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# WHAT HI★FI?

## AWARDS 2023



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# FLOORSTANDING SPEAKERS

If your listening room is better described as 'spacious' than 'compact', a floorstander is likely to be your best bet

**WHAT HI-FI?**  
★★★★★  
**AWARDS 2023**

**BEST  
FLOORSTANDING  
SPEAKER  
£500-£1500**

**Q ACOUSTICS 5040  
PRODUCT OF THE YEAR**



## ■ Q Acoustics 5040 £999

At just 97cm high and 18cm wide, these floorstanders can slip into most rooms without being obtrusive.

A brand new mid/bass driver design uses what Q Acoustics calls a Continuous Curved Cone, with a new geometry that is claimed to marry the rigidity advantages of a standard conical cone profile with the high-frequency break-up characteristics of a more flared design. The cone material is the company's favoured impregnated paper, and the diaphragm's diameter is a pretty slim 125mm. The tweeter follows company traditions by being a 25mm soft dome that is decoupled from the front baffle to reduce any distortions caused by structural vibrations. The three drive units are linked by a relatively simple second-order crossover network that uses metallized polyester film capacitors, air core inductors and high-power wire wound resistors. The result is a speaker that is rated at just over 91dB/W/m

sensitivity and has a claimed nominal impedance of 6 ohms. That impedance dips to a minimum of 3 ohms, which suggests that partnering the 5040 with a muscular amp such as the Cambridge CXA81 makes sense.

### Clear and precise

With Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*, the 5040 sound wonderfully clear and precise, with the leading edges of notes crisply defined and rendered without any excess harshness. There is plenty of detail here, from lush instrumental textures to the subtle clues that go into defining the acoustic space of the recording venue.

Tonally, they sit just on the lean side of neutral, and this presentation helps to give the speakers plenty of agility and grip. Low-frequency notes come and go with little overhang yet lack nothing when it comes to punch and authority. We like the way these towers always

sound composed and controlled, and that sense of organisation doesn't falter when the music becomes demanding.

Stereo imaging is equally impressive. The 5040 paint a spacious, focused and nicely layered soundstage. Eyes closed, we can easily locate the exact positions of the orchestra's various sections.

These towers sound fast and fun. There is plenty of attack, but enough in the way of solidity and refinement to avoid accusations of aggression.

This impression of a properly rounded performer is reinforced as we work our way through our music collection. We spend an afternoon moving from Post Malone to Nitin Sawhney and then finishing with Miles Davis's *Sketches Of Spain*, and never do these speakers sound out of their comfort zone. The 5040 are even-handed performers that simply step out of the way of the music and let it shine. A worthy Product Of The Year.

We suggest partnering the 5040 with a more muscular amp