

For Immediate Release

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Above: Wharfedale Diamond A1 (left) and Diamond A2 (right) with high-gloss white baffle and black leatherette surround

Wharfedale's Active Gems

Diamond Active Series stereo speakers combine Wharfedale's award-winning acoustic design with 'True Wireless' freedom for modern digital lifestyles

Huntingdon, England – The Diamond Active Series from Wharfedale, Britain's best-known loudspeaker brand, delivers wireless connectivity with a difference. Whilst not the first stereo speakers to offer integrated amplification and Bluetooth connectivity with compatible devices including smartphones, tablets and computers, their clever 'True Wireless' technology ensures greater flexibility than many such designs. This, combined with Wharfedale's award-winning sonic know-how, delivers levels of convenience and performance that separate the Diamond Active Series from the rest of the wireless speaker crowd.

The Diamond Active Series comprises two models: the Diamond A1, a classic 'bookshelf'-size speaker (31.5cm high), and the Diamond A2, a larger floorstanding design (91.2cm high). Both models come in pairs, in the manner of traditional stereo hi-fi speakers, and include a 50W amplifier in each speaker to deliver a combined 'system power' of 100W.

Therein lies the hub

Many ostensibly similar stereo-paired Bluetooth speakers incorporate the amp circuitry and Bluetooth receiver in one speaker, with a cable connecting this powered speaker to a second, passive speaker. This means that while you can connect your playback device to the speakers wirelessly, the cable between them limits the speakers' placement.

Wharfedale's Diamond Active Series speakers work differently. They include an advanced wireless hub, to which the playback device is paired via Bluetooth (with support for the sonically superior aptX codec). The H1 hub then conveys the left and right audio signals to the appropriate speaker via uncompressed wireless transmission, allowing greater freedom in terms of positioning. As well as removing the need for the speakers to be connected together via a cable – that's why we call it 'True Wireless' – the fact that each speaker incorporates its own 50W amplifier helps to ensure consistent, fully optimised stereo sound.

To enable interference-free wireless transmission, the H1 hub avoids the often-crowded 2.4GHz frequency band, focusing on 5.8GHz instead. The intelligent wireless module has the ability to switch automatically between frequencies when required, thus avoiding any local interference wherever the speakers are sited. Each speaker may be placed up to 20m from the hub, giving exceptional positioning flexibility; the only other siting requirement is that both speakers, with their dedicated amplifiers, need to be plugged into the mains.



A range of cable inputs further enhances the H1 hub's versatility: digital inputs are supplied in both optical and coaxial flavours, while two RCA-phono inputs cater for analogue sources. Touch-sensitive controls on the hub's top surface allow convenient adjustment of volume and input switching, while a remote control adds even greater convenience.

Additional controls on the speakers' rear include bass adjustment (+/- 6dB), allowing the user to tailor low frequencies to suit the speakers' position in the room. Each speaker can be selected as either 'left' or 'right' in a stereo configuration; a mono mode is also available if the speakers' positioning is not suited to stereo. This mode can even be used to create a simple two-room setup – useful, for example, if the user is entertaining friends and wishes to place one speaker in the living room and one in the kitchen.

Diamonds deliver sonic sparkle

The speakers' sonic performance benefits greatly from Wharfedale's acoustic expertise, with many elements developed from the latest '200 Series' iteration of the company's classic Diamond loudspeakers. Both Diamond Active models sport proprietary bass/mid drivers with woven Kevlar cones – one 130mm unit in the A1 and two 165mm units in the A2 – as featured in the Diamond 200 Series. The cones incorporate semi-elliptical 'break-up' areas, which smooth the response throughout the audible range, while rear-firing reflex ports augment the bass.

The 25mm fabric dome tweeter is also derived from the Diamond 200 Series, incorporating a precision-drive magnet system and a meticulously designed waveguide around the diaphragm for optimal dispersion. The drive units are combined via a sophisticated crossover network, specifically developed to optimise the performance of the Diamond Active speakers' integrated amplifier/driver configuration, delivering a cohesive performance that is bold and engaging, yet also impressively refined.



Both models combine design cues from the Diamond 200 Series – such as the silver-coloured, diamond-cut drive unit surrounds – with fresh touches to give the Diamond Active models their own distinct identity. Rounded cabinet edges lend the speakers a contemporary air, with the top and sides smoothly wrapped in black leatherette; a refreshing alternative to traditional cabinet finishes. The front baffle is available in a choice of high-gloss black or high-gloss white, the latter providing a striking contrast for those who like their speakers to make a strong visual impression.

Wharfedale's Diamond Active speakers are available from November, with RRP's of £599.95 per pair for the Diamond A1 and £999.95 per pair for the Diamond A2 (including the H1 wireless hub). Together, they form an expertly engineered bridge between classic hi-fi loudspeakers and contemporary digital lifestyles.

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Specifications – Speakers	Wharfedale Diamond Active A1	Wharfedale Diamond Active A2
Configuration	2-way bookshelf	2.5-way floorstander
Enclosure type	Bass reflex	Bass reflex
Bass/mid driver(s)	130mm woven Kevlar	2x 165mm woven Kevlar
Tweeter	25mm fabric dome with waveguide	25mm fabric dome with waveguide
Built-in amplification	100W system power (50W per speaker)	100W system power (50W per speaker)
Peak SPL	95dB	96dB
Frequency response	55Hz-20kHz	40Hz-20kHz
Bass extension	50Hz	35Hz
Cabinet volume	7.6L	38L
Dimensions (HxWxD)	315x186x220mm	912x210x300mm

Specifications – Wireless Hub	Wharfedale H1 Hub
Bluetooth input	aptX (priority); SBC
Digital cable inputs (24-bit/96kHz)	1x coaxial; 1x optical
Analogue cable inputs	2x RCA-phono
Wireless output	5.8GHz uncompressed
Wireless range	20m
Touch-sensitive controls	Yes
Remote control	Yes
Dimensions (HxWxD)	28.8x150x156mm

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

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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