In order to get good sound 20 years ago, speakers were “full range” with a big woofer, a midrange driver and tweeter. Their cabinets were often two feet long, sometimes more. Two of those monstrosities were fine in a college dorm, but not in your nice living room—and especially not once stereo became home theater and the requirement went from two speakers to five. Or more.

Unfortunately, many manufacturers have gone too far with little “cube” speakers, trying to make them small and visually self-effacing, sacrificing accurate full-range sound to the point where they just didn't sound very good anymore. However, there is a better way: The Atlantic Technology LCR3.

The LCR3 is a compact speaker with attractive, neutral gloss black finish that looks great and fits into any décor or setting. They're easily wall- or stand-mounted or placed on a shelf or tabletop. They're available singly, so you can buy three for LCR use, two for surrounds or one as a center channel.

Don't let their small size fool you into thinking that these are anything other than no-compromise audio devices of the highest caliber. They have two long-exursion 3 ½-inch woofers with CPP (Composite Polypropylene/Paper) cones. This cone material combines the best of two materials—the “quickness” and fast transient response of polypropylene and the inherent self-damping traits of cellulose to eliminate any tendency towards harshness. The tweeter is a ¾-inch silk dome, which exhibits exceptional upper-octave dispersion—far superior to the conventional 1-inch domes found in most other speakers. The wide dispersion of the LCR3 pays off in two very distinct benefits that ordinary designs can't match: it imparts a spacious, 3-dimensional character to the sound and it removes the necessity of the listener having to sit right “in line” with the speaker in order to enjoy its best sound.

The LCR3’s response extends down to 100Hz, more than deep enough for any accompanying subwoofer to be totally non-localizable.

“Small but superlative” sums up the LCR3.
Specifications

Type: Sealed-box, 2-way
Drivers: 
  - Woofers: (2) 3½˝ CPP
  - Tweeter: (1) ¾˝ silk dome tweeters

Frequency Response: 100Hz - 20kHz (± 3dB)
Nominal Impedance: 6 Ohms
Crossover Frequency: 3.5kHz
Sensitivity: 88dB
Recommended Amplifier Power: 10 - 125 Watts
Dimensions: 4 ⅜˝ x 11 ⅝˝ x 5˝ w/grille (120mm x 284mm x 127mm)
Weight: 4.78 lbs; 10.5kg
Finishes Available: GLB and WHT

*Composite Polypropylene/Paper

Reducing Diffraction to Ensure Maximum Intelligibility

Conventional speaker—destructive interference

LCR3—No obstructions, for clear sound

Sound waves emanate out from a woofer or tweeter the way that ripples in a pond emanate away from the spot where you tossed in the pebble. But if you put something in the water near that spot—like the leg of a pier—when those ripples hit the obstruction, they’ll break up into many smaller waves and the smoothness of the original wave is gone.

That’s exactly what happens when a speaker sends out its sound into a nearby obstruction—like the frame of a typical grille. The sound hits that frame—like water ripples hitting a post—and the sound breaks up, smearing the clarity of the original signal.

Atlantic knows this and our expertise enables us to design around it. The drivers of the LCR3 (and also our FS3) are mounted in a dense resonant-free mounting plate that fits into a reciprocal cutout in the grille frame. The result is that the drivers “see” a smooth local acoustic environment, so none of their sound diffracts off the blunt inner surface of the grille frame, the way it does on a conventional speaker. Instead of multiple “ripples” interfering with each other, the LCR3’s sound is always clear and unfettered, for maximum clarity and intelligibility.