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## test BENCHED

### 34 Legacy Focus HD Floorstanding Speakers

**TRULY AN AUTHENTIC FULL RANGE SPEAKER WHICH PERFORMS TO ITS SPECIFICATIONS. A PERFECT FAMILY LEGACY.**

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A passion to advance in the field audio drove the Legacy team to produce landmark products, and the Focus HD is all set to take Legacy to new heights.

**W**hen Bill Dudleston, chief designer of Legacy Audio loudspeakers, says 'I design speakers not for audiophiles, but for anyone who loves music,' it doesn't come off sounding like a typical claim most designers blurt out without thinking twice about what they just said. Because he's responsible for Legacy's Focus HD loudspeaker, or should we call them the building-speakers.

#### OUT OF THE BOX

These speakers put the mass in massive. They weigh close to a fully grown elephant and they're built with

about as much wood as a fully grown oak tree. We knew just by the looks on the faces of the 4 men heaving each of these speakers into our office space that Legacy isn't the kind of audio manufacturer to make false claims. And it's not all wood these speakers possess, the front panel is filled to the brim with drivers ranging from a ribbon tweeter to dual bass drivers and more. Now, if only we could somehow get a crane in here to get these hulks into our studio.

#### TECHNOLOGY

If you've seen the Legacy 20/20 speakers, you've seen these, or maybe not entirely. Because the

#### SPECIFICATIONS

DESIGN	4-way Floorstanders
DRIVERS	2x 7" Rohacell Backed Silver-GRAPHITE 1 Accordion Pleated Ribbon, 1x 4" Accordion Pleated Ribbon 2x 12" Bass Woofers
FREQUENCY RESPONSE	16Hz-40kHz
IMPEDANCE	4 Ω
POWER HANDLING	100-watts
DIMENSIONS (H x W x D)	56" x 15.7" x 13.2"
WEIGHT	83kgs
CONTACT	<a href="http://www.audioexcellence.com">www.audioexcellence.com</a>

physicalities are the same, that bulky size, the woody cabinet, but the drivers have all been traded in for better, more efficient, more expensive ones. But let's get the measurements out of the way first. Each one of the HDs terminates its stretch towards the sky at 56 inches, that's 4'8", accumulating a mass of 83kgs on their way up. This mass comes not just from the thrice hand-rubbed real wood veneer or the solid-wood cabinet but also from the, let me see 1, 2...6 drivers they've quite easily managed to settle into the front panel. So, starting from the top, we have a 7-inch Rohacell backed silver-graphite driver, which is in-fact a metal and graphite fibre woven material backed by a thin layer of Rohacell for more stiffness. The ones we got were yellow, reminding a lot of the Kevlar drivers we have our B&W bookshelves decked out with. The top half of the cabinet is a hybrid MTM design, with the 7-inch mid-range on the top, two varying tweeters in between, and another identical 7-inch driver below them.

The tweeters in-between are both ribbon, with the smaller accordion pleated ribbon handles all frequencies from 8Hz to 40kHz and the larger 4-inch ribbon handles from 2.8Hz to 8kHz. There is an internal cabinet separation between the upper-mid and the lower drivers to prevent any sort of cabinet distortion that may arise. And they probably would considering the dual 12-inch drivers below can go all the way down to a whopping 16Hz! Now that's what I call a speaker that's set to deliver throughout the frequency range.



The back panel is refreshingly empty besides the bi-wirable, silver five-way binding posts on the bottom of the panel. There are also treble and bass -2dB trim switches if you've got the speakers bi-wired and want to tone down the frequencies a bit. Back in the 20/20, there was a mid-trim switch as well but that's probably been removed due to the mid-drivers' performance. Now that all of this riff-raff is out of the way, let's get to the point...

### PERFORMANCE

Jokes apart, hire some help to get these speakers to where you want them in your living room. They just won't budge. But we somehow managed to get them into the two small corners of our little studio and just stared at them like we were looking at the towering heights of the Empire State Building for the

very first time. We got the JungSon JA-1/JA-99 pre/power Class-A amp wired up and set the ball rolling with some of the most bass heavy music known to mankind. And not at all ironically, the best bass tracks lie primarily in rap and electronic and we chose the latter.

We got Otto Von Schirach's 'Oozing Bass Spasms', a very hard to get IDM album and skipped over to the groovy 'Gelatin Fixation'. This track's entire back bone is this monster of a bass-line that has the ability to literally shake the jbscm boards off our walls. With the dual 12-inch kicking it as soon as we hit 'Play', we went running to spread our hands over the walls to prevent any building damage. Because it kicked in with such ripeness and texture that we couldn't remember any moment in history when we heard bass sounding like this. In-fact, we don't think Mr Otto has even heard it like this. It was like the entire soundstage just blew up like a mushroom cloud all around us and we were standing in the middle of it, nodding our heads uncontrollably to the brilliantly detailed and flawlessly balanced mid and upper range that carried the small claps and hats. And we heard this track over and over again, at all different levels and we just couldn't get the soundstage to get any smaller or the imaging any narrower. It remained massive even 4 notches below the zero position of the pre-amp. Unbelievable!

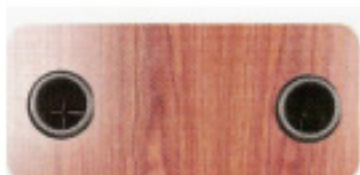
We had to get a better taste of these speakers imaging considering that we were quite a ways below the tweeters when seated on our sofa. We dropped in Roisin Murphy's 'Ruby Blue', a great vocal tester as it has been mixed with creativity in full throttle. We heard Roisin sing into our ears everytime we closed our eyes, completely disappearing from the direction she was coming from. We even tried these babies, sorry soldiers, out on the 'There Will Be Blood' DVD to see how they caught the dynamics of a dialogues and their threshold of silence. Well, all we can say about that is there's no need for multi-channel audio here. Stereo is more than sufficient to let the 'Oil Exploding Out Of The Well' scene seem like it was happening right behind the television set. With Daniel Day Lewis, he speaks with utmost clarity, something these HDs have great respect for. But at the same time they paid heed to the silent, sometimes haunting but with minimalist soundtrack.

When you have a speaker that can do that, you know you're listening to one of the finest specimens this overcrowded audio industry has to offer in terms of speakers.

### CONCLUSION

There are speakers, and there are the HDs. Quite frankly, I can't place a single more enthralling 3 hour listening experience than the one we witnessed an hour ago. A lot of music I didn't mention due to space reasons was also run through the Focus HDs which were handled with just the same precision as the others that were mentioned. The greatest part about the speakers is their multiple drive units and the perfect crossover points they've been assigned. Because of this, there isn't a single genre of music that won't sound clarity-perfect. Hell, even the bright Bollywood music — loaded with high frequency notes — that we ran through them sounded like it had something to say. And we listened. Now if that doesn't warrant a 5/5, I don't know what will frankly. 

Karan Gour



### LEGACY

MODEL >> FOCUS HD  
CATEGORY >> FLOORSTANDING SPEAKERS  
PRICE >> Rs 4,88,000  
WARRANTY >> 5 YEARS

#### AESTHETICS

★★★★★

#### BUILD

★★★★★

#### AUDIO

★★★★★

#### EASE OF USE

★★★★★

#### VFM

★★★★★

**AV MAX**  
OVERALL SCORE

#### WHAT SAY AV?

The Focus HDs are very big but the effort involved with moving them around doesn't even come close to the satisfaction you feel as soon as you hit that 'Play' button. Also they're cheaper than some hi-end speakers out there and they sound just as good if not better. Good luck convincing your wife though.

★★★★★