310-mm carbon-fibre-reinforced composite cone is mounted to the chassis. Three round ports vent at the rear of the subwoofer. You will also find the amplifier panel with a range of control facilities—auto-on/off, phase alignment, cut-off frequency, level control and line-level input/output, speaker-level input/output and RCA and spring clamps on the rear wall. On the front wall, beside the company logo, there is a small operating light.



LISTENING IMPRESSIONS

The PS-1200 handled every bass impulse instantaneously. Its treatment of the lowest frequencies recorded on DVDs or CDs must be the envy of most subwoofer manufacturers, and not just those in the PS-1200's price range but far more expensive ones too! Bass was deep and plentiful with seemingly limitless scope. One might suggest that, at times, it was even too much. Prior to events we knew would give rise to cataclysmic sound effects, we often found it necessary to lunge for the volume control to bridle the inestimable energy of this Canadian subwoofer.



STUDIO/ADP

The remaining speakers in the set also had no problems emitting bass. In fact, when the Studio/40s were playing in 2-channel stereo music configuration they gave off such high pressure levels that my review audience actually demanded proof that the subwoofer was turned off. The entire soundstage remained neutral and authentic. Thanks in large part to the Studio/40s, my ears were treated to all of the fine musical detail and subtle nuances of the original recordings. The center channel did its job well, never overpowering the musical soundstage and reproducing movie dialogue with the utmost accuracy.

The only drawback I noticed during my weeks of testing this system was that my listening space was actually too small for these speakers. During 2-channel music listening, as well as when watching videos and DVDs, the speakers gave a flawless performance.

CONCLUSION

I recommend this Paradigm Studio set with a clear conscience. Depending upon your budget, you might want to begin by purchasing the Studio/40s. In all honesty, you probably shouldn't overlook making the PS-1200 part of your initial purchase either. Purchase these two as the basics and add to your system as time goes on.

