



# Hangover From Hannover

Good speakers make your music sound pleasurable, irrespective of the genre, but excellent speakers help music stay in your head simply by creating a great impact with immaculate sound reproduction. Quadral belongs to the category of excellent speakers without any doubt. They definitely gave us a musical hangover.

**A**part from the many other things that Germany is known for, the country ranks among the top spots for skilled engineering and innovation in the audio industry worldwide. So, it isn't surprising to see that audio buffs are closely watching this part of the world with immense curiosity and passion. Hannover-based Quadral Loudspeakers is an equal participant in creating the buzz with its unique sound quality and price affordability. Their recently launched Platinum M5 floorstanding speakers are the centre of focus here.

## OUT OF THE BOX

When we started reviewing Quadral Loudspeakers, we realised that these speakers are highly flamboyant but in a pleasant way. While none of the company's speakers adapt to fancy shapes or finishes, each has been given one unique feature that helps it distinguish from its counterparts. For instance, the flashy hybrid ribbon tweeter in its Aurum speakers. This time, Quadral, for its Platinum M5 range of floorstanding speakers, has used loops as grille

for the tweeter and grille bars in front of bass unit. In terms of form factor, the speakers are lightweight compared to other floorstanders, making it easier for a single person to move them around. The elevation is enough to position the tweeters at the ear-level of a person who is seated on a couch at a distance of two feet.

## TECHNOLOGY

Platinum M5 possesses a simple loudspeaker design. The guys at Quadral have taken the good old path of deciphering a loudspeaker on the basis of frequency response. Each zone of the audio spectrum namely the lows, mids and the highs are treated as separate entities and handled one at a time. For the highs, they have used tweeters with fast response diaphragms that are made up of fine, supple silk fabric. The lightweight claims to help the tweeter achieve quick yet controlled movement to lend extended high frequency response. For the mids, instead of one they have used four mid-bass drivers that help to accentuate the mid-range performance of the speaker. For the bass they have something called the pressure chamber,

## Specifications

**DESIGN** 3-way Bass Reflex

**DRIVERS** 1xRiCom-M, 2x5.31" Mid-bass, 2x7" Mid-bass

**FREQUENCY RESPONSE** 23Hz-50Hz

**NOMINAL IMPEDANCE** 4Ω-8Ω

**POWER HANDLING** 160W-250W

**SENSITIVITY** 90dB

**WEIGHT** 28.3kg

**DIMENSIONS**



Quadral Platinum M5	
<b>PRICE</b>	₹ 1,72,000
<b>WARRANTY</b>	5 Years
<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>	
Priced at around Rs 1.75 lakhs, the Platinum M5 turns out to be a great deal. With such lively speakers in your house your listening sessions will never be the boring kinds. Just make sure that you give enough space for the speakers to breathe and it will do wonders.	
<b>OVERALL</b>	★★★★★
<b>CONTACT</b>	www.fxentertainment.in



which claims to enhance the bass frequency response. It makes use of a bass reflex port along with membrane vibrations of the mid-bass drivers. It is called a pressure chamber as it is practically a section within the cabinet that houses two out of the four mid-bass drivers used in the speakers.

## PERFORMANCE

After a break-in of around 80 hours, we connected the Platinum M5s to the Anthem Integrated 225 amplifier using Kimbre Kable speaker cables, which in turn were connected to the Exposure 2010S2 CD player. With 225W of power output the Anthem amplifier was a good choice considering the 160-250W power handling of the Platinum M5 speaker. The speakers, when we

### WHAT IS

#### \*Headroom

Headroom can be considered as a safety zone between the highest permissible signal value and the peak value in the signal. In recording terms, it is the difference between the highest permissible recording level and the actual recording level.

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experienced during the break-in listening sessions sounded very fresh with an excellent transient response. The Anthem's quick response and also its capability to drive even the heaviest of loads with extreme ease further augmented the liveliness of the Platinum M5 speakers. We tried a host of different genres with the set-up right from John Mayer's ballad, pop, rock style to Hans Theessink's gritty blues and AR Rahman's bright yet soulful Hindi film music. We also tried some live Indian classical music replete with instruments like sitar, tabla and tanpuras. The Platinum M5 was receptive to all of these and worked wonders at live sound recordings. The relatively high sensitivity rating of 90dB was very effective to transform the energy and the ambience of any live sound setting in our studio.

A couple of other things that contributed towards the evident liveliness in the speakers were the depth in the soundstage and the sparkly and effervescent mid-high frequency response. We found the dynamic range of the speakers to be very entertaining. Particularly with drums recorded with high headrooms\* such as in the track "Gravity" in John Mayer's 'Continuum' or even "The Night Song" by Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. The snare drum sounds very lush and juicy with a fairly long sustain. The speakers were very effective in bringing out the chestiness and huskiness in the voices of David Roth, Hans Theessink, Patricia Barber and Kaislash Kher. While the mids and highs were perfect right from the word go, the lower end needed slight calibration from our end. Though tight and in time with the mids and highs, with all the four drivers working together, the lower end can be too much for a small room size, for instance less than 150sq feet. For such rooms one can try and put small bass traps in

the corners to absorb excess bass or one can even try to place the speakers as much away as possible from the walls to avoid excess reinforcement of the lower end. In our studio of around 150sq. ft. and balanced acoustic environment (relatively equal amount of absorption and reflection) keeping the speakers around 2.5ft away from the walls did the trick.

## CONCLUSION

Sitting at the top of the Platinum series, Quadral Platinum M5 does deliver. Its fresh and lively sound replete with crisp mids, ample lows and effervescent highs along with a wide dynamic range and high sensitivity make it instantly likeable if you are fond of genres like rock, blues, electronica, hindi film music. For people who adore slightly laid back genres like jazz and Indian classical music, the detail and crispness in the mids will certainly be a USP. But what worked for us is the way the speakers collectively transform the energy and pulse of a live performance right in your listening room. We literally had a hangover of the listening sessions that we held with these speakers from Quadral and we couldn't stop humming the tunes even hours after leaving the studio.

Sumit Bhosle

