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Above Wharfedale EVO4 Series speakers in black, walnut and white wood veneers

Sound EVOLved

EVO4 Series speakers harness concepts and technologies from Wharfedale's flagship Elysian project to deliver high-end performance without upscale price tags

Cambridgeshire, England – Heavenly high-end sound at refreshingly down-to-earth prices is the promise fulfilled by the new EVO4 Series from Wharfedale, Britain's best-known loudspeaker brand.

With prices starting at £449 per pair, the EVO4 Series sits between the existing Diamond 11 Series and Wharfedale's forthcoming, flagship Elysian speakers. The initial range comprises six models: two standmount speakers (EVO4.1 and 4.2), two floorstanders (EVO4.3 and 4.4), a large home cinema centre speaker (EVO4.C) and a surround speaker designed for on-wall siting (EVO4.S). A more compact centre speaker (EVO4.CS) will be added to the range towards the end of the year.

The EVO4 Series was developed concurrently with the Elysian project and benefits from the same extensive R&D processes. Much engineering and technology is shared between these speakers and the family resemblance is obvious, from the substantial cabinets with their curved sides to the sophisticated driver array, the like of which you would not expect to see in speakers so affordably

priced. There is no attempt to cheat the laws of physics with diminutive cabinets and modest driver arrays; these are serious speakers that play music with authentic power and poise.

Feel the high

Developed from the Air Motion Transformer (AMT) high-frequency unit created for Elysian, EVO4's AMT unit utilises a radically different way of moving air compared to conventional dome tweeters. A large, pleated, lightweight diaphragm is driven across its surface by rows of strategically placed magnets. The pleats in the diaphragm contract and expand under the influence of the musical drive, squeezing the air between them to form the desired waveform.

Not only is this an efficient way of moving air, it is also highly accurate as the diaphragm is under close control of the motor system at all times. The result is a wide bandwidth transducer that achieves extremely low distortion and wonderful musical detail, with scintillating speed and dynamic ability.



Fast drivers All the three-way EVO4 Series models combine an AMT treble unit, fabric dome midrange unit and bass drivers with Kevlar cones

Dome is where the heart is

To match to the AMT treble unit, Wharfedale has developed a fast and responsive dome midrange driver with wide bandwidth, assisted by the incorporation of a damped rear chamber. This unit is used by all the three-way EVO4 speakers – every model bar the two-way EVO4.1.

The soft fabric dome, damped with a plasticiser coating, is vented aperiodically into a specially shaped rear chamber that is profiled to scatter and absorb rear energy from the dome. This results in a linear response from 800Hz to 5kHz – a remarkable bandwidth from such a midrange unit.

Thanks to its high-flux magnet, the EVO4 midrange dome also has a high efficiency, ideally matched to that of the AMT treble unit, enabling it to respond rapidly to the dynamics of the music. The wide dispersion of this dome and AMT combination ensures that listeners hear all the musical detail, no matter where they are seated, putting them right at the heart of the music.

Bass instinct

The EVO4 Series' bass drivers utilise the advanced, low-distortion motor system developed for the Elysian bass units, married to a woven Kevlar cone fitted with a low-loss rubber surround. This gives a wide bandwidth drive unit that is equally adept at producing powerful bass and a natural-sounding lower midrange.

Wharfedale's engineers have been working with Kevlar – an exceptionally strong yet lightweight aramid fibre, ideally suited to speaker diaphragms – for two decades. The experience gained over multiple product generations has enabled Wharfedale to continually refine its use of the material, producing natural-sounding drive units that reveal impressive instrumental texture.



White magic The EVO4.1 standmount speaker is the only two-way model in the EVO4 Series, shown here in white wood veneer

Slot machine

Bass performance is augmented by the most advanced version of Wharfedale's signature slot-loaded port yet devised. Christened SLPP (Slot Loaded Profiled Port), it ensures that the rear output of the bass units is not wasted. Instead, the lowest frequency energy is vented to a slot at the base of the speaker, specially profiled to equalise the high internal pressure to the low pressure in the room.

This reduces the distortion that is typical of ported bass reflex systems and also increases the port's efficiency, further contributing to the speakers' deep, articulate and well-integrated bass. In addition, because the air is dispersed uniformly in the room, the speakers are less fussy about positioning.

Musical crossover

The drivers' output is combined via a sophisticated computer-modelled crossover network that has been developed over hundreds of hours of listening tests, fine-tuned to ensure that the blend between the drive units is seamless and phase consistency is outstanding.

Crossover components have been carefully chosen for their audio transparency and feature high-grade polypropylene capacitors and laminated silicon-iron and air core inductors, laid out to avoid electro-magnetic interference on a specially designed circuit board.

Box clever

A loudspeaker cabinet not only has to support the drive units, provide the tuning for the bass reflex system and contain acoustic damping for the drivers, it also needs to be a piece of furniture of which the owner can be proud. Accordingly, the EVO4 cabinets are hand-finished in handsome wood veneers.

Beneath the veneer is a sandwich of woods of different densities, designed to reduce panel resonance to below audibility. This multi-layer construction also inhibits the leakage of unwanted sound energy from inside the cabinet, which would otherwise interfere with the forward output of the drive units. The baffle's radiused edges smooth the flow of sonic energy around the cabinet, helping to integrate the drivers' output with the room acoustics.



Cinema sound *The EVO4.4 floorstanders and EVO4.C centre speaker form a powerful and articulate front three in a high-class home cinema system*

Exceptional sound at affordable prices

Harnessing materials, techniques and technologies that you would only expect to find in speakers costing many times their price, the Wharfedale EVO4 Series is the epitome of affordable high-end audio. Whatever your choice of music, EVO4 speakers will reproduce it with outstanding accuracy, detailing and realism – a wonderfully expressive sound that articulates the true character of instruments and voices, conveying the passion and excitement of each and every performance.

Speaking about the development of the EVO4 Series, Peter Comeau – Wharfedale's Director of Acoustic Design – said: "Other than some inventive names for 'fancy' cone materials, it might seem that little has changed in moving coil loudspeakers over the past 50 years. That's why it's refreshing to work with the advanced motor systems we've incorporated into the EVO4 Series, along with our version of a dome midrange and an AMT treble unit that has grown out of our research for the Elysian project. This Wharfedale speaker range is distinctly different, yet it continues to do what Wharfedale does best: deliver superb material and sonic value-for-money."

The Wharfedale EVO4 Series is available from October in a choice of black, white or walnut wood veneers. RRP's are as follows:

EVO4.1: £449 per pair

EVO4.3: £999 per pair

EVO4.S: £999 per pair

EVO4.2: £599 per pair

EVO4.4: £1199 per pair

EVO4.C: £499 each

Specifications	EVO4.1	EVO4.2	EVO4.3
Configuration	2-way standmount	3-way standmount	3-way floorstander
Enclosure type	Bass reflex (slot-loaded)	Bass reflex (slot-loaded)	Bass reflex (slot-loaded)
High-frequency driver	30x60mm AMT	30x60mm AMT	30x60mm AMT
Midrange Driver	N/A	50mm fabric dome	50mm fabric dome
Bass driver	130mm Kevlar cone	150mm Kevlar cone	130mm Kevlar cone (x2)
Sensitivity (2.83v @ 1m)	87dB	87dB	88dB
Recommended amp power	25-100W	25-120W	25-150W
Nominal impedance	8 Ohms compatible	8 Ohms compatible	8 Ohms compatible
Frequency response (+/-3dB)	64Hz-22kHz	54Hz-24kHz	48Hz-22kHz
Bass extension (-6dB)	55Hz	48Hz	42Hz
Crossover frequency	2.9kHz	1.4kHz; 3.9kHz	1.3kHz; 4.3kHz
Dimensions (HxWxD)	335x210x285mm	455x250x340mm	875x210x285mm
Weight (each)	7.8kg	13.4kg	22.8kg

Specifications	EVO4.4	EVO4.S	EVO4.C
Configuration	3-way floorstander	3-way surround speaker	3-way centre speaker
Enclosure type	Bass reflex (slot-loaded)	Closed box	Bass reflex (aperiodic ports)
High-frequency driver	30x60mm AMT	30x60mm AMT (x2)	30x60mm AMT
Midrange driver	50mm fabric dome	50mm fabric dome (x2)	50mm fabric dome
Bass driver	150mm Kevlar cone (x2)	150mm Kevlar cone	150mm Kevlar cone (x2)
Sensitivity (2.83v @ 1m)	89dB	88dB	90dB
Recommended amp power	30-200W	25-120W	25-150W
Nominal impedance	8 Ohms compatible	8 Ohms compatible	8 Ohms compatible
Frequency response (+/-3dB)	44Hz-22kHz	70Hz-22kHz	48Hz-22kHz
Bass extension (-6dB)	38Hz	65Hz	42Hz
Crossover frequency	1.4kHz; 4.7kHz	1.5kHz; 4.4kHz	1.5kHz; 3.9kHz
Dimensions (HxWxD)	1060x250x340mm	245x400x145mm	245x750x340mm
Weight (each)	25.6kg	11.8kg	15.8kg



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 Wharfedale's founder Gilbert Briggs 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). Now in its 87th year, Wharfedale continues its quest to deliver excellent sound quality and value-for-money with a wide range of class-leading speakers, both traditional and wireless, including the latest iteration of the famous Diamond line – the classic entry point to high-fidelity sound – and the next level up: the new EVO4 Series.

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