

FLOORSTANDING LOUDSPEAKER



Cambridge Audio Aeromax 6

Barely 18 months since it first launched its Aero range, CA has gone for a revamp and a new name. Our abiding impression of the Aero 6 floorstander is of a great budget box with a unique sound that's just a little too soft and fluffy. The new Aeromax has tightened up, though; it was understandable that designer Dominic Baker paid so much attention to the original's novel drive unit complement, but he's had time to refine the rest of the speaker and the result is that the cabinets are now better braced. No less profound is the fitment of the latest fourth-generation Balanced Mode Radiator (BMR), which partners with twin bass drivers. Married to this is better OFC internal wiring and upgraded speaker terminals. What you get is an almost uniquely even sound, totally devoid of the sort of peaks and lumpiness in the midband that all but the very best boxes suffer from. It really is uncanny, and the mods make it even easier to

enjoy. It works well close to a rear wall, but it excels around 50cm into the room with the bung removed.

Sound quality

The basic sound of the Aeromax 6 is very smooth, satisfyingly musical and eerily unlike pretty much every other loudspeaker in its price bracket and indeed many others, too! The first choice to make is whether to use the supplied foam bung in the bass port; in our room we fit it because it tightens up the bass. As mentioned earlier, this is less necessary if you're able to run them away from the rear wall, otherwise we'd advise that you keep it in. This done, the Aeromax 6 delivers a superb rendition of 808 State's *Ancodia*; showing off an almost holographic soundstage, cathedral-like in its breadth.

The speaker never comes out and bites you across the midband, meaning it's remarkably relaxing to listen to, yet can never be called boring. It oozes detail that's subtle

and unexpectedly fine at the price. This is plenty of fun, but better still the Cambridge Audio proves highly adept at playing rhythms. This trait it shares with its predecessor, only more so; the 'max' is faster, tighter, tauter and has less overhang in the bass. It's also more expressive, and carries dynamic inflections – better than its predecessor ever did.

The String Quartet's cover of *Ordinary World* comes across with real emotional poignancy, while the acoustic guitar finery of John Martyn's *Solid Air* shows that the Aeromax isn't beyond criticism; it has a slightly 'papery' tone that can't carry the widest range of sounds from ice cold to sumptuously warm; everything is a little sweet and soft regardless of the original recording.

Conclusion

It may not quite have the glassy clarity of some rival higher-end loudspeakers, but still the Aeromax 6 proves a joy to listen to and own ●



DETAILS
PRICE £900
ORIGIN UK/China
WEIGHT 17kg
DIMENSIONS (WxHxD) 240 x 980 x 344mm
FEATURES
 ● 46mm BMR treble/mid driver
 ● 2x 165mm doped paper bass drive
 ● Quoted sensitivity: 90dB/1W/1m
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Hi-Fi Choice
OUR VERDICT
SOUND QUALITY ★★★★★ **LIKE:** Wonderfully smooth, open, even sound; scale; musicality
VALUE FOR MONEY ★★★★★ **DISLIKE:** Nothing at the price
BUILD QUALITY ★★★★★ **WE SAY:** Superb affordable floorstander, that's refined beyond its price
EASE OF DRIVE ★★★★★
OVERALL
 ★★★★★