

## PRESS RELEASE

# Wharfedale

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Above (left to right): Reva-2 in piano white, Reva-2 in deep rosewood, Reva-4 in piano black

## VIVA LA REVA!

*Wharfedale's award-winning Diamond range is joined by Reva – a premium loudspeaker series with exquisitely refined performance and aesthetics*

**Huntingdon, England** -- The Diamond range from Wharfedale, Britain's best-known loudspeaker brand, has long served as the classic entry point to true high-fidelity sound. Its latest iteration, the Diamond 200 Series, continues to earn accolades for its impressive design and performance at low price points, which set Wharfedale's engineers thinking: "If we were to take key design elements from the Diamond 200 Series and raise the target retail price, thus reducing cost constraints, what could we achieve?"

The result is the Reva Series, a premium Wharfedale speaker range that incorporates many of the same design principles as the Diamond 200 Series, but ups the ante with advanced techniques and materials to further raise the bar both sonically and aesthetically. The range consists of two standmount models (Reva-1 and Reva-2), two floorstanding speakers (Reva-3 and Reva-4) and a centre speaker for home cinema systems (Reva-C), all combining a 25mm textile dome tweeter with one or more woven glass fibre bass/midrange cones.

The compact Reva-1 incorporates a 115mm bass/mid driver, while the Reva-2 uses a larger 125mm unit. The two floorstanding models sport 2.5-way configurations, combining a 115mm midrange driver with two 125mm bass/mid cones in the Reva-3 and a pair of 150mm bass/mid drivers in the Reva-4. The Reva-C is a two-way design, incorporating twin 115mm bass/mid drivers.

## **Panel Show**

A vital part of the design of the Diamond 200 Series is the sandwich construction of its cabinet panels. Research carried out during the speakers' development analysed how specific combinations of particleboard and MDF react acoustically. This combination of multiple layers of differing density resulted in a significant reduction of panel resonance and coloration caused by 'cabinet hear-through'.

With this winning formula tried and tested, a similar approach was carried out with Reva, this time adding additional layers to the matrix. This multi-layer wood combination is then bonded together in a heated press to form the structure of Reva's fashionably curved panels. The result is more than just aesthetically pleasing, achieving a strong, low-resonance structure that further reduces the occurrence of sonically deleterious internal standing waves, whilst virtually eradicating sonic bleed-through from inside the cabinet.

## **Slot Stuff**

Another technology developed from the Diamond 200 Series is Wharfedale's signature Slot-Loaded Distributed Port. Instead of a conventional circular reflex port, all Reva models incorporate a port that exits at the base of the speaker cabinet, loaded by a slot that is created by the plinth. This equalises the air pressure to mimic that inside the cabinet, allowing smooth transition between the pressure variation in the cabinet and the low frequency sound developed in the room.

This not only reduces the distortion that is typical of ported bass reflex systems, it also increases the port's efficiency. As a result, Reva speakers deliver deep, articulate and well-integrated bass that maintains the accuracy necessary for transient impact and articulation, even when positioned close to a wall.

## **Hard Driving**

Wharfedale speakers benefit from being designed, engineered and manufactured in a completely vertically integrated process. This enables the drivers to be developed in tandem with the cabinets – the various parts are designed and manufactured in Wharfedale's factory rather than being bought in 'off-the-shelf' as competitors are forced to do. This ensures that everything works together seamlessly, without compromise.

For the Reva Series, a proprietary glass-fibre weave was engineered for the bass and midrange cones to match the acoustic properties of the new cabinet. The finely knit cross-weave produces an ultra-rigid yet lightweight diaphragm, able to react to the smallest of musical transients with great accuracy. A phase plug controls the output from the centre of the diaphragm, avoiding frequency cancellation and enabling a smoother crossover to the treble unit, while a cast alloy chassis ensures dynamic rigidity.

The Reva Series' 25mm treble unit sports a new, fine-weave textile dome, critically damped via a special coating and powered by a neodymium magnet fitted with a finned heat sink to reduce dynamic compression. This tweeter delivers excellent bandwidth, with a smooth response from 2kHz to above 20kHz, and is mounted on a dished waveguide to enhance dispersion.

The drivers are combined acoustically via 4<sup>th</sup> order Linkwitz-Riley precision crossover networks, developed through advanced computer modeling and hundreds of hours of listening tests – another critical aspect in ensuring that Reva speakers meet the requirements of discerning music lovers the world over.

## Design for Life

Wharfedale's acoustic engineers worked closely with the company's in-house industrial design team, based in Huntingdon and led by David McNeil, to deliver an ideal balance between form and function. The curved, one-piece cabinets are hand-finished with multiple layers of piano lacquer, each layer polished to a high shine before the next is applied. The look is further embellished with aluminium driver surrounds, anodised and abrasively blasted to produce a soft matt finish – a striking combination with the piano gloss cabinet.

Speaking about the design of the Wharfedale Reva Series, Peter Comeau, Director of Acoustic Design at Wharfedale's parent company IAG, said: "The Reva project was a natural extension of the research we undertook when designing the Diamond 200 Series. We developed many effective techniques and technologies but could only take their implementation so far given the cost constraints imposed by Diamond's low retail prices. Reva enabled us to develop this work further, taking advantage of increased budgets to raise the bar both sonically and aesthetically. The result is a range of speakers that is attractive to the eye, easy to accommodate in a wide range of rooms and capable of delivering music and movie soundtracks with energy, precision and scale, drawing the listener into each and every performance."

## Price and Availability

The Wharfedale Reva Series is available from May in a choice of three luxuriously lacquered finishes: piano black, piano white and deep rosewood. An additional walnut finish will follow later in the summer. RRP's are as follows:

Reva-1: £449.95 per pair  
Reva-2: £599.95 per pair

Reva-3: £999.95 per pair  
Reva-4: £1299.95 per pair

Reva-C: £399.95



Specifications	Reva-1	Reva-2	Reva-3
Configuration	2-way standmount	2-way standmount	2.5-way floorstander
Enclosure type	Bass reflex	Bass reflex	Bass reflex
Port type	Slot-Loaded Distributed Port	Slot-Loaded Distributed Port	Slot-Loaded Distributed Port
Bass/mid Driver(s)	115mm glass fibre	125mm glass fibre	2x 125mm glass fibre
Midrange Driver	N/A	N/A	115mm glass fibre
Tweeter	25mm textile dome	25mm textile dome	25mm textile dome
Sensitivity	86dB	86dB	88dB
Nominal Impedance	8 Ohms Compatible	8 Ohms Compatible	8 Ohms Compatible
Frequency Response	52Hz-20kHz	48Hz-20kHz	40Hz-20kHz
Bass Extension	48Hz	42Hz	37Hz
Crossover Frequency	2kHz	2kHz	450Hz & 2.6kHz
Cabinet Volume	6.4L	11.2L	29L
Dimensions (HxWxD)	317x172x235mm	357x204x275mm	880x226x290mm
Weight (each)	5.6kg	7.8kg	17.8kg

Specifications	Reva-4	Reva-C
Configuration	2.5-way floorstander	2-way centre speaker
Enclosure type	Bass reflex	Bass reflex
Port type	Slot-Loaded Distributed Port	2x reflex ports
Bass/mid Driver(s)	2x 150mm glass fibre	2x 115mm glass fibre
Midrange Driver	115mm glass fibre	N/A
Tweeter	25mm textile dome	25mm textile dome
Sensitivity	88dB	87dB
Nominal Impedance	8 Ohms Compatible	8 Ohms Compatible
Frequency Response	38Hz-20kHz	60Hz-20kHz
Bass Extension	35Hz	55Hz
Crossover Frequency	350Hz & 2.6kHz	2.6kHz
Cabinet Volume	46.3L	12.8L
Dimensions (HxWxD)	980x258x330mm	195x520x260mm
Weight (each)	25kg	10.5kg

## Wharfedale

British loudspeakers have always enjoyed an excellent reputation around the world, and Wharfedale is perhaps the most famous brand of all. Stretching back to 1932, when Gilbert Briggs, Wharfedale's founder, built his first speaker in the cellar of his Yorkshire home, Wharfedale has been responsible for some of the most important loudspeakers ever produced, introducing many techniques and technologies that became commonplace, such as the two-way loudspeaker (invented in 1945) and the use of ceramic magnets (pioneered in 1962).

In 1981, Wharfedale launched the first iteration of its groundbreaking Diamond loudspeaker, which was immediately acclaimed for its ability to deliver high-quality sound from a compact and affordable design. Subsequent generations cemented this reputation, making the Diamond the most famous 'budget bookshelf' speaker of all – the classic entry point to high-fidelity sound.

Wharfedale has been part of the International Audio Group since 1998, following its acquisition from Verity Group (alongside Quad). At the time, Wharfedale's finest years appeared to be over, yet IAG has worked tirelessly to ensure Wharfedale reclaims its position at the forefront of loudspeaker design. Since the Millennium, the Diamond name has returned with gusto, with successive ranges earning multiple awards for their exceptional 'sound per pound' performance. In 2016, 84 years after its formation, Wharfedale continues its quest to deliver excellent sound quality and value-for-money with a wide range of class-leading Bluetooth, standmount and floorstanding loudspeakers.

[www.wharfedale.co.uk](http://www.wharfedale.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.

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