

STEREO SPEAKERS  
MONITOR  
AUDIO BR2

★★★★★

£ 200

FOR

Superbly balanced all-round sonic performance; refinement, excellent build; easy to match

AGAINST

Some might want a sound with greater bite

VERDICT

The BR2s are clear class-leaders that will slot into most systems with ease

# Monitor Audio polishes Bronze

**MONITOR AUDIO IS** no stranger to success with budget speakers. Its Bronze B2s have long been favourites of ours, due to a wonderfully balanced sonic performance. And its replacements on test here, the BR2, are the same... only better.

Build is something the company does well. Nothing else at this price exudes luxury to the same extent as the BR2s. Construction is solid, finish excellent, and cosmetics neat.

The company has worked hard on engineering, too. The tweeter now has a wider bandwidth and

**“Nothing else at this price exudes luxury to the level of the BR2s”**

improved sensitivity, while the mid/bass driver delivers better dynamics and resolution. These improvements are due to changes in the motor systems and enhancements in the driver mechanicals. The crossover has changed to suit, and cabinet rigidity is also better. The result is a mature, superbly

even performer that'll work well with everything from Onkyo's £300 CS-515DAB micro system, to a separates set-up fronted by the superb £650 Cyrus CD6s CD player.

## How is it they're so good?

The speakers work so well for a number of reasons. They're refined, so won't make a meal of aggressive recordings or systems. Detail resolution is excellent for the money, so when you use them with more capable kit, the BR2s aren't the limiting factors most rivals would be.

They're also capable of plenty of authority when challenged with the likes of Tchaikovsky's *Op. 31 Marche Slave*, and have the dynamic reach to do the piece justice. For a budget speaker, stereo-imaging is convincing, too.

Our only concern is a minor one: in producing a grown-up, refined performance for budget money, Monitor Audio has rounded off the

rough edges. So, at times – say, with the likes of Eminem – the BR2s can sound a touch polite. It's something to note if you like your music raw, but in every other respect, these speakers are little gems. Give them proper stands to sit on, and you'll be thrilled. Check out p96 to see how well the BR2s did in our Awards...

Speakers that look and feel great for the money – and sound the part, too



ALSO  
CONSIDER



**MORDAUNT  
SHORT AVANT  
902i**

★★★★★

£150

September 2006  
You think the BR2s are too polished? These have good timing and strong overall dynamics

**WHARFEDALE  
DIAMOND 9.1**

★★★★★

£180

September 2006  
The 9.1s are composed and insightful, but lack a little drive