

**PINSH ONE £1000**

**T**he Pinsh is an attractive and attractively proportioned little speaker measuring 200x300x360mm [see also our September 2005 issue]. Thus the cabinet is deep, with a 12 litre internal volume and is made from MDF. It comes in Black Ash, Cherry, Oak, Maple and Walnut finishes. Pinsh is uncommon because it manufactures its own ribbon tweeters, and moreover does so in the UK.

The Pinsh ribbon has a claimed frequency response from 4000Hz to 40kHz, and though the material composition remains confidential, its mass is just 7mg. Rare Earth metal magnets are used in this design. Accordingly, Pinsh say that there are no additional moving parts like spiders, domes and voice coils and formers including adhesives, all of which have thermal limit. Pinsh says its zero store ribbon has no damping, neither is it enclosed in a sealed chamber. It claims that distortion is exceptionally low, and frequency response is linear, with the upper limits at 100kHz.

Pinsh also design and manufacture the crossover in house using what they call "the absolute minimum of components", while the 5inch (127mm approx) mid/bass driver is made for Pinsh by Morel. Pinsh describe it as having a frequency response from 40Hz. to 4000Hz. It has a 75 mm aluminium voice coil, aluminium wire wound with no air gaps, and a claimed impulse response "fast enough to follow our PINSH ribbon" The Pinsh I is rear ported with quoted sensitivity of 88dB and impedance at 8ohms [see MEASURED PERFORMANCE].

**SOUND QUALITY**

The low frequencies from the Pinsh Is were beautifully rendered via the 'Allegro' from the 'Elgar Violin Concerto'. There was not only depth and extension, but a good slice of bass dexterity as well which was most welcome. The violin solo was authoritative through the Pinsh I, sounding less coloured than the other speakers in this test. Instrumental timbre didn't have quite the impact of the Quads



but the Pinsh Is showed their higher-price with more emotionally engrossing ability when it came to the complete set of low, mid and high frequencies.

The low-frequency excellence continued with - and was beneficial to - 'Super Overdrive' as there was a superb dynamic thrust to the music. The music additionally hung together cohesively very well and had great emotional resonance with both guitars and vocals. Steve Steven's guitar solo from 'Super Overdrive' had no subjective ringing distortions either. On 'Rat Race', the

acoustic guitar had finer elucidation to the phrasing where you could discern Steve Steven's fingers sliding across the strings. The vocals were sublime, generating a multilayered unravelling to reveal greater tonal shading.

Overall then, a deeply impressive loudspeaker. Obviously, you'd expect it to be considering the vastly higher retail price, but even when this is factored in, the Pinsh is truly special. Brilliantly even right across the frequency band, it showcases the benefits of ribbon tweeter technology.

**MEASURED PERFORMANCE**

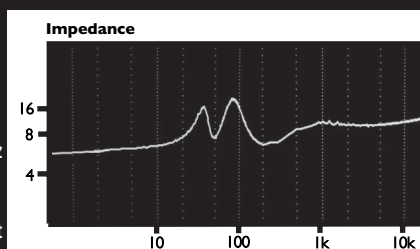
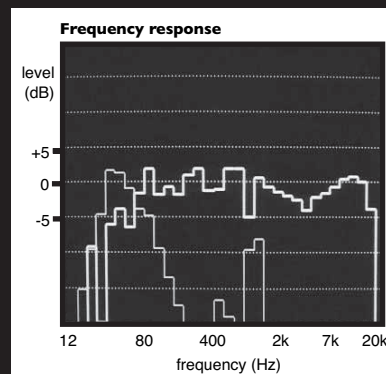
The ribbon tweeter used this is loudspeaker reaches down to 1.25kHz, lower than the usual dome tweeter, that reaches 3kHz or so. A substantial and significant part of this loudspeaker's sound comes from its ribbon drive unit so its sound is likely to be airier, faster and cleaner than usual. However, the Pinsh ribbon is not particularly flat in its frequency response. Whether this is due to internal cancellations that might colour its sound noticeably, or external cancellations that will degrade tonal evenness but not add colour, is open to question. The 4dB dip of this ribbon, centred at 4kHz will soften its delivery and mute detail a little, but may equally make the Pinsh and easier listen than many of today's rather challenging loudspeakers. A good ribbon driver can sound so clean, tonal aberrations like this can seem less consequential than normal. It takes listening tests to tell.

The bass/midrange unit runs smoothly from 1kHz down to 80Hz. There is a deep narrow dip at 1kHz, likely a crossover mismatch. Bass falls away smoothly, suggesting a well damped sound. The port is narrowly tuned though and will add little to deep bass. It's tuned to 50Hz and makes a contribution down to 40Hz.

Sensitivity was miserably low at

81dB. This loudspeaker needs a powerful amplifier to go loud. Part of the reason is that impedance is high at 9ohms across most of the audio band. The Pinsh is almost entirely resistive too; few loudspeakers possess such a flat impedance characteristic.

This ribbon loudspeaker isn't academically perfect in the way it measures, but it is interesting and is definitely worth a close listen. NK

**VERDICT**

Superbly natural and seamless sound with excellent musical articulation makes this one of the very best sub £1,500 mini-monitors on sale.

**PINSH 1 £1000**

Pinsh  
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www.pinsh.com

**FOR**

- high-frequency capability
- superb low-frequency talent
- clean, understated design

**AGAINST**

- nothing