

DETAILS



CONTACT

www.digitalblue.co.nz

SPECIFICATIONS

HF: Horn Loaded Helical Conductive Transducer
 LF: 3 x 5.25-inch honeycomb cone woofer
 BASS LOADING: Rear-ported bass reflex
 FREQUENCY RESPONSE: 30Hz to 40KHz +/-2dB
 NOMINAL IMPEDANCE: 4 Ohms
 POWER HANDING: 50 to 500watts
 SENSITIVITY: 90 dB/watt/metre
 DIMENSIONS: 1223 x 193 x 360mm (H/W/D)
 NET WEIGHT: 29Kg
 STANDARD FINISH: High Gloss Cherry/Piano Black or High Gloss Maple/Metallic Silver

PROS

✦ Classy sound quality, built to last

CONS

✦ The right room is needed to accommodate their size and bass abilities

VERDICT

It's another first rate effort from AAD and although not in the same league as the 7001 Reference Monitors, proves the company isn't a one hit wonder

Aesthetics	90%
Performance	88%
Features	90%
Functionality	88%
Price Value	88%
Overall	



Silver Surfers

AAD 7001 SILVER REFERENCE SILVER 7 LOUDSPEAKERS \$7998

No sooner had the dust settled on last month's review of the spellbinding AAD 7001 Reference monitors than I was once again pressed into service to audition another of the American/British company's upmarket designs.

Last month I began a shortlived fitness regime - this entailed lifting and positioning the 7001s into place from my car into the listening room. I'm happy to say for my fitness' sake, it has continued this month with the luxuriously built Reference Silver 7s.

In contrast to the stand-mount 7001s, the Silver 7s are a slim pedestal floor-standing design with multiple drivers, and while not quite built to the amazing battleship standard of the flagship product, they weigh in at a hefty 29kg each.

No fewer than three 5.25-inch honeycomb bass drivers convert the musical signal into bass and midrange, with the bass output augmented by three small ports on the rear of the speaker. High frequencies are handled by an AAD specialty - the AAD Helical Conductive Transducer (HCT). Unlike a conventional dome tweeter, the HCT uses a flat horn-loaded diaphragm to reduce harshness and improve off-axis response, and AAD claims the driver has a flat response to 40kHz, which is no mean feat.

The review pair came clad in a very tasty piano gloss maple finish along each side, with the front and rear baffles in a heavily lacquered metallic silver. Excellent quality five-way binding posts will accept banana plugs or audiophile-grade bare cable, and the addition of a solid steel plinth adds a touch of style to the Silver 7s while providing stability to the tall, slim design. Heavyweight carpet spikes cap off the impressive build/facilities count, and once I'd heaved each coffin-sized carton into my listening room and unpacked and set them up it was time to test their mettle.

I was lucky enough to have them at my home for a few weeks, which allowed a reasonably extended run-in period; this was a good thing, as straight from the box they sounded a bit closed-in and chesty. It's not unusual for a speaker to improve as time goes by; just like a car, moving components need to bed in and free up before giving their best. So after a few days of low level continuous play it was time for some close examination, music style.

It soon became apparent that the Silver 7s were extremely

accomplished performers, their talents in the midrange and treble allowing the music to breathe and involve. It was great with tracks from Air's *Pocket Symphony* and Tori Amos's American Doll Posse (her piano sounded stunning through the Silver 7s), but also with songs from *Because Of The Times* from Kings Of Leon. Because I needed to have the speakers only about 40cm away from each wall in my smallish lounge, some detail was swamped by bass in a few of my dub reggae tracks. Put these big babies in a large room and you'll doubtless get the full benefit of these serious bass drivers in a deep, clear bass response; all I need is a bigger space to accommodate what the AAD's are capable of.

I was impressed by the Silver 7s, and although not a knock-out like the 7001 Reference Monitors, they still managed to make some serious sounds in my listening room. Drive them with some good-quality watts (4 ohm impedance = current hungry) and in the right room, and they'll put a big grin on your face. ■ GARY PEARCE

