

REVIEW SHORT: AURALEX MOPAD MONITOR ISOLATION PAD

Those folks over at Auralex just don't seem to stop. Not content to design and manufacture reasonably priced acoustic treatments for recording studios, control rooms, home theaters, and other sonically critical listening environments, the company has been turning out more application-specific acoustic isolation products, such as the GRAMMA guitar amplifier/speaker cabinet isolation platform reviewed in the December 2001 issue. At Winter NAMM, they continued on this path, introducing the MoPad monitor isolation pads, which retail for \$29.95 per set.

Made from high-density acoustic foam, the gray MoPads comprise two pieces: the main MoPad and the Wedge Adjuster, a wedge-shaped piece of foam that allows you to adjust the angle at which your monitors sit. Two MoPads are used under each monitor (or any other piece of gear you want

to isolate from vibration, such as a hard drive, turntable, or whatever), which results in a stable setup.

I used MoPads under my normal Genelec monitors as well as under the Earthworks and SLS monitors reviewed elsewhere in this issue. Using the MoPads and Wedge Adjusters in various combinations and orientations, you can angle your speakers up at 4° or 8°, flat, or down at 4° or 8°. For my purposes, I used just the MoPads without the Wedge Adjusters for a 4° upward angle.

The monitors were placed on a desk that also holds a pile of gear, Zip disks and CDs, a tangle of cables, and assorted junk, and were cranked up to reasonable listening levels. The desk immediately dissolved into a frenzy of vibration and rattling. Placing the MoPads under the monitors reduced this clatter immensely — the noise was only apparent at the highest volume levels. The tone of the monitors also tightened up, particularly in the low-frequency range. I've used foam mouse pads and other materials to accomplish this kind of thing in the past, but the MoPads are more effective.

If your monitors are on isolated stands, the MoPads may not interest you. But if you place your monitors on a desk or table, or — probably the most common scenario — on top of one of those studio furniture desks where there's a rack on either side of your computer monitor, purchase MoPads. The reduction in resonance in your studio furniture will likely be immediately apparent, and is well worth the price of admission.

—Mitch Gallagher



For more information, contact Auralex at 317-842-2600 or visit www.auralex.com.