

STANDMOUNT LOUDSPEAKERS



Kudos Cardea C10

Kudos has been making the Cardea C10 since it was founded in 2006. As a testimony to how happy it is with the basic design, it is only now that it has seen some revisions. The fundamental layout remains the same. It's a two-way standmount with a 29mm soft dome tweeter and a 180mm doped paper mid/bass driver. A single rear port assists air management.

The major point of revision is the crossover. Operating with a 2.6kHz handover point between the two drivers, it's intended to be as simple as possible. Low frequencies are controlled by a first-order arrangement using a zero-distortion low-resistance Mundorf air-core inductor. The high-frequency section is filtered by a second-order electrical circuit using an ICW capacitor and another Mundorf air-core inductor and a Mundorf MOX resistor.

Sound quality

The claimed sensitivity feels attainable in practise, ensuring this is not terribly demanding to use. It does respond positively to being driven, however. The Cyrus i7 XR (HFC 473) is not a hugely powerful amp, but its ability to supply current is impressive. It ensures that the Kudos sounds weighty, controlled and highly engaging. The claimed in-room low-frequency response of 40Hz is achievable, even with the C10 used in something approaching free space.

There is also a wholly welcome turn of speed to the performance. The way that it gets stuck into the crunching riffs of Royal Blood's *Trouble's Coming* is pure and simple good fun. This is a speaker that works hard to never be the story in itself. In a matter of minutes, you are listening through it to the music rather than the hardware. This means that this dense and potent recording is unpicked into something that becomes

DETAILS

PRODUCT
Kudos Cardea C10

PRICE
£3,500

ORIGIN
UK

TYPE
2-way standmount
loudspeaker

WEIGHT
9kg

DIMENSIONS
(WxHxD)
200 x 350 x 270mm

FEATURES

- 29mm soft dome tweeter
- 180mm doped paper mid/bass driver
- Quoted sensitivity: 87dB/1W/1m (8ohm)

DISTRIBUTOR
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REVIEWED
HFC 479

a performance when you close your eyes. The C10 finds order without losing the boisterousness.

This useful attribute is further aided by the performance of that customised tweeter. It has the perfectly judged ability to sound detailed – at times almost forensically so – airy and tonally believable, but without ever being hard or forward. The Cyrus amp takes few prisoners in this regard, but even with this as the source and playing the deliberately hard-edged *Tascam Tapes* by DeWolff, it's civilised without compromising on the 'raw and real' feeling of *Blood Meridian I*.

Give it something with high production values, like Sarah Jarosz's *Blue Heron Sessions*, and there's a liquid quality to the upper registers that even

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similarly priced rivals can struggle to recreate. Jarosz's delicate voice is the star of the show and something that is clearly the centre of attention. What's so joyous about the Cardea C10 is that all the other fine details are easy to discern, but never a distraction.

Substituting the Cyrus for a Naim Supernait 3 (HFC 456) – which is over a grand more – further demonstrates that it responds positively to being driven. When listening to large-scale material, the soundstage sits within the confines of the cabinet rather than extending out beyond it.

Conclusion

The C10 is a straightforward design executed with the highest quality materials so it combines clarity, detail and tonal realism with a sense of fun that then goes on to have an impressively forgiving edge. The latest upgrades make it even better still ●

Hi-Fi Choice

OUR VERDICT

SOUND QUALITY



LIKE: Wonderful balance between impact, realism and tonal sweetness

VALUE FOR MONEY



DISLIKE: Slight lack of large-scale space

BUILD QUALITY



WE SAY: The C10 remains a superbly capable and flexible speaker that will delight many owners

EASE OF DRIVE



OVERALL

