*The reason the Q Acoustics sounds a little different to rivals is that you genuinely are listening to six drivers in free space*

Conclusion

10 out of 10

*CORE*

**Pros**

* Exceptionally accurate yet unfatiguing sound 
* Easy to setup in room
* Easy to drive
* Superb build and finish

**Cons**

* Rather large

Q Acoustics Concept 500 Speaker Review

When my learned colleagues review video equipment, their decision to award a Reference Status badge to a product is simple – the performance must be an absolute benchmark against which other products can be judged. This is usually reached in co-operation with extensive measurement and reams of comparative data. Here in the subjective world of audio, the tools available to me are rather less – it would be possible to measure the Concept 500 in room but this would be as much a story of my lounge as it is the speaker. There is also the absolutely indisputable fact that this isn’t the best speaker in the world – not least because at [Munich](https://www.avforums.com/article/munich-high-end-show-2017-report.13614), it was revealed that a lot of its design philosophy has gone into the FinkTeam WM-4 which at €65,000 *might*be the best. Despite this, I am awarding a Reference Status badge.  
  
Why? Partly because the amount of money it is necessary to decisively better the Concept 500 is considerable. The next most affordable speaker to be more impressive in this test space is the Focal Sopra No2 which as of June 2017 costs in the region of £10,000. As such, the Concept 500 sets an incredible benchmark at £4,000. This is also one of the most impressive demonstrations of applied technology I’ve seen in a while. This is a very sophisticated device but the key aim of that sophistication is to be inaudible and in this it succeeds admirably. Finally, the demands it makes of any would-be owner are commendably small. This is a big speaker but it is easy to place, offers some in room adjustment and it is easy to drive at the same time. It might be a whole new price point for them but Q Acoustics has built another speaker that is the new standard to beat.

The Rundown: Build Quality 9, Connetivity 9, Sound Quality 10, Ease of Use 10, Features 9, **Verdict 10 !**