



**AV MAX**  
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# Everybody Loves Diamond

Initiated from the basement of an Englishman Gilbert Briggs in southern England, who knew Wharfedale would gain recognition world over. The latest Diamond 10.7 floorstander from the Diamond 10 series simply builds on that reputation.

**W**harfedale speakers always give AV buffs something to talk about. The new talk of the town, Diamond 10 series comprises of a whopping 8 pairs of stereo speakers and several other home-theatre extras (we reviewed the Diamond 10.2 HT speaker package in our February 2011 issue). This time, we have the Diamond 10.7 for the floorstanding speaker special.

## OUT OF THE BOX

Many AV enthusiasts may find the Diamond 10 series to be a replica of the Diamond 9 series in ways. The only difference is the shimmer on the front fascia. For those, who are looking at these beauties for the first time, the speakers will appear to be a breeze of fresh air. Available in 7 different real wood finishes, pick the one that suits your furniture the best. Needless to say, the curved cabinet adds further value to the classy, moulded structure of the Diamonds. The Diamond 10.7 is the biggest speaker from the Diamond 10 series but is easy to manoeuvre.

## TECHNOLOGY

Diamond 10.7 casts a spell on you with its bold looks, and so it takes time to get out of it to check it from the inside. Diamond 10.7 uses a tried and tested formula.

With the curved cabinet walls, the speaker is endowed with strength and reduction of internal standing waves to a great extent. For the Diamond 10 series, these walls have been made even stronger using more sophisticated methods of bonding and curving the panels, increasing the rigidity and internal strength of the speaker. The main drive unit that houses the mid/bass drive unit has been enhanced with a stronger extension that is secured using six screws. This certainly adds to the stability of the drive unit and increases the performance of the lower end of the speaker. Even the diamond pattern of the surrounds for these drivers is not just for aesthetic reasons. The shape reduces the standing waves in the front baffle, and hence there is a more linear and smooth frequency response from the speakers. For the mid/bass drivers and the tweeter they have used a 1" soft dome-tweeter flanked by a diffuser grille and a pair of 6.5" drivers. The mid-range driver comes as a surprise with the 2" dome type driver for the same.

## PERFORMANCE

We learnt that the speakers were sent to us directly from the factory, so we decided to give them a nice long burn-in of at least 100 hours. The speakers were treated with a round of sweeps, sine waves and then eventually some gritty rock

## Specifications

**DESIGN** 2-way Bass Reflex

**DRIVERS** 1x1" Soft Dome Tweeter, 1x2" Mid-range Driver, 2x6.5" Mid/Bass Driver

**FREQUENCY RESPONSE** 30Hz–24kHz

**NOMINAL IMPEDANCE** 6Ω

**POWER HANDLING** 30–200w

**SENSITIVITY** 90dB

**WEIGHT** NA

**DIMENSIONS**



## 2<sup>nd</sup> OPINION

This truly is an open pair of Wharfedale's, with plenty of sonic treats that'll leave you wanting more. The lower end is tight and heavy without coming in the way of the mids and highs. That said, this pair comes to a modest enough price to give you room to think and save. For me, if your amplifier is good enough in terms of power and transparency, the Wharfedale's are well worth it and won't disappoint.

**Karan Gour**



and electronic music to loosen up the drivers. Then we started with the arrangements and going by the general rule of placement, we placed the speakers on the two vertices of an equilateral triangle of 6ft with the listening position being the third vertex. As it turned out, even at this position the speakers exhibited exceptional dispersion characteristics. By exceptional we mean that the speakers had a wonderful performance radius, which extended approximately 1ft outside the speaker making the soundstage wider than the apparent placement of the speakers. We give the credit of this characteristic to the unusual 'dome-shaped' mid-range driver in the 10.7. Its relatively small-diameter diaphragm helps maintain consistent dispersion across the soundstage, especially as the frequency rises. So if you have a wider room to house these speakers, it's quite obvious that you will have an even wider soundstage at your perusal.

**WHAT IS**

**\*Sensitivity**  
Sensitivity is a measurement used to check the loudness of the speaker. It is specified in decibels and measures at 1m distance from the speaker when you supply it with a power of 1W.

On the other side, the small-diameter diaphragm also takes a toll on the overall sensitivity of the speaker. Well, with relatively less flesh moving the mid-range air in the speaker, we guess that's a calculated risk taken by the guys at Wharfedale for their entire Diamond 10 series. It's a calculated risk because they have managed to mitigate the loss in sensitivity due to a slightly weaker mid-range by an extended high and low frequency response. And the gamble did turn up well. We deliberately tried different genres of music like progressive rock by 'Linkin Park', which require higher sensitivity from the speakers, for an effective rendition of the mood. And the speakers did pull off a convincing performance without making us realise that the mids were lacking slightly. All the drivers in the 10.7 were cohesively working with each other, supporting each other with the overall frequency response, timeliness, dispersion and also the

most important aspect—musical tonality. We played some of our regular songs by Patricia Barber, Tracy Chapman, John Mayer and even Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. The speaker was highly effective in bringing out even the minutest of details from each of their voices. There wasn't much information in the lower and the higher bandwidth to mask the vocals (mids). Also, the speakers were great in holding and sustaining the lower end, accentuating the typical laid back style of Patricia Barber.

**CONCLUSION**

The Diamond 10.7 will not disappoint you, if you like your music to be clean, clear and detailed. Though laid back and mellow in certain ways, the speakers deliver vibrant sounds. Yes, looking at the slightly constrained sensitivity of the speaker, you may not get to shatter the windows with these guys, but you will definitely appreciate the vast musical soundscapes they provide. This one is a real entertainer!

**Sumit Bhosle**



Wharfedale Diamond 10.7	
<b>PRICE</b>	₹ 54,000
<b>WARRANTY</b>	1 Year
<b>CATEGORY</b>	Floorstanding Spkrs
<b>AESTHETICS</b>	★★★★☆
<b>BUILD</b>	★★★★☆
<b>AUDIO</b>	★★★★☆
<b>EASE OF USE</b>	★★★★☆
<b>VFM</b>	★★★★☆
<b>WHAT SAY AV?</b>	Reasonably priced at Rs 54,000, the Diamond 10.7 is a great deal. What you get is a refreshing and a pleasant musical performance, classy mix of old school speaker design and new age looks with a robust build quality that will last for ages!
<b>OVERALL</b>	★★★★★
<b>CONTACT</b>	www.designeraudio.in