

STEREO SPEAKERS
PROAC
STUDIO 110



£ 749

FOR

Sparkling dynamics and superb timing; an entertaining presentation

AGAINST

Don't look particularly special for the money

VERDICT

In a suitably capable system these are about as musical as sub-thousand pound standmounts get

A must-listen pair from ProAc

THE MARKET FOR a pair of quality sub-£1000 standmounts hasn't been sparkling of late. Sure, there are the usual suspects – Ruark's Sabre IIIs and Dynaudio's Audience 52SEs have long been favourites of ours – but nothing special has come along for ages. Up until now that is: here's ProAc, all set to stir things up with its Studio 110s.

We've already raved about their big brothers, the floorstanding 140s

“Don't buy another sub-£1000 standmounter before you hear these”

(in fact we gave them a best-in-class Award), so we were expecting good things. As things turned out, they're even better than that.

Not that our first impressions were wholly positive. The finish and build are decent for the money, but compared to most rivals these boxes look plain. However, put the Studio 110s on something like Partington's £170 Super Dread noughts, well out into the room

with a touch of toe-in, and they'll shine brighter than just about anything else at this price.

There's no one quality that grabs you first. The sound is just so good in so many areas that you'll find it difficult to sit back and analyse. And that's how it should be. These speakers are all about the music. The Studio 110s get out of the way, allowing the rest of the system to do its job unhindered.

Take it as read that detail resolution is good, and stereo imaging is pinpoint in the extreme. However, it's the ProAc's vivid dynamics and ability to track rhythms that really sets them above the norm. Stravinsky's *The Rite*

OK, so they look a little plain – but the ProAc's certainly sound special

of Spring takes an unbreakable hold through these speakers, as does Kate Bush's multilayered *Aerial*.

We'd love to go on, but space has beaten us. Let's leave it at this then: if you want to be entertained, don't buy another sub-thousand pound standmounter before you hear the ProAc Studio 110s.



ALSO CONSIDER



**RUARK
SABRE III**



£899

June 2005

These are fast, communicative speakers, though a touch bright at the top end

**SPENDOR
S3e**



£795

June 2005

If you value refinement and resolution give these delightful Spendors a go