

Klipsch Heresy IV

Mark Craven admires the eager-to-please performance of these low-slung 'heritage' speakers

HOME CINEMA FANS will likely be aware of US brand Klipsch and its impressive line of multichannel packages, including the Reference Premiere range (HCC #300). And the horn-loaded compression driver technology that gives its cinema speakers their distinctive, dynamic sound quality are a staple across its hi-fi speakers too.

The Heresy IVs are the latest in a line first launched in 1957, and part of Klipsch's premium Heritage series – hence the price point. Yet compared to the company's massive Klipschorn flagships, these are practically compact. They're 'floorstanders', but short (63cm high) and rest on an angled plinth to better aim at your seating position.

Smartly finished in walnut, cherry, oak or black ash wood veneer, and supplied with a 1950s-style grille, these look every bit the retro speaker. But they have a sound that feels thrillingly modern.

These speakers claim a bonkers sensitivity of 99dB, which in practice translates into something that only needs the slightest of tickles from your amplifier to roar into life. And the output from the three-way driver config

(12in woofer, compression mid-range and tweeter) is a glorious mix of grippy, deep bass, a forceful mid-range and sparkly highs. Lovers of the 'horn sound' – where music comes across as direct and snappy – are well served, but when needed there's also sufficient nuance and intimacy to the Heresy IV's delivery to make the high-end price point palatable. Above all, the Klipsch cabinets sound brilliantly fun, making other loudspeakers feel dull by comparison.

Could you use them in a home cinema? Yes... but Klipsch has other models in other form factors that are arguably more suitable. However, if you seek a stereo pair matching vintage looks with a foot-tapping performance, it'd be heresy to overlook them ■

The Heresy IV's 12in woofer is rear-ported



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Klipsch Heresy IV

→ £4,000 → www.klipsch.co.uk