

ATC SCM150ASL PRO

Active Professional Monitor Loudspeakers For Accurate Home Theatre And Music Monitoring

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Pursuit Of Accuracy

Founded in 1974, ATC Loudspeaker Technology, Limited (Acoustic Transducer Company) is a British loudspeaker and electronics company based in Stroud, Gloucestershire, England. Australian born and raised William (Billy) Woodman is the company's founder and Managing Director, and, as well, the designer of an extensive line of professional monitor loudspeakers. ATC loudspeakers are used in over 1,000 recording studios worldwide by the most respected professional recording and mastering engineers, to produce music and movie sound recordings, both stereo and multichannel, of the finest sound quality.

ATC professional monitors have become the preferred choice at the Sony DVD Mastering Suite, New York; the Pioneer Mastering Suite, Barcelona; Todd-AO, Hollywood; Paramount Pictures, Hollywood; Warner Bros., Burbank; Abbey Road Studios, London; Pink Floyd; Nimbus; Telarc; Angel Recording Studios, London; Sydney Opera House; Bob Ludwig's Gateway Mastering; Bruce Leek Mastering; and the BBC; to name only a few professional facilities the company has attracted over the years, since the introduction in 1976 of the first ATC complete loudspeaker system. ATC loudspeakers also were chosen by DTS® to launch its new 96 kHz/24-bit algorithm at AES Amsterdam 2001, and by Sony to demo Multichannel SACD at the 2002 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas. ATC active loudspeakers also will be used by Sony and Philips to demo and update new SACD developments at the 113th Audio Engineering Society (AES) Convention in Los Angeles, October 5-8 2002. ATC is providing five SCM300ASL Pro loudspeakers and four SCM 0.1/15 powered subwoofers.

The company has had one objective and that is "to build the finest loudspeakers money can buy." Woodman, an educated acoustical engineer and accomplished



pianist, as well as a loudspeaker designer with decades of experience, observed that neither hi-fi loudspeakers nor studio monitors were of suitable quality to deliver true sound accuracy. The best hi-fi loudspeakers had reasonable sound quality but limited dynamic range, while studio monitors had plenty of dynamic range but relatively poor sound quality.

The aim was to build a line of ATC loudspeakers that would equal, or better, the acoustic performance of the best hi-fi loudspeakers, and produce the near-dynamic range of the big horn-loaded studio monitors. At the same time, ATC's design philosophy would pay special attention to the creation of accurate reverberant fields and wide horizontal dispersion, which Woodman states "is the key to being able to precisely recreate spatial information in five or more channels." (See exclusive On Screen conversation with Billy Woodman in this issue.) To achieve this required that ATC's dedicated research and development team hand-make

their own heavily engineered, well-damped driver units and associated audio electronics (audiophile-quality preamplifiers and power amplifiers). The company's manufacturing operation covers everything from the parts that go into the drive units to the complete system. The driver units use massive magnets and heavy cast loudspeaker baskets. They are designed to reproduce dynamic range, which significantly affects the clarity of reproduced sound, with minimal compression and timbre, which is consistent throughout the product range.

ATC loudspeakers are tested using a sweep at 20 volts, which assures that each loudspeaker will handle as much power that is required of them when they are used in home theatre or professional studio applications. Furthermore, every loudspeaker that is manufactured at ATC is measured, and the pairs are matched within 0.5 dB.

With the exception of the enclosures (built to spec by old-world cabinet makers) and the tweeters, every loudspeaker component is hand-built and assembled at ATC's factory, using modern computer-controlled production. The resulting manufacturing quality represents the best of rugged, over-built cottage industry craftsmanship with a strong professional heritage.

ATC loudspeakers have been available in recognizable form since 1980. ATC's first electronic crossover was produced in 1982 and brought recognition to the company when it was installed in a famous London recording studio. The company is famous for the design of its 75mm (three-inch) soft dome midrange driver, which is now often copied, though mostly cosmetic—lacking, as ATC points out, the unique engineering incorporated in the areas of magnet assembly design, coil technology, and linear suspension. Their larger top-end systems became active in 1985. Since that time both the crossover, midrange driver, and the larger monitors have been refined considerably, and are regarded as among the finest and most accurate in the world.