

Dynaudio's BM5A is a tried and tested staple of the studio, so what will SIMON TILLBROOK make of its new derivative?

Long established Danish monitoring manufacturer Dynaudio enjoys a good share of a very heavily populated market sector: that of small active studio monitors. One of Dynaudio's most popular models is the small BM5A. A number of my colleagues have been using this small active monitor for some time, and continue to enjoy the clarity that it offers.

Dynaudio has taken this widely-used example from its product line and made a number of changes to create the Dynaudio BM5A MkII. Are these simple cosmetic tweaks with a few tech updates, and have they improved on a well established and trusted design?

### In Use

I had the opportunity to use the Dynaudio BM5A originals on a session in Nashville not so long ago, and a number of my colleagues here have experience with the original monitor too, so I had a good pool to draw on when assessing if the BM5A MkII is an improvement at all.

From my perspective, and this was borne out by the others, the Dynaudio BM5A MkII has more clarity in the mids and highs with much better imaging overall.

The wave guide in relation to the tweeter is really very focused. Careful positioning is needed to get the best out of the BM5A MkII. Low frequency delivery felt tighter too.

## DYNAUDIO BM5A MKII

### Active Studio Monitor

#### The Changes

The Dynaudio BM5A MkII is, like its predecessor, a small two-way bi-amped rear ported monitor measuring 186x320x320mm (7.3x12.5x12.5 inches) and weighing in at 8.7Kg (19.2lbs).

One of the first changes to the BM5A MkII that we come to are the two drivers.

The woofer is a seven-inch driver as before, but now manufactured at Dynaudio's own facility. This aluminium coil woofer now has a greater range of travel than before. This is designed to give additional clarity at lower frequencies over wider amplitude.

A more obvious change can be seen with the Dynaudio BM5A MkII tweeter.

This is a one-inch hand built soft dome tweeter with aluminium voice coil. This is a step up from the previous tweeter used, and there has been a modification to the delivery system.

The surround of the Dynaudio BM5A MkII tweeter is slightly concave. This wave-guide creates a more focused sweet spot for the listener and thus delivers greater clarity and focus to the high frequency content.

The drivers are powered by two 50W RMS (90W transient power) power amplifiers that collectively give a frequency response of 48Hz to 21kHz (+/-3dB) with a maximum SPL at one meter of 117dB. The crossover is set at 1.5kHz with a 6dB/oct slope.

On the rear of the Dynaudio BM5A MkII just below the rear port are your various connections and function switches. To the right of the large heat sink is the IEC power socket with on/off switch and an XLR signal input socket. Above these is a set of filter switches to help compensate for where you may need to position your Dynaudio BM5A MkII. The LF can switch from a 0 reference point to either boost or cut bass frequencies by 2dB shelving. The MF has a 0 reference, and once moved enables a mid bell curve notch filter where you can attenuate by either 2 or 4dB. The final filter on the rear of the Dynaudio BM5A MkII is an HF shelving filter, where you can affect treble with a 1dB boost or cut.

There are two switches to take a look at to complete the feature set for the Dynaudio BM5A MkII. We have a three-position switch to select input sensitivity between +4, 0 and -10dB to match the studio system you are using.

Last we have a HPF to roll off below either 60 or 80Hz if, for example, you are using your Dynaudio BM5A MkII with a subwoofer setup.



When you increase the volume the bass remains coherent. Even when you drive the Dynaudio BM5A MkII quite hard the delivery keeps compact.

I found that I was able to work with the BM5A MkII for long periods without any problems at all. I certainly found that I could critically use the Dynaudio BM5A MkII very quickly indeed. In comparison to the MkI, I found the clarity and imaging very easy to adapt to.

#### Conclusion

The Dynaudio BM5A MkII for me is a step up from the very good original MkI.

The focused highs and the mid clarity aiding imaging have been improved, and tighter bass through a wider amplitude range are significant improvements.

The market the Dynaudio BM5A MkII sits in is an extremely competitive one, but the improvements Dynaudio has made to the BM5A MkII will keep existing Dynaudio users happy and make the choice of a small active studio monitor that much harder for those still searching.

#### INFORMATION

④ GB£429.00 (inc.VAT)

① Dynaudio International GmbH, Ohepark 2, 21224 Rosengarten, Germany

① +49 (0) 4108 4180 0

② +49 (0) 4108 4180 10

③ www.dynaudio.com

#### THE REVIEWER

SIMON TILLBROOK is the Principal Music Tutor at Islington Music Workshop in London. The rest of his time is spent as a freelance engineer, mainly in the USA.