

Børresen C1

Where meticulous engineering meets creative artistry', says Audio Group Denmark of its Børresen loudspeakers. This is a not unfamiliar claim, but there's no denying the C1, in black or white finish at £15,000, looks suitably distinctive. The slick piano lacquer over carbon-fibre on the speaker's side panels doesn't tell the whole story, either – the composite is only 1mm thick, and used to provide extra damping and stiffness. The speaker's main structure is actually machined from thick hardwood laminates, contributing to a weight of 18kg a piece, rising to 24.5kg with the supplied stands.

The C1's drivers are of in-house design and construction. The isodynamic 'ribbon' planar tweeter claims a vanishingly low (10mg) moving mass but also boasts the

'Børresen's speakers just got better the longer we listened'

robustness needed to handle even high transient peaks. It sits deep in the baffle above a 128mm DCC5 Neo mid/bass driver, which uses a triple-layer cone combining carbon-fibre skins sandwiching a honeycomb core. This driver is tuned via two small ports venting at the top of the speaker's rear panel.

Unusually, Børresen's custom stands are again fashioned from wood laminate, rather than metal, to avoid any interference with the electronic components of the C1's 2.5kHz crossover. To couple (or rather decouple) speaker and stand, S2t 'resonance control devices' from sister brand Ansuz are used. These feature three circular stainless-steel discs, each of the two upper plates floating on three titanium balls in an effort to manage vibrations.

GREAT DANES

These loudspeakers set out their stall with a sound that, while lacking

in 'floorstander bass', redresses the balance with impressive levels of clarity, and a smooth, focused and natural soundstage picture. Playing Magdalena Kožená and Mitsuko Uchida's *L'Extase* [Pentatone], the C1s delivered a wonderful balance between voice and piano, set in an acoustic with just the right amount of ambience and resonance. It's a magical performance, and these speakers rapidly draw the listener into the treasures on offer.

Anna Meredith's 'Nautilus', played by the BBC SO on the *Dalia's Mixtape* album [Platoon], showed bass punch improving the harder the C1 was driven. There was also speed and detail here, especially in the fast orchestral arpeggios, plus effortless soundstaging with a real sense of the scale of the musical forces involved. 'Aerodynamic', from psychedelic rockers King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard [*Phantom Island*; self-released], also wowed with its feeling of speed and dynamic punch.

On occasion, there's the impression that some tracks might have a bit more to offer, for example with the low-frequency content in Garbage's 'Love To Give' [*Let All That We Imagine Be The Light*; Infectious Music]. That's why Børresen's floorstanding C2 and C3 exist, to provide a meatier work out with big, punchy power-chords.

That said, Shirley Manson's vocals still sounded characteristically powerful and vibrant throughout the album, and the C1s comfortably unleashed the massive dynamic swings and free-breathing drama of the Edward Gardner/London Philharmonic Britten set [LPO], sounding superb in the layering of the instruments in the 'Sinfonia da Requiem'. These speakers just got better the longer we listened...

VERDICT

Looking for audiophile performance from compact cabinets? Børresen's standmount C1s justify all their in-house technology by sounding just as good as they look. ☺

RIGHT: Milled hardwood laminate cabinet is stiffened with 1mm-thick carbon-fibre side panels. 128mm Børresen DCC5 Neo bass/mid driver (with carbon-fibre/honeycomb sandwich cone) crosses over to the brand's RP94 'ribbon' planar tweeter at 2.5kHz. The stands are mass-loaded with heavy alloy Ansuz Darkz 'resonance control devices'



HI-FI NEWS SPECIFICATIONS

Sensitivity (SPL/1m/2.83V – 1kHz/Mean/IEC)	87.7dB / 85.2dB / 83.1dB
Impedance modulus: minimum & maximum (20Hz–20kHz)	6.1ohm @ 205Hz 51ohm @ 93Hz
Impedance phase: minimum & maximum (20Hz–20kHz)	–56° @ 102Hz +51° @ 82Hz
Pair matching/Resp. error (200Hz–20kHz)	1.2dB / ±4.9dB/±5.9dB
LF/HF extension (–6dB ref 200Hz/10kHz)	55Hz / 44.7kHz/38.5kHz
THD 100Hz/1kHz/10kHz (for 90dB SPL/1m)	0.9% / 0.5% / ~4%
Dimensions (HWD) / Weight (all inc. stands)	1120x297x433mm / 25kg