



TERMINAL VELOCITY

Cutting the cost but keeping the quality high: ADAM Audio T5V...

DJs and producers looking for a really good pair of speakers for their studio should look at ADAM Audio's new T5V monitor, part of the new T series range. Coming in at sub-£300, these monitors are perfect for first-time DJs and producers looking for a trusted sound at a price that doesn't rock the Casbah. In this price range, there are a lot of options but also a lot of fake pretenders, where essentially the monitors are just glorified hi-fi speakers. However, with the T-series ADAM Audio have designed a speaker that utilises technology found in its pricier offerings and managed to feed it down into their cheaper models. Cheap and cheerful usually comes with a heap of compromises when it comes to kit and technology but ADAM Audio have limited them in order to give the customer a great sound. Some of the more hi-tech elements — as found in their more pricier models — are missing but the advances that ADAM have carved out over the years have been adopted in the T5V, like the distinctive yellow ribbon tweeters that are omnipresent throughout all of ADAM Audio's monitor range.

The T5V look good, but the looks aren't just cosmetic — the shape of the cabinet has been designed in order to help deliver a truer sound. The slightly angular edges of the box should help the audio be uniformly

distributed throughout the space around the speaker, offering good diffusion. Little things like that mean while the speaker is on the lower end of the price bracket, the sound should still be of a decent quality.

The T5V do sound similar to ADAM's A series monitor, which are probably one of the most popular monitors found in studios around the world. The sound is quite neutral, very true, there are no hypes in the top end and the bottom isn't overly boomy or warm — the sound across the frequency range is quite tight. However, unlike the A series which have the bass ports at the front of the speaker, the T5V has its bassport at the rear, which is normal in monitor designs.

In terms of positioning, users should be careful not to place the speakers too close to a wall as the rear port will throw out on to the back surface, and pronounce the bass giving a false representation. This is a problem for all rear-ported speakers and not just the T5V, so careful positioning will help to keep the sound true. We conducted our simple high/low test where we play audio through the speaker at high levels and then at low levels, a basic test but great to see how the speakers represent themselves at extremes. The T5V handled it well — we cranked them up to the point where it was unpleasant to listen to them for a long period of time.

At this level audio breakup wasn't too bad, the speakers sounded a bit harsh in the mid to top but that is only to be expected, especially when not using an additional subwoofer. The sound quality was still of a decent nature — at the low level the T5V was very revealing, the soundstage was good and we could pick up sounds across a wide frequency range very easily. The stereo imaging was also very good at the lower volume range. Listening to monitors at a low level helps to ascertain the accuracy of the audio passing through it.

Working on the T5V over long periods of time wasn't as fatiguing as we've found on other cost-effective monitors. The surprising thing is that these are 5-inch drivers; however, the audio sounded a lot bigger than one would expect from that size. The sound on the T5V can be fine-tuned at the back of the speaker — users have the option to adjust the LF and HF shelving filters allowing the lows and highs to be adjusted separately to be either neutral, boosted by 2dB, or cut by 2dB.

Overall, the T5V are a great speaker that sound and perform above and beyond its cost-effective pricing and would be a welcome addition to anyone's studio. To win a pair of these fantastic speakers simply send an email with your details to COMPETITIONS@DJMAG.COM — good luck.

AT A GLANCE

ADAM AUDIO T5V MONITOR

£264

• adam-audio.com

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| BUILD QUALITY | 8.0 |
| EASE OF USE | 9.0 |
| FEATURES | 9.0 |
| VALUE FOR MONEY | 9.0 |
| SOUND QUALITY | 9.0 |

HYPE

A great sounding speaker at a price that will make you smile.

GRIPE

None at this price.

Entry level speakers that perform admirably, highly recommended for anyone looking for professional sound but on a budget.

VERDICT 8.8/10

PRODUCER TIPS SQUIRE

"Less is more — the challenge that I would suggest to any music producer or newcomer is to try to find those essential few elements that match within perfection between them. Adding layers and charging your project with so much instrumentation can lead you to lose the main focus of the whole story. Sometimes we tend to think that adding must be better than a lack of elements, but the sweet-point is when you find that magical element that in combination with another one makes you feel over the moon. It requires time and patience on what you want to communicate within your music, but I always try my best to apply this to any new project I start working on. It will also make your life easier when you mix down the whole song, so think about it."



PERFECT BEAT

TC ELECTRONIC have been around for some time and have a reputation for some rather excellent hardware delay units and their new product, the TC2290 DT, is a hybrid recreation of one of their classic delay units. The TC2290 DT is a desktop version of the original TC2290 delay unit, with the new version made up of a hardware control interface and a software plug-in with full DAW integration. The compact hardware controller borrows its looks from the original rack-mounted outboard unit and the sound is equally impressive, all aided by an expansive selection of signature presets from some of the world's leading producers and engineers. The compact hardware controller sits nicely on your desktop, giving users all the essential controls at their fingertips. Four original units from the '80s were taken apart and used as the basis of the emulation, so no stone has been returned to make sure that the new 2290 DT sounds as good as its predecessor.

• **£305** tcelectronic.com

