



**WHAT IS IT?**

Active Studio Monitor

**CONTACT**

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**HIGHLIGHTS**

- 1 Slick design
- 2 Punchy sound
- 3 Compact

# Yamaha MSP7 Studio | £758/pair

With the larger MSP7 Studio, Yamaha's MSP range gets a facelift. *Jon Musgrave* unwraps the bandages

**SPECS**

**Type:** Two-way bi-amped bass reflex monitor (magnetically shielded)  
**Drivers:** 6.5-inch LF, 1-inch HF  
**Amplifiers:** LF: 80W, HF: 50W  
**EQ:** +1.5/0/-1.5dB @ 15kHz, +1.5/0/-1.5/-3dB @ 45Hz  
**Low Cut:** 12dB/octave @ 80Hz and 100Hz  
**Overall freq. response:** 45Hz to 40kHz (-10dB)  
**Crossover:** 2.5kHz  
**Maximum output level:** 106dB (1m on axis)  
**Power consumption:** 100W  
**Dimensions:** 218 x 330 x 235mm  
**Weight:** 12.2kg

**Y**amaha's success with studio monitors is well documented. But try as they might, they're still struggling to move on

from the NS10. The fact that they still change hands for reasonable money second-hand – and the introduction of their own powered HS series – pretty much says it all.

Even so, a few years back they launched the MSP range, and these monitors have gradually repositioned Yamaha as a desirable brand in the active monitor world of today.

As I remember, the MSP10 Studio (almost a mid-field in size) is an excellent-sounding monitor. A few months back they announced a couple of new models (MSP5 Studio and MSP7 Studio) to enhance and update the range.

**Black box**

Although it's the larger of the two models, the MSP7 Studio is still resolutely near-field in scale. In fact, sat next to an NS10 it looks surprisingly compact. The bi-amped design delivers 80 Watts to the 6.5-inch woofer and 50 Watts to the 1-inch titanium tweeter.

As you may have gathered, it's a front-ported reflex design. Input is XLR only, and there's a notched input trim (so lining up a pair should be easy enough). There are also three EQ trim options – HF shelf, LF shelf and low-cut filter.

With the shelving EQs set at 15kHz and 45Hz, both allow for gentle modification, while the low-cut at 80Hz or 100Hz will help integrate the MSPs with a sub-woofer (such as the Yamaha SW10, for example).

**Smooth as silk**

The most immediate thing about the MSPs is how slickly manufactured they are. In part this may be down to the one-piece moulded cabinet, which allows for an integrated tweeter wave-guide. On closer inspection you'll also notice the curved edges on the baffle and the slight incline on the top (so don't put your coffee cup on them). Round the back they've also run to a smooth metal enclosure, which hides the amplification heat sink.

The only slightly odd thing is when you're sitting in front of them you can see some of the amplifier components through the bass ports (not a gripe, just an observation).

**Impressed?**

These are the final monitor designs from the soon-to-retire designer Akira Nakamura (who was also responsible for the NS10M no less), so maybe there's a sense they should have that sonic imprint. But to my ears they're about as far from an NS10M as you can get. The overall sound is very smooth, and I must confess to immediately reaching for the HF setting and adding a 1.5dB boost.

They offer an easy-going delivery, and although I spent some time trying the bass EQ settings, I eventually settled on the flat option. With these settings the result is a modern-sounding reference monitor with plenty of punch, especially given their size. The nearest comparison in terms of design and sound is Genelec's 8000 series, although I suspect in an A/B test the Genelecs would sound more top-heavy.

Given the price, the MSP7 is pushing the upper-end for a mid-priced monitor, and so will be competing with some established models (Genelec, KRK and Dynaudio to name a few). Even so, these are well-put-together monitors that should easily survive in that division. **FM**

**FutureMusic VERDICT**

<b>BUILD</b>	████████████████████
<b>VALUE</b>	██████████████████
<b>EASE OF USE</b>	██████████████████
<b>VERSATILITY</b>	██████████████████
<b>RESULTS</b>	██████████████████

**Packing serious punch for its size, this is a modern-sounding, well-made near-field reference monitor.**