

BEST SUBWOOFER £500-£750

Monitor Audio RS W12

£650

IT'S RELATIVELY EASY for a speaker manufacturer to make a subwoofer integrate well with its own speakers – as the RS W12 does in the Radius R90AV-12 surround speaker package – but trickier to build one with wider appeal. The secret is in solid engineering and plenty of flexibility in the controls, and that's just what Monitor Audio has pulled off in the design of this beauty.

The choice of real-wood veneers, a Monitor Audio tradition, helps no end, but while this is a relatively compact subwoofer – any smaller and that 30cm long-throw magnesium/aluminium driver wouldn't fit into the box – it hits hard and fast. The stiff, heavy, sealed enclosure helps, as does the hefty amp: 500 watts is claimed, and it certainly sounds like it.

Fast, articulate – and a whole load of fun

Once wired in and warmed up, the MA is a fast and articulate listen: beats pound out with accuracy and impact, the rhythm accurately timed even at neighbour-unfriendly volumes.

Turn up the wick, and it just gets louder: with *King Kong's* T-Rex sequence, the results border on the awesome. And if that doesn't make it a winner, we don't know what does!

Beautiful build leads to powerful bass from the RS W12

... VERDICT

A hi-tech driver, a powerful amp and a top-notch cabinet make this subwoofer a star

