

T BREAK

ADAM Audio introduce new flagship model for its T Series monitor range

ADAM AUDIO'S T series monitors have been a great way for producers on a budget to get the famed ADAM Audio sound. Initially, the range featured a five- and seven-inch model but now it has been expanded to feature an 8-inch variant — the T8V — to give producers who need a wider frequency range the option to go large on their monitoring set-up.

ADAM Audio is known for their impressive sound quality and the T series continues the trend, albeit at a price that works for a lot of up and coming producers or those on a budget. The T8V are active monitors as with the other versions of the speaker range and feature ADAM's U-ART high-frequency driver and smooth polypropylene-woofer cone construction, and make use of the same technology developed for ADAM's high-end flagship S Series. Rest assured that the T8V is going to deliver some serious sound. The bigger speaker, of course, offers a deeper bass response than the five- and seven-inch and is perfectly suited for electronic music producers who need a little bit more oomph in the bottom end. While offering more 'bang for your buck', the T8V is still situated perfectly for use in project and home studios and offers a wide listening sweet-spot. However, be thoughtful when choosing your speakers depending on the size of the room — the T8V does kick, so for very small rooms it might be a bit much and you're probably better looking at the T7V or actually the T5V.

The look of the T8V follows the same styling as the rest of the T family — minimal black angular cabinet design with the famous gold-coloured tweeter, with a rear-firing bass-reflex port. Around the back are the connections: RCA and XLR but no quarter-inch jack, which many speakers in this range normally have. Saying that, it isn't a deal-breaker. Oddly enough ADAM has chosen to put the power indicator light around the back. We didn't get that. There are also LF and HF switches for added adjustment of the low and high frequencies for fine-tuning the



speaker to your listening environment. In testing, we found that the T8Vs outperform a lot of other well-known monitors within this price range and some equally more expensive, offering a punchy and detailed sound, with clarity. We were impressed with how accurate and revealing they were — a good word to use when talking about monitors. A good studio monitor should reveal any flaws in your mixes and enable you as the producer/engineer to deliver a really tight mix, which in turn benefits your productions across all listening mediums. The bass extension as we've mentioned is lower on the T8V and is really noticeable especially when comparing to the T5V or even the T7V.

The T8V delivers a tight bass, which isn't always the way in speakers at this price range — we were more than happy with how the T8V performed in this region, punching out a solid bass response that was far from muddy. In fact, sonically the T8V represented itself well across the whole frequency range — defined mids and nice crisp highs that didn't venture into the brittle arena even when the monitors were pushed hard.

AT A GLANCE

ADAM AUDIO T8V

£519 pair

• adam-audio.com

BUILD QUALITY	9.0
EASE OF USE	9.0
FEATURES	9.0
VALUE FOR MONEY	10.0
SOUND QUALITY	9.0

HYPE

A great sounding monitor with plenty of bass and that is happy to play loud.

GRIPE

Could be a little too overpowering for smaller rooms with that deeper bass response.

ADAM Audio deliver a speaker that offers large monitoring sound and performance at a price range that is amazing value for money.

VERDICT 9.2/10

There is an option to add the T10S subwoofer to the mix, but we believe that it isn't necessary with the T8 as it handles the bass side of things perfectly fine on its own.

In terms of pushing the speaker hard, the T8Vs are loud, as would be expected with an eight-inch woofer, but the performance at a high listening volume was not compromised. Safety note: we advise against listening to any monitors at deafening levels for any extended periods of time — your ears are your livelihood. We found that we could work and listen on the speakers at normal levels for quite a while without suffering listening fatigue. This generally indicates a well-balanced sound stage.

We have to admit that we have always been fond of ADAM Audio speakers across the whole of the range. The S Series is a delight but cost serious money. For any DJ/producers wanting to experience the fabled ADAM Audio sound but at a price-point that doesn't offend, the T series and the new T8 are definitely worth investigating.



PRODUCER TIPS RUDOSA

"Improving workflow; simple as that. Creating sample packs and using shortcut folders allows you to speed up workflow when producing. You can spend a small amount of time going through old

records that you have had some success on or enjoyed making and have worked hard on. They don't have to be released tracks, just elements you worked on and feel you could re-use. "For example, layered hi-hats that you really like the sound of together — bounce it as one sample. You can use this in

your next record and maybe pitch it down and add another sound. This also applies with kicks, claps, percussion bits you can re-use and re-engineer. It will also help you to build up a signature sound. "A new addition for me in Ableton has been the Favourites. You can now colour-code things and have them in a folder section so it's fast and easy to locate things and relieves that moment of 'Err, what do I need again?' My folders are set to Currently, Go-to plugins, new plugins, new samples packs I've downloaded and want to make a habit of using, scales for music writing, and Max for Live things."

SAMPLING MADE EASY

KORG has revisited and released a new version of their popular Volca Sample. The battery-powered ultra-portable sample sequencer now comes with USB connection, offering users the ability to connect the unit directly to their DAW or to use the Volca sample with the dedicated Librarian software (available for Mac and PC) to send samples and patterns back and forth between the hardware and the computer. There is also a dedicated iOS app AudioPocket that allows users to record new samples on the fly and transfer them to the Volca Sample instantly. The updated sampler also comes with more memory slots, pattern locations, a fresh new sound library and additional artist bonus packs. **£159 korg.com**

