



AV MAX

★ BEST BUY ★

'Rhod' To Bliss

The element Rhodium after which Quadral have named their Rhodium 90 series is one of the rarest of precious metals as well as the most costly. Despite this, it is highly sought after due to its numerous useful qualities. Well, we set out to see whether the speakers would live up to their namesake.

What would one expect from a loudspeaker company that has a legacy and experience of almost 40 years in the industry? The answer is excellence; excellence in build quality, sonic performance, design and value-for-money. All these factors can be seen in one loudspeaker brand and it goes by the name of Quadral. The way this company looks at loudspeakers is a little different from the rest of the clan, right from their entry models to the top-most high-end ones; neither engineering nor modern technology is compromised. Quadral's engineers use high-quality components in their entire product line-up and their number one objective is sound quality. So with such esteemed philosophies, I was glad that the Rhodium 90 floorstanders were around the corner. There just wasn't a better way to see how distinguished Quadral loudspeakers were from the rest of the flock, we had them for over a month with us and certainly their tales belong to a different land.

OUT OF THE BOX

The Quadral Rhodium 90s came well packed in two large boxes. Unpacking both the speakers was quite easy. The Rhodium 90s however stunned me for a moment as we unpacked them, the reason was these guys didn't sport a glossy finish yet they were very attractive

and pleasing to look at. The most eye-catching thing in them is their silver coloured titanium drivers. Interestingly, the designers have paid good attention to the cabinet too; the black speakers were slender and compact. We didn't have to do much shifting in our studio to accommodate these guys, which shows that if you crave for tall floorstanders in your mid-sized room these boys may just seem to be the answer.

TECHNOLOGY

The Rhodium 90 is a pair of floorstanders that originate from Quadral's Rhodium Series of speakers. Like all other loudspeakers from Quadral, this one too sports a classic outer finish and an even top-class interior finish. With interiors we mean the technology that has gone into the making of the speaker. And undoubtedly, the floorstander does feature top-grade components and high-quality cabinet finish. The Rhodium 90 sports a aluminium dome tweeter that is sturdy and lightweight, both these properties are quite essential for tweeters because these tiny 1" drivers need to tirelessly vibrate up to 20,000 times a second. And this is where aluminium comes in very handy. The mid-range and mid-bass drivers however employ titanium, which has similar properties to aluminium. Both elements are lightweight and very sturdy, making them the perfect materials for loudspeaker cones. Being lightweight is very

Specifications

DESIGN 3-way

DRIVERS 1x1" Tweeter, 1x5" Mid-range Driver, 2x7" Mid-bass drivers

FREQUENCY RESPONSE 28Hz-46kHz

NOMINAL IMPEDANCE 8Ω

POWER HANDLING 150W

SENSITIVITY 89dB

WEIGHT NA

DIMENSIONS



Quadral Rhodium 90

PRICE	₹ 71,000
WARRANTY	5 Years
CATEGORY	Floorstanding Spkrs
AESTHETICS	★★★★★
BUILD	★★★★★
AUDIO	★★★★★
EASE OF USE	★★★★★
VFM	★★★★★

WHAT SAY AV?

At Rs 71,000, its hard to find a floorstander that not only looks great but also sounds the same way too. One look at the Rhodium 90 will reveal the fact, that these are undoubtedly a very attractive looking pair. And that's not all. It comes with a package of great sound. The timbral richness and transient response are simply admirable. Not to mention that two 7" drivers deliver deep bass lines and tight kick drums with being boomy or sloppy. It can drive you to the edge of your seats and yet keep you wanting for more because it never sounds forward so you won't get any earaches.

OVERALL ★★★★★

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important as it results in an efficient use of amplifier power and the overall output is quite linear. All this has a bearing on the performance of the Rhodium 90 floorstanders and we just couldn't wait to see how deep they go.

PERFORMANCE

The speakers had a good amount of run-in time before audition; in fact we ran them in for more than 100 hours or so. Once all this was done, we placed the speakers around 6.5 feet apart in a parallel axis position and got the ball rolling with 'Ray of Light' by Madonna. The opening song is a glorified rendition of Madonna's vocals. The Quadral Rhodium 90 graced her vocals with ease and presented it with all its subtlety and delicacy. We couldn't skip noticing the amazing tonal quality of the floorstanders too. The tall floorstanders, at first, slightly grabbed our attention due to their attractive titanium drivers and as we spent time listening to them we were completely floored by their overall sonic response. They never sounded forward or 'in the face' and neither did they sound slow or laid-back. The music gracefully evolved in front of our eyes, every instrument was reproduced with good detailing and it was further complimented by a good deal of naturalism. The Quadral Rhodium 90 never deviated from the instruments tonality. In

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TRIED & TESTED

RAY OF LIGHT



This album features among the finest work done by Madonna right up till this day. Agreed that it contains many programmed elements, but it makes for a good test disc. Bass lines are deep, electronic drum beats are taut and the midrange is transparent. No colored sounds here. Some songs are intense while others are quite silent. This is what we call a balanced album.



fact, colouration was a far-fetched thing, these chic floorstanders faithfully reproduced the dynamics and complicated passages of many songs. They never sounded stressed or distorted, even at loud volumes.

We took things to another level by playing many orchestral soundtracks, here too we keenly observed the Rhodium 90's performance. The deal was to see if they had the capability of handling and reproducing a magnificent soundstage, a soundstage that was not crowded with instruments but instead one that had a defined amount of instruments. And the Rhodium stood by its promise. The double bass was deep and room-filling, the accuracy at such low frequencies was simply amazing. The mid-range too was open, it enraptured our senses completely. The cello and the viola sounded natural and refined, no artificialness and no colouration. It was hard to believe that even at very loud volumes the Rhodium 90 never lost

control over its delivery. It stayed bang on target, the dynamics was never messed up too. The percussive nature of the piano was easily felt, at the same time, the clean, airy high-frequencies added a brilliant sparkle to the entire performance. These floorstanders weren't reproducing music, instead they were performing the music right in front of us. If speakers can deliver such a kind of performance there's nothing more to say about it, it's a downright charmer in looks and in its sound too.

CONCLUSION

The powerful delivery and wholesome musical presentation of the Rhodium 90 took us by storm. On one hand, the tonality was balanced out very well and on the other, never once did we find the need to lower the volume, irrespective of the genre. It plays loud yet it never shouts, now that's certainly hard to come across in many loudspeakers with this price range. The other plus point was its dedicated drivers, they were fast, lightweight and their timing is excellent. Snare drums were crisp and had the right amount of whack in it, kick drums were thick and deep, vocals were effervescent and the highs were sweet and airy. The overall sonic presentation was great, the two 7" bass drivers made us feel as if a subwoofer was hiding somewhere in the room, so good was the bass that we were grooving to the sound of the bass guitar in the track "Another One Bites The Dust". Coming at a price tag of Rs 71,000, it can't get better than this. Pair it up with an equally powerful amplifier and you will have an amazing stereo setup right in the realms of your living room.

Lionel D'Souza

