

LEGEND Isobaric Small Red monitors

Multi-award winning Australian loudspeaker manufacturer Legend Acoustics has just launched the Isobaric Small Red monitor speakers as part of its “Ultimate Series” range that also includes the Tikandi and Big Red loudspeakers. Legend founder and chief designer, Dr Rod Crawford, told Australian Hi-Fi that the Isobaric Small Reds are based on the passive Big Red 2s which themselves built on its learning from its top-of-the-range DEQX-active Tikandi loudspeakers. It uses a similar truncated pyramidal shaped cabinet as the Tikandi and Big Reds with the non-parallel sides minimising internal standing waves. The narrow triangular front baffle also minimises edge diffraction effects. And of course they are very solidly built to minimise cabinet resonances, all of which helps maximize their speed and openness, Dr Rod said.



However, unlike the Tikandis, which have DEQX-active crossovers, the Isobaric Small Reds, like their Big Red siblings, have purely passive crossovers. The mid-range driver used in the Big & Small Reds is therefore a different Seas 130mm unit – a superb Nextel unit which works better with the gentler slopes of passive crossovers. However, Legend have retained the Tikandi's and Big Red's excellent Visaton ceramic-coated aluminium 25mm tweeter with its very low distortion and superb accuracy for frequencies above 2.5 kHz.

Unlike both the Big Red 2s & Tikandis, the Isobaric Small Reds do not have a separate bass module. Using Dr Rod's experience at Linn with the Sara, Isobarik and Keltik loudspeakers, Legend have mounted two Scanspeak long-throw bass drivers in isobaric configuration to achieve deep bass in a relatively small single cabinet. This gives usable bass to well below 40 Hz that is also very tight, fast and detailed.

Thus, Dr Crawford said, the Isobaric Small Reds cover the range of human hearing from deep bass to sparkling highs with very uniform frequency response to faithfully retain the tonal character of music and voices. And by minimising driver and cabinet resonances they have the “fast, open natural sound” of all Legend loudspeakers.

Suggested retail price is \$6400. More details can be found at www.legendspeakers.com.au.