



High-End Loudspeaker of the Year

Vivid Audio Kaya 45

Vivid Audio's loudspeakers typically present a 'distinctive' look that is never going to be universally popular. Some love the unique curves, tubes, and angles as they give a loudspeaker a uniquely 'organic' feel. Others would like something a little less 'alien' and a bit more 'domestically friendly'. Vivid was reluctant to sacrifice quality in the search for more uniform aesthetics, but found the best possible compromise in the new Kaya range. These combine more room-friendly looks with the kind of performance with which the Vivid name has long been associated.

The Kaya range is the product of a collaboration between legendary audio designer Laurence 'Dic' Dickie and noted industrial designers Matt Longbottom and Christoph Hermann. The resultant Kaya model (the numerical suffix denotes cabinet volume, the Kaya 45 being a 45 litre enclosure) viewed from above has a triangular section with a small spine. The edges and base are gently curved so that from the front the Kaya 45 is essentially rectangular; it's only the side view that reveals any curves. Coupled with this are Vivid's own aluminium drive units, with catenary rather than hemispherical domes for the midrange and tweeter and dustcap-free cones for the reaction-cancelling bass drivers, with improved magnets for the Kayas.

In our test, the reviewer praised the Kaya 45 for its refinement, musicality, fluidity, detail, and surprisingly deep bass for a loudspeaker of its stature. "Tone and timbre are also extremely well rendered, which is a factor of the detail definition, of course," he wrote. He concluded, "With Kaya, Vivid have made a speaker that gets you very close to the music in a cabinet that while hardly a veneered box is rather more discreet than their usual fare. Kaya means 'home' in Zulu, the language of the people who build Vivid loudspeakers, I would happily give it some space in mine."

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