

WHARFEDALE Diamond 12.4 Walnut Pearl Podnostojeći Zvučnik

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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

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

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

the
result of
mediocre
engineering.
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 of distortion and intermodulation generated by the motor system. The voice coil is wound on a high-power epoxy/glass fibre bobbin - highly unusual in speakers at this price level. This has the advantage of not adding eddy currents and delivering greater power handling than an aluminium bobbin, whilst also being much stiffer than the Kapton type.

Treble Unit and Crossover

The Diamond 12 Series' treble unit sports a 25mm dome made from a woven polyester film with a high-loss coating to deliver open and smoothly extended high frequencies. The magnet system and the front plate have been optimised for wide dispersion and uncompressed behaviour. 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

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

2.5-way floorstand

Enclosure type

Bass reflex

Treble driver

25mm textile dom

Mid/bass driver

150mm Klarity™ c

Dedicated bass driver

150mm Klarity™ c

Sensitivity (2.83v @ 1m)

89dB

Recommended amp power

30-200W

Peak SPL

102dB

Nominal impedance

8Ω compatible

Minimum impedance

5Ω

Frequency response (+/-3dB)	40Hz-20kHz
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Bass extension (-6dB)	35Hz
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Crossover frequency	2.1kHz
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Dimensions (HxWxD)	1150x200x350mm
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Weight (each)	22.4kg
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