Mackie HR824 **mk2** £899

A decade later: Are these mk2 monitors here to stay? Marco Migliari puts them on the stands to find out

WHAT IS IT?

Active monitor speakers

CONTACT

Who: Mackie UK Tel: +44 (0)1494 557398 Web: mackie.com

HIGHLIGHTS

1 Improved new look 2 Slightly bigger cabinet with rounded corners for better frequency response 3 THX pm3 approved

SPECS

۲

Cabinet: MDF with internal bracing, filled with opencell adiabatic foam material. High-gloss pianoblack finish

IF driver 8 75inch diecast magnesium frame. fully shielded

LF driver sensitivity: 91dB SPL

HF driver: 1-inch titanium with polymer suspension HF driver sensitivity: 91dB SPL

Frequency response: 37Hz-20KHz ±1.5dB, -3dB @ 35Hz and 22KHz

LF Amplifier Power: 150 watts continuous, at 1KHz with 1% THD

HF Amplifier Power: 100 watts continuous, at 1KHz with 1% THD

Maximum SPL at one meter: 100dB

Analog inputs: XLR balanced (20kohm) / quarter inch TRS balanced (20kohm) / RCA unbalanced (10kohm)

Input Protection: RFI and Level

Maximum Input Level: +20dBu

Input Sensitivity: -7.5dBu into balanced input outputs 100dB SPL at 1 meter Dimensions 273 x 351 x 425mm

Weight: 17.7kg each

he original Mackie HR824 monitors were announced in 1997 and quickly found a space on the meterbridge of

many studio consoles for their robust design, solid sound and reasonable price. Ten years later. Mackie has decided to release a mark 2 model. which bears similar specs to its predecessor, but was designed in collaboration with EAW.

The first striking difference out of the box is the curvier cabinet and its glossy finish - the angular edges are gone, it's heavier and its dimensions are all slightly increased. A clever restyling has brought up to date the look while retaining the blueprint of the original 824, and more importantly it has improved the acoustics by reducing edge diffraction. Still handily on the front panel, a new round power switch replaces the original rocker. A plastic ring around the button lights up in a clean white colour, only to turn red when the electronic limiter kicks in.

Apart from the Mackie logo, nothing else clutters the front panel.

Power drive

۲

The new LF driver is slightly larger (8.75inch instead of 8inch), but it's such a perfect match to the bigger cabinet that one might think that the 824 mk2 features the same drivers, for proportions are unchanged. A large wave guide, similar in size and shape to that of the 824, surrounds the 1-inch HF driver.

A new passive woofer is rearmounted, concealed behind the power amplifier assembly, with increased dimensions and improved specs.

On the rear panel, a recessed slot under the protruding amp module accommodates the 3 inputs provided (XLR, TRS and RCA, all paralleled

together) and an IEC socket. This allows for against-the-wall placement, as all cabling falls vertically down, and no connector can extend beyond the profile of the speaker. FutureMusic Platinum Award 0

۲

Controls on the rear panel are unchanged: an input sensitivity, an acoustic space choice between A (-4dB, for corner placement), B (-2dB, for against-the-wall placement) and C (normal or freestanding) which dims the low frequency output to match your listening environment. There's also an additional low frequency filter for bass management use, with choices between 80Hz (THX standard), 47Hz (any other subwoofer) and 37Hz or normal. The high frequency filter has settings of -2dB, OdB and +2dB, and finally the power mode switch which flicks between standby, on and auto on (incoming signal triggers the amp on and long silence will switch it off).

In use

I had the HR824 mk2 on two recording sessions, in different studios, competing against my fave KRK V6 mk2. I'm familiar with the classic 824s, and I was impressed by the deeper and smoother bottom end response of this new pair. The HF driver is very accurate, never overpowering nor sizzly. The original 824s had a tendency to sound overly comfortable - when listening enjoyment overcomes attention to details. The 824 mk2 are no exception, with perhaps the difference that the further-enhanced bottom end is even more removed from the silky top, leaving the mid-range area dangerously bare - as I discovered when tracking electric guitars. A quick safety check on my KRKs - notoriously proud in that area - convinced me that I didn't need to worry. The amps are rated at 250W together, which means that when you need them loud you might see the limiter flash the red light every now and again. The HR824 mk2 are good, solid working monitors, and definitely deliver an improved package over their acclaimed predecessor. FM

۲

FutureMusic	VERI	DICT		
BUILD				
VALUE				
EASE OF USE				
VERSAT	ILITY			
RESULT	2			
	Ĭ.			
Ξ				

Another Mackie workhorse, well designed, solidly built and only a mild tendency to sound too hi-fi.

