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## Dynaudio Excite X32

£ 1600 ★★★★★

If you're more interested in the sound of your recordings than the sound of your speakers, these will be right up your street

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Review

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### For

**Fine standard of build and finish; an eloquent, expansive sound**

### Against

**Not as stable on their spikes as they might be**

Calling a range of loudspeakers 'Excite' is a bold move. It can mean 'agitate' as easily as it can mean 'arouse', after all – and when a name as dynamic as 'Excite' is applied to speakers that look as frankly humdrum as these new Dynaudios, well, that's asking for trouble.

Last month's First Test of the Excite X12 standmounters showed Dynaudio had just about got away with it – and these floorstanders are even more impressive. Don't let the so-so looks put you off – the X32s are truly an exciting way to spend £1600.

### Lovely finish, natural sound

The compact (92 x 17 x 27cm) cabinets are smoothly constructed, and the real-wood veneer (there's a choice of four finishes) looks and feels expensive.

If the tweeter-and-dual-driver configuration is off-putting, the Dynaudios are supplied with full-length grilles. Only the spiked base plinth, which is as narrow as the cabinet and doesn't offer the speaker much stability, strikes an ergonomic false note.

Once well run in, and placed slightly into the room with no toe-in, the X32s sing in a natural, unaffected and utterly musical voice.

The testing tempo and bludgeoning attack of Amon Tobin's *Get Your Snack On* is handled with unshowy authority, the Dynaudios delivering punchy, rapid low frequencies and an open, uncluttered midrange.

Treble sounds are judged well, with plenty of bite but fighting shy of hardness or sibilance. The many dynamic peaks and troughs in the tune are dispatched with conviction, and the X32s knit all the information together smoothly.

This consummate performance isn't flashy or attention-seeking, though. The Dynaudios can, at first listen, seem a little passive and undemonstrative, but over time reveal themselves to be articulate, attentive speakers.

They simply get on with the job of handing over your recordings as faithfully as possible, and we'd say that's precisely what you want your loudspeakers to do.

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