



o n c e o v e r

*Sometimes brilliant solutions  
don't have to be complicated*

# Primacoustic Recoil Stabilizers

BY JUSTIN PEACOCK

There's a problem with low frequencies. Rather than traveling best through air like their high-frequency brethren, low frequencies tend to travel through solid objects, vibrating them along the way. This is why a rockin' subwoofer can shake the walls in a room and resonate cheap monitor stands.

So, it follows that if the speakers were decoupled from any solid objects and floating in the room, we could eliminate any bumps in the frequency response caused by the resonant frequency of the monitor stands. In effect, the sound of the decoupled speakers will become more accurate.

Antigravity speaker stands could be cool to decouple speakers, but unfortunately Primacoustic hasn't invented these yet. So what about just using some foam to decouple the speakers? Well, that does work.... however, there isn't much mass, and the foam actually slows and dulls low frequency transients. That means your low end won't be as punchy as it could be.

Given these problems and a need for a solution, Primacoustic has set out to improve upon previous foam speaker isolation designs. Drastically.

The Recoil Stabilizer couldn't really be a more simple device. It's just a chunk of dense urethane foam with a steel plate on top. A layer of neoprene covers the top of the steel, making it non-slip and soft for your speaker bottoms. Set the Recoil Stabilizers on your monitor stands or console monitor bridge and sit your speakers on them—easy as pie.

## Simple and potent

It's nice to evaluate a product that, for once, doesn't require power, software installation, driver configuration, and a cable that I happen not to have at that particular moment. Yet, though the Recoil Stabilizers don't create the kind of joy that only comes from the addition of some new blue LEDs in my gear rack, they made me smile in a big way.

As soon as I got them set up with a pair of Yamaha MSP7 boxes that happened to be around for review, the improvement was instantaneous and not subtle. For a reality check I removed the Recoil Stabilizers and we were back to our old problems, some of which I hadn't even really aware of until they reappeared. The Recoils were clearing up the low mids, making the low end more focused and improving the speakers' imaging, especially at the phantom center.

I continued using the Recoils with lots of other speakers (reviewed recently and reviews forthcoming)—Digidesign's models RM 1 and RM 2, Focal Twin 6, M-Audio EX-66 and JBL LSR 4328. In every case, the improvements were substantial.

Now, keep in mind that I only had one pair of Recoil Stabilizers. They come in an array of sizes to match different speakers. Some of the speakers (especially the Focals) were too big for the RX7 size I had. Primacoustic also makes Recoils specifically for the horizontal speakers, and provides a handy reference chart on its website with many popular speakers so you can easily figure out which RX number you need. They even make a larger model for subwoofers. I would love to get my hands on one of those, as I bet it would work great.

I should also mention here that angled versions of the Recoil Stabilizers are available so you can get your speakers to fire downward by 5 degrees. The RX7 pair I had were flat, but the angled ones would be great for large consoles or situations where the speakers are quite



high. Though 5 degrees is the factory standard option, you can get custom Recoils made with steeper angles. Nice!

## Final thoughts

Low-frequency problems, especially in that pesky low-mid range, can really screw up your listening experience. Not only do they make things sound muddy, they ruin imaging, slow low-end transient response and cause general malaise, discomfort and unhappiness. Any simple tool for dealing with acoustical problems in this range should be welcomed.

The Primacoustic Recoil Stabilizers are just the ticket. They may seem expensive for what you get, but they deliver in construction, fit and finish, and most of all, *performance*. You're going to get a lot more out of your monitors with Recoil Stabilizers on board. Highly recommended.

**Prices:** vary by size—the reviewed RX7 costs \$198/pair (street)

**More from:** Primacoustic, 1638 Kebet Way, Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 5W9 Canada. 604/942-1001, [www.primacoustic.com](http://www.primacoustic.com).