

HI-FI WORLD

MARCH 2020

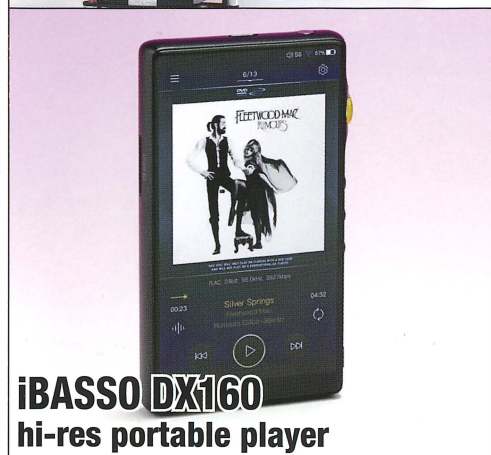
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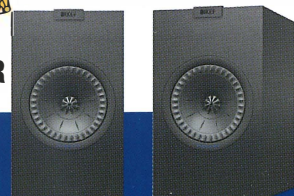


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PAIR OF KEF Q150 LOUDSPEAKERS! (UK ONLY)



It's A Breeze

Jon Myles is impressed by Quadral's new Breeze Q Bluetooth loudspeaker.

Small Bluetooth loudspeakers are all the rage at the moment and it is easy to see why. Walk in the house, turn it on and then stream music direct from your smart 'phone, computer or laptop.

Which brings me to the new Breeze Q from German company Quadral. The £100 Breeze Q is a compact Bluetooth loudspeaker with wireless connection to devices such as smartphones, tablets and computers. It plays any music collection saved on the device.

Breeze Q boasts a passive membrane to boost low-frequency response and is small enough (7.8cm x 20.2cm x 7.8cm W/H/D) to be

carried around – used in the garden, local park or simply on a kitchen shelf perhaps.

Inside there are two 12 Watt amplifiers. It might not sound a lot but is more than enough to get a decent volume.

A nicely sculpted rotary control at the top turns the unit on. There are two finishes available, standard black and a more unusual fleece version. Volume controls are on the side and, while a little plastic, they have a firm action and work well. Playback time is around 6 to 8 hours with a fully charged battery and charging the battery from empty takes between 4 to 5 hours.

Frequency range is quoted as

65Hz to 20kHz - but personally I think Quadral are being a little conservative here. Because once placed on a solid surface the low frequency response seems to dig very deep (more of which later).

SOUND QUALITY

Having fully charged the Breeze Q, placed it on a desktop and paired it with my iPhone 8 Plus (which took a matter of seconds and held steady throughout the review period) I was gratified at just how punchy the 'speaker sounded.

Led Zeppelin's 'When The Levee Breaks' is a dirty, dark mix with pulsating bass - just the sort of track that can make many Bluetooth loudspeakers rather rattly and closed in. But the Quadral's sounded just the opposite - open and airy with a good degree of punch down below. That 65Hz measurement seemed conservative to me when I heard drummer John Bonham and bassist John Paul Jones operating together. Turning volume up it was gratifying just how stable the Breeze Q remained. Extraordinary how a few Watts can produce so much volume.

OK, the Breeze Q is not going to shake the walls of your listening room - be it kitchen, living room or bedroom - but nor will it wilt into the background.

Any downsides? Well no, not really. The Breeze Q does exactly what it was intended to do – and does so in impressive fashion. I'd advise, though, that you don't let the battery run flat as that four to five hours charge time can seem interminable when you just want to listen to music.

CONCLUSION

Sleek, portable and easy to use. There's nothing to materially criticise about the Quadral Breeze Q Bluetooth loudspeaker. You can pay more and get a lot less for your money. As such it comes highly recommended both in terms of value for money and sound quality.



QUADRAL BREEZE Q £100



OUTSTANDING - amongst the best

VALUE - keenly priced

VERDICT

Elegantly engineered Bluetooth loudspeaker that sounds excellent and is eminently portable. One of the best of its kind.

FOR

- design
- sound quality
- portability

AGAINST

- nothing at the price

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