

# Baby Quads boast family flair

## Quad 11L

Loudspeakers £379



### FOR

Excellent dynamics and detail resolution; superb cabinet finish

### AGAINST

Nothing at all – these are excellent speakers

### VERDICT

These baby Quads are amazing speakers at an ultra-competitive price. Rivals take note: these demand a listen

QUAD IS BEST known for its superlative electrostatic designs, which start at £3500. So any £379 pair of speakers that carries the company's name has to be going some to avoid tarnishing the family reputation.

The first surprise is that the 11Ls come in real-wood veneers covered with piano-gloss lacquer. This type of finish is almost unheard of at the £1000 mark, let alone at this price. Has anything been sacrificed for such a luxury finish? Here's the second surprise: apparently not. We looked long and hard for signs of cost-cutting but couldn't find any. The cabinet feels immensely strong, and the attention to fit and finish is a match for any close rival.

The final surprise? Well, saving the best for the last, the sound quality of the 11Ls is phenomenally good. These are small speakers at just 33cm tall, but the scale and authority of their performance is terrific. The laws of physics dictate bass extension limitations, but thanks to a clever dual rear firing port arrangement the 11Ls plumb the depths with the determination of a rottweiler, even when placed in free space. But quality stands are a must – consider the likes of Partington's £100 Dreadnoughts an absolute minimum.

Dynamics are forceful, so these speakers are as at home with the likes of Massive Attack as they are the large scale of

Tchaikovsky symphonies. Add superlative detail resolution and an extremely even frequency response into the equation and these Quad loudspeakers emerge as real stars at this affordable price point.

The integration of the 25mm soft-dome tweeter and 13.5cm Kevlar mid/bass driver is seamless, and it's not even as if they're particularly demanding speakers to drive: the sensitivity is rated at 86dB/W/m and the nominal impedance 6ohms.

If you're in the market for a pair of top quality standmounters these Quads are a must-listen. Quite simply, they're good enough to scare the competition big time.



### LEADING RIVALS

#### Dynaudio Audience 42

£400 March 2001 ★★★★★

Excellent bass and dynamics from Dynaudio's entry level monitor

#### Epos M12

£499 March 2001 ★★★★★

Revitalised standmounters that excel at detail resolution and speed

The Quad 11Ls have a finish that would go well on a £1000 speaker, let alone a £379 design