

AV MAX



BLU-RAY REVIEWS
THE BIG BANG THEORY
KUNG FU PANDA 2

19 Floorstanding
 Speakers With

**TALL
 CLAIMS!**

Totem Acoustic, Dali, Elac,
 Bowers & Wilkins, Yamaha,
 Linn, Definitive Technology,
 Legacy Audio, Quadral,
 Ceratec, Boston Acoustics,
 Savoy, Wharfedale,
 Nibbana Audio, Paradigm,
 Monitor Audio &
 Everything But The Box

**First International Review
 of Legacy Signature SE**



AV MAX Reviews New Legacy Signature SE

Signature SE sings with elite maturity that is unheard of . . . It possesses the renowned Legacy performance that the company's speakers are known for. Read on to find out what we are talking about.

These days, Bill Dudleston's company Legacy Audio is one of the most popular topics among today's AV community when they speak of high efficiency and powerful speakers. In one of our recent magazine issues the company also spoke about taking custom-made audio in the literal sense, wherein at times they have also given a drastic overhaul to even the most popular of their speakers. For our floorstanding speakers special, we got the standard Signature SE, which we are sure by all means is not just a regular speaker.

OUT OF THE BOX

The Focus HD (reviewed in December 2008) had a truly long lasting impression on our minds. The sheer magnitude of the speakers was overwhelming. The Signature SE almost at par with the Focus HD, has a typical Legacy Audio like muscularity. Standing tall amongst all the other speakers in the studio, the speakers appeared almost like a big brother to the others. And the weight of the speakers, almost 50kg per piece, will definitely need a couple of hands to get them moving. But this brawny product possesses a sense of instant likeability especially for those with a keen interest in loudspeaker drivers.

TECHNOLOGY

Forgive our constant mention of the Focus HD speaker in this review, but we cannot ignore the striking resemblance between the two. Just



like a younger sibling of the Focus HD, the Signature SE imitates the latter except for the size—10" as compared to the 12" of Focus HD—of the woofers and a 7" mid-range driver. The 7" Rohacell backed silver-graphite driver incorporates a proprietary Legacy Audio technology wherein the driver is in fact a metal and graphite fibre woven material backed by a thin layer of Rohacell for more stiffness. The top of the speakers houses a unique tweeter arrangement wherein they incorporated two ribbon tweeters. Firstly a ribbon, with the smaller accordion pleated ribbon handles all frequencies from 8Hz to 40kHz and the larger 4" ribbon handles from 2.8Hz to 8kHz. There is also an internal cabinet separation between the upper-mid and the lower drivers to prevent any sort of cabinet distortion that may arise. The back panel is relatively empty besides the bi-wirable, silver five-way binding posts on the bottom of the panel. You can also find the trademark treble and bass -2dB trim switches if you've got the speakers bi-wired and want to tone down the frequencies a bit.

PERFORMANCE

Two things that caught our attention were the weight of the Signature SE and the array of drivers used in the speakers. With the experience of Focus HD in hand, we knew that we would need a couple of more hands to get the ball rolling. Placement, per say, is not a big problem but the weight makes it difficult. With the ribbon tweeters onboard we had placed the speakers with a substantial toe-in of 10 to 15 degrees with almost eight feet of space between the two speakers. If you intend to keep the speakers farther apart from each other, then we would suggest you to toe-in a good 17-20 degrees. This is due to the way the ribbon tweeters work—highly directive and powerful. So to avoid undue spillage of high frequencies it is best that you point the speakers towards the listening position.

We started off by assessing the lower end response of the speakers with the help of some electronica in the studio. Electronic artist BT would have been impressed to hear the Signature SEs playing the tricky basslines that exists throughout



his album 'This Binary Universe' as the ripeness and the texture was just amazing. The lower end simply engulfed the entire studio in its realm and it felt as if we were right there in the centre of the soundstage that the speakers had created. What made the experience even better was the immaculate detailing and timing of all the drivers. There wasn't a trace of the 10" woofers struggling to keep up with the light and frisk ribbon tweeters on the Signature SE. We were using the Parasound P3-A23 amplifier to drive the speakers, which is considered to be a Godzilla with a striking output of 350W per channel. To see how the speakers warm up to a low-powered amp we also tried it with the Marantz PM6004 that gives a humble 60W per channel. This time though, we were surprised to hear the response from the Signature SEs. There was no difference, apart from the slight dip in the overall volume. But when we increased the volume knob on the Marantz to around 75 percent of the total volume the scene was back to where we started from, all courtesy to the high efficiency of the speaker rated at 92dB.

As we played some low key jazz music, the speakers demonstrated utmost clarity and immaculate detailing by its drivers. Patricia Barber's 'Mythologies' was almost a revelation to our ears when we heard some minute details on the tracks which we hadn't heard before. The speakers simply unraveled all the possible layers that the artist wanted the listeners to experience.

Sumit Bhosle



Specifications

DESIGN 4-way

DRIVERS 1x1" Dual Pole New Ribbon, 1x3" Dual Pole Neo Ribbon, 1x7" Rohacell Reinforced-Silver Graphite, 2x10" Spun Aluminum Diaphragm

FREQUENCY RESPONSE 22Hz–30KHz

NOMINAL IMPEDANCE 4Ω

POWER HANDLING 10–300W

SENSITIVITY 92dB

WEIGHT 49.89kg

DIMENSIONS



Legacy Audio Signature SE

PRICE	\$6,500
WARRANTY	5 Years
CATEGORY	Floorstanding Speakers
AESTHETICS	★★★★★
BUILD	★★★★★
AUDIO	★★★★★
EASE OF USE	★★★★★
VFM	★★★★★

WHAT SAY AV?

Most of us would think that the Signature SE is priced too steep, and no doubt it is. But before you make any further calculations, wait until you have the Signature SE cast a spell on you with its magical performance, replete with deep and juicy bass, strong mid-range and lightning fast high frequency response. Add to it the super strong build quality that will make the speakers last for decades (we are serious about it!). And not to forget the efficiency because of which the speakers don't really have too many demands in terms of amplification—a consistent and a linear amplifier is what it needs, and your legacy will live on.

OVERALL ★★★★★
CONTACT anil@audioexcellenceindia.com