KEF

INNOVATORS IN SOUND

BLADE & BLADE TWO

Obsessed with sound quality, KEF has been pioneering innovative acoustic engineering for more than half a century. No other manufacturer has done more to advance the state of the art.

That's why Blade and Blade Two are pure KEF. When we gave our engineers free rein to create the best speaker they could, they came up with the revolutionary Concept Blade prototype - the world's first single apparent source loudspeaker.

The result was so well received – and scooped so many prestigious awards to prove it - that we decided to take things even further and expand the Blade range. With all of Blade's acoustic prowess and iconic design on a slightly smaller scale, Blade Two is easier to place in environments where space is at a premium, and where Blade's extreme bass extension would be superfluous.

Blade Two. Same DNA. Same striking aesthetic. Same advanced driver technology and unique single apparent source configuration. And above all, the same lush, phenomenally realistic sound.

The technologies of total transparency

Blade and Blade Two are based on a new architecture that achieves the ideal point source. With the HF and MF drivers in the Uni-Q array on an identical axis and the four superlative LF drivers mounted symmetrically equidistant on either side, their acoustic centres occupy exactly the same point in space. This configuration delivers flawless response across the frequency range, with noticeably more precise imaging. What you hear sounds live, close and real – and because of Uni-Q's inherently superior dispersion, everyone in the room enjoys the same experience. Engagingly natural, even played loud. Emotionally true to the original performance, and effortlessly accurate in every tiny detail.

The latest generation Uni-Q point source driver arrays on both models are essentially the same as those on KEF's extraordinary Muon hyper-premium loudspeaker. So light and rigid that it never reaches its break-up point, the alloy skin of the hybrid MF cone is braced by a skeleton of liquid crystal polymer, and vented to eliminate distortion effects. It's driven by an unusually large voice coil, for outstanding dynamics in high energy sequences. Sensitivity and transient response are exceptional, reproducing the upper midrange with total clarity, especially with vocals and keyboards.

With its stiffened aluminium dome, the state-of-the-art vented tweeter at the centre of the MF cone operates pistonically to deliver consistently sweet, lucid and lyrical treble, irrespective of volume. KEF's unique 'tangerine' waveguide manages the airflow to recreate the wide, even spread of a natural soundfield, dispersing the astonishingly pure HF imaging throughout the room. The contours of the dome, midrange horn and surround are computer-optimised to ensure a perfectly smooth transition to the cabinet, and the Uni-Q array is fully decoupled to prevent unwanted vibrations from muddying the sound.

Four powerful vented LF drivers (225mm/9-in. for Blade, 165mm/6.5-in. for Blade Two) are perfectly integrated with the Uni-Q array to deliver clean, massively extended bass under immaculate control.

In line with the purity of the original Blade concept, decoupling the voice coil from the diaphragm allows low order crossovers to be used, for purer, silkier bass response. To avoid exciting the cabinet when playing loud, the LF drivers are mounted back to back to cancel out kinetic forces that might otherwise colour the output, and each pair occupies a separate chamber to reduce the need for damping.

Nothing has been overlooked. Individually hand-wired rather than mounted on a conventional PCB, the crossover components were exhaustively auditioned to fine-tune the signal path for maximum clarity. Two pairs of audiophile quality WBT connectors allow bi-wiring or bi-amping for lossless transmission.

The form of Blade's sculptural enclosures was dictated by acoustics, not styling. Tapering gracefully from top to bottom and from front to rear, the gentle front radius presents no discontinuity to mar sound clarity. Made from an ultra-high density polyurethane composite, the acoustically inert cabinets' complex parabolic curves are cleverly engineered to eliminate standing waves that might blur the output.

Asserting the sophistication of the technology they contain, these stunning cabinets are available in a palette of equally seductive finishes: Piano black, Snow white, Warm metallic grey, Light metallic silver, Racing red, Frosted copper black or Frosted blue. Given time, we'll match any colour you want. Like everything else about Blade and Blade Two, it's about getting every last detail absolutely right.

Just as KEF's philosophy has always been to innovate in pursuit of the most accurate and realistic sound, Blade speakers are about perfecting a groundbreaking concept to delight people who really love music. Whatever your taste, Blade and Blade Two are what all great design aspires to: being the best they can possibly be.

SPECIFICATIONS

Model	BLADE	BLADE TWO
Design	Three-way bass reflex, Single apparent source driver configuration	Three-way bass reflex Single apparent source driver configuration
Drive Units	Uni-Q driver array: MF: 125mm (5in.) Li-Mg-Al / LCP hybrid cone HF: 25mm (1in.) Al dome Bass units: LF: 4 x 225mm (9in.) with force cancelling	Uni-Q driver array: HF: 25mm (1in.) vented aluminium dome MF: 125mm (5in.) aluminium Bass units: LF: 4 x165mm (6.5in.) aluminium
Frequency range free field (-6dB)	28Hz - 45kHz	34Hz - 45kHz
Frequency range typical in room bass response (-6dB)	20Hz	25Hz
Frequency Response (±3dB)	40Hz - 35kHz	40Hz - 35kHz
Crossover frequency	350Hz, 2.3kHz	320Hz, 2.4kHz
Amplifier requirements	50 - 400W	50 - 400W
Sensitivity (2.83V/1m)	91dB	90dB
Harmonic distortion 2nd & 3rd harmonics (90dB, 1m)	<0.5% 40Hz – 100kHz <0.2% 200Hz – 10kHz	<0.5% 40Hz - 100kHz <0.2% 200Hz - 10kHz
Maximum output (peak sound pressure level at 1m with pink noise)	117dB	116dB
Impedance	4Ω (min. 3.2Ω)	8Ω (min. 3.2Ω)
Weight	57.2 kg (126 lbs)	41 kg (90.2 lbs)
Dimensions - with plinth (H x W x D)	1590 x 363 x 540 mm 62.5 x 14.3 x 21.2 in.	1461 x 338 x 475mm 57.5 x 13.3 x 18.7 in.
Finishes	Piano black Snow white Racing red Warm metallic grey Light metallic silver Frosted blue Frosted copper black	Piano black Snow white Racing red Warm metallic grey Light metallic silver Frosted blue Frosted copper black

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