Feet first
The right kind of support is crucial to ensure a loudspeaker is able to give its best. Could Lee Dunkley be developing a foot fetish?

This is the second time in as many months that I’ve found myself grappling at the base of my speakers to fit them with some kind of isolation device designed to aid decoupling between them and the listening room. Last month it was Townshend Audio’s Seismic Isolation Podium (HFC 426), and this time around it’s the turn of IsoAcoustics’ GAIA II isolation feet that I am fitting to the stabilising support plinths at the base of my Dynaudio X38 floorstanders.

IsoAcoustics is a Canadian-based firm specialising in a range of audio equipment support stands and component pucks with acoustical isolation properties, hence the company name. Its GAIA range is designed to work with floorstanding speakers and replaces the supplied floorspikes or feet. The set best suited to a specific speaker will depend on its weight, but with three sizes to choose from – GAIA I, II and III – are specified to work with loads of up to 100kg, 54kg and 32kg respectively – there’s an option to fit most designs.

Each four-piece GAIA set contains a tailored combination of M8, M6 and ¼-20 thread types with prices ranging from £199 for the 32kg GAIA III through to £599 for the 100kg load capabilities of the GAIA I. The GAIA II (£299) is the best match for my speakers and is assembled using the M8 screws, which are fitted to the base. Installation is a simple enough process and includes with the feet is a spanner for making fine adjustments, along with different-sized knurled locking washers in order to ensure a more secure fit.

The GAIA feet are finished in a dark chrome metal housing with an unspecified rubberised internal structure that provides a stable footprint and prevents vibration and ringing from the cabinet to floor and vice versa. Once installed, it’s important that the IsoAcoustics logo faces forward so that the lateral decoupling can be at its most effective, although those that are aware to logos can turn it a further 180° out of sight if preferred.

Once all four feet are firmly in place, and the price is right too Music just sounds right with them and openness that’s easy to hear. You can tell that the GAIA feet provide a high degree of isolation that gives the speaker the opportunity to breath and display a level of clarity to the midrange and openness that’s easy to hear. There’s no doubt that the GAIA feet improve the character of the room.

Conclusion
There’s no doubt that the GAIA feet provide a high degree of isolation that gives the speaker the opportunity to breath and display a level of clarity and openness that’s easy to hear. Music just sounds right with them in place, and the price is right too.