



Look beyond their functional, homely exterior and the **Spendor SP100R** speakers are beautiful

THINK OF YOUR ideal speaker. If the words modern, stylish or small find themselves forming any part of your description, stop reading now. These Spendors aren't any of those things.

The SP100R are part of Spendor's Classic range and are mildly modified versions of a design going back decades.

Get past the washing machine-like size and lack of cosmetic niceties, if you can, and you will hear one of the most engaging speakers around. There are rivals that go louder, deeper and faster, but few if any can deliver music – any music from Metallica to Madonna to Mahler – in such a fluid, natural and downright insightful manner.

Ugly is only skin deep...

The unglamorous driver combination of 19mm soft-dome tweeter, 16cm polypropylene midrange and chunky 30cm Bextrene bass won't give techies any thrills, but in this speaker they produce a sound of almost magical seamlessness and flowing dynamics.

Given plenty of room to breathe, that big bass driver delivers effortless lows, giving huge scale with dramatic works such as Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*. The tonal balance is refined, while delivering a decent dose of bite, and stereo imaging is pleasingly expansive if not quite the last word in focus.

There are some great speakers at this price level, but it's hard to think of any that deliver such a beguilingly balanced performance. If you want simply to sit back and enjoy your music, whatever genre, there are few better speakers through which to do it.

LOUDSPEAKERS
SPENDOR SP100R
★★★★★
£ 5000

FOR

A wonderfully engaging sound with plenty of scale; tonal refinement; great midrange; easy to drive and partner

AGAINST

They're big, need lots of space and are hardly beautiful

VERDICT

The SP100Rs remain some of the most charming speakers money can buy



TYPE Standmounter
SENSITIVITY 90dB/W/m
IMPEDANCE 8 ohms
FREQUENCY RESPONSE 45Hz-20kHz (3dB limits)
POWER HANDLING 125 watts
BIWIRE Yes
DIMENSIONS (h x w x d) 70 x 37 x 43cm
WEIGHT 36kg each
FINISH Rosenut, cherry, black