

Acoustic Energy AE105

Steve Withers gets flexible with Acoustic Energy's latest addition to its 100 Series speakers

WHEN ACOUSTIC ENERGY treated its 100 Series of entry-level speakers to a MkII upgrade (see *HCC* #340), the British sound brand also slipped in an entirely new model – the AE105. This two-way speaker is primarily intended for wall-mounting, but along with surround duties in tandem with the rest of the range, its design makes it an ideal LCR speaker, adding another feather to its cap.

Used here are the same 25mm soft dome tweeter with WDT waveguide, and 130mm paper cone driver, as the other 100 Series speakers, but the AE105 adds a passive radiator for a claimed LF response that goes down to a respectable 35Hz.

The speaker is simple but elegant, with excellent build quality and a cabinet measuring 450mm wide, 200mm high and 120mm deep. There's a choice of black, white or walnut vinyl veneers, along with black and



light grey grilles that could help it blend into your room.

As the AE105 is designed for on-wall use, it comes with rear mounting plates and spacers, plus there's a choice of vertical or horizontal installation. It's also suited to a bookcase or shelf position (although it's obviously larger than a standard 'bookshelf' model), and it's this flexibility that's so appealing.

Finishes are black, white or walnut

The AE105 sounds fantastic for the money, and perfectly in keeping with its 100 Series siblings. It has a neutral but assured delivery, always smooth and controlled, and impressive bass depth.

They're sold separately, so you could mount two either side of your TV, fit one horizontally underneath to handle dialogue, and add two on side or rear walls to create a capable multichannel system that's tonally balanced and

aesthetically uniform. Or you could mix and match with the other 100 Series models.

Overall, these affordable and versatile on-walls come highly recommended ■

HCC VERDICT



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→ £224 (each) → www.acoustic-energy.co.uk