

Stands That Deliver

Canada's IsoAcoustics Aperta stand can really raise the performance of your loudspeakers, finds Jon Myles.



We all know stands can make a big difference to the sound quality of small loudspeakers. But what to do if you're using them on a desktop while working away on the computer or for reasons of space have to place your monitors on a sonically-unfriendly bookshelf?

Enter the IsoAcoustics Aperta LS8R line of isolation stands. Made from sculpted aluminium, the Apertas come in a range of sizes for accommodating small to medium-sized loudspeakers weighing up to 35lbs – and there's also a dedicated sub-woofer model available.

Developed by Canadian radio and TV studio design expert Dave Morrison, the stands have garnered a loyal client base among sound engineers in the pro-audio community and are now gaining a following in the domestic hi-fi market.

The stand aims to isolate the 'speaker from desktops, bookshelves or other surfaces by use of a patented suspension system. The loudspeaker itself sits on a top section which slots into a rigid base via damped legs. IsoAcoustics says

the design allows a degree of forward and back travel but resists lateral and secondary movements and oscillations. A clever integrated tilt adjustment mechanism incorporating 14 steps of height adjustment also allows the 'speaker to be angled up or down to suit the listening position (see the website at www.isoacoustics.com for more details).

SOUND QUALITY

I'll freely admit I came to the Apertas with a fair degree of scepticism. But it didn't take long for my reservations to be swept aside.

Used with a variety of small to medium loudspeakers – from Epos K1s to Spondor D1s and Neat Motive SX3s – the IsoAcoustic stands never failed to make a difference.

Placed under the K3s on an ordinary desktop and playing The Clash's 'Bankrobber Dub', at first I thought the bass had lost a little slam. But after a few minutes it soon became evident it was all present and correct, only tighter and more forceful than before without any of

the unnatural boom that was present without the stands.

Instruments higher up the scale also had more air around them – the strike of a plectrum on guitar chords sounding more insistent and less smeared. In a sense it as though the 'speakers are being given room to breathe and allow the music to flow with a more natural rhythm.

Switching to the massive orchestral power of Berlioz's 'Te Deum' the Apertas opened up the soundstage to give a better appreciation of the sheer scale of this piece. This wasn't just a subtle improvement but a clear enhancement of the sound – and one that was repeated on all forms of music ranging from small-scale acoustic jazz to bombastic hard rock.

CONCLUSION

At just £149 a pair the IsoAcoustics Apertas are an excellent product which really help get the best out of your loudspeakers.

They really do bring great sonic improvements compared to simply placing the 'speakers on a desktop or bookshelf and so come highly recommended.

**ISOACOUSTICS
APERTA £149
(A PAIR)**



**OUTSTANDING - amongst
the best**

VALUE - keenly priced

VERDICT

A clever, compact stand which opens up the sound of small to medium-sized loudspeakers and brings a tighter low-end and more expansive treble.

FOR

- well-built
- tighten bass
- open soundstage

AGAINST

- nothing at the price

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