hi-fi+ EDITOR'S CHOICE AWARDS 2024



Dynaudio Special Forty

LOUDSPEAKER STAND-MOUNT LOUDSPEAKER

he tradition of making anniversary products to celebrate company milestones is a well established one and Dynaudio has a very solid track record at it. For the big 40, they set about creating a standmount speaker that both paid homage to models from the past while also seeking to look forward to what more can be done to extract ever greater performance from the template. The resulting Special Forty manages to nail its brief absolutely.

The Special One

Parts of the Special Forty could only be from Dynaudio, including the 17cm MSP mid bass driver with its distinctive slotted dustcap and voice coil that is built around the magnet. The 28mm Esostar tweeter with its 'special recipe' coating is responsible for high frequencies and both are placed in a cabinet that uses non parallel sides and extensive bracing to form an extremely inert enclosure that- as befitting a company in a celebratory mood- comes wrapped in two extremely pretty Birch ply finishes.

The care that Dynaudio has lavished on the Special Forty is abundantly clear once you begin listening to them. When Chris Martens tested them, he felt they produced sounds that were improbably large for such a compact cabinet and they managed to deliver a performance that is entirely unconstrained. Everything you play on them revels in a natural feeling of scale and palpable presence that has you asking why you would want to spend more on speakers than this. Dynaudio's present to itself turns out to be something of a gift to us all, as this initially limited-run loudspeaker just keeps going!

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