



Chario Constellation MkII Delphinus

This award was one of the last to be decided by the judges, and was decided in good old speaker comparator style, switching between the rivals — and these Charios walked it, outperforming in both tone and detail several more expensive speakers.

If the brand is new to you, it's not new to Italy, where Chario was founded in Milan back in 1975, and may be the only audio company in the world that has been operating for more than 40 years with the same audio engineer, Mario Murace, since the beginning.

The \$2599 Delphinus is part of the MkII Constellation series, which includes also the Constellation Lynx (\$1999), Cygnus (\$4499) and Pegasus (\$5499) models, all of which are now available in Australia, as is the Aviator series which tops out at \$22,499.

The cabinet is particularly attractive (and not completely unlike those made by fellow Italians Sonus faber); all the wood hails from Italy, the side panels are finished by hand, and there's no machinery used in cabinet assembly: all the work is handcrafted. And unusually for a standmount bass-reflex design, the Chario Delphinus' port is located underneath the cabinet; the supplied rubber feet are essential to deliver a 20mm 'gap' between the bottom of the speaker cabinet and the surface it's sitting on. It's also a very efficient loudspeaker; indeed we would usually doubt a '90dB SPL' specification for a small bookshelf speaker, but the Delphinus sounded every bit of this rating. This is good news not only because high-efficiency speakers sound more 'exciting' than lower-efficiency ones, but also because this efficiency means

JUDGES' COMMENT

Handcrafted Italian cabinets are just the opening salvo for these fine and pure-sounding stand-mount speakers.

you'll get the highest performance possible from your amplifier. This further boosts a sonic performance of purity and accuracy in the midrange, a fine match with the sweet, pellucid high-frequency delivery of the Delphinus' tweeter, and underpinned by a bouncy, beautifully-paced bass with a depth that in a dealer's showroom might have you looking around for a hidden subwoofer.

This is the first Chario we've heard, and boy, we look forward to hearing more of them. More info: www.audiodynamics.com.au