Active Monitor AM 150: Compact and yet so versatile

It is so versatile, the small AM 150 from ELAC. A glowing high tech core is hiding beneath the silky matte casing. The range of use seems to be endless for the Active Monitor AM 150, for it has all the features on board that you normally expect from more expensive active speakers. You can add it to your media server, your set-top box, your flat-screen TV as well as your gaming console or use it as a studio monitor in your home recording setup. In short, the AM 150 is suitable for every situation where high quality audio reproduction is needed.

The AM 150 is equipped with a 130 mm fibre reinforced paper cone woofer and a 25 mm silk dome tweeter, thus promising sound reproduction with a wide frequency range, smooth treble reproduction and homogeneous directivity. The AM 150 comes with two built-in amplifiers in class A/B technology for the woofer (50 W) and the tweeter (25 W).

A look at the rear panel of the AM 150 shows the versatile connection possibilities for many different signal sources.
The AM 150 can either be connected to symmetrical analogue sources via XLR or 6.3 mm TRS jacks or to unsymmetrical analogue sources via an RCA jack.
The highlight is the digital input, which is unique in this class of powered speakers. It has mastered the globally widespread AES/EBU (XLR jack) and S/PDIF standards (RCA jack). There is also an RCA jack provided as a thru connector to daisy chain the S/PDIF signal to the next speaker.

To adapt the Active Monitor AM 150 to different room situations and to personal listening preferences, several filter functions are provided. The lower frequency range may be damped by a lowshelf filter, which is selectable in 3 modes (0 dB, -2 dB and -4 dB). This filter can be used to optimise the bass frequency range to different placements of the speaker such as on a desktop, bookshelf or free standing. Another filter, which is also selectable in 3 modes, may be used to adapt the frequency range of the AM 150 to a subwoofer. This is a lowcut filter with 3 selectable crossover frequencies (flat, 80 Hz and 100 Hz), which allows an optimised overlay without disturbing low frequency sound waves in the room.
The third filter function is also selectable in 3 modes and may be used to emphasise or to damp the treble (0 dB, -2 dB and +2 dB).

Electronic features:

- Digital inputs suitable for the formats S/PDIF and AES/EBU
- Feed-through function for S/PDIF-signal
- Channel select for selecting the channel of the digital input signal (L and R)
- Lowshelf, highshelf and lowcut filters, each selectable in 3 modes
- Signal source selection (analogue or digital)
- Volume adjustor

Mechanical features

Drivers:

- Woofer: 130 mm fibre reinforced paper cone, magn. shielded
- Tweeter: 25 mm silk dome, magn. shielded

Connectors:

- Mains inlet
- Unsymmetrical input (RCA jack)
- Symmetrical input (6.3 mm TRS jack and XLR jack)
- Digital S/PDIF input, coaxial (RCA jack)
- Digital AES/EBU input (XLR jack)
- Digital output (through) for daisy chaining the S/PDIF signal to the next speaker (RCA jack)

Switches:

- Mains power switch (ON / OFF)
- Mains voltage selector switch (115 V / 230 V)
- Lowshelf filter (0 dB, -2 dB or -4 dB)
- Highshelf filter (-2 dB, 0 dB or +2 dB)
- Lowcut filter (flat, 80 Hz or 100 Hz)
- Signal source selector (analogue or digital)
- Channel selector for the digital signal (left or right)

Technical data:

Dimensions H x W x D () = with cooling element	290 x 195 x 250 (280) mm
Weight	7.6 kg
Mains fuse / mains voltage	T 500 mA L 250 V @ 220-240 V~ T 1 A L 250 V @ 110-120 V~
Max. power consumption, full load	100 W
Frequency range	50 … 30,000 Hz
Max. amplifier power	Woofer: 50 W / 4 Ohm Tweeter: 25 W / 4 Ohm
S / N ratio	> 100 dB (A) rel. to full power
Input sensitivity	200 mv (RCA) / +6 dBu (XLR / TRS)
Input impedance	22 kOhms (RCA) / 6.8 kOhms (XLR / TRS)