



XB MK II
TECHNICAL NOTES



1. DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

All Estelon products are produced in a similar fashion using the same general design and construction principles. In the design and construction process, it is crucial to consider room and environmental acoustics. All listening rooms have walls, floors, ceilings, furniture, and various décor and treatments which affect the listening experience. Together with the loudspeaker, they participate in acoustical sound reproduction. The goal of the loudspeaker, and the associated system electronics, is to create a life-like (live) and engaging musical experience.

Through Estelon's advanced and innovative engineering concepts, the loudspeakers form a synergy with the room and its acoustics to re-create an emotionally involving listening experience that exposes the soundstage and musical details of the recording, as it was meant to be heard.

In an ordinary room the sound waves below 50-100 Hz are evenly spread

Room measurements and characteristics have a significant effect on the listening experience. In typical room measurements, the longest distance between reflective surfaces is smaller than the length of the low bass sound waves at 50-100 Hz. The pressure at these frequencies always changes equally in every position, similar to pressing on a balloon. In these conditions, it is impossible to detect the exact position of the bass drivers. This situation allows the placement of the low-frequency drivers to be separate from other drivers.

The Estelon XB Mk II's woofer is positioned close to the floor so that the woofer acoustically couple with the surface of the floor maximizing its efficiency and output. Another large benefit of this design is that the low bass is powerful, dynamic, and evenly spread throughout the room, even if the room has high ceilings or is large in overall size and volume. Conventional loudspeaker designs will typically experience bass loss and erratic peaks and dips in output in large size rooms, and especially rooms with high ceilings.

Sound waves over 100 Hz start mirroring and interfering with each other

In frequencies over 100 Hz, there are numerous sound waves created between the loudspeakers and the walls, ceiling, floor, and furniture/décor. In these conditions, the sound waves start mirroring and combining with each other. The drivers that reproduce sounds over 100 Hz (mid-woofer and tweeter) are grouped together and physically placed higher in the cabinets, and in a neutral position.

In this configuration, there is much less impact on mirroring so they can create a realistic and stable stereo image. The mid-woofer is positioned above the tweeter to further reduce the reflections from the floor and thereby decreases sound coloration. This design principle also improves the time-arrival (phase) of the frequencies from the different drivers, allowing for a coherent, accurate, dynamic, and tonally balanced sound.

2. CABINET & TECHNOLOGY

The unique shape of the cabinet is highly complicated and differs greatly from a classical box design. In fact, it's not a box at all!

Proprietary marble-based composite material and molding technology

Estelon engineering took many years of research and testing to find the right material that would allow the highest quality of cabinet and construction for the loudspeaker's acoustically engineered shape. We developed a proprietary marble-based composite material and special molding technology to be able to make such advanced cabinets with multifunctional shapes, inside and out.

The combination of the high-density, solid mass of the molded marble-based composite cabinet and the purposeful shapes, contours, and various internal chambers result in technical characteristics exactly as Estelon Chief Designer, Alfred Vassilkov has calculated. The cabinet is therefore extremely rigid, highly dense, resonant-free, and with exceptional internal dampening and acoustical control.

Curved surfaces and a system of interior chambers

The combination of curved cabinet walls and a complex system of interior chambers make the cabinet completely “dead” and non-resonant. Such a highly advanced and complex cabinet design and construction allows only pure and uninfluenced sound to emanate from the various high-performance driver elements.

The 69 kg weight of each speaker gives a reactive and dynamic stability, which also supports the explosive acceleration of the driver membranes. There are no losses in powerful dynamics or subtle micro-dynamics in the sound

Advanced internal dampening

In order to assist the loudspeaker to unveil its purest musicality, advanced internal dampening has been implemented. The dampening was designed through a long testing process to have the best effect and overall balance throughout the musical spectrum.

We have chosen different natural and synthetic dampening materials that are strategically and scientifically placed, which together create the best effects at different frequencies. The benefits are both audible and measurable.

3. A COMBINATION OF THE BEST DRIVERS

Each speaker has one woofer, one mid-woofer, and one tweeter. In order to reproduce the full spectrum of sound with the absolute highest quality, a combination of three drivers has been carefully chosen. The high-quality drivers are designed and produced by German driver manufacturer Thiel & Partner GmbH under the brand name Accuton and are revered globally as the best.

Woofers - ceramic sandwich dome

The 220 mm (8.7 inch) ceramic sandwich woofer has been designed by Accuton engineers. It has an extremely stiff and lightweight membrane along with a very long linear excursion. It can reproduce a truly deep, accurate, and fast bass.

The combination of the cabinet design, construction, woofer, and its positioning, crossover, and mating with the room acoustics and associated electronics has been said to sound like “live bass”, which is a difficult engineering achievement.

Mid-woofer - ceramic; super-fast and accurate

The 158 mm (6.25 inch) mid-woofer has a ceramic membrane providing ultra-fast impulse response with significantly reduced total harmonic distortion (THD) and intermodulation distortion (IMD), as well as increased frequency bandwidth and linearity.

Tweeter - ceramic inverted dome

The 25 mm (1 inch) ceramic inverted dome tweeter from Accuton reproduces extremely fast and accurate high frequencies with low dynamic compression and ultra-low distortion.

4. SPECIAL CHAMBERS IN THE LOUDSPEAKERS CABINET

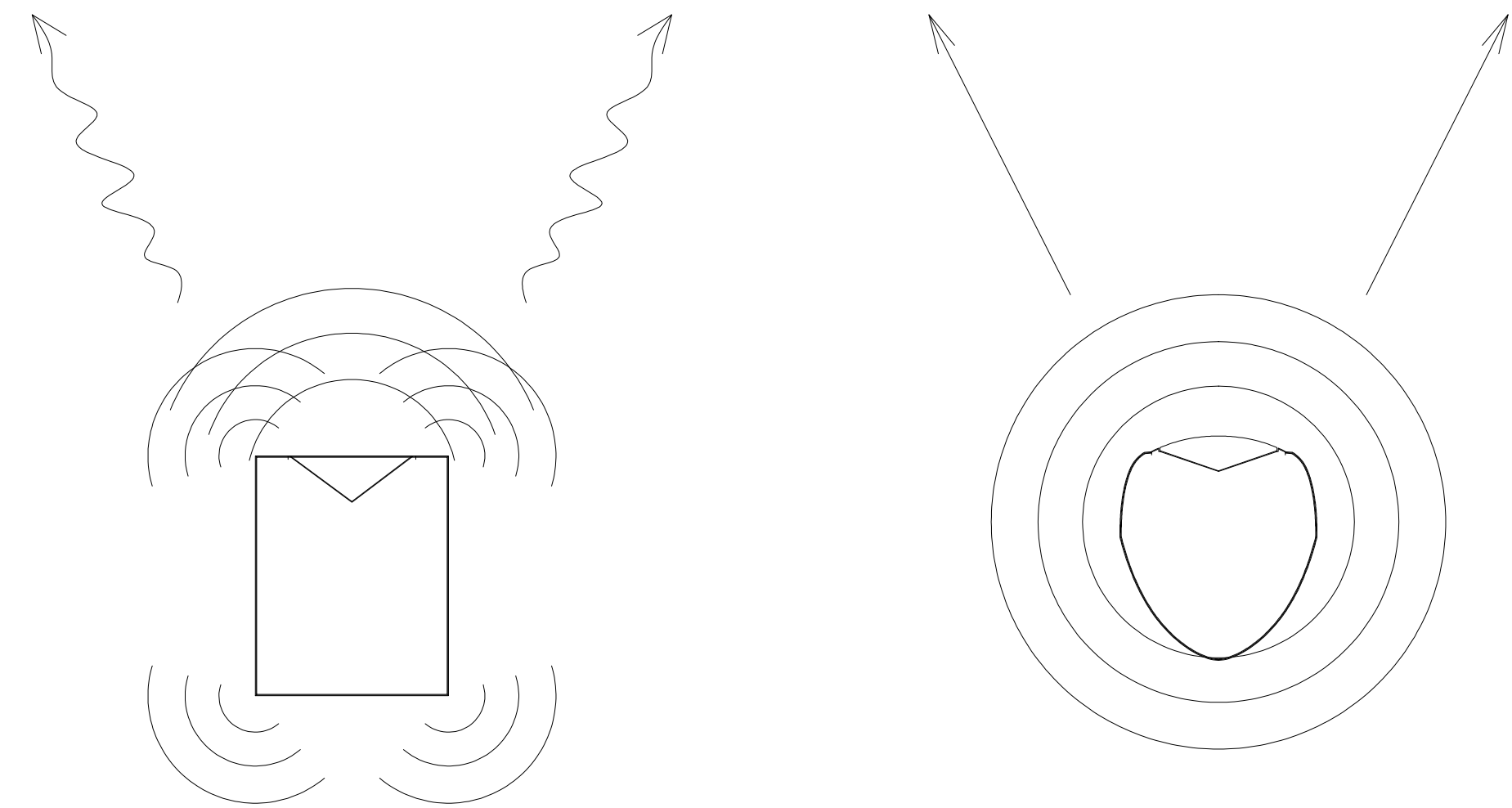
Woofers and mid-woofer have
anti-resonance chambers

The woofers coexist in one optimized chamber. The chamber configuration has no parallel or flat walls, which eliminates internal mirroring effects, internal resonance and soundwave cancellation as well as reduces distortion. This allows the drivers to perform without the typical cabinet-related acoustical problems.

The chamber of the mid-woofer is isolated and constructed by the same principles as the woofer chamber, free from resonances and well dampened. The sound is free from colorations and distortions, and is extremely accurate.

The cabinet around the midrange is curved to eliminate diffraction

The entire Estelon XB Mk II cabinet has been designed in a way that there are no sharp edges (Graph 1). The soft curves of the cabinet eliminate the effects of reflective diffraction from the drivers output, and the frequency characteristics of the dispersion (SPL graph) remain straight and linear not only in front of the loudspeaker but also at various angles. This widens the ideal listening position.

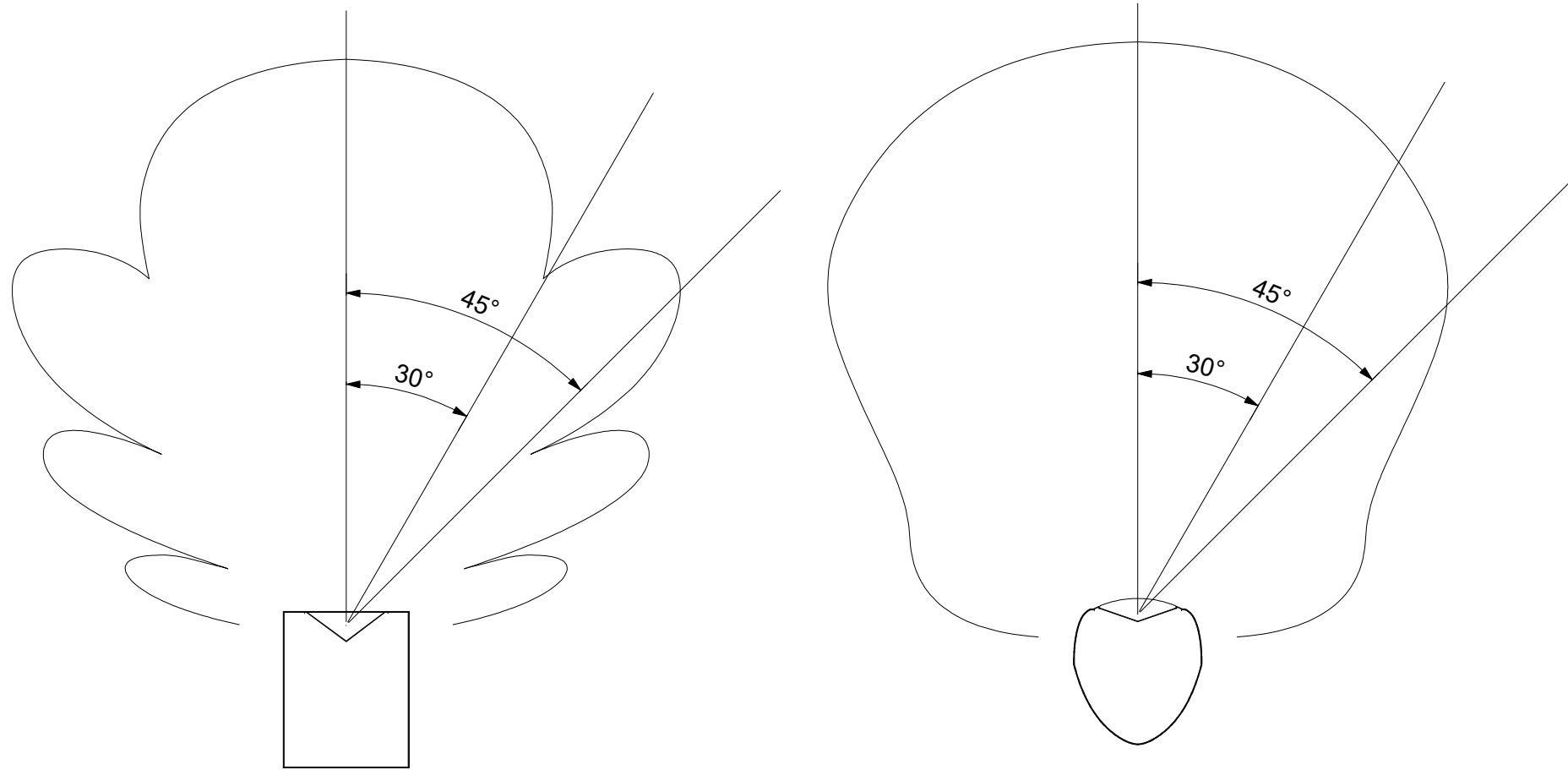


Graph 1. Top view. A traditional box shaped speaker on the left, Estelon XB Mk II on the right.

The separated chamber together with the surrounding cabinet surface create dispersion control

The tweeter chamber is separated to reduce the oscillation of the internal air within the cabinet, while the surrounding external cabinet surface is extremely important for the performance of the high frequency's driver. The relatively narrow cabinet surface and smooth curves (at a calculated radius) help create a dispersion controlled screen.

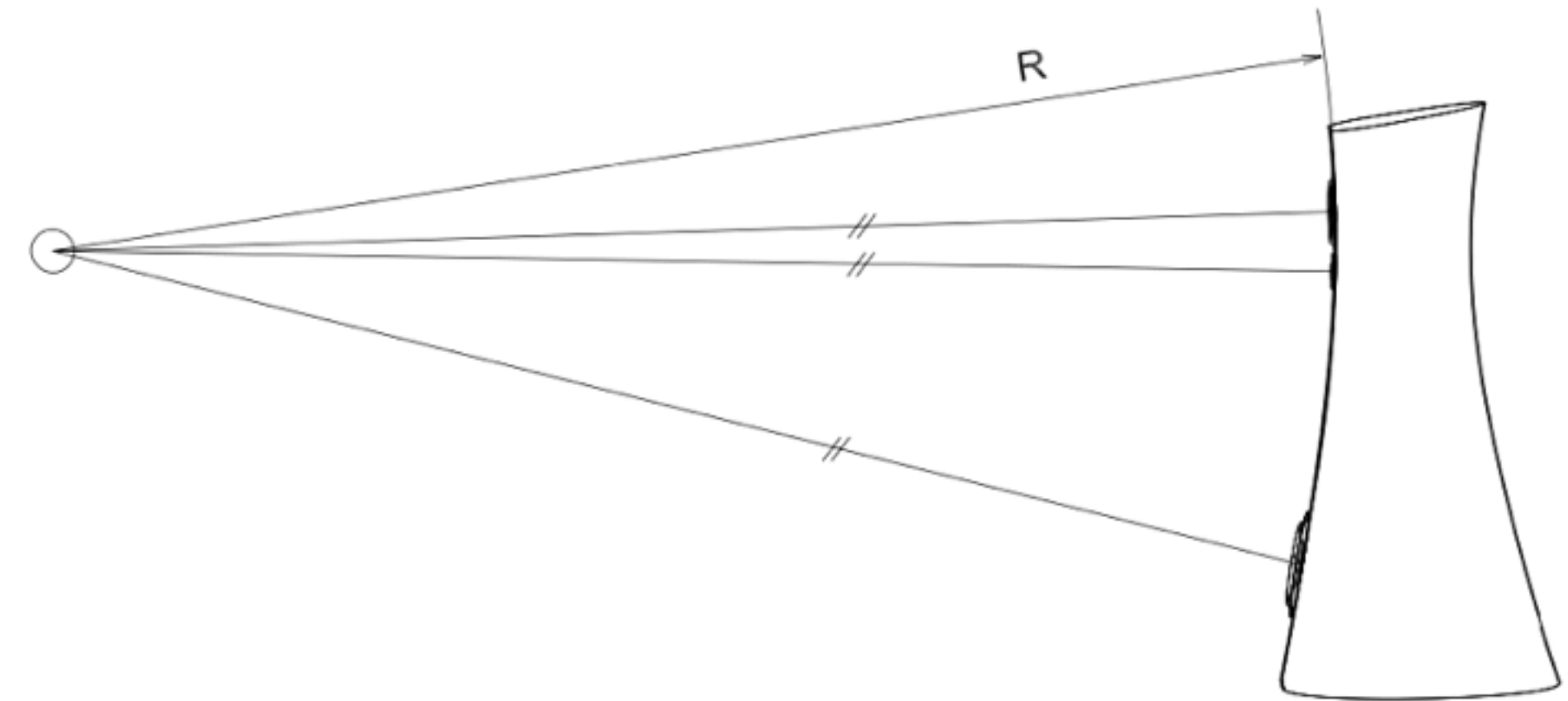
This screen helps to create a linear and even directional dispersion that enhances the overall high frequency performance (Graph 2), allowing the high frequencies to be clearly heard at different listening locations while also improving imaging.



Graph 2. Top view. A traditional box shaped speaker on the left, Estelon XB MK II on the right.

Drivers are positioned on the intentionally curved front panel for increased coherency

All the drivers are positioned on the curved front panel in a way that from the listening position they are all at the same distance from the listener. This means that the sound from each driver reaches the listening position at the same time, resulting in a fast and precise sound signal (Graph 3) with incredible dynamics, tonal balance, and realistic imaging and staging.



Graph 3. Side view depicting the curved front panel of Estelon XB MK II

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5. CROSSOVERS

The crossovers are in a special isolated chamber to reduce the microphonic effect and vibration influence.

Each crossover construction process involves careful attention from our engineers and designers, where every process is carefully measured, and each component is tested to make sure that the final outcome is perfect. In addition to technical measurements, there is also a final listening and evaluation process done by our highly experienced engineers.

The Estelon XB Mk II has a finely tuned crossover. It is in second order, allowing it to be incredibly fast with perfect phase transition. The crossover point of the tweeter and mid-woofer is at 2.5 kHz and between the mid-woofer and woofer at 80Hz.

We use transformer-core coils, OFC (oxygen-free copper) foil coils, Mundorf Silver-Gold-Oil capacitors and Carbon-Silver resistors, all of which are measured and spec'd to extremely tight tolerances before using in the crossover production.

To maintain the smallest of details in the audio signal we use direct mounting techniques with hand-soldered connections with short cable runs to each respective driver and binding posts. All internal cabling is of the highest quality and from the renowned cable manufacturer Kubala-Sosna. The connectors are strong and stable and are provided by Furutech.

6. CUSTOM FINISHING

Because of the highly sophisticated cabinet shape, all the processes in the finishing stage are hand-made with extreme care by highly experienced specialists using the best technology and procedures.

We offer a wide range of color options in gloss and matte, with custom finishes upon request. Each cabinet is professionally painted and wet-sanded between each coat of the highest grade of paint, and then carefully hand-polished to perfection. It is a time consuming process to finish each cabinet and takes several weeks to complete this intense artisan procedure, but is indeed worth the wait.

7. PACKAGING

The packaging is precisely thought-through so despite the weight of 69 kg of each speaker, they can be quickly and safely transported to their final position in the room.

The transport cases (industrial grade custom flight-cases) and the speakers themselves are equipped with wheels to ease the transportation and setup. The speaker wheels can be easily replaced by the designated special floor spikes or flat bases (supplied) once the ideal placement and positioning has been determined. We would like to also remind that leaving the speakers on wheels will negatively impact the sound, so please use the supplied spikes.

8. EASY TO SET UP

Considering the mentioned special characteristics, the XB Mk II loudspeaker is easy to set-up and achieves a natural tonal balance with realistic 3D image. To decrease the vibrating effect from the floor, we are offering special stainless-steel stand options – with a flat bottom surface for hard floors and with spiked cones for carpeted floors. Both types are included with the loudspeakers. It is important to note that setting up these speakers will require at least two able-bodied individuals.

9. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Type:	Passive speaker. Bass reflex.
Frequency response:	22 - 30 000 Hz
Power rating:	150 Watts
Nominal impedance:	6 ohms (min 3.5 Ohms at 50 Hz)
Sensitivity:	87 dB/2.83 V
Min amplifier power:	30 Watts
Internal cabling:	Kubala-Sosna
Cabinet material:	Marble-based composite

Drivers:

Woofers:	220 mm (8.7 inch) ceramic sandwich from Accuton
Mid-woofer:	158 mm (6.25 inch) ceramic membrane from Accuton
Tweeter:	25 mm (1 inch) CELL ceramic inverted dome from Accuton

10. DIMENSIONS

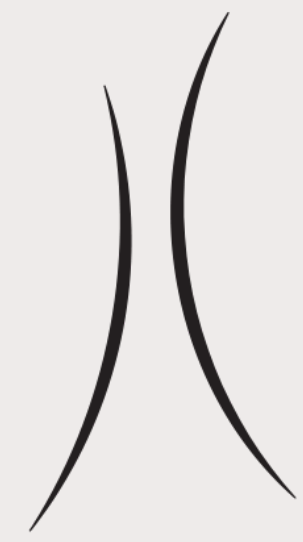
Height: 1260 mm (49.6 inches)

Width: 420 mm (16.5 inches)

Depth: 590 mm (23.2 inches)

Net weight: 69 kg (152 lbs) per piece

Recommended room size: 25 - 50 m² (269 – 538 square feet)



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