

Yamaha HS5 vs HS7 Studio Monitor: Differences, Specs & Price

Meta Description: Discover key differences between Yamaha HS5 and HS7 studio monitors, including driver size, frequency response, and pricing at Sam Ash.



Alt text: Yamaha HS7.

Key Takeaways

- The Yamaha HS7 features a 6.5-inch woofer reaching 43Hz, providing significantly deeper bass extension than the 5-inch HS5 model.

- With 95W of bi-amplified power, the HS7 offers greater headroom and cleaner dynamic peaks compared to the 70W HS5 system.
- Both monitors utilize a flat-response philosophy derived from the iconic NS10 to ensure honest sound translation across all playback systems.
- The HS5 suits small rooms and desktop setups, while the HS7 is optimized for medium-sized spaces requiring more precise low-frequency monitoring.
- [Sam Ash](#) sells the Yamaha HS series with expert guidance, flexible financing, free shipping, and a 45-day return policy.

Yamaha HS5 vs. HS7: Which Studio Monitor Is Best for You?

The Yamaha HS5 and HS7 are industry-standard active studio monitors designed for flat-response, "honest" mixing. The primary difference lies in bass extension and power: the HS5 features a 5-inch woofer with a 54Hz–30kHz range at 70W, while the HS7 offers a larger 6.5-inch woofer reaching down to 43Hz with 95W of power. Choosing between them depends on your room size and how much low-end accuracy your genre requires.

While both models share the iconic white-cone design and bi-amplified architecture, the HS7 provides 11Hz of additional bass extension to better reproduce kick drum and bass guitar fundamentals. The compact HS5 is ideal for small desktop setups and bedroom studios, whereas the HS7 provides the increased headroom and low-frequency clarity needed for medium-sized project studios. Both monitors include Room Control and High Trim switches to tailor the sound to your specific acoustic environment.

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The HS5: Compact Reference Monitoring



Caption: The Yamaha HS5 represents the entry point into Yamaha's acclaimed HS series, delivering the flat-response monitoring philosophy in the most compact and affordable package.

Alt text: Yamaha HS5.

5-Inch Driver with Extended Range

The HS5's 5-inch white-cone woofer employs Yamaha's advanced transducer technology with carefully regulated magnetic response.

This design optimizes signal reproduction accuracy throughout the audio spectrum, ensuring the smooth response that makes the HS series valuable for critical listening.

The 54Hz low-frequency extension is honest about what a 5-inch driver can accurately reproduce. Rather than artificially boosting bass that the driver can't cleanly deliver, Yamaha prioritizes accuracy over impressive-sounding specifications.

This approach actually aids mixing by preventing you from making decisions based on frequencies the monitor can't truthfully represent.

High-Performance Bi-Amplified Design

The HS5 features Yamaha's bi-amp architecture with dedicated amplifiers for the woofer and tweeter. This design ensures each driver receives optimized power, eliminating the compromises inherent in passive crossover networks. The result is consistently high-resolution sound with exceptionally flat response across the frequency spectrum.

Low-Resonance Enclosure

Yamaha draws on over 100 years of acoustic instrument experience, particularly piano construction—in the HS5's cabinet design. Dense MDF construction with three-way mitered joints creates an enclosure that minimizes unwanted resonance, ensuring you hear only what's in your audio, not cabinet artifacts.

The HS7: Extended Bass for Serious Mixing



Caption: The Yamaha HS7 steps up the HS series with a larger 6.5-inch woofer that meaningfully extends low-frequency response while maintaining the flat, honest character that defines the line.

Alt text: Yamaha HS7.

6.5-Inch Driver with 43Hz Extension

The [Yamaha HS7](#)'s larger woofer reaches down to 43Hz, 11Hz lower than the HS5. This seemingly modest number represents a significant improvement in bass accuracy. At 43Hz, you're hearing the fundamental frequencies of bass guitars, kick drums, and synthesizer bass lines rather than just their harmonics.

The white-cone driver shares the HS5's advanced magnetic circuit design with extra-large magnets providing a powerful, uniform flux field. This results in exceptionally smooth response and dynamic capability across the extended frequency range.

95W Bi-Amplified Power

The HS7 delivers 95W of total power, with 60W dedicated to the low-frequency driver and 35W to the high-frequency tweeter. This substantial power increase over the HS5 provides greater headroom for dynamic peaks and cleaner reproduction at higher monitoring levels.

More power offers benefits beyond volume. The HS7's amplifier headroom means the monitors maintain their flat, accurate response even during loud passages, while lesser-powered monitors might compress or distort.

Enhanced Driver Mounting

Yamaha's engineering extends to the mounting systems in the HS7. A sophisticated combination of screws and a specially designed mounting ring eliminates spurious vibration and resonance, allowing the larger driver to deliver its full sonic potential without cabinet interference.

The tweeter frames employ an advanced smooth-contour design with extra thickness that minimizes resonance and reduces losses, ensuring high-frequency details come through with remarkable accuracy.

Sound Character: What's the Real Difference?

Shared DNA: The HS-Series Sound

Both the HS5 and HS7 share Yamaha's commitment to flat, uncolored response. If you've heard one HS-series monitor, you understand the philosophy: these monitors tell you the truth about your mix, whether you want to hear it or not.

Harsh frequencies sound harsh. Muddy low-mids reveal themselves immediately. Problems you hoped weren't there become undeniably present.

This unflinching honesty is precisely why engineers trust the HS series—decisions made on these monitors translate reliably to other playback systems.

Where They Diverge: Low-Frequency Accuracy

The critical difference lies in bass reproduction:

HS5 (54Hz): You'll hear the harmonic content of bass instruments clearly, but fundamental frequencies below 54Hz roll off. Bass guitar notes, kick drum fundamentals, and sub-bass synthesizers won't be fully represented. This isn't necessarily problematic—many classic records were mixed on monitors with similar limitations, but it requires awareness.

HS7 (43Hz): The additional 11Hz of extension brings fundamental bass frequencies into accurate range. You can hear and make decisions about the actual low-end content of your mix rather than inferring it from harmonics. For genres where sub-bass and low-frequency precision matter, this difference is substantial.

Volume and Headroom

The HS7's increased power translates to:

- Higher maximum SPL for louder monitoring when needed
- Cleaner reproduction at moderate volumes (more headroom)
- Better dynamic range for music with wide level variations
- Reduced strain on amplifiers during bass-heavy passages

Quick Specifications Comparison

Feature	Yamaha HS5	Yamaha HS7
Sam Ash Price	\$199.99 (save \$52.01)	\$349.99 (save \$116.01)
MSRP	\$252.00	\$466.00
24-Month Financing	\$9/month	\$15/month
Woofer Size	5" cone	6.5" cone
Tweeter	1" dome	1" dome
Frequency Response	54Hz – 30kHz	43Hz – 30kHz
Low-Frequency Extension	54Hz	43Hz
Amplifier Power	70W total (45W LF + 25W HF)	95W total (60W LF + 35W HF)
Room Controls	Room Control, High Trim	Room Control, High Trim
Inputs	XLR and TRS	XLR and TRS

Price Analysis

Current Sam Ash Pricing

Monitor	Price	MSRP	Savings	Monthly (24-mo)
Yamaha HS5	\$199.99	\$252.00	\$52.01	\$9/month
Yamaha HS7	\$349.99	\$466.00	\$116.01	\$15/month
Difference	\$150	\$214	—	\$6/month

Why Buy Your Yamaha Monitors from Sam Ash

Selecting the right studio monitor depends heavily on your room dimensions, listening distance, and personal production style. The Gear Expert Team at [Sam Ash](#) understands these variables and stands ready to guide your purchase decision. Flexible payment plans make high-quality recording gear accessible for any studio budget.

A 45-day return policy allows you to test your new monitors on actual projects to verify they meet your exact needs. Qualifying orders over \$49 ship free to ensure your studio upgrade arrives without extra fees. Browse the complete collection of Yamaha monitors today to find the ideal sound profile for your space.

[Browse the complete collection of Yamaha monitors today](#)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Is the 11Hz difference in bass extension really noticeable?

Yes, the difference between 54Hz (HS5) and 43Hz (HS7) is musically significant. The low E string on a bass guitar has a fundamental frequency around 41Hz, and kick drums often have substantial energy in the 40-60Hz range. With the HS5, you're primarily hearing harmonics of these frequencies; with the HS7, you're hearing more of the actual fundamental. For bass-heavy genres, this difference affects mixing decisions.

Can I use one HS5 and one HS7 together?

This isn't recommended. Stereo monitoring requires matched speakers with identical frequency response to maintain accurate stereo imaging and tonal balance. Using mismatched monitors would create an uneven soundstage and inconsistent frequency representation between left and right channels.

Do I need a subwoofer with the HS5?

Adding a subwoofer (like the Yamaha HS8S) can extend the HS5's bass response for full-range monitoring. This is a valid approach that provides flexibility—you get the HS5's controlled response for most work and can engage the subwoofer when you need to check low frequencies. However, integrating a subwoofer properly requires careful calibration and appropriate room acoustics.

What's the difference between the HS7 and HS8?

The HS8 features an 8-inch woofer with bass extension to 38Hz and 120W total power (75W LF + 45W HF). It's designed for larger rooms and applications requiring even more bass accuracy. For most home and project studios, the HS7 provides sufficient bass extension; the HS8 is typically chosen for professional control rooms or dedicated mixing spaces.

Can I get both the HS5 and HS7 at Sam Ash?

Absolutely. [Sam Ash](#) stocks the complete Yamaha HS series. The Gear Expert Team is available to help you evaluate both options and determine which monitor best matches your room and workflow.

***Note:** *Pricing and/or product availability mentioned in this post are subject to change. Please check our [website](#) for current pricing and stock information before making a purchase.*