



Kiwi Krackers

THEOPHANY M2 SPEAKERS \$1599



Tone gave the 6.1 range of Theophany speakers (worth a cool \$10,600) a Gold award when they were reviewed in April 2006. The M2 model has been released since then and a considerable amount of work has gone into the design of this speaker, according to an extensive report sent to me by Garth Murray, the designer.

It's a great way to ease yourself into the range, and when you consider upgrading to the larger model these would make ideal rear speakers.

An interesting terminology emerged in hi-fi circles a number of years ago called W.A.F. which stands for Wife Appeal Factor. This factor is very important for the budding audiophile who is trying to update his stereo system in the face of stiff resistance from "she who must be obeyed" when he brings home (on trial) stereo equipment he has heard at his favourite hi-fi shop. As the gear usually ends up in the lounge (unless the lucky chap has a separate listening room) it is incredibly helpful if this new toy has a high W.A.F. rating.

The range of New Zealand-made Theophany speakers has a very high W.A.F. due to beautiful, curved rimu veneer cabinets and well-presented black speaker cones. It's all finished off with a very discreet gold Theophany symbol. (Note that they're also available in a range of woods and colours, including a delectable metallic toffee apple!)

The M2s really came to life once I had moved them closer to the rear wall. The extra weight made all the difference to the overall depth of sound, and the room ambience was more noticeable.

The single pair of solid gold-plated brass terminals will accept a wide range of inputs and, as they have their port underneath, they could be shelf-mounted; however, I would recommend stand-mounting them to hear them at their very best.

Do they sound as good as they look? I like the sound of these speakers and I would describe them as smooth but detailed, with warmth in the bass that is very rich and enjoyable yet not overbearing. The detail in the top end is superb, with in-drawn breath quite noticeable on certain voice-oriented recordings.

They have a rhythmical and comprehensive sound and an increase in volume really got them going, with bass weight increasing accordingly.

I tried my REL subwoofer with them and the overall sound improved to the next level. I also tried the M2s in my home theatre rig, and in this context they were absolutely stunning, with huge dynamic range for such a compact design.

As I write this they are filling the lounge with glorious music and my flatmates are working out ways for me to keep them. They look and sound great and are NZ-designed and made...and are not that expensive compared to other models on the market.

What more can I say, except that they will bring musical joy to a budding audiophile, and won't disturb household relations. ■ PAUL BURGESS

DETAILS



CONTACT
theophanyloudspeakers.com

- SPECIFICATIONS**
- Two way stand mount/ book shelf speakers
 - Ported design (underneath)
 - 1-inch silk dome tweeter
 - 5-inch twill woven glass mid/woofer
 - Frequency range 37hz-30kHz
 - Sensitivity 91dB

- PROS**
- ✦ A range of gorgeous finishes
 - ✦ Your partner will love them
 - ✦ Excellent sound

- CONS**
- ✘ Sound better with a subwoofer
 - ✘ No covers

VERDICT
Looks AND sound, what more can you ask for?

Aesthetics	98%
Performance	90%
Features	86%
Functionality	88%
Price Value	88%
Overall	

