

OVATOR S-800
Floor-standing Loudspeaker



naim
world class sound...

OVATOR S-800

The new flagship loudspeaker from Naim

Standing on the shoulders of giants

The Ovator S-800 loudspeaker is the flagship model in Naim Audio's ground-breaking Ovator range. It is the ultimate expression of the innovative Ovator design philosophies pioneered by its predecessors the S-400 and S-600. As well as the obvious size increase – each S-800 bass driver has a massive 40 litre enclosure and it stands at 1.4m from the ground – enhancements have been made across the board: improvements to the drive unit design and production, cabinet construction and crossover modules elevate the musical performance of this giant among high-end loudspeakers to new levels.

The S-800 shares the same fundamental cabinet format as its smaller siblings, although larger and using improved construction. An aluminium die-cast plinth with hardened stainless steel spikes supports the cabinet, which attaches through a stainless steel leaf spring that is fixed at both ends to the plinth. Compliant mounting arrangements ensure that the cabinet is effectively decoupled from the plinth – and hence, the floor and any unwanted vibration within it – above 12 Hz. The cabinet is also essentially acoustically inert, because of its braced, multi-layered construction and damped format. As a result the drive units are free to operate without let or hindrance and produce the purest, most accurate sound.

The Naim BMR redefined

The loudspeaker uses two finely tuned, specially developed flat-panel bass drivers to handle the lowest frequencies. These are accompanied by a purpose-engineered and painstakingly refined Balanced Mode Radiator unit. This unit's unique dispersion characteristics and freedom from crossover discontinuities, along with its vastly wide bandwidth, allow the S-800 to deliver a performance never before realised with traditional technology. The freedom from distortion and coloration achieved is truly ground-breaking and revelatory to experience.

The BMR in the S-800 is an all-new 82mm unit, which is fitted with a neodymium ring magnet that reduces obstruction of the rear-directed sound from the diaphragm, and has an edge-wound single-layer voice coil to maximise its sensitivity. This further advances the outstanding purity of sound the unit can produce: the pristine transparency is especially noteworthy on vocal passages. In a conventionally designed loudspeaker the crossover network that switches from the mid-range driver to the high frequency unit usually has to appear right in the middle of the frequency range of the human voice and its effects are intrusive and easy to detect. Because the BMR has no need for any such circuitry – the unit covers the entire frequency range single-handedly – there is absolutely no such interference in this super sensitive region, leaving vocals pure and untouched, along with any other instrumental contributions in that crucial part of the frequency spectrum.

Form is function

Within the seductively contoured form of the S-800 cabinet, whose shape is cleverly and subtly modified to eliminate diffraction and other anomalies that can impinge upon the listeners' pleasure, there are individual enclosures each tuned to maximise the performance of the specialised drive units they house. The low frequency drivers operate to down below a commanding 20Hz and vent tubes in the enclosure ensure that their performance remains unaffected by changes in ambient air temperature and pressure.

Setting up for the 'sweet spot'

Naim has done all it can to make setting up the S-800 a trouble-free experience. Castor trolleys are supplied to enable the loudspeaker to be manoeuvred into position and fine-tuned prior to being lowered onto its pre-fitted spikes once its ideal position has been found. The listening sweet spot of the S-800 is considerably wider than that of most conventional speakers, allowing more than one listener at a time to experience its neutral, musically convincing sound at its finest.

Music takes centre stage

No detail has been overlooked in the design of the Ovator S-800: even the bespoke, silver-plated terminals to which the loudspeaker cables are connected have been designed to avoid galvanic corrosion, and carefully decoupled to eliminate microphonic effects. The result of this fastidious attention to detail and innovation in design is a reference loudspeaker that puts music centre stage and achieves performance levels that can breathe new life into your music. Every pair of carefully hand-crafted Ovator S-800 loudspeakers that leave the Naim factory in Salisbury will guarantee countless hours of musical enjoyment and a pure immersion in sound for customers worldwide.



Specification



SPEAKER

Frequency Response	20Hz to 35kHz
Sensitivity	89dB for 2.83Vrms
Nominal Impedance	4 Ω (Minimum Impedance 3.9 Ω)
Suggested power amplifier handling	25 - 250W (8 Ω rating)

PHYSICAL

Weight	93.5kg
Dimensions	1393 x 520 x 542mm (H x W x D)

FINISH

Standard	Gloss Rosewood
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