

STEREO
SPEAKERS
MONITOR AUDIO
SILVER RX1

★★★★★

£ 400

↑ FOR

Craftsmanship and finish; weighty bass; dynamic, broad soundstage; fine insight

↓ AGAINST

A little care required with partnering kit

→ VERDICT

Form and function in perfect harmony, these speakers will sit pretty in any home

Silver RX1s strike a rich seam

GETTING AN UGLY slab of equipment past a discerning partner can be tricky. So praise Monitor Audio's Silver range: the rigid, weighty MDF cabinets look superb. Edges are rounded smoothly, drivers are flush to the cabinet and every screw is cleanly placed. Top marks.

Tempted as we are to spend £400 on a fine pair of oversize paperweights, we'd rather they sounded special, too. Fortunately,

"Notes have punch and texture, vocals are handled confidently"

listening to Vampire Weekend's excellent *Contra* album, we're impressed. The 15cm bass driver is capable of impressive weight and depth, and provides the foundation for a broad, dynamic soundstage.

Listening to the delicate piano and strings of *The Road* shows the RX1s capable of subtlety, too. Notes have punch and texture, instruments are given sufficient space to breathe and detail

recovery is thorough. The XX's *Shelter* sounds intimate and emotional with vocals again handled confidently. The RX1s go seriously loud, too. Even the Dead Weather LP can't see the RX1s toughen up.

Brains and beauty: what a package. We'd be a touch wary of partnering them with similarly bassy, warm electronics, or positioning them too close to a wall, but we're otherwise entirely enamoured with the RX1s.



ALSO
CONSIDER



**EB ACOUSTICS
EB1**

★★★★★

£470

EB Acoustics provides quite startling value for money from these compact standmounters

B&W 685

★★★★★

£380

These B&Ws have an expertly balanced sound, strong dynamics and a clear soundstage for expressive vocals