

MULTICHANNEL  
SPEAKER PACKAGE  
MONITOR AUDIO  
RADIUS 90AV-12

★★★★★

£ 1350

↑ FOR

Mighty sound from miniature speakers; big bass, plentiful punch and great communication

↓ AGAINST

Nothing

→ VERDICT

Third time lucky for Monitor Audio: this is a classic

# Third time lucky for Monitor Audio

**IF AT FIRST** you don't succeed, try, try and try again. According to popular myth, Robert the Bruce coined that adage, having been inspired by a stubborn spider in its persistent attempts to weave its web.

Monitor Audio's latest Radius package is a tale of similarly bloody-minded persistence: it's the third time we've reviewed a

speaker package from the smallest range in the company's line-up, with each earlier iteration being impressive in part, but not entirely satisfying as a whole.

## Better subwoofer, better system

And now? Now it's got it right. In fact, the latest Radius package, the 90AV-12, is so right it might well threaten the status of the current class leaders from B&W.

So what's changed? By comparison with the system we tested in May 2005, only one element: the sub-

woofer. But that's good, because the cute R90 satellites used for front and rear effects, and the neat R225 centre, were already impressive, and didn't

need any revision. No, it was the sub – too slow, too inarticulate – that let the side down.

But no longer: now, Monitor Audio has deployed the mighty RSW-12 active subwoofer, already a favourite in these parts. And the result is magical: the satellites and centre retain their lively yet composed balance, their crisp, accurate focus and plentiful punch, while

**“This compact set-up has bags of drive, and – boy! – it goes loud”**

the subwoofer both underpins and complements them beautifully.

This diminutive set-up has all the bass energy you could reasonably crave, bags of weight and drive, and boy, does it go loud. Playing *The Island* at positively silly volumes, you'd be forgiven for thinking you were listening to a much larger system – and that's a real achievement. So bravo Monitor Audio – and to everyone else chasing five stars, let that be a lesson to you...



ALSO  
CONSIDER



B&W MT-20  
September 2005  
£975

★★★★★  
An Award-winner in 2005, this stylish and highly cohesive system is one of the very best of its type...

B&W MT-30  
September 2005  
£1575

★★★★★  
...apart, that is, from this – the same satellite speakers, joined by a far better subwoofer, the PV-1. Fast, potent and gorgeous with it

Cute LG appeals, but only