

SPENDOR SP2/3R2 CLASSIC

BACKGROUND

For 40 years Spendor Classic loudspeakers have set a reference standard for discerning audiophiles, musicians and professional sound engineers. While Spendor created a succession of successful and innovative modern loudspeakers using advanced materials and technology, the Classic series continued largely unchanged using materials and technology developed in the 1970's. As vital materials and parts used in the Classic series recently become unavailable, environmentally unacceptable, or vastly expensive, Spendor decided these were ideal opportunities to introduce some carefully considered refinements.

2007 Revision R

Revision R blended some of Spendor's recent engineering advances with original Classic 70's technology, construction and design to preserve the rich and natural sound character which is the hallmark of every Spendor Classic.

2009 Revision R2

Revision R2 raised the performance substantially with the introduction of a 22mm wide-surround tweeter, new 18cm Spendor bass-mid drive units, revised crossovers and re-aligned low frequency response. These improvements took advantage of many engineering and sound quality improvements which Spendor had developed for new models like the Spendor ST, A5 and A6. Despite the clearly audible improvements Spendor never lost sight of the challenge, to improve each Classic design while maintaining the warm and charming sound of its predecessor.

2015 model and Vintage Edition

To coincide with the launch of Special Vintage Editions of the Spendor Classics we have introduced a series of additional engineering and sound quality refinements.

Vintage editions are distinguished by a retro look grille and an original black and gold enamel Spendor logo. The grille fabric is specially manufactured using multi-weave coloured plastic coated fibre just like the original cloth used on high quality loudspeakers before 'modern' close-weave black grille cloth became popular. Sound waves 'flow' very freely through the smooth, rigid, widely spaced fibres of our special 'Vintage' fabric and you can literally hear the music flowing more freely. Our 'new' vintage grille also provides a perfect 'retro' look. Standard versions have a black fabric grille and a standard Spendor badge.

Crossover capacitors in models SP3/1R2, SP2/3R2 and SP1/2R2 are upgraded to high voltage audio grade polypropylene film type, with the same performance as those already in the SP100R2.

Crossover filters have been re-aligned to give improved frequency and phase linearity. While the measured effects are small, the benefits are clearly audible. Sound is clearer and more coherent than ever before, especially at higher playing levels. Each model carefully preserves the enduring warmth, charm and enjoyable music making abilities of its predecessor.

The 2015 model Spendor SP2/3R2 delivers notable improvements in low frequency articulation, dynamics, transparency and sound integration. Like its predecessors it has a fine technical performance, substantial power handling, excellent efficiency, and a natural even sound balance. It is a 2-way reflex loaded design with a classic tubular reflex port. Today the tube is a large diameter tapered injection mouldings which gives improved low frequency extension and improved timing.

The SP2/3R2 is evolved directly from the Spendor BC2 (1973-1989) via the Spendor SA2, SP2, SP2/2, SP2/3 and SP2/3E (1994-2007).

At the heart of the SP2/3R2 is a Spendor 21cm bass-mid drive unit with an EP38 polymer. The drive unit incorporates phase correction technology, in the form of a focusing magnet motor pole extension, to control spurious phase and frequency response variations in the crossover region. Frequency transition between drive units is highly coherent due to excellent phase response and wide-bandwidth. The result is a very even natural sound, and a 'real' holographic sound-stage. Sound remains open and relaxed even at high listening levels due to the excellent thermal dissipation of the drive unit.

The 22mm wide-surround tweeter combines the extended frequency response of a small diaphragm with the low frequency characteristics of a larger diaphragm to give stable low distortion response over a very wide frequency range.

One of the most enduring and appealing qualities of the Spendor SP2/3R2 is its ability to musically engage the listener while delivering a beautifully clear and natural sound with a warmth and charm you simply won't hear with any modern loudspeaker. It continues to amaze listeners that the SP2/3R2, based closely on a 40 year old Spendor design, can still outperform similarly priced modern stand-mount loudspeakers.

The traditional Spendor 'Classic' cabinet arrangement, thin walls with heavy damping, has been enhanced by the use of modern rubberised damping panels. The damping interface between the cabinet wall and the damping material is significantly improved due to more consistent temperature stability, spurious energy is dissipated more efficiently and low frequencies are now delivered with greater punch and dynamics when the music demands.

The crossover network has a double sided gold plated printed circuit board to optimise signal routing and to eliminate magnetic interaction between inductors. Revised filter alignment integrates the drivers seamlessly. The crossover capacitors are now high-linearity polypropylene film types. Internal cables are heavy gauge, high purity multi strand copper conductors, individually silver-plated, with halogen free dielectrics, to give wide-bandwidth and clean signal transmission.

Specific geometry of the grille aperture dramatically reduces acoustic interaction. As a result the grille substantially improves sound stage imaging and off-axis response compared with earlier models.

The SP2/3R2 is efficient and with its easy-to-drive 8ohm load it is compatible with all types of amplifiers, from powerful solid state to the most esoteric tube designs.

While the technical performance is subtly improved there is no significant change to the overall technical specification and each pair of Spendor Classic loudspeakers is still calibrated and matched to stringent broadcast reference standards. All Spendor drive units and crossovers are individually calibrated and pair matched during manufacture.

Spendor SP2/3R2 is available in cherry and dark walnut natural veneer finishes.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

SP2/3R2 loudspeaker

Type	2 way stand-mount loudspeaker
HF drive unit	22mm wide-surround
Bass-Mid unit	21cm with EP38 polymer cone
Sensitivity	88 dB for 1 watt at 1 metre
Crossover point	3.2 kHz
Frequency response	60 Hz to 20 kHz, \pm 3dB anechoic
Frequency range	-6dB 50Hz typical in-room
Impedance	8 ohms nominal, minimum 6.8 ohms
Pair matching	within 1 dB
Power handling	150 watts un-clipped programme
Terminals	Gold plated 4 way binding posts bi-wire-able
Cabinet (HxWxD)	545mm x 275mm x 325mm
Finishes	Cherry, dark walnut
Weight	14.3 kg
Stand height	450-600mm [stand not supplied]

All Spendor loudspeakers are designed and manufactured in UK

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