

Blue Sky is a relatively new company from the USA, with a great pedigree of designing active studio monitoring systems. The main point of interest about their speakers is the 2.1 configuration of both the entry level Pro Desk monitors and their slightly bigger brother, the Sky System One. This 2.1 essentially means that the systems were conceived from the outset to incorporate a sub woofer, a design move that, according to Blue Sky, means the listener receives a fully integrated and true full range monitoring experience. A bold statement indeed and one that I was very keen to try out, as I have never actually heard a system with a sub woofer that didn't sound frankly rather disjointed and 'gimmicky' before. I've spent many years testing different monitors and my current set up gives me consistently good results.

However I will say now that the results I got from both sets of Blue Sky monitors were incredible! My previous reluctance to sub woofer based systems has been obliterated, Blue Sky really have pulled off the most incredible design feat with these monitors and for the record, I will now be using the Pro Desk system as my main nearfield mixing monitors until I hear something better, and that is likely to be a very long time indeed.

But I'm getting ahead of myself here. First let's look at the physical aspects of Blue Sky's Pro Desk 2.1 system.

#### PRO DESK

As the smaller entry level set of Blue Sky's nearfields, and at £999.00 inc vat, these speakers are pitched right into the middle of a maelstrom of different manufacturers monitors. Active monitoring has many benefits over a passive arrangement and seems to be the order of the day with all of the major systems on the market, and the Blue Sky Pro Desk is no exception to this. Comprising of a pair of Sat 5 speakers which contain the tweeter, and mid range driver and the pair of 60w amplifiers to power these, and the 100W powered sub 8 woofer unit, the Pro Desk system takes up a surprisingly small footprint. On the back of the Sat 5's are the XLR input connectors (inputs to the Sat 5 are fed via the Sub 8 where the 80Hz crossover is located), a volume control for set up, a power light and an IEC power cable connector. On the back of the Sub 8 are the LR inputs and the LR outputs to the Sat's, all on XLR, another volume attenuation control, power light and IEC connection.

Once set up I started by playing some familiar CD's through them, and boy was I very pleasantly surprised! In fact my first impressions were so good that I wasn't entirely sure if what I was hearing could be right. There just seemed to be so much more information across the whole frequency spectrum. At this point I knew that what I was hearing sounded fabulous and unlike how I'd ever heard it before,



# BLUE SKY 2.1 ACTIVE MONITORS

but was it a faithful reproduction? The only way to truly answer that question is to remix some of your own material, and preferably material which you tracked too. So that's what I did. Wow! Instant results. The sheer detail these monitors provide is startling. Straight away I was noticing tiny nuances in the sound, especially when mixing instruments together in and around the same frequencies. This kind of subtle information was enough that I significantly changed the balance of the mix on several of my tracks, and the end results were definitely improved. That to me is the mark of a great speaker. I think I may have just become a Blue Sky 2.1 convert.

Words: Stean Renraw

#### WHY NOT TRY BEFORE YOU BUY?

As with all Sonic Distribution products, you can try this amazing monitoring system before making the decision to buy. To arrange a loan period of up to a week, contact Sonic Distribution on: 01525 840 400, quoting Sound Control BLUE SKY.

#### WHAT THE REST HAD TO SAY...

**FM** "When you open the boxes and take out the Sat 5's and Sub 12, be prepared to change the way you work forever!"

**FM Top Buys: Nearfield Monitors** "these nearfield monitors look like taking the crown from Mackie as the best nearfields on the market!"

**Music Tech** "The sub did a spectacular job, without pulling the image away from the main pair!"

**Music Tech** "These are genuine real world monitors, and could quite literally transform your desktop working environment and what you can expect from it!"

**SOS** "This system behaves like a physically much larger installation and plays loud as well as deep!"

**SOS** "ProDesk is a very competitive product - frighteningly so, I'd have thought, if you're one of the competitors!"

