

Genelec M Series Monitors | from £389

Genelec's new range of monitors is aimed squarely at music makers. *Jon Musgrave* powers up the M Series

WHAT IS IT?

New active nearfields from Finland's finest

CONTACT

Who: Source Distribution
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HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Big sound, small boxes
- 2 Bass tweaking options
- 3 Flexible bass port design

PRICING

Genelec M030
£389 each
Genelec M040
£579 each

Genelec are about as close as you get to a market leading monitor manufacturer. They make everything from small

compact desktop speakers to enormous main monitoring systems. Their products are typically active designs and have a reputation for delivering smooth detailed high frequencies alongside a clear mid range and balanced low end.

Up for review I have the M030 and M040. These form a new line from Genelec, currently just the two models, aimed directly at the music making market. This

is in contrast to their pro monitors such as the 8000 series, which are aimed at post production and broadcast as well as music production.

In the box

The M030 and M040 have 5-inch and 6.5-inch bass drivers respectively, so for me the M030 is a compact nearfield and the M040 a more typically-sized nearfield. With retail prices of £778 and £1,158 per pair they are almost half the list price of the comparable 8000 series monitors (8030 BPM and 8040

BPM), but in general terms they are by no means cheap.

Designed from the ground up, the M Series include their new Natural Composite Enclosure, new onboard class D amps and their new low turbulence bass reflex port (see right for detail and comparison with the 8000 Series). There's also Intelligent Signal Sensing (ISS). This power saving feature switches the monitor to standby if it receives no signal for half an hour. When it next gets a signal there's a short delay as they power up (about a second) and a tiny click.

Connectivity round the back is via a combination balanced jack/XLR or phono, and here you'll also find the main AC power input and switch. There are four toggle switches for Output Level (0dB, -10dB and -20dB), Bass Level, Bass EQ and Tabletop EQ. Each of the EQ options tackles slightly different aspects of the low frequency behaviour, with the Bass Level providing three settings (0dB, -2dB and -4dB) to tilt the response very gently from the mid range near the crossover point



Sounds good

Feeding them from a standard monitor controller, I found I needed to engage either the -10dB or -20dB level control otherwise they were way too loud. Next up, the EQ. The most important setting is the Bass Level. This gives you instant control for your particular set-up and they've wisely told you what to do, with -2dB for close to a wall and -4dB for corners.

Although the M Series have the familiar Genelec curved shape, look a bit closer and you'll see they are in many ways a very different beast to the 8000 series.

Next, the amps are class D and their own new in-house design. These low distortion amplifiers are more efficient and produce less heat, so the incorporated conductive 'heat sink' design of the 8000 is not needed.

So, is there anything missing? Firstly you

Even so, the monitors are still magnetically shielded and hand-made and tested in Finland.

Verdict

Although the shape of this setting is very gentle, sloping from the mid range downwards, the impact on the sound is considerable, and even in situations where the monitor is away from the wall, tweaking this control should be your opening move.

In my room I have my monitors about half a metre from the wall, and although I could work with either pair set flat, for the MO40s in particular, the -2dB Bass Level gave me a more manageable bass balance. Moving them closer to the wall made the bass buildup more marked, and although I tried the Bass EQ setting, this felt too much, unless I was monitoring at very loud levels.

The Tabletop EQ is also quite interesting to say the least. This basically scoops the low mids, and to my ears sounds the most artificial of the EQ options. Obviously it's designed for less than perfect situations, but if your monitors are at tabletop level, you might be better off raising the monitors up on

to something solid. Again, monitoring level can influence things, so if you like listening loud, it may come in handy.

As noted, both monitors deliver plenty of level, and much like other compact Genelecs, the M030s impress with their ability to deliver sound way beyond their scale. The M040s are more predictable in their sound, but overall it's bigger and more expansive.

With the bass sorted, my attention turned to the mid range and high frequencies. Both monitors have the top end gloss I expect from a Genelec, and although this is good, personally I would like to see a gentle trim option available. This would be particularly helpful to avoid ear strain when monitoring at medium to loud levels.

As far as the mid range is concerned, although both monitors have plenty of detail, I preferred the smaller MO30s, where I felt things were just a little more precise. Either way, both monitors still have good horizontal directivity in the mid range.

poor man's Gennies. But these are no poor man's anything. Yes, they are in some respects less flexible than the 8000s, but the M Series are better suited to awkward spaces. I would love it if they'd included just one HF tweaker so I could trim down the HF gloss a bit. But aside from that, these are solid monitors that are easy to listen to and will help your mixes translate very well to many other systems. **FM**

A great new design that makes Genelecs more affordable without compromising the sound.

M030

Size-

M040

Size-

229 x 235 x 337mm

Weight.

7.4kg

KRK VXT Series

From £479 each

KRK's VXT range are very accomplished performers, albeit with fewer LF options than the M Series.

www.krksys.com



Genelec 80 Series

From £695 each

If you have the budget the 8000s are a tried and tested design and found in studios all over the world

www.genelec.com



Adam AX Series

From £599 per pair

Any monitor hunt should include a set of Adams, and the AX series offer great value and sound fantastic.

www.adam-audio.com