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What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision News **Hi-Fi** Hi-fi speakers
UPDATED: Focal launches its £299 XS Book desktop speaker system

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29 Nov 2011



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Update 29.11.11

Focal has released further details of its XS Book desktop music system, which officially goes on sale in the UK this month for £299 a pair.

The compact XS Book has the "linearity of a small monitor with a maximum sound pressure level of 96dB SPL at one metre", says Focal.

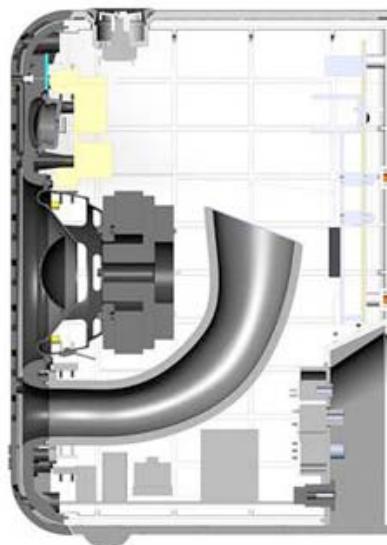
One of the secrets of the speakers' performance is said to be the vented port with a complex shape that has been modelled by CAD to "minimise airflow noise and maximise efficacy".

A single multi-function knob controls volume as well as standby/power.

As standard the speakers come with a 3.5mm cable to connect them to a computer or other source, and a 1.5 metre RCA cable (plus 1.5m extension cable) to connect the two speakers together.

A carrier bag and taller stand are options, and the XS Book is compatible with the Omnimount AB2 standard to allow easy wall mounting if required.

Published 23.10.11



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We first spotted these rather cute looking speakers, designed for desktop use with a PC or laptop, in the Focal room at this year's Manchester Home Entertainment Show.

Called the XS Book Music System, Focal – [which recently merged with Naim](#) – describes it as "the ultimate computer 2.0 system, and a true mini monitor". The speakers could also be used to boost the sound of a flatscreen TV or as an active music system in a small room.

The 'master' right speaker houses a 2 x 20W amplifier, a 3.5mm stereo jack, volume control and on/standby switch. There are also RCA inputs for connecting the left-hand 'slave' speaker to the right-hand 'master'.

Each speaker has a 10cm Polyglass mid/bass driver and a 19mm aluminium tweeter.

Focal hopes the XS Book system will go on sale in the UK soon through its independent dealer network for "less than £300".

The company has also revealed details of its Little Bird, Bird and Super Bird 2.1 systems which combine an integrated amplifier/subwoofer with a pair of Bird satellite speakers. There's an optional iTransmitter Kleer dongle for wireless streaming of music from iPhones/iPads/iPods.

The systems are expected to go on sale in the UK soon with prices from roughly £700 to £1000.

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