

Mission makes a big statement

Mission m3i Cinema

SPEAKER PACKAGE

FOR

Superbly balanced, controlled sound full of scale that's as adept with music as it is movies

AGAINST

No complaints from us

Verdict

Mission has produced one of the finest-sounding surround systems we've heard at this price



THIS ISN'T A designated surround speaker package. Instead, Mission has drawn on speakers from the much-praised m1 series and translated their outstanding all-round ability from stereo to surround.

A pair of m34i floorstanders form the basis of the package by acting as the front channels, joined by a pair of m31i standmounts as rears and an all-new m30i centre-channel. All speakers feature DiaDrive bass units, of differing dimensions, paired with Viotex fabric dome tweeters in a conventional two-way reflex-loaded design with gold-plated multi-way binding posts. Completing the 5.1 configuration is the m34s, an active sub featuring a 250mm downward-firing bass unit offering an impressive 150w of power. There are also adjustable crossover frequency, level control and phase switches to aid integration of the speakers and your AV system.

The package needs the space to breathe – place the speakers around 30cm from the wall and put the sub in a central position – because it makes a big sound. The sizeable front speakers and deceptively deep rear cabinets produce a performance full of scale and authority. Low frequencies, especially



Build quality is stylish, solid, well finished and available in a varied choice of wood veneers.

those accompanying the action in adrenaline-fuelled flicks such as *The Bourne Supremacy*, are wonderfully taut, well controlled and efficiently integrated with the sub, which never seems stretched or over-exerted. Big bangs are delivered with a pronounced thud that stays solid throughout.

The speakers' construction gives the system tonal consistency and a beautifully balanced sound that creates an involving, all-encompassing

home cinema experience. And superb integration means the sound is inconspicuously cohesive and exciting. Subtleties aren't ignored, and even the slightest sounds are recognised – witness the falling shards of glass that follow big explosions in *Spiderman 2* – which adds to the ambience.

The front and rear channels demonstrate refined detail and far-reaching dynamics, making the m34s ideal for two-channel listening. The

new centre channel is impressive, too, the horizontal unit producing a wonderfully evocative midrange that's full of natural realism, detecting and delivering every subtle change and vocal intonation in the dialogue.

We've recently given very good reviews to both the m34i fronts and m31i rears as standalone stereo speakers, and with ingredients like these it's little surprise this package is a surround sound success.



The "i" that's been added to the Mission's m series of speakers stands for improved and it's been an upgrade job well done, incorporating expertise gleaned from work on the flagship Pilastro speaker. Improved internal wiring and crossover refinements are subtle modifications but they carry dramatic results. The new crossover takes into

account baffle diffraction effect to give a more open and detailed midrange performance with smoother integration. Also crossovers are now wired using Mission's HP-OFC (High Purity Oxygen Free Copper) cable. Otherwise they're aesthetically and mechanically identical to the original m series design – they just sound better.

For more information please call 021946 1441 or visit www.avspecialists.co.za

*Packages may differ