

Monitor Audio Silver RS6



£600

Don't need the grilles

The tweeter grille is held on magnetically. Take it off for the best sound.

Run 'em in patiently

Like the ATCs, these speakers take a long time to run in. Make sure you audition a properly used pair – otherwise, you won't understand why we like them so much.



Tucked out of sight

Monitor Audio has taken a great deal of care over every part of this design. Even the plinths are shaped elegantly. We like the spike arrangement: it's neat, and makes them easy to level.



FOR THE SAME price as the KEFs, you can have these Monitor Audios. The RS6s are some of the best all-round speakers we know of at this price. They're built well, for starters. Take a good look around the cabinet, and you'll see the care taken over the small things: the terminals are a neat design, and even the trim around the drivers shows signs of many hours of design work. As with every Monitor Audio speaker, finish is

"They walk the fine line between total revelation and class entertainment"

absolutely top class. The likes of Hyperion should take a good, long look at the RS6s to see just how classy loudspeakers can be at this price point. Even the Highlands look a touch basic compared to the Monitor Audios.

As you know, for us, cosmetics are a fraction of the story. The real news is that the RS6s come closer than any rival

↑ FOR
Speed, resolution and strong dynamics; great build and finish

↓ AGAINST
Needs space to breathe; take care in system matching

→ VERDICT
The Silver RS6s are excellent all-rounders. They're best floorstanders in this test

in this test to bridging the agility of a top standmounter with the authority of a really good tower. If this makes these Monitor Audios sound like one of the favourites to win this test, you'd be right.

Little bar the Eposes grip the rhythm track of Prince's *Black Sweat* so forcefully, while making complete sense of the busy production. Detail resolution is equally impressive, with these speakers leaving you in no doubt as to what's on the disc.

MAs get the balancing act right

True, the likes of the ATC SCM 7s are possibly more revealing when it comes to showing up recording flaws. Yet the RS6s can walk that fine line between total revelation and class entertaining very well. They'll tell you what's wrong with your recordings, without rubbing the shortcomings in your face.

As you'd expect from something with such a powerful bass performance, a free-space position is a must, as is a decent-sized room. Try and put the RS6s into a small room – say, anything much

smaller than 3.5m by 3.5m – and you'll suffer unwelcome bass boom.

Also, be sure to partner these RS6s with smooth and refined electronics: they'll shine at the end of a Roksan M-series or Arcam set-up, but could sound a little too bright with the latest generation of Cyrus gear. Get it right, and you'll find these towers a great buy.

Tested with

Nelly Furtado – Loose



Loose sees Nelly Furtado move into more musically mainstream areas. There's a strong whiff of R'n'B about this album, and that's a shame, as she

started out doing something different from the norm. You've probably already heard the likes of *Maneater*, which is a hard-hitting pop/dance track, but also check out the gentler *All Good Things*. The Monitor Audios aren't fussy about genre, and will play both these tracks with equal skill. Few speakers in this test have a broad enough spread of talent to do that.