

Monitor Audio Bronze BR2



£200

THREE ENTRANTS IN this test – these Monitor Audios, the Mordaunt-Shorts, and the Wharfedales – receive five stars, but without taking away anything from the other two, the Bronze BR2s romp home in first place.

Sure, these £200 monitors cost an extra £50 over their closest-placed test rivals, but the additional spend is well worth it. What you have here is a grown-up speaker with a budget price tag. How can we tell? Well, the BR2s

“To hear a markedly better pair of speakers, you might have to spend double this”

sound tremendous with similarly priced kit, but hook up them up to even more expensive partners and – long after the likes of the Diamonds and Avants have delivered their all – the Monitor Audios still have more to offer.

The beauty of the BR2s is that they're so good, they can save you money when you next upgrade your electronics – to find something markedly better, you'll probably have to spend twice as much

↑ FOR

Punch well above their price; fantastic build quality; not fussy about partners

↓ AGAINST

Some might prefer a touch less refinement and a little extra bite

→ VERDICT

Don't tell Monitor Audio, but these speakers could cost £250 and still win

The BR2s are clear winners: they leave even the other five starers in the shade

on standmounts or floorstanders. If the BR2s cost £250, they'd still win this test.

Feed the BR2s one of our failsafe classical testers – Holst's *Planets* suite – and the speakers deliver a wonderfully accomplished listen. The dynamics on offer are – at this price – exceptional, and the monitors fully capture *Saturn* as it imperiously ushers in the spectre of old age. About five minutes in, the Monitor Audio's tremendously deep bass and muscular authority make it quite clear that *Saturn* is not for being messed around with – from loud to quiet, the Bronzes can change tack effortlessly.

A superlative performance

Detail is also present in class-leading quantities. So be it a delicately plucked harp or a carefully hit triangle, these budget deceivers uncover and present the information. Slick integration helps this mass of information confidently stride through a rush-hour-busy soundstage, never losing rhythm or bumping out of pace.

It really is incredibly hard to fault these speakers, but there's one aspect of their performance you should be aware of. The

Bronze BR2s offer superb refinement, but perhaps Monitor Audio has slightly filed down the speakers' incisors, meaning some might prefer a little extra bite.

They belt out The Hive's full-throttle *Hate To Say I Told You So* no problem, so only those who prefer music blood-rare might complain. Everywhere else – did we say fit and finish is the best here? – the BR2s leave you feeling very well done.

