

Klipsch R-40PM

US brand delivers a compact and worthy addition to its Reference Series, says **Martin Dew**

KLIPSCH'S R-40PM POWERED speakers hail from the company's fourth-generation Reference Series. Compact and fairly priced at £429, they're ideal for AV setups, computer audio or discreet bookshelf placement. Klipsch is no stranger to two-channel music and AV so, while the R-40PM drops an HDMI connection, it does support an optical input from a TV. Other connections are Bluetooth – there's no Ethernet or Wi-Fi – plus phono/line-level input, USB-B and auxiliary 3.5mm.

The speakers are 'powered' not 'active', so the right speaker houses both 35W Class D amps and crossovers for the two enclosures, which connect with a long speaker cable (included). The R-40PMs are well-made and shrouded in a classy matt black wood veneer. The dinky front-side proportions (14.5cm wide, 30cm high) complement a serious-feeling 26cm depth and 8.3kg weight.

The speakers look typically Klipsch, with the copper-coloured polymer-cone 4in bass/



mid driver sitting below a Tractrix horn-loaded aluminium tweeter. A port on the rear side of each cabinet yields a claimed 60Hz-20kHz overall frequency response.

The horn-loaded design didn't produce a bright high-frequency timbre as expected.

Tractrix horn-loaded tweeters are a Klipsch speciality

Underworld's 'Rez' had dancing keyboards nudging the tweeter/horns into forming a clean, vibrant and focused presentation. Bass notes pulsed hard but with the balance just about right and no sense that the mids had a veil drawn over them. Thomas Newman's score in *The Shawshank Redemption* (4K Blu-ray) was airy and seductive with voices crisp and deeply resonant.

The R-40PMs are convincing performers with expressive highs, forthright mids and low frequencies providing all the required backbone. Klipsch validates it all with good connections and handsome enclosures that will spruce up your entertainment area ■

HCC VERDICT



Klipsch R-40PM

→ £429 → www.klipsch.com