

## ATC SCM11



£850

**WE'VE BEEN RAVING** about these standmounters for ages now, including giving them a best buy Award at this price level in our *Awards 2007* issue, so this time, just for fun, we're going to start with some negatives.

For one, the SCM11s aren't at their best at low volumes – they just lose a little too much verve if they're not being pushed. Second, they're rather

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insensitive, so need to be powered by a fairly hefty amp, say, upwards of 100 watts per channel. Third, they're somewhat unforgiving of poor recordings. But that's actually related to the best element, perhaps even sole purpose, of the ATCs: honesty.

These speakers are so detailed and neutrally balanced that they convey with almost pin-point accuracy exactly what's on the disc. They'll dig up and place every little element of a complicated recording such as Holst's

### FOR

Exceptional detail and insight; neutral, balanced tonality; relatively unfussy about positioning

### AGAINST

Need to be pushed to high volumes, and by a powerful amp

### VERDICT

Though it may sound like a cliché, honesty really is the best policy, and none are better at it than the SCM11s

The ATCs deliver a brutally honest performance – perfect for great recordings

*The Planets* without breaking a sweat. They even handle the grand orchestral crescendos well, ensuring the performance is epic when it's supposed to be.

### Intimate vocal delivery

Switch to something more intimate, like Tracy Chapman's self-titled album, and the SCM11s' exceptional small-scale dynamics help to present every emotional nuance of the vocal delivery, and the ultra-revealing nature of the speakers lends fullness and texture to picks on the acoustic guitar.

Whatever type of music you're playing – and these ATCs can do any genre you like – it will be timed beautifully and balanced perfectly. The treble frequencies remain in control even at the top of the range, and bass lines are always taut and rhythmic, even when the speakers are placed close to a wall.

### What you hear is what they recorded

If you're looking for a speaker that will iron out the flaws of overly compressed recordings or will add character to tracks that don't have it, the SCM11s aren't for you. If, however, you want to hear exactly what's contained on the disc or record – including the acoustics of the room the performance was taking place in – there are no better speakers at the price.

