

The SCM 12s provide crystal-clear insight and even tonal balance



ATC SCM 12

★★★★★

£999

FOR

Ultra-revealing presentation that's faithful to the original recording

AGAINST

Is your system good enough to handle this level of analysis?

VERDICT

Fantastically honest speakers. If it's on the recording and the electronics pass it on, you'll hear it

THERE ARE TWO good reasons to leave the SCM 12s' grilles on: the frequency response is flattest when they are in place, and they look pig ugly when naked.

That's where our criticisms end. If sound quality is your prime concern, and let's face it, at this price point it should be, then these ATCs are a must-listen proposition.

Mount the ATCs on solid stands, such as Partington's Dreadnoughts, and the results are as natural and detailed as they get at this price. The tonal balance is beautifully even, right down to the lowest frequencies.

Unusually, ATC has chosen to go without a ported cabinet, as it feels a sealed enclosure gives more accurate bass. We're not about to argue, as the results speak for themselves.

Listen to Nelly's commercial hip-hop and low frequencies are taut and

tuneful. The mid/bass driver is a great piece of heavy engineering, and has no trouble coping with large power inputs. Leading-edge information is sharply defined, as are the harmonics that follow.

The SCM 12s are as happy playing the gentle acoustic soul of India Arie as they are the grand symphonies of Dvorak. However, they don't flatter the music or recording, so if the piece is poorly recorded or badly played then they won't fudge the issue.

Detail resolution is top class, as is the delivery of dynamics. If the system matches the high standards, the results will be stunning.

RATINGS

★★★★★ The best on the market

★★★★★ Excellent

★★★★★