



WIRELESS STEREO LOUDSPEAKER OF THE YEAR

KEF LSX | Reviewed in Issue 171



The original KEF LS50 has proved to be a major boon to the company. Not only is the speaker hugely successful in its own right, but it has spawned two of the most popular and innovative next-generation loudspeaker systems presently available. The LSX is 'simply' the latest in that dominant line.

Of course, there is nothing 'simply' about the diminutive powerhouse LSX wireless active loudspeakers. The simple way of thinking about the LSX is that it's a smaller, cheaper version of the LS50 Wireless wrapped in a range of natty cloth finishes, and is designed to fit almost anywhere. But this overlooks a swathe of very clever soft, hard, and firmware engineering, and some really subtle DSP, in order to make it sound as good as it looks. LSX features a small Uni-Q drive unit, a unique ABS cabinet, and has a backbone of 100W of Class D amplification. The speaker is entirely controlled from KEF-designed apps (one for operation and set-up, one for music management), and alongside the more conventional analogue aux minijack, Toslink, and increasingly ubiquitous Ethernet connection (one is used to connect master speaker to slave, as well as master to outside world), it can also connect to the world through Bluetooth and wireless Ethernet. It also supports Roon, Spotify Connect, Tidal, Google Chromecast, and Apple's AirPlay 2.

That the LSX taps the digital audio zeitgeist is good, but the sound is even better. In our test, we found "an important sense of rhythm underpinning the music that the LSX is remarkably good at reproducing." We also highlighted that the bass is surprisingly deep for so small a loudspeaker and "the mid-range and top-end are pure KEF and the size of the speaker makes it behave almost like a point-source, so its imaging is absolutely top-notch." It's our top choice for active speakers today.

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