

“STELLAR

PERFORMERS”

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**Tone**

*“A well-priced speaker, the Monitor 9 offers tremendous bass power, a sense of space and midband resolution ... good honest loudspeakers.”*

by Michael Jones

**T**here's a commercial on TV that talks about good honest chocolate. Whenever I think of Paradigm speakers the thought that comes to mind is “good honest loudspeakers.”

Based in Canada, Paradigm makes several ranges of speakers, including some very interesting active (or powered) loudspeakers. The model here is part of the Monitor range, Paradigm's *Real World* range of speakers, of which the Monitor 9 is the biggest.

#### THREE THE HARD WAY

A substantial loudspeaker, the Monitor 9 stands 940 mm high, 240 mm wide and 370 mm deep. Most of the front baffle is finished in a light grey. Fortunately (for me at least, as I don't like the grey) the grilles cover all of the grey on the front, leaving some veneer at the bottom.

The Monitor 9 is a two-way, three-driver loudspeaker. Covering the tops is a 25 mm pure titanium dome tweeter. This crosses over at 2 kHz to two 210 mm (that's eight inches to the unmetri-cated) woofers. These semi-transparent woofers are made from injection-moulded polypropylene.

#### MAKING SPACE

The speaker is a bass reflex design, with a front port. Being relatively sensitive at 90 dB for one watt, the Monitor 9s should go loud when asked. As with most of the speakers reviewed here, the Paradigms like a bit of space around them. Don't place them



**The New Monitor 9 v.2**

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

*“... lovely midband ...  
sparkling treble ...  
resolution of instruments –  
very good.”*

hard against a wall or in a corner or they'll boom away all day. In use, the Paradigms were stellar performers. They had a lovely midband and a sparkling treble, with resolution of instruments being very good. There was one Dire Straits piece I played that started with Mark Knopfler playing acoustic guitar – it sounded beautiful.

*“Listeners commented on the space the Paradigms produced. With two eight-inch woofers in a decent-sized box, you'd expect some serious bass – and that's what you get.”*

Portrayal of recorded ambience (either real, or reverb-added in the recording studio) was very well depicted. Listeners commented on the space the Paradigms produced. With two eight-inch woofers in a decent-sized box, you'd expect some serious bass – and that's what you get. In my room the bass was overcooked and could sometimes overwhelm the rest of the music, but your mileage will vary.

I think that the Monitor 9s need a large room to 'breathe' properly, so take care if you want to use them in a small room. But bass power came across well from the Paradigms, helping with a tremendous sense of scale.

A well-priced speaker, the Paradigm Monitor 9 offers tremendous bass power, a sense of space and midband resolution.

#### tone verdict

Sound	★★★★
Build	★★★★★
Finish	★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Overall	★★★★★