

Top Quality 5" / 6.5" / 8"
Studio Reference Monitor

nEar 

User's Guide



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Revision 1, November 2024

www.esi-audio.com

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1. Introduction

Congratulations on your purchase of the ESI nEar i.

Our nEar i studio monitor models are available as 5", 6.5" and 8" versions, the **nEar i5**, **nEar i7** and **nEar i8**. This manual describes all three models as they have similar functions and features.

The nEar i studio monitors are the result of extensive development work performed in Germany, to provide a professional active reference monitor that defines a higher level of quality in its class.

Building on the legacy of our renowned nEar studio monitors, the nEar i reference monitors set a new standard for entry-level users seeking professional-level 5" / 6.5" or 8" monitoring speakers. These DSP-based Class-D studio monitors feature an ultra-flat low frequency response, a newly designed silk dome tweeter, and a special low frequency driver with a cone made from selected sustainable sturdy paper fibers. These components deliver an unparalleled punch in the low-mid frequency range, offering a response unheard of in this class. The unique **CHARACTER** selection switch provides a smooth **MIX & LISTEN** setting or a precise **REFERENCE** sound. The nEar i studio monitors are yet another milestone in the ESI studio monitor legacy.

2. Basics & Installation

For optimal performance of your nEar i studio monitor, read the instructions in this manual thoroughly and carefully before you are using the speaker. We tried to keep this manual short so that you are not losing much time to read through it completely.

2.1 Unpacking / Handling

To remove the monitor from the carton its best to turn the package carefully upside down on the floor or on a table and then lift the carton vertically up slowly to leave the monitor resting in the packaging foam. Make sure that you don't grab the speaker driver units on the front to avoid damage. Now check the monitor for signs of damage that might have occurred in shipping. In the unlikely event of this, please contact the reseller of the product immediately. Be careful when you remove the packaging foam. Please keep all packing materials, also note nEar i is shipped with a power cable.

2.2 Connection

High quality XLR balanced, TRS balanced or TS unbalanced audio cables are recommended for input connection. The monitor typically connects to the line level output of a mixing console, to a computer audio interface or to a monitor controller. Make sure the power of the monitor is switched off before you connect any audio cables.

XLR balanced connection

Connect the male side of a XLR balanced cable to the balanced XLR input of the nEar i. Make sure the power cable is connected as well. Always setup all speakers (i.e. left / right channels) with the same type of cable.

TRS balanced or TS unbalanced connection

Connect the male side of a TRS balanced or TS unbalanced cable to the input jack of nEar i. Make sure the power cable is connected as well. Always setup all speakers (i.e. left / right channels) with the same type of cable.

3. Placement / Positioning / Setup

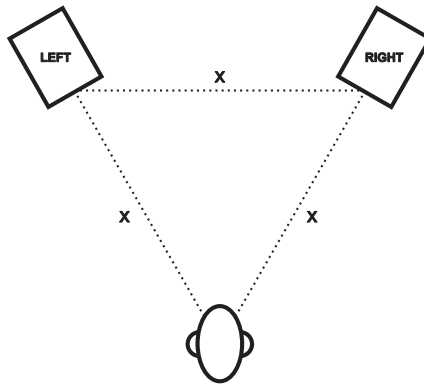
The placement of monitoring speakers is very critical and can compromise their performance. This is a general rule for every loudspeaker. To monitor with nEar i utilizing their maximum capabilities, an appropriate listening environment and a correct placement are important.

Typically you would be using 2 units of nEar i as one stereo pair – or more in surround setups (for instance in a 5.1 setup you would use 5 units of nEar i together with a subwoofer).

Please note that nEar i can also be mounted to a wall or a truss. An optional mounting adapter is available through the global ESI reseller network.

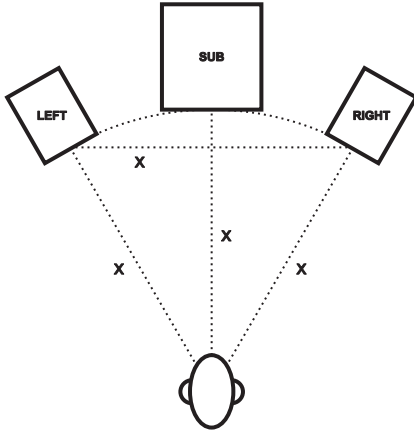
3.1 Stereo / 2.0 Positioning

Two units and the listener should be positioned or aligned in a regular triangle form. Please refer to the following diagram to understand how to position your monitors. Each distance x should be identical.



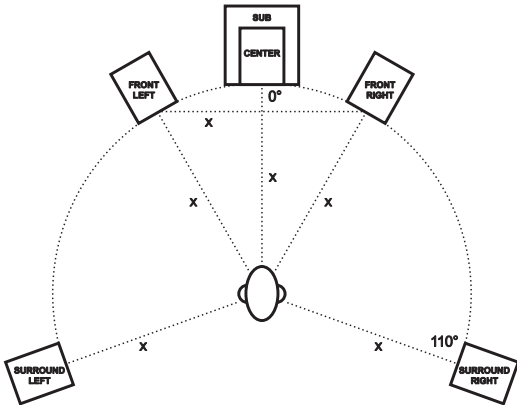
3.2 Stereo with Subwoofer / 2.1 Positioning

In a stereo setup with an added subwoofer, the subwoofer speaker should be positioned ideally in the middle in front of the listener (with the same distance x). If this is not possible, it should be close to that position.



3.3 Surround 5.1 Positioning

In a 5.1 surround set, the center speaker should ideally be placed on top of the subwoofer. If this is not possible, the subwoofer can be moved to the left or right but should close. The rear surround speakers should be positioned around 110° from the center speaker (all with the same distance x).



3.4 Additional Comments

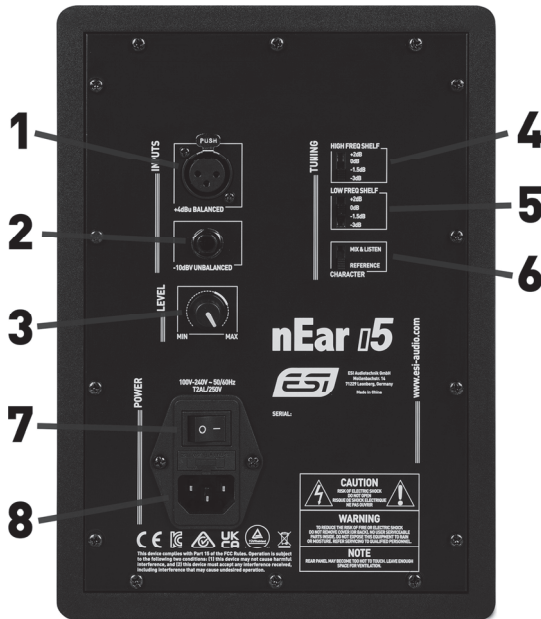
Please also make sure to not place any obstacles that may block the flow of air or that could generate sound reflections (especially highly reflective material including glass or metal) in front of the monitor. Also, don't put plants in pots on top or too close to your monitors.

4. Technical Data

Please note that technical specifications are subject to change without any prior notice. The specs given in this manual are up-to-date at the time of the creation of this document.

4.1 Rear Panel

The following picture shows the rear panel of nEar i5. The functions of nEar i7 and nEar i8 are identical.



1. XLR input – this connector accepts balanced XLR input connections (typically with a +4dBu level). XLR input is wired like this:

INPUT SIGNAL	XLR CONNECTIONS
+	PIN 2
-	PIN 3
Shield	PIN 1

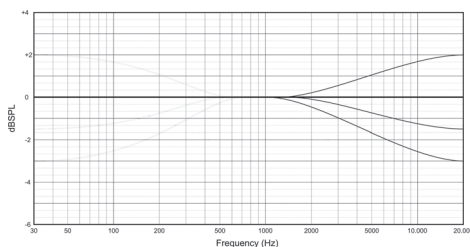
2. TRS input – this jack accepts TRS input connections, either balanced or unbalanced. For balanced connections, a 3-conductor TRS plug is necessary. The TRS input is wired like this:

INPUT SIGNAL	TRS CONNECTIONS
+	Tip
-	Ring
Shield	Sleeve

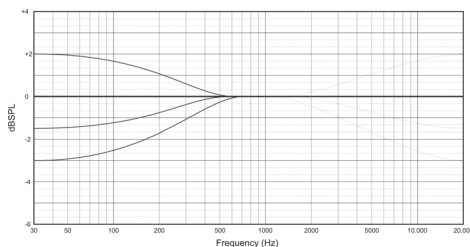
Unbalanced wiring works with either a 2- or 3-conductor TRS connector. A 2-conductor TRS plug (or sometimes also just called TS plug) automatically grounds the minus signal input, whereas a 3-conductor TRS plug wired unbalanced provides the option of leaving the minus open or grounded. We recommend that you ground the unused part.

3. level adjustment – use this volume control knob to adjust the speaker properly to the input level from the sound source. Make sure to setup all speakers accordingly. Do not set it too high to protect your hearing. When the input signal is too loud, the LED on the front panel will flash (overload).

4. high frequency shelf EQ – this switch allows you to adjust the high frequencies via a built-in EQ according to local requirements and your taste, with 0dB being the default:



5. low frequency shelf EQ – this switch allows you to adjust the low frequencies via a built-in EQ according to local requirements and your taste, with 0dB being the default:



6. character selection – the unique **CHARACTER** switch gives you two different options to choose from (select what matches your personal tastes and requirements):

MIX & LISTEN ... a nice and smooth modern representation ideal for high quality and high fidelity music listening with a boost of lower and higher frequencies. If you enjoy music and that is your main purpose, this setting will probably be the preferred choice.

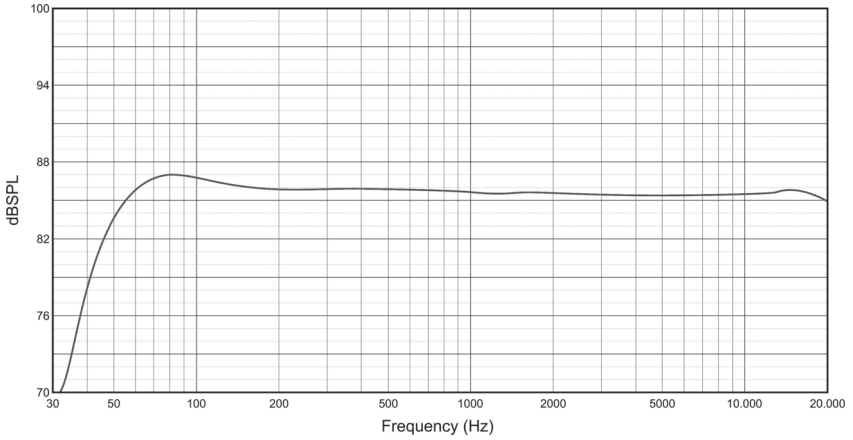
REFERENCE ... an ultra flat frequency response sound reproduction perfect for professional monitoring and analysis. If your focus is on editing and sound production with the highest details, this would most likely be your preference.

7. power switch – with the power switch you can turn nEar i on and off.

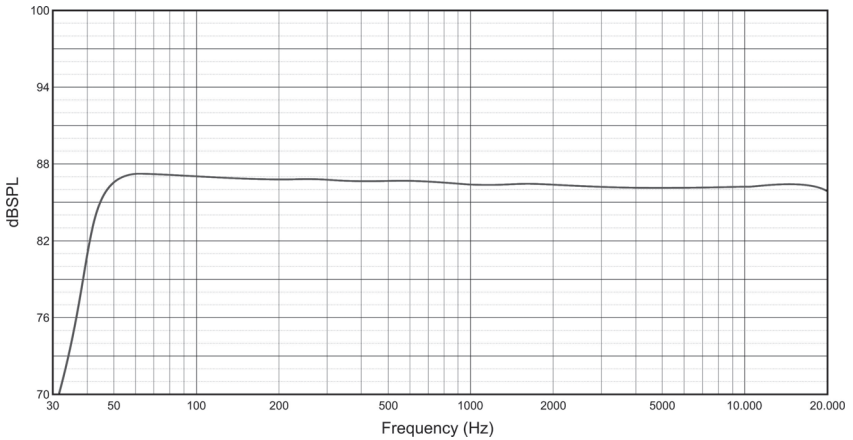
8. power port with ext. fuse – use this connector to plug in the detachable 3-circuit line cord that connects to the power outlet. The connector contains a replaceable fuse (T2AL/250V).

4.2 Frequency Response

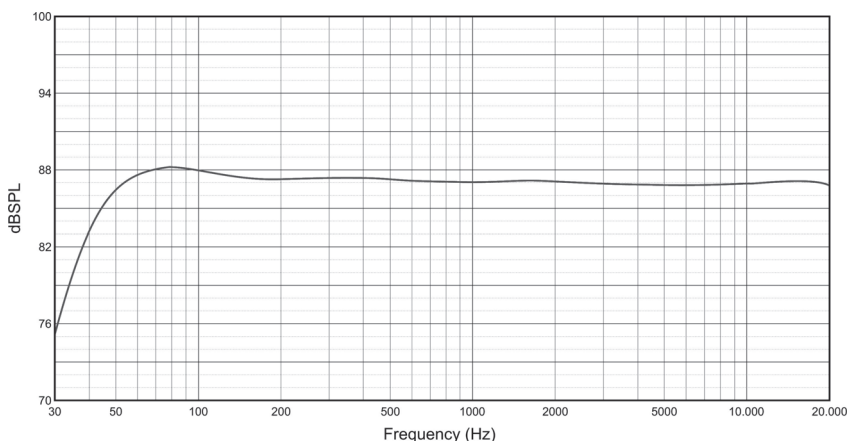
This is the measured frequency response chart for **nEar i5**:



This is the measured frequency response chart for **nEar i7**:



This is the measured frequency response chart for **nEar i8**:



4.3 Main Specifications

	nEar i5	nEar i7	nEar i8
Type	2-way powered speaker, DSP-controlled electronics, bass reflex, front ventilation port, active studio monitor speaker	2-way powered speaker, DSP-controlled electronics, bass reflex, front ventilation port, active studio monitor speaker	2-way powered speaker, DSP-controlled electronics, bass reflex, front ventilation port, active studio monitor speaker
Amplifier type	Class D	Class D	Class D
HF Driver	1" silk dome tweeter	1" silk dome tweeter	1" silk dome tweeter
LF Driver	5" paper curved cone	6.5" paper curved cone	8" paper curved cone
Output Power	LF: 50W @500Hz THD=10% HF: 40W @8kHz THD=10%	LF: 50W @500Hz THD=10% HF: 40W @8kHz THD=10%	LF: 65W @500Hz THD=10% HF: 55W @8kHz THD=10%
AC consumption power	72W	72W	98W
Frequency Response	44Hz~20kHz	39Hz~20kHz	35Hz~20kHz
Input Impedance	9kΩ unbalanced 24kΩ balanced	9kΩ unbalanced 24kΩ balanced	9kΩ unbalanced 24kΩ balanced
Crossover Point	2kHz	1.9kHz	2kHz
SPL	93dB peak: 97dB	96dB peak: 101dB	100dB peak: 104dB
Input Connectors	XLR connector balanced +4dBu TRS 1/4" unbalanced -10dBV	XLR connector balanced +4dBu TRS 1/4" unbalanced -10dBV	XLR connector balanced +4dBu TRS 1/4" unbalanced -10dBV
Volume Control	21 step potentiometer	21 step potentiometer	21 step potentiometer
High Freq Shelf EQ	+2dB/0dB/-1,5dB/-3dB	+2dB/0dB/-1,5dB/-3dB	+2dB/0dB/-1,5dB/-3dB
Low Freq Shelf EQ	+2dB/0dB/-1,5dB/-3dB	+2dB/0dB/-1,5dB/-3dB	+2dB/0dB/-1,5dB/-3dB
Character	Mix & Listen, Reference	Mix & Listen, Reference	Mix & Listen, Reference
Indicator LED	power: orange, standby: red, signal overload: flashing	power: orange, standby: red, signal overload: flashing	power: orange, standby: red, signal overload: flashing
Wall/Truss Mounting	M6 mounting hole left / right	M6 mounting hole left / right	M6 mounting hole left / right
Working Voltage	AC100-240V 50/60Hz	AC100-240V 50/60Hz	AC100-240V 50/60Hz
Dimensions (WxHxD)	185 x 263 x 217mm	216 x 307 x 264mm	255 x 365 x 275mm
Weight	3.9 kg	5.8 kg	7.4 kg

4.4 Standby Energy Saving

The nEar i monitors are equipped with a standby function to save energy while switched on but not being used to comply with regulations. While this is a great function in some cases, it can also be undesired in other more professional applications. The standby functionality can be turned off for that.

Turning the standby functionality on and off is done via the **CHARACTER** switch on the back. This switch must be toggled three times between the **MIX & LISTEN** and **REFERENCE** position. The switching is indicated by a brief blink of the orange LED on the front.

With the standby function turned off, the speaker remains always on, and no power-saving feature is available. When the standby function is activated, the speaker will enter power-saving mode after some time if no audio signal is being played. This is then indicated by the blinking red LED on the front (normally, the LED is orange). Once an input signal is detected again, normal operation resumes.

5. General Information

Satisfied?

If something is not working as expected, please don't return the product and first use our technical support options via www.esi-audio.com or contact your local distributor. Do not hesitate to give us feedback or write a review online. We love to hear from you so we can improve our products!

Trademarks

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The FCC and CE Regulation Warning

This device complies with part 15 of the FCC Rules for the U.S. and ICES-003, for Canada. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Caution: Any changes or modifications in construction of this device with are not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance, could void the user's authority to operate equipment.

Correspondence



For technical support inquiries, contact your nearest dealer, local distributor or ESI support online at www.esi-audio.com. Please also check our extensive Knowledge Base with Frequently Asked Questions, installation videos and technical details about our products in the support section of our website.

Disclaimer

All features and specifications subject to change without notice.

Parts of this manual are continually being updated. Please check our web site www.esi-audio.com occasionally for the most recent update information.

5.1 Safety Information

	CAUTION AVIS RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK DO NOT OPEN RISQUE DE SHOCK ELECTRIQUE NE PAS OUVRIR	
WARNING AVERTISSEMENT TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR ELECTRIC SHOCK DO NOT EXPOSE THIS EQUIPMENT TO RAIN OR MOISTURE. POUR RÉDUIRE LE RISQUE D'INCENDIE OU DE DÉCHARGE ÉLECTRIQUE, N'EXPOSEZ PAS CET ÉQUIPEMENT À LA PLUIE OU À L'HUMIDITÉ.		
NOTE ATTENTION REPLACE FUSE WITH SAME TYPE AND RATING UTILISER UN FUSIBLE DE RECHANGE DE MEME TYPE ET CALIBRE		