

Quadral Platinum M40

Test report



Behind the grilles

► Quadral has configured their new Platinum range of top quality speakers with many sophisticated technologies. AV Magazine has used the M40 upright speaker to test the overall quality of the sound.

Quadral, which is based in Hanover, has a long tradition with regard to building speakers. The valuable experience gained over many years is now integrated in every sound transducer produced by the company in the form of innovative technology. This also applies to the M40 upright speaker from the new Platinum

Key Facts Quadral Platinum M40

- Upright speaker
- 3-way network
- Pressure chamber reflex
- High-gloss black or white finish
- 160 Watt nominal output power
- 2 × 170 mm woofer
- 1 × 135 mm mid-bass
- 1 × RiCom high-tones ring transducer

range. The advertising slogan "The live experience is the standard from which everything else is judged" means that Quadral is talking about a special type of listening experience that makes you want to hear more and this increases the expectations placed on the new Platinum speakers. In the past the company has astounded both the critical trade press and demanding consumers by producing excellent sound transducers. So the mature M40 upright speaker now has to prove its qualities. Empty promises or a great surprise? AV-Magazine will tell you in the following test report.

Model range

The new Platinum M range of speakers actually consists of six different speaker models. The top model is the Platinum M50 upright speaker and it has two 18 cm woofers fitted inside it as well as two 13.5 cm mid-rangers and this model costs 1,500 euros. The Platinum M40 under

test uses two small 170 mm diameter woofers. The midranger is the same as the one used in the larger M50 model. The price is 1,000 euros each. The smaller M30 upright speaker costs 700 euros, uses two 170 mm mid-bass units and it also comes without an upstream bass pressure chamber. The precise features are described by us in the Technology section.

The two Platinum M25 compact speakers and the small M20, which cost 450 and 350 euros each respectively, are superbly suited for use as stereo monitors and home cinema effect speakers. The Platinum M10 Base centre speaker, which costs around 500 euros, is recommended for reproducing the voice channel in a surround sound set-up.

All of the components in the Platinum M range are visually and acoustically harmonised with each other and this enables different box models to be easily combined with each other for classical music and home cinema applications. We recommend that you also use

a matching active subwoofer from the Quadral Qube range for the last application. They are equipped with 20, 25 or 30 cm subwoofers and cost between 400 and 1,000 euros, depending on the model that you choose.

Design

The Quadral Platinum M40 is a medium sized upright box that stands one metre tall. You will be delighted with the impressive proportions right from the very first time that you see this box. The housing width of 21 cm and the one metre height ensure that it is extremely stable and they also give it an air of self-confidence. The large housing edges are cleanly shaped and they are a good example of the conscientious workmanship involved in the production. The same applies to the fastidiously hollowed out chassis openings, which enable the tone units to be recessed in the baffle. The finish on our test unit was evenly applied and prepared correctly. The high-gloss surface further reflects the proverbial high material and appealing qualities of the Platinum M40. The customer can choose between the two black or white high-gloss colour variations in order to suit personal tastes and interior decor. Magnetic black fabric covers are included in the package with both versions. If you want you can have optional white front grilles fitted to the speaker.



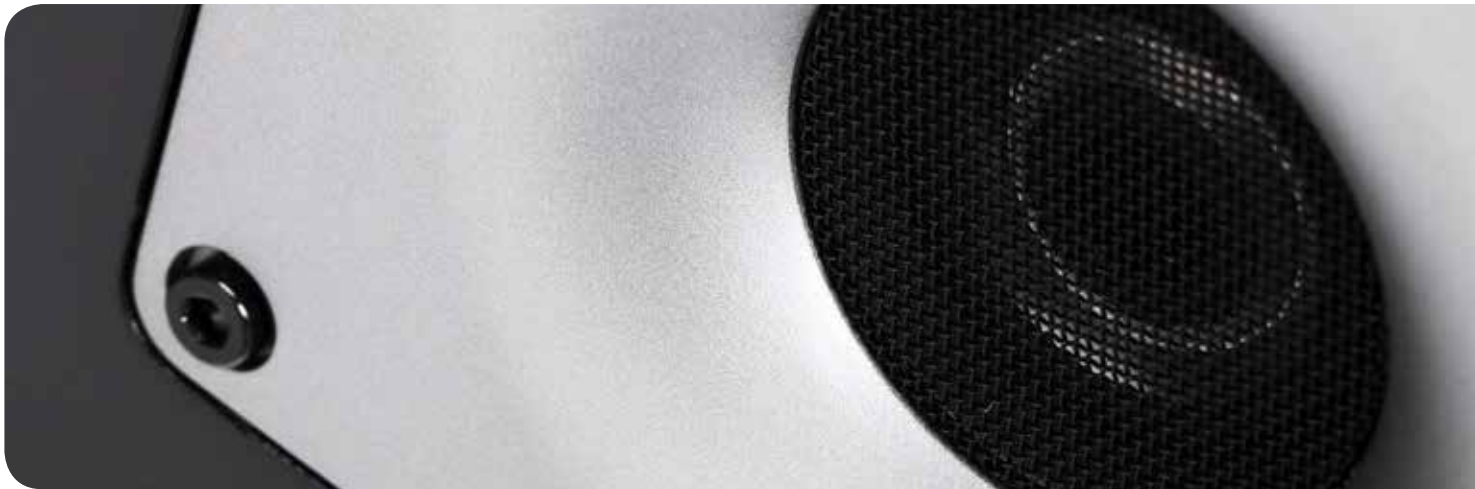
The Quadral Platinum M40 is available in high-gloss black or white finishes

Configuration

- +
- +
- +
- +

Technology

Quadral never did anything by halves when it came to developing their Platinum range of speakers. Unlimited resources were used for these devices. The two woofers are now fitted behind grilles and for a good reason. The two 17 cm subwoofers work in a housing volume that has been tuned as a classic bass reflex system. The two aluminium cones radiate to the front at a preset chamber volume, which is very high at this outlet. Six vertical metal bars are used to protect the pressure chamber section. This design increases the acoustic bass pressure radiated at the front that comes from the bass chassis and this is advantageous for the bass reproduction as it is similar to a band-



pass filter system. This makes tonal tuning complicated as the development of the resonance frequencies for the rear and the front volumes have to be taken into consideration. In order to ensure that the housing can withstand the air pressures, Quadral have decided on a solid wooden housing that guarantees non-resonating reproductions as a result of the use of additional bracing components.

A 135 mm cone is used for the mid-tone ranges and it works with an aluminium membrane. The working range of the chassis lies between 320 and 2,450 Hertz. Quadral's recently developed RiCom V tweeter, which needed more than two years development work before it was ready for production, is also used here. The tweeter, which is equipped with an extremely stable titanium membrane, is able to reproduce the most delicate details



At the back you will find top quality cable connector panel and a bass reflex tube

from the sound at high volumes. A phase control pin and the compact neodymium magnet help to convert the flow of incoming signals with stable pulse fidelity. A short but effective sound transmission system enables the tweeter to be optimally tuned to the radiation properties in the section that transfers the sound to the midranger.

Sound

The first track we played during the listening test was "The Same Parents" from the Enigma album "Seven Lives, many Faces". The M40 produced a crystal-clear and exhilarating sound right from the first moment that the track started to play. The atmospheric tonal

effects were reproduced with superb brilliance and accurate signal depth. Thanks to the recently developed tweeter, the complex upper tone mixtures of female singing voices were clearly differentiated and superbly reproduced. This was really fun. The M40 showed its true class under test with the "Female Voice" vocal sample from Chesky Records. Sometimes earthy, sometimes present female voices were reproduced from the Quadral speaker to form a perfect virtual platform. At the lower end of the transfer range the two woofers sent stunning and deep-reaching bass in the room. The efficient pressure chamber reflex tuning makes the M40 shine with its absolutely easygoing peak consistency. Groovy live concert clips played at a constant volume always sound captivating and masterful. The harmonically warm sound character of the upright speaker and its special acoustics enable exceptional reproduction quality to be realised even in well-furnished, modern lounges.

Fastidious jazz and classical music fans will really appreciate the harmonic, natural yet potent sound character of the M40.



Enigma: Seven Lives, many Faces



Two 17 cm woofers work behind the front bars



Quadral's RiCom V tweeter uses a high-strength titanium membrane



Sound

- + warm, earthy tuning
- + harmonic tone quality
- + richly detailed high-tone reproductions

Features

Upright speaker, 3-way network, pressure chamber reflex, black or white high-gloss finish, 160 Watts nominal output power, 170 mm woofer, 135 mm mid-bass, RiCom high-tone ring transducer

Plain speaking

The Quadral Platinum M40 is not stingy when it comes to its advantages. The ample and innovative configuration gives it a powerful sound, which does not lose any of its impressiveness at high volumes. This guarantees overall neutral tonal tuning with particularly non-stressful and therefore relaxed musical enjoyment. This speaker is recommended for use in medium sized and large lounges and you will be enchanted by the supreme bass power, punchy mid-tones and high definition high-tones. ◀

Author: Philipp Schäfer
Photos: Jürgen Immes

Specifications and configuration	
Manufacturer:	Quadral
Model:	Platinum M40
Price:	approx. 2,000 euros/per pair
Guarantee:	5 years
Type:	Upright speaker
Styling:	High-gloss black or white
Bass:	2 × 170 mm cones
Mid-bass:	1 × 135 mm cone
Tweeter:	1 × 28 mm dome
Housing design:	Bassreflex / pressure chamber
Network:	3-way, passive
Separating frequencies:	320/2,450 Hertz
Sensitivity:	89 Decibels (1 Watt/1 Metre)
Nominal output power:	160 Watts
Music power:	240 Watts
Dimensions (W × H × D):	21 × 100 × 31.8 cm
Weight:	22.4 kg

Quadral Platinum M40

Quadral GmbH & Co. KG, Hanover, Germany
 Tel: +49 (0) 5 11 / 7 90 40, Internet: www.quadral.com
 Category: Upright speaker
 Evaluation: Sound 60%, configuration 20%, workmanship 20%

Sound	0% 100% Excellent
Configuration	Excellent
Workmanship	Excellent
Price	1,000 euros each

Class
Top class

Price/Performance
Excellent

av magazin.de
Quadral Platinum M40
Excellent