

WHARFEDALE Diamond 12.C Light Oak

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Since
1982,

Wharfedale's famous Diamond speakers have served as the classic entry point to true high-fidelity sound, their exceptional sonic value for money earning numerous 'product of the year' accolades in the UK and around the world. This autumn, with the introduction of the all-new Diamond 12 Series, Wharfedale once again raises the bar for affordable, high-performance loudspeakers.

To develop the new range, Wharfedale has collaborated with world-renowned speaker designer Karl-Heinz Fink for the first time. Fink's track record of delivering class-leading sound from modestly priced speakers is exceptional and with the Diamond 12 Series, he and Wharfedale's team of acoustic engineers have achieved a new entry-level benchmark.

Wharfedale determined that the Diamond 12 Series should be an opportunity to start afresh. A challenge was issued to Mr Fink: how much sonic performance can you wring from a range of speakers at classic Diamond price points? And so, he and Wharfedale's team set to work, delivering clean-sheet designs without a single part unaltered from the outgoing - and more costly - Diamond 11 Series.

Klarity - The Difference is Clear

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Since
the
Diamond
8 Series
in 2001,
Wharfedale
has
made
the
mid/bass
cones
for every
Diamond

generation
from
Kevlar.
19 years
and
many
award-
winning
ranges
later,
Wharfedale
has
developed
a new
composite
called
Klarity™ .
The
chief
ingredient
of
Klarity™
is
polypropylene,
a
material
that has
been
used to
make
speaker
cones
since
the BBC
researched
its use
for this
purpose
in the
1970s.
Polypropylene
cones
are
renowned
for their
characteristically
low
distortion
and
controlled
'breakup',
as well
as their
resistance
to
moisture
in the
air. They
also
have a
reputation

in some quarters for sounding a little 'unexciting' - a perception that is largely the result of mediocre engineering.

Bass/Mid Drivers, Cone Surround, Magnet and Voice Coil

When designed and implemented optimally, polypropylene cones can sound enthralling.

In the past, polypropylene cones have often been combined with high-damping surrounds to achieve a smooth response curve.

However, the hysteresis of these surrounds can restrict dynamics and make bass sound a little 'soft'.

For the Diamond 12 Series, the aim was to combine the Klarity™ cone with a low-damping surround, thereby

achieving both low colouration and expressive dynamics. This was not a simple task but, by simulating many different cone shapes and adding ribs to provide further stiffening, a flat response curve was achieved without resorting to a high-damping surround, thereby striking the ideal balance. The Klarity™ diaphragms are driven by a substantial, precision-made magnet system with an aluminium compensation ring to minimise the effect of variations in inductance as the voice coil

travels.
This
contributes
to an
absence

Treble Unit and Crossover

of
distortion
and
intermodulation
generated

Treble Unit and Crossover

by the
motor
system.

The
Diamond
12

The
voice
coil is
wound
on a
high-
power
epoxy/glass

Series'
treble
unit
sports a
25mm
dome
made

fibre
bobbin -
highly
unusual
in

from a
woven
polyester
film with
a high-
loss

speakers
at this
price
level.

coating
to
deliver
open

This has
the
advantage

and
smoothly
extended

of not
adding

high
frequencies.

eddy
currents
and
delivering

The
magnet
system
and the

greater
power
handling
than an

front
plate
have

aluminium
bobbin,
whilst

been
optimised
for wide
dispersion

also
being
much
stiffer

and
uncompressed
behaviour.

than the
Kapton
type.

The
front
plate is
flat and
exposes

the
dome as
much as
possible,
with a
short
duct to

balance
the
acoustic
load and
improve
the SPL
(sound
pressure
level)
measurement.

The
treble
unit
combines
seamlessly
with the
mid/bass
driver
via a
crossover
network
using an
acoustic
LKR
24dB
topology.

This
includes
air core
inductors
of the
type
more
commonly
found in
high-end
speakers,
selected
because
they
produce
the
lowest
distortion
of all
inductor
types.

As the
resistance
of the
coil is
higher
than a
standard
laminated
steel or
ferrite
core
inductor,
the
magnetic

structure of the mid/bass driver has been modified to compensate resulting in fast, clean bass with no distortion from the inductor.

[Cabinet Construction](#) Page not Constructed yet. Unknown

Cabinet Construction

The cabinet is a critical part of any high-performance loudspeaker.

At entry-level price points, corners are often cut to constrain cost, but this is a mistake; no matter how good the drive units, their performance will be wasted if the cabinet's construction is suboptimal.

For this reason, Diamond 12 Series speakers feature cabinets constructed with a level of sophistication usually reserved for much more expensive

designs.
The rear-ported enclosure of each model is precisely sized so that the internal volume works in harmony with the drive unit system to deliver the desired sonic result. The cabinet walls are made from sections of wood fibre board of varying thickness, constructed in such a way as to subdue the identifiable characteristics of the cabinet's 'sound' and ensure the drivers' output remains unsullied. The resonant properties of each element - even the glue - were

considered
to
determine
the ideal
combination
of
materials
and
placement.
Inside
the
cabinet,
Intelligent
Spot
Bracing
connects
opposing
walls
with a
specific
form of
wood
brace to
achieve
optimal
reduction
of
cabinet
resonance.
These
braces
are
precisely
modelled
by
computer
simulation
to
improve
upon the
commonplace
'figure of
eight'
brace,
which
can
have the
effect of
transferring
resonance
from one
wall to
another.

Speaker type	2-way centre speaker
Enclosure type	Closed-box system
Treble driver	25mm textile dome
Mid/bass driver	130mm Klarity™ cone
Dedicated bass driver	N/A
Sensitivity (2.83v @ 1m)	90dB
Recommended amp power	20-120W
Peak SPL	96dB
Nominal impedance	8Ω compatible
Minimum impedance	4Ω
Frequency response (+/-3dB)	90Hz-20kHz
Bass extension (-6dB)	80Hz
Crossover frequency	2.2kHz
Dimensions (HxWxD)	180x480x180mm

Weight

8.5kg