



STAND-MOUNT LOUDSPEAKER OF THE YEAR (UP TO £2,000)

KEF LS50 Meta

Back in 2012, KEF released a product that was originally designed as a homage to the LS3/5a (which used KEF drive units). However, the LS50 quickly developed a life of its own. And now, with the LS50 Meta, one of the best stand-mount loudspeakers of the 2010s might just become one of the best loudspeakers of the 2020s.

The basic form-factor of the loudspeaker remains the same; it's a rear-ported, two-way loudspeaker with the tweeter in the acoustic centre of the mid-bass unit (KEF's well-respected Uni-Q configuration), and a cabinet that uses a resin/GRP compound to produce the gently curved front baffle, with a braced MDF cabinet for the rear and sides. The main differences between original and Meta versions are the changes to the Uni-Q driver, which features the new Metamaterial Absorption Technology or 'MAT'. This is an

“ The original LS50 was loved for its combination of guts and clarity, and now it is gutsier and even clearer than ever.”

internally mounted labyrinth behind the aluminium tweeter at the acoustic centre of the Uni-Q cone. The 30 tubes inside this MAT are designed to absorb different frequencies from about 600Hz on up. The use of MAT reduces the crossover point by about 100Hz too.

In our test, Alan Sircom said, “This is a loudspeaker that images beautifully; there is a three-dimensionality to the sound that both scales well and can cope with everything from small folk combos to large orchestral pieces, remaining surprisingly solid and precise throughout.” He also highlighted that “Vocal presentation in particular is clear and articulate, as you might expect from a loudspeaker designed to carry the LS3/5a baton into the 21st Century.” He summed up by saying, “the original LS50 was loved for its combination of guts and clarity, and now it is gutsier and even clearer than ever.” +

Reviewed in Issue 197

KEF Audio | kef.com

