

IsoAcoustics Aperta – on the way to perfection...



Every person, who's gained some experience in hi-fi is probably aware that in this world, virtually every element both of the system and its environment, matters. In order to obtain the best possible sound, one has to take care of the acoustic adaptation of the room, power, appropriate for one's preferences audio components (including cables), and their correct setup. And it is the arrangement (which is quite an important part of setup), I would like to write about today.



Correct positioning of both speakers and electronics seems to be heavily underestimated step in optimizing sound of our hi-fi systems. We can often come across stereo system components stacked one on another and loudspeakers placed directly on a shelf or a desk - both without proper separation. And as far as the correct separation of stereo components is a bit more complex issue, where capturing the differences require trained ears, the separation and location of the speakers is a matter, which is in my opinion evident.



Having said that, I would like to present IsoAcoustic Aperta stands. I suspect that this Canadian brand is not very popular in Poland (at least not yet), that is why a few words about it, before we start with the product. The Man behind IsoAcoustics is Dave Morrison, who has been closely involved in planning and building radio and television studios at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for close to 20 years. The experience gained at CBC has resulted in IsoAcoustics adjustable audio speaker stands.





Probably because of the time Dave has spent at CBC, first IsoAcoustics stands aimed mostly at the professional market, where so called studio monitors (on a consumer market mostly known as bookshelf speakers) exist on a daily basis. Today, many different recording studios actually use IsoAcoustics products. With the Aperta the situation is a bit different, because it is aimed at the consumer market. According to the manufacturer, the all-aluminium design provides not only a breath of fresh air in terms of aesthetics, but also superior isolation and sound clarity.





The IsoAcoustics Aperta isolators consist of two independent elements. Each of them has been suspended on four isolators. The whole structure looks elegant, although there are some soft bulges in places, where isolators meet chassis. The elements are supported by the tubes which enable the user to dial-in the optimum tilt angle if necessary. From the inside, each isolator has been padded with vibration damping material. This solution allows the supporting tubes to move fore and aft, while resisting lateral and secondary movements and oscillations.



Generally, the primary (and often the only) assumption and purpose of most popular speaker stands is to locate the speaker at the correct height. This is very important, and in some cases delays the first reflection for instance. The Canadians however have taken a different way, a more difficult one. Aperta has been designed primarily to provide an appropriate separation from the surface. Adequate separation from the ground provides vibration isolation and significantly improve what we hear.



Every speakers I've placed on Aperta isolators (whether it's been KEF, Xavian, Paradigm or Triangle) offered much better sound. And I'm not talking about the nuances, which are audible to a trained ear, but the clear synergy effect. Every time I've put speakers on IsoAcoustics stands, bass gained control and the unnecessary elongation and humming of the lower bandwidth disappeared. Sounds became faster and more open. The soundstage and resolution improved significantly and tiny details began to fill the entire range of bandwidth. I know that it is not possible, but it actually felt as if the amount of information transmitted to the speakers increased, or to be more precise, became more dense. The improvement gained by setting the speakers on the IsoAcoustic isolators is noticeable in almost every aspect of sound reproduction. It is so obvious, that I would venture to say that the impact the product has on the sound is actually reflected in the name Aperta (Italian: open).



After testing different speakers with IsoAcoustics Aperta isolators, I started to imagine that there must be a secret speaker production process, where on the bottom of every speaker, special holes are concealed. These holes are responsible for speakers' breathing. Our unawareness of this secret process causes that each time we place any speakers without a proper separation, we kind of suffocate them and prevent them from their optimal performance.



At this point, leaving behind the imaginary vision of the speaker production process, I will stop. I encourage people who own a good desktop, or hi-fi stereo system to relax and take a deep breath... And now let your speakers take one... Trust me, you will not regret it ;)



As far as I'm concerned IsoAcoustics Aperta stands are one of the best, relatively affordable ways to upgrade your bookshelf, desktop or compact hi-fi system.

A definite recommendation.

