

A Creative Forum for the Audio Arts.



**Reviewer:**  
**David W. Robinson**

Positive Feedback is published by:  
Positive Feedback Magazine, 2939 N.E.  
155th Ave., Portland OR 97230, (503)  
256-1300 (Business office voice), (503)  
234-4155 (Back issues voice/FAX),  
Internet address:  
davidr@ix.netcom.com, web page:  
<http://www.positive-feedback.com>.  
Positive Feedback is distributed in the  
U.S.A. and the British Isles by Tower  
Books, Inc., in the U.S.A. and Canada by  
IPD, as well as by a network of inde-  
pendent high-end dealers. Call or email  
for information about the nearest out-  
let, or to distribute Positive Feedback  
in your area.

**Sound Bytes:** I had heard rumors about these speakers before. Martin DeWulf had mentioned them favorably in one of his Bound For Sound newsletters that I had seen a few months ago, but I hadn't seen anything further on them. Now I could form my own impressions.

I did use the term "formidable" to describe Bill's top o' the line product, didn't I? The **Focus** speakers are that, and in spades. Some 4.5' tall by 16" wide by 14" deep, the Focus was an imposing presence. Three 12" woofers (one rear-firing), two seven inch midrange (or "midwoofer") speakers, a 1.25" dome, and a ribbon tweeter — and all bundled in a cabinet finished in a beautiful natural wood. 175 pounds of dynamic speaker pulchritude; formidable to look at indeed!

Of course, all of this is fine, so far as it goes... but what about the sound?

I admit that I'm a fan of good dynamic speakers. Ian Joel (Mr. "Shaded Doghouse" himself!) and I had a discussion a while back, in which we both chuckled over the fact that the gap between dynamic speakers and 'stats/planars had "sure 'nuff narrowed" over the past ten years. Speaker like the Avalons, the ProAcs, the TDL Reference Standards, the Amrita line, the big Thiels — they show that dynamic speakers can be both authoritative and transparent, beefy and clean, all at the same time. To that special group I now add the Focus.

As I listened to these speakers, I was extremely impressed — and that doesn't happen often. The Focus were open and clear. No mucky box sound! No boom box effect! High frequencies were extended, and very transparent; better than many 'stats or planars that I was hearing elsewhere at the show. (We won't go into

that disappointing experience!) The midrange was uncolored, and nicely detailed. Imaging and sound-staging were good, though this was harder to judge in the show room. I had to make a number of return trips to assess this; the room had a lot of traffic! And the bass... well, the Focus had the kind of lower reach that I had only heard previously in my TDL Reference Standards and a few very expensive subwoofers — and all this at (\$5,400) retail! Given a proper listening room environment, I suspected that the virtues of the Focus I was hearing would become very overwhelmingly evident. And my viscerals about such things are generally pretty good....

So how good are the Legacy Focus? Right in the first rank — and certainly good enough for the show pair to be heading to Positive Feedback's "Listening Room Number One" (heh heh... my one and only!) for an extended stay and further commentary in future issues. I'm assembling Coda iron, Music Metre cable, and the Legacy Focus speakers — synergys the thing, dontcha' know? — and will be sharing my impressions as they develop over the next few months.

But frankly, given what I heard even under the difficult room conditions at the Stereophile Show, I don't expect that these will be leaving my place anytime soon.

If at all...



**LEGACY AUDIO FOCUS**