The new ESL-2805 and ESL-2905 Electrostatics are Quad's latest reference loudspeakers and like their predecessors should be regarded amongst the finest loudspeakers in the world today. In areas such as transparency, and lack of colouration, they are without peer.

It should be noted that whilst moving-coil loudspeakers are the norm, the physical principles upon which they work are fatally flawed - and not even the latest advances in materials science can address their shortcomings.

Quad alone has sought a different path - to push the boundaries of electrostatic technology to the point where our ESLs are closer to the ideal loudspeaker than any other.

Quad's patented panel technology results in a combination of the speed and accuracy only possible from an electrostatic loudspeaker; together with the imaging and sound-staging only possible from a theoretically ideal point source; and the coherence and continuity of a single drive unit.

With possibly the lowest distortion of any loudspeaker, the ESL can be enjoyed for hours on end without fatigue; never adding or subtracting from the original recording. Even at low volume levels, they retain the full detail and drama of the music.

In short, the Quad ESL technology is unique in its clarity of sound, lack of distortion, lack of interference and continuity of response. The ESL-2805 and ESL-2905 loudspeakers are the absolute pinnacle of that technology. Engineered without compromise, they are destined to become modern classics.

The ESL-2905 is the largest of our full-range ESL models. It employs 8 electrostatic panels, the inner two utilising the concentric rings of anodes used to create the point source image. Whilst all electrodes receive the same music signal, each electrode area reacts slightly differently, such that treble frequencies appear to come from the centre of the speaker. This often leads to the belief that a crossover separates the signals, but this is not the case. The outer panels (three above and three below), are linear panels, the entire surface of each reacting in unison to the signal. The large overall surface area is necessary to provide deep bass extension and dynamic response. Construction is a combination of tensioned
aluminium extrusions coupled to stainless steel support structures, with a piano gloss wooden trim. The substantial base construction is finished with piano gloss side cheeks and high-quality terminations. Internally, the highest quality components are used, including rare core transformers and high-grade audiophile capacitors. Three types of protection system are used to ensure the speakers are difficult to damage when over driven. A rigid three-dimensional structural support system, combined with an overall speaker mass of 41.6kg ensures the maximum transmission of sound energy. This results in the most dynamic and powerful Quad ESL ever produced.

Specifications :

Format : Full Range Electrostatic
Membrane : 0.5g/m² Tensioned film
Panel Elements : 8
Time Delay : Progressive concentric rings
Chassis : Heavy duty composite aluminium / steel
Maximum Power Output : 2 N/m² at 2m on axis
Sensitivity : 1.5μ bar per volt referred to 1m
Impedance : 8 ohms nominal
Impedance variation : 4 - 20 Ohms
Maximum continuous input voltage (RMS) - 20Hz to 20kHz : 10V
Programme peak for undistorted output : 40V
Permitted peak input : 55V
Frequency response : 28Hz - 23kHz (usable)
Power Consumption : 6 Watts
Dimensions : 1430mm x 695mm x 385mm (add 25-55 mm for feet/spikes)
Weight : 41.6kg net