

Track Audio Isolation Feet Adaptor Kit (£395 box of four)



There are loudspeaker spikes and then there are Track Audio's adjustable Isolation Feet. Are these the ultimate pointy accessory? Review: **Paul Miller**

Here's how to identify a manufacturer that's come into hi-fi as a machine shop business first and audiophile second – its products are always built with precision, beautifully finished and just feel like they're going to last a lifetime. Avid, the UK turntable specialist took this route and Track Audio, purveyor of stunning speaker stands, is the latest.

We've reviewed the stands before [*HFN* Aug '12] but while the company does not offer a matching equipment table, it does have these fabulously OTT 'Isolating Feet' for amplifiers, CD players and other separates in addition to loudspeakers. Two versions are available, although they look identical. Each foot comprises 16 parts, including an adjustment and locking ring, a piston damper and radiused 'spike' to provide controlled isolation. The original foot design has spring-loaded balls that click into position as the rings are rotated, each revolution raising or lowering the foot by 1.5mm.

These detents are a great idea, allowing you to count off the 'clicks' as you move between the corners of your loudspeaker, perfecting their

tilt and stability. The newer, non-click versions (I'm not going to fall into the trap of saying they have no balls...) offer a slightly finer 1mm per revolution adjustment and are better suited to rack-mounted components. Both versions cost £300 for three or £395 for four and come packed in a very swish wooden presentation case [see pic below].

MORE MAGIC

As further illustration that Track Audio has seemingly thought of everything, the tops of its feet are machined to accept threaded inserts, the protruding section offering a choice of M6, M8, M10, 1/4-UNF/UNC and 3/8-UNC threads for fixing into the spike bushes of any loudspeaker. Spinning these into the Magico S5s [p30] was simplicity itself, the ability to fine-tune the baffle angle via its three-footed base improving both stereo focus and the 'snap' of musical transients. I could simply hear *more* of the S5's remarkable insights.

Nevertheless the biggest gains came with individual components – CD players (including Quad and Marantz models being prepared for review) and amplifiers (a tube model with cage) all sounding



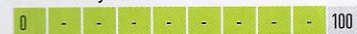
ABOVE: These fully adjustable spikes locate into floor-protecting steel feet with Delrin cups

that bit better focused, the music's ebb and flow arguably that bit more fluid. The clincher, however, was afforded by loading the CD player and, particularly, the amplifier, by adding a 1 or 2kg steel disc atop the chassis. With Track Audio's Feet beneath, the reduction in perceived 'hash' and other edge-of-perception noise made for blacker silences and sweeter fine detail. Performances were more natural, more engaging. ☺

HI-FI NEWS VERDICT

These are beautiful examples of the metalworker's art but also so convincingly rugged that you'd not pause before trusting your high-end floorstanders or mighty power amplifier to their care. However, I'm conscious of the fact that many a fine CD spinner could be purchased for a box of said spikes. So while they will not double the performance of a £400 disc player or amp, they will ensure thoroughbred components perform in finest fettle.

Sound Quality: 85%



ABOVE: The brainchild of stalwart hi-fi enthusiast Mike Butler, Track Audio's Isolation Feet are made at the precision CNC machining shop of Track Components Ltd [see www.trackcomponents.co.uk]