

APS Aeon Powered Monitors | £1,469

It's not the first place you'd look for monitors, but Poland's APS is turning out some fine-looking clobber. *Jon Musgrave* investigates

WHAT IS IT?

Powered near-/mid-field monitors for mixing, mastering and production

CONTACT

Who: Funky Junk
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HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Good solid construction
- 2 Attractive introductory price point
- 3 Neutral sound

SPECS

Frequency Response: 20Hz to 30kHz, +/- 2dB

Crossover: 1.5kHz (24 dB/octave)

Drivers: LF 22cm, HF 2.5cm titanium/fabric, magnetically shielded

Amplification: LF 150W RMS @ 4 ohms, HF 70W RMS @ 4 ohms

Signal to noise ratio: 103.5dB A-weighted

Input sensitivity control: 30, 22, 15, 9, 4, 0, -3dBu & -10dBv

Bass level: -15, -12, -9, -6, -3, 0, +3, +6dB, bypass

Tweeter level: -5, -3, -1.5, 0, +0.5, +1.5, +3dB

Input: XLR/TRS combi connector, balanced

Input impedance: 10kohms

Output impedance: 100ohms

Output / loop through connector: XLR balanced

Dimensions

270 x 360 x 420mm

Weight:

18kg

The UK has a strong heritage for loudspeaker design and as such, we're more than a little spoilt for choice, so any new

manufacturer has their work cut out for them. Fledgling Polish company APS only has a couple of years under its belt, and at this stage they're still in the process of building brand awareness, let alone loyalty.

So what's the story? First up they're a small focused company, manufacturing in Poland. Their business is monitors and studio interconnects. The Aeon monitors I have on trial are their first serious model and, as such, aren't part of a broader 'range'. They've since released another smaller model, the iO, based on the Aeon.

Big box

At 42cm high, the Aeon is a big monitor capable of both near- and

mid-field applications. It's a 2-way front-ported design with twin amplification (150 Watts and 70 Watts) driving an 8" woofer and 1" tweeter. You can choose between fabric and titanium dome tweeter (I have the fabric one on trial). Additional features include variable input sensitivity, bass level and tweeter level (all on notched controls). The input connector is a combined XLR / TRS design and there's also a loop through XLR output. The driver units are also magnetically shield as standard. The front panel is uncluttered, although there is a two-colour backlit APS badge that indicates operation (blue) and amplifier clipping (red).

The monitors use driver units from Norwegian company SEAS and the crossover (at 1.5kHz) uses Burr-Brown op amps. Finally, there are also twin optical limiters and thermal protection to help prevent any mishaps.

Out of the box these are seriously weighty monitors (18kg apiece) with the amp power transformer and solid MDF cabinet contributing considerably to this. Visually their scale and mid-positioned reflex ports are reminiscent of Quedsted's original S8 (their new S8R looks slightly different). However, the Aeon has a more classy satin finish, and you can also choose from a number of different colours.

All is revealed

On first power up and with all trim settings flat my first impressions are of a clear monitor-style flat sound. There's certainly excellent mid-range accuracy, and for a moment I'm not really noticing these are mid field monitors. However, pushing the overall level reveals plenty of power. With flat settings, the bass doesn't feel excessive and this makes me wonder there are so many bass level cut options (up to -15dB for the bass).

As mentioned I have the fabric tweeter version on trial. This should offer a more natural top end, but on first listening I would say I felt the top end maybe needed a little extra (and tweaked up the rear-panel control by 0.5dB). Driver choice for this size of monitor often results in a lower crossover point (here it's 1.5kHz) and this should improve imaging. In fact, I actually felt the Aeon was a little sensitive to seating position. Even so, this didn't detract that much from my overall impression, which is very positive indeed.

These are clearly very accurate monitors and a great option for mixing or programming. However, one thing that could sway you is the price. UK distributor Funky Junk is currently doing the Aeon's for £1,175 a pair (list price is £1,469). Okay, they're not cheap but given the price of comparable monitors this introductory price makes them very attractive. **FM**



FutureMusic VERDICT

BUILD



VALUE



EASE OF USE



VERSATILITY



RESULTS



A fine set of mid-fields with an attractive introductory price from newcomers APS.