

# Cambridge Audio

## Aeromax 6 **£900**

With some extensive tweaking to what's fundamentally a sound design, this new floorstander should impress

### DETAILS

**PRODUCT**  
Cambridge Audio  
Aeromax 6

**ORIGIN**  
UK/China

**TYPE**  
2.5-way  
floorstander

**WEIGHT**  
17kg

**DIMENSIONS**  
(WxHxD)  
240 x 980 x 344mm

**FEATURES**  
● 46mm BMR treble/  
mid driver  
● 2x 165mm doped  
paper bass drive  
● Quoted sensitivity:  
90dB/1W/1m

**DISTRIBUTOR**  
Richer Sounds

**TELEPHONE**  
0333 9000093

**WEBSITE**  
cambridgeaudio.  
com

**B**arely 18 months since Cambridge Audio launched its Aero range of loudspeakers, and it has got a revamp and a new name. My abiding impression of the Aero 6 floorstander is of a great budget box with a unique sound, but a little too soft and fluffy. The new Aeromax has tightened up, though; it was understandable that designer Dominic Baker paid so much attention to the original's novel drive unit complement, but now he's had time to refine the rest of the speaker and the result is that the cabinets are now better braced. No less profound is the fitment of the latest fourth generation Balanced Mode Radiator (BMR), which partners with twin bass drivers. Married to this is better OFC internal wiring and upgraded speaker terminals. What you get is an almost uniquely even sound, totally devoid of the sort of peaks and lumpiness in

the midband that all but the very best boxes suffer from. It really is uncanny, and the mods make it even easier to enjoy. This large loudspeaker works well close to a rear wall, but if you have the space it excels around 50cm into the room with the bung removed.

### Sound quality

The basic sound of the Aeromax 6 is very smooth, satisfyingly musical and eerily unlike every other loudspeaker here and indeed many others, too! The first choice to make is whether to use the supplied foam bung in the bass port; in my room I fit it because it tightens up the bass. As mentioned earlier, this is less necessary if you're able to run them away from the rear wall, otherwise I'd advise that you keep it in. This done, the Aeromax 6 delivers a superb rendition of 808 State's *Ancodia*; showing off an almost holographic soundstage, cathedral-like in its breadth.

The speaker never comes out and bites you across the midband, meaning it's remarkably relaxing to listen to, yet can never be called boring. It oozes detail that's subtle and unexpectedly fine at the price.

This is plenty of fun, but better still the Cambridge Audio proves highly adept at playing rhythms. This trait it shares with its predecessor, only more so; the 'max' is faster, tighter, tauter and has less overhang in the bass. It's also more expressive, and carries dynamic inflections – better than its predecessor and indeed every other speaker in this group.

The String Quartet's cover of *Ordinary World* comes across with greater emotional poignancy than all the other boxes here. The acoustic guitar finery of John Martyn's *Solid Air* shows that the Aeromax isn't beyond criticism; it has a slightly 'papery' tone that can't carry the widest range of sounds from ice cold to sumptuously warm; everything is a little sweet and soft regardless of the original recording. So it may not quite have the glassy clarity of higher-end loudspeakers, but still proves a joy to listen to and to own ●

### THE MAGIC OF BMR

Many speaker companies have fancy acronyms for rather mundane variations on the standard moving coil driver, but the BMR (Balanced Mode Radiator) is radical and clever; it gives far better dispersion and should be more linear and lower in distortion too. The Aeromax gets the latest version of this relatively new design in a 50mm size, and its response stretches from the high treble all the way down to the upper bass. The brilliance of this is that its wide range obviates the need for a crossover in the presence region, which is where the human ear is most sensitive; it takes phase problems out of the equation in the midband and gives an electrostatic-like sound in some respects. It's tonally very smooth, being made of light but stiff paper. Two 165mm pulp bass drivers take over at 250Hz. They integrate well with the BMR and give a seamless sound with a taut and tuneful bass.



### Hi-Fi Choice

#### OUR VERDICT

**SOUND QUALITY**  
★★★★★

**VALUE FOR MONEY**  
★★★★★

**BUILD QUALITY**  
★★★★★

**EASE OF DRIVE**  
★★★★★

**OVERALL**  
★★★★★

**LIKE:** Wonderfully smooth, open, even sound; scale; musicality

**DISLIKE:** Nothing at the price

**WE SAY:** Superb affordable floorstander, that's refined beyond its price