

REVIEW: Monitor Audio Silver 200 and comparative amplifiers

In demonstration , News , Tests / reviews



Monitor Audio Silver 200 with Dayens Menuetto back

Several customers have "complained" about the lack of reviews of the new Audio Monitor Silver 6G (and other products). The truth is that writing about these equipments with some degree of confidence requires some time for

experimentation that sometimes does not exist. At the same time many (good) new solutions that need to be tested and their combinations have appeared in the store, which sometimes seem to have no end. Forward.



I wanted to start by addressing a subject that is little spoken of but not properly secretive. The sound we hear in the store or the audioshow is usually different from the sound we hear at home. The first has a high volume, seeks attention and cause maximum impact in a short time. Often, for the sake of taste or respect to neighbors and family we listen to music at medium or low volume (sometimes very low). Despite the difference in volume we obviously want to replicate the emotion and *full range* musical expression in our homes. This is where we need to be careful in choosing the equipment. Some systems lose body, detail and / or dynamics when used at low volumes.

In launching the Silver 200 and the 300 Monitor Audio clearly created two distinct approaches. The Silver 300 are ambitious columns capable of 'pyrotechnics', striking, engaging, highly dynamic music. Ideal to impress in an audioshow or fill a large room (50m2 without problem), and for this they need amplifier to match. The Silver 200 are much smaller columns and contained in their enthusiasm. They are impactful, dynamic columns and with extensive grave **for its size**. They are columns designed to play in rooms smaller than the Silver S6 predecessors, more limited in the dynamic amplitude and extension of the bass. Where they lost in pyrotechnics they gained in musicality and ease of amplification. They are very fast columns and when I say fast, I do not mean nervous or clumsy. They allow us to listen to the silences between the notes of the instruments and thus to inspect the art of the musicians. The Silver 200 are speakers for listening to **music** , not for listening to sounds or frequencies. They allow us to turn on the system and simply listen to music without thinking about the system. And they are especially interesting for listening to music at medium and low volumes while retaining all of the content, something that most columns fail.



Amplifiers in test with Silver 200: Synthesis Rome 96DC + (not shown), Dayens Menuetto, Creek Evolution 50A, Emotiva PT-100 + A-700, Hegel H80 and Roksan K3

Given this, which amplifier to choose for the Silver 200? An amplifier that boosts its qualities at low volumes? An amplifier that can extract 'pyrotechnics' from them, sacrificing quality or not at low volume? I tested several amplifiers using as a source most of the time a Bluesound Node 2 to read TIDAL (some MQAs) and to feed by digital coaxial cable a fantastic DAC **Metrum Amethyst**.



Synthesis Rome 96DC +

The ROME 96DC + is one of the best amplifiers I know of playing at low volume. However, it fits best with easy columns, uncomplicated crossovers and preferably two-way only. It is almost unthinkable to join it to a Silver S6 or a Silver 300 but with the Silver 200 it works beautifully. It only takes a few seconds to realize that this is a special combination. Musically charming and easy to like, the set keeps the body and bass level even at low volumes. With 25W in class A, it is not designed for such pyrotechnics but while it is limited in that aspect it can shine incredibly well in the most habitual domestic use. The "+" version also includes digital inputs.



Dayens Menuetto

This is where a new competitor comes in the form of the small Serbian amplifier Dayens. The brand has built a 2x50W to 8ohm amplifier with high quality components (eg Mundorf capacitors) that are rare even in thousands of euros. Its construction still has a touch of craftsmanship and is very poor in terms of functions. It clearly rests on the maxim of *less is more*, with only 4 RCA inputs, a volume knob and an input selector. For 990 €, this amp is a find! Its 50W is quite sufficient for the Silver 200 and achieves a very good balance between the various volumes.

Creek Evolution 50A

Since long ago one of the favorites here at VilaSound, the Creek lags slightly in terms of body and detail compared to the Dayens. Creek is however slightly more powerful and its construction is much more mature in terms of appearance and also features XLR inputs, pre-out outputs and direct AV input, tone controls, OLED panel and possibility to add Tuner, DAC or Phono.