



Little Master

There are those who have burnt their fingers and dread fire, but there are a few who are driven by ambition to undergo the fires of experience only to aim higher. Norge is surely among the latter.

We have reviewed Norge products before and each time we review them, our hearts swell with a certain pride that comes with a product that is made by an Indian and that too, in our homeland. It's not that Norge Audiophile Systems is the only Indian manufacturer but a majority of them are on a very small scale. Well, it was time to review the new Norge kid on the block, the MD 75.

OUT OF THE BOX

The Norge 75 looks like a smaller version of the Norge 2000 system that we reviewed in the November 2007 issue. Just as they always do, Norge has kept its designs straight and simple for the 75 as well. The speaker displays a light veneer finish on all the sides except for the front where the 5½-inch woofer and the 30mm tweeter are painted black. Perhaps they believe in being modest and let the performance do all the talking.

TECHNOLOGY

There are two types of loudspeaker manufacturers: one group either makes their own drivers and outsources the speaker cabinets or alternatively outsources the drivers. The second type prefer to develop everything themselves — from the drivers to the cabinets. Norge falls in the first group as they develop the cabinet designs

and procure their drivers from Wavecor based in China.

For the MD 75 they have used the 5½-inch mid-woofer with a large ferrite motor and a 32mm voice coil. The tweeter is silk dome made up of dual neodymium magnet unlike many others where the drivers are made up of AlNiCo* magnet. These drivers boast of their copper dressed aluminium voice coil which acts like the throat of the speaker, that makes up for a lightweight moving mass — yet is very rigid and strong. Consequently the assembly provides for higher efficiency and a rapid transient response. To add to the effectiveness of the drivers, they've used MDF (Medium Density Fibreboard) for the cabinet. MDF is very dense, flat, stiff yet can be easily machined or moulded and has no knots at all. Because it is very dense and flat, if properly used it eliminates the most elementary and trivial problem of loudspeakers i.e. rattling of the cabinet. Being easily mouldable, the manufacturers can implement cabinet designs accurate to the lowest possible measurement so that you can enjoy the speakers for a long time. But apart from anything else the major factor that decides how long you listen to the speakers is its performance and that's what matters at the end of the day.

PERFORMANCE

The Norge MD 75 is among the diminutive pair of bookshelf

SPECIFICATIONS

DRIVERS	1 x 5½" Woofer and 1 x 1" Aluminium Dome Tweeter
FREQUENCY RESPONSE	40Hz - 23kHz
SENSITIVITY	90dB
NOMINAL IMPEDANCE	4 Ω
POWER HANDLING	80-watts
DIMENSIONS (H x W x D)	11.9" x 6.75" x 9.4"
CONTACT	www.norgeaudio.com



THE HIGHLIGHT OF OUR EXPERIENCE WAS THE RAPID AND ACCURATE TRANSIENT RESPONSE, WHICH ADDED ON TO THE DIRECTIVITY OF THE MD 75.



NORGE

MODEL >> MD 75
CATEGORY >> BOOKSHELF SPEAKERS
PRICE >> Rs 8,750
WARRANTY >> 3 YEARS

AESTHETICS

★★★★☆

BUILD

★★★★☆

SOUND

★★★★☆

VFM

★★★★☆

WHAT SAY AV?

The Norge MD 75 is a small speaker with an equally small price-tag is loaded with advantages. It can be a great system for beginners who want to extend their skills at critical listening.

AV MAX ★★★★★
OVERALL SCORE

* WHAT IS...

AINiCo DRIVER

AINiCo stands for Aluminium-Nickel-Cobalt. The driver is known for its warm sound as it puts across a sweeter treble, smoother mid-range and softer roll off for the high frequencies. Due to this sonic characteristic, it is also referred to as the 'Musical Magnet'.

speakers we've received so far. So we were kind of pondering on about how effective or powerful they could be. But at the same time we were also struck by memories of some similar small-sized speakers that belied their size by leaps and bounds and shattered all our doubts

about their performance. That's exactly what the MD 75 did for us.

As we played the title track of the album 'Rang De Basanti', the MD 75 rendered all the compressed bass line, the vibrant dhols and commanding vocals of Daler Mehndi effectively and with amazing power which reflected the strength in the movie's message. The same expression was consistent as we cruised to the entire album with the Wavector drivers operating to their fullest and optimum. To come out of the adrenaline rush and calm ourselves we played a rather mellow song "Jamiacan Fairwell" by Harry Belafonte from the album 'The Essentials Of Harry Belafonte'. Though a very mellow composition, the track bears strong emotional appeal as Harry talks about the girl he had to leave in Kingston town and about the town itself.

The MD 75 was able to again provide us with a very flat and neutral frequency response, as the highs were very effervescent, the bass gave that thump and the mids were exciting. Having said all that, one thing we noticed was the tad lack of emotions in the vocals, which did not hamper the overall experience but just could not extend that reality to the performance. On the track "The

Ballad Of Bill Hubbard" by Roger Waters on the album 'Amused To Death', the MD 75 presented us with immaculate soundstaging with all the tones and instruments passing through the entire stage as you would always find in any Roger Waters track. The detailing was also present as we could hear almost all the minute sounds and tones rendered effectively throughout the album. The MD 75 did overall justice to all the hard work of the composer as it rendered the sweeps almost accurately but without the sparkle and sizzle. The highlight of our experience was the rapid and accurate transient response, which added on to the directivity of the MD 75.

CONCLUSION

The MD 75 has its own snags but what superseded them convincingly are its great qualities that make it more endearing than anything else. Moreover, other speakers are priced at almost 10 times its price — this little master is priced only at Rs 8,750 per pair. It can serve to be an excellent solution for those who want to enjoy their listening experiences to the fullest. This little master can persuade its worst critics to stand up and applaud its splendid execution. Buy it now.

Sumit Bhosle



2nd OPINION

Karan Gour

There aren't too many Indian audio manufacturers who come to mind other than Norge, when we say 'cheap' and now 'pretty damn hearable'. The MD75s are little, but very elegant to look at with those classically themed AINiCo drivers that Norge seems to never be able to get enough off. When we heard these little grandpa's, we were quite frankly expecting a shrilling higher end with a loose bass range because that's the type of sound most of Norge's speakers shell out. But, fortunately, we were greatly mistaken.

We dropped in Roisin Murphy's 'Overpowered' and skipped over to the track "Primitive" with that hard hitting bassline and kick-drum, only to get floored by both of these elements. The lower end was damagingly wholesome especially for our little studio! Her voice, however, was exquisite on the upper end, that's to say no sharp frequencies ringing your ears, but it lacked that special touch in the upper-mid range where the bulk of Murphy's voice lies. Then again, considering the price we're talking here, this little quirk doesn't come across as a problem at all.

So it's decided, I am buying these speakers for my dad's birthday. I can just imagine them perched atop his wooden television cabinet, right next to the turntable and the Sony Trinitron television set.