arrangement provides easy access to running a surround system this way the amps can be rackmounted. If you're using speakers via Speakon connectors, and the amps are available separately. They link to the transmission line itself. Absorbing all the lowest frequencies inside the transmission line is essential to eliminate distortion and audible phase issues. A couple of seconds of listening was all that was required to determine that the DB1S-Alls live up to this low-end promise. Deep, chesty bass without even a hint of boominess prompted us to turn on the test tones to determine exactly what was going on. Roll-off starts at around 100Hz, but it's extremely smooth and gradual. The fundamental frequency was still clearly audible at 20Hz and we couldn't detect any distorted overtones. Given that the size of the cabinet barely exceeds that of a Yamaha NS10, this is nothing short of remarkable. Bass response is fast and defined, too, so even dubby bass lines retain their rhythmic drive.

Best of all, there was absolutely no port chuffing – the flatulent blast that emanates from many ported cabinets in response to low-frequency energy. Of course, you could get a subwoofer to handle the low stuff, but bass handling is far from being the DB1S-AII's only attribute. These speakers have an effortless clarity, transparent quality across the entire frequency range.

Detail assessment

The absence of an upper bass hump contributes to an outstandingly revealing and detailed midrange with no discernible colouration. While it's easy to work in an adequately treated room, but it may be an issue if you're recording in less than perfect conditions.

We spent over a week with the DB1S-AII's assessing recordings and even tidying up mixes we had previously been happy with. Then, at the end of each day, we found ourselves listening to CDs for sheer enjoyment value. We can therefore report that these monitors are totally non-fatiguing and very easy to work with. Best of all, they provide the type of wide-open sonic window and eerie realism that's the preserve of only the very finest monitors. We may have found our new favourite nearfields.

### Measuring Up

PMC is pretty much out there on its own as a large-scale manufacturer of compact transmission-line monitors. More conventional competitors around this price point include the Genelec 8050A (4.2k pair), the Dynaudio's BM15A (£2,366 pair) the Event Opal (£2,160) and the Quested 500 (£2,900 pair). If you fancy building your own passive transmission-line speaker, IPL Acoustics offers several kits (£344–£727 pair) but none is as compact as the DB1S-AII.

### Key Features

- **Usable frequency response:** 50Hz–25kHz
- **Effective line length:** 1.5m
- **LF drive unit:** Doped 140mm cast alloy chassis
- **HF drive unit:** 27mm fabric soft dome
- **Crossover frequency:** 2kHz
- **Dimensions:** 195x290x283mm
- **Weight:** 5.13kg
- **Amplifier input connection:** balanced XLR
- **Max power output:** 200W

### The DB1S-AII has an eerie realism that’s the preserve of only the very finest monitors

### PMC DB1S-A11 Reviews

WHY BUY

- Solid, controlled bass
- Razor-sharp imaging
- Deep soundstage
- Astonishing detail
- Big sound/compact size

WALK ON BY

- No digital input
- No EQ control
- Non-indentified sensitivity controls

Ample power, stunning clarity and incredible bass extension make the DB1S-AII just about perfect for small-studio monitoring.