

STANDMOUNT LOUDSPEAKER



Tannoy Precision 6.1

Being a Tannoy, the Precision 6.1 has a Dual Concentric drive unit. And as anyone who's heard one knows, this is no bad thing. This one is said to have an extremely uniform sound radiation pattern that shows off the benefits of Tannoy's technology to best effect. High frequencies radiate from the centre of the low-frequency unit through a carefully designed exponential horn. The result is a far wider on-axis area that you can listen from, and superior stereo projection. The crossover further time-aligns the two drivers, meaning that the sound appears to come from the same point-source just behind the drive unit.

To the untrained eye, the Precision 6.1's drive unit looks like a single full range design, and not a big one at that at 150mm in diameter. The outer mid/bass part sports a cone made from a selected blend of paper pulp fibres, and is chosen for its natural sound, says Tannoy. The inset WideBand tweeter uses a titanium dome for high rigidity and low mass, and is said to be superior to aluminium in terms of where and how the response breaks up.

The rear of the cabinet features a distinctive binding post panel, which

has gold-plated binding posts. The company also offers its signature fifth terminal to earth the driver chassis to the amplifier ground, which is said to reduce RF interference.

Sound quality

This is a quintessential high-quality Tannoy that gives a wide, expansive and room-filling sound. It's not what you'd call tonally warm, but neither is it hard and steely; the balance is well judged and the general impression is one that is ever so slightly 'well lit' across the upper midband, but not excessively so. It picks out vocals, lead piano and guitar lines and throws them into the room with confidence, while at the same time not forcing the listener to take cover behind the sofa.

At higher frequencies, the mid/bass unit crosses over to the tweeter in a pretty orderly way, where you become aware that you are listening to a metal dome – it's not quite as smooth and well damped as a fabric dome, or as seamless and delicate as a ribbon. All the same, it integrates well and shares the same slightly 'vivid' character of the mid/bass unit. The result is an atmospheric and extended treble. It's not coarse or hard and lends a lovely metallic twang to delicately struck hi-hat cymbals.

DETAILS

- PRICE**
£900
- ORIGIN**
UK/China
- WEIGHT**
7.3kg
- DIMENSIONS**
(WxHxD)
224 x 330 x 257mm
- FEATURES**
 - 25mm titanium dome tweeter
 - 150mm treated paper mid/bass driver
 - Quoted sensitivity: 88dB/1W/1m
- VERTRIEB**
Audio Tuning Vertriebs GmbH
- TELEPHONE**
+43 1 544 8580
- WEBSITE**
audiotuning.com

Its size means it's only going to give a finite amount of bass, which means that the very bottom notes of a bass guitar simply aren't there. That's fair enough, as you don't buy a relatively small standmounting speaker for guilty subterranean pleasures. What bass there is, is decently controlled and tuneful – it doesn't impede that lovely open midband, and sits back and adds a bit of heft to percussion, to push the song along in a crisp and tidy manner.

The result is a clean and open speaker that images beautifully and seemingly disappears from your listening room. We kick off with Animal Nightlife's *Native Boy* and the Precisions romp along. Rhythmically, the cabinet stays out of the action to a large extent, with no untoward honking or booming, letting the Dual Concentric driver get its claws into the music. This it does very well, serving up a musically satisfying sound that bounces from the start of the track all the way to its very end. It gives a really enjoyable sense of there being a musical event, as opposed to just going through the motions.

Feed the Tannoy some heavier and more challenging material, such as Genesis' *Dance on a Volcano*, and things are no less fun. The speaker has a good go at capturing Phil Collins' thunderous pan rolls and the bass drum is tight and taut. Again, the midband is finely etched and highly detailed, throwing out large amounts of information into the room with heady abandon; the guitar work feels very intricate, and Collins' vocals are breathy and captivating. On this denser material at higher volumes there's a bit of compression, but that's the price you pay for a small speaker.

Conclusion

Overall, the Precision 6.1 is one of the few boxes at this price that is truly able to leave its cabinet behind and offer an 'out of body experience' ●

HI-FI CHOICE

OUR VERDICT

<p>SOUND QUALITY ★★★★★</p> <p>VALUE FOR MONEY ★★★★★</p> <p>BUILD QUALITY ★★★★★</p> <p>EASE OF DRIVE ★★★★★</p>	<p>LIKE: Clean, spacious, detailed and engaging sound</p> <p>DISLIKE: Limited bass extension; stiff competition</p> <p>WE SAY: Beautifully presented, musically satisfying stand mounters</p>
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OVERALL
★★★★★