

# Connected-Fidelity

## Float isolation pucks

**MECHANICAL VIBRATIONS HAVE** adverse effects on a hi-fi. They can affect cartridges, valves and other electronic components, and even the interconnect and mains cables. Vibrations can come from speakers, motors, transformers and other electronic components – all of which can cause problems.

### Hope floats

There are several ways to deal with unwanted vibrations and one is to isolate components from the external environment, such as with rubber, silicone or spring supports. These provide the necessary stability for the equipment, while dissipating unwanted vibrational energy as heat. However, the principle used here is different. These pucks don't use compliant or damping materials, but an arrangement of 'floating' spheres held within two circular

cup-shaped channels. Inside the body is a chromium steel ball race within a non-resonant material cage to hold the balls apart. Three acetal thermoplastic (POM) spheres are set into the top and bottom faces of each puck to act as feet to ensure stability. The theory is that the vibrational energy is dissipated in the micromovements of the floating spheres held within the structure, without losing a direct connection path between a component and the platform it is sitting on. The Floats are supplied with four 'coasters' that can be used above or below each puck if required. M6 and M8 threaded fixing options are available separately for supporting loudspeakers up to 30kg.

I install four Floats under my record deck table and then spin an LP of Scarlatti sonatas played on the

harpichord by George Malcolm. I am impressed by the overall realism, while silences between musical phrases are inky black, which highlights the very low noise floor with the Floats in place.

With the Dave Brubeck Quartet playing *The Trolley Song*, the double bass plucking is clear, deep and well controlled, and the rhythmic tapping of the hi-hats in the fast section keeps the momentum of the piece going extremely well. The Floats are very well made and do a great job of minimising those bad vibrations. **NR**



### ▶ DETAILS

**PRICE**  
£349 for a set of 4

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### OUR VERDICT

