

Supersonic



DETAILS
PRODUCT
 Scansonic HD M30.2
ORIGIN
 Denmark
TYPE
 3-way floorstanding loudspeaker
WEIGHT
 25kg each
DIMENSIONS
 (WxHxD)
 240 x 1,085 x 380mm
FEATURES
 • 72 x 45mm kapton ribbon tweeter
 • 102mm midrange driver with honeycomb sandwich cone
 • Twin 165mm bass drivers with honeycomb sandwich cones
 • Quoted sensitivity: 88dB/1W/1m (8ohm)
DISTRIBUTOR
 Decent Audio
WEBSITE
 scansonic.dk
 decentaudio.co.uk

S idekick brand to renowned high-end hero Raidho Acoustics, Scansonic HD – part of the same Dantax Radio A/S group – has been offering a materially pared-back, recalibrated, cost-managed version of aspirational Raidho goodness for shallower pockets over many years now.

More than half a century ago, the company started as a small-scale speaker maker – expanding to absorb fledgling driver specialist ScanSpeak into its operation in 1977. These days its prestige proposition is Raidho and the halo effect it bestows on mainstream brand Scansonic HD. Despite the obvious price hierarchies that separate the two brands, the democratised design expertise – or ‘family DNA’ as the marketing blurb puts it – adds a classy sheen to the Scansonic HD range and particularly the affordable M-series.

Raidho co-founder and designer Michael Børresen was largely responsible for shaping the Scansonic business model: “From the start, I was very focused on building on all the experiences and strengths obtained from designing the Raidho speakers. At the same time, I also had to be aware of the long heritage and the Nordic design tradition of the Scansonic brand. This time, the task also came with a budget and a desire to create the very best possible within financial limits.” Not as

The M30.2 gets stuck in to nail the musical message full fat with zero shilly-shallying

much money to spend on materials, then, but some of the core techniques established with the Raidho designs do make the cut, not least an edge-sealed ribbon tweeter with a super lightweight diaphragm placed as close as possible to the midrange driver.

When Morten Kim Nielsen became CEO of Dantax A/S in late 2025, he arrived with a mission to further sharpen the value proposition that had become synonymous with Scansonic HD. Casting an eye over the lineup, top of the job sheet was a revamp of the lower-tier M series, a Scansonic HD family one up from the entry-level L range, Nielsen felt needed to make a potent statement but had become something of an underachiever in recent times.

He vowed to build the best possible product at the price, regardless of how it would fit in with the rest of the company’s offerings. “The goal is to

place Scansonic on the map again for everybody, so I came up with new ideas, components and trashed traditional wisdom on how to calculate products for this category”.

Which isn’t to say the old M series speakers were ripe for retiring. Worth carrying over, Nielsen felt, were the “excellent” ribbon tweeter and high-performing main driver technology – a 102mm midrange unit and new twin 165mm bass drivers were added – which boast a sophisticated honeycomb sandwich construction and rigid cones “that can keep up with the ribbon tweeter”. The tweeter’s kapton-aluminium sandwich is only 20um thick, so the membrane’s resulting mass is just 0.03g, around 50 times less mass than a conventional textile, ceramic, beryllium or diamond dome, according to Nielsen.

“For the crossover I decided to discard all cheap components like electrolyte capacitors and use only good-quality poly caps,” Nielsen continues. “That made it quite expensive for the price class, but I wanted something extraordinary.”

The two elliptical, paper cone passive radiators (ABRs) on the back of the three-way M30.2 flagship floorstander reviewed here take the place of a bass reflex port with the parallel aim of increasing the ‘virtual’ size of the enclosure and thus depth and quality



An HFC favourite recommendation if you’re intending to spend around £3k on a floorstanding speaker is Neat Acoustics’ Mystique Classic (HFC514). It’s a somewhat more compact two-way design, but like the M30.2 uses a ribbon tweeter to very good effect. It’s not the easiest of speakers to drive and requires an amplifier with plenty of current, but the Mystique Classic delivers a performance that balances realism, scale and presence with an underlying musical joy that is addictive to spend time with. Much the same can be said of the M30.2. Both are essential auditions.

of bass it can reproduce. “I took this principle and translated it into the design,” says Nielsen, “and I think it turned out really well”. If the claimed 33Hz to 30kHz frequency range checks out, he isn’t kidding.

Next, Nielsen turned his attention to the speakers’ appearance, hoping to forge a new visual identity: “not another square box that will leave you indifferent, but something more daring and characterful while remaining elegant”. No, not another square box, but a strapping 1,085mm tower with mildly tapered side panels, a deeply chamfered front baffle and a rear sloping top panel. No parallel sides that could propagate internal standing waves, then. And really no clue the M30.2 is a £3.5k speaker as the immaculate build and Silk White finish of our sample will do credit to something twice the price.

With the magnetically attached front grilles removed, the aesthetic is just as distinctive if a little more divisive, a mild retro vibe expressed by the elliptical outer trims of the round main drivers and even the ribbon tweeter – which provide a harmonious visual match with the actual elliptical 127 x 229mm passive radiators round the back, usually hidden by the half-length rear grille.

Sound quality

The most obvious and, perhaps, startling first impression is that the M30.2 delivers a soundstage worthy of a monitor-class two-way standmount – spacious, specific and spread out behind as well as beyond the sides of the enclosures. Quite a feat for a sizeable three-way floorstander totting six drivers.

Then again, the Scansonic’s size and firepower certainly make their presence felt when it comes to summoning the bandwidth and dynamic compass to handle any genre from the whisperingly mellow late-night jazz of Bill Evans (try *A Sleeping Bee* from the album *Trio 64*) to the visceral slam of fully lit stadium rock à la Guns N’ Roses playing *Welcome To The Jungle*.

Another monitor-like quality is the almost forensic transparency of its midband and fast, pure, extended treble. The voicing, however, is more about entertainment and impact than neutrality and meticulous even-handedness, and the quite forward balance and skilfully massaged bass that hits hard and dives low are major contributors, the M30.2 getting stuck in to nail the musical message full fat with zero shilly-shallying.

It’s this ability to deliver the big musical picture with a mix of pristine



clarity, juicy substance and the kind of effortless largesse often attributed to three-way designs that makes it a winner. Considering its size and generous driver complement, the scale, authority and boldly drawn dynamic contrasts it musters are easy givens. Just as arresting is its grip of rhythm and nimble, supple bass for such a bulky box. Play a Qobuz stream of *Affirmation III* from Prince’s *Official Art Age* with a liberal dose of a Leema Acoustics Tucana II Anniversary’s 150W and the M30.2, and the immediacy and precise imaging, potent levels of detail and squeaky-clean separation are, perhaps, a little more ‘hi-fi’ than naturalistic, but make the densely layered stands of the mix very easy to hear and follow, if sometimes a tad too etched and stark.

Conclusion

There can be no debate that the Scansonic HD’s stalwart in revitalised M30.2 guise is a lot of nicely designed, well-made and finished floorstander for the money. Here is a speaker that really does offer a tempting slice of Raidho sonic magic for an approachable sum of money ●

Hi-Fi Choice

OUR VERDICT

SOUND QUALITY ★★★★★ **LIKE:** Sonic largesse and transparency; immaculate build and finish
VALUE FOR MONEY ★★★★★ **DISLIKE:** Elliptical driver trims won’t float everyone’s boat
BUILD QUALITY ★★★★★ **WE SAY:** A talented and beautifully built floorstander that hardly puts a foot wrong
EASE OF DRIVE ★★★★★

OVERALL

