

THE 15 MOST SIGNIFICANT LOUDSPEAKERS OF ALL TIME



3 ROGERS/BBC LS3/5A

THE LS3/5A WAS A BBC DESIGN, licensable to any manufacturer. But it was the Rogers version in particular that swept the USA in the late 1970s. This small two-way (7.5" x 12" x 6.25") offered startlingly realistic vocal reproduction and a remarkably expansive and "boxless" sound picture. With its essentially neutral midband, upper bass bump, and slightly projected treble, it was not entirely flat, and it had no deep bass. But for a whole generation of listeners, it redefined what was possible in small speakers. Some other, larger BBC-influenced designs—the Spondor BC1 first and the Spondor SP1 and SP1/2 and Harbeth Monitor 40 later on—were better transducers overall. But none quite seized the imagination of the U.S. audio public as did the little LS3/5a. With an updated version still in production today, the LS3/5a has stood the test of time as few other speakers have. **Robert E. Greene**