



# Let's Rock 'n' Roll

Like hardly any other manufacturer of home cinema loudspeakers, the Miller & Kreisel brand is connected to the professional recording studio scene. Hollywood film productions, as well as renowned music albums, are very often mixed on systems from M&K Sound. Good reasons to take a closer look at the active studio monitors MPS2520P in HiFi operation as well.

#### Periphery:

- Sources: Audiodata music server MSII / Auralic Aries
- RCA interconnects: Audioquest MacKenzie

„The Choice of the Professionals“ immediately attracts attention as a slogan on the boxes of the M&K Sound products. The usual marketing slogan, one might think – but far from it. Miller&Kreisel is one of the few loudspeaker manufacturers that are highly regarded in professional circles. M&K

is one of the most renowned speaker brands in the film and music studio sector. Cinema blockbusters like „Star Wars“, „King Kong“ or „Lord of the Rings“ were mixed and mastered on sound systems made by M&K Sound. There is hardly a renowned film studio where legendary products like the



#### Music we listened to:

- **Eva Cassidy**  
Time After Time  
AIFF, 44,1 kHz, 16 Bit
- **Mehliana**  
Taming the Dragon  
(AAC, 44,1 kHz, 16 Bit)
- **Chris Jones**  
No Sanctuary Here  
(AAC, 44,1 kHz, 16 Bit)
- **Johnny Cash**  
American Recordings IV  
AIFF, 44,1 kHz, 16 Bit
- **Al Di Meola**  
World Sinfonia  
(AAC, 44,1 kHz, 16 Bit)
- **Stoppok & Worthy**  
Grundvergnügen  
(AAC, 44,1 kHz, 16 Bit)

passive loudspeakers S150 or S300 have not been used as a reference for sound production in the last two decades. As a fully active version, the MPS2520P studio monitors are the legitimate successors of these studio legends and are still affordable even for the average hi-fi enthusiast.

### M&K Sound

In the mid-70s, Ken Kreisel and Jonas Miller founded their loudspeaker brand in California and earned a lot of respect in the scene right from the start. None other than Walter Becker from „Steely Dan“ commissioned the two founders to build a studio monitor system to produce the album „Pretzel Logic“. The world's first active subwoofer also came from M&K Sound in 1977. Finally, in 1995, a true legend was born with the S150: the THX Ultra certified loudspeakers have been setting standards in terms of tonality, dispersion, and dynamics for over 20 years. Even better known and more widespread, however, are the S300 models, the technological successor to the S150. Meanwhile, the brand M&K Sound is based in Denmark, where all M&K products have been developed and manufactured since 2009.

### MPS2520P

At first and second glance, our current test samples MPS2520 pass as twins of the legendary S300. The typical M&K-Sound arrangement of three tweeters placed one above the other and two mid-bass drivers makes it hard to deny that they belong to the same family. In fact, the MSP2520P active model is based on the proven technologies of the S300, but inside the active speaker there lies a huge advantage, since this speaker comes with an enormously powerful built-in amplifier. Each unit of the MPS250 weighs a whopping 18 kilograms; no wonder, since the 40 x 32 x 27-centimeter cases are manufac-

tured in a first-class and solid manner. Rounded edges and a scratch-resistant coating in matt black underline the professional aspirations. However, a considerable part of the weight is due to the built-in two-channel power amplifiers, which drive the two woofers with 200 watts (RMS) each and the three tweeters with 180 watts (RMS). This is true bi-amping at its best, the power amps' performance should be more than sufficient even for absolute dynamics fans.

### Driver assembly

Like their S300 predecessors, the MP-S2520P woofers and mid-range drivers are fitted with powerful magnets and diaphragms made of a fiberglass composite in a double pack. For optimal, precise impulse reproduction, these drivers operate in a sealed cabinet that allows music playback down to about 80 Hz. For really rich bass, it is therefore recommended to combine the MPS2520P with an active subwoofer. In our case, we teamed a compact V8 from M&K Sound as a bass specialist with the MPS2520P.

The compact MSP2520P also fits on the desk as a near field monitor



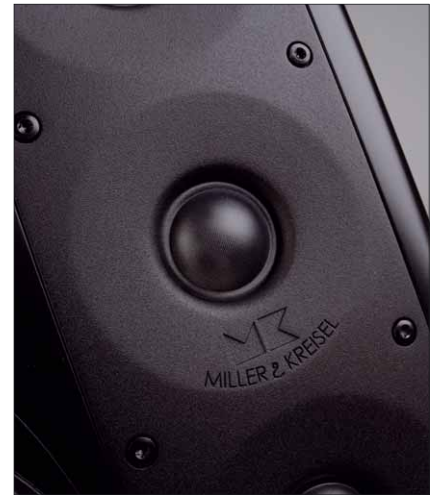
Another trademark of M&K Sound is the use of three tweeter domes per loudspeaker. These allow a significantly higher power handling and dynamics than a single tweeter driver and a more favorable, low crossover frequency to the bass-midrange drivers can also be achieved. Also, the MPS2520P achieves a particularly wide dispersion pattern in the horizontal plane due to the stacked tweeters. The installation of the three tweeters is also beautifully and acoustically sensible: They were mounted as an array in a damped front panel made of plastic, which also serves as a small horn attachment.

### Power amplifier module

As already mentioned, the enormously powerful power amplifier module in each MPS2520 works as a two-way amplifier and supplies the tweeter and bass-midrange speaker with their dedicated signals. This ensures maximum dynamics and thanks to active isolation, all drivers can operate under optimal conditions. Since the MPS2520P are truly professional tools, all connections are designed accordingly. Apart from balanced XLR sockets, there are, fortunately, also hi-fi standard cinch inputs, which make it easier to connect to a preamplifier or media streamer. As a combination with an active subwoofer is obvious, an optional high pass filter is already integrated with the MPS2520P - the fixed crossover frequency of 80 Hz is practical. Also very practical is



Glass fiber reinforced membranes provide enormously low distortion



This triple-pack tweeter array provides extreme power handling, dynamics, and particularly wide dispersion characteristics

the dispersion behavior, which can be adjusted by a toggle switch. Depending on how the MPS2520Ps are set up, for example on the desk as a near-field monitor or as a stereo system for the entire room, an extra-wide or rather narrow stage can be set.

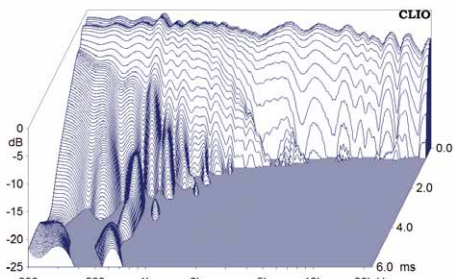
### Subwoofer V8

The active subwoofer V8 from M&K Sound has proven to be the ideal partner for the MP-S2520P. Don't be fooled by the rather handy dimensions of this woofer, because its 8-inch-long excursion driver is driven by a 150W power amplifier and delivers astonishingly rich and precise bass. The closed housing of the V8, measuring around 34 x 26 x 29 centimeters, is perfectly finished, painted in a silk matt

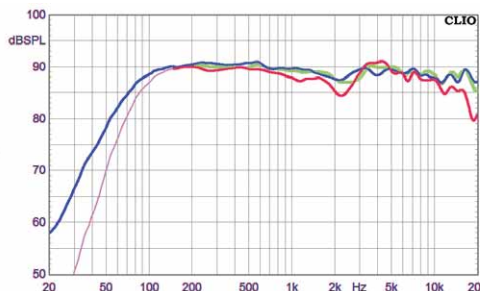
finish and can also be easily integrated into small living spaces. The V8 has a closed cabinet (instead of the usual bass reflex designs), which ensures optimal impulse response and prevents annoying air noise in the bass reflex port. Thanks to perfectly tuned driver parameters and equalization in the power amplifier module, the V8 can deliver powerful and deep bass without bass-reflex support, despite the closed cabinet design.

### Lab und Practice

The combination of MPS2520P and V8 already shows its professional origins in the measurement workshop. With very low distortion and practically resonance-free playback, the M&K Kombi already scores a lot of points here. The incorruptibly neutral reproduction of the frequencies over an enormous spectrum is exemplary, and the omnidirectional sound dispersion also leaves no room for criticism. The V8 subwoofer and the MPS2520P complement each other perfectly and cover the relevant sonic range between 35 Hertz and 25 kHz.



Decay pattern: Exemplary transient behavior with the Miller & Kreisel MPS2520P, above 500 Hz practically no resonances or overshoots can be detected - perfect!



Frequency response: From about 80 Hz, the M&K Sound Active Monitor offers perfect, neutral reproduction and excellent omnidirectional sound dispersion. This is exactly how the measurement of a reference loudspeaker should look like

For the listening test, we placed the MP-S2520P like compact bookshelf speakers on our fairly wide HiFi rack in the listening room. A classic CD player and a media streamer were used as players, each connected to the MPS2520P with individual signal cables per stereo channel. The V8 subwoofer was suitably coupled at 80 Hz. In the listening test, we had a hair-raising neck haircut, because the Miller & Kreisel combination delivered real rock ,n' roll sound with incredibly precise and spot-on performance. Powerful, bone dry in the bass and really tight, this quite compact combo plays seriously big. With the dynamic capabilities of full-grown floor standing speakers and an almost outrageous coolness, the M&K combo is a real pleasure to listen to with any kind of music. Particularly impressive is the almost tangible spatial placement of all instruments and voices, as in „Ain't No Sunshine“ by Eva Cassidy - close your eyes and you'll think the artist is playing in the listening room. Thanks to its professional background and high standards, this active monitor doesn't compromise on tonal quality,



Professional XLR connectors for balanced signals testify the MPS2520P's roots in studio technology

and it is a reference tool for the evaluation of recordings and other playback devices. In spite of its enormous clarity and precision, this active monitor is a lot of fun and never leaves the impression of an analytical, sterile measuring instrument.

*Michael Voigt*

### M&K Sound MPS2520P / V8

- Price around 5.600 Euro/pai (MPS2520P)  
around 900 Euro (Subwoofer V8)
- Distributor Audio Reference, Hamburg
- Phone +49 (0)40 53320 359
- Internet [www.audio-reference.de](http://www.audio-reference.de)
- Measurements  
401 x 327 x 270 mm (MPS2520P)  
260 x 340 x 290 mm (V8)
- Weight 18 kg (MPS2520P)  
11 kg (V8)
- Finish Black, satin finish
- Construction closed
- Bass/midrange speaker  
(Nominal diameter / Diaphragm diameter)  
2 x 130 / 110 mm
- Tweeter 3 x 25 mm
- Bass speaker 1 x 170 mm (V8)
- Amplifier 200 W + 180 W (RMS)
- Inputs 1 x XLR, 1 x Cinch
- Outputs 1 x XLR, 1 x Cinch
- Special features Highpass filter 80 Hz  
Wide / Narrow  
5 years warranty



A massive heat sink ensures moderate temperatures in the powerful two-channel output stage

## HiFi

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With its MPS2520P active monitors, Miller & Kreisel combines the sound quality of a professional tool with the unbridled enthusiasm of a real rock ,n' roller. The high output of the built-in power amplifiers and the extremely capable drivers are the guarantors for an extremely impressive sound performance. If you want to enjoy the sound of the professionals in the recording studio at home, the combination of MPS2520P and V8 from M&K Sound is a perfect choice!

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