

Audiovector QR3 | Floorstanding Loudspeaker | ₹1,90,000

Audiovector QR3

FOR Sonic transparency, neutral sounding, great build and looks

AGAINST Lean on the bass, slightly forward sounding

Danes are known to do things differently as much as they are known for their high density of audio brands. Audiovector is one of the bigger players and always had a radical view to servicing their clients by building an upgrade path into their speakers. Customers could send in their ageing models to the factory for a set of mods that would upgrade anything from drivers to crossovers and even cabinets in some cases! The recently launched QR range bucks that trend and sticks to the conventional format where you buy a pair of speakers and pass it on to the next generation. Your offspring may not turn out to be an audiophile like you but there's no denying the satisfying build quality of the QR3 floorstander. It feels dense, well finished and brilliantly executed with the silk white paint job, rounded corners, gold-coloured mesh

itself is machined from a single piece of aerospace-grade aluminium and finished in two different grains that just looks purposeful and expensive, to be honest. The rose-gold coloured mesh grille also works as an S-Stop filter that is similar to what you may have seen in front of recording microphones, to reduce sibilance and the spitting effect.

A vented design, it uses the Q-port reflex system that also works like a plinth, raising the speaker off the floor by a couple of inches and with the bottom-firing port, it isolates it from vibrations as well as enabling the speaker to be placed closed to a wall without blocking off the port. Around the back, single-wiring gold plated binding posts are of high quality but those looking to bi-amp can look elsewhere. Actual listening tests almost never confirm a value advantage anyway so it's not a deal breaker at all. In

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on the air-motion tweeter and magnetic grilles. Being a 2.5-way design, the QR3 stands tall with a three-driver layout that assigns the low frequencies to a 6in woofer, mids to another similar-looking 6in midbass driver and the highs to a gold-leaf air-motion type tweeter. The narrow and slim front baffle keeps things pleasing to the eye and there is a distinct sense of avantgarde to the design, even though its simplistic.

Of course, like any speaker of repute, it's not about how many drivers, but more about what's in the drivers. The QR3 has this covered too. Exotic materials like a sandwiched aerospace-grade aluminium cone for the bass drivers that use a layer of foam in the middle act as a well damped unit along with the rigidity of aluminium while eliminating the ringing effect usually associated with the material. Audiovector calls it the Pure Piston Dual Magnet bass driver and it refers to its linear behaviour that it displays while under excursion. That's only for the better since the AMT HF driver is known for its speed and linearity as well. The combination, in theory, works really well. Formed with a gold leaf, the AMT driver housing

our listening room, the QR3s sounded best about a foot and a half from the side walls and a couple of feet from the front wall, slightly toed in.

Sir Paul McCartney shows no signs of slowing down and his new single *I Don't Know* is what we used to start off the proceedings on the QR3. Immediately, the boldness of this recording came through loud and clear. The fat, bottom end is hefty but well defined and the quick-reacting 6in bass driver does the job without any reason to complain. Vocal transparency and insight into the recording was almost on par with our reference PMC floorstanders, costing almost thrice as much, so that says a lot about the ambition of this compact speaker. AMT drivers have a great reputation and on the QR3 too it proves to be the obvious choice on a budget audiophile speaker. It's open and detailed in a way no entry-level dome tweeter can and it's best illustrated in *Virginia in the Rain* by Dave Matthews Band which opens with a delicate dance of Carter Beauford's expert shuffling on skins and a lightly picked electric guitar, heavy on sustain, making for a great test for handling layered recordings.

The QR3 manages to bring to the fore the complexity of the music without muddling any of the intricacies. It could do with a tad more weight in the bottom end but it's not light enough to spoil the soundstage either. It projects far and wide with a slightly forward-sounding demeanour, at least with the new NAD M32 all-digital integrated amplifier we partnered it with. Perhaps a pure Class A/AB amplifier would squeeze out a few more feet of depth in the centre, adding to its instant likability. One of the most enduring qualities of this speaker is its neutrality that will really let new audiophiles discover the joys (or pain) of mixing and matching different components upstream and revealing differences without the need of bat ears.

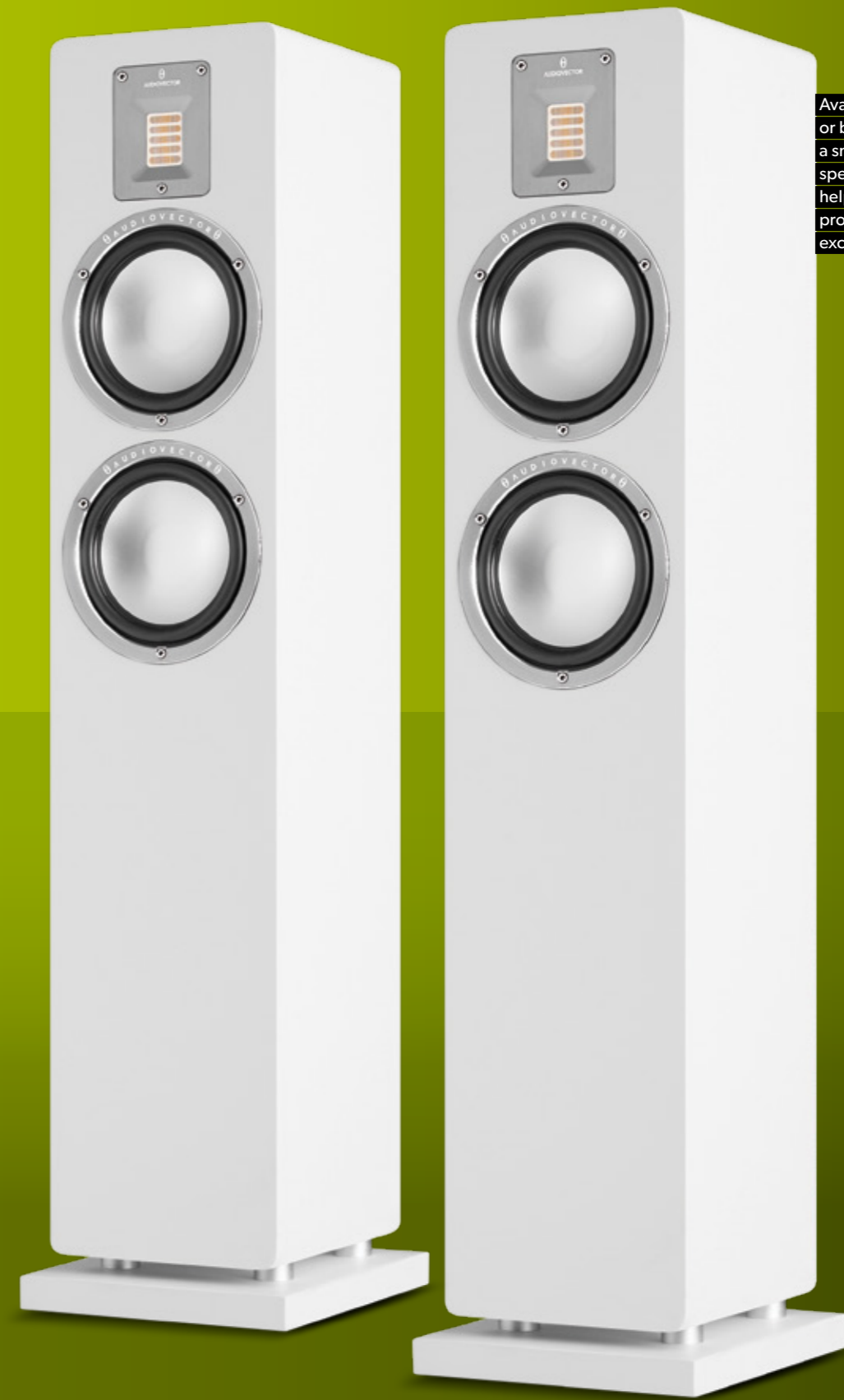
Building a complete surround-sound system, even an immersive audio one, shouldn't be a problem with the QR range that also includes slim-profile on-walls that make for perfect side and top surround partners. The AMT tweeter and woofer tech is consistent throughout the range, making for a well-matched and tonally seamless system. But if you're just starting out with the front L/R or even just a stereo system, the QR3 makes sure that Audiovector gets a good name. It's a straight up, no-nonsense loudspeaker that sounds big yet intimate, bold yet nuanced and all at a price that truly is the icing on the cake. Sonically, it competes with some other contenders costing twice as much and if you must, we recommend adding a quick, small sub to the mix to make this probably the most satisfying speaker on the right side of ₹3 lakhs. They definitely demand a listen if you consider yourself a budding audiophile or otherwise.

WHAT HI-FI? Says

VERDICT An open-sounding speaker that gives you your money's worth without ostracizing you from the mainstream recordings.

TECH SPECS

Type 2.5 way bass-reflex **Drivers** 1 x 6in woofer, 1 x 6in midbass, 1 x AMT tweeter
Frequency response 30Hz - 45kHz
Crossover 400Hz/3kHz **Sensitivity** 90dB
Impedance 4ohms **Dimensions (WHD)** 190 x 942 x 232mm **Weight** 15.4kgs



Available in white or black, the QR3 is a smartly turned out speaker in any shade, helped by its slim profile and excellent finish.