



**LOUDSPEAKERS  
MISSION M35i**

## VITAL STATS

**Enclosure type** .....3-way reflex  
**Drive units** .....Viotex fabric dome tweeters, DiaDrive bass units  
**Bi-wiring** .....Yes  
**Impedance** .....8 ohm  
**Sensitivity** .....92 dB  
**Frequency response** .....40 Hz – 20 kHz  
**Power handling** .....25 – 150 watts

**PRICE** .....R6 990

### VERDICT

For the asking price you get good-looking and good-sounding speakers. The speakers do however need careful placement to sound their best.

**SUPPLIED BY** AV Specialists  
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# Performance, price and power

**M**ission was in the doldrums a few years ago, but fortunately for all A/V and music lovers, they seem to be going strong at the moment.

Also going strong is their M3i series – comprising no less than twelve models – which in various guises has been around for quite a while.

The largest, or should that rather be tallest, full frequency speaker in the range is the M35i. This is the model I was tasked to review. As I am quite a fan of floorstanding speakers, this certainly was not a hardship.

The speakers aren't hard on the eye either; in fact they are rather good to look at with grilles on or off.

An aspect of speaker design, which I believe certainly enhances the looks of the speakers and no doubt the sound of the speakers, is the solid wooden plinth that gets attached to the base of the speakers. This plinth gives the speakers a slightly wider footprint, and is where the good-looking and quality-feeling spikes call home.

Typically, the speakers looked and felt well made; the dual sets of horizontally arrayed binding posts were colour-coded, ensuring that you should always get speaker polarity correct, and the grilles fitted snugly against the front baffle.

As per my usual review procedure, the speakers were given a fair amount of run-in time before any serious listening was done or placement was finalised.

Placement is something that purchasers of these speakers should spend some time on, as when placed too close to boundaries, their low frequency response can be a little unruly. Fortunately the speakers are supplied with foam bungs that can be used to tune the loudspeakers' response characteristics a tad.

Plugging the lower and larger port certainly helped the speakers deliver a more controlled bass foundation.



I initially felt that the midrange delivery of the M35i lacked a little overall clarity, but much of this returned when I used the smaller, supplied, foam plugs to block the top speaker ports.

With set-up complete I finally moved onto some critical listening. What follows is my impression of the M35is.

Firstly, the speaker can deliver a large soundstage, and this means that orchestral pieces are heard with the kind of scale that these pieces of music deserve. They don't play quite as low as their specifications suggested they might, but this was only really audible on an organ track or two.

That the speakers could deliver the goods with full-scale orchestras does mean that they are reasonably neutral throughout their frequency range.

I say 'reasonably neutral', as their lower regions of mid bass could sometimes be a little indistinct and this meant that some male vocalists' voices lost a little bit of overall precision. It also meant that while the speakers did deliver the large stage already mentioned, imaging was at times not quite as precise as it could possibly have been.

On a far more positive note, once the speakers had enough hours on them, high frequencies were good and detailed – they were a little shrill to begin with – and all my female vocalists were good to listen to.

Overall, taking into consideration both the build and performance of the Mission M35is, they're certainly well worth their asking price.

**Joel Kopping**