

August 2020

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Above Mission LX MkII Series speakers in matt white finish

Mission LX MkII: luxurious sound at entry-level prices

Mission upgrades its award-winning LX loudspeaker range with a host of improvements, including technology trickled down from the QX Series

Cambridgeshire, England – Since its formation in 1977, legendary British loudspeaker manufacturer Mission has been famed for delivering compelling musicality at affordable prices. The company's LX Series continued this legacy when it launched in 2016, earning excellent reviews and an impressive collection of awards in the UK and around the world.

Four years on and Mission is ready to unleash a new, improved LX range – the LX MkII Series. The new line-up utilises design elements evolved from the upmarket QX Series to build on the award-winning formula of the first-generation LX speakers, sporting a range of improvements that span the drive units, crossover and cabinet. With enhanced midrange and treble clarity and improved resolution of micro-dynamics, the Mission LX MkII Series delivers an even more thrilling listener experience.

The first thing to note is that the range has been extended. Whereas the original LX Series consisted of six models – two standmount speakers, three floorstanders and a centre speaker for home cinema systems – the LX MkII range comprises nine. There is an additional standmount model, a choice of two centre speakers instead of one, and a dedicated surround speaker that can be wall mounted or sited on top of the floorstanding models as an upward-firing effects speaker.

Mission LX MkII Series – the full line-up		
Standmount speakers	Floorstanding speakers	Home cinema speakers
LX-1 MkII – £189 per pair	LX-4 MkII – £399 per pair	LX-3D MkII – surround speaker – £249 per pair
LX-2 MkII – £229 per pair	LX-5 MkII – £499 per pair	LX-C1 MkII – centre speaker – £199
LX-3 MkII – £279 per pair	LX-6 MkII – £599 per pair	LX-C2 MkII – centre speaker – £249

Every speaker within the LX MkII Series is carefully designed to deliver maximum sonic expression with minimum compromise, despite the ‘budget’ price tags. The design team has fully optimised the performance of each model using sophisticated modelling tools and software, yet Mission’s original slogan, ‘Music is the Master, Technology is the Slave’, has never been more apt. Months of fine-tuning and rigorous listening tests have ensured that these speakers communicate with engaging energy and detail, bringing music to life with all the vibrancy and finesse one expects of Mission speakers.



Left Mission LX-2 MkII standmount speakers in walnut finish

The art of compromise

By its very nature, speaker design is about balancing variables and finding the best possible compromise. At entry-level price points, where the cost of production is most constrained by the need to hit a specific retail price, the necessity of compromise is at its greatest. But does one have to accept that a ‘budget’ speaker will always deliver a ‘budget’ performance? Mission’s designers are not the easily accepting kind. They push for greatness in design, whereas most would be happy to stop at ‘good’.

What makes a great loudspeaker? What makes it sing? For Mission, the answer is simple: in a well-matched system, the speakers have to allow the performance of the music to shine through. It’s not a group of notes; it’s a performance. It’s not all about frequency response, impedance, sensitivity and

directivity, although they all play a part. To paraphrase a famous expression, it's the music, the whole music and nothing but the music – and that, in a nutshell, is Mission's philosophy.

Feel the high

High-frequency drive units require extremely consistent parts and manufacturing in order to be selected for a Mission speaker. Given the tiny moving masses involved, one micro-drop extra of high-tech adhesive can destroy the balance of the design, thus affecting sensitivity and frequency response. For the LX MkII Series, Mission has meticulously designed a tweeter with a neodymium magnet, selected for maximum magnetic force in a small space, and a 25mm microfibre dome, chosen for its light weight and consistency in manufacture. It delivers sweetly incisive high frequencies – crisp and detailed with impressive transient attack.



Left Mission LX-4 MkII, LX-5 MkII and LX-6 MkII floorstanders in matt black finish

Dishy drivers

The LX MkII Series features a new version of Mission's DiaDrive bass/midrange drive unit, where the usual cone and dust cap arrangement is replaced by a seamless curvilinear diaphragm. This is directly driven by a secondary sub-cone connected to the voice coil, improving the efficiency of drive and providing superior control of the smoothly dished diaphragm.

The diaphragm itself is fashioned from an advanced dual-layer fibre formulation, selected for its reduced susceptibility to hygroscopy as well as being very stiff for its mass with excellent self-damping. A high-strength ferrite magnet ensures that the magnetic field is directed precisely within the area of voice coil excursion, enabling an ultra-linear performance and excellent transient response.

Sound with teeth

One of the critical areas highlighted by the development of Mission's upmarket QX speakers is the use of 'comb-tooth' serrations in the driver surrounds to help scatter interfering reflections from localised surfaces to the bass/mid cones. The LX MkII Series incorporates similar serrations in the main driver surrounds, as well as indentations around the tweeter, adding further finesse to the drive unit outputs and providing a smoother frequency response than the previous generation of LX speakers.

Networking skills

With minor perturbations in the driver response ironed out, each model's crossover network has been optimised to take advantage of the improved performance. The LX MkII Series uses a 4th order (24dB per octave acoustic) Linkwitz-Riley network, developed with advanced computer modeling and many hours of listening tests, to knit the drivers together seamlessly. It is particularly notable for its ability to balance excellent off-axis performance with a flatter on-axis result.

Driver inversion for musical immersion

The three standmount models in the range feature DiaDrive units positioned according to Mission's Inverted Driver Geometry (IDG), with the bass/mid driver sited above the treble unit rather than below to aid time-alignment – a Mission trademark since the 1980s. Placing the bass/mid driver closer to ear level with the treble unit positioned beneath helps to equalise the path lengths from the two drivers' acoustic centres, so that the sound waves coincide at the listener's head height.

The two-way LX-4 MkII and LX-5 MkII floorstanders extend IDG to a full D'Appolito array, siting the treble unit between a pair of DiaDrive bass/mid units – one above, one below. The largest model in the range, the LX-6 MkII, is a three-way design, with a dedicated midrange driver positioned above the tweeter, and a pair of bass drivers stationed below.



Left Home cinema set-up featuring LX-4 MkII floorstanders with LX-3D MkII upward-firing speakers on top, plus the LX-C1 centre speaker, all in matt white

Boxing clever

The cabinet is as critical as the drive units and crossover to the overall performance of any loudspeaker system. Designing an effective low-cost box is tricky, as budget dictates that the designer cannot use expensive materials or high mass to create an inert structure.

With the help of 3D Computer Aided Design, finite element analysis and laser interferometry, coupled with a great deal of experience, a budget cabinet can be designed that delivers better rigidity with lower radiated noise than many would believe achievable at such low material cost. As part of the critical fine tuning of the new models, judicious placement of extra internal damping fibre inside the rear-ported cabinet has reduced the level of midrange coloration and improved the bass transient attack.

As the Mission LX MkII Series emphatically proves, like many Mission designs before it, budget loudspeakers can truly sing, whilst also being smart, practical and unfussy in terms of positioning.

“Mission loudspeakers have been thrilling music lovers with powers of communication that far exceed their affordable prices for more than 40 years,” said Peter Comeau, Mission’s Director of Acoustic Design. “I’m proud to have been involved in the design of many of these speakers since my first association with Mission in 1999. We’ve won many awards over the years, but nothing Mission has produced can eclipse the sheer value-for-money offered by the LX MkII Series – we’ve worked tirelessly to improve upon the already excellent LX Series, ensuring these speakers reward the modest investment required to own a pair with a thoroughly engrossing musical experience.”

The Mission LX MkII Series is available in September in a choice of soft-touch matt black or white, or walnut for those who prefer a wood-style finish.



Specifications – Mission LX MkII Series – Standmount models			
	LX-1 MkII	LX-2 MkII	LX-3 MkII
Speaker type	2-way standmount	2-way standmount	2-way standmount
Enclosure type	Bass reflex	Bass reflex	Bass reflex
High-frequency driver	25mm microfibre dome	25mm microfibre dome	25mm microfibre dome
Bass/mid driver	100mm composite fibre	130mm composite fibre	165mm composite fibre
Midrange driver	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bass driver	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sensitivity (2.83v @ 1m)	86dB	87dB	88dB
Recommended amp power	20-80W	20-100W	20-120W
Nominal impedance	8 Ohms compatible	8 Ohms compatible	8 Ohms compatible
Frequency response (+/-3dB)	58Hz-20kHz	55Hz-20kHz	45Hz-20kHz
Bass extension (-6dB)	55Hz	50Hz	40Hz
Crossover frequency	2.7kHz	3.2kHz	3.2kHz
Dimensions (HxWxD)	260x160x200mm	305x200x250mm	345x226x300mm

Specifications – Mission LX MkII Series – Floorstanding models			
	LX-4 MkII	LX-5 MkII	LX-6 MkII
Speaker type	2-way floorstander	2-way floorstander	3-way floorstander
Enclosure type	Bass reflex	Bass reflex	Bass reflex
High-frequency driver	25mm microfibre dome	25mm microfibre dome	25mm microfibre dome
Bass/mid driver	130mm composite fibre (x2)	165mm composite fibre (x2)	N/A
Midrange driver	N/A	N/A	130mm composite fibre
Bass driver	N/A	N/A	165mm composite fibre (x2)
Sensitivity (2.83v @ 1m)	89dB	90dB	91dB
Recommended amp power	30-120W	30-150W	30-200W
Nominal impedance	8 Ohms compatible	8 Ohms compatible	8 Ohms compatible
Frequency response (+/-3dB)	45Hz-20kHz	42Hz-20kHz	35Hz-20kHz
Bass extension (-6dB)	40Hz	38Hz	30Hz
Crossover frequency	3.0kHz	2.3kHz	3.3kHz; 400Hz
Dimensions (HxWxD)	900x200x265mm	975x226x300mm	1000x226x325mm

Specifications – Mission LX MkII Series – Home cinema models			
	LX-C1 MkII	LX-C2 MkII	LX-3D MkII
Speaker type	2-way centre speaker	2-way centre speaker	2-way surround speaker
Enclosure type	Closed-box system	Closed-box system	Closed-box system
High-frequency driver	25mm microfibre dome	25mm microfibre dome	25mm microfibre dome
Bass/mid driver	100mm composite fibre (x2)	130mm composite fibre (x2)	100mm composite fibre
Midrange driver	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bass driver	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sensitivity (2.83v @ 1m)	88dB	89dB	86dB
Recommended amp power	20-100W	20-120W	20-80W
Nominal impedance	8 Ohms compatible	8 Ohms compatible	8 Ohms compatible
Frequency response (+/-3dB)	75Hz-20kHz	65Hz-20kHz	105Hz-20kHz
Bass extension (-6dB)	70Hz	60Hz	90Hz
Crossover frequency	3.5kHz	3.2kHz	2.8kHz
Dimensions (HxWxD)	160x400x200mm	180x500x230mm	150x160x260mm

MISSION

Mission has built a world-class reputation for advanced audio design since the company's formation in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire in 1977, with an engineering-led approach to product development that has resulted in some of the most popular and iconic loudspeakers ever devised.

Three things have always characterised Mission speakers. First, the cabinets and drive units use innovative materials and sport a distinctive, modern appearance. Second, the sound they produce is fast, detailed and engaging. Third, they deliver excellent sonic and material value for money.

Today, Mission continues to stretch the boundaries of what can be achieved at specific price points, pioneering technologies to create fresh, new designs. The brand now benefits from the unrivalled manufacturing facilities and global reach of parent company IAG, with all the component parts of every speaker made in-house. Yet the company's roots remain firmly entrenched in Huntingdon, where much of Mission's design, servicing and technical support work is still carried out. This, coupled with a design team brimming with homegrown talent, ensures Mission speakers remain as impressive today as they were when the company first established itself at the forefront of the burgeoning British audio scene more than 40 years ago.

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