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BEST ALL

AROUND SOUNDING

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by Gene DellaSala

Studio/60

Paradigm is a Canadian based loudspeaker company whose primary focus is on performance, no nonsense build quality and value. Enter the Studio series of loudspeakers. These are part of the Paradigm® Reference product line spanning bookshelf types to large and heavy floorstanding giants. The Studio/60 is 37-1/2" H x 8-1/4" W x 15-3/8" D weighing a hefty 88 lbs each!! The Studio/60 is the middle of the line-up in this series and is basically a smaller version of the Studio/80 with respect to driver topology but utilizes 6" drivers as opposed to 8" ones found in the Studio/80. This is the newest version of these speakers as Paradigm has been refitting from their original highly successful Studio series loudspeakers. This version offers better cabinetry, extra internal bracing from baffles, more finishes, and improved crossovers. However, the drivers remain unchanged from the original series.

Upon setting up the Studio/60s in the listening room, I was immediately taken aback by their girth and apparent excellent build quality. Lifting them was a chore. When I positioned them for optimal placement, it became obvious to me by their weight that their build quality befitted their impressive looks. These speakers are by far the best-built, most aesthetically pleasing towers out of all the ones reviewed here! My jaw dropped in amazement at the attention that Paradigm has bestowed upon a budgeted speaker system such as this one to make them look and feel so solid. I have seen speakers at more than double the price with nowhere near the comparable build quality of these beauties.



Aside from excellent build quality, a speaker's most important attribute is sound quality. After all, you're not buying speakers to act solely as nice furniture to fit your room's decor. For in such a contest, you would stand at a dis-advantage. One would argue that it is more logical to attempt to buy a piece of furniture that also happens to sound excellent.

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The Studio/60 speaker system has a very pleasant sound overall. They do not sound boomy or hollow as the original Studio 60s tended to do. I believe the extra bracing in the cabinets, and/or change of crossover points really helped in this regard. The tonal balance of these speakers is excellent, perhaps the best out of all the speakers in this review. I found the midrange to be clean, detailed, but not too forward sounding. The highs were also clean and detailed without sounding sibilant. The weakest point of these speakers is that they are a little bass shy. ... I was expecting better bass performance with deeper extension considering the excellent build and size of the cabinets as well as the high quality of the drivers utilized. However, I believe Paradigm may have been focusing on creating a more tonally neutral speaker with this version. The Studio/60 is the most expensive, heaviest and best all around sounding speaker in this review.

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