Focal uses beryllium in the drive units of its Utopia headphones - just as it does in some of its high-end ‘speakers.

The properties of this rare-earth metal make it ideal for audio transducers. It’s three times as stiff as titanium, yet is considerably less dense. As a result, it has a fast sound-conduction speed.

This translates to a fantastic sound. It doesn’t matter what sort of music you’re listening to — orchestral, heavy rock, opera, electronica, jazz or the (difficult!) spoken word, whether analogue or digitally-sourced, the Utopias will get you closer to the performance.

They are also superbly built and comfortable to wear even for long periods.

Martin Pipe said “These headphones are the best transducers I’ve heard — speakers or headphones. Reference-class all the way, once heard you’ll be satisfied with little else”.

Reviewed: August 2017 issue