

# TEST VERDICT

## THE WINNER

**Monitor Audio  
Bronze BX2 £250 ★★★★★**

All the speakers that took part in this Group Test can be proud of their efforts. But it's the brilliant **Monitor Audio Bronze BX2s**, with their mix of subtlety and excitement, that walk away with the victory...



**WHAT HI-FI?  
SOUND AND VISION  
TEST WINNER**

Monitor Audio's all-star BX2s have raised the bar for all comers at this price

**T**his battle of budget speakers will go down as a captivating and bruising affair. Unfortunately, not all of the combatants have emerged unscathed. Speakers that were previously proud owners of five-star ratings - the Diamond 10.1s and Mordaunt-Short Aviano 1s - have been caught up in the crossfire between Arcaydis and Monitor Audio. The result? We've had no option but to drop both the Diamonds and Avianos down to four-stars.

The Wharfedales' ratings drop comes as quite a shock. They're still wonderfully balanced, neutral-sounding speakers that fully deserved their Product Of the Year gong in 2009. But, there's no doubt in our minds that we'd scrimp and save that extra £50 to pay for the BX2s; they're a much more engaging and exciting pair of speakers. Dare we say it, these test winners make the Diamonds sound a touch dull in comparison.

Excitement isn't something that the Avianos lack. Instead, their issue is that they can't call upon the same level of

detail and refinement as the BX2s. The new, lower price is very welcome, but the presence of the excellent Monitor Audios and Wharfedales here means a star has to be sacrificed.

In outright terms, one could argue that the Arcaydis offers a more natural, emotive sound and greater insight in the midrange and bass than all the other speakers here. But, they're more

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expensive than the BX2s, fussier about positioning and the Monitor Audios produce a higher standard of treble.

The fact of the matter is that the Bronze BX2s are just a tremendous all-round proposition with no major weaknesses. The benchmark at this price has been well and truly raised.

## SYSTEM BUILDER



**Marantz CD6003**  
£300 ★★★★★



**Marantz PM6003**  
£300 ★★★★★



**Chord Company Carnival SilverScreen**  
£6/m ★★★★★

For a full list of speaker specs and other useful info, visit [whathifi.com](http://whathifi.com)

## Facts & figures



**Arcaydis  
DM1 £275**  
★★★★★

Sensitivity 87dB/W/m • Impedance 8 ohms • Max power handling 40W  
• Bi-wirable No • Finishes 4 • Dimensions (hwd) 30 x 16 x 21cm • Weight 5kg



**Monitor Audio  
Bronze BX2 £250**  
★★★★★

Sensitivity 90dB/W/m • Impedance 8 ohms • Max power handling 100W  
• Bi-wirable Yes • Finishes 4 • Dimensions (hwd) 35 x 19 x 26cm • Weight 5.8kg



**Mordaunt-Short  
Aviano 1 £200**  
★★★★★

Sensitivity 88dB/W/m • Impedance 8 ohms • Max power handling 100W  
• Bi-wirable Yes • Finishes 3 • Dimensions (hwd) 28 x 18 x 27cm • Weight 5kg



**Wharfedale  
Diamond 10.1 £200**  
★★★★★

Sensitivity 86dB/W/m • Impedance 6 ohms • Max power handling 100W  
• Bi-wirable Yes • Finishes 4 • Dimensions (hwd) 30 x 19 x 28cm • Weight 5.2kg