

KEF[®]
INNOVATORS IN SOUND



X Q S E R I E S

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X Q S E R I E S

KEF
INNOVATORS IN SOUND

Sound – especially music – can trigger some of the most profound emotional responses it's possible to experience. What makes the new XQ Series from KEF so special is the ability to reproduce original sound with such depth and clarity that it makes the very essence of that experience come alive. Whether it's exhilaration, awe or mellow relaxation, you feel more.

The 'how?' lies in some of the most advanced audio technologies available anywhere. In the XQ range, KEF's patented Uni-Q® 'point source' driver array has been further enhanced by the addition of an ingenious 'tangerine' waveguide that produces a sweeter sound and disperses it even more widely throughout the room. Every element of the design has been meticulously engineered, from the crossover configuration derived from the legendary Reference Series to cabinets contoured to eliminate box colourations. KEF's renowned build quality and attention to detail is evident throughout, with all models magnetically shielded and perfectly timbre-matched.



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The new range now gives you more choice than its award-winning predecessor; with two majestic floorstanding models, two bookshelf speakers and a truly formidable centre channel. The distinctive and acoustically efficient cabinet shape remains, but there's now a choice of high gloss real wood veneers and a sleek Piano Black. To find out more about each model, turn to the page number shown...



XQ40

FLOORSTANDING EXCELLENCE

Respect is what the XQ40 commands. Not just because it sounds as assertive as it looks, but because of the uncanny illusion of presence it creates. With music or drama, it is as if the original source of the sound were right there in the room.



Flanked by a pair of 165mm (6.5in.) ultra-low distortion LF drivers (independently loaded to neutralise distortion from internal standing waves) for exceptionally fluid bass response, the individually pair-matched Uni-Q midrange/HF array floods even the largest space with an intricately detailed sound image, irrespective of where you happen to be sitting.

Dynamics are crisp and assured, with seamless transitions born from crossover technology based on that of the KEF Reference Series and perfectly matched to the advanced 19mm (0.75in.) tweeter with the new 'tangerine' waveguide. Together these capture nuances of the human voice that you usually only ever hear live. What you experience is a big, expansive sound tempered by a remarkable delicacy. Flawlessly natural imagery, especially with digital formats. Full-bodied emotion under perfect control. It's a beguiling combination.



Piano Black

Birdseye Maple

Khaya Mahogany

Full bandwidth three-way floorstander

Unrivalled off-axis performance from KEF's latest 165mm (6.5in.) Uni-Q midrange/HF array with new 'tangerine' waveguide

Two 165mm (6.5in.) ultra-low distortion bass drivers in dedicated enclosures

Reference Series inspired audiophile grade tiered crossover to eliminate coupling effects

Magnetically shielded, with a choice of three superb high gloss finishes



XQ30

SLIMLINE FLOORSTANDER

Tall, slender and undeniably elegant, the XQ30 is the perfect synergy between performance and size.



The pairing of an ultra-low distortion bass driver with the latest incarnation of KEF's signature Uni-Q 'point source' array for the middle and upper frequencies, disperses a compellingly rich three-dimensional sound field evenly throughout the listening area. Crossover technology developed from the Reference Series assures excellent power handling, along with exceptionally fluid transitions.

The clean organic curves of the cabinet sides are calculated to maximise rigidity while minimising unwanted internal resonance. The result is a refreshingly open, natural response that reproduces the complexities of the recording with equal authority whether you're enjoying instrumentals, vocals or movie effects. With three striking contemporary finishes to choose from (Birdseye Maple, Khaya Mahogany and Piano Black), the aesthetics are as distinguished as the sound. Lucid, lyrical and deeply rewarding.



Piano Black

Birdseye Maple

Khaya Mahogany

An elegant three-way floorstander of uncompromised acoustic integrity

Wide dispersion 130mm (5.25in.) Uni-Q midrange/HF array incorporating high performance elliptical dome tweeter and new 'tangerine' waveguide

130mm (5.25in.) bass driver with KEF's ultra-low distortion motor system

Reference Series inspired audiophile grade tiered crossover to eliminate coupling effects

Magnetically shielded, with a choice of three superb high gloss finishes





XQ20

SOPHISTICATED STAND MOUNT

The XQ20 boasts the same large Uni-Q driver as the flagship XQ40 in a stand mount format, so its mid and treble performance envelope is similarly impressive.

With KEF's sophisticated elliptical dome tweeter mounted in the acoustic centre of the bass/midrange cone, the latest Uni-Q array with 'tangerine' waveguide disperses an uncannily accurate sound image throughout the room with startling clarity, so you have far greater freedom of positioning.

Bass extension is as generous as it is well defined, thanks to an ultra-low-distortion bass/midrange driver in a massively braced reflex-ported enclosure. Engineering excellence is evident throughout, with redesigned magnetics and low mass coils using copper-coated aluminium wire in the bass/midrange drivers, and tiered crossover technology developed for the Reference Series.

As a result, what you hear is exactly what the original artist intended. Musically voiced, articulate and as beautifully built as the rest of the range, the XQ20 comes with the option of matching extruded aluminium stands and the choice of three chic modern finishes.



Piano Black

Birdseye Maple

Khaya Mahogany

Full bandwidth two-way stand mount/
bookshelf speaker

KEF's latest 165mm (6.5in.) Uni-Q midrange/HF
'point source' array with new 'tangerine' waveguide

Natural-sounding high performance elliptical dome
19mm (0.75in.) tweeter

Low distortion 165mm (6.5in.) driver

Magnetically shielded, with a choice of three superb
high gloss finishes and optional stand





XQ10

ACCOMPLISHED BOOKSHELF SPEAKER

Space being at a premium needn't mean compromising on sound quality; many serious audiophiles regard the compact XQ10 bookshelf speaker as the rightful heir to the revered LS3/5a professional studio monitor, which aficionados believe has never been surpassed for its vocal clarity.



Packed with technology derived from the Reference Series, it features KEF's new generation Uni-Q array and 'tangerine' waveguide: a stunningly natural-sounding elliptical dome 19mm (0.75in.) tweeter perfectly time-aligned with the surrounding midrange/bass cone to disperse the sound far more evenly across the listening area than is possible with conventional speakers. Power handling and dynamics are exceptional, and the curved side panels of the reflex-ported cabinet are contoured to eliminate any distortion from internal resonances.

What you experience is a gloriously intricate sound image – pure, clean and true, even when played loud. Whether you prefer string quartets, arias, sax solos or drum and bass, its musicality shines through – and with film or game soundtracks, it has the power to keep you on the edge of your seat. A speaker that's big in everything but size.



Piano Black Birdseye Maple Khaya Mahogany

Two-way bookshelf speaker with excellent power handling and dispersion characteristics

Advanced 130mm (5.25in.) Uni-Q 'point source' array with new 'tangerine' waveguide

Audiophile quality elliptical dome 19mm (0.75in.) tweeter

Outstanding build quality and detailing

Magnetically shielded, with a choice of three superb high gloss finishes



LS3/5a XQ10

Originally developed for the BBC, the LS3/5a is such a legendary product that it has taken 30 years for a loudspeaker to attain similar midrange accuracy – that speaker is the new XQ10.



XQ50c

CENTRE STAGE

The centre channel is the most important speaker in any surround sound home entertainment system, which is why the three-way XQ50c is so lavishly specified.

Like the XQ30 floorstander, the 130mm (5.25in.) central Uni-Q midrange/HF array incorporates the sophisticated elliptical metal dome tweeter and new 'tangerine' waveguide that reproduces any vocals with such unerring accuracy. On either side, a pair of KEF's renowned 130mm (5.25in.) bass drivers in their own dedicated enclosures deliver the hefty frontal slam that brings on-screen action right out into the room. Every component, right down to the tiered high order crossovers developed from the Reference Series, is meticulously engineered to eliminate distortion and capture every last subtlety in the recorded signal.

It's a combination that creates a breathtakingly real sonic image, especially with the latest digital formats such as SACD and DVD-A. Richly expressive, disarmingly natural – and for every viewer, wherever they sit in the room, an utterly compelling experience.



Piano Black



Birdseye Maple



Khaya Mahogany

Slim, full bandwidth three-way centre channel home theatre speaker

130mm (5.25in.) Uni-Q 'point source' array with exceptionally wide, even dispersion

Audiophile quality elliptical dome 19mm (0.75in.) tweeter with new 'tangerine' waveguide for natural-sounding vocals and wide dispersion

Two independently loaded 130mm (5.25in.) bass drivers with ultra-low distortion motors

Magnetically shielded, with a choice of three superb high gloss finishes



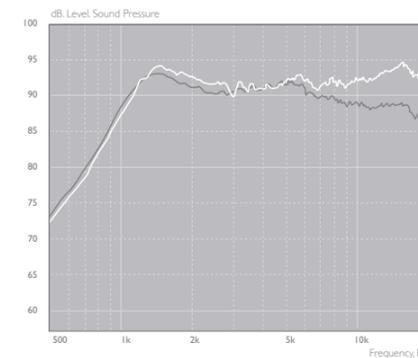
Uni-Q®

ACOUSTIC INTELLIGENCE

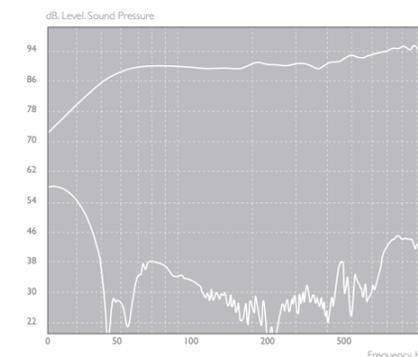
KEF's patented Uni-Q driver configuration is what makes the XQ range sound noticeably better than conventional speakers in normal rooms.

Using aerospace technology to mount the tweeter at the precise acoustic centre of the midrange cone, both act as a single, time-aligned point source that disperses an accurate sound image evenly throughout the room. This has two main benefits: everyone in the room experiences the same accurate 3D effects (as opposed to just those in the conventional 'sweet spot'); and it gives you far greater freedom to position the speakers where it suits you.

The new Uni-Q array in the XQ has been further refined, with a sophisticated new 19mm (0.75in.) elliptical dome tweeter; improved acoustic geometry and 'tangerine' waveguide for even more realistic vocals and even smoother, louder and clearer high frequency response.



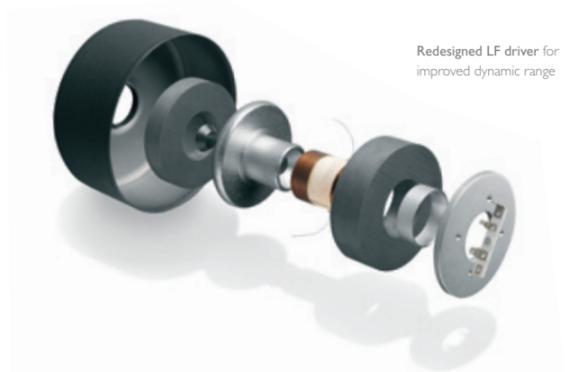
Response comparison – grey line indicates response without the 'tangerine' waveguide, and white with 'tangerine' waveguide



The XQ LF driver – top line indicates the improved and increased dynamic range of the LF driver; the lower line illustrates the reduced harmonic distortion

THE Uni-Q Driver

At the lower frequencies, the new LF drivers are equally impressive. Redesigned magnetics and low mass coils of edge-wound copper coated aluminium wire allow the cone greater length of travel for gloriously extended bass. Faraday loops are also incorporated to improve dynamics and reduce harmonic distortion further still.



Redesigned LF driver for improved dynamic range

The KEF technology advantage doesn't stop there. Inside, there are literally dozens of refinements and innovations, from ultra-low distortion motor systems that deliver a more open, natural sounding bass to audiophile grade tiered crossover technology originally developed for the Reference Series.



KEF Reference Series
– Visionary innovation



Total

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

Everywhere you look, there's evidence of KEF's obsessive attention to build quality.



Titanium finished driver arrays, for example. Ports radiused to exactly the right profile with painstaking care. Extruded aluminium stands that combine stability with discreet style.

Even the shape of the cabinets themselves is determined by acoustic considerations as much as aesthetic ones. As well as being inherently more rigid than flat sides, the distinctive curved panels of the XQ Series are engineered to dissipate any internal standing waves that might otherwise colour the sound over the critical midrange frequencies.



Precision cabinet engineering to eliminate cabinet vibration and colouration

The internal bracing is computer optimised to tailor the exact volume of each enclosure to the drive unit it houses. As simple as it sounds, even an apparently minor innovation like having the grilles held in place by concealed magnets subtly improves the lines of the baffle as well as being a tactile pleasure to use.

Having gone to such lengths to perfect the cabinet design, an equal amount of thought went into selecting finishes of commensurate quality: three sleek new mirror-gloss options (see page 22) in hand matched Birdseye Maple or Khaya Mahogany veneers as well as classic Piano Black.

This is where advanced technology meets sheer craftsmanship. And it shows.





AN UNRIVALLED PEDIGREE

Design superiority is ultimately about people, not things – and it's only by attracting outstanding talent that KEF has achieved such an enviable worldwide reputation for innovation and engineering integrity.



Photograph: Martyn Goddard.
Courtesy Sunday Telegraph
Colour Supplement.

THE KEF Pedigree



This ethos goes right back to 1961, when the company was founded in the UK in an old Nissen hut near Maidstone, Kent by the visionary sound engineer Raymond Cooke. A leading authority on transducer technology, his passion for achieving the most natural reproduction of recorded sound led to landmark innovations such as the Model LS3/5a. This professional near-field monitor was designed by the BBC's engineering department around KEF drive units, and is still treasured for its unique neutral tonal balance, extended treble response and astonishing bass response. The spirit of this cherished 'heritage' model lives on today in the new XQ10 compact monitor speaker featured on pages 10 – 11 of this brochure.

KEF loudspeakers have ranked among the finest in the world in every decade since. No other manufacturer in the field has a more distinguished track record of design innovation, from revolutionary driver concepts and radical new materials to the dozens of patent-protected innovations to increase listening pleasure.

The exclusive limited edition Muon concept is a case in point. Produced in collaboration with Internationally renowned British Designer Ross Lovegrove, these giant organic columns of superformed aluminium take the art of loudspeaker design to a new level, where exquisite engineering meets inspired creativity.

The new XQ Series is the product of this same uncompromising passion for excellence. Audition them, and you'll hear what a difference it makes.



Muon – a KEF concept designed by Ross Lovegrove



Tomoyoshi Ezaki of Octavia's Exton division – with his Reference Series studio monitors





XQ Series

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

XQ10



Design:
Two-way bass reflex

Drive Units:
130mm (5.25in.) Uni-Q with
19mm (0.75in.) aluminium dome HF

Frequency Range at ± 3dB*:
63Hz - 55kHz

Crossover Frequency:
2.0kHz

Amplifier Requirements:
15 - 100W

Sensitivity (2.83V/1m):
86dB

Maximum Output:
107dB

Impedance:
8Ω (min 3.2)

Magnetic Shielding:
Yes

Weight:
6.4kg (14.1lbs)

Dimensions (H x W x D):
330 x 190 x 247 mm
13.0 x 7.48 x 9.72 in.

Finishes:
Birdseye Maple, Khaya Mahogany
or Piano Black.

XQ20



Design:
Two-way bass reflex

Drive Units:
165mm (6.5in.) Uni-Q with
19mm (0.75in.) aluminium dome HF

Frequency Range at ± 3dB*:
52Hz - 55kHz

Crossover Frequency:
2.4kHz

Amplifier Requirements:
15 - 120W

Sensitivity (2.83V/1m):
88dB

Maximum Output:
109dB

Impedance:
8Ω (min 3.2)

Magnetic Shielding:
Yes

Weight:
9.2kg (20.2lbs)

Dimensions (H x W x D):
385 x 231 x 302 mm
15.15 x 9.09 x 11.88 in.

Finishes:
Birdseye Maple, Khaya Mahogany
or Piano Black.

XQ30



Design:
Three-way bass reflex

Drive Units:
130mm (5.25in.) LF,
130mm (5.25in.) Uni-Q with
19mm (0.75in.) aluminium dome HF

Frequency Range at ± 3dB*:
48Hz - 55kHz

Crossover Frequency:
450Hz, 2.5kHz

Amplifier Requirements:
15 - 150W

Sensitivity (2.83V/1m):
87dB

Maximum Output:
109dB

Impedance:
8Ω (min 3.2)

Magnetic Shielding:
Yes

Weight:
14.8kg (32.6lbs)

Dimensions (H x W x D):
860 x 190 x 247 mm
33.85 x 7.48 x 9.72 in.

Finishes:
Birdseye Maple, Khaya Mahogany
or Piano Black.

XQ40



Design:
Three-way bass reflex

Drive Units:
2 x 165mm (6.5in.) LF,
165mm (6.5in.) Uni-Q with
19mm (0.75in.) aluminium dome HF

Frequency Range at ± 3dB*:
45Hz - 55kHz

Crossover Frequency:
400Hz, 2.5kHz

Amplifier Requirements:
15 - 200W

Sensitivity (2.83V/1m):
90dB

Maximum Output:
112dB

Impedance:
8Ω (min 3.2)

Magnetic Shielding:
Yes

Weight:
24.3kg (53.5lbs)

Dimensions (H x W x D):
1020 x 231 x 302 mm
40.15 x 9.09 x 11.88 in.

Finishes:
Birdseye Maple, Khaya Mahogany
or Piano Black.

XQ50c



Design:
Three-way closed box

Drive Units:
2 x 130mm (5.25in.) LF,
130mm (5.25in.) Uni-Q with
19mm (0.75in.) aluminium dome HF

Frequency Range at ± 3dB*:
65Hz - 55kHz

Crossover Frequency:
475Hz, 2.4kHz

Amplifier Requirements:
15 - 150W

Sensitivity (2.83V/1m):
86dB

Maximum Output:
108dB

Impedance:
8Ω (min 3.2)

Magnetic Shielding:
Yes

Weight:
10.3kg (22.7lbs)

Dimensions (H x W x D):
205 x 475 x 247 mm
8.07 x 18.7 x 9.72 in.

Finishes:
Birdseye Maple, Khaya Mahogany
or Piano Black.

*Typical in room



XQ Series

SUMPTUOUS FINISHES

The new XQ range comes in a choice of two contemporary high gloss real wood veneer finishes as well as Piano Black.



BIRDSEYE MAPLE

A distinctive pattern of small dark swirls brings out the rich, satin-like amber sheen of this close-grained hardwood, which has for centuries been selected for making musical instruments.



KHAYA MAHOGANY

Varying from light to dark reddish brown with a deep natural lustre and an interlocked grain, this hardwood comes from renewable sources in Africa and Madagascar and is often used for the back and side panels of bespoke guitars.



PIANO BLACK

Pure black finished to a glass-like sheen, like a Steinway concert grand. A true classic.

The KEF Range



iQ9

LOUDSPEAKERS

People who know sound know that KEF stands for engineering integrity, design innovation and phenomenal acoustic transparency. Whatever your budget, whatever your taste, the KEF system you choose will give you the satisfaction of knowing that you're experiencing the full richness, emotional depth and imaginative power that the original artist intended.



KHT5005.2 Wireless

HOME THEATRE

KEF has been at the forefront of the home entertainment revolution right from the start, with a range of award-winning surround systems. For music, movies or games, KEF's unique audio technologies deliver unsurpassed enjoyment in every price range and now there's a new wireless technology that provides a great sounding solution to the problem of unsightly cables.



Picoforte

PICOFORTE™

As you'd expect, KEF is also first in class whenever new formats appear. The diminutive new Picoforte iPod dock range, for example, is pioneering high quality audiophile sound for the growing number of MP3 enthusiasts frustrated by the mediocre quality of replay available with conventional systems.

CUSTOM INSTALLATION

KEF's engineering quality and innovative design is also available for custom installation. Purpose-built for flush mounting into walls and ceilings, the Ci Series delivers KEF audio quality as unobtrusively as possible. KEF's simple and ingenious mounting system ensures effortless installation in any environment including bathrooms or for external use. The design possibilities are endless.



Ci3-80QT Motorized loudspeaker