



EBEN AYRA C1 LOUDSPEAKERS

Reviewed by Chris Thomas



£8000 is an alarming amount of money for a small, two-way, stand-mounted loudspeaker – even if it is perfectly formed and you get the stands thrown in. But perhaps the most alarming realization is that so much of the competition costs even more! CT took one listen to the C1s and was utterly besotted, a regard that only deepened once he started to appreciate what was actually inside the little monsters. For Eben don't just build their own drivers, they do so with a sense of technological focus and a mechanical inventiveness that borders on the maniacal. Eliminating the driver basket and building the units straight onto the baffles is only the start; most of the crossover components are hand-built too. The dedicated stand incorporates an integral mechanical decoupling system top and bottom, while the appearance, fit and finish are both elegant and flawless.

These standards carry over into the performance, which delivers astonishing bandwidth and dynamic range, transparency and sheer energy, yet also resolves the tiniest shifts in level or the position of a player. Breathtakingly immediate and intimate, CT swears that nothing gets you closer to the musicians or tells you more about your system. Indeed, if the C1s have a weakness it is in the demands they place on system and set-up. But put in the necessary effort and you'll be rewarded by sound you've only ever dreamed about as the Eben promise is finally (and spectacularly) delivered.

**Price: £8000
inc stands**

UK Distributor: Metropolis Music
(44)(0)1435 867438 www.metropolis-music.co.uk
Manufacturer: Raidho Company www.eben.dk