



High concept, compact dimensions

DRAWING ON THE TECHNOLOGY OF THE FLAGSHIP CONCEPT 500 LOUDSPEAKER, THIS FLOORSTANDER FROM Q ACOUSTICS OFFERS EXCELLENT VALUE, SAYS MARTIN COLLOMS

The Q Acoustics Concept 50 may look large in the pictures, but appearances can be deceptive: once installed you can appreciate the design's slim proportions, even though – at just over a metre tall – it enjoys significant physical presence. And the sleek design pays off in the fact that it looks good naked: it's so neat and well-finished you might just as well leave the grilles detached and benefit from the smidgeon of extra dynamics and clarity available from the resulting sound delivery.

The Concept 50 comes in a choice of high-quality finishes: the review sample was in a handsome dark silver luxury gloss lacquer, with black and white available to similar standards. This loudspeaker is truly of piano quality finish and at a little over £2,000 this elegantly-designed system might be considered to be the junior partner of the more massively built Concept 500 (reviewed in Vol 12 No 3, at £4,200). What's more, despite the large price differential you would be forgiven for confusing the two designs as they exhibit substantial similarities, while of similar height, but radically different appearance, there is the companion two-driver Concept 300 at £3,000 reviewed in Vol13 No3, complete with its angular tensioned stand corded in stainless steel. Then

there's the superficially similar 3050i, also a three-driver floorstander, at just £650. Q Acoustics manage the technology and performance differentiation very well between these various designs and each is clearly segmented by a particular price/performance equation, with even the rather more humble 3050i receiving Best Buy approval in HIFICRITIC.

Here a competitive pricing of a smidge under £2,000 gets you the Concept 50, a full height floorstanding tower, where Q Acoustics assiduously note the numerous technologies which are employed in its creation. No simple slab-sided enclosure, the specifications also describe a three-driver, two-way, vertically orientated array, this comprising two 125mm bass-mid drivers with a