

## Best standmounter £800-£1500

### ATC SCM11 £1200

**The last iteration** of the ATC SCM11 was wonderful. These speakers won our Awards for years in a row, destroying similarly priced newcomers with ease.

Now they've been rejuvenated with changes to the tweeter, crossover and cabinet. We did have doubts about the extent of the improvements these tweaks could bring, but we were very wrong. It's not a step up to the next level so much as a running leap.

#### Better in every department

The sound is bigger and more spacious than before. There is a much higher level of rhythmic precision. Their agility is greater. Dynamics are stronger and further reaching. The sound is remarkably clean and clear, and more natural-sounding than ever.

These SCM11s are an easy listen. You'll receive an assured, balanced sound even at high volumes. It's a friendly, refined presentation that is more forgiving to poorer recordings. If

you hear a hard or aggressive sound from these speakers, blame your electronics or the recording - not these.

You don't get as much bass as some rivals, because these ATCs have a sealed design, but what you do get is enough. In place of outright quantity you get excellent control of the low end. In fact, the whole frequency range is superbly controlled. We play Johnny Cash's *The Man Comes Around* and the stop-start structure of the guitar riff demonstrates an extraordinary level of precision.

That precision extends to the focused stereo image as we switch to the main theme from *Star Wars*. These ATCs make it easy to place the various parts of the orchestra on the wide-open soundstage. Then there's the astonishing amount of detail on hand. Instruments are textured and easy to identify. Combine that



with the precise control and the focused stereo image and you have a seriously engaging listen.

ATC has taken the bar it set itself and raised it even further. The new SCM11s have made the old ones sound ordinary. That's some feat.

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