

Bowers & Wilkins 805 D4

WINNER STAND-MOUNT LOUDSPEAKER (COST NO OBJECT)

owers & Wilkins 800 Series is the guintessential British high-end studio reference loudspeaker, being the monitor of choice for the legendary Abbey Road Studios. The smallest of the range, the ported two-way 805 has long been the go-to loudspeaker for listeners who demand that studio-like precision in a more metropolitan space. However, unlike larger 800 Series models – which now incorporate the new 'Biometric Suspension' drivers, the 805 D4 uses a radically upgraded version of the 165mm Continuum Cone from the previous version. This, coupled with the clever and improved pod-mounted 25mm diamond dome tweeter, a 'reverse-wrap' cabinet (new to this version) and revised crossover, deliver a strikingly impressive performance.

Alan Sircom could quickly hear the benefits of the latest design; "For a small loudspeaker intended for small to medium rooms, there's a healthy amount of gut-pounding, fast, deep, chunky bass firing at you." He also noted that, "the soundstage is wide and deep and extraordinarily solid, especially when you consider this is a stand-mount."

"We've come to expect Bowers & Wilkins loudspeakers to be honest transducers," Alan continued, "with plenty of detail and not much in the way of unevenness in the frequency response, but the 805 D4 takes those concepts to their present limits; and throws in a cabinet with some of the lowest coloration I've (not) heard and an absence of driver distortion."

Finally, he felt that "the 805 D4 loses nothing in the honesty stakes, but gains some fun and excitement along the way."

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