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Eve Audio

# SC205

Eve Audio may be a new company but you will be familiar with the founder's previous work. Huw Price listens in.

## SC205

Manufacturer **Eve Audio**

Price **£699 pair**

Contact **Nova Distribution 020 3589 253**

Web **www.eve-audio.com**

The SC205 is the second model in Eve Audio's range of two-way studio monitors. It features a two-way system with a 5-inch SilverCone woofer and an AMT (Air Motion Transformer) ribbon tweeter. Both are designed and manufactured specifically for Eve monitors.

The woofer cone has a honeycomb structure and glassfibre coating for maximum stiffness. It's driven by a magnet system with a 1-inch voice coil to optimise linear excursion and dynamic range. The tweeter closely resembles those used by Adam; not surprising as company founder Roland Stenz was a co-founder, shareholder and CEO of Adam until 2010.

### Key Features

- 2-way system
- Frequency range: 53Hz-21kHz
- Tweeter: AMT RST
- 5-inch woofer
- Amplifiers: 50 watts
- Protection limiter
- High-shelf filter: >3kHz
- Desk notch filter: 180Hz
- Low-shelf filter: <300Hz
- Weight: 5kg

From the outside things look fairly conventional, but the really innovative features are inside. Inputs are analogue, on XLR and RCA, but the analogue signal goes straight into Burr-Brown digital converters. This allows the signal to be processed digitally before it's fed to PWM Class-D digital amps.

The volume knob on the front panel performs various other functions. It switches the SC205s in and out of standby mode (where it idles at 1-watt power consumption) and provides access to several different filter settings to tailor the response to your working environment.

Press the knob once and the volume ramps up gradually – a nice safety feature. It ramps down on switch-off, too. The LEDs illuminate up to the preset volume level. Press the knob

### Measuring Up

Adam's S1X (E702) is a two-way active speaker with bass reflex design, a 155mm hexacone woofer, X-ART tweeter, input, HF gain and hi/lo EQ. The RCF Mytho 6 (E699 pair) is an active dual-driver DSP system with a 6.5-inch woofer and 1-inch HF Neodym tweeter and a black aluminium housing.



Our previous experiences with AMT ribbon tweeters have shown that they can be revealing, and any underlying harshness in a recording will be ruthlessly exposed. Monitors with these tweeters can sound somewhat bright, too, and the SC205s are no exception in this respect. In heavily damped rooms this can be beneficial, but we found 2dB of 'High' attenuation helped the upper frequencies to gel better with the midrange.

## Two things stand out from the off: controlled, clear bass and a remarkably open sound stage

again and the High LED illuminates; you can move the knob to select High, Desk or Low. Press the knob once more and you can adjust the levels in the selected frequency band (you can change the LED display or switch it off completely). Dip switches on the back allow you to disable the EQ and volume adjustment. Once you have the SC205s set up you can lock the settings individually.

Given the designer's previous history with Adam it's interesting that he has opted to place the bass port at the rear rather than the front. A slot at the top of the cabinet with rounded edges is preferred to a round hole and Eve claims improved efficiency and an absence of low-frequency artifacts such as port chuffing. The UK distributor told us that the port was so deep and precisely tuned that it bordered on a transmission-line design.

The SC205 has threaded screw inserts on the base and the back, so it can be mounted on a regular mic or speaker stand, or wall-mounted using an after-market back plate. In small studio spaces, these mounting options could free up a lot of space.

### Sounds right

Two things stand out from the off: nicely controlled, clear bass, and a remarkably open and deep sound stage. With natural acoustic recordings you get a real sense of the recording's space.

There is no sense of hype in the low mids/upper bass and things stay pretty even down to 50Hz, below which there's a fairly abrupt roll-off. For a set of bookshelf-size speakers the low-end performance is impressive, from a technical standpoint.

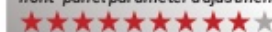
Left/right imaging is fairly crisp and the SC205s convey details with ease. You will encounter speakers that have a sweeter and softer character that you may find more pleasurable to listen to, but from an engineering perspective the SC205s do a fine job. The control system is effective, intuitive and well thought-out. The build quality is impressive and the sound quality is transparent, unhypped and revealing. **MTM**

### MTM Verdict

- WHY BUY**
- + Power switch at front
  - + Volume/EQ controls at front
  - + Well controlled bass
  - + Impressive low-end weight
  - + Transparent acoustic quality
  - + No port chuffing
  - + Ease of use

- WALK ON BY**
- Sub required for LFE work

An impressive debut from a German monitor manufacturer, featuring DSP audio processing and front-panel parameter adjustment.





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