

NEW COLUMN: TOP 5 GEAR

The top selling products of the shops:
Best studio monitors (€ 400-600)

TOPSELLER #1
ADAM A7X

7" Woofer (100W)
Air Motion Tweeter (X-ART 50W)
Frequency Response: 42Hz - 50kHz
Street Price: approx. € 500,-

www.adam-audio.com



ACTIVE NEARFIELD MONITORS

This issue is about studio monitors between 400 and 600 Euros – a price range that offers affordable but sophisticated monitors that full-fill the needs for home recording, studio projects or multimedia/post productions. The offered quality of these 2-way speakers is appropriately high with a large range to choose from. The A7X from

ADAM Audio wins the race a long way ahead of the rest. Second place is a classic: the Genelec 8030, almost sharing this position with the Neumann KH-120. Customers are not only raving about the monitors of the microphone manufacturer – all questioned recording experts agree unisonous that nobody can ignore the KH120, although it slightly exceeds the price range of this poll. ■



#2: GENELEC 8030

5" Woofer (40W)
3/4" Metal Dome Tweeter (40W)
Frequency Response: 58Hz - 20kHz (+/- 2 dB)
Street Price: approx. € 550,-

www.audioexport.de



#3: NEUMANN KH120

5.25" Woofer (50W)
1" Tweeter (50W)
Frequency Response: 52Hz - 21kHz (+/- 3 dB)
Street Price: approx. € 650,-

www.neumann.com



#4: KRK VXT8

8" Woofer (120W)
1" Tweeter (60W)
Frequency Response: 37Hz - 22kHz (+/- 3 dB)
Street Price: approx. € 550,-

www.krksys.com



#5: MONKEY BANANA TURBO 8

8" Woofer (80W)
1" Silk Dome Tweeter (30W)
Frequency Response: 45Hz - 30kHz
Street Price: approx. € 420,-

www.monkey-banana.de

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY ...

Which gadgets are the latest top sellers? In the column TOP 5 Gear we regularly ask recording departments of specialist shops for opinions, experiences and handy equipment tips.

Michael Simon, Thomann:



Our absolute favorite on short listening distances is the KS Digital C5. Thanks to the coaxial design, (point source) this speaker can be easily integrated even in acoustically difficult rooms where extreme low end is not required. Rich in detail, straight forward, and open are also attributes for the frequently purchased Adam

A7X which can produce fast and pulse accurate basses thanks to the PWM amp of the woofer. This is a wonderful speaker all around. The Neumann KH120 is a well balanced, compact monitor with an astonishingly good representation of the low end for its size. The Genelec 8030 is much asked for although seldomly purchased after listening because of the reluctant upper mids and the overall muffled and intransparent appearance. I'm quite disappointed with the Event 20/20 v2 which is on position 5 on our sales list: In my opinion the rather resonant lower mid domain does not contribute to a clean pulse behaviour and the mid frequency domain in general seems to be quite undefined.

Frank Herzog, Rockshop:



Our list of top sellers is identical with my personal favourites: ADAM A7X, Neumann KH120 and Genelec 8030, although all of them are different systems regarding sound imaging. The ADAM A7X is an outstanding monitor with a clear advantage in stereo imaging and pulse fidelity. It can be a stressful

speaker for some people being slightly aggressive in the upper frequency domain but its precision impresses our customers every time. To me the Genelec is a very musical speaker, being less analytical than the ADAM monitors but with very good bass imaging and pulse fidelity. A thing I don't like so much about them is the fact that this speaker pretends to be a much larger speaker than it actually is, which I find a bit critical for the closer review of full mixdowns. The Neumann KH120 is a tad above price range but should definitely be listed here, as well. It tends to slightly overdraw the higher frequencies but if you know that and lower the volume of the highs on the rear panel you have an unbelievable good speaker. I'm very excited about the KH120.

How the TOP 5s are determined

In every issue of SOUND & RECORDING we make out a TOP 5 list of rankings based on current sales figures from the following shops: Just Music (Hamburg), Session Music (Walldorf), Music Store (Cologne), Thomann (Trendendorf), Musik Produktiv (Ibbenbueren), PPC (Hannover), Hieber Lindberg (Munich), Rockshop (Karlsruhe), Soundland (Stuttgart). This issue's survey fell into the summer holidays so that we were not able to get statements from all shops therefore we have more comprehensive and detailed comments this time.

Marc Schulze, Just Music Hamburg:



In the beginning many have complained about the segregation of an established brand as Klein+Hummel was, but in the end it all worked out. The Neumann KH120 hit our shop like a bomb. Customers looking for speakers in this price range have started with budget setups. They now want to upgrade and are willing to spend a bit more. Often we

have customers who started with a tiny budget but in the end reconsider their purchase and decide for the Neumann. They mark the upper limit of this price range because of their well-balanced sound imaging at a relatively small size. With the Neumann being number one, we have two other winners in our shop: The ADAM A7X and the Genelec 8030.

Jan Imig, Music Store Cologne:



Most higher class monitors nowadays are built to a certain quality standard, so it can be said it is possible to work with any of those models. The Adam A7X is our top seller which has significantly more bass than its predecessor but of course is fitted with the much loved X-ART tweeter. This speaker has very good response characteristics. The fact that the

mid and high frequency domain is rather present is a matter of taste. To my mind you get good value for money with the KRK VXT8. Quite typical for KRK is a present mid frequency domain. A big advantage of the Genelec 8030 is an almost fatigue-free working in long mixing sessions. A good off-axis behaviour is on the plus side too, especially if you often have to leave the sweet spot. Best suited for post production, I don't think its strength lies in being a control monitor for recording sessions though because of a slight gloss-over characteristic in some frequency bands. Finally I want to recommend a few monitors that are just as good as our top sellers: Sonodyne SM 100, Focal CMS 40 and Yamaha MSP 7.

Cengiz Kocas, Soundland Stuttgart:



Many people come to us and want to listen to an Adam A8X or A7X, both models are number One at our shop. I personally like their tweeter a lot which sounds never too soft or too harsh. I think the reason Adam monitors are being appreciated so well is the fact that on the one hand you are able to evaluate the sound that you hear and on the other hand

just listening to them is actually fun. They do not have that dry sound like Dynaudio monitors do. It's always a matter of what you want from a monitor. Number Two on our selling list is the Genelec 8030, a neutral speaker in general but with a very present mid frequency domain, which for some people is almost too aggressive. For controlling mixing levels the Genelecs do a great job, a field of duty where the KRK VXT8 is not as good.