



KEF

Concept Blade

The leading edge of acoustic technology

Redefining the Loudspeaker

Single Apparent Source

Side firing bass units positioned symmetrically around the Uni-Q® driver, meaning the entire frequency range is radiated from one point in space. This unique technology produces an astonishingly convincing sound field

Uni-Q driver array

10th generation technology giving smooth, distortion-free sound throughout the listening room

Damping material

Removes internal standing waves to improve bass output and quality

Cabinet

Highly curved carbon fibre/balsa composite provides extremely high stiffness to minimise cabinet vibration

Force cancelling

10in. (250mm) units in force cancelling configuration to further reduce cabinet vibration for cleaner, more accurate sound

Outboard crossover

Hard-wired with air-cored inductors and plastic-film capacitors giving extremely high resolution of fine detail

Plinth

With gear adjustable spiked feet to allow simple levelling via the rear controls without tilting the speaker

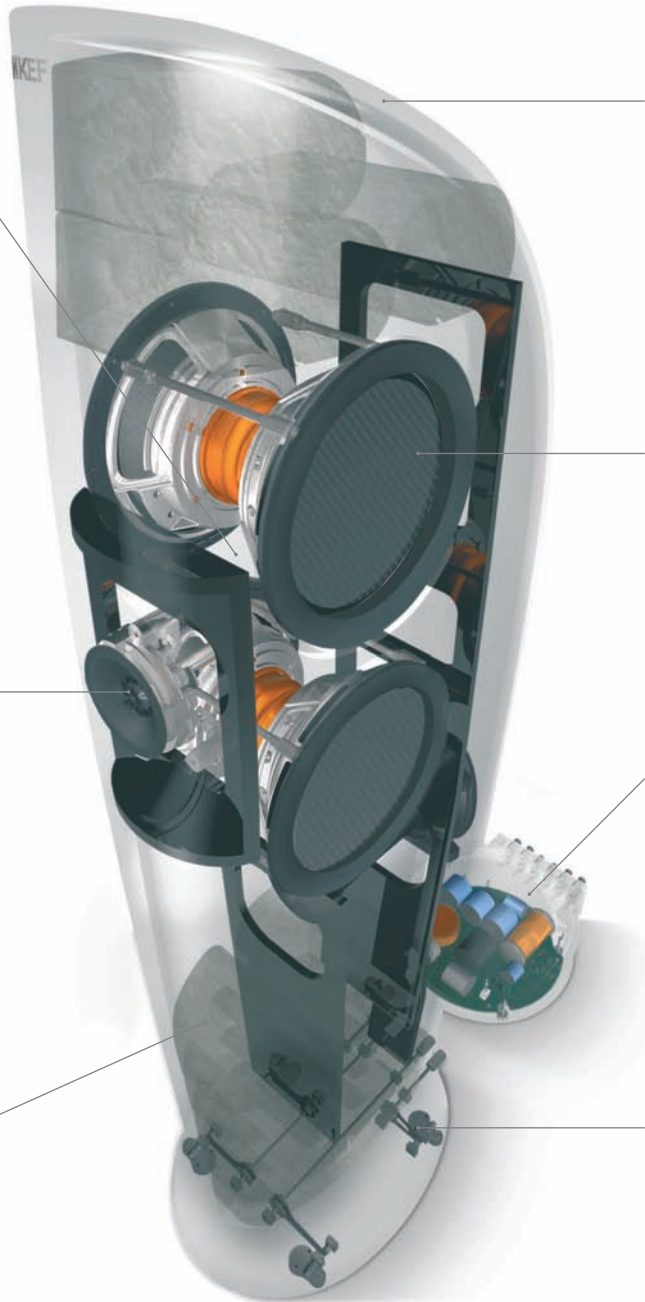
In loudspeaker engineering as in everything else, true innovation sometimes requires rethinking a problem from first principles. So when we set out to create the Concept Blade, our acoustic research department had complete freedom to explore radical new options. No preconceptions or aesthetic restrictions, and no reliance on existing components.

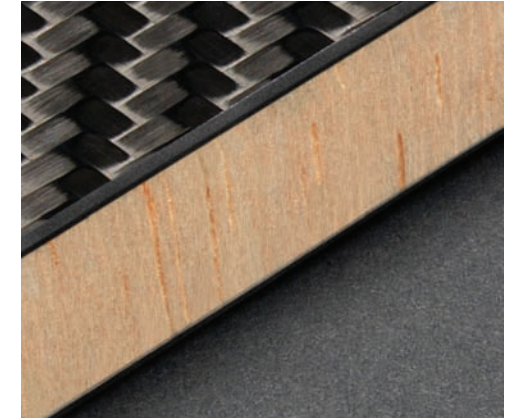
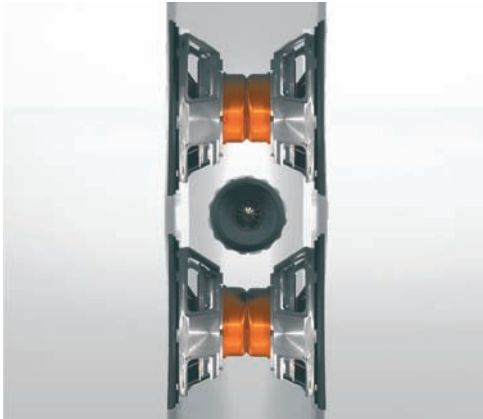
After three years of exhaustive testing and analysis of traditional as well as experimental approaches to loudspeaker design, they perfected a combination of technologies that generates an extraordinarily pure sound.

Concept Blade is forged from these technologies. Its exceptional acoustic integrity derives from the fact that every element of the system has been conceived to perform as a single coherent unit with all parts working in flawless harmony. The highest quality components and advanced materials have been used in perfecting the design.

While the technologies incorporated into the design are often very complex, the focus has always been on simplicity. The drivers are specifically designed to behave with zero break-up or resonance over their frequency range, and the distinctive cabinet is carefully engineered not to interfere with the purity of their output.

"Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication"
- Leonardo Da Vinci





Technology Highlights

Single Apparent Source

High performance sound reproduction requires the drivers of a multi-way loudspeaker to generate very similar individual soundfields, especially at the crossover frequencies where the acoustic output switches from one driver to another. This is the reason why the bass drivers in Concept Blade are arranged in symmetrical pairs and are side firing. This way their combined acoustic centre can be arranged to coincide with those of the midrange and tweeter drivers. KEF's Single Apparent Source technology perfectly complements the characteristics of the Uni-Q array to deliver unrivalled coherence throughout the frequency range.

Uni-Q

Open, natural-sounding vocals are assured by the latest 10th generation Uni-Q driver array. The injection moulded LCP* cone uses a combination of ribs and a 3in. (75mm) voice coil to move any break-up way above its operating range. The 1in. (25mm) titanium dome tweeter features a uniquely stiff dome profile, created using FEA** and is tube loaded to give exceptionally low resonance. The combination of these units gives a stunningly accurate, distortion-free performance, especially through the all-important crossover region where the ear is most sensitive.

Force Cancelling

With four new 10in. (250mm) low frequency drivers, bass extension is phenomenal – and notably undistorted, even when played loud. This is because KEF's ingenious Force Cancelling technology prevents the considerable excursion of such large cones from exciting the cabinet walls and causing secondary radiation that might otherwise muddy the sound. The force produced by the drivers is so strong that the rear magnet assemblies have to be glued directly to each other in order to obtain the full benefit of this technology.

Cabinet

Uniquely, Concept Blade enclosures are made of resin impregnated woven carbon fibre over a balsa wood core – a composite used in aircraft, professional surfboards and some ultra-high performance cars for its combination of exceptional lightness and rigidity. Balsa's low density, high strength and coarse open grain has excellent damping properties, and is used end-on to maximise stiffness; the parabolic curvature of the cabinet walls increases rigidity further still. As a result, the only sound you hear is that radiating from the drivers, and not from other parts of the speaker. Pure and simple.

* Liquid Crystal Polymer – a very light but stiff material with superior acoustic properties

** Finite Element Analysis – A technique whereby a complex system is broken down into many small manageable parts to more easily evaluate potential design solutions



The sound of the future

The Single Apparent Source technology in this loudspeaker provides a truly remarkable listening experience – clean, true and lucid, whatever you're playing, whatever the volume. Intensely musical. And, as you would expect from the manufacturer of some of the world's finest loudspeakers, the attention to detail and quality of finish are second to none. Even the appearance of the concept is absolutely stunning; as any designer will confirm, "what looks right, usually is."

Although the design is all new, Concept Blade is so typically KEF. As a technology-driven brand that's been innovating for more than five decades, no other manufacturer has done more to improve the state of the art. Concept Blade is simply the latest in a long line of landmark designs that showcase KEF's continuing engagement with fresh ideas and new technologies to enrich your enjoyment of recorded sound.

Concept Blade: yet again, KEF at the leading edge of acoustic technology.

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