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Sonodyne SRP400

disclosure:

I have no shares with Sonodyne, personally I know their marketing guy Aninda who works for Sonodyne. he sent me a pair of SRP400 to try them out at my location. I successfully used the Sonodyne SM100 AK 3 years back (and still do) and was pretty on fire about them.

introduction:

I got the SRP 400 4 weeks ago. They are very small sized boxes and fit on an office desk. Bi-amped, 4.5" bass driver with 25 Watts, silk dome 1" driver with 25 Watts. They are front ported, got an on off switch and a loudness attenuation switch. On the back you get an XLR and bass/treble tilt + bass rolloff (dip switches).

testing:

impressive, loud, tight comes to my mind. I was actually blown away by the sheer loudness these little guys can achieve before they start to distort. My test were ranging from gold masters ACDC - back in black to modern stuff like destiny's child - say my name and pretty aggressive stuff like Crowbar - broken glass. Old Xzibit records and Bruce Springsteen.

I finally mixed a metalcore track on them switching between PSI M25 A, NS-10. I was able to get everything right after the second revision (and had to check on the M25 for the bass).

sound:

I never heard such a small box delivering sound in every range as balanced as on these speakers (always respecting their size! which is very small). They sound like modern NS-10 without the annoying fizz and lower mid-cut. the lower mids sound boosted (to compensate for the small size) but not in an annoying way. No boxy-ness at all. The bass is super tight (although you miss the lower octave due to the size). Compared to the M25 you have get a fair amount of the same deep information and width information. You get a very strong phantom mid with these small boxes so it seems they did a very good job over at Sonodyne to get the phase straight.

What I like the most with these small speakers is that I can take them with me, mixing/recording in other studios and feel like I have a strong reference with me (I did that twice now already and feel safe). I used them to monitor a live-recording on a metal gig 2 weeks ago. Fabolous.

the dynamics are impressive too. You can turn them all the way down and get the same balanced sound as if you turn them all the way up. Pay attention to their limited headroom when going full power. You can drive them all the way up and get no visual clipping led. You hear the artifacts very well (due to the good resolution of the speakers).

dynamics again: kicks, attack on snare drums are a very strong selling point on these little fukkars. You hear what you are getting. You can tune your compressor to get rid of the attack

or if you don't have attack, make it sound right. They show off whats there!

Keep in mind that they are front ported so if you turn up the volume they are putting out a lot of air (without any noise on the port! again.. good job).

negative: I was not so happy with the loudness wheel on the front to adjust the loudness of the speaker. It's not clear where exactly the wheel is pointing at so you need good ears or a measuring tool to get left and right sound at the same level. That is only a small minus for me as I was able to dial that in easily.

At this price point there is no other speaker I tested that delivers that kind of sound for the money => 700 US\$/pair. The sound/money ratio is impressive!