

Kali Audio SM-8



Kali Audio has announced the SM-8, an 8-inch model in their top-tier Project Santa Monica, or SM-Series, line of studio monitors. Combining Kali's proven 3-way coincident architecture with uncompromising components and craftsmanship, the SM-Series delivers unparalleled imaging, accuracy, and detail for critical production applications. The SM-8 is a 3-way monitor with an 8-inch woofer, and a 4-inch midrange with a coaxial 1-inch metal dome tweeter. Like Kali's acclaimed IN-Series loudspeakers, the SM-8 is an acoustic point source, and special care has been taken with the unique geometry around the midrange to ensure a seamless transition to the edge of the speaker. This gives the loudspeaker an ideal directivity characteristic, resulting in an engrossing stereo image where details are lifelike and crisp. Off-axis lobing that is unavoidable in 2-way loudspeakers is virtually eliminated in the SM-8.

The transducers on the SM-8 are similarly precision-engineered for high dynamic

range, smooth response, and low distortion. The woofer design has been refined, and incorporates features that reduce magnetic flux modulation, bringing distortion down dramatically. The midrange has been optimized not only for its own frequency handling, but also for its role as the tweeter's waveguide. The tweeter is an aluminum dome with a special geometry that reduces high-Q ultrasonic resonances, eliminating the harsh sound that can plague metal dome designs.

All of these features contribute to impressive performance from the SM-8. THD of the loudspeaker is less than 0.5% and lower frequency response is 37 Hz at -10 dB. With 300W of total power, the SM-8 can deliver 119 dB SPL peaks, allowing for reference-level listening at up to 5 meters from the loudspeaker. On top of its impressive out-of-the-box performance, the SM-8 features user-editable DSP to control parametric EQs, delays, and trims per loudspeaker for room calibration. This is all processed natively on the speaker's own DSP chip, allowing for a less complicated signal chain and no additional latency while processing room calibration.

Users can program these DSP features using a USB drive plugged into the speaker, or by networking speakers together via Ethernet. While networked, changes in processing settings happen in real time, and multiple tuning profiles can be toggled between. The SM-8 can be mounted using hardware from Triad Orbit, or any other speaker mount that uses a 4.25 x 2-inch hole pattern and can support the loudspeaker's 31 lb weight.

The SM-8 is available now in the United States, with worldwide availability soon to follow. The price is \$2499. A 5-inch version, the SM-5, is also available now. Demos are available in Los Angeles and Nashville; visit the website below to schedule.

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