



Solid & Compact

Sonic Gear Armageddon A3 2.1 Speakers

BY TERENCE STEPHEN

This month Sonic Gear (SG) sent us the latest addition to their popular Armageddon lineup of speakers, the A3. The A3 model is a 2.1 speaker system that features a contemporary design, good quality finishing and materials as well as has an aesthetic appeal that won't be lost on the discerning budget consumer who wants everything – style, performance and value – in one package.

You get real wooden cabinets for all the speakers – the satellites as well! On top of that we liked the fact that the sats feature metal grilles and more importantly – separate drivers for midrange and treble duties...something that many speaker manufacturers tend to skimp on. The subwoofer on the other hand comes in a "low profile" form factor. This means you can place the unit conveniently under a desk or below a bench without worrying if the sub has enough headroom to breathe. One tip: we advise you to place the unit in such a way so as to ensure that the bass reflex port fires against a solid surface.

When powered-up, the periphery of the cloth grille on the front of the sub lights-up in a warm, pleasing orange glow...not too gaudy neither too subtle...we like it. This goes well

with the matching 3" midrange driver found in each sat. In terms of numbers, the A3 system comes with a 46W RMS total power output rating. This is subdivided between the sub (30W) and the two sats (8W each). Frequency response is claimed to be 35Hz ~ 20KHz with an impedance rating of 8 Ohms for the sub and 6 Ohms for the sats. Each sat comes with fused speaker cable so you have to make do with the length that SG provides. There are no individual bass reflex ports on the rear of the sats but you do get separate drivers for mids (3") and highs (15"). This makes a world of a difference as we found out in our lab tests.

The all-wood, magnetically shielded subwoofer houses a 5.25" woofer that is capable of dishing-out good bass at reasonable volumes. On the front of the sub there're three knobs for master volume, bass and treble controls. These quick access knobs do make life easier considering that SG does not bundle a remote with the system. On the rear of the sub are the usual connectors for speaker cable, a single audio line-in, power switch and the bass reflex port.

In our listening tests, we were happy with the A3's balanced sound with ample detail in the mids and highs. Bass was full and warm and the

system rarely ran out of steam at reasonable volumes in an average-sized room. A spot of gaming was possible and watching a movie was also pleasurable sans the surround effects. In short, you get a well-rounded 2.1 system that does the important things competently. SG could have another winner in the value segment here.

SPECIFICATIONS

Total Power Output	Configuration	Color	Feature	Price
46W RMS	2.1	Black	Wooden speaker cabinets; embossed control panel	RM 179

Total Power Output (RMS): 1x 30W (sub) + 2x 8W (sats)
Satellites (each): 1x 3" full range driver and 1x 1.5" tweeter (magnetically shielded)
Subwoofer: 1x 5.25" driver (magnetically shielded)
Frequency Response: 35Hz ~ 20KHz
Impedance: 8 Ohm (woofer); 6 Ohm (sat)
Distortion: < 1% THD (300mA peak-to-peak source)
Others: Master Volume, Bass and Treble controls on sub
Warranty: One-year
Contact: Leapfrog Distribution Sdn Bhd
Telephone: (03) 7803 6703
URL: www.leapfrogasia.com

Available at
PLAZA LOW YAT
 shopping centre

HWM'S VERDICT

Physique: **8.5**
 Features: **7.5**
 Sound Quality: **8.0**
 Value: **8.5**

8.0

Out of 10

SG's A3s are a solid, competent and handsome 2.1 speaker system



The controls for volume, bass and treble on the front of the sub



Rear view of the subwoofer



The sub lights up in a warm orange glow