

**Can You Trust Your Ears? Learn The Truth!**

# RECORDING

The magazine for the recording musician®

## HEAR IT ALL!

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**HEADPHONES:** create inspiring monitor mixes

**MONITORS:** choose the best for your studio



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# 11

## New Products Reviewed

**Amphion • Antelope Audio • Apogee • Avantone Pro • Crane Song  
Genelec • Ingram Engineering • IsoAcoustics • Positive Grid • Sonodyne**



# ONCE OVER

you are about to unscrew them too far for a stable seat.

## How they work

Unlike models from competing companies that use built-up layers of dense foam, steel and such, IsoAcoustic stands take an opposite approach. Dave Morrison of IsoAcoustics says, "We manage the motion—or more accurately manage the acceleration—to dissipate the secondary reflections with resilient materials that provide mechanical isolation." This serves to decouple the stands from desk, console, or tabletop. As the folks from IsoAcoustics put it, "Speakers are suspended and allowed to breathe..."

This suspension effect is made possible as each of the stand's tubular legs fits snugly inside a friction-fit rubberized sleeve on both the top and bottom of the two platforms. These platforms sit on top of concave rubber flanges that adhere to the speakers and supporting surfaces. While the friction mounts are tight to the touch, they actually allow the speaker to move naturally with the directional force produced by the speaker drivers; taken together this facilitates the desired decoupling effect.

BY PAUL VNUK JR.

## IsoAcoustics Aperta Speaker Isolators



## In use

I used the Aperta stands with all three sets of monitors that I reviewed for this issue (The Amphions, Sonodynes, and Avantone Mix Cubes) as well as a few other models. In each instance the benefit was instantly and undeniably noticeable. The low end became more open and controlled, and the sound overall seemed to have a touch more depth and dimension.

If you have ever set your monitors on a desk or flat surface, it may seem like you are hearing more low end, but what you are getting instead is more resonance, reflections, and ultimately a false representation of the low frequencies. The Apertas clean out all of that low-end mush and offer more accurate mix results—it's that simple.

Bottom line: well-made speaker isolators are not snake oil, and when done right, they are essential to any mix room, big or small. In the past ten years, aside from improving my wall treatments and adding bass traps, the addition of speaker isolators has made the most significance in improving my room sound.

In my studio I already own a competing brand of isolators that are made to fit my 70 lb. 8" monitors and which do a great job. On my second and third sets of smaller monitors, the Apertas held their own in every way. The problem now is that I only have one review pair, and I want a set for both of my small studio monitor pairs, as well as for the editing suite in my office, and for my listening room at home... ↪

**Price:** \$240/pair  
**More from:** IsoAcoustics,  
[www.isoacoustics.com](http://www.isoacoustics.com)

In Italian, the word Aperta means "open", making it a very fitting name for the latest model of speaker isolation stands from IsoAcoustics. We first looked at IsoAcoustics back in our April 2012 issue when Editor Mike Metlay reviewed the 155 model from the company's ISO•L8R line.

Since then the line has grown to include additional ISO•L8R sizes, accommodating smaller mini-monitors, larger 8" woofer 3-way boxes, and even guitar amps. The company also launched a custom shop so you can have stands tooled to your exact specifications.

## New build, new twist

Most of the models in the ISO•L8R line are a mix of metal and plastic with a choice of 3" or 8" structural tubes for varied monitor heights. Each set also includes small plastic end caps for the tubes so you can tilt your monitors up or down to best fit your listening position. However, the new Aperta bodies are made entirely of aluminum, which was previously only offered in the custom shop line. Visually

they are a more compact design, with a sleeker profile than both the previous ISO•L8R and custom shop models.

The Aperta measures 6.1" wide by 7.5" deep and 3" high; the 155 model has the same width and depth but is 3.5" high. The aluminum crossbars are almost 3 times thinner than the original 155's. The Aperta is available in a choice of black or silver and rated for speakers weighing up to 35 lbs. I did try them with a pair of 8" 45 lb. cabinets and they seemed to work fine, but I do not want to suggest this as the norm for sonic, safety, and warranty reasons.

Another significant change is that the Aperta stands no longer come with a choice of tubes for multiple height choices. Instead they are fixed at the abovementioned 3" height. They do still offer a tilt adjustment, however; instead of using insertable caps, they now feature threaded aluminum adjusters that extend out of two of the posts up to an additional inch. Each screw's threads are marked for easy height matching, with indicators for 2, 4 or 6 degrees of tilt. They also have a red line to alert you when