



Castle Richmond 3i Loudspeaker

reviewed by Jason Hector in Issue 38

There are few things as certain as death, taxes and the fact that small, two-way, budget loudspeakers deliver more music for your money than any other audio component. Maybe it's their inherent simplicity, maybe it's the exacting discipline imposed by a limited design budget, maybe it's the natural stiffness of their ever shrinking cabinet dimensions, but feed them a decent signal and these little wonders will surprise and entertain you in equal measure with the sheer quantity and quality of the music they produce from their diminutive size (and matching price-tag). The Castle Richmond 3is are simply the latest in a long and distinguished line of such stop-gap giant-killers, all too often drafted in to shore up a crumbling budget only to survive a string of subsequent upgrades. The spiritual successor to the AR18, KEF Coda 2 and any number of little Missions, the

Castles lean on their own particular heritage to add beautiful cabinet finishes to the equation. No surprise really, given that Castle's cabinet plant has



consistently turned out some of the prettiest traditional enclosures and supplied them to a whole host of UK loudspeaker manufacturers. Unfortunately their own speakers have tended to be just as traditional and polished, which left them somewhat lacking when it came to musical excitement and drama.

Well, this little Richmond well and truly breaks that mould. Still just as polished and refined as the exterior suggests, it's also vivacious, engaging and surprisingly visceral when the music demands. Everything a small speaker should be (small, tuneful and real-wood too) how could they fail? ➤+



Price: From £320

Manufacturer:
Castle Acoustics
Tel. (44)(0)1756 7593333
Net. www.castle.uk.com