

PRESS RELEASE

QUAD

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Above: Quad 9AS in high-gloss black finish

Distinguished hi-fi brand Quad gets active

As suited to desktops and studios as they are to living rooms, Quad's latest speakers incorporate 100 watts of amplification and a wide range of digital and analogue inputs

Cambridgeshire, England -- Quad, the distinguished British audio brand, is delighted to unveil the 9AS – a pair of compact active speakers combining top-notch build quality, excellent audio engineering and exceptional flexibility for a wide range of high-resolution audio applications.

The term 'active' refers to the inclusion of power amplification in each speaker, negating the need for a separate power amp. A DAC is also incorporated, allowing the input of digital signals from desktop and laptop computers, disc players and other digital devices, in addition to analogue inputs, while preamp functionality allows users to switch between multiple digital and analogue sources, and also adjust volume levels on the speaker or via remote control. Simply add music from your chosen source; no other components are required.

First and foremost, the Quad 9AS is a high-performance compact loudspeaker, small enough to sit on a desk or shelf, yet large enough to deliver a powerful and detailed high-resolution sound. Easily attaining the sonic accuracy required of a near-field studio monitor, the 9AS displays its heritage with a smooth frequency response, supplemented by a three-position bass EQ facility that equalises the low-frequency response for free standing, shelf and close-to-wall mounting. You can be sure that wherever these speakers are used – whether at home or in a studio environment – they deliver crisp, clear and musically insightful results.

Excellent versatility

The Quad 9AS offers a remarkably wide range of inputs to suit multiple source components, from PCs, Apple Macs and portable audio devices, to traditional hi-fi components. Digital connections are provided via asynchronous USB and S/PDIF (optical and coaxial), all capable of receiving audio data up to 24-bit/192kHz, supplemented by line-level RCA inputs for analogue signals. A side-mounted 3.5mm input is also included for convenient connection of portable audio devices.

Each 9AS pair comprises a ‘master’ and a ‘slave’, both containing 100 watts of audiophile-grade Class AB power amplification (much higher quality than the Class D amplification found in many active speakers). The master speaker accepts all inputs and handles volume and input selection, operated via a neat touch-sensitive panel on the base of the speaker (a remote control is also supplied), while the slave speaker is fed via a line-level output from the master speaker. An output for an external subwoofer facilitates ultra-low frequency extension where required – Quad’s recently launched, compact yet powerful L-ite Plus Subwoofer is a perfect match, both aesthetically and sonically.

Technical prowess

Many active speakers simply shoehorn their electronics into the speaker cabinet, but not so the Quad 9AS. To enable optimum performance, maximum internal volume is given over to the drive units, while the amplifier is housed in a cast aluminium chassis bonded to the base of the cabinet. This aids low frequency performance whilst also ensuring efficient heat dissipation.

For digital signals, amplification begins with the same high-precision 24-bit/192kHz DAC found in Quad’s Elite CD players. All signals are passed, via a low-noise electronic volume control, to twin Class AB power amplifiers tailored to the individual drive units in each speaker: a classic Quad mid/bass unit with a 100mm woven Kevlar cone, plus a newly designed 25mm fabric dome tweeter with a waveguide incorporated into its front plate. These drivers are coupled via a sophisticated Butterworth crossover network, modelled to provide the exact acoustic integration demanded by Quad’s speaker engineers.

The incorporation of multiple digital and analogue inputs, pre-amplification and power amplification in a pair of compact speakers delivers obvious space-saving convenience and versatility, augmented by the three bass EQ settings to ensure suitability for a variety of locations. This design approach has benefits in terms of sound quality, too, ensuring short signal paths and perfectly matched amplification thanks to Quad’s integrated engineering approach. Each 9AS speaker can be switched into and out of standby via a standard 12V trigger signal, further increasing versatility in a custom installation environment.

Price, finish and availability

A compact active speaker delivering excellent sound, build quality and versatility, the Quad 9AS is available from this month with an SRP of £599.95 per pair. Each speaker is beautifully finished in a choice of high-gloss black, high-gloss white or ruby red – yet another superb example of “the closest approach to the original sound” from Britain’s oldest and most distinguished high-end audio brand.

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Specifications	Quad 9AS
Configuration	Active; two-way; bass reflex
Tweeter	1 x 25mm fabric dome with waveguide
Mid/bass drivers	1 x 100mm woven Kevlar cone
Digital inputs	1 x asynchronous USB; 1x optical; 1x coaxial
Analogue inputs	1 x pair line-level RCA; 1 x 3.5mm auxiliary
DAC	24-bit/192kHz
Input sensitivity	400mV
Amplifier power output	Rated: 100W per speaker (peak: 200W per speaker)
Peak SPL	110dB
Frequency response (± 3 dB)	100Hz – 23kHz
Bass extension (± 6 dB)	47Hz
Crossover frequency	2.5kHz
Standby power consumption	0.5W
Cabinet volume	4.3L
Dimensions (HxWxD)	302x152x215mm
Net weight	9.4kg

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. 77 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

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 Shenzhen, 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. Top-class British audio engineering remains critical to these brands, with world-renowned designer Peter Comeau leading an acoustic design team brimming with international talent.

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



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