



ACTIVE LOUDSPEAKERS
OF THE YEAR

Dynaudio Xeo 2





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We have a separate award for Active Loudspeakers, since 'active' means they include their own amplification, so you're getting both amp and speakers for your money.

Indeed you get significantly more with Dynaudio's \$1999 Xeo 2s, which also include both Bluetooth and wireless technology to stream direct from a hub device to which you connect your sources. So you're gaining significant neatness, and also saving on speaker cables.

They're certainly physically convenient, being an impressively compact two-way active speaker in black or white, with a protruding 27mm soft-dome tweeter and a magnesium-silicate polymer (MSP) mid-bass woofer which Dynaudio's specs quote at 14cm diameter, but nearer 10.5cm from roll to roll. We used them sitting directly on a sturdy stand, but there's also a \$229 wallmounting kit (they're usefully shallow at 15cm, so you can mount them either flush or out a bit to allow swivelling), and also aluminium footstands for \$399 the pair to raise the Xeos up — Dynaudio says this enables optimum sound and it also might put the tweeters nicely at ear-level if on your average TV-level unit — the Xeo 2s would make a great high-quality TV audio solution.

Their physical inputs (see right) allow for direct connection of one minijack analogue, one pair of RCA

phono analogues, and one optical digital input that's good for digital playback up to 24-bit/192kHz high-resolution audio. Plus there's Bluetooth for direct streaming — and then that almost hidden wireless ability. This is not a network connection to your home Wi-Fi in the manner of most wireless products. The Dynaudios use their own bespoke wireless between the two speakers, and

also to the optional \$549 Hub and \$799 Connect units which Dynaudio has available. You will need one of these if you wish to take advantage of the zone-based multiroom abilities of the Xeos; the hubs also deliver additional inputs, and can be positioned wherever useful.

The Xeo 2s immediately thrilled us with a tight, extended, realistic delivery of both music and voices. From CD and Bluetooth, bass performance was impressive from speakers so compact. Midrange was prominent and forward but without excess presence, while the top-end was a delight — open, clean but not edgy, and able to deliver the detail and accuracy required for excellent soundstaging between the Xeo 2s. With TV too — for an action soundtrack we'd take this big, well-delineated and well-balanced delivery over almost any soundbar on the market.

Active, clever, expandable, and great sound — Dynaudio delivers a different and impressive solution in the Xeo 2s.

More info: www.busisoft.com.au

