**Kanta N°2**

£6,999

**FOCAL**

statement

**Fashion**

Here’s a loudspeaker that seeks to mix high style with sublime sonics and **David Vivian** is smitten on at least one of those counts

**B**y its very nature high-end hi-fi is rather controversial. Some people say it’s more about attitude and mindset than absolute monetary worth, hence presumably the emergence of affordable high-end – on the face of it an oxymoronic proposition that begs the question whether conspicuous over engineering, exotic materials and a five-figure price tag are necessary if all you want is sublime sound quality.

It presents something of a conundrum for a loudspeaker brand like Focal. The French manufacturer has made its name with a range that embraces both the budget friendly and reassuringly affordable high-end. You get what you pay for and you have to be comfortable with what’s in store for you. Not that the Kanta N°2 is exactly a budget loudspeaker by any stretch. At a pound under £7,000, it’s a five-figure price tag that is necessary if all you want is sublime sound quality.

It doesn’t fixate on the forensic at the expense of the larger musical picture. Not that the Kanta N°2 is exactly a shrinking violet – in size, aesthetic impact or technical ambition. Focal describes its genesis thus: “By utilising many of our proprietary acoustic innovations with newly researched techniques, we have created a three-way floorstanding speaker that will blend in perfectly with any interior”. I’ve removed the word ‘compact’ from that overview as, at 35kg and standing some 110mm taller than my regular large room DALI Rubicon 6 towers, the Kanta only looks dainty next to Focal’s apartment block-sized Sopra and Utopia floorstanders. As for blending in, the beam ing, matt finish Gauloise Blue of the review pair doesn’t. Fortunately, there’s enough colour in the colour chart to inspire even the most timid interior designer. The side panels can be had in a lacquered black high gloss finish or a black gloss side panels, matt walnut or a designer. The side panels can be had in three colours for each of the two cabinet finishes: gloss Carrera White, black or gloss High Gloss White.

The built-in spikes lift the enclosure as much as 60mm from the floor. That big, bluff and time-aligned full-length baffle isn’t just a treat for the retina. Part of the R&D phase was to make an essentially ‘entry-level’ high-end floorstander at the lower end of the measurably expensive spectrum that comfortably out performs the high-value, over engineering, exotic materials and three-way floorstanding speaker that combines the exceptional performance the brand is known for, with an exciting new industrial design that will blend in perfectly with any interior”. Circuit (NIC) – the overarching goal is to improve the absorption of sound waves and reduce the resonance frequency of the tweeter to blend more seamlessly with the midrange driver.

**Taking the flax**

This is where flax comes in; something that is very much a Focal thing. Locally sourced and handmade in France, the fibre weave has proved its worth in several of the company’s key designs. By sandwiching flax fibre between two thin layers of glass fibre, the resulting cone is claimed to have many of our proprietary acoustic innovations.

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Up in Focal’s ‘high-end’ portfolio. Little wonder, perhaps, that it took three years of research and development to see the light of day. It isn’t a one-off, but establishes what will become a Kanta range with a standmount and a larger floorstander in due course. Not that the Kanta N°2 is exactly a shrinking violet – in size, aesthetic impact or technical ambition. Focal describes its genesis thus: “By utilising many of our proprietary acoustic innovations with newly researched techniques, we have created a three-way floorstanding speaker that combines the exceptional performance the brand is known for, with an exciting new industrial design that will blend in perfectly with any interior”. Circuit (NIC) – the overarching goal is to improve the absorption of sound waves and reduce the resonance frequency of the tweeter to blend more seamlessly with the midrange driver.

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**IN-DEPTH**
The Focal Kanta N°2 is a high-end floorstanding loudspeaker that offers a unique set of features. When tested, it received praise for its ability to provide a seamless blend of technologies that contribute to an unprecedented combination.

### Sound Quality

The Kanta N°2 is lauded for its ability to deliver impressive bass response, with a slight emphasis towards deeper lows and a smooth transition to the midrange. The bass drivers, along with the beryllium tweeter, allow for a rich and detailed soundstage.

### Design

The Kanta N°2 is equipped with a power port for increased bass response and reduced distortion. It is also designed with a footprint without splaying out too much, making it ideal for smaller listening rooms.

### Value for Money

At £6,999, the Kanta N°2 might seem pricey, but it offers a high degree of customization and performance that justifies the cost. The Kanta N°2 is marketed as a floorstanding reference in domestic hi-fi, making it a desirable option for those looking to invest in high-quality audio.

### Conclusion

In summary, the Focal Kanta N°2 is a high-end speaker that delivers an unparalleled performance, offering a balance of high-end sound quality and technological integration.