

An insanely great speaker for tiny rooms; EMIT 10

c|net - Steve Gutenberg

I've always had a thing for high-performance speakers that come alive in small rooms. The best ones are invariably small, and the **Dynaudio Emit M10** monitor (\$799, £499, AU\$1,099 per pair) definitely qualifies as tiny, it measures a mere 6.7 by 11.5 by 9.5 inches (170 by 292 by 240 mm), and it's offered in black or white satin lacquer finishes.



The Dynaudio Emit M10

Steve Guttenberg/CNET

This pint-size Dynaudio sports a 1-inch (28 mm) soft dome tweeter, and a 6-inch (140mm) magnesium silicate polymer midrange/woofer. The speaker has a small bass port on its rear end, and impedance is listed at 6 ohms. The Emit M10 is the baby of the Emit line, moving up from there you get the larger Emit M20 bookshelf, Emit M30 tower and the Emit M15 C center channel speaker for home-theater applications. The speakers all come with grilles.

I heard the Emit M10 at the **In Living Stereo** store in New York City, and I have owned and auditioned many Dynaudio speakers dating back 15 years, but even so the Emit M10's sound wasn't exactly what I expected. It was really nice, but more alive and exciting than the sweet house sound I associate with Dynaudio.

The Emit M10s unfurled a wall-to-wall soundstage with great depth as I played Brian Eno's new album, "The Ship." The first track is a rambling, ambient trip, with a churning low bass foundation that I could hardly believe was coming from speakers as small as these. I was so totally sucked into Eno's slow-motion vortex of sound and texture that I forgot that I was listening to the Emit M10s; I was lost in the music.

I also played Nap Eyes' spicy "Thought Rock Fish Scale" album to see how the Emit M10s handled rock, which they did with aplomb. It's hardly head-banger music, but Nap Eyes recorded these tunes to four-track tape without overdubs, and even before I knew about that, I heard the music had a refreshingly direct, less-processed and live sound than most rock albums. Nap Eyes' crazy rhythms and Nigel Chapman's vocals were right *there*, firmly planted between the two Emit M10s. Chapman sounds like Lou Reed at times, and the band has a Velvet Underground vibe, but there's nothing overtly retro about Nap Eyes music I can put my finger on.

My brief encounter with the Dynaudio Emit M10 left me with a respect for its abilities, and I expect to review more Dynaudio speakers later this year.

