



### STAND-MOUNT LOUDSPEAKER OF THE YEAR (OVER £2,000)

#### ProAc K1

**T**he 'K' in ProAc's K1 stand-mount loudspeaker stands for the Kevlar used in the bass drivers in the range. And the K1 stand-mount brings some serious driver armament to the table. A Kevlar 165mm (6.5 inch) bass/mid driver and a ProAc ribbon tweeter with an Alnico magnet that sits in its enclosure and features a diaphragm 'As light as a human hair'. The loudspeaker's stand is an elegant affair but far from being just an aesthetic element, though, this is one of the K1's main technical design features because the loading for the bass unit exits here in the shape of a hidden port.

Like many ProAc designs, the K1 is a very easy load for an amplifier, with a 90dB efficiency rating and with a benign 8ohm nominal impedance. The loudspeaker also crossover at a shade over 3kHz, meaning the crossover point is not in the most sensitive region of human hearing. All of which makes for a loudspeaker that is as easy on the ear as it is on the eye... and the amp!

In our test, Chris Thomas said, "there's something so musically focussed about a properly designed two-way stand-mount with high quality drivers and a great crossover. It's the sense of uncomplicated articulation coupled with a very focussed, free and dynamic bass that sits at the heart of great two-way designs, and the K1 is a superb example of that philosophy, with such a taut and stiff cone material as Kevlar, a synthetic Aramid fibre, the K1 drives with a real sense of purpose and most importantly, control. It is very fast with considerable transient power and the ability to translate what is happening in the bottom end with rhythmic flow and movement that grew more and more impressive as the hours and days passed." He also felt that, "If you want to delve into what a bass player is doing, then the K1 will tell you in detail. Fast or slow, attack or decay, start or stop, it's right there, on the button every time. But don't ignore the influence of the ribbon in translating the music down here, either. That crossover is immaculately matched to the control of the drivers and the cabinet, and the speaker never wanders into vague territory." He concluded by saying that the K1s, "sit confidently on the musical groove." +

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