



Midfield general

Adam Audio packs the midfield with the new A8H monitor

It is fair to say that we are fans of ADAM Audio at DJ Mag Tech. It is a deserved soft spot, as we haven't used or tested a set of the brand's speakers in which we could find fault. From the AX series right through to the S series, we have been impressed by the sound delivery and performance that the speakers put out. ADAM's speakers have found favour with many a producer, and across the range it has won many awards. So, while there may be a little bit of bias, there is good reason. The company's new A series has previously graced our testing bench in the guise of the A4V, and without going overboard with the praise,

again we were impressed by this smaller near-field monitor and the sonic performance, coupled with the new A Control software. For this review, we were presented with the A8H Midfield monitor to give it the once over. The A8H is the new pinnacle of the A series; in fact, in terms of pricing and performance, there is a little bit of a crossover between this as an A series monitor and ADAM Audio's S series monitors that are considered for pro use and application. The original AX series took it to one level, then the S took the baton from there, and with the A8H, you have an option that sits sort of closely to the S2V — definitely in price, and as we

are going to explore, perhaps in performance too. Right, let's get down to it. The A8H is a Midfield speaker that comes in right and left configuration. It is made up of an 8-inch driver, 3.5-inch midrange, and the now-ubiquitous X-Art tweeter. The styling of the A8H is also a refresh on the AX series, with the design being functional as well as adding to the look of not just the A8H, but the other speakers in the A series range. In terms of the sound reproduction, there is a pronounced difference when using the A8H to any of the other A series dual driver speakers. This is due to the dedicated midrange unit, which separates the frequencies

passing through so the woofer is handling more bass and low mid, the midrange is picking up the mid to higher frequency range, and the tops are picking up on the high frequencies, making for a more complete sonic dispersion. There is more presence in the middle of the audio delivery — you're not getting a separated sound stage, more a complete fill of sound. We noticed this swapping between the S2V and the A8H during the testing. To our ears, this presented even more detail, clarity and definition to the mixes and music that we passed through them. We also found that the A8H had a bit more oomph and headroom when turning up the levels, but that should be expected as it is a midfield, which sometimes we forgot due to its compact sizing.

Having had a few weeks to live with the A8H, we soon started to really enjoy having the best of both worlds. The A8H has the neutrality and accuracy to be used as a nearfield, but also has the added power to deliver detailed midfield performance. With the A8H, ADAM Audio has added a new option to the pot for producers looking to move up to the next level of professional performance with their monitoring set-ups.



At a glance

ADAM AUDIO A8H
£2266 PAIR
• adam-audio.com

BUILD QUALITY **8.0**
EASE OF USE **9.0**
FEATURES **9.0**
VALUE FOR MONEY **8.0**
SOUND QUALITY **9.0**

Hype

The A8H adds another dimension for users looking for a monitor that offers more quality audio performance across the soundstage.

Gripe

Really trying to find something to nit-pick at, but can't.

Summary

The A8H looks good and sounds great: a worthy addition to the A series range.

Verdict 8.6/10