

The Audiophile Man



HEADLINE SPEAKER REVIEW

CONCEPT 30 SPEAKERS FROM Q ACOUSTICS

Posted on 29th March 2022



A new pair of stand-mounted designs from Q Acoustics takes the Concept range up towards the £1k mark

Released in company with the Concept 50 floor standers (£1,999) and 90 central channel speakers (£649, for surround use), the Concept 30 speakers are quite a drop in price from the 50s. There's a fair bit of price separation between the two, which I find interesting.

The Concept 30 design, which can be bought with a pair of eye-catching Q FS75 speaker's stands

SUBSCRIBE TO BLOG VIA EMAIL



Enter your email address to subscribe to this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.

Join 1,036 other subscribers.

Subscribe

SEARCH



JOIN MY PATREON!



The Audiophile Man



Become my patron on
 patreon

LATEST POSTS



WELCOME TO MY NIGHTMARE - ON YOUTUBE
29th March 2022

BEING A COMPLETIST - FUN OR TORMENT?

29th March 2022

for £375, takes particular issue with its cabinet. This is not the norm. Speakers tend not to run into a crowded room shouting about their cabinets. Midrange this and bass that, sure – not cabinets. Yet that's where the principle issues lie, according to Q Acoustics. That's your foundation. That's the core.



It makes sense too. Get his right and everything else, which is suspended within or fixed to it, has a head start. Doesn't matter how great your house is, if it sits of shifting sands, the entire structure will ultimately collapse.

This is why Q Acoustics talk a lot about its Point-to-Point internal bracing, first seen in the Concept 500 aiding rigidity and reducing low frequency vibration shift.



Concept 30 Speakers From
Q ACOUSTICS

29th March 2022



It also talks about its Gelcore cabinet construction to reduce high-frequency cabinet-derived noise. This means that the cabinet is layered and sitting in between this layer is a gel that never sets. That is, Gelcore never sets hard. It just sits there, gel-like and no doubt rather gooey, damping the impact of moving speaker drivers and getting in the way of high-frequency noise by converting that vibration into heat and dissipating that into the air.

A sprung suspension system baseplate fitted at the bottom of the speaker also helps.



In driver terms, up top is a sealed and isolated 25mm (1") tweeter. A 125mm (5") mid-bass unit, with a large voice coil, sits below. Both are fixed to a stiff aluminium baffle and then that is fitted to the cabinet. The crossover is mounted to an isolation bass to again, reduce vibration.

Arriving in black, silver and white, the design – especially my white review models – looks like something that Dieter Rams would have cooked up for the original Braun company, way back in the 50s. There's something vaguely vintage chic about these speakers, especially when looked from the rear.



These speakers are 6 Ohm designs and that figure is coupled with a 87db sensitivity but I didn't have any issues driving the things. I increased my pre-amp gain by a notch or two but that was it.

As such, you only need an amplifier of around 25W or higher to get good volume from the speakers. Spanning 284 x 180 x 319mm (11.2 x 7.1 x 12.6in) and weighing in at 12.3kg (27.1lbs), how do these things sound? How do they perform? I brought in a few other speakers to add a slice of contrast.

SOUND QUALITY

To begin the tests I wandered down the loungecore route and played a vinyl version of The Kings Singer's *Encore* and the track, *The Peanut Vendor*. Apart from the harmony vocals, there's quite a meaty upright bass offering bass along with relatively complex percussive rhythms and cymbal taps to look out for.

First off the taxi rank of comparative speakers I wanted to hear was another Q Acoustics model.

vs 3030i

So why am I including these speakers in this review? After all, the 3030i speakers are far lower in price at around £269 for a pair. Hardly a fair fight is it?



They're included in the review for those hifi fans who feast with their eyes. For those who judge a book by its cover. For those who shy away from extensive research. The 3030i speakers look bigger than the Concepts, the mid/bass unit also looks more substantial and hey, it even has the same badge on the front. So why not save more than a few pounds and go for the 3030i speakers?

Well, you can do just that and yes, the 3030is are superb speakers. I've already [given them a good review](#). I love these speakers to bits, in fact and still rate them at the top of their tree in their price point.

The Concepts are in a completely different class, though. In short, they sound more...professional. Bass sounded forceful, focused and precise. That upright bass offered strength but also structure in its delivery while the treble-infused cymbal taps had a delicacy but also described the cymbal itself in a realistic manner. That is, you felt you were hearing a large sheet of metal being hit. The sound wasn't just a tone. The cymbal sounded large and tonally impressive via the Concepts.



The percussion was also pushed a little further forward in the mix providing lots of information that was slightly veiled via the 3030i speaker.

The meat of this track though, the vocals, offered a better structure, superior imagery. A mature and tonally accurate presentation, you might say.

The Concept 30 speakers managed to simultaneously offer a tremendous structure and focus while still giving a heap of air and space in the rear of the soundstage so the music provided discipline and a sense of delicacy and finesse.

vs Martin Logan 15i

A much greater challenge though was offered by the 15i models and their ribbon tweeters. The result of that challenge was fascinating and full of pros and cons. The 15i offered a more airy treble. That 15i ribbon tweeter displayed a free and spacious suite of cymbal taps with a very long reverb tail sequence. The upper mids also benefited from the detail that swam around this part of the frequency spectrum. There was an extension here, a greater dynamic reach. Again, [I've given the 15is a good review here](#) and I highly recommend them.



The issue I had with the 15i speakers, when compared to the Concept 30s, was that the 15is did not have the control offered by the Concepts. The 30s had a far stronger hold on what was going on. The Q Acoustics were organised and structured. In comparison, the 15i speakers were a little naive in their delivery: free and easy and a little undisciplined around the mids and how those mids plugged in and connected to the bass. The Martin Logans, on their own, sounded superb and I still rate them very highly indeed but, compared to the Concept 30s, they floundered around the midrange area. Vocals lost positioning and poise, imagery was wayward, the soundstage itself was a bit of a mess.



Bass on the Concepts was also superior in terms of focus and precision. Yes, the 15i speakers were able to offer punch but there was more weight and drive in the bass regions from the Concepts.

vs Spendor A1

This was the scariest test for the Concept 30 speakers because the A1s are more expensive at £1,250 and should walk all over the 30s, to be frank, in sonic terms.



So were the A1 designs superior to the 30s? Well, yes. Yes they were. The A1 speakers sounded 'grown up' for that extra £300. They sounded mature. The A1 speakers provided control and discipline and imagery and finesse and elegance right across the soundstage. Everything that the

Concept 30 speakers offered, in fact but more of it. The A1 speakers seemed to offer all of this without breaking sweat. The Concept 30s needed to concentrate on what they were doing. The A1s were effortless. They were smooth. They glided.

Now none of the above was a surprise. It was expected. The A1s had more build budget afforded to the basic design and parts quality. The 30s had the deck stacked against it from the beginning of this test. The 30s didn't really stand a chance in a straight fight. What I found in the Concept 30's favour though was how the 30s stood up to the challenge. That is, the 30s were on the right lines.



[HOME](#) ▾ [NEWS](#) ▾ [FEATURES](#) ▾ [HIFI REVIEWS](#) ▾ [MUSIC REVIEWS](#) ▾ [DVD & BOOK REVIEWS](#) ▾ [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [p](#) [t](#) [y](#) [i](#) [n](#) [Q](#)



already listed how the A1s were effortless in how they undertook their control and discipline
nagery and finesse and elegance. The 30s were actually doing all of this. What I mean by that
30s were on the correct sonic road. It's just that the A1s had a bigger budget behind them so
were more accomplished. The Concept 30 speakers knew the goals here, they knew the
ers, they knew what had to be done in sonic terms it's just that the A1s had more resources to
accomplish them.

So on that basis, the Concept 30s performed remarkably well for the price.



Offering much more high energy was firstly the minimal synth duo, Deux and the track, Game & Performance from the *Decadence LP* on the Minimal Wave label, utilising analogue synths and spare vocals and also the CD version of The Who's *The Who Sell Out*. On both, the bass beat was firm, deep and tight but never encroached upon the mids. The vocals sat around an airy stereo image with a 3D depth that provided plenty of nuance and emotion. The presentation was both spare but also packed with meaning which was superbly translated by the Concept 30s.

CONCLUSION

The Q Acoustics 30s performed remarkably for the money. I felt that the 30s maximised their design specs. For a pair of speakers priced under £1,000, I never felt that the Q Acoustics were ever flustered. I never felt that the 30s were aimless in their performance. The Q Acoustics, in fact, provided superlative value for money. The design takes every penny of its asking price and gives you the very most it can.



These speakers give you controlled, naturalistic bass. Bass that is full of information. The mids offer focus and an impressive tonal realism while the treble is delicate and sophisticated.

Look, this point of view might change tomorrow with a quality competitor in place but right now? As I write these words? If you're looking for a balanced speaker offering detail and finesse? The Concept 30s are my No.1 choice for speakers under £1,000.

Q ACOUSTICS CONCEPT 30 SPEAKERS

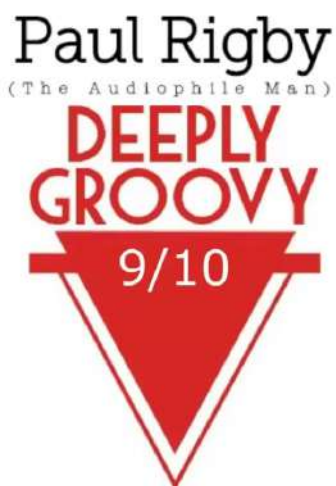
Price: £899

Website: www.qacoustics.co.uk

GOOD: disciplined bass, tonally realistic mids, finely tuned treble, stylish design, focus

BAD: nothing

RATING: 9



[Don't forget to check out my new Patreon Page at www.patreon.com/audiophileman, for exclusive postings, giveaways and more!]

REFERENCE

[Origin Live Sovereign turntable](#)

[Origin Live Enterprise 12" arm](#)

[Funk Firm Little Super Deck](#)

[Van Den Hul Crimson XGW Stradivarius Cartridge](#)

[Goldring 1042 MM cartridge](#)

[Benz Micro Ace MC cartridge](#)

[Icon PS3 phono amplifier](#)

[Aesthetix Calypso pre-amp](#)

[Icon Audio MB845 Mk.II Monoblock Amplifiers](#)

[Quad ESL-57 Speakers with One Thing mod](#)

[Tellurium Q Statement cables](#)

[Blue Horizon Professional Rack System](#)

[Harmonic Resolution Systems Noise Reduction Components](#)

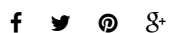
[CAD GC1 Ground Controls](#)

[Air Audio AC-2K Balanced Transformer](#)

[Russ Andrews RF Router Mk.II](#)

Q ACOUSTIC

3 Comments



By PAUL RIGBY

PAUL RIGBY

I've been a journalist and editor for 35 years and still retain my good humour.



Who'd have thought? I have worked within a range of industries, writing for hundreds of national magazines and newspapers in the UK, Europe and the USA covering: aviation, music, computer technology, computer gaming, hi-fi, mobile technology, home automation, lady's lifestyle, plastic model making, antiques and more. I currently write for national magazines in the subjects of business, music, hi-fi and general technology.

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE



Twenty5.2li Speakers from PMC
11th November 2020



Roksan's TR5 speakers: the next generation
25th May 2016



Magnific Acoustics M521 speakers: A New Tradition
2nd April 2016

3 COMMENTS



GRAHAM STRAW
29th March 2022 at 3:01 pm

Reply

Hi Paul,
I know that this is off subject but have you heard the new Roksan CD transport? And compared it to the Audiolab 6000 CD transport which I know you rate highly?

Like



PAUL RIGBY
29th March 2022 at 3:04 pm

Reply

Hi Graham – not yet, I was told there was a delay in delivery so I'm still waiting for my review sample.

Like



GRAHAM STRAW
29th March 2022 at 3:37 pm

Reply

Thanks Paul
I look forward to reading your review.
Regards

Like

LEAVE A REPLY

Name *

Email *

Website

Notify me of follow-up comments by email.

Notify me of new posts by email.

POST COMMENT

INSTAGRAM

Instagram did not return a 200.

[f FACEBOOK](#)

[t TWITTER](#)

[i INSTAGRAM](#)

[p PINTEREST](#)

[t TUMBLR](#)

[y YOUTUBE](#)

[in LINKEDIN](#)