

# Spendor's softly, softly approach

**Spendor  
S6e**

**£1495**

FLOORSTANDING LOUDSPEAKERS

**↑ FOR**

Levels of detail; even-handed delivery; taut lower frequencies; dynamics; slim and understated style

**↓ AGAINST**

Some might wish for greater bass reach; occasionally they exhibit a confined-sounding midrange

**... VERDICT**

Thoroughly enjoyable and a great choice for long listening sessions, but these aren't quite class-leaders



SPENDOR IS A company with a very British heritage that builds classic-looking kit. It tends to be the kind of hi-fi equipment that rewards you more the longer you own it – a bit like, say, owning a Morgan or a old Jag.

As a result, in short demo situations Spendor speakers might not leap out and scream “buy me”. The company’s approach is much more studied and, true to the family tradition, the S6es don’t deliver in-your-face bass, they don’t drip with rich midrange, and they don’t zap you with exaggerated treble. Instead you get an even tonal balance that gives equal space to the separate tonal areas of a piece of music.

If you’re getting the impression the S6es sound staid, think again. Their excellent levels of detail hold your attention, and spot-on timing means an extremely musical listen, but some – especially devotees of hip-hop – might wish for greater bass depth. The two-way’s 18cm polymer mid/bass driver serves up firm bass, but its reach falls short certain floorstanders, such as PMC’s FB1s.

And while midrange delivery is above average, we detected a ‘cupped’ sound, which robs some vocals of breathing space and of an element of realism. We have no complaints



We were really impressed with the smaller Spendor S5e floorstanders, and these S6es show a similarly refined approach

higher up the frequency range, though, and that 27mm fabric dome tweeter is a little sweetie. And when it comes to positioning the Spendors aren’t fussy: they can happily sit reasonably close to a rear wall and you need just add a touch of toe-in.

The S6es are great, even if their little brothers, the S5es, do outshine them. However, they’re categorically worth a (long) listen – so why not put on your goggles and take a spin down to your nearest Spendor stockist?

ALSO CONSIDER

**B&W 704**

£1400 ★★★★★ March 2004

If the devil is in the detail, these speakers will surely dig him out

**PMC FB1**

£1410 ★★★★★★ March 2004

These are hugely exciting and dynamic floorstanding speakers