

The Absolute Sound Golden Ear Awards 2009

Monitor 40.1 Loudspeaker

\$12,500

Sometimes, of course, a manufacturer is forced into a change, even when the product demonstrably leads the field in its type and class. I'm sure the last thing in the world Alan Shaw wanted was to change his Harbeth Monitor 40, the best full-range, three-way studio reference in existence, if not the best ever. But when VIFA, *sans* announcement, ceased manufacturing the woofer, Shaw had no choice. Eventually he designed a woofer of his own, which necessitated some other changes. Sonic differences between the 40.1 and the 40 are quite subtle, as Robert E. Greene documented in his February 2009 review. If anything, I find the tonal balance of the 40.1 even more to my taste for ultimate neutrality. In other words, the best is still the best and better than ever. If I weren't so hopelessly hung up on Quad ESLs, the Monitor 40.1 is the speaker I would own for my personal use (and if I had the space to accommodate another large speaker, I would buy a pair tomorrow). (Reviewed by REG in Issue 190)

Paul Seydor The Absolute Sound juni / July 2009