



Magico S3

MAGICO'S S-SERIES ARE HARDLY BEER BUDGET MODELS, BUT THEY ARE SUBSTANTIALLY LESS COSTLY THAN THE ORIGINAL Q-SERIES. HERE MARTIN COLLOMS TRIES THE S3 THREE-WAY FLOORSTANDER, ONE SIZE DOWN FROM THE SERIOUSLY IMPRESSIVE S5

Magico's 'budget series' S5 floorstander has been quite a hit, receiving rave reviews from all and sundry including this author (*HIFICRITIC* Vol7 No4, Oct-Dec 2013). Although they still reflect Magico's serious commitment to forming major enclosure sections from massive but less costly aluminium alloy extrusions, the S-series enjoys substantial construction economies compared to the company's high end Q-series, whose enclosures are fabricated from raw alloy panel stock. (That said, the concept of economy is highly relative in such costly products.)

The new S series began with the two-way floorstanding S1, but the subsequent S5 showed just what this format could achieve, with its pair of high power, low resonance 10in bass units resulting in massive low frequency heft and extension.

Last November (2013) a £24,000/pair S3 model

was announced, ostensibly modelled on the S5, but scaled down to accommodate smaller bass drivers (two 8in (200mm) diameter units per enclosure) at a substantial 20% lower price. After some delay, it appeared in several rooms at the January Las Vegas show (apparently to considerable acclaim), and then again at the Munich High End Show. UK supplies began to appear around June of this year, and *HIFICRITIC* took delivery of a review pair, finished in M-Cast dark silver-grey, in mid-July.

Whereas the S5 had a large enough footprint for integral spiked feet, the significantly slimmer S3 prompted the inclusion of rigid, bolt-on outriggers to take the adjustable spiked mountings. The substantially larger support footprint increased the stability. Somewhat inconveniently, locknuts need tightening once the speakers have been placed and aligned; stainless steel discs are supplied to protect hardwood and tiled floors.