

Event PS8 Monitors

Event build on their 20/20 bas experience. Brad Watts files this activity statement.

Quite a while back, Event Electronics caused bit of a storm when they released their 20/20 bas ('bi-amplified system', not 'business activity statement') studio monitors. At the time there was very little available in the powered monitor market at such a price point. Genelecs were about the only powered offering and they were a more expensive option. Not to mention their metal high-end drivers – okay for some, but not for all. The Events were and are a suitable choice for reliable reference monitoring. They found their way into many project and professional studios. Plenty of my cohorts swear by them and wouldn't use anything else.

Behind the 20/20s design was Frank Kelly and Walter Dick – Frank being one of the original design team behind the Alesis Monitor 1 and Monitor 2 passive speakers. Between them they've been responsible for successful products from companies such as UREI, JBL, Gauss and Alesis.

Based on the success of the 20/20s, Frank and Walter have been back at the drawing board concocting the PS series of monitors. The PS denotes their 'project studio' status and comprises three separate models. The PS5 sports a 5.25-inch bass driver; the PS6 runs a 6.5-inch driver; and the model I've been sent, the PS8, packs an eight-inch low end polypropylene driver. All models feature a one-inch ferrofluid-cooled, silk dome high frequency driver. The entire range are driven via a 70w low end power amplifier with a 30w amp running the top end. This amp arrangement represent half the power that drives the 200w 20/20bas design but with only a 3dB loss in the final SPL.

The PS8s look for all the world like the original 20/20 and weigh in at 12kg, about a kilo less than the 20/20s. They utilise the same MDF construction and colouring – 16mm lock-mitred MDF with a 'studio grey' vinyl laminate. The PS8s are ported from the front – a system I prefer to rear porting. At the rear of the cabinets are inputs on XLR and 6.5mm jacks. Both will accept balanced and unbalanced signals and the 6.5mm jack will act as a parallel connection should you be deciding to connect a sub driver. Power is supplied by the usual IEC mains connector with a rocking power switch. For adjustment of differing input signals there's a sensitivity control. Should the amplifiers be overdriven, the front LED will flash, whereupon you'd lower the input sensitivity. A peculiar 1.1V RMS will produce full amplifier output. Unfortunately the input trim control isn't notched – so setting up relative levels is a two person operation. Unlike many powered monitors available there are no high or low end trim or boost controls – what you hear is what you get. A wiring chart is printed on the back should you be dealing with American and European differences as to what pin should be hot.

Spec-wise the PS8s offer what's required in a nearfield

powered design. The frequency response is quoted at a range of 35Hz through to 20kHz. (The PS6s and PS5s bottom out at 45Hz and 53Hz respectively) Both the PS8s and PS6s incorporate an active fourth order asymmetrical crossover. The PS8's cross frequency sits at 2.2kHz with the smaller models crossing at 2.6kHz. The speakers are protected against overheating and over driving, and will cut out if things get a little too raucous for the drivers – reassuring if you leave them in the hands of someone who doesn't actually own them.

Listening is what matters when it comes down to it and the PS8s prove themselves to be capable boxes. Stacked up against my Questeds gave me a definite impression of where these monitors are at. The first impression was just how much low end these blighters can throw. My Questeds are known for whipping quite a bit of trouser and the PS8s were right alongside – heaps of welly, but balanced nicely with the smooth-as-silk top end drivers – perfect for getting to know the bottom end in electronically devised musical genres. During the time I had with these boxes I had three rock-style mixes to complete and between the Questeds and the NS10s, the PS8s came up with very similar referencing to the Questeds – monitors that retail for roughly five times the price. Add to this the fact that they were easy to listen to – no 'oh my god that top end hurts' after a good four to five hours in front of them.

Overall, I concluded the PS8s are quite respectable indeed. At around \$2300 they're a contender for 'best value powered monitor' around. They're far cheaper than any of the larger name companies' designs, and beside which, Event has certainly rattled their product sabre enough to be counted as 'up there' with the more established 'big boys'. In a small work space or for an editing suite I think the PS8 monitors are ideal.



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Price

• PS8: \$2,299; PS6: \$1,899; PS5: \$1,599.

