

## WHAT HI-FI?

**Eltax Monitor III**  
Loudspeakers £129

★★★★★

**For** Grace, detail and musicality that belies the price tag; attractive styling and finish

**Against** Only that the bottom-firing port imposes certain restrictions with regards to stands

**Verdict** Terrifically mature, affordable speakers, and well worth a serious audition

selecting stands to make the most of the speakers' performance potential - see *Bass From The Base panel* (right).

Elsewhere, the combination of 89db/W/m sensitivity and 4ohms impedance may be reasonable, but it doesn't make them the most amplifier-friendly boxes money can buy so care should be taken with partnering. Luckily, these cultured little speakers are worth the effort, coping happily with almost anything your care to throw at them, and remaining clean under even exceptional volume levels. Using our mighty Krell pre/power amp, the Monitor IIIs positively ripple through the power of Nine Inch Nails' rock monster *The Mark Has Been Made*. Bass lines are fat but not bloated, while the track's crashing snare-drum break has bags of grunt, each impact coming

## Big bass from baby Danes

Danish outfit Eltax has earned a reputation for high-quality speakers at an affordable price. And its new Monitor IIIs boast a standard of fit and finish that many more expensive speakers would do well to emulate.

The newcomers are compact, 30cm-tall standmounters with conventional 25 mm soft-dome tweeters and 13 cm mid/bass drivers. They also feature a built-in upgrade route courtesy of biwirable rear terminals, while there's an oddity in their design that you'd never spot: they're ported in the base of each cabinet, rather than to the rear.

This means you have to take greater care in selecting stands to make the most of the speakers' performance potential - see *Bass From The Base panel* (right).  
over cleanly and crisply.



## TECHNICAL DATA

Long Term Power	90 Watt
Short Term Power	150 Watt
System	2 Way, Bass Reflex
Tweeter	25 mm textile dome
Woofer	130 mm cone
Impedance W	4 Ohm
Sensitivity (2,83V/m)	89 dB
Frequency Response ±4dB	50-22.000 Hz
Crossover Frequency	2.800 Hz
Cabinet Finishes	Black / Beech
Dimension (H x W x D)	300 x 195 x 235 mm
Weight (nett)	4,7 Kg

Sound staging is good, too. The Eltaxes escape the confines of their small cabinets rather well, generating an acceptably orchestral sense of scale and power with the might of the *Ode To Joy* chorus from Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> *Symphony in D Minor*. Sure, midrange presence isn't perhaps as electrifying as with KEF's Cresta 2s, but there's little to truly complain about, especially as the Eltaxes manage to combine their musicality, eloquence and detail with a rather smoother, more ear-friendly balance than is typical at this price.

The IIIs are ideal if you have a budget system that could do with a touch of refinement - in their can-do approach to music making, there's something of the flavour of the Tannoy Revolution R1s. Swapping the Krell pre/power for a more real-world £500 Creek 4330SE amp is no less rewarding.

The III's still sound impressively composed, and open the music with a poise that belies their modest price tag. With stylish looks, a well-rounded sound and a very modest price tag, the Eltaxes are among the leading contenders in the budget arena. Audition now.

## BASS FROM THE BASE

The new Monitor IIIs have reflex ports set into the base of their cabinets (as opposed to rear-mounted ports) in order to be as room-friendly as possible. This means that you can place them close to the rear wall without causing unwanted bass 'bloom'. However, it also means that each exit port needs space in order to function properly. So the IIIs come with four fixed feet that provide an air gap between the speaker base and the stand or shelf. Shelf mounting should provide few problems, but your stand will need a large top-plate. Atacama's SE24s are too small, so we used larger Acoustic Energy designs, purpose-made for the AE1s.