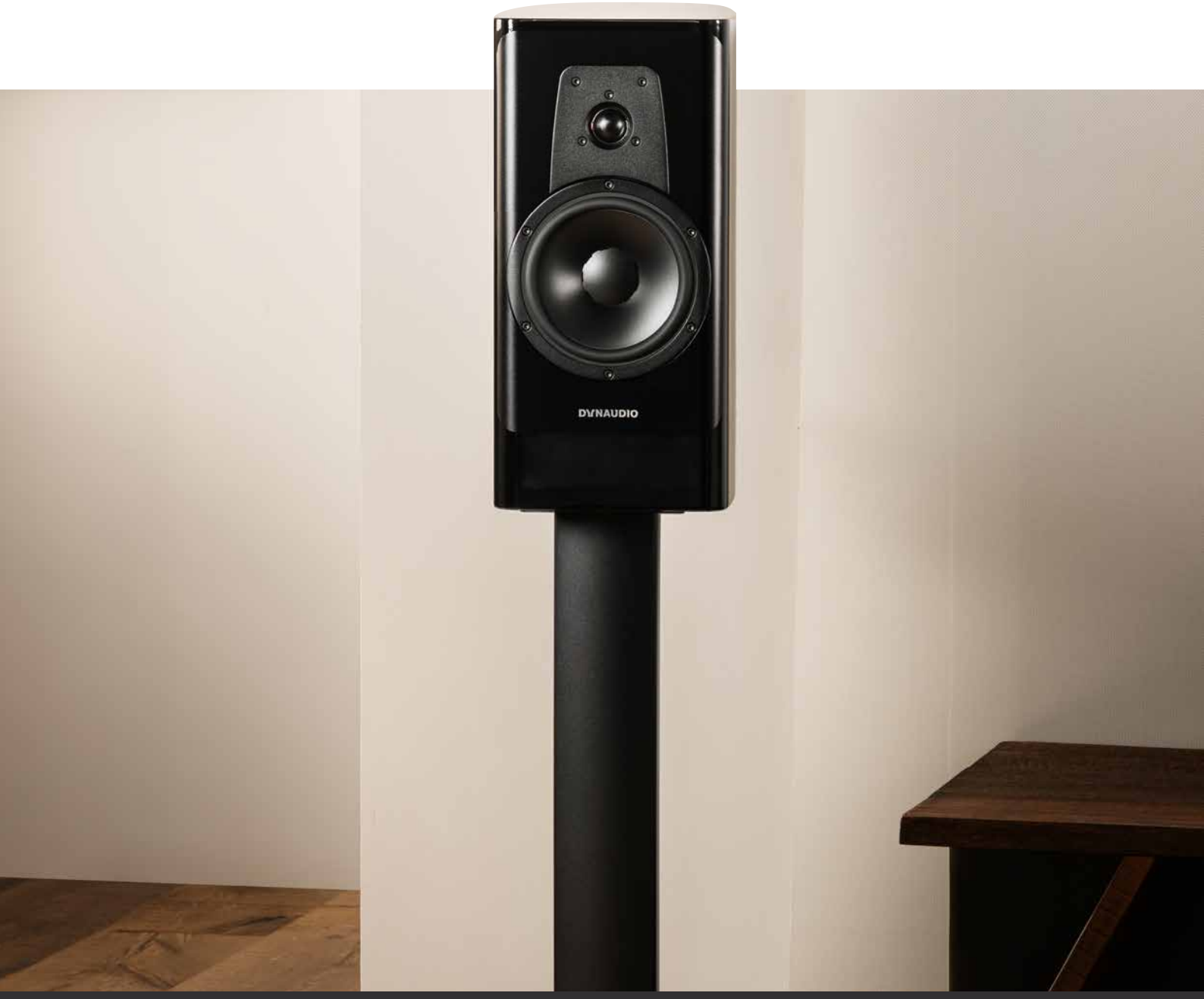
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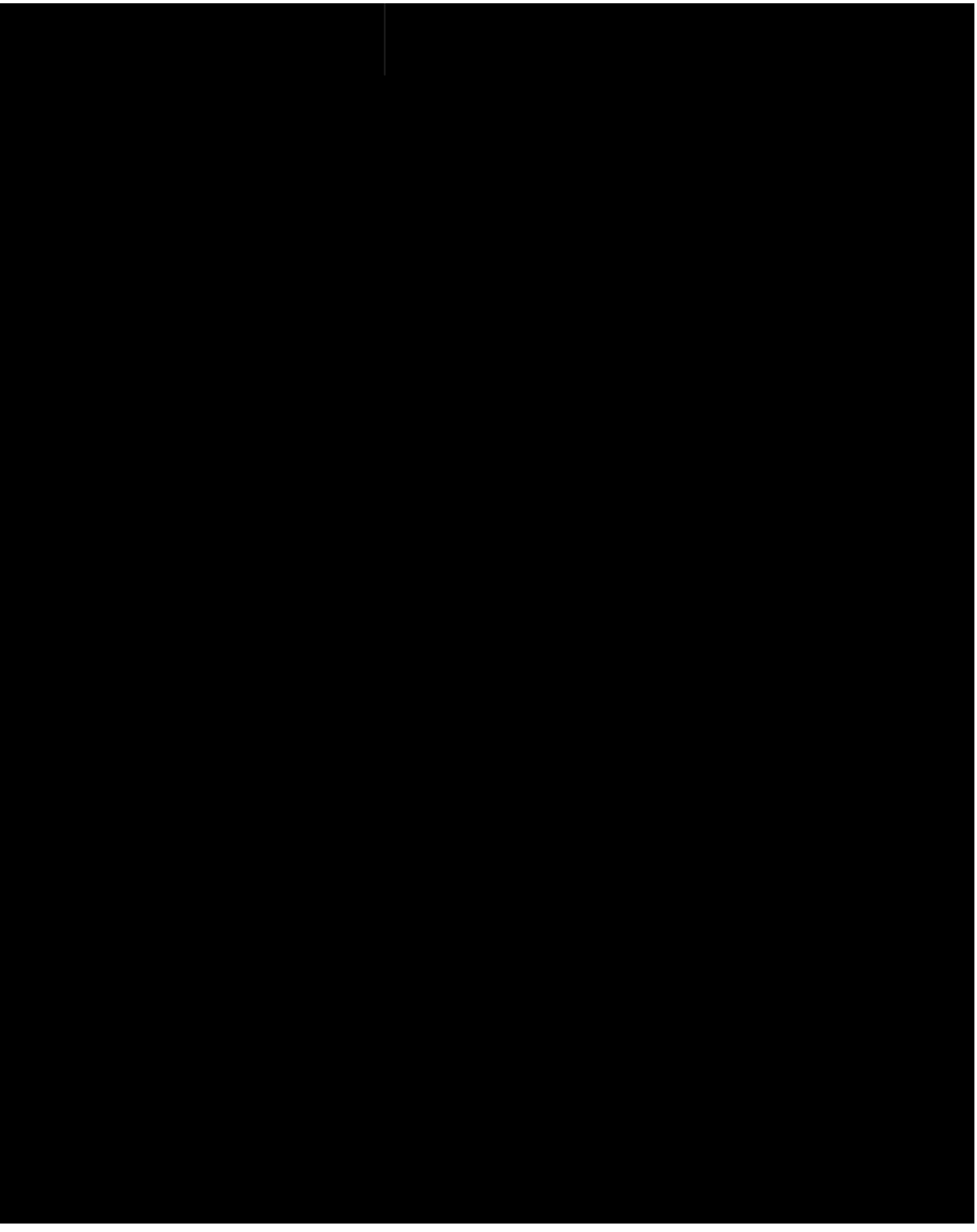
Contour 20 **Black Edition**



A radical upgrade for a stone-cold classic

Awards and reviews | Product information | Technical specifications


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Awards and reviews

Contour 20 Black Edition

This is what happens when you take an award-winning classic and give it a massive upgrade. The very best parts, painstaking measurement and testing, and a pursuit of perfection that some people might deem obsessive.


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EISA AWARD
Best Product 2025-2026
PREMIUM STANDMOUNT LOUDSPEAKERS
Dynaudio Contour 20 Black Edition

"The Contour 20 Black Edition excels at playing music as it was intended by the artist, and the bass extension is remarkable for a standmount design, bringing full-range listening to spaces unsuited to larger models."

The Expert Imaging and Sound Association (EISA) recognizes the Dynaudio premium loudspeaker Contour 20 Black Edition as one of the best loudspeakers in 2025-2026.



"However, I would recommend the Contour 20 BE to anyone who values long-term performance and natural balance: vocalists, chamber music fans, and enthusiasts of finely tuned electronics – all of them should be in good hands with the Dynaudio. The prerequisite: a well-controlled amplifier and an environment that does justice to its sonic refinement. Then the Contour 20 BE not only delivers 'good value for money', but far more".

Viktor Lau, *fairaudio*



"Brandishing authenticity, control and a very smooth sound, there's a lot to love about this special version of the Contour 20i. While some may rue the single colour option, considering the wood finishes available on other Dynaudio models, there's no denying the Black Edition displays masterful build quality and lush looks. When auditioning these new standmounts it's the artist's intent you hear, not the speaker."

Jamie Biesemans, *HI-FI News*



"I think they do a great job of bridging the gap between the Confidence and the Contour 20i, and they also show that a pair of compact speakers can definitely challenge smaller floor-standing models in terms of dynamics, punch, and ability to fill the entire living room with sound. Welcome to the dark side!"

Håvard Holmedal, *Stereo+*



"It may be that the Black Edition of the Contour 20 was conceived solely to close the price gap between the classic 20i and the Confidence 20. What sounds like a stopgap measure ultimately turns out to be a stroke of acoustic luck. As much as I value our reference Heritage Special, the Black Edition's additional midrange openness is even more captivating and fascinating. It's precisely this aspect that makes the 'gap-filler' Contour one of the best compacts under €10,000."

Holger Biermann, *LowBeats*

"It could be argued that the role of an audio critic is to play a selection of recordings that reveal not just the good points of a product's behavior but also the areas where it fails. This didn't prove possible with the Contour 20 BE, because every time I thought I had a handle on something wrong, it turned out that it was a characteristic of the recording being played."

John Atkinson, *Stereophile*



"The Dynaudio Contour 20 Black Edition is a black diamond with an exceptional amount to offer. Dynaudio's Black Edition of the Contour 20 is an exceptionally well-performing and well-designed speaker. It is clearly the best compact speaker in its class."

Lasse Svendsen, *Lyd og Billede*

"With the Contour 20 Black Edition, Dynaudio takes a successful step towards the higher positioned models. The use of an Esotar3 tweeter is probably responsible for that. The reproduction combined with the design makes a Contour 20 Black Edition a winner, although you do have to like black."

René van Es, *hifi.nl*



"The Dynaudio Contour 20 Black Edition is far more than a cosmetically reworked version of an already powerful compact speaker. It is a fully-fledged, audiophile sound transducer that presents itself with great refinement, poise, and attention to detail. Its sound is honest, balanced, and highly musical – a speaker for people who don't just want to hear music, but to experience it."

Artur Evers, *AUDIO TEST*

"Playing through a long list of vocalists and acoustic tracks, these monitors do an excellent job with tone and timbre. Yet when called upon to deliver the goods with heavier tracks, they have excellent dynamic range. These speakers played much louder than I needed to listen to music without any hints of fatigue or soundstage collapse."

Tone, *USA*

"These are some of the best bookshelf speakers from this company, maybe ever, I think. And some of the best bookshelf speakers of these dimensions in general."

Wojciech Pacula, *High Fidelity*



Hifi & Musik
Dynaudio Contour 20 Black Edition
TOPPKLASS!
★Testad i Hifi & Musik nummer 7-8 2025★

"We are talking about a sound reproduction that can compete with the absolute cream of the crop in terms of purity, dynamics and speed."
Jonas Bryngelsson, *Hifi & Musik*

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hi-fi+

"The Dynaudio Contour 20 Black Edition has no right to be this good."
Alan Sircom, *hi-fi+*

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the absolute sound

"If you're a listener who is short on space but you're interested in getting the most high end experience possible from a two-way standmount design, I can't think of many products out there that check more boxes than the Dynaudio Contour 20 Black Edition."
The Absolute Sound


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Would you like to read certain tests or reviews in full length?
No Problem. Just scan the QR code below.

Dark star

Contour 20 Black Edition is the apex of 40 years of Contour. We've taken every component and upgraded it. Every nuance and improved it. And every surface… and made it black.


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Good engineers aren't happy unless they're unhappy. It means they've found something they want to improve, and the solution is nagging at them. They went through it in 2016 when Contour was revamped into its current look. It happened again in 2020, when the family gained the 'i' badge after being perked-up by a raft of trickle-down Confidence tech.

And they went through it once more in the months before the first Contour 20 Black Edition rolled off the production line at our factory in Denmark. During development this time, their unhappiness made them *extremely* happy, because they got to throw the kitchen sink at it.

How to improve 'perfect'

Contour already had a brilliant foundation. The cabinet construction is stellar: thick, solid and with a shape that minimises unwanted vibrations and standing waves. And the heavy aluminium baffle (which is actually a lot thicker than it looks, at 14mm behind its curved facade) does wonders for increasing stability and eliminating diffraction.

So, how do you improve the rest? You reach into the bag of tricks Dynaudio Labs has been filling up since 1977 and pluck out the best bits of the best bits.

High spirits

Let's take it from the top. High frequencies are handled by the Esotar 3 tweeter. It comes directly from our flagship Confidence range – and is, quite simply, the best tweeter we've ever produced. (So far.)

The soft-dome diaphragm is finished with our DSR coating. It's a high-precision method, formulated and mixed by hand and applied by robots, that puts the coating at the exactly right density in exactly the right places, so you hear exactly what you're supposed to hear. Which is exactly what the artist wants. (And while we aren't allowed to tell you exactly what the DSR coating is, we can tell you what the acronym stands for: Dynaudio Secret Recipe. So now you know.)

Directly behind the diaphragm sits Hexis. This ingenious little dimpled dome sits behind the main diaphragm. You can just about see it in the right light. You might even say it's camera-shy. But it does something extraordinary, back there in the dark…





Everything upgrade
The only thing that hasn't changed is the cabinet; everything else has been improved over Contour 20i

It helps the tweeter breathe. It helps your music breathe. The Hexis smooths out the tweeter's frequency response and reduces unwanted resonances, the kind that colour your music, by gently guiding the moving air behind the fabric dome. It channels the flow in exactly the right way in and out of the conduit system in the rear chamber behind the magnet. The movement is minuscule – only fractions of a millimetre – and it happens tens of thousands of times a second.

It means you'll hear high frequencies with all the emotion you're meant to. The sharp attack of a well-rosined bow on a cello string as the player digs in. The epic, soaring crescendo of the first violins. The cocksure sizzle of the hi-hats as the drummer counts in.

Air marshal

In the way-back you'll find a labyrinth of conduits, shaped vents and more. There's a large rear chamber to reduce resonance, we've improved our damping game and the super-strong neodymium magnet and lightweight aluminium voice-coil complete the all-star team.

Esotar 3 is more sensitive than previous models, which means it can react with a lower input voltage, which means it doesn't get hot as fast. And *that* means it can play louder, with amazing clarity, for longer.

It's one of the cornerstones of modern hi-fi.

A sensitive type

The mid/bass driver is something rather special. Its super-powerful neodymium magnet boosts what's an already powerful ferrite unit in Contour 20i, while the extended voice-coil winding improves excursion linearity. And because the magnet is smaller now, there's more space for the kind of air movement we want inside the slim cabinet.

Overall, the driver is more sensitive (so there's less stress on your amplifier) while bass extension is maintained (it's normally affected by higher sensitivity). Here, it's the best of both worlds.

Your ears will notice it, too: more attack and better imaging.

The rest of the driver is classic Dynaudio: a one-piece MSP (Magnesium Silicate Polymer) cone, directly anchored to the extended aluminium voice-coil via its moulded balance ribs; a glass-fibre voice-coil former for reducing eddy currents (and



Simplicity ►
Inside, the crossover uses as few components as we could manage

improving agility); and optimised ventilation. It's a formula that's trusted across the hi-fi world – and even into professional studios.

All of it, of course, tested, tweaked and perfected using a combination of our world-class Jupiter measuring laboratory and world-class outer-, middle- and inner-ears.

Port authority

The new woofer has been designed to work seamlessly with the new bass port.

It's bigger than the one you'll see on Contour 20i, and is flared in a specific way at both ends (inside and out), which helps to control air movement for better precision, fewer artefacts, and vastly improved low-bass performance.

And we think it looks rather nice, too; it took a lot of work (both for our mechanical engineers and our product designers) to integrate it perfectly with the cabinet's graceful curves.

Minimalist crossover

The crossover has been given the all-star treatment, too. Contour 20i already has an incredible unit – which makes things difficult. How do you upgrade an upgrade?

You go back to the beginning and start again. Contour 20 Black Edition has a brand-new crossover using the smallest amount of components we could manage – and the best versions of those parts. We've used Mundorf capacitors and resistors, a gigantic air-coil and top-quality internal cables. It's a second-order topology for both drivers – so there's no correction circuitry necessary. You'll hear that simplicity, too. Directivity is tightly controlled, thanks to the smooth power response. And that means a precise, focussed performance – with no detail left unrevealed.

Black magic

Some manufacturers give options for their Black Edition products. That seems weird to us, so we decided to follow the lead of one of the twentieth century's greatest poets, Nigel Tufnell. In 1984, he asked: "It's like, how much more black could this be? And the answer is none. None more black".

Cabinet? Black. Woofer basket? Black. Tweeter front plate? Black. Terminal plate? Black. Anodised aluminium baffle? Black. Bass port? Black? Cabinet? Black.

It's an investment in sound. An investment in your music collection. And it's one that pays off the instant you drop the needle on the record.

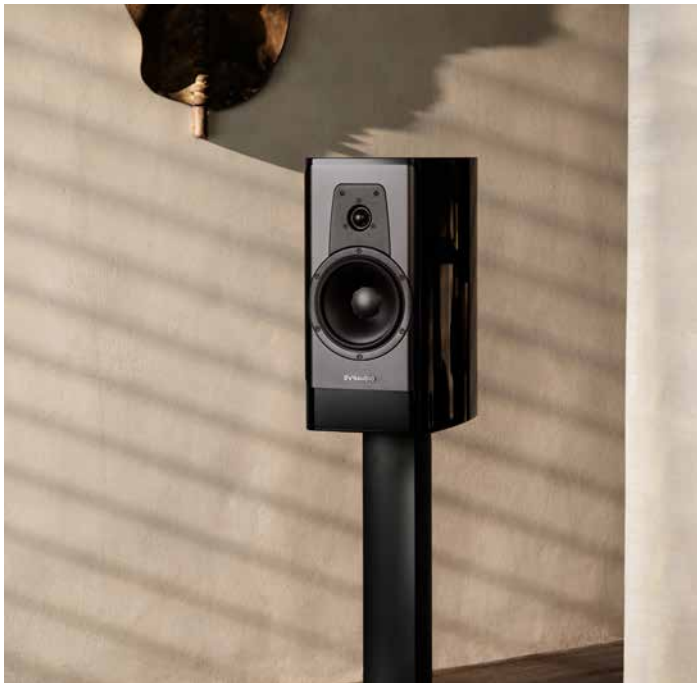

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Technical specifications


DYNAUDIO Contour 20
Black Edition


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Sensitivity	86dB (2.83V/1m)
IEC power handling	180W
Impedance	4 Ohms
Frequency response (+/- 3dB)	50Hz – 23kHz
Box principle	Bass-reflex rear-mounted dual-flared port
Crossover	2-way
Crossover frequency	3600Hz
Crossover topology	2nd order
Woofer	1x 18cm MSP
Tweeter	28mm Esotar 3 with Hexis
Weight	14.6kg / 32.2lbs
Dimensions (W x H x D	215 x 440 x 400mm 8.5 x 17.3 x 15.7in
Dimensions with feet/grille (W x H x D)	215 x 440 x 403mm 8.5 x 17.3 x 15.9in
Finish	Black, black or black



Cabinet design that endures

The only thing that's changed about Contour 20 Black Edition's cabinet is that our admiration for it has grown. It's the same one you get with Contour i, and there was absolutely no reason for us to alter it. It's thick, solid, and its shape is great for curtailing standing waves and unwanted vibration. The aluminium baffle is the same, too (other than its new colour). It might look thin, but that's only the wrap-around portion; the rest of it, embedded in the cabinet, is 14mm thick.



High-tech high frequencies

Esotar 3 is our flagship tweeter. It appeared in 2018 on the next-generation Confidence, and has quickly become an industry benchmark for high-frequency performance. So much so, in fact, that it now takes pride of place in our M-series professional reference systems, which you'll find in some of the world's most important recording studios. The soft-dome diaphragm is backed-up with a Hexis inner dome (below), a powerful neodymium motor and a precision-wound, lightweight aluminium voice coil.



Hexis inner dome

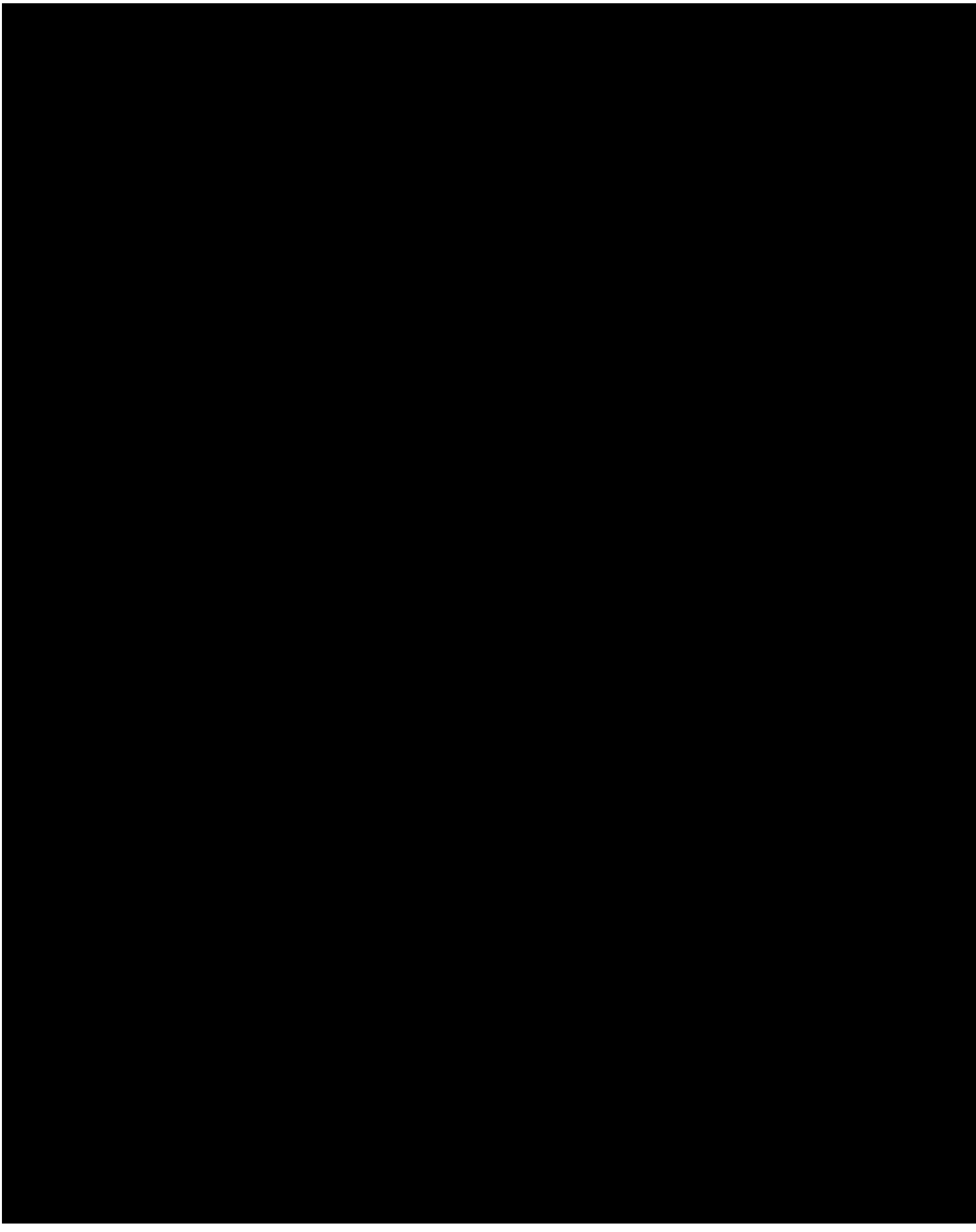
Hexis has become an essential part of modern Dynaudio tweeters. It's a dimpled inner dome with a felt insert, and it sits right behind the tweeter's soft-dome diaphragm. (You can just about see it in the right light.) Hexis replaces the old felt ring, and does a more efficient job of smoothing out the tweeter's frequency response and doing away with music-tainting resonances by channelling air movement in exactly the way we want behind the dome.



Improved bass port

The redesigned bass port has been designed to work perfectly with the mid/bass driver. It's much bigger than the one you'll see on Contour 20i, and has been flared at both ends (inside and out) to help control air movement. That means increased precision, reduced artefacts and deeper bass. We also took care to make it conform to the cabinets gentle curves – which is more of a job than you might think; it had to work acoustically, too. It was an R&D project all by itself…


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DYNAUDIO Contour 20
Black Edition

Designed and engineered by
Dynaudio Labs in Denmark

Learn more, read our reviews and find your nearest Dynaudio dealer at
dynaudio.com and **facebook.com/dynaudiogroup** or **book your demo** here:

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www.dynaudio.com

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