# KRK VXT6 Studio Monitors £678

There's a mid-priced active monitor battle raging out there. Jono Buchanan finds out if it can be won by KRK's heavy-weight VXT's

## WHAT IS IT?

The middle brother of a new active monitor range

# CONTACT

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### HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Punchy sound 2 Distinctive design 3 Built like tanks

Woofer: 6" Woven Keylar Tweeter: 1" Silk Dome Input: XLR – 1/4" TRS Combo, 10k Ohm Balanced

## Amp

HF: 30W LF: 60W

Dimensions 263 x 246 x 368mm

hese are good times for project studio owners looking to add high-quality, active monitoring to their setup. In recent months, we've seen additions and revisions to the mid-price market place in this field, with stiff competition between rival firms equalling more bang for your hard-earned buck.

American firm KRK have been building a reputation for quality and are now set to take on monitor giants such as Genelec and Mackie with their latest near-field active range, the VXTs. These are available in three sizes, with the mid-sized monitor, the VXT6, the subject of this review.

First thing's first, these monitors are heavy. Weighing 27lbs each, they're

certainly capable of inducing lowerback agony, so be careful! Once you've got them in place and wiped the sweat away, you'll notice there isn't a straight edge or right angle anywhere to be seen. The 'bubble' design is certainly striking and will divide opinion personally, I quite like it.

# Yellow belly

All cosmetic considerations pale into insignificance next to how the speakers actually sound, of course. The first thing you'll notice on firing them up is that the mid-range is much more evident here than on other monitors. I wouldn't go so far as to say that the sound is 'clattery' but there's a lot in the mid-band to listen to.

Initially, I found this a surprise but I soon came to enjoy the added attention to detail I could hear as a result. Elsewhere, the bass extension is very impressive. There's plenty of warmth here and the speakers remained consistently rock solid - exactly what you need at the bottom end.

High frequencies were well presented too. Hi-hats fizzed appropriately, while the warmth and air you'll hear on well-captured vocal recordings was apparent. Plenty of serious amateur and project studios require the ability to monitor at lower volumes for much of the day and night and I'm pleased to report that the VXT6's did very well under such circumstances. In case the monitor's default settings don't suit your studio's acoustics, you can modify the top end by +/- 1dB with a shelf above 2kHz.

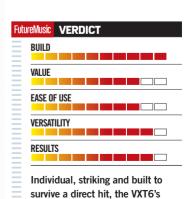
At the bottom end, unnatural bass boost provided by proximity to walls can be countered by changing the 'whole space' toggle switch to 'half' or 'quarter' space settings.

# Sound of silver

The VXT6 is a very good monitor but don't take my word for it, go and check it out. The subtleties that separate one pair of speakers from another can have a huge impact on the way we work and the mixes we create and one man's idea of sonic heaven is another's hell.

What I like about the VXT6's though is that they aren't boringly transparent or 'pure'. Like all monitors, they offer colouration and while the initial impact of the speaker's mid-range is striking. it's something you could well come to like. The monitor performs well at low volumes but rewards those brave enough to crank them up. Get down to your local dealer and set these up against KRK's biggest competitors. The sound may or may not be for you but these speakers more than hold their own in impressive company. FM





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