

STANDMOUNT LOUDSPEAKERS



Fyne Audio F500SP

A relative of the standard F500 (HFC 457), the F500SP is absolutely not the same speaker made in a different place. The characteristics are the same, though. This is a two-way standmount that uses Fyne's preferred driver configuration of a coaxially mounted tweeter placed in the throat of a mid/bass driver. The tweeter is a 25mm magnesium compression type.

The midrange unit is a 150mm 'multi-fibre' cone that features the distinctive FyneFlute surround. This is augmented by a downward-firing port arrangement. Fyne has kept this reasonably flexible and user friendly by designing the F500SP with an integral plinth that features a cone-shaped section to better manage the airflow from the port. The result is that the cabinet always has the relevant boundary for the port regardless of where you place it.

Where the SP version differs significantly from the standard F500 is the crossover. This makes use of both components and design thinking from the other special production speakers for significantly higher performance. It features a terminal panel that has the opportunity to

bi-wire and is also equipped with a dedicated ground post.

Sound quality

The coaxial driver arrangement rarely struggles to create a convincing stereo image and is exceptional. So long as a modicum of care is taken with the initial positioning, this is a speaker that vanishes from the soundstage it creates. But that's only half the story. Where it really is a class apart is its three-dimensionality.

This means *Talking Timbuktu* by Ali Farke Toure and Ry Cooder has a, 'there in the room' feel that even some more expensive rivals struggle to get near. This is backed by an extremely accurate and consistent tonality. The Fyne has no trouble showing up the differences between the stringed instruments and Toure's vocals are believably recreated.

The bass extension isn't seismic, but what the F500SP lacks in impact it recovers in a qualitative sense. That port and plinth arrangement seem unconcerned by the placement of the speaker in room and the integration between bass and midrange is consistently excellent. There's commendable detail retrieval across the frequency response and this

DETAILS

PRODUCT
Fyne Audio F500SP

ORIGIN
£1,500

ORIGIN
UK

TYPE
2-way standmount
loudspeaker

WEIGHT
8.1kg

DIMENSIONS
(WxHxD):
200 x 323 x 320mm

FEATURES
● 25mm magnesium
compression tweeter
● 150mm multi-fibre
mid/bass driver
● Quoted sensitivity:
90dB/1W/1m (8ohm)

DISTRIBUTOR
Fyne Audio

WEBSITE
fyneaudio.com

REVIEWED
HFC 486

extends to definition and control of the lower registers. The caveat to this is that the F500SP is happier with the sort of time signatures at work here than with more high-tempo content. Listening to the energetic *The Sound Of Violence* by Cassius, the Fyne is never slow or dull but it doesn't deliver the sort of urgency of some rivals. The upside to this is that less frenetic music never feels forced or relentless and its ability to latch onto a time signature is consistently good.

Some of this can be partially ameliorated by sensible electronics choices. With the propulsive Naim Supernait 3 (HFC 456), it is never truly ballistic, but with NAD's C 700 (p91) the performance is a little more energetic. Paired with Roksan's Attesa streaming amplifier (p94), the overall balance comes down a little too far in favour of refinement and smoothness to be truly engaging. In all cases, though, the peerless creation of a stereo image never falters.

In part, this is because the F500SP is extremely forgiving. It is tricky to provoke into sounding bright or forward, even with less than stellar recordings. It can go impressively loud too, without any perceivable strain and even when its performance envelope is exceeded it concedes gracefully. While the sensitivity might be a little overstated, there is little arguing that this is an easy speaker to drive. None of the amps it is tested with have to work particularly hard to hit room-filling levels, making it a fine choice for anyone short of headroom.

Conclusion

More than simple sensitivity it's the all-round capability of the F500SP that impresses. So long as care is taken with partnering equipment, this speaker avoids any tendency towards shock and awe to deliver a spacious and refined performance that combines with the excellent build and design to make it very capable. **ES**

Hi-Fi Choice

OUR VERDICT

SOUND QUALITY
★★★★★

LIKE: Superb imaging and depth; tonally excellent; attractive; well made

VALUE FOR MONEY
★★★★★

DISLIKE: It's not the most ballistic speaker

BUILD QUALITY
★★★★★

WE SAY: An accomplished all-rounder likely to work brilliantly in a wide selection of systems

EASE OF DRIVE
★★★★★

OVERALL

