

LOUDSPEAKERS

MISSION MH 33i SYSTEM

Mission Possible

The A/V world is a topsy-turvy one, where one brand can be on the top of the world one day, and on the bottom the next.

Mission was a brand that seemed like it was one of the speaker manufacturers that owned a spot in the upper echelons of this world. And then news started to filter through that it had faltered, and that its creditors wanted all that was owing to them.

After this happened, all things Mission-related slowly left our market. But this wasn't to be for too long. Mission and its products were too good to be left floundering in the history books of the A/V industry.

Mission has now thankfully reappeared thanks to the take over of the brand by one of the giants of the audio world, IAG.

Thankfully IAG look like they want Mission to be a brand independent from the others in their group. This means that on looking at and listening to the Mission speaker system on review here, the MH33i 5.0 system, that IAG has given Mission the freedom to build on its well-known and respected technology and values.

The system comprises a pair of floorstanding M33is for main front speaker duties, and the MH3 speaker pack, which comprises a pair of MH3 bi-pole surround speakers and an MH3 centre speaker.

There is no way, when looking at the M33is that you could mistake them for a product from any other manufacturer. **From the woofer above tweeter layout of the drivers, to the overall look and construction of the speakers, they are pure Mission.**

Notable features of the M33is include a 154 mm bass unit, a Viotex fabric dome tweeter out front, and a solid plinth with equally solid and good looking spikes down below.

Out on the back panel of the speakers, you will find a port, dual binding posts, and a chamber that can be sand-filled to enhance low frequency performance.

Specs for the speakers include a frequency response of 48 Hz up to 20 kHz, a nominal impedance of 8 ohms, and sensitivity of 90 dB. They stand 850 mm tall, 200 mm wide, and 325 mm deep. Without sand-filling, they weigh in at 14.7 kg.

As already mentioned, speakers from the MH3 package are supplied to convert the system from a stereo-only one into a surround sound system.

Those with smaller homes will appreciate the

Centre and rear speakers were naturally set to small, this to protect them from potential damage.

Following tradition, the speakers were allowed a good few hours before listening began.

When used in surround sound mode, the speakers generally sounded bigger than they were. This was for a number of reasons, with the first one being that the centre speaker in particular, sounded like it had been tuned to have a peak just above its low frequency cut-off point.

This meant that the centre speaker could at times sound almost a little boomy and slightly coloured. **The upside of the speaker tuning was that as mentioned, it did tend to sound like a larger speaker.**

The surround speakers went about their business rather discretely. **This is a positive point, as they simply provided surround sounds as and when required to do so.**

Moving swiftly along, and we get to the M33is, a pair of speakers that proved to be efficient in both movie and stereo music modes. **They delivered sharp imaging and staging and generally a nicely balanced tonality,** after I plugged their ports with supplied foam plugs. Before this I felt that they tended to lose some control when asked to play low notes from movie effects or music.

I will typically always trade a little bit of bass for overall smoothness.

Overall, it would only be the most cynical that would not be impressed with the Mission speaker set up. Its combination of floorstanding main speakers with more discrete surround and centre speakers, means that you are supplied with a system that offers a neat value/space/price compromise.

By the way, for those that require more bass, AV Specialists have an Add-da-Bass offer with a choice of either a Mission M3AS, or PSB subwoofer.

Joel Kopping

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VERDICT
AV Specialists' claim that this new Mission speaker system offers value for money is right on the mark.

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fact that when compared to the M33is, the MH3 speakers are rather small. The centre speaker for example is only 330 mm wide and 120 mm high, whilst the bi-pole surround speakers are only 130 mm high and 300 mm wide.

Despite their small dimensions, the centre and surround speakers – which have key-holes for wall mounting on their rear panels – can reach down to 80 and 110 Hz respectively. Both speakers can play up to 20 kHz.

Loudspeaker set-up followed a pretty conventional route, with the only exception being that as no subwoofer was being used in the system, the front speakers were set to large.

