

ATC SCM7 LOUDSPEAKER

★★★★★ £480.00



"IT'S VERY QUICK, DETAILED AND PUNCHY - ALL THE THINGS THAT MAKE FOR AN ENJOYABLE LISTEN."

It's a good thing that the professional orientation of Gloucestershire-based ATC loudspeakers hasn't led to a lack of consideration for the domestic market.

Luckily for Joe Consumer, even the smallest and most affordable ATC models feature technology handed down from their larger cousins. ATC has a large presence in the professional world, supplying active monitors to studios such as the BBC, both across the country and overseas. Interestingly, ATC's founder Bill Woodman, originally created the company to develop a mid-range driver capable of outperforming the competition with acoustic music.

The SCM7 by ATC's standards is tiny: the little seven-litre cabinet is definitely one for smaller rooms, and near-field listening. Treble is assisted by a 25mm soft-dome tweeter, and the 150mm mid-bass driver contains a 45mm soft dome, for claimed exceptional horizontal dispersion. The baffle displays the drive units in all their beautifully-engineered glory, and is actually recessed within the cabinet by 5mm or so, which is fairly uncommon these days. It's worth noting that the SCM7 is a sealed box design: it has no reflex port and this in practice made the balance very lean with limited bass extension. This may well be a compromise that dance and rock fans shy away from. Bass aside, this speaker excels in so many other areas. It's very quick, detailed and punchy - all the things that make for an enjoyable listen. Frequencies across the range are very clean, and the SCM7s project a very airy

midband with well-separated instrumentation that is

mighty impressive for a sub £500

loudspeaker. I expect the ATCs will gain a following predominantly from classical music lovers and fans of vocal/acoustic work. I did find they require some driving, as their 84dB sensitivity confirms, but in a small environment I think you'd

be hard pressed to find a nicer midband or indeed, a better value box. DG

DATASTREAM

DIMENSIONS 16x30x20.5cm (WxHxD), sealed box design, 25mm soft dome tweeter, 150mm treated polyester weave mid/bass driver, bi-wirable, 84dB sensitivity, choice of veneers.
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