

# An Outstanding Rectilinear Speaker



Rectilinear IIIa  
Classic Series

**RECTILINEAR IIIA:-**  
The Rectilinear IIIa stands fairly tall — 889mm by 457mm by 305mm of it all — and weighing a heavy 34kg. Its rather majestic size connotes a floor-standing bass-reflex system and a keen-eyed observer won't be wrong. For there's indeed a vent at the top-left-hand corner of each enclosure, in the form of a tube which is directly loaded by the woofer.

Removing the dark-hued double-knitted grille mounting reveals an impressive array of drivers: a 30.4cm woofer, 12.4cm midrange, and four tweeters, two measuring 6.35cm inches

and another two five cm units.

The IIIa is a four-way system. Its woofer crosses over to the fibre sub-enclosed midrange unit at 400Hz. Two tweeters cover the 5,000Hz to 11,000Hz range, and two super-tweeters take over above 11,000Hz.

Rectilinear's design goal for the IIIa is a completely objective reproduction of the input without the slightest alteration attributable to the loudspeaker. Special emphasis was placed on the widest possible dispersion of sound and on unimpaired performance in unusually large listening areas.

What surprised me is

the consumers' net price of \$1,180 for the Rectilinear IIIa system.

### Cheapest

What? A pair of bass reflexes of more than a thousand dollars? Boy, will I be enjoying supreme, effortless bass response coupled with high speaker efficiency and still have substantial walnut cabinetry with which to furnish the hall!

This means that I can retain my old 30-watt-per-channel receiver and derive more sonic output than was possible with my small, lazy air-suspension system.

The Rectilinear IIIa is, in fact, the lowest-priced 30.4cm bass-reflex system in the market place today. But does it sound good? This you will soon see.

In auditioning tests, the Rectilinear IIIa was neutral, and in the best sense of the word. In as much as the uninitiated listener would expect a flood of bass pouring forth from these big enclosures, he'd probably be disappointed at the first hearing. For, like a monitor-standard loudspeaker, the IIIa will produce bass only if it's there on the programme material. And when the deepest bass came, what came out from the IIIa left me no doubt of its low frequency capabilities.

The reproduced bass had a room-filling quality it was clean and effortless like some of the bass we've so often savoured at the better cinema halls. Indeed, a 20Hz test tone was all but imperceptible.

### Controls

In its midrange, the IIIa was well-nigh faultless. Though treble may be a little pronounced in various listening rooms, and on some programme sources, Rectilinear recommends the use of the amplifier's treble controls since no provision is made to adjust the speaker's tone levels.

Notwithstanding this, the total absence of stridency and accentuated hiss indicated that the rather bright highs are due to an extended and flat treble response rather than to a peak in the high end.

The treble dispersion properties of the IIIa must be counted as excellent — it is truly one of the most non-directional forward-facing loudspeakers it had been my pleasure to hear. The stereo pair maintained a wide ultra-stable sonic image with less of a hole-in-the-middle than most reproducers.

### Safety

The Rectilinear IIIa can be driven by any amplifier capable of 30

watts (RMS) output, which includes most receivers, yet can handle the output of the largest amplifiers (up to 100 RMS watts). A fuse provides absolute safety for handling even greater power.

After living with a pair of Rectilinear IIIa's for many months now, I found speakers that can outpoint the Rectilinear on any individual characteristic — frequency range, smoothness, distortion, efficiency, dispersion or transient response. However, in my judgment, none of the speakers combine ALL of these properties in such desirable proportions as the Rectilinear IIIa.

And for \$1,180, it's a steal.

Prices Are In Singapore Dollar

Rate of Exchange:

\$1.00 U.S. = \$2.46 Singapore

RECTILINEAR IIIa	
Styling/Finish	Very Good
Bass Response	Very Good
Midrange Response	Excellent
Treble Response	Excellent
Overall Transient Response	Very Good
Treble Dispersion	Excellent
Neutrality	Excellent
Sonic Definition	Very Good
Overall Realism of Sound	Very Good
Overall Assessment	Excellent
vis-a-vis price	