

SCANSONIC MB-1

- 2-way bass reflex
- Band treble with capton/aluminium sandwich membrane
- 4.5" bass/mid-range with coal fibre membrane
- Frequency range 50 Hz – 40 kHz
- Crossover frequency 3.5 kHz, 2. order
- Dimensions 17.8 x 31.2 x 28.6 cm
- Weight 6.1 kg
- EUR 1850,- pair
- Web: scansonic.dk



IT CAN'T BE!

How can you make such great speakers for that price? Scansonic MB-1 is proof that it is possible to achieve better sound for a cheaper price, if you do it correctly.

LYD & BILLEDE THINKS

- + **Simply great sound for the money. The build quality is excellent, and moreover, it is really easy to set up.**
- **But they come with requirements to your amplifier, they want to have quality!**

Only a short time ago, we cheered for Raidho X-1, which are fantastic speakers in a small format. But you can't call them cheap. How good can it be for one-third of the price?

Well, you take the same designer and give him the task, so you can hope for something really good. Michael Børresen is his name, and the speakers have his initials as the model designation.

We already wrote about Børresen

during the test of the Radio speakers, and he has been involved in several projects for other producers. This is because he knows his field, and he has a refreshing way of thinking outside the box.

Danish Dantax are owners of Raidho and also has the Scansonic brand. First and foremost, this brand deals with imports of electronics of the cheaper kind, which anyway often has a surprisingly high quality. When they were looking for a speaker series, it was an obvious choice to inquire with an internal specialist – Michael Børresen.

COAL FIBRE HERE AND THERE

We will have a closer look at the smallest model in Scansonic's top series, which is the two-way mini monitor stand speakers with the name MB-1. The goal was to build small but high-performance stand speakers, which were both elegant and easy to place. That's why the bass port is directed forward, since

it means that the speakers can be set closer to the rear wall.

As usual, when Michael Børresen is involved, a band treble is used. It is not Børresen's own treble, but he has a great sense of what a good band treble speaker should sound like, and has found an element which is according to his own ideal sound. The bass/midway element of 4.5 inches has a rigid diaphragm in coal fibre, in line with the diaphragms found in Raidho's speakers.

MB-1 has a great rounded enclosure with a coal fibre plate on top, with a look that is both bold and exclusive. Together with the solid inner reinforcements, it also contributes to making the cabinet dead. On the back, two excellent terminals are located, and just like on Raidho C and D, they are placed vertically instead of horizontally.

Furthermore, a unique stand with adjustable aluminium feet has been developed, but the speakers also fit with the stands for Raidho X-1. We



have used the latter in this test. On its own stands and also on X-1's stands, the speakers are slightly tilted backwards, and the stands are quite difficult to mount. It is not simply plug and play...

RAIDHO-DNA

The first time I heard Scansonic MB-1, my jaw dropped – literally. This was at the fair in Munich, and I am sure that many producers of considerably more expensive speakers, who heard the small wonders, left the Raidho room – because it was there that the speakers were on display – with worried minds. It was a big room, but the small speakers per-

Scansonic MB-1



The excellent terminals are placed vertically, just like on the stand speakers Raidho C and D.

formed at a level that speakers at 1300-2300 are not supposed to be capable of. They were simply one of the biggest surprises of the fair.

That is why I have been looking forward to receiving them for a test. And I might as well say it right away: The result is more than exciting.

It is not difficult to set up MB-1 and get a good result, but with a bit of tuning, you can get a whole lot further. They sound a lot like Raidho. That's not so strange, as they have succeeded in squeezing a lot of Raidho's DNA into MB-1. A lot!

There is definitely (even) better resolution, musicality and refinement in the small Raidho X-1, no doubt about it, but for one-third of the price, the MB-1 has come a long way. And X-1 are fantastic speakers; the more you listen to them, you appreciate them more and more.

The same goes for MB-1; they are winners from the start, but they win even more in the long run. The sound is organic in the most musical of ways, the sound picture is of Raidho format (in other words, big!), and there are plenty of details and resolution. Let's talk about the bass. It is both firm and potent, almost in a nature-defying way – the bass element is only 4.5" after all. This is really a bargain for this price!

BETTER WITH A BETTER AMPLIFIER

MB-1 was allowed to play both with a hybrid amplifier from Vincent in the same price range as the speakers themselves and with my standard test amplifier, Devialet 200. And it was clearly shown that there is a difference between the amplifiers. Both of them worked well, but MB-1 was not quite able to take advantage of the much higher potential of the Devialet.

I say not quite, but they came surprisingly close while trying. E.g. the "half-brothers" Raidho X-1 show that it is possible to come (even) closer.

With Vincent, the sound became a bit warm without it being too much. MB-1 gave a slightly higher detail level than other speakers in this price range, which I also tried with the amplifier. In addition, I tried with a PowerDAC for around 700 Euro and a streamer as the source. Here, you could clearly hear that the amplifier sets limits for the sound quality you get.

Not a bad result in itself, but here we have obviously gotten less than what the speakers need. With an amplifier of higher quality, MB-1 flourishes and provides an even better musical result.

CONCLUSION

Have I heard better speakers than Scansonic MB-1 for this price? No. Do I want a pair of MB-1? Yes. This is really something you need to consider if you are looking for some really good stand speakers where the price is not sky-high. Here, you get a sound picture you will immediately like, and it all just feels sooo right. A big applause for MB-1!

SOUND QUALITY.....	★★★★★★
FUNCTIONALITY.....	★★★★★☆
USER-FRIENDLINESS.....	★★★★★★
QUALITY IMPRESSION.....	★★★★★★
FINAL ASSESSMENT.....	★★★★★★