

DETAILS

PRODUCT
Fyne Audio F302i

ORIGIN
UK

TYPE
2-way floorstanding
loudspeaker

WEIGHT
13.3kg

DIMENSIONS
(WxHxD)
233 x 932 x 308mm

FEATURES

- 25mm titanium dome tweeter
- 150mm multi-fibre mid/bass driver
- Quoted sensitivity: 90dB/1W/1m (8ohm)

DISTRIBUTOR
Fyne Audio Ltd.



Fyne Audio F302i

Fyne has form when it comes to sparing a little sonic magic for its more affordable floorstanders

The most potent letter in the marketing alphabet, thanks to Apple, ‘T’ doesn’t always have to mean ‘me’. As applied to the name of Fyne Audio’s entry-level floorstander, the F302, it signifies extra performance. Not that the original F302, which continues, is in any way tardy. Fyne felt, however, that a little more top end goodness wouldn’t go amiss – which is why, with the F302i, it’s all about the tweeter.

The new 25mm titanium design is derived from the pricier F500 series. As such, the frequency ceiling jumps from 28kHz to 34kHz and the modified crossover gets improved components.

Goals for the new tweeter include a smoother high-frequency response, both at lower listening levels and when driven hard, the ultimate aim being to make the F302i a more consistent performer and better

all-rounder than its predecessor. The only other change is cosmetic, the previously gloss black baffle trim around the tweeter given a matt finish.

Build and finish are good, if not quite up to the standard of the Acoustic Energy, Monitor Audio and Wharfedale, though one particularly neat new feature sees magnets mounted on the back of the cabinet to stow the grille when off duty. Less pleasing, the plastic plinth looks cheap.

Sound quality

The words that reoccur in my notes are: “consistent, balanced and even-handed”. Such assets aren’t to be underestimated and the Fyne deploys them with considerable skill. *Strangers* brings together Michael McDonald, Joe Walsh and Ringo Starr. Ringo’s fill-free drumming is great but the production, intentional or not, can sound a bit sludgy and underlit.

It does here. But, as played by the F302i, that doesn’t seem to matter. McDonald’s woolly enunciation isn’t hoisted out of the mix on a fountain of sparking spring water, Ringo isn’t suddenly Buddy Rich, Joe’s gloriously clichéd licks are still Joe’s. But, sounding somewhat dowdy as it does, the piece hangs together musically and to satisfying effect. After listening to some of the group’s more ebullient performers, the quiet coherence of the Fyne comes as something of a relief and perfectly underlines the advantages of dialling it back.

All right, this isn’t a sonic panacea. The F302i is far from the bee’s knees when it comes to air, sparkle and transient attack and this does rob

Consistent, balanced and even-handed, the Fyne shows considerable skill

McLaughlin’s meticulously marshalled jazz mayhem at Montreux of some zip but, timing wise, things feel spry and unforced, a deeply embedded sense of fluency and flow stealing the show. It’s mostly good news for Anita, too. However high she soars on full afterburner, the wince barrier is never broken. It’s an unflagging listen.

Indeed, whatever I play, the Fyne is unflappable. Arguably it’s the least ‘hi-fi’ sounding speaker in the group. Dynamic swings are handled elegantly if subdued in force and it refuses to sound raw or uncouth. Truly down and dirty isn’t in the wheelhouse. It’s as if it applies a barely perceptible degree of soft focus to the soundscape. There is a Fyne sound. It’s one that does no harm. One that’s more concerned with tunes than sounding flashy. It’s so agreeably moreish, though, who cares if it isn’t pitching for ultimate fidelity? There’s nothing not to like ●

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OUR VERDICT

SOUND QUALITY
★★★★★

VALUE FOR MONEY
★★★★★

BUILD QUALITY
★★★★★

EASE OF DRIVE
★★★★★

LIKE: Lithe, spry sound; fine consistency and coherence; neat design

DISLIKE: Not as adventurous as some

WE SAY: Hardly the natural choice for thrill seekers, but barely puts a foot wrong

OVERALL

