

STEREO  
SPEAKERS  
MONITOR AUDIO  
BRONZE BX2



£ 250

↑ FOR

Excellent detail resolution and transparency for the money; impressive finish

↓ AGAINST

Not as forgiving as some, so will show up a poor system

→ VERDICT

The BX2s combine a great sound with fine build. They're an impressive achievement for the money

# Bronze range shows its mettle

**BUDGET PRODUCTS ARE** the hardest kind to design well. Every single aspect of the design is built down to a price. With this in mind it's impressive that Monitor Audio's Bronze BX2 – the first of an all-new Bronze range – not only sounds great but looks great too.

The BX2's front panel is an uncluttered affair, thanks mainly

**“The BX2s are good enough to give the class leaders a fright”**

to magnetic grille holders and the lack of visible bolts holding the drive units in place. The tweeter bolts are hidden behind its protective mesh, and the mid/bass unit is held on a single rigid bolt that goes through the enclosure's back panel. This arrangement not only leads to cleaner aesthetics but neatly reduces the amount of vibration fed into the cabinet, which makes for improved clarity.

## New, and improved

Both BX drive units are new designs. Despite looking familiar, much work has been done on the 25mm C-CAM (Ceramic Coated Aluminium Magnesium) dome tweeter to improve sensitivity, bandwidth and resolution. The partnering 16.5-cm mid/bass also

uses a C-CAM diaphragm. Its chassis and motor unit have been optimised for improved performance using ideas first seen in the company's much-liked Silver RX range.

How do the BX2s sound? In a word, excellent. Let's get the negatives out of the way first. These are not warm or easy-going speakers. If you feed them hard recordings or unruly electronics they won't soften the experience.

However, partner these speakers with quality budget electronics such as Marantz's

6003 CD and amplifier pairing, and you'll get a great sound for the money. These Monitor Audios are fast- and agile-sounding speakers. They dig up masses of detail, sounding as at home with the bitter sweet pop of The Magnetic Fields as with a large-scale Schubert symphony.

There's a decent amount of bass weight, and provided they sit on some rigid stands a little away from a rear wall, you'll get a decent stereo image too. The BX2s are good enough to give the class leaders a real fright.



ALSO  
CONSIDER  
?

WHARFEDALE  
DIAMOND 10.1



£200

An award-winner that will need its price advantage to hold on to its crown against these new Monitor Audios

ARCAYDIS  
DM1



£275

The DM1s are visually a little crude in this company but deliver a truly engrossing sound for the money