

Dynaudio Confidence 20A

WINNER **ACTIVE LOUDSPEAKERS**

hether or not you are pro, anti or indifferent to active loudspeakers, there's no denying that their use is becoming a steadily growing trend in today's audio systems. The Dynaudio Confidence 20A, with its XLR connections (whether in analogue balanced form or digital AES3), isn't just a part of that trend, it leads the charge.

Pro actives

The Confidence 20A look very similar to their passive peers, besides their stand housing those connections as well as the clever digital processing electronics and controls designed to shape the sound according to the system, room and position. You can, for example, choose between three settings depending on how damped your listening environment is. Both active and passive siblings share the same 28mm Esotar3 soft-dome tweeter (one of the best in the business) and 180mm NeoTec MSP mid-woofer, although the latter in the 20A is optimised for active use. The DSP engine provides precise filtering that guarantees excellent phase alignment at the transition between those two drivers, and greater crossover accuracy, too.

The Dynaudios prove more than capable of resolving enough to highlight the exceptional performance of Linn's flagship Klimax DSM streamer. They are faithful to the passive version's delivery, too, delivering, notes Alan Sircom, "the tonal accuracy, detail, and soundstaging we associate with Dynaudio loudspeakers, but with a livelier, more energetic presentation than usual and deeper bass than you'd expect from a speaker of this size." Rarely are speakers so ideally suited to their purpose.

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