A3X review by Pro Audio Review

Rich Tozzoli is an award-winning composer, producer/engineer and has reviewed the smallest ADAM speaker to date – the A3X – in October 2010 for Pro Audio Review. Please read his verdict below.

The reality of many modern home/personal studios is that there's not a lot of room for large speakers. With that in mind, ADAM Audio introduces the A3X closefield powered monitor (\$299 each, street). The A3X is ADAM's smallest speaker ever and the least expensive of their affordably priced product line, the AX Series.

[...]

The A3X is a different kind of monitor than those to which I am accustomed; I mean this in neither a good nor a bad way. They can be best described as super "present" with tremendous projection and smoothness in the highs and mids. I also felt there was a slight low/mid bump, and I checked this with and without my subwoofer. I feel this sonic characteristic is due to the inherent nature of a small speaker cabinet with dual bass ports; their size prevents them from projecting a full bass response, even though they are rated down to 60 Hz.

It is my belief that the A3X pair sounds best when combined with a subwoofer that can properly and efficiently push out the bottom end. That's not to say they don't sound good alone; they certainly do. But for any type of critical monitoring, you should really use a subwoofer with the A3X. [Though we received no subwoofer from ADAM for this evaluation, company-published literature contends that its Sub7 powered subwoofer (\$549 street) is ideal for use with A3X as well as with its series siblings, the A5X and A7X. – Ed.]

Finally, please note that the A3X is not shielded; be cautious when placing them near CRT monitors. However, I had no problems while the pair was next to my own computer monitor.

Summary

Overall, the A3X is a fine speaker. This pair's small size belies the smooth sonic footprint they project. I would recommend that potential users make sure to compare them directly with monitors they are already familiar with. That said, an A3X pair would be a great addition to any small homestudio/post-production setup in need of a high-end sound. The fact that they drive so efficiently means you won't need a top-flight monitor mixer, either; this alone makes them an excellent purchase option.

Rich Tozzoli, Pro Audio Review, October 2010

For the full review please go to Pro Audio Review's website: http://www.prosoundnetwork.com/article/adam-audio-a3x-active-closefield-monitors/11801#

