



1 Pioneer RM-07
£569 each

2 Fluid Audio FPX7
£374 each

3 Genelec 8340A
£2,198

Active 7" Monitors

In the world of monitors, woofer size is the defining factor and 7-inch is 'medium'. This collection of active/powered two-way systems ranges from £500 a pair to over £2k, with a few different topologies to size up for your medium room nearfield needs

Dynaudio LYD 7
£950

4

Presonus Eris E66
£269 each

5

1 The main benefit of coaxial designs is off axis response, and horizontally these hold up with the RM-07, but vertically (when standing up!) they didn't fare so well. The frequency range is full, but marred by an overcooked 10kHz area and a lack of airiness. The three-band EQ helps adapt the response and a cut in the mid seemed to mitigate some of the phasiness I found there. The front bass reflex port is a bit 'chuffy' when driven and overall they lacked power for a mid-sized room.

pioneerproaudio.com

VERDICT 7.0

2 The FPX7s may be the cheaper of the two coaxial designs but they bring ribbon tweeters to the table. This pays dividends in stereo imaging and off axis response, both of which are excellent. There's some air I'm missing and some over-focus around 10kHz, but otherwise the HF is clear and detailed and the bottom-end is punchy and quite deep. The upper mids (around the crossover point of 3.5kHz) can overwhelm in a dense mix at volume. The Acoustic Space and HF Trim controls settle these into most spaces, though the power may not be enough for a large or heavily absorbent room. A solid pair of monitors.

fluidaudio.co.uk

VERDICT 8.5

3 These are the most expensive of the bunch, and rightly so. The soundstaging is excellent, remaining stable off-axis within expected parameters. The phase coherency and frequency response is smooth and crisp from top to bottom, never ringing on or 'hazing' quieter elements in a mix. The bass is tight and true and there's

plenty of power for pumping out a heavy low-end track without losing dynamic range. The rear panel control set is comprehensive and I found it easy to tailor to my room.

genelec.com

VERDICT 9.5

4 The LYD 7s perform closest to the Genelec 8340s. The focus is on a meaty mid range that doesn't turn harsh, making it easy to mix less forward elements, especially reverb tails, quickly and audibly. Despite being more box-like than other models, they produce a solid stereo image with good off-axis response. There is a slight lack of air in the high HF and a slightly over-forward low sibilant range but the low-end is excellent. The bass extension control may sacrifice ~5dB of power (there's still plenty left), but it's well worth it for low-end mixing without a sub.

dynaudio.com

VERDICT 8.7

5 The E66s take their design cue from the Focal TwinBe, though at a far lower price. In this instance the spaced twin woofer design is problematic with regards stereo soundstaging; while remaining still in the centre it garners a pleasing image, but the phase shift that accompanies movement does the opposite. Despite this, the E66s are tighter and more powerful than I expected, far preferable to the RM-07s. The mids are detailed but rather forward, so mixes with a lot of information in this range can easily mask the lower HF region. The low mids seem a bit peaky, which doesn't clear up with tweaking the three-band EQ trims.

presonus.com

VERDICT 7.5

FM VERDICT



BEST VALUE Fluid Audio FPX7: A confident design, which is well executed and for a good price. The stereo imaging is the standout feature.



BEST QUALITY Genelec 8340A: Hard to fault, from the top-quality audio performance to the comprehensive tailoring controls. An investment worth making.