

## ACTIVE MP3 SPEAKERS

### ATC Active 20



£3300

**THESE ATC SPEAKERS** are quite imposing. They look good, don't get us wrong, but these are pretty sizeable stand-mounters. Those looking for a laptop solution to make their hi-fi more invisible may initially balk at the size of them, not to mention the price.

But hold that thought: The Active 20s are truly fantastic speakers. True, there are some rivals with a more immediate, warm and likeable sound. And equally true, these ATCs are very expensive. But what they also are is effortlessly transparent, ruthlessly honest and breathtakingly precise.

They're simple to set up – they each take a balanced XLR input (see below panel on which cable to buy) – and they're extraordinarily well made. The Apple Lossless file of Ibrahim Ferrer's *Dos Almas* sounds stunningly open, detailed and full bodied: a remarkable sound for a file using any compression at all. The ATCs cost a lot, but they'll truly make a hi-fi of your laptop.

**FOR** Well made and easy to use; generally excellent performance

**AGAINST** Price, but that's all

**VERDICT** Expensive, but a stunning pair of active speakers that make the most of your PC's performance

