

## PRESS RELEASE

# QUAD

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Above: Quad Z-1 loudspeakers in piano lacquered rosewood

## The Sirens' Call: Quad Launches its Z Stars

*Beautifully engineered Z Series speakers slot in between the critically acclaimed S Series and legendary ESL models in Quad's range*

**Cambridgeshire, England** -- Quad unveils its latest loudspeaker range, the Z Series – the first of many new products planned for 2016 in celebration of the distinguished British audio brand's 80<sup>th</sup> year.

Like the S Series, which launched in 2015 to widespread acclaim, the new range combines advanced Kevlar-coned bass and midrange drivers with a specially designed ribbon tweeter. The Z Series takes this fundamental design to a whole new level, however, re-engineering the drive units, crossovers and cabinets to provide the perfect bridge between the entry-level S Series and Quad's classic electrostatic ESL speakers.

The range comprises two standmount models (Z-1 and Z-2) and two floorstanders (Z-3 and Z-4). The Z-1 stands 383mm high and incorporates a 150mm bass/mid cone, while the larger S-2 uses a 175mm bass/mid cone. The two floorstanders sport three-way configurations, coupling a 150mm midrange driver with two 175mm bass drivers in the Z-3, and three 165mm bass drivers in the Z-4.

## **Ribbon tweeter ensures treble soars**

All Z Series models sport a bespoke ribbon treble unit, delivering effortlessly extended high frequencies that are audibly superior to those supplied by typical dome tweeters. The use of a ribbon-based driver is not new to Quad; in fact, the company's first loudspeaker was known as the Corner Ribbon, launched in 1949. Back then, ribbon drivers were delicate affairs, easily prone to burning out if overpowered.

Like the ribbon unit developed for the S Series, the composite sandwich construction of the Z Series ribbon ensures it is robust enough to handle high-powered amplifiers, but at 90x12mm it is significantly larger than the S Series ribbon. In fact, it is the largest ribbon treble unit that Peter Comeau, Director of Acoustic Design for Quad's parent company IAG, has ever worked with, delivering greater sensitivity and bandwidth for even better dynamics and smoother integration with the midrange frequencies.

This large ribbon driver is fully immersed in a powerful magnetic field so that it accomplishes its dual role of being both the voice coil and the sound radiator. This is a key difference between ribbon treble units and conventional dome tweeters, in which the voice coil 'motor' is attached separately to the diaphragm.

As well as delivering excellent transient response and superb musical detail, the sound from the Z Series ribbon treble unit is smooth right up to the highest musical overtones beyond the limits of human hearing. Controlled directivity maintains this sound quality over a wide horizontal arc to cover all listeners whilst vertical dispersion is tailored to avoid floor and ceiling reflections, resulting in the purest high frequency performance at the listening seat.

## **Kevlar cones deliver bulletproof sound**

Designed especially for the Z Series, the speakers' bass and midrange drive units use cones fashioned from woven Kevlar – an exceptionally strong yet light aramid fibre that is as ideally suited to speaker diaphragms as it is body armour. A key feature of these drive units is their unique double-roll cone surround, which controls breakup modes to enhance accuracy and transparency, coupled to a cast aluminum basket providing a stable chassis for the driver motor systems, thus enhancing transient performance.

All the Z Series models feature acoustic filter bass reflex loading. This incorporates a dual-chamber filter system inside the cabinet, with the reflex port exiting via a specially shaped expansion chamber in the plinth that is filled with resistive foam. The result is the sensitivity and extension expected from a bass reflex system but with the clarity and transient attack of a closed box design, entirely avoiding the turbulence and 'chuffing' often associated with conventionally ported speakers.

The treble, midrange and bass units are aligned via a phase-compensated Acoustic Butterworth crossover devised using advanced computer-aided design coupled with hundreds of hours of listening tests with all manner of music. Effortless sonic expression results, capturing all the nuances and passion of the original musical performance with a beguiling fluidity and hear-through transparency reminiscent of Quad's world-famous ESL electrostatic speakers, available in a range of cabinet sizes to suit any room.

### **Cunningly constructed cabinets with comely curves**

Every Z Series model sports a cabinet constructed from multiple layers of wood fibre composites of varying density, extensively strengthened using multiple circumferential braces, all of which reduces panel resonance to below the level of audibility. Internal long hair fibre damping helps to absorb unwanted reflections in conjunction with the scattering effect of the curved cabinet sides, thus minimising coloration.

Each speaker is endowed with a luxurious piano lacquered finish, splendidly complementing the elegantly boat-tailed sides and smoothly curved top. Multiple layers of piano lacquer are applied over black, white or rosewood veneers, each layer being hand-polished to a high gloss before the next layer is applied. This gives magnificent depth and colour to the speakers' exterior – an impeccably crafted appearance to match their compelling sonic performance.

Commenting on the design of the Quad Z Series, Peter Comeau said: "The Z Series is the pinnacle of Quad's enclosure speakers and features the largest ribbon treble unit that I've ever used, giving the Z Series a clarity and definition throughout the upper midrange and treble that is utterly beguiling. This combines with the acoustic filter bass reflex system and low-coloration enclosure to deliver the perfect embodiment of the natural sonic realism that is the hallmark of Quad, in line with the company's traditional dictum: 'The Closest Approach To The Original Sound'."

### **Recommended retail prices**

Z-1: £1199.95 per pair

Z-2: £1499.95 per pair

Z-3: £2499.95 per pair

Z-4: £3199.95 per pair

The Quad Z Series is available from March in piano lacquered black, white or rosewood.



**Above:** Quad Z-1 in piano rosewood



**Above:** Quad Z-4 in piano black, piano white and piano rosewood

Specifications	Z-1	Z-2	Z-3	Z-4
Configuration	Two-way standmount	Two-way standmount	Three-way floorstander	Three-way floorstander
Tweeter	90x12mm true ribbon	90x12mm true ribbon	90x12mm true ribbon	90x12mm true ribbon
Midrange (or bass/mid) drive units	150mm woven Kevlar	175mm woven Kevlar	150mm woven Kevlar	150mm woven Kevlar
Bass drive units	N/A	N/A	2x 175mm woven Kevlar	3x 165mm woven Kevlar
Bass system	Acoustic filter bass reflex	Acoustic filter bass reflex	Acoustic filter bass reflex	Acoustic filter bass reflex
Sensitivity (2.83V @ 1m)	86dB	86db	89dB	90dB
Rec. amp power	40-150W	40-200W	60-250W	60-250W
Nominal impedance	8 Ohms	8 Ohms	6 Ohms	4 Ohms
Frequency response (+/-3dB)	56Hz ~ 20kHz	50Hz ~ 20kHz	50Hz ~ 20kHz	47Hz ~ 20kHz
Bass extension (-6dB)	48Hz	45Hz	45Hz	40Hz
Crossover frequency	3.4kHz	3.4kHz	450Hz & 3.6kHz	300Hz & 3.5kHz
Cabinet volume	10L	15L	34L	43L
Dimensions (HxWxD)	383x219x283mm	421x243x329mm	965x267x340mm	1175x267x340mm

## QUAD

Of all the British high-end hi-fi brands, Quad boasts the longest and most distinguished history. The company has been at the cutting edge of audio since 1936, continually pushing back the boundaries of performance with technologies both new and established. In 1953, the Quad II valve amplifier was launched, setting new standards for audio amplification, and three years later Quad invented the first full-range electrostatic speaker – later known as the legendary ESL 57.

Throughout the ensuing years, Quad products have continued to win worldwide acclaim, building a reputation for excellence that bears comparison with the most distinguished brands in any field. Quad has been part of the International Audio Group (IAG) since 1998, following its acquisition from the Verity Group (alongside Wharfedale). The company's design and technical support teams and much-admired servicing department continue to be based in Cambridgeshire, England, supported by key personnel who have worked with Quad for decades.

IAG's exceptional resources and unrivalled audio manufacturing facilities ensure that Quad's current range boasts many award-winning products, including the latest generation of ESL electrostatic speakers, class-leading valve amplifiers, dynamic 'box' speakers and a range of solid-state audio electronics that fuse high-end performance with innovative connectivity. 80 years after its formation, Quad continues to be driven by the philosophy of its founder, Peter Walker, to produce "the closest approach to the original sound".

[www.quad-hifi.co.uk](http://www.quad-hifi.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 (including R&D) 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 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. The Group's domestic audio brands – Audiolab, Castle Acoustics, Luxman, Mission, Quad and Wharfedale – all enjoy a worldwide reputation for excellence, with illustrious histories that stretch back decades. World-renowned British and European audio talent continues to lie at the heart of these brands, spearheading design and engineering teams brimming with international pedigree.

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.

[www.iaguk.com](http://www.iaguk.com)



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