

PMC's Fact-finding mission

STEREO SPEAKERS
PMC
FACT.8



£ 4600

FOR

Speed, clarity and dynamic ability; clean, unfussy presentation; build and finish

AGAINST

Very little, save that hefty price tag

VERDICT

An experiment from PMC, but a successful one: these are highly desirable in every way

The Pro Monitor Company is known for producing supreme speakers that favour function over form. But now the British manufacturer is out to give you the best of both worlds

PMC HAS CONSISTENTLY delivered speakers that offer an articulate, engaging sound, accurately reflecting the beliefs of its owner, Peter Thomas, that 'the same loudspeaker can be used throughout the audio chain, from composer to studio to consumer'.

For all that, PMC's professional heritage has often produced speakers that are more purposeful than pleasurable to behold. Hence the Fact.8, the first model in what will become a new range aimed at delivering all the company's established acoustic virtues plus a healthy dose of style.

A heady mix of bass extension and speed

Not that PMC has entirely abandoned its old philosophy. Yes, the Fact.8s are slim, at just 15cm across, and they're more luxuriously finished than other PMCs. But they remain big and largely conventional floorstanders, and they still sport PMC's trademark transmission-line design. Running the full length of each cabinet, this 3m long (when unfolded) vented tunnel within the cabinet is aimed at delivering the optimum combination of bass extension and speed – it's a key

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factor in ensuring the Fact.8s provide a bigger, cleaner sound than you might expect.

On the rear, simple switches allow adjustment to the high and low-frequency response. Some audiophiles might sneer at such an accommodating approach to integration, but PMC is confident it has delivered adjustability without harming quality.

These unfussy speakers are clean, accurate and fast. Playing Radiohead's *15 Step*, they capture the rhythms with precision: there's no sense of overhang to bass, while midrange detail is exemplary. Hans Zimmer's *The Dark Knight* is just extraordinary, from the spread and scale of the soundstage to the powerfully resolved drive of the sound. Vocals are rendered with clarity and realism: while the sound is never less than honest, it's not brittle or unduly hard either, despite a leanness to the presentation.

These PMCs are exceptional. Their combination of sonic and aesthetic prowess is hard to resist: if you want better sound, be prepared to spend a lot more, or put up with significantly less style. ★



TYPE Floorstanders
SENSITIVITY 89dB/W/m
IMPEDANCE 8 ohms
FREQUENCY RESPONSE 28Hz-30kHz
MAX POWER HANDLING 300W
BIWIRABLE Yes
DRIVE UNITS 2 x 14cm mid/bass
1 x 19mm ferro-fluid soft-dome with 34mm wide surround
FINISHES 4 (light oak, granite polar, tiger ebony, rich walnut)
DIMENSIONS (HWD) 103 x 15 x 38cm