

REC's 2016 Holiday Buyer's Guide

Real reviews of useful recording products to fit any budget

IsoAcoustics Aperta 200 and Aperta 300

\$249.99/pair and \$199.99 each; www.isoacoustics.com

The Aperta line is the latest series of isolating speaker stands from IsoAcoustics. Aperta models are made entirely of sculpted aluminum, which allows them thinner bodies, lower profiles, and a smaller overall footprint than IsoAcoustics' original and still respected metal/plastic L8R series. I asked company founder Dave Morrison the advantage of the Aperta series over the L8R materialwise. He said, "The Aperta frames are stiffer, so the energy is better managed in the isolators."

We took our first look at the Aperta range in March 2015, when the series was just a single model measuring 6.1" wide by 7.5" deep and 3" high. Now there are three models to choose from. The previously reviewed model is still known simply as the Aperta; it's the baby of the line and perfect for smaller monitors in the 4" to 6.5" woofer range. Joining it are the Aperta 200 and Aperta 300.

The Aperta 200 measures 7.8" wide, 10" deep and 3.5" high. The 200 is made for typical 7" and 8" monitors and can support a weight of 75 lbs.

The Aperta 300 was just released at AES last September and should be shipping by the time you read this; we got to try a pair of early-production samples before the line went on sale. It

is the lowest-profile of the line, looking almost like two original Aperta stands fused side by side. They measure 11³/₄" x 7⁷/₈" x 3" high and are made to handle larger 8" to 10" models and even 3-way cabinets (like the Focal Trio6 Be, which is how I tested them). They are also perfect for center-channel speakers in a surround setup and can hold 70 lbs.

One thing to note when deciding between the original L8R models and the Aperta models is how high you need your monitors to sit. An advantage of the L8R series is their swappable tubing/legs

which offers full 4-sided height adjustment and tilt adjustment up to a full 8.75". The Aperta series, while not height adjustable, still offers a tilt adjustment by way of internal notched screw posts inside the front legs. The new 300 model includes 3 adjustable posts that can easily be switched from the side to the front depending on speaker orientation.

Unlike many of the pad-based speaker isolation devices out there, IsoAcoustics stands allow the speakers to free-float and move much like shock absorbers on a car. They dissipate energy and decouple the speakers from the surface of your desktop, mixer bridge or

speaker stands. This offers truer sonic representation of the music without false reflections, resonances, and low-end buildup that happens when you just put your monitors on any old flat surface. The sound's more open overall, with a tighter low end and improved focus.

I am a huge advocate of room treatment, which includes having good speaker isolation. The IsoAcoustics Aperta stands aren't just good—they are some of the best money can buy, and I frankly won't mix without them! — PV

