

Automatic focus

Tannoy's Precision 6.2 floorstander boasts a soundstage that its rivals just can't match, at least that's what **David Price** reckons...

It's not as if the world really needs another floorstanding loudspeaker. We've got plenty enough already, thanks very much. So, when looking at something like this new Tannoy, the first thing that springs to mind is, "does it bring anything new to the party?" In the case of a great many such products, the answer would be a deafening, "no" – but Tannoys being Tannoys, you can at least be sure of an interesting listening experience courtesy of its unique Dual Concentric drive units.

Let's not underestimate the effect that drivers have on loudspeakers. It's easy to assume that – because they're the obvious, big things that meet the eye – cabinets are the be all and end all of speaker sound, but of course they'll never be able to redeem the product from having bad drivers in the first place. Tannoy's drive units are always good, and always different to everyone else's – so the Precision 6.2s come with a good start in life.

Their key strength is the size of the soundstage – which is cathedral-like

The speaker you see here sports a new version of the famed Dual Concentric drive unit, so-called because it has a driver within a driver; basically the tweeter is set inside the cone of the larger mid/bass drive unit. It's a clever wheeze, which is why Tannoy patented it and therefore nobody else offers precisely the same arrangement, and brings excellent phase coherence. In human language, this means the high frequency sound emerges from the same 'point source' as the rest of the range, at very-close-to the same time. Contrast this to a conventional

tweeter and woofer, set some 10cm or so apart, and you can literally hear the difference – things seem more 'all of a piece', and the music images better in space.

Many may have been familiar with the Dual Concentric concept for a long period of time – the company has been making such speakers for longer than most, after all, and the original Monitor Black sported a Dual Concentric driver first developed and patented by Tannoy's Chief Engineer, Ronnie H Rackham in 1947. But this isn't to say that the drivers used in the Precision 6.2s are in any way vintage pieces. The company's speaker design supremo, Dr Paul Mills, is keen to stress that the technology has advanced considerably over the years, with new materials, new designs and the development of bespoke manufacturing processes. He also points out that these days, the designs benefit from advanced computer aided design and software modelling – traditional values in a modern setting if you like!

The actual tweeter fitted is what Tannoy calls its 'WideBand' design, a 25mm titanium dome affair with the company's Tulip WaveGuide that extends above a claimed 30kHz, way above human hearing. The company says that a high-frequency unit that's

DETAILS

PRODUCT
Tannoy Precision 6.2

ORIGIN
UK

TYPE
Floorstanding loudspeaker

WEIGHT
18.4kg

DIMENSIONS
(WxHxD)
310 x 1,000 x 283mm

FEATURES

- Quoted power handling: 350W
- Quoted frequency response: 34Hz – 35kHz (-6dB)
- 1x Dual Concentric array with 25mm dome tweeter and 150mm midrange driver
- 1x 150mm bass driver

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built to reproduce extremely high frequencies is far less stressed by audio band reproduction than a tweeter that is near its limits at 20kHz. At 1.6kHz, this mates to the main 150mm midrange driver within the one Dual Concentric array, and the latter is made from a treated paper pulp material with a rubber surround, with a 44mm edge-wound voice coil. This then hooks up with an additional 150mm dedicated bass driver at 170Hz, which bolsters the lower bass. Low-loss laminated core inductors and audiophile-grade polypropylene capacitors are used, with components hard wired onto a rigid mounting board. Silver-plated, high-purity oxygen-free copper wiring is also featured – a sensible measure as this can have a big effect on sound.

The cabinet is, of course, mission-critical in getting a good sound, too. To wit, the Precision 6.2 gets some classily finished woodwork, with flat front and rear baffles hooking up to curved side panels. Tannoy claims this reduces internal reflections and braces the cabinet structure. This is an unusual take; although I've detected a move back to 'flat' sides, the speakers that have curved cabs usually don't have a flat back baffle. The good Dr Mills says this is because it eliminates the inherent instability of a 'three cornered' design when using "compact (for Tannoy at least)" 150mm drivers. All is made from heavy fibreboard, and there's a small Mass Loading Cavity (MLC) for fine tuning of the bass. By filling or part filling the sealed cavity with what Tannoy calls "dry mineral aggregates" (sand) you can balance the speaker up to your room better, which is a nice feature. A reflex port sits surreptitiously behind.

There's a choice of satin dark walnut, high gloss dark walnut and high gloss black cabinet finishes, ▲



The Tannoys sport high quality plinths with adjustable spikes, plus spike cups for those not wishing to make their wooden floors look like the lunar surface. This particular design is done very well and makes levelling easy, which – along with the correct toe-in – is important for getting the stereo image to snap into focus.