

Track Audio Precision (£650+)

Looking for a throne for those high-end compact monitors? Track Audio's luxurious loudspeaker stands are just the ticket. Review: **John Bamford**

This 600mm-tall stand is one of a series of supports for standmount speakers from Track Audio's Precision Range, which also includes platforms for subwoofers and floorstanders. It's an appropriate enough moniker, as the build class and quality of finish are nothing short of exquisite. Close inspection reveals an obsessive attention to detail. Visit Track's website and click on the 'Accessories' tab to see the company's 'Isolation Foot adapter kit' and this will give a flavour of the precision engineering involved in the construction of its components.

The range [see picture, below] starts with a 'floorstander stand' at £650 up to £1380 for the 60cm tower and there's a choice of two top-plate sizes – 180x200mm or 240x280mm (wxd). The stands' main body components are machined from billets of aluminium, with a satin black or silver anodised finish. The top and bottom plates are 12mm thick with chamfered edges, while the three pillars comprise modular segments with constrained layer damping, each tube portion separated by sections formed of Delrin. A nice touch is that each base plate includes a built-in spirit level.

What truly sets these stands apart is the construction of their spikes – the aforementioned isolation feet. CNC-machined from stainless steel, these allow extremely fine and *repeatable* adjustment. Their height-tuning and

locking collars have holes into which you insert supplied Tommy bars, an internal 'ball-lock' mechanism providing a 'click' each time the height collar is rotated through 60°. Meanwhile, their long, narrow spikes have a concave profile conceived to penetrate carpets without causing lasting damage. These feet are available separately for DIY-ers, priced £395 for a set of four.

SHINE THROUGH

In addition to using the stand for listening to Kudos's Cardea Super 10 [*HFN*, June '12], I recently employed it when auditioning KEF's 'mini marvel' LS50 [*HFN*, July '12] and Monitor Audio's stately PL100 standmount [see p56]. In each case the stand 'worked' superbly, allowing the signature character of each speaker to shine through. A knuckle-wrap test of the Precision stand certainly indicates an inert, acoustically 'dead' structure, with no audible ringing to colour a speaker's natural performance.

If you've ever listened to a speaker supported on a hollow metal stand and observed how its performance changes when the stand is filled with sand or lead shot, you'll know how large a difference an inert stand can make. Yes, I know some listeners prefer a lightweight stand to a heavy, solid support structure, citing a more upbeat, 'bouncy' sound quality. I feel this is a function of subjective 'system tuning', however. If you want to hear a speaker *plus* the sound of a stand singing along in unison, so be it.

Ease of setting up and levelling is quite the best I've come across in 40 years of hi-fi hobbying. Of course, for many audio buyers installing a speaker



and its accompanying stand will be a palaver endured only once in a blue moon. For audio hobbyists, the ease with which this stand can be adjusted while supporting even a quite heavy monitor is a tremendous boon. ☺

HI-FI NEWS VERDICT

I winced when first informed of their price, but after unpacking these stands it became obvious why they cost considerably more than typical supports formed of welded steel with a powder coat finish. Track Audio's isolator feet/spikes afford precise and easy adjustment, while the stands' anodised aluminium pillars and plates are akin to the fascias found on high-end electronics components. Any audiophile would be proud to own them.

Sound Quality: 88%



ABOVE: Built to order and priced accordingly, Track Audio Precision stands are constructed in the UK by long-time hi-fi enthusiast Mike Butler