

Best floorstander €600+

Spendor A6R €1650

Our top floorstander Award goes to Spendor's mighty A6Rs for the second year running, and rightly so - these are superb performers.

We're never short of speakers in our test rooms. They cover the full price range from budget models to huge monoliths that could be yours instead of a fully decked-out Mercedes.

Yet these Spendors, with their neat but unassuming appearance and wholly convincing sound, remain one of our favourites. That's down to a combination of their beautifully balanced sound, fine build and terrific engineering.

Frequency cohesion

These speakers are just so capable. There's a seamless quality to the way they handle the frequency range with bass, midrange and treble gelling in a wonderfully cohesive way. That low-end performance is lovely, delivering power, authority and agility in portions that most rivals can't get close to.

Resolution of detail is second to none at this price, and there are layers upon layers of information to get hold of. Notes have depth and dimension, oft-lost nuances are picked up in all their glory, and vocals are conveyed with all the reality and emotion they were recorded with.

Dynamically, the A6Rs are terrifically expressive, showing a breadth of ability that outshines excellent alternatives such as PMC's Twenty 23s. There's plenty of punch here, and no shortage of precision. These speakers stay composed even as volume levels head north.

They're not particularly forgiving, though. All that transparency combined with a very direct presentation means any shortcomings in your system, particularly if they include excess brightness or aggression, will be obvious. Just make sure you partner these speakers with electronics talented enough to let all their class-leading qualities shine.

Get it right and you'll have speakers that will keep you happy for decades. That understated exterior hides a talent of huge proportions; the Spendor A6Rs fully deserve their Best Buy status for another year.

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