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Dear QUAD Owner,

Further to our original Newsletter announcing the GFD DeLuxe Speaker Stand for the Quad ESL.63 Loudspeaker, we have pleasure in bringing to your attention an addition to our range of custom built stands.

We do not intend to try to bamboozle you with a mythical technical description of improvements that our stands will make to the sound reproduction from your ESL.63s. The development time devoted by Quad to perfecting your speakers has ensured that you have received such a technically advanced product, that only conditions completely outside Quad's control, e.g. the listening environment, may affect what you the listener may perceive.

What we do offer is what may be considered a very useful accessory, to enable you to position and adjust the speakers in such a manner as to obtain the best possible performance from the units in a given situation. The listening position may not necessarily coincide with domestic convenience, and therefore the facility of easy movement to enable the speaker to be accommodated when not in use, very often offers a means of compromise between the ideal and reality.

As the speakers are often more vulnerable to accidental damage when sited in their optimum position for listening, which is likely to be well spaced from the wall, (e.g. 1/7th of the room diagonal as recommended by Quad), mechanical stability is important. The higher the speaker is taken above floor level, the more unstable it becomes, unless the stand's support points are spread outwards to an unacceptable degree. When wishing to listen to the speakers on axis with the Point Source, it is just as effective from a sound reproduction aspect, to tilt the speaker backwards slightly, as it is to raise it to such a height that it offends the eye and becomes unstable. By tilting the speaker backwards, the balance of the mass of the speaker is improved with respect to the support points. In the case of the GFD Stands, the support points have been further increased over and above the Quad support centres, to compensate for the slight increase in overall height brought about by the addition of the stand. This improvement in mechanical stability is worthwhile, for any direct coupling of the speaker to the floor for this purpose can aggravate floor resonances, although it must be said that due to the design of the speaker, the ESL.63 offends the least of all other speakers, because of the negligible amount of sound energy generated outwards from the edge of the diaphragm. To the unwary, floor resonances can be confused with increased bass, in the same way that a poorly mounted silencer on a motor car increases drumming in the car body. The discerning Quad Owner, having invested in what is the most natural sounding loudspeaker and amplification system available, is better advised to use the pre-amplifier control to adjust the bass spectrum, than relying on the caprices of a springy set of floor boards. That apart, the less sound energy transmitted to the floor boards the better, especially from an acoustic feedback point of view, when using an analogue turntable system mounted on the same set of floor boards.

The design of our DeLuxe speaker stand is centred on a high quality aluminium casting, which in conjunction with the especially designed clamping system, integrates the stand with the speaker base as one unit, without resorting to interference with the internal functions of the ESL.63. The rear castors incorporate a fine adjustment, to enable the user to adjust the angle of tilt to suit his personal preference, which to a certain extent will be determined by the size of room, and distance between the speaker and the listener. By careful design we have been able to incorporate these features, whilst at the same time only raising the speaker a mere 80 mm (3.15 inches) at the front. In view of the esoteric nature of the speakers, which themselves are not mass produced, it follows that the GFD Stands cannot benefit from lower costs of mass production techniques either.

We have, therefore, introduced a second model, the MkIIS, also of Registered Design, to complement the range, which carries out the same functions as the DeLuxe Stand, but due to a style change and the use of fabricated steel instead of the much more expensive aluminium casting, allows us to offer this unit at a lower price. The style change incorporates an increase in the adjustment range of tilt by 3° to accommodate smaller listening rooms, and there is a marginal increase in height over the DeLuxe stand of 32 mm (1.26 inches). Regrettably the option of the two textured finishes, (brown or black), has had to give way to one standard finish in satin black, unless especially requested at extra cost.

Regarding sound: having decided to invest in Quad for the closest approach to the original sound, we trust that you would not expect our speaker stands to degrade that sound by artificially exaggerating or suppressing any part of the sound spectrum. What our stands help you to do is move closer to that ideal seat in the concert hall, without having to leave your own fireside. As a bonus, you may just conceivably receive an accolade from the person who does the cleaning!

Yours sincerely,

G.F. DEANE & PARTNER.

P.T.O.



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