



Genelec 6010A & 5040A

Genelec's 6010A and 5040A systems aim to provide the 'first step into the world of professional audio'. Huw Price listens in.

KEY FEATURES

- Analogue RCA/phono inputs
- 3-inch bass driver
- 3/4-inch metal dome tweeter
- Crossover frequency: 3kHz
- Amplifier power: 12 watts per driver
- Dimensions: 121 x 181 x 114mm
- Weight: 1.4kg

6010A, 5040A

Manufacturer **Genelec**

Price **6010A £199 each, 5040A £399**

Contact **Source Distribution 020 8962 5080**

Web **www.genelec.com**

Genelec has always been a byword for professional quality in the studio monitor market, but this system is relatively affordable and it's available in black, white or silver. In its basic form it comprises the 5040A subwoofer and a pair of 6010A satellites. However, extra 6010As can be added for rear left/right and centre channels for a 5.1 system.

The most striking aspect of the 6010A is its diminutive stature. Even on its ingenious rubber feet it stands less than 20cm above the desktop. But the shape is unmistakably Genelec and Source Distribution helpfully points out that the 6010A looks like a shrunk-in-the-wash 8020A. Who are we to argue?

In the field

The 6010A is a two-way active speaker with onboard amps that supply the 76mm woofer and 19mm tweeter with 12 watts each, active crossover filters and protection circuitry. Genelec's rearported Minimum Diffraction Enclosure (MDE) cabinet is made from die-cast aluminium. Curved edges to minimise diffraction combine with the Directivity control to provide a balanced frequency response in challenging environments.

The 6010A has a 10kΩ unbalanced RCA analogue audio input and the cables provided in the package include RCA-to-RCA and 3.5mm stereo jack-to-2 x RCA. You can therefore easily connect them to a desktop controller, hi-fi preamps, computer soundcards and portable mp3-style audio players.

On reflection

Because the 6010A is designed for real-world applications as well as controlled acoustic environments, its response can be adjusted as required. The Bass Tilt dials offer three levels of low-frequency attenuation below 2kHz: -2dB, -4dB and -6dB. Since it's quite likely that the left/right 6010As will be placed on hard reflective surfaces such as tables and computer desks, a Desktop Control switch is provided to attenuate frequencies around 200Hz by 4dB. This compensates for the boost that can be generated by unwanted reflections. In the instructions a clearly laid-out table includes suggested dial settings for various speaker placements.

If you'd rather not sit the 6010As on a desk, they can be wall-mounted using the metal brackets provided. The cabinets also feature 3/8-inch threaded holes for mounting on mic stands, while the three pairs of threaded holes on the rear panel are compatible with Omnimount, VESA and Sanus brackets.

But the core of the system is the mushroom-like 5040A subwoofer that pumps 40 watts of integrated power

down to 35Hz. It even ships with a Mini-Me volume control that operates the whole system. So, we're not going to complain about inaccessible volume controls, plus the power switches are all easy to reach.

Underneath you'll find six RCA inputs (front and rear left/right plus centre and LFE) and a 3.5mm stereo jack input. An integrated crossover network directs all programme information below 85Hz to the 5040A, although the LFE channel goes up to 120Hz. Comprehensive setup instructions are provided, with bass roll-off and phase-matching switches that provide four settings between zero and -270 degrees.

Testing tones

We saw no reason to give this system an easy ride, so we plonked the 6010As on a reflective desk surface and ran some test tones through the system. As predicted there was a hump around 400–500Hz that made the midrange of our test tracks a bit congested and murky. Flicking the Desktop switch utterly transforms the sound. The front/back and left/right imaging became extraordinarily crisp and tracks opened up to reveal plenty of unforced detail.

This system is in a completely different league from any computer monitors we have heard and it will even give any pair of professional monitors in the £500–£600 price bracket a run for their money. Of course, this Genelec system won't produce a huge, room-filling sound, and overall the presentation is slightly contained, but the subwoofer integrates superbly and we'd feel confident about using this system for tracking and critical mixing. **MTH**

SUMMARY

WHY BUY

- Razor-sharp imaging
- Well-integrated sub
- Impressive clarity
- Tightly controlled bass
- Well-considered EQ controls
- Effortlessly portable
- Great looks
- Simple setup
- Colour-coordinated cabling

WALK ON BY

- Won't fill large rooms
- Will struggle in absorbent rooms

VERDICT

An affordable, full-frequency monitoring system that's ideal for small rooms or location work.



MEASURING UP

It's surprising that there aren't many other companies offering high-quality systems of this sort. However, you could check out the similarly proportioned Blue Sky EXO desktop monitoring system (£294), which also has a remote hub for controlling volume and bass levels. The slightly larger Blue Sky Mediadesk (£574) system can be expanded from 2.1 to 5.1.