

TEMPTATIONS

Spendor D7

Unusual rear port is shaped to create an even air flow, leading to deep, controlled bass



Spendor D7

This is how you make a good reputation for **stereo speakers** even better

Profile

Price **£3495** ★★★★★

What makes them special? A clever tweeter design coupled with carefully evolved drive units in a superbly constructed cabinet. Fit and finish is terrific too

Tempted? The D7s build on the design ethos and engineering ideas that have served Spendor so well over recent years. That's got to be worth a listen

Spendor is particularly proud of the D7 floorstanders, and rightly so. The company has been on an enviable run in recent years, producing a steady stream of class-leading speakers such as the A9, A6 and even the updated version of the old-enough-to-vote SP2. The D7s, arguably, shade them all.

At 95cm high x 20cm wide, these single-wired floorstanders aren't that big yet, properly set up, they deliver a full-blooded sound that's a match for anything we've heard at this price level.

Like a Dog Chasing Cars from *The Dark Knight* original soundtrack is a track we use often. Its combination of complex production, massively deep bass and wide dynamic range is a difficult challenge for any speaker. The D7s take it all in their stride, and once we push volume levels northwards these floorstanders surprise us with their solid punch and striking dynamic reach. They really do rival bigger, far pricier alternatives in these respects.

Digging deep

The level of resolution on offer is pleasing too. These towers leave no stone unturned when it comes to defining detail. Low-level instrumental strands are rendered with impressive precision, and are easily heard even in musically complex passages.

Tonally, these speakers just edge towards the leaner, brighter side of neutral, but don't go far enough down that path to cause complaint; any

sensible system matching is likely to result in a balanced sound. This presentation gives a surprising amount of agility as well as the speed to respond to the slightest change in volume or musical intensity.

Integration brings intimacy

Switch to Leonard Cohen's wonderfully understated *Old Ideas* set, and these floorstanders continue to shine. This is a fabulous recording and the Spendors highlight that fact. Their integration is excellent; a quality that helps deliver vocals with intimacy and, when required, both warmth and verve.

When it comes to rhythms the D7 has a surefooted yet measured approach. It doesn't share the enthusiasm of Naim's S400 or the fluidity of ProAc's pricier D40/R with music such as Prince's *Sign O' The Times*, but it communicates the momentum and changes of pace well.

Orff's *Carmina Burana* shows off the D7s' excellent stereo imaging, revealing a wide, open soundstage populated by well focused images. Taking care with positioning does help to maximise the effect, but these speakers aren't particularly fussy about placement.

Part of the credit has to go to the latest version of Spendor's linear flow port. This is positioned at the rear of the cabinet just above the plinth. It's heavily profiled, and seems to work superbly; there's loads of deep, controlled bass, little port noise and the position to the rear wall isn't particularly critical. We got

good results from around 25cm from the room boundary outwards.

Spendor has put a lot of work into the drive units too. That distinctive tweeter features an unusual grille that is claimed to even out the unit's output over a wide frequency range. It certainly seems to do the job. The mid/bass unit uses a new type of polymer cone material called EP77, chosen to offer improved clarity over Spendor's previous offerings.

In terms of system matching, we got good results with Roksan's Caspian M2 integrated (£1695), but it took the likes of our reference Bryston BP26/4B SST2 pre/power (around £9k) to really show what these speakers can do.

As expected at this price, the D7's build quality is terrific. There are six finishes, but the two premium options (an extra £500) really look the part.

We've become used to Spendor speakers being carefully developed, but the D7s take that attention to detail to another level. Both physically and sonically these are top-class. Spendor's rich history of making terrific speakers is alive and well in the present.

Rating ★★★★★

FOR Massively detailed; exceptional dynamics; precise presentation; huge, cohesive sound

AGAINST Premium finishes aside, they look relatively ordinary for the price

VERDICT The finest Spendors in years set the standard for insight and precision at this price

TECH SPECS

Type Floorstander
Sensitivity 90dB/W/m
Impedance 8 ohms
Max power 200W
Biwireable No
Finishes 6
Dimensions (hwd) 95 x 20 x 32cm



Massively deep bass and wide dynamic range is a difficult challenge for any speaker. The D7s take it all in their stride

Behind the music
• Philip Swift,
Managing Director



"Spendor loudspeakers are renowned for their vibrant, realistic midrange. With the D7s our goal was to extend that performance from low bass to high treble.

Our new Spendor LPZ (Linear Pressure Zone) tweeter has an innovative micro-foil in front of the diaphragm. Compared with conventional tweeters, the high-frequency amplitude and phase response in the listening zone is remarkably even and extended. As a result, sound images are vivid, in-the-air, and as bright or sweet as the music demands.

Our new Spendor Linear flow port has an aerodynamically profiled central baffle which creates a tapered twin-venturi port. Air flows symmetrically in and out of the port helping to deliver a naturally fast and engaging bass, free from unwanted resonance."