



Mission LX-2 £180



The low price may suggest that it's mission impossible, but the performance reveals that it's anything but...

DETAILS

PRODUCT
Mission LX-2

ORIGIN
UK/China

TYPE
2-way standmount
loudspeaker

WEIGHT
6.3kg

DIMENSIONS
(WxHxD)
191 x 305 x 260mm

FEATURES

- 25mm soft dome tweeter
- 130mm mid/bass driver
- Quoted sensitivity: 86.5dB 1W/1m (6ohm)

DISTRIBUTOR
Exertis Unlimited

TELEPHONE
01279 459170

WEBSITE
mission.co.uk

After a quiet few years, Mission is back in the spotlight with its entry-level LX series. The LX-2 is the larger of two standmounts in the six-strong range and like the rest of the group, the ingredients are conventional enough. The 130mm mid/bass driver is constructed from what Mission describes as “advanced fibres”. Key to its performance is a powerful ferrite magnet that provides a long and controlled throw. This is partnered with a 25mm micro-fibre tweeter mounted beneath the mid/bass driver – typically for the brand.

Mission says extensive measurements have been taken to check the cabinet for unwanted vibrations, resulting in bracing applied at exactly the right points. The underlying argument with the LX-2 goes along the lines that while the components it is made from are normal enough, the engineering practises and production tolerances are what really makes the difference. It's well finished, with the chrome trim rings injecting a touch of class while the use of magnetic trim tabs for the grilles is a neat feature. White and walnut finishes are also available and improve the appearance still further.

Sound quality

This is comfortably one of the most sensitive speakers in the group and requires a lower setting than most to hit the test level. Having done so, it

rewards with a performance that is a deeply impressive balance of bite and finesse. Its handling of Pink Floyd's *Childhood's End* is a perfect mix of energy and refinement that captures David Gilmour's vocals well. There is enough bass extension present to add a little weight to the low end, which further assists the sense of realism. This weight and presence is also apparent on Emily Barker's *Dear River*, and it does a fine job of eking out the minute details in the piece that elevate it from mere reproduction to performance. The soundstage isn't particularly large, but it is well defined and places performers in such a way that they sound natural and believable.

Ramp up the complexity with Kendrick Scott's *We Are The Drum*, and the LX-2 reveals exceptional coherence. Where some standmount speakers tend to struggle with the sheer density of the instrumentation, the Mission is able to unpick it and present a solid and believable soundstage that keeps the life and immediacy that music like this really needs without showing any signs of becoming harsh or aggressive. The useful level of bass extension helps give *Precious* the impact and drive that it requires and while it falls fractionally short of producing the very best performance with the DSD material, the LX-2 is still towards the top of the pack in this regard ●

UNDERSLUNG HERO

The LX-2 is the only speaker in the test to invert its driver arrangement. The tweeter is placed under the mid/bass driver – something that has been present in many Mission loudspeaker designs over the decades. The theory is that this aids the time alignment of soundwaves from the tweeter and mid/bass drivers. If the midbass driver is placed at head height, the distance from the tweeter to your ear is fractionally longer, which means it should reach the ear at the same time allowing for the fractionally different speeds of the different frequencies involved. Interestingly, when placed on a 600mm-tall speaker stand, it isn't completely clear which driver counts as being at ear level, but this doesn't seem to be any impediment to the LX-2's performance. Perhaps more importantly, employing this driver arrangement means it is instantly recognisable as a Mission, which is certainly no bad thing.



A real talent for picking out fine details

Hi-Fi Choice

OUR VERDICT

SOUND QUALITY
★★★★★ **LIKE:** Energetic yet refined presentation; solid build quality; easy to drive

VALUE FOR MONEY
★★★★★ **DISLIKE:** Slightly dull appearance in black

BUILD QUALITY
★★★★★ **WESAY:** A seriously talented standmount loudspeaker and a stone-cold bargain at the price

EASE OF DRIVE
★★★★★

OVERALL

