

DLS FLATBOX LARGE



- full-bodied easy-listening

The DLS Flatbox with a small 3-inch woofer is the best in test in terms of the number of keyhole suspension mounts: all seven of them! No recess for the cable, however, so here too you need to choose an extremely flat speaker cable.

The relatively flat, not very wide but high boxes from DLS create a bare impression. The design looks comfortable in the modern home and the boxes are available in either glossy black for an additional charge or a satin white finish as standard. Behind the fabric fronts (twin comes with the maximum colour matching) is a somewhat surprising feature in the form of dual 3-inch woofers. They look very small on the large front and flank a 28-millimetre tweeter dome.

According to information from DLS the Flatbox series is tweaked to play optimally with the front covers on. The design is a bass reflex with ports to the sides and the rear has a press connection for the cable. The best way of running the cable is to the side, which is not always neat, but there is at least one recess in the box.

Listening impression

From the very first tones, I can understand why Flatbox Large was the winner of our last test for wall speakers. DLS has succeeded namely in sounding open and engaging with a wonderful presence and tightness.

The listening experience is concentrated on listening to the music rather than being an audiophile, pernickety exercise, but if we were to give a little feedback anyway, DLS succeeds to shine with an impressive and full-bodied acoustic image, which despite its engagement never gets too heavy. Furthermore, this is a very balanced speaker where the audio never sounds harsh or drab.

The Large Flatbox also has a gravitas that few have, and all in all is the most sensible buy in the test.

VERDICT

Sound	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Finish	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Design/Function	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Affordability	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

DLS FLATBOX LARGE

Type 2 way bass reflex
Features 2x3-inch woofers, 28-millimetre tweeter
Impedance 4 Ohm
Dimensions (WxHxD) 22x52x9.2 cm
Weight 4.6 kg
Price SEK 5,500/pair (SEK 7,000/pair in glossy black)
Info DLS Svenska AB, Tel +46 31-84 00 60,
www.dls.se



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cont.

DLS FLATBOX SLIM LARGE



- sleek exterior,
full-bodied interior

The slightly slimmer Flatbox speaker from DLS only has a 3-inch woofer and two less keyhole suspension mounts than its big brother: five instead of seven.

The similarities with the larger flat box are clear to see for this year's new model **Flatbox Slim Large**. The design in this smaller model is also clean-cut and bare, and the only real difference is the dimensions of the cabinet. As the name suggests, Slim is a slimmer cabinets and therefore blends in perfectly in smaller rooms. The colour palette offers the same shades as big brother and the construction maintains the same high class. The features are also the same as its big brother, less one woofer. The box is a bass reflex model with an upward pointing port. Both the DLS models come with black and white front fabrics, the latter producing a very discreet speaker. The connections are of the press contact model, and Slim unfortunately has no cable channel to the well, so the speaker is never quite flush against the wall. However six keyholes provide a lot of options for hanging.

Listening impression

Despite its sleek exterior and model name, this is far from being an anorexic audio experience. The bass digs surprisingly deep and is responsive in a very engaging way. The Flatbox smaller model just sounds really good! The acoustic image is diminutive but concentrated, while there is nothing wrong with either the placement or the feeling of presence. The level of detail is actually just a touch above the larger model, while the speaker never has sibilance issues.

But actually it is not the classic audiophile parameters that make me go for this speaker, but rather the model's consummate and straightforward way of reproducing the whole sound rather than individual registers or instruments. Slim Large as the Swedish would say "plays with zest"! But if we want something to grumble about it would be that the smaller speakers lack some of the larger model's power and gravitas.

VERDICT

Sound	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Finish	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Design/Function	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Affordability	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

DLS FLATBOX SLIM LARGE

Type 2 way bass reflex
Features 3-inch woofer, 28-millimetre tweeter
Impedance 4 Ohm
Dimensions (WxHxD) 17x47x8 cm
Weight 2.83 kg
Price SEK 4,000/pair (SEK 4,500 SEK/pair in glossy black)
Info DLS Svenska AB, Tel +46 31-84 00 60, www.dls.se



NAME	PRICE	SOUND	FINISH	DESIGN/ FUNCTION	AFFORDABILITY	INFO	HIFI VERDICT
Canton Ergo 610	SEK 6,800/ pair	7	9	6	6	www.canseda.se , www.canton.de	
Cornered Audio C5	SEK 6,000/ pair	7	7	8	6	www.hifi-agenten.se , www.comered.dk	
Dali Ikon On Wall Mk II	SEK 8,000/ pair	8	7	7	7	www.hifiklubben.com	GOOD BUY! 
DLS Flatbox Large	SEK 5,500/ pair	9	7	7	10	www.dls.se	BEST BUY! 
DLS Flatbox Slim Large	SEK 4,000/pair SEK 4,500/pair (glossy black)	7	7	7	9	www.dls.se	AFFORDABLE! 
Elac WS1235	SEK 8,000/ pair	8	8	8	7	www.septon.se , www.elac.de	GOOD BUY! 
Jamo Graphic	SEK 5,500/pair	6	7	6	7	www.matrixmedia.se , www.jamo.se	
Mirage OS3-SAT	SEK 5,000	7	8	8	8	www.matrixmedia.se , www.miragespeakers.com	
System Audio SA Comet	SEK 11,000	10	8	6	7	www.audioactive.se , www.system-audio.com	BEST SOUND! 
Wharfedale WA-T8	SEK 4,000	4	5	8	6	www.wharfedale.co.uk	

This year's Best Speaker, budget DLS Flatbox Large

Hanging the speakers on the wall or integrating them into it is becoming increasingly popular - and, as luck would have it, the speaker designs are becoming better and better for this purpose! One of the best and more cost-effective units is the DLS Flatbox Large which was best in test last year. Put simply, a wall of sound.

Best in test in this issue of Hifi & Musik and together with subwoofer in issue 5/2009

