



Even on a basic recording it's apparent the D30Rs are unusually transparent. They dig up an awful lot of information and organise it in a natural and structured way

You can buy the D30Rs with a soft-dome tweeter, but the ribbon design gives the treble more sparkle

“Superb all-rounders that work well across all genres of music”

■ **ProAc Response D30R** Floorstanding speakers

■ **£4750** ★★★★★



ProAc's Response D30Rs are easy speakers to underestimate.

They're decently large two-way floorstanders that come in a traditional wooden box and are bass-loaded by a reflex port. Nothing unusual there, but as always with hi-fi it's all about the detail - and it's here ProAc's considerable engineering skill shines through.

The cabinets feel solid and have crisp (but not sharp) edges that give the impression of proper craftsmanship. The ebony veneer on our review sample (a

bass driver, augmented by a downward-firing port in an arrangement we've seen before with other Response floorstanders. It's a carefully conceived design that makes the speakers less fussy about their placement in a room than most alternatives. We think the 30s still shine brightest in free space.

Once they're up and running we're really impressed by these ProAc's. They're lively yet subtle with it. We start off with something low key - Bruce Springsteen's *Terry's Song* - and the D30Rs are right at

TECH SPECS

Type Floorstander
Sensitivity 89dB/W/m
Impedance 8 ohms
Max power 200W
Birirable Yes
Finishes 6
Dimensions (hwd) 104 x 22 x 31cm

Our respect for these floorstanders grows further when we play Orff's *Carmina Burana*. Here we're impressed by both their handling of wide-ranging dynamics and their composure during the quite brutal crescendos.

Layered depth, extended width

These ProAc's deliver a beautifully layered soundstage packed with superbly focused images. The presentation extends well beyond the outer edges of the speakers too - and that's rare.

There isn't quite the low-end reach or dynamic punch of their bigger brothers the D40Rs, but considering they have just one mid/bass driver and cost £1400 less, that's no surprise. What they do produce at low frequencies is still impressively controlled, punchy and fast, and, most important of all, tuneful.

These ProAc's are superb all-rounders that work well across all genres of music. Feed them a quality signal, position them with care and we're sure you'll be pleased.



The downward-firing bass port means positioning is less of an issue than it might be. Quality build is evident throughout

hefty £950 extra, as is the rosewood option) is immaculate and is applied with obvious care. Standard finishes include black ash, mahogany, cherry and maple. Whichever option you pick we think you'll still end up with a smart, but relatively low-key, speaker.

Take a look at the drive units and it's the ribbon tweeter that draws your attention. There's the option to buy the D30 with a standard soft-dome unit, saving in the region of £250 depending on cabinet finish, but we wouldn't. The 60mm x 10mm ribbon adds a degree of sparkle to the performance that makes its inclusion vital.

Below the off-set tweeter is a carefully developed 16.5-cm carbon-fibre mid/

home. The Boss's vocals are delivered with real passion and the minimalist instrumental back-drop rendered with skill. This recording is quite hard and coarse, and these ProAc's don't try to hide that. But equally they don't try to make a meal of things either.

The integration between the drivers - usually a ProAc strength - is spot-on here too. This gives a wonderfully expressive and full-bodied midrange that has no trouble delivering vocals in a convincing and fluid way.

Even on a recording as basic as this, it's apparent the D30Rs are unusually transparent. They dig up an awful lot of information and manage to organise it in a natural and structured way.

Consider if You value subtlety and finesse as much as outright muscle
Highlight A wonderfully transparent and communicative midrange performance

Rating ★★★★★

FOR Dynamic, insightful and subtle sound; excellent midrange; controlled low-frequency performance; terrific build and finish

AGAINST Need care with system matching

VERDICT The Response D30Rs reinforce ProAc's excellent reputation for producing high-quality speakers. They're a great buy