



# Quad Revela 1 £1,800

Coming in at twice the price of the cheapest offering and with heritage in spades, this is the one to beat

**DETAILS**

**PRODUCT**  
Quad Revela 1

**ORIGIN**  
UK/China

**TYPE**  
2-way bass reflex standmount

**WEIGHT**  
12kg each

**DIMENSIONS (WxHxD)**  
246 x 395 x 312mm

**FEATURES**

- 27 x 60mm true ribbon tweeter
- 165mm Reveal paper mid/bass driver
- Quoted sensitivity: 86dB/1m/W (6ohm)

**DISTRIBUTOR**  
IAG

**D**espite Quad being an acronym for 'Quality Unit Amplifier Domestic', this historic British brand was making speakers very early on in its history. Readers may have heard of the ESL-57 electrostatic and its many descendants. The Revela 1 is the latest in a long line of speakers and indeed the company's first new design for seven years. It comes with a floorstanding sibling unsurprisingly called the Revela 2, by the way

The biggest and most expensive design here, its standout feature is its 27 x 60mm true ribbon tweeter; not quite the same as an electrostatic panel, but the aim is identical. With any speaker, the lighter the drive unit is, the better it should sound. Its ribbon of thin aluminium foil sits in a high-strength magnetic field and makes sound when an electrical (audio) signal energises it. This type of driver is very fast and low in distortion. It's not a new thing for Quad; the company's first ribbon tweeter appeared in the Fifties-era Corner Ribbon speaker. Partnering this is a 165mm mid/bass driver

using a special 'Reveal' wood pulp and artificial fibre cone. These are divided up at 2.9kHz by an Acoustic Butterworth crossover network.

The big and beautiful 17.6-litre cabinet uses specially braced panels; radiused edges are employed to reduce unwanted diffraction effects. A single bass reflex port forms part of the rear baffle. The internal damping package includes both acoustic foam and long-hair fibre; these are carefully placed for maximum vibration absorption. There's a choice of black and walnut finishes both of which are excellent quality. Bespoke stands are offered as an optional £800 extra, or the speaker and stands cost £2,500 as a package. In our listening room, the Revela 1 works best about 30cm from a rear wall, slightly toed-in.

## Sound quality

The Quad proves that in hi-fi, as in life, you get what you pay for. The most expensive speaker here is also the best, albeit not in every respect. It sounds bigger and more open than the other group members, and this is doubtless helped by its larger cabinet

and mid/bass driver and ribbon tweeter. Open and airy, it delivers a wealth of detail that really unlocks the recording.

It conveys the texture of instruments and voices better than any speaker here, with a wonderful grain to the vocals on Journey's *Girl Can't Help It*. The guitar solo is immaculately carried, with a tactile, wiry feel to the instrument yet no distortion or screech. Hi-hat cymbals are a delight, with a silky, feathery quality. Arguably they're just a little too refined, but it could be that the distortion is gone. There's a great sense of spatiality too, with no feeling of the music being squeezed out of a toothpaste tube, so to speak.

Bass is very good; it's tidy and taut, if a tad light compared with the likes of the Acoustic Energy AE500 and PMC prodigy1. It simply gets on with

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the job of underpinning the track without drawing attention to itself, feeling 'all of a piece' with the rest of the mix. However, as *Never Let Go* shows, it still isn't quite as tuneful as the PMC. The Revela 1's bass is pretty much beyond reproach, yet somehow it just doesn't make the speaker groove as well as the transmission line design of the prodigy1.

This is an extremely mature and highly accomplished design that's a great all-rounder; it's a sort of 'next-level' B&W, in a sense. So, you can throw any type of music at it – even the compressed, thin sounding *Shine On* and it delivers in a swish, engaging and super-revealing way. The clear winner, it's impossible to criticise even at its relatively high (in this group context) price ●

**Hi-Fi Choice**

**OUR VERDICT**

**SOUND QUALITY**  
★★★★★ **LIKE:** Powerful, detailed and highly expansive sound

**VALUE FOR MONEY**  
★★★★★ **DISLIKE:** Nothing at the price

**BUILD QUALITY**  
★★★★★ **WE SAY:** Seriously capable, classy design

**EASE OF DRIVE**  
★★★★★

**OVERALL**  
★★★★★