

## FLOORSTANDING LOUDSPEAKER

and yet engaging. The lead vocal is sweet and expressive.

Moving to something more contemplative, and the beautiful ambient strains of The Cocteau Twins' *Lazy Calm* shows just how good the Tannoy is at imaging. It serves up a cathedral-like expanse of sound, imaging far left and right, and also hanging back nicely. This is further underlined when I move to the Ralph Vaughan Williams stirring *Symphony No.2*, only to hear the soundstage open up still further. Indeed, the Revolution XT 6F is able to show off its even tonal balance, delicate midband and obvious ability to recreate a recorded acoustic in three dimensions. I am also struck by the fine string tone; earlier entry-level Tannoy dual concentrics tended to sound a little 'cuppy', but the latest drive unit is a model of openness and neutrality by comparison.

One often finds that loudspeakers that score highly in traditional aspects of performance – bandwidth, smoothness, detail, etc. – fare less well in their ability to entertain and involve the listener. But not so with the Revolution XT 6F, which again proves highly adept at extracting the music's essential rhythm from the electrical signal it is presented with. This is a highly enjoyable design that bounces along at a high rate of knots.

In absolute terms it isn't brilliant at dynamics – it's only a medium-sized box with three drive units after all – but it is excellent at capturing those all-important subtle nuances of the music. It also does well for its size in bass extension, having a smooth and deep bottom end that doesn't sound like it's struggling too hard with lower bass notes. Overall, there is nothing I can find to mark down this speaker at the price; it's an excellent performer with a special talent all of its own.

The Revolution XT 6F performs far better than it has any right to, and it's likely to win many friends. **DP**

### Hi-Fi Choice

#### OUR VERDICT

##### SOUND QUALITY

★★★★★

**LIKE:** Excellent soundstaging; smooth tonality; fun

##### VALUE FOR MONEY

★★★★★

**DISLIKE:** Treble doesn't quite equal the best of the rest

##### BUILD QUALITY

★★★★★

**WE SAY:** Talented and distinctive mid-price floorstanding speaker

##### EASE OF DRIVE

★★★★☆

##### OVERALL

★★★★★



# Tannoy Revolution XT 6F

**T**annoy's legendary dual concentric driver has been refined over the years and this year has seen one of its most radical redesigns. Both mid/bass and treble drivers now use a single shared magnet and a special waveguide integrating a donut-shaped tweeter diaphragm and bullet-shaped phase plug. The tweeter has been moved forward for better time alignment and the result is claimed to be better high-frequency directivity.

The Revolution XT range is the first to debut this new driver. The '6' refers to its 6in dual concentric driver, which includes the 25mm PEI dome tweeter and a 150mm multi-fibre mid/bass unit, which crossover at 1.8kHz.

### Sound quality

From the off, the Revolution XT 6F impresses, but not in the sense of sounding dramatic or impactful, but rather because it doesn't. It presents itself as a 'mature' product for its price, devoid of the usual frequency

peaks and troughs that are often deliberately – or inadvertently – engineered in.

The first track on the CD player is *Spacer*, a classic piece of disco by Sheila and B Devotion. It comes over as tonally well balanced; there's no sign of lumpiness to it, although you would have to concede that the upper bass has a subtle weight that helps propel pop music along on in a most pleasing way. Treble is very good too, being clear and crisp if not quite as delicate as the very best at the price. In-between this is a pleasingly open and well integrated midband with a surprising amount of clarity, both from a loudspeaker at this price and also from a Tannoy. It's certainly a touch more well defined and seems able to give a more intricate rendition of what is actually in the recording than I've heard before from a speaker in this segment bearing this great name. The result is that *Spacer* comes over in a most enjoyable way; sounding warm, smooth, expansive

#### DETAILS

**PRODUCT**  
Tannoy Revolution XT 6F

**PRICED**  
£999

**ORIGIN**  
UK

**TYPE**  
2.5-way  
floorstanding  
loudspeaker

**WEIGHT**  
16.3kg

**DIMENSIONS**  
(WxHxD)  
269 x 1005 x 317mm

**FEATURES**  
• 1x 150mm dual  
concentric driver  
with 25mm tweeter  
• 1x 150mm woofer  
• Quoted sensitivity:  
90dB/1W/1m

**DISTRIBUTOR**  
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**REVIEWED**  
HFC 400