

## STEREO/LOUDSPEAKERS

Blown away!

Mission MX2

## VITAL STATS

Enclosure type	Two-way Bass Reflex
Drive units	1x 165mm mid/bass driver, 1x 25mm dome tweeter
Bi-wiring	Yes
Impedance	8 ohm (4.4 ohm nominal)
Sensitivity	87 dB
Frequency response	52 Hz – 20 kHz
Power handling	25 -- 100 watts
Dimensions (HxWxD)	340x206x310 mm
Weight	7.7 kg each

**VERDICT** They're back! Mission made themselves on high performance bookshelf speakers, and these are as revolutionary now as two decades ago...

**PRICE** R3320.

**SUPPLIED BY** AV Specialists 021-946-1441

**WEBSITE** [www.avspecialists.co.za](http://www.avspecialists.co.za)

It is back to basics with the MX2 -- a bookshelf speaker in the all new MX range from Mission that includes floorstanding and centre channel speakers. What I remember from before most people, is that in terms of bookshelf speakers Mission always had an extremely strong standing with speakers that were critically acclaimed, yet didn't break the bank.

So it will be with the new MX range. What impressed me immediately was that there is little techno geek speak about the design of the drivers, there is almost no blurb about the new chassis and there is little hoo-ha about fancy crossovers and expensive wiring.

Sure, if you look for it, you can find enough technical detail to fill a battleship, but rather than preen on about this stuff as if it were the single most important thing in the world, Mission gives me the impression that it would rather just let the speaker do all the talking. They know they've made something special and if you have to have the backup of the specs to convince you, well, that's entirely your own problem buddy!

So it was that I unpacked the pair that I was given for review -- and so onto my Sound Structures composite laminate stands they went. The box the speakers ship in carries a nice big sticker that advises 50 hours of run-in time before the speakers will start to sound optimal. You can't miss it, but if you do, I can promise you that this sticker bears as much resemblance to the reality of this speaker as a politician does to the rest of us.

From the word go the MX2s sounded phenomenal. At this pricing point you are going to struggle and battle and fight to find something comparable in performance, personal listening tastes aside of course. In fact I probably would short list three speakers, buy the Missions and forget about the other two.

At 87 dB sensitivity I lashed the Missions with great swathes of power from my Yammie. They lapped it up and came back for more. Even if the box says you can drive them with 25 watts I feel this would be a mistake and they are probably far more at home with 100 watts on tap than 50 or 60.

Give them the juice and they will give you the performance. Whatever the technology Mission has used on these speakers is, it works. From the first breath of music the MX2s hit the ground running, with a presence that is almost unbelievable for three grand.

Let's start with the tops. The tweeter is superb. It presents a softness to the tops that makes the speaker so easy to listen to that at full chat the things sound so super clean you could fall asleep in front of them. The detail on hand is more than impressive but the speed of the thing is incredible. I haven't heard such sweet uppers on such a small speaker in a very long time. But then as you come down to vocals and midrange with cellos, oboes and electric guitars, and the MX2s will almost make you cry.

Most often with new speakers they can sound hard, brash and tonally indifferent out of the box in the midrange. As the drivers loosen up the sound changes to become more coherent and the sound waves better formed, translating into a smoother, less abrasive listening experience. The MX2s rubbish this theory -- they sounded (as far as I could tell anyway) as brilliant 50 hours later as when they first started off.

In the midrange the MX2s stamp their true authority. It is here that they don't show up the competition -- they obliterate it. For three grand! I almost can't believe it. Here you have a pair of bookshelf speakers delivering a Mozart Piano Concerto as if the bloody orchestra was in the room.

Bass from this small speaker is not going to be in the same league as a big floorstanding speaker. It would be ridiculous to expect it to be so -- physics has the final say when it comes to these things. But the MX2s make the best of the situation with a taut, clean bass that feels like it carries more weight than it does. To be honest when reviewing my listening notes, there was little commentary on the bass side of things other than "very tight, no boom, 50 Hz?", which is unusual for me. It means that I couldn't care less if there was even any bass at all.

For three grand if it worries you, you can buy a sub for less money than it would cost to come close to these speakers' performance ability. Mission are way out in front of the running for the coveted Will's choice of speaker of the year. For three grand?!

William Kelly