

PreSonus Eris E8 Review: Studio Monitor with 8-inch Woofer

By Felix Baarß

In the PreSonus Eris E8 review by Delamar, a close look was taken at the budget-priced Eris E8 studio monitor to assess the audio quality in particular, but also to evaluate the design construction and the system functions. And who are these monitors designed for? Read on and find out....

What is it?

The PreSonus Eris E8 is an active nearfield studio monitor featuring a 1-inch silk dome tweeter and an 8-inch Kevlar woofer; according to the manufacturer, the frequency response can reach all the way down to 35 Hz. The woofer and tweeter are driven by 75 + 65 Watt amplifiers, delivering 105 dB SPL, peak. The bass reflex port is located on the front below the woofer (thin slit). Eris studio monitors include high-frequency interference protection and current output limiting, over-temperature protection to avoid heat-related issues, subsonic protection to filter out extremely low-frequency vibrations that could interfere with the woofer's performance, and RF shielding.

The acoustic tuning controls include input gain, variable pots for the mids and treble (± 6 dB each), and a high-pass filter (Off, 80 Hz, 100 Hz). The »Acoustic Space« switch is for additional bass correction (Off, -2 dB, -4 dB), depending where the system is located. Inputs: XLR (balanced), 6.3 mm jack outputs (balanced) and RCA (unbalanced).

The recommended street price in German music stores is Euro 475 a pair (incl. sales tax).

PreSonus Eris E8 Review

First impression

The studio monitor is made of matte black, textured vinyl-laminated MDF, has slightly rounded edges, and is nice-looking in an understated way, making it fit in perfectly in most home studios or professional recording studios.

Construction-wise everything seems hunky-dory, as far as can be told in the short time allocated to the PreSonus Eris E8 review. The input sockets are located on the rear panel (screw fitted) and the small sounds control knobs are

pleasantly tight, securely located on their rotary encoders. The connections all in place and the unit plugged in, I switch on the two 8-inch speakers and notice the PreSonus logo on the front light up blue to indicate power on. Let's get started!

Inputs

There are balanced XLR and TRS jack ports on the one hand and unbalanced RCA sockets on the other hand, making it attractive to both (semi)pros and hobby producers. The fact that all the standard signal input methods are available to any conceivable target group is a big plus here.

As mentioned above, the inputs leave a pretty solid impression, mounted securely on the rear panel using screw connections or, in the case of the jack sockets, with a sleeve for extra support (TRS).

Room acoustics

In some cases, you'll need to adjust the monitor settings to the room acoustics. For many a user, it will make sense to use a two-stage high-pass filter combined with "acoustic space" control. Acoustic space is a shelving filter that can attenuate the basses or the low mids (below 800 Hz) by either -2 or -4 dB. A great idea here is the miniature schematics of typical mixing desk setups on the rear panel, including the corresponding acoustic space setting recommendations. This will give you something to go on when making adjustments based on the room acoustics.

With the high-pass filter (which is especially important when using a subwoofer) and, if necessary, the variable mid and high EQ controls, you shouldn't be short of options, whatever the requirements.

PreSonus Eris E8 sound check

With its woofers, the PreSonus Eris E8 can go far into the low frequency region, ranging down to 35 Hz. Going by the sound check quality, I feel a subwoofer is only needed if you really like to indulge. A big plus for this loudspeaker is the powerful sound with lots of slam in the lower register.

With the neutral mid and high end settings I noticed that the two corresponding pots on the rear panel were detented at 0dB. A winning feature of the Eris E8 is that it doesn't sound as "in your face" as other speakers in this price range which initially might be a bit more pleasing to the ear thanks to the mid/high boost, but whose sound is less "accurate", or authentic, as a result. For such over-emphasis can quickly tire the ears. The E8, in contrast, is far more relaxed in its approach, making it far better suited to longer sessions in the studio.

The transient response is not as good as that of monitors that are a price class or two above it. For example, compared with higher caliber systems, short strokes on an electric bass sound a bit hazy, kick drums get a bit lost in the rest of the mix, and so on. In addition, the depth of soundstage is not as good as with more expensive equipment. And yet there is no reason for complaint whatsoever: the E8 is a budget-priced studio monitors that delivers.

And while I mightn't necessarily recommend the E8 monitors for advanced studio production, I do find them very well suited to video editing and composing.

Pros:

- “Relaxed”, evenly balanced frequency spectrum
- Extended low-frequency response for a bit more muscle
- Flexible acoustic tuning controls
- XLR, jack and TRS sockets

Cons:

- Transient response and depth of soundstage could be better

Conclusion

If you're getting serious about home recording and music production and are looking to buy budget-priced studio monitors, you can't go wrong with the PreSonus Eris E8. For the money, you get very powerful loudspeakers with a host of great features, from acoustic tuning controls to help you adjust the monitors to the acoustics in your home studio to various protective features (overtemperature protection, RF shielding etc.).

The sound quality is pretty balanced on the whole and there are no major irregularities in the frequency response as is the case with many other budget-priced studio monitors. For instance, because the mids and highs aren't overemphasized here (something that is said to provide more vocal presence in other systems), long mixing sessions in the studio are a breeze. The biggest plus has to be the impressive bass that reaches down to 35 Hz and is tight and defined. By now you should have realized why an investment like this is worth every penny.

With the different acoustic tuning controls, the sound can be adapted to the given room acoustics. There are two filters for the low frequency end – one which is good for use in combination with a subwoofer and a second for acoustic space compensation (e.g. when the speakers are placed close to a wall, in the center of a room, etc.).

Another positive feature is that all the standard sockets are there: balanced XLR and TRS (6.3 mm) and unbalanced RCA inputs.

It goes without saying that the E8 can't compete with higher-end systems when it comes to transient response and depth of soundstage: the E8 doesn't offer the same accuracy when it comes to nuances, and short strokes are less defined and less distinct. But none of this is that drastic and was to be expected of a studio monitor of this price class.

All in all, this is a great system to start with; it delivers a powerful bass and a lot for your money. This is why the PreSonus Eris E8 earns an impressive 4 out of 5 in the Delamar tech review.

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At a glance

PreSonus Eris E8 Review

"These studio monitors deliver a solid transient response, the bass is tight and defined - and they have all the important ports."

Key features:

- Active near field monitor
- 8" Kevlar woofer
- 1" silk dome tweeter
- Frequency response: 35 Hz – 22 kHz
- 75W LF + 65W HF, 105 dB SPL
- XLR (balanced), 6.3mm TRS (balanced), RCA
- Measurements: 25.0 x 29.9 x 38.4 cm
- Weight: 10 kg

Target users:

Music/video editors, composers and anyone who's looking for a good studio monitor at an affordable price.

Price: Euro 475 a pair

RRP: Euro 529 a pair