



AVALON INDRA LOUDSPEAKER



Avalon's Isis broke new ground in several important areas of loudspeaker performance – at a price both practical and monetary. Now we have the chance to hear the benefits of the long learning curve that led to the Isis, but downsized into a physically and financially more manageable package.

Like many an Avalon before it, the Indra's bandwidth and musical authority belie its compact dimensions. But if you are expecting stilted and overly polite, perhaps misled by the superb finish and understated elegance of the cabinetwork, think again. There's nothing constrained or pinched about music from this speaker, a design that has an almost emphatic sense of musical purpose to its delivery. Just like the Isis it stands aside from the performance, allowing the music full rein. But where with most speakers you find yourself fastening on the high points of their performance, with the Indras it's the other way round; you're amazed by how little impact they have on proceedings, how small a signature they leave on the passing signal, how powerful a voice they allow the musicians. Speakers shouldn't be this hands-off, at least not if conventional wisdom is to be believed. But the Indras are, and they're inclusive too, reaching out to enclose you in the same space as the performers. It all adds up to an ease and directness of communication that moves you several steps closer to the real event – and that makes them very special indeed.

Price: £17500

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