

# Little Missions aren't short of talent

## Mission m31i

### STEREO SPEAKERS

#### FOR

Big scale from small monitors; tonal balance; neat looks; competitive price

#### AGAINST

Wharfedale's £40 dearer Diamond 9.1s offer a stern challenge

#### VERDICT

The m31i standmount speakers are a job well done by Mission and we fully endorse the 'i' for 'improved'



IT'S OFFICIAL: MISSION is back on form. In the past couple of months, we have awarded its m34i floorstanding speakers five stars, and been seduced by its lovely Elegante multichannel speaker package.

Now it's the turn of the m31i's to woo us. We liked the original version



of this unit, the m31, but a slightly opaque midrange robbed them of full marks. So Mission's design team rolled up its sleeves and, via improved internal wiring and a reworked crossover, has made a good product better – for just £10 extra.

Crucially, the previous model's plus points are present and correct. The short in height, but deep in length, cabinets enable unexpected bass depth, and the grand scale of

performance takes your breath away. And don't worry if you have a small listening room – lower frequencies are nice and taut and there is no significant boom when the M31is sit close to a rear wall. Free space remains the ideal location, though.

Dynamics are also a match for the preceding model and these biwireable speakers are ideal if you

The Missions are short in height, but the extra deep cabinets enable surprisingly good bass reach from such little speakers

enjoy classical or dance music. And remember our moan about opaque midrange? Well, strike that from the record, because with Frank Sinatra's *Platinum Collection*, the master's effortless voice sounds full of body, and subtle changes in his vocal intonation are always fully evident.

Overall, the little m31i speakers are great, and the team at Mission should consider this upgrade a job well done. The 'i' in the model name stands for 'improved' and these speakers fully deserve the suffix.

#### ALSO CONSIDER

##### Tannoy Fusion 1

£100 ★★★★★ August 2004  
Stylish looks and firm bass, but treble can sound a touch lively

##### Wharfedale Diamond 9.1

£180 ★★★★★ October 2004  
Stunning performance – and curvy looks – for just £40 extra