



FLOORSTANDING LOUDSPEAKER OF THE YEAR (OVER £2,000)

PMC twenty5.26i



PMC has built its brand on a cabinet loading technology that had all but disappeared when the company was launched in 1991, which became PMC's own advanced transmission line or ATL. Its next most significant change was the addition of fins to the vent that prevent turbulence and allow for a smooth flow of air, or Laminair. This first appeared on the twenty5 series of 2017. However, the technology that has gone into the flagship Fact Fenestria has produced significant 'under the hood' changes to PMC designs, and the twenty5i series is the result. While the twenty5.26i might look visually very similar to its twenty5.26 predecessor, the differences in technology and sound quality are significant.

The most obvious change is in the tweeter, which is designed by PMC in collaboration with Norwegian driver specialist SEAS. This has a 19mm dome at the centre of a large roll surround that brings the overall radiating area up to 34mm. In this tweeter the small central dome gives very high frequencies and wide dispersion while the extra area of the surround enables high power handling and a lower crossover point to the midrange. The other big change is vibration control. Although the plinth bars on this model look much like those on the preceding twenty5 models there is a vital difference in the form of rubber grommets that provide a degree of isolation between cabinet and metal bar.

"By using a fairly stiff isolation system at lower frequencies," says Jason Kennedy, PMC's vibration control system, "allows these speakers to deliver powerful, at times menacing bass whilst the midrange exposes all the fine details that create a sense of an instrument in space." He also felt that, "These PMCs are first-rate at producing a three-dimensional soundscape, putting the music and its reverberations and harmonics in the room with you," and that, "The bass is phenomenally clean and articulate and this explains both the quality of timing on offer and the overall musical ease of the speakers." He concluded by saying, "The transparency to both the source recording and the ancillary components that the twenty5.26i delivers is in a higher league than its price." +

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