

BEST £1000+

Spendor A6

£1995

ALTHOUGH THESE SPENDOR floorstanders look rather ordinary, believe us when we say they are anything but.

For starters, a closer glance reveals plenty of design depth. The cabinet is beautifully made: it's damped and reinforced with much care. That 18cm mid/bass is a newly developed in-house unit, and it's joined by the same 29mm wide-surround tweeter used on Spendor's five-grand ST.

"Those used to Spendor's traditional offerings will be in for a shock"

Impressive, yes, but none of this prepared us for just how good these speakers sound. The A6's clarity is built on class-leading resolution and rapid reflexes. These speakers capture the leading edge of notes brilliantly.

Those used to Spendor's traditional offerings will be in for a shock. These are no cuddly sounding speakers that give recordings a warm glow. These are hard-hitting towers, as at home with Lady Gaga as they are with Mahler.

→ VERDICT

The A6s are superb speakers without any obvious flaws. In fact, they don't have any obscure flaws either. These Spendors are true must-hear hi-fi



However, naturalness and refinement aren't sacrificed in the quest for drama. By class standards these floorstanders remain eminently listenable, though the rest of the system needs to be chosen with care. The A6's impressive transparency means any flaws elsewhere won't be hidden. That said, they're not too fussy about positioning and sound balanced even when placed close to a wall.

If you've always thought of Spendor as an old-fashioned company that makes smooth yet dynamically dull speakers, be prepared to change your mind.



CD PLAYER

CYRUS CDX15E/DAC X

£2250

Cyrus's two-box CD player is massively detailed but doesn't forget to have fun. **See p110**

STEREO AMPLIFIER

LEEMA TUCANA II

£3425

Yes, a Cyrus 8XP amp would work very well, but we thought we'd push the boat out. The pricier Leema has a full-bodied, exciting sound. **See p74**

WHAT HI-FI?
SOUND AND VISION

AWARDS 2009

STEREO SPEAKERS

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SPENDOR A6