



Fyne Audio

F1.5 £3,000

The Fyne is small in stature, but much bigger in terms of charm and capability

DETAILS

PRODUCT
Fyne Audio F1.5

ORIGIN
UK

TYPE
Standmount loudspeaker

WEIGHT
5.7kg

DIMENSIONS
(WxHxD)
186 x 321 x 289mm

FEATURES

- 19mm magnesium compression dome
- 125mm Iso Flare bass driver
- Quoted sensitivity: 87dB/1W/1m (8ohm)

DISTRIBUTOR
Fyne Audio

With the distinction of being both the smallest and most expensive (taking into account the fact a stand will be needed), the F1.5 is also the smallest member of the F Series that – as the company flagship – extends up to the F1.12 at £28,000. In miniature, the F1.5 has much of the same design thinking. Chief among this is the driver arrangement. This is the only speaker in the group with a concentric tweeter; a 19mm magnesium dome compression unit surrounded by a 125mm ‘Iso Flare’ driver that makes use of a distinctive ‘FyneFlute’ rubber surround.

This is augmented by a port but instead of being at the front or back, it is downward firing and works against the integrated plinth. This offers the potential for fuss-free placement in spaces that other speakers here might struggle in. You can also adjust the output of the F1.5, thanks to the ‘Presence’ control that adjusts the 2.5-kHz part of the frequency response between +/- 3dB.

The quoted frequency response of 48Hz-38kHz (albeit at +/- 6dB) is impressive too as are the benign input and sensitivity measurements that suggest the F1.5 won’t be too challenging to drive.

The aesthetic of the F1.5 is likely to divide opinion somewhat. This is a small speaker with a lot going on in terms of detailing, so it feels a little fussy compared with some of the more conventional options in the test. The walnut finish is the only option for the F Series and it is attractive in a traditional sort of way, but possibly works better on the larger models in the range. It is very well made.

Sound Quality

Absolutely integral to the overall performance of the F1.5 is that despite its size, it certainly doesn’t sound small. It delivers *The Vulture* with a sufficient amount of low-end heft so that it sounds convincing, although it is one of the less potent speakers in the group. The upper registers are a different story, though.

Labi Siffre sounds absolutely fantastic and the supporting brass elements have an extremely appealing rasp and energy to them.

With *Fuel To Fire*, the Fyne is in its absolute element. So long as a little care has been taken in terms of placing it, it effortlessly disappears into a soundstage that is rather larger and more three dimensional than the cabinet’s stature might suggest. This also ensures that Agnes Obel’s almost ephemeral quality is preserved and the tonality of the supporting piano and bass is also extremely good. The limitations of scale do make themselves felt, though, as the weight of some of the lower notes is reduced over some of the other speakers here.

The only speaker here with a 19mm magnesium dome concentric tweeter

This same fractional lack of low-end heft is perceivable with *Revival* too, but the Fyne does a better job of hiding this than you might expect. Part of this comes down to how good the upper registers are with vocals and instruments once again being exceptionally well handled. The balance between ‘well-lit’ and ‘bright’ is one that the Fyne treads very effectively and it is likely that, so long as a modicum of care is taken with equipment partnering, it will likely retain these traits. Only with the greater heft of *Simmer* does the Fyne’s admirable fight against physics start to come undone a little. Where some rivals in the group can manage a thud you feel in the chest, the F1.5 has little choice but to pull its punches a little. Further up the registers, however, it is business as usual with another detailed and tonally convincing performance in a spacious and well-defined soundstage ●



Hi-Fi Choice

OUR VERDICT

SOUND QUALITY
★★★★★
VALUE FOR MONEY
★★★★★
BUILD QUALITY
★★★★★
EASE OF DRIVE
★★★★★

LIKE: Tonal realism; effortless soundstage; placement; good build

DISLIKE: Some limits to absolute scale and extension; looks

WE SAY: With some impressive attributes, if used carefully the Fyne can delight across a range of music

OVERALL

