

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Attention

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‘Best-Ever Budget Speakers’ Now Even Better!

Wharfedale launches Diamond 10 Series with the Diamond 10.1 – the latest evolution of Wharfedale’s classic high-performance, high-value ‘bookshelf’ loudspeaker

For almost 30 years, Wharfedale’s famous Diamond speakers have served as the classic entry point to true high-fidelity sound, their exceptional value for money earning dozens of awards around the globe. Now, with the introduction of the all-new Diamond 10 Series, Wharfedale has again raised the bar for affordable, high-performance loudspeakers.

The first speaker to emerge from the Diamond 10 Series is the Diamond 10.1 – the latest evolution of the classic Wharfedale Diamond ‘bookshelf’ speaker. Replacing the hugely successful, multi-award winning Diamond 9.1, the new speaker aims to build upon its exceptional heritage by delivering even better sonic value.

Wharfedale Diamond 10.1: Design for Performance

For Wharfedale, the challenge was to improve upon a design that has won more awards for sonic excellence around the world than any other speaker at its price point, whilst maintaining its predecessor's highly competitive asking price. The Diamond 9.1 has been consistently hailed for the exceptional sound quality it delivers at under £200 per pair; a major contributing factor is the 9.1's cabinet, which boasts an ambitious design previously unseen at such affordable prices. Also key are the high-quality drive units, including a mid/bass cone made from woven Kevlar.

Following an exhaustive period of research and development, Wharfedale's acoustic design team has enhanced the speaker in the following ways:

- **Stronger cabinet walls**

The concept of curved cabinet walls, for strength and the reduction of internal standing waves, has been retained from the Diamond 9 Series. However, these walls have been made stronger through a superior method of bonding and curving the panels, increasing rigidity and, aided by internal bracing, reducing the audible effects of panel resonance.

- **Composite front baffle panel**

The front baffle features a composite panel structure with a piano-black finish. This contributes to the speaker's smart new look and, more importantly, to its improved sound quality, as it reduces the effects of vibration and provides a stable platform for the drive units.

- **Improvements to the mid/bass drive unit**

To make the most of the stronger cabinet, the main drive unit chassis has been enhanced with a massive flange that is secured using six screws, thus improving its stability. A diamond pattern has also been moulded into the surround of the Kevlar cone; this is more than just cosmetic as the pattern reduces and damps standing waves in the surround, yielding a cleaner high-frequency acoustic roll-off and enhancing the ability of the mid/bass unit and tweeter to work as a cohesive whole.

- **Rear-firing twin reflex ports**

The speaker's twin reflex ports have been moved to the rear of the cabinet, to reduce the effects of audible distortion. These ports extend the bass to below 45Hz, contributing to an impressive sense of sonic scale.

- **Tweeter diffuser**

Over the soft-dome tweeter is a metal diffusion grid which, as well as protecting the dome when the speaker is being used without its grille, also irons out high-frequency perturbations right up to 30kHz, delivering a smoother response and crystal-clear treble detailing.

- **Enhanced front grille with 'invisible' fixing**

The front grille has been improved to ensure it has no adverse effect on the speaker's performance. In addition, it is now affixed without pegs, therefore eschewing the need for unsightly holes in the piano-black front baffle.

These improvements have been applied not only to the Diamond 10.1, but also to the rest of the extensive Diamond 10 Series. The full range – details of which will be announced shortly – includes two further standmount speakers and five floorstanding designs, plus three centre speakers, a dedicated surround speaker and three active subwoofers for home cinema applications.

Established Diamond attributes are retained throughout the range, like the sturdy bi-wire terminal block, high-purity copper internal wiring and 'purist' crossover with high-quality silicon iron and air core inductors. Crossovers have been upgraded throughout the Diamond 10 Series to ensure superb drive unit integration and a smooth response.

Peter Comeau, Wharfedale's recently appointed Director of Acoustic Design, has been responsible for voicing the Diamond 10 Series prior to production. The brain (and ears) behind many award-winning speaker designs spanning three decades, Peter is ideally placed to ensure that the Diamond 10.1 and the rest of the Diamond 10 range set new standards at their respective price points, like the Diamond 9 range before them.

Commenting on the development of the Wharfedale Diamond 10.1, Peter said:

"Following the highly successful, award-winning Diamond 9.1 was always going to be a difficult task. However, we were determined to bring the latest Diamond right into line with the standard of performance expected from a class-leading standmount speaker in 2009.

"The overall result of the engineering changes is to deliver a tightly focused and spacious stereo image, allied to a clean and clear performance throughout the audible bandwidth. The coherence of the midrange and treble balance provides a highly musical and natural delivery that maintains the strengths of the Diamond 9.1, particularly in the midrange, whilst

adding to the sense of space and musical communication in a way that is instantly engaging, and consistently appealing in the long term.

“Wharfedale speakers have a long-lived tradition of being great all-rounders across various music types, and the Diamond 10.1 is no exception. The new speaker draws upon the strengths of the multi-award-winning 9.1 and adds even more immersive music making and listener enjoyment. With the price tag remaining on the right side of £200 per pair, despite the upward pressures on pricing to which many manufacturers have succumbed, this is – as its name suggests – a jewel amongst standmount speakers.”

Wharfedale Diamond 10.1: Key Features

- **System:** Two-way vented box loudspeaker
- **Cabinet:** Multi-layer MDF, bonded using special adhesive that is cured to harden using intense RF (Radio Frequency) energy; curved sides and improved bonding/bracing increases rigidity and reduces resonance; composite baffle structure for vibration control
- **Tweeter:** 25mm soft-dome tweeter with metal diffusion phase corrector for smooth and clear high-frequency output
- **Mid/bass driver:** 125mm woven Kevlar cone; strong, nylon-filled homopolymer chassis with oversize flange and secure fixing to baffle; diamond-pattern ribs in cone surround for smooth acoustic roll-off
- **Crossover:** 2nd order Linkwitz bass and treble slopes yielding 3rd order acoustic crossover with optimal phase integration
- **Reflex ports:** Twin ports on rear panel reduce bass distortion
- **Front grille:** Interference-free grille with ‘invisible’ fixing
- **Cable terminals:** RF screened, gold-plated terminals in vertical block, four per speaker for bi-wiring (mono-wiring links provided).
- **Frequency response:** 45Hz – 30kHz
- **Sensitivity:** 86dB (2.83 V/1m)
- **Nominal impedance:** 8 ohms
- **Recommended amplifier power:** 20W – 100W
- **Dimensions:** 296x194x278mm (HxWxD)
- **Weight:** 5.2kg each (net weight)

The Wharfedale Diamond 10.1 loudspeaker is available from July, with a suggested retail price of £199.95 per pair. Four high-quality cabinet finish options are available at launch – black, rosewood, cherry and walnut – ensuring the Diamond 10.1 is an impressive addition to any home.

Wharfedale

British loudspeakers have always enjoyed an excellent reputation around the world, and Wharfedale is perhaps the most famous brand of all. Stretching back to 1932, when Gilbert Briggs, Wharfedale's founder, built his first speaker in the cellar of his Yorkshire home, Wharfedale has been responsible for some of the most famous speakers ever produced – like the Diamond, for instance. The first Wharfedale Diamond was launched in 1981, and was immediately acclaimed for its ability to deliver high-quality sound from a compact and affordable design; subsequent generations cemented this reputation, making the Diamond the most famous 'budget bookshelf' speaker of all – the classic entry point to high-fidelity sound.

Wharfedale has been part of the International Audio Group since 1998, following its acquisition from Verity Group (alongside Quad). At the time, Wharfedale's finest years appeared to be over, yet IAG has worked tirelessly to ensure Wharfedale reclaims its position at the forefront of loudspeaker design. Since the Millennium, the Diamond name has returned with a bang, with successive ranges earning multiple awards for their exceptional 'sound per pound' performance. Now, in celebration of Wharfedale's 75th anniversary, 2009 sees the release of the best Diamond range yet: the Diamond 10 Series.

www.wharfedale.co.uk

IAG

IAG (International Audio Group) is a manufacturer of audio equipment for domestic and professional use, plus professional lighting systems and luxury yachts. With its headquarters and manufacturing facilities in Asia and offices in the UK and North America, IAG is a manufacturer with a truly global reach.

IAG's audio business employs more than 2,000 people worldwide. Its factory complex in Shenzhen, China, is one of the largest custom-designed consumer electronics manufacturing facilities in the world and benefits from an exceptional level of vertical integration, with all component parts – even the tooling – made in-house. Each of the Group's five domestic audio brands – Audiolab, Castle Acoustics, Mission, Quad and Wharfedale – enjoys a worldwide reputation for excellence, with British origins and an illustrious history that stretches back decades. Top-class British audio engineering remains critical to each of these brands, with world-renowned designer Peter Comeau leading an acoustic design team brimming with international talent.

The combination of rich brand heritage, purpose-built production facilities in China and experienced audio engineers from around the globe makes IAG a unique proposition in the world of consumer electronics.

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