



Bewitched by Sabrina

MARTIN COLLOMS LISTENS TO THE MOST COMPACT OF WILSON AUDIO'S FLOORSTANDING SPEAKERS, THE SABRINA X, ALMOST FIVE YEARS ON FROM HIS REVIEW OF THE ORIGINAL SABRINA. ALTHOUGH THE PRICE HAS RISEN BY ALMOST 50% IN THE INTERVENING PERIOD, FROM £15,000 TO £22,000, HE STILL FINDS MUCH TO ENCHANT HIM

This is the smallest of the many floorstanding Wilson designs: I reviewed the original Sabrina some five years ago for the HIFICRITIC autumn issue of 2016 and found much to like. Easy to place, it is also attractively styled, tapering vertically from a larger base. A classic three-way design, it's so clearly a member of the extended Wilson loudspeaker family begun some 40 years ago – created by the founder David Wilson, and now ably continued by his son Daryl.

Daryl made a significant contribution to the original Sabrina and has also closely directed the design team for the upgrade to the latest 'X' version. It would be crazy materially to change so successful a design, and the new 'X' version is said to build firmly on the strengths of the original.

Technical improvements, plus five years of inflation, transportation and importation costs from Provo, Utah, have driven the price up to £22,000, with some optional high gloss paint finishes –

available to order – commanding a further premium. The original was £15,000 in the UK, and in 2016 example set a cracking pace, performing beyond size and price. It won high subjective and objective ratings, with the latter including a very fine set of lab test results, save for a caution with regard to its equivalent '4 ohm' amplifier loading which was considered a little heavier than usual. This could result in current clipping for some driving amplifiers at peak levels, though how this would audibly