

KRK Rokit RP5 G2 | £270

KRK re-introduce their popular Rokit range with a Generation 2 re-design. **Robbie Stamp** puts these budget classics to the test

WHAT IS IT?

Active small studio nearfield monitors

CONTACT

Who: Focusrite Distribution
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HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Full and punchy low end
- 2 Fast and detailed transient response
- 3 Excellent stereo imaging

SPECS

Frequency Response:

52Hz to 20kHz +/- 2dB

Inputs: XLR and TRS ¼" jack (balanced), RCA (unbalanced)

Power connector: Standard IEC

Input Impedance: 10kohm balanced/unbalanced

Power Rating (HF/LF): 15W/30W

Signal to Noise (HF/LF): 82dB/90dB

T.H.D. (HF/LF): 0.05%/0.02%

Crossover Frequency: 3kHz

Subsonic Filter: 45Hz

HF driver: 1" Neodymium soft dome

LF driver: 5" Aramid Glass Fibre

Volume adjust range: -30dB to +6dB

HF Level Adjust: 4-step shelving over 2kHz (-2dB, -1dB, 0dB, +1dB)

Dimensions:

185 x 230 x 282mm

Weight:

6.1 Kg each

KRK aren't prepared to sit back on the success of their low price Rokit range and have opted to up the ante

with the new Generation 2 models. On trial here is the baby of the Rokit range, the RP5 G2 with its 5" woofer and 1" tweeter.

Baffled

The stated improvements include cabinet voicing and driver performance, but the most obvious change is the curved front baffle design. The new design has been shaped to reduce diffraction effects (phase-related frequency shifts that narrow the effective listening area and create 'smearing') caused by sharp cabinet edges. By curving the front baffle the frequency response of the monitor is kept more even across a wider range of angles, thus improving stereo imaging and off-axis listening positions.

KRK have also improved the waveguide design around the tweeter which allows better high-frequency voicing over wider angles. What has been kept is the front firing bass port and the KRK emblem.

At the rear the impressive input array has been retained: balanced XLR and TRS, unbalanced RCA. There is also a volume knob for overall level adjustment and a four position HF level adjustment knob which allows +1dB to -2dB shelving from 2kHz. A nice touch is the rubberised footing on the bottom of the enclosure to reduce low-frequency coupling. Though more isolation could be gained with a set of speaker spikes, I found a good degree of coupling via the rubber foot pleasing at the low end.

Detailed

Though the specs state a range down to 52Hz, there is sufficient articulation down to the subsonic filter cutoff of

45Hz. There is a slight lift around 60Hz which is probably due to the cutoff 'knee' of the subsonic filter, but it doesn't affect the overall low-end evenness. The generous excursion limit of the woofer allows for high SPLs at low frequencies which other monitors can gracefully square off.

A full low end can often come at the cost of poor low mid-frequency performance, but the RP5s still deliver a tight and well articulated sound without obvious dips and peaks across this important 'body' range. There is a slight scoop around 1-3kHz, but this may only be in comparison with my other monitors, and frankly I found it preferable for long listening periods.

The high-frequency range is well detailed and un-hyped, belying a fast transient performance from the neodymium tweeter drivers. It is in this range that the curved front baffle and improved tweeter waveguide design makes a difference as the stereo imaging and off-axis high-frequency propagation is in a class well above the Rokit's price range. Though there is no stated maximum SPL figure in the manual but these monitors can crank up very loud without distorting.

Flattered

I would describe these Generation 2 RP5s as flattering, easy to work with, detailed and punchy beyond their price (I recently experienced some expensive 'name' nearfield monitors that sounded horribly dull – these Rokits would have been far better). My current (temporary) monitoring space is large and reverberant and yet these small monitors still delivered a full and detailed soundstage with accurate stereo imaging in a way that surprised. Anyone looking for a quality small nearfield monitor for a project studio would do well to consider these updated Rokits over products costing two or three times as much. **FM**



FutureMusic VERDICT

BUILD



VALUE



EASE OF USE



VERSATILITY



RESULTS



A small room/project studio oriented monitor that performs well above its price and size