

Test: ADAM Audio D3V

Adam Audio D3V are very compact speakers for the desktop studio or mobile sessions, but also do a good job as a second monitor in a large studio. Because, as a little spoiler, the speakers sound significantly larger than they are.

by Jan Wilking

Features

Active desktop monitor
3.5" Aluminum midwoofer
1.5" D-ART ribbon tweeter
double-sided passive radiator
max. SPL: 96 dB
48 - 22,600 Hz
USB-C plug & play
integrated AD converter
DSP-based room adjustment

Facts

Manufacturer: Adam Audio
Web: adam-audio.com
Distribution: Retailer
Price: 329 Euro

- ▲ Balanced sound image
- ▲ Very good spatiality
- ▲ Powerful bass
- ▲ Detailed, unobtrusive highs
- ▲ Pleasant mids
- ▲ Very compact
- ▲ Angled stand
- ▲ DSP-based room adjustment
- ▲ Integrated AD converter
- ▲ USB-C connection
- ▲ Headphone output

Sound: ██████████
Workmanship: ██████████
Price/Perf: ██████████
Total: ██████████

Alternatives

IK Multimedia iLoud Micro Monitor
289 Euro
ikmultimedia.com

Eve Audio SC203
555 Euro
eve-audio.com



The box pair is also available in modern white.

jack sockets. Alternatively, a digital connection is also possible, as the speaker has an integrated AD converter at 24 bit and up to 48 kHz. You don't necessarily need a sound card, but can connect the speakers directly with just one USB cable via the USB-C input to

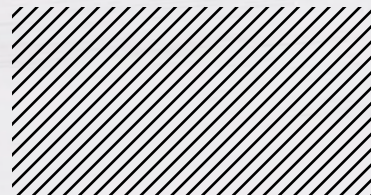
the sound from your DAW or media player. This is especially practical for minimalist setups based only on a laptop or as a second workstation, as it saves space and cabling. The integrated headphone output, which is separately adjustable in volume using the multifunction knob on the front, is also very practical here.

Effective room adjustment

Since compact speakers like this are often used in acoustically imperfect rooms, the developers have equipped these speakers with a three-stage room adjustment function. You can choose the position (stand, wall, or corner), the size of the desktop, and whether the speakers are free-standing or whether there are objects or other reflective boundaries on the sides or behind them. The playback is then adjusted accordingly, for example, the bass is slightly reduced if bass waves are otherwise expected due to the setup. While it's not as detailed as the integrated room analysis in speakers like the IK Multimedia iLoud, it performed surprisingly well in our desktop test studio.

Impressive Spatial Sound

We were also surprised by the sound. After the simple setup (the system recognized the speakers immediately after connecting the supplied USB cable), we were briefly confused about whether the sound was actually coming from the small speakers on the desktop or if the large mo-



nitor speakers behind them were still on. This was partly due to the surprisingly powerful bass, which is not unpleasantly overemphasized considering the size. But mainly it was due to the width and depth staging. Even though the speakers weren't placed far apart on the desktop, they delivered a perceived much wider sound image that extended beyond the narrow desktop. And the vocals stood beautifully and deeply in the room and didn't stick to the speakers. Such spatial sound is rarely found with compact loudspeakers, especially since we chose an acoustically imperfectly optimized test environment. We also liked the mids. Music focusing on vocals, acoustic instruments, or distorted guitars worked well in the test, as did purely electronic music.

Verdict

These compact speakers impress across the board. They sound significantly larger than they are, with powerful bass, pleasantly "warm" mids, unstrained highs, and, above all, an unusually well-achieved spatial representation. They are, therefore, suitable for almost all music styles. The free choice between analog and digital connections extends the range of applications, and the DSP-based room adjustment impressed us in our test with convincing results. Whether as space-saving monitoring in a small desktop studio, for mobile sessions and jams, or as a second monitor, the D3V are a real recommendation. 🟡

