



KEF Reference Meta 5

HIGHLY COMMENDED
HIGH-END FLOORSTANDING LOUDSPEAKER



KEF's 'Meta' design has been filtering through the entire range. Using Metamaterial Absorption Technology, Meta uses a shallow maze of channels to treat and control the energy from the rear of the UniQ driver used extensively by KEF. This forms the main difference between this model and the Reference 5 three-way, six driver loudspeaker it replaces.

"All the work that the team in Maidstone has done on the latest Reference 5 Meta pays off almost immediately," says Jason Kennedy, praising the strength of the speaker's emotional impact; "These speakers seem particularly adept at delivering this critical facet of the music, arguably the most critical one given that emotional communication is what music is ultimately all about."

He also felt that, "It's safe to say that these cabinets are not adding much if any coloration to the mix, especially in the bass which is both very well extended and powerful, more so than I had expected in truth. This is not a huge loudspeaker in terms of physical volume, yet it's capable of providing the lowest octaves even in a fairly dry room. And this means that double bass and drums have both impact and body that makes for a very satisfying listening experience with a good recording."

Jason also said he "was struck by the image height that these KEFs produce," and concluded that, "clearly the latest KEF Reference 5s are remarkable loudspeakers. The Reference 5 Meta is very revealing and a strong communicator of a key element of music, it gets to the heart of the performance in a way that makes you want to listen longer, and that is after all the point of a great sound system."

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