

Way back towards the end of the last century, I came across NSM at CES. At the time, the company made small speakers exclusively. NSM has since moved into larger speakers, center channels and even subwoofers. Still, I have a sense that the company has a great deal of respect for the musical potential of the time honored mini-monitor.

Why go small when the world has gone large? Well, if you have manhood issues, you may not be able to avoid the quest for *big*. You'll drive an SUV and you'll wear a wristwatch that could double as a wall clock. At the same time, you'll have lost touch with something critical, *quality*. I'd rather have a fine speaker than a large one, so let's talk about the NSM M5s. First of all, they're small and small can be good. Perhaps you have a small room, perhaps you need to place your speakers close to walls or on shelves or perhaps you just don't want big speakers dominating your home.

The point is that a small speaker can make music, and sometimes in ways that elude larger speakers. The M5s play music with few compromises. Though only 8" tall the M5s have a solid, substantial feel. The drivers fit perfectly into the baffle and the entire package exudes thoughtful design and craftsmanship. I found that the NSMs enjoyed some break-in time before they really sounded their best. In my experience, this is often the case with smaller drivers. Once they settle in, the M5s have an easy and expansive sound. Vocals have a natural and articulate presentation that is free from false emphasis.

Spatial precision is what stereo is all about and the NSM M5s are about as spatially precise as can be achieved. The soundstage grows and shrinks with the music that is played. Just when you think the speakers sound a bit flat, you'll play a piece with real depth and that back wall of the room seems to fall away. Balance is so much more critical than size when it comes to music. The M5s do not attempt the lower octave and a half, but because of their balance the listener really doesn't suffer the loss. Quite simply, the NSM M5s can create as much quality bass as can be accommodated in a room where they are likely to be used. The same can be said of their dynamic range. In a suitably sized room, the NSMs will give you all the output that your room (and your amplifier) can handle.

Are they for you? Well, I don't know. Do you know what you like or are you trying to impress people? Do you love music or are you just looking for what's hot this week? The NSM M5s are for people who need & love their music. They are not just for small rooms and tight budgets. The NSM M5s are the product of a company that makes small speakers because they know how to build them right. If you care enough and hear well enough you'll find the magic in these small black boxes called the NSM M5. Highly recommended.



Model 5
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