

# ATC's active beasts sound beautiful

**ATC**  
**SCM150ASL £11,858**

ACTIVE STEREO SPEAKERS

↑ **FOR**

The ATCs sound quality is absolutely staggering in every area

↓ **AGAINST**

These speakers are big, heavy – and we think they're a bit ugly

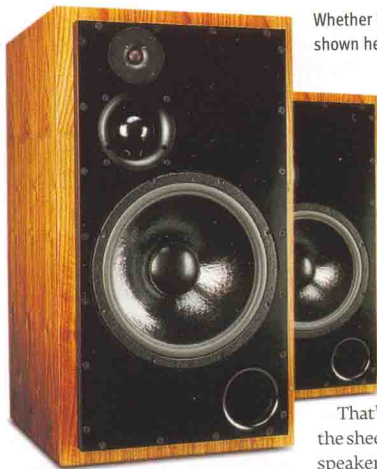
❖ **VERDICT**

If you're willing to judge speakers on how they sound, then these ATCs are up there with the all-time greats



THESE SPEAKERS ARE massive! It's difficult to get a sense of proportion from the picture, but in the flesh these ATCs are half-way between the size of a washing machine and a fridge freezer... each!

So you'll need a large room, and it might help to wear dark glasses – at



Whether it's with grilles on or off (as shown here), the ATCs remain plain

you discover one of the world's great speakers.

They're not cheap, but these are active speakers, so the price includes amplification. In fact, each *driver* (the 25mm tweeter, 7.5cm dome midrange and whopping 37.5cm bass unit) has its own dedicated amplifier module, with outputs of 50 watts, 100 watts and 200 watts respectively.

That's a lot of power, but even then the sheer scale of the dynamics these speakers produce is still staggering. They'll deliver the seismic shifts of Holsts' *Mars* with sublime composure and a fearsome sense of power.

We can't go any further without mentioning bass performance. The combination of extension, muscle and speed is mesmerising, and convinces on the likes of 50 Cent's new album as well as it does on classical.

ALSO CONSIDER

Krell FPB 400cx/  
Wilson Benesch Curve  
£11,997 / £4900 ★★★★★  
January 2003/February 2004  
A great combo, but doesn't have the scale or authority of the ATCs

B&O BeoLab 5  
£10,000 ★★★★★ May 2004  
Great, sci-fi-styled actives – but they lack the ATCs' overall clarity