



STEREO SPEAKERS
Triangle Magellan
Duetto SW2
£2650



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Temptations

THE WORLD'S MOST DESIRABLE KIT

STEREO SPEAKERS
TRIANGLE
MAGELLAN
DUETTO SW2
★★★★★
£ 2650

↑ FOR

A vivacious sound that excels at entertaining; strong bass performance; excellent build and finish

↓ AGAINST

Trades refinement and tonal neutrality

→ VERDICT

The Duetto's are distinctive speakers with a musically addictive sound: there are purer-sounding rivals but none that match their sense of fun

The characterful Duetto's from **Triangle** eschew the usual standmount qualities of refinement and detail in favour of timing, dynamics and unabashed vigour

IS HI-FI'S FUNCTION to entertain, or to inform without adding a tint to the recording? Your answer will decide what you'll make of Triangle's high-end monitors, the Duetto's. These are the first model in the company's five-strong Magellan SW2 range, and are a serious attempt to gatecrash the quality standmount party that Sonus Faber, Wilson-Benesch and Focal have dominated for such a long time.

The Duetto's are superbly built loudspeakers. They're finished to a very high standard, dressed in a lacquered mahogany veneer. More intriguing is their sonic presentation, which walks a lonely path as far as high-end monitors are concerned. You see, most of the competition are all about refinement and detail resolution, with qualities such as tonal purity not far behind.

Venomous bass rivals floorstanders

These Triangles have different priorities, placing timing, dynamics and sheer liveliness above all else. Listen to anything remotely upbeat, say Timbaland's *Shock Value*, and the Duetto's respond with an enthusiasm that borders on the embarrassing. Basslines are delivered with venom and a surprising degree of weight: these might be standmounts, but their bass output is strong enough to rival that of most similarly priced floorstanders.

The good news is that pitch definition and agility aren't sacrificed at the altar of low-frequency weight – a result for a pair of loudspeakers of this type. Make sure you give these Triangles plenty of room to breathe and a solid pair of stands; otherwise, you'll wonder what all the fuss is about.

“We wouldn't trade one percent of the Duetto's' enthusiasm for manners – let them entertain”

Perhaps even more impressive than the bass performance is the speaker's timing, by which we mean the ability to latch on to a rhythm track with purpose, while delivering sound as a cohesive whole. For the listener, it means music makes more sense, and so is easier to enjoy. Have a listen to Thelonious Monk's *Played Twice* on equipment that doesn't time well, and this piece of complex jazz will simply sound like a jumble of instruments. However, through the Duetto's, the musical thread is blindingly obvious. Add class-leading dynamics and the ability to deliver insight to the speakers' long list of sonic strengths, and it becomes clear they're something of a superstar.

No piece of hi-fi is perfect, though. As we've already suggested, these aren't the purest or most even-sounding speakers, and there are colourations that alter the tone of instruments and voices. And while the Duetto's horn-loaded tweeter has good qualities, it lacks the refinement of those found in the priciest models from B&W and Focal.

Speakers entertain, energise and inspire

How much these shortcomings matter comes down to personal preference. These speakers have a strong character, but it's a likeable one, provided you system-match sympathetically. If you avoid thin or brash electronics, you won't go far wrong.

For our part, we wouldn't trade one percent of the Duetto's enthusiasm for better manners. Music should be able to entertain, energise and inspire. Partnered properly, these Triangle speakers achieve this better than any rival we've heard.



TYPE Standmount
SENSITIVITY 88dB/w/m
IMPEDANCE 8 ohms
FREQUENCY RESPONSE 38Hz-20kHz (3dB limits)
POWER-HANDLING 160w
BIWIRE Yes
DIMENSIONS (HWD) 46 x 25 x 35cm
WEIGHT 16kg each
FINISH Mahogany
Burr walnut to special order

