Primacoustic Recoil Stabilisers

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Studio loudspeakers usually sound best when mounted on heavy, solid stands, but sometimes desk-mounting is the only option. This can compromise the sound: most desks aren't as rigid as we'd like, so some of the energy transferred from the speaker cabinets causes the desk surface to vibrate slightly, which colours the sound. Furthermore, the loudspeaker cabinet moves slightly in reaction to the moving woofer cone, as the desk isn't rigid enough to hold it firmly in place.

Radial's Recoil Stabiliser might sound like something off *Star Trek*, but in reality it is a more elegant interpretation of my DIY concrete-slab-on-foam solution to this problem. In essence, a piece of very thick, very heavy metal plate is folded, so that it sits on a block of high-density foam with the folded end hanging over the front to improve the cosmetics, and the top of the plate has a non-slip mat fixed in place. The whole assembly is around 2.75 inches deep, with a platform size of roughly 10 x 14 inches.

The high-mass metal part, upon which the speaker sits, effectively adds to the mass of the speaker cabinet, thus reducing the amount by which it can move or 'recoil' when the bass driver moves. The foam is very poor at conducting vibrational energy, and isolates the monitor and plate from the desk surface — so less energy gets through to the desk. In practical terms, better isolation should result in a tighter bass end and better stereo imaging.

Tests with my Mackie HR624s produced noticeably better stereo imaging than mounting the speakers directly on the shelf surface, and the low end seemed much better controlled. Next to sorting out any basic acoustic problems, mounting your speakers correctly is probably the most important thing you can do to improve your monitoring accuracy, and if you're desk-mounting them, I can't recommend highly enough using some kind of isolation pad. The Recoil Stablilisers are the best I've tried, and though not the cheapest, the results make them well worth the price. SOS

information

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