

# AVID HIFI

## Evo Four £8,000



### ▶ DETAILS

**PRODUCT**  
 AVID HIFI Evo Four

**ORIGIN**  
 UK

**TYPE**  
 2-way standmount loudspeaker

**WEIGHT**  
 15kg

**DIMENSIONS**  
 (WxHxD)  
 200 x 363 x 449mm

**FEATURES**

- 28mm Acuflex coated soft dome tweeter
- 160mm mid/bass driver
- Quoted sensitivity: 87dB/1W/1m (8ohm)

**DISTRIBUTOR**  
 AVID HIFI



One of the only practical ways to give a compact standmount more internal volume, and therefore the potential for deeper bass, is to extend its enclosure rearwards. It's a popular MO among brands with high-end aspirations. And in the Evo Four, even though it's the least-high high-end speaker AVID HIFI makes, we have a fine example. The cabinet and plinth – separated by stubby pillars to fix an unchanging optimum space for the underside bass reflex port to fire onto – measures a whopping 449mm deep at its furthest point, the upper portion of the cabinet's rear end sporting a raked 'fastback' to disrupt internal standing waves that would otherwise bounce back to the drivers. The dedicated black wooden stand that

supports its entire length thus looks like a small, designer ironing board but, because of the smart porting arrangements, can be sited quite close to the rear wall.

Strategically braced and extremely rigid, the immaculately finished enclosure, made from 18mm moisture-resistant MDF, has a ribbed, precision-machined 20mm-thick aluminium front baffle. It supports a 28mm silk dome tweeter coated with break-up cancelling Acuflex damping compound and recessed in a modest

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waveguide to help dispersion. The 160mm damped polymer composite cone mid/bass driver employs a titanium voice coil former and an aerodynamically efficient 'Uniflow' basket intended to deliver faster, better-timed bass.

The design's real USP, however, is informed by AVID's core philosophy of eliminating unwanted vibration, a goal that reaches back to its earliest turntable days. It calls it Tuned Mass Technology (TMT), a system that provides a path of least resistance for 'bad' vibrations that would otherwise impinge on performance that's dissipated by an energy sink, a damping mass element loosely coupled to the drive unit that creates an effective path for unwanted energy.

The crossover is mounted on the rear baffle (also aluminium for overall rigidity) and, like all the speakers in the Evo range, uses ClarityCap capacitors and air-core inductors.

### Sound quality

In common with several here – and it seems to be very much a gift of the high-end's money-sponsored natural advantages – the Evo Four immediately hits its stride and gets on with it, exhibiting exquisite balance and pace, rolling effortlessly and fluently with the music rather than trying to bend it

to its will. So, no hint of dressed to impress first impressions, no hard to ignore sonic histrionics, no hype.

From the opening moments of Stormzy's slow and sombre *Firebabe*, it seems to be instinctively across the richly textured mix of electric and acoustic guitars, cellos, flutes, indulgently thick bloated basslines and gloriously clichéd alto saxophones, not to mention nailing the haunting, misty quality of Jacob Collier's echo, multi-tracked harmonic counterpoints to the focused and tonally convincing vocals of Stormzy and Debbie Ehirim centre stage.

Where the AVID pulls ahead of some of its rivals, though, is in a kind of musical impetus it brings to proceedings. Grounded in dynamics and speed, it lends the live sets of Jack Garratt and Yellowjackets a level of propulsive drive, verve and excitement not always realised elsewhere. It's also a master of soundstage holography, effectively disappearing in the room. For this, and imaging specificity, it equals the best efforts of the tiny Boenicke and KEF, though little here can touch the remarkable, almost 'sit anywhere' accommodation of the latter's listening sweet spot. Maybe the Evo Four is so gifted elsewhere, it doesn't need to ●



### Hi-Fi Choice

#### OUR VERDICT

##### SOUND QUALITY



**LIKE:** Balanced, dynamic sound; clever design; build and finish

##### VALUE FOR MONEY



**DISLIKE:** Marmite aesthetics

##### BUILD QUALITY



**WE SAY:** It might be AVID's entry-level standmount, but it's a true *tour-de-force*

##### EASE OF DRIVE



##### OVERALL

