

Embargo ends: 1 November 2024

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Above Wharfedale Super Linton speakers in walnut wood veneer

Linton speakers power up

Music lovers assemble! Wharfedale's most popular loudspeaker, the Linton, is elevated to 'Super' status with upgrades to the drive units, crossover and cabinet

Cambridgeshire, England – No speaker better exemplifies the demand for re-imagined hi-fi classics than the Wharfedale Linton. Originally one of Britain's best-selling speakers between 1965 and the late 1970s, Wharfedale brought it back in 2019 as part of its Heritage line – lovingly re-engineered using the latest techniques and technologies.

In the five years since launch, sales of the reincarnated Linton have surpassed even Wharfedale's expectations. Not only is it the company's best-selling current speaker – no mean feat when you consider Wharfedale makes so many other top-selling models – it is also one of the most popular hi-fi speakers in the world, inspiring other brands to jump on the 'newstalgia' bandwagon.

But while the current Linton's classic style and outstanding musicality have captured the hearts of tens of thousands of music lovers, Wharfedale's engineers – led by Director of Acoustic Design, Peter Comeau – knew the design could be pushed further. So, they revisited every element, from the cabinet to the drive units to the crossover, and the result is the new, upgraded **Super Linton**.

Classics rock

Wharfedale's great history as a maker of loudspeakers stretches back to 1932 – a quarter of a century before the introduction of stereo sound to consumers. Year after year, decade after decade, Wharfedale has created some of Britain's best-loved speakers, many of which are considered among the finest of their era.

Today, Wharfedale celebrates its past with the Heritage Series – a range of classic stereo speakers from the 1960s and 1970s, re-engineered for the modern age. This range sits alongside the company's latest highly acclaimed contemporary designs, offering an enticing choice for discerning music lovers with a penchant for vintage style. And yet Wharfedale is not simply cloning past glories; instead, it applies the latest techniques and technologies to ensure the build quality, finish and performance of these classic designs is greatly enhanced, whilst remaining faithful to the spirit of the originals.

The first speakers to join the Heritage line were the Denton 80 and Denton 85, created to celebrate Wharfedale's 80th and 85th anniversaries. These were followed in 2019 by the hugely popular Linton, a speaker that has fuelled the popularity of revived and re-engineered vintage speakers more than any other. And in 2023 the big, beautiful Dovedale arrived – the uppermost model in the Heritage range, lovingly made in Wharfedale's facility in Cambridgeshire.

2024 has seen the addition of two 'Super' Heritage Series speakers – premium-level designs that take an existing model and upgrade key elements in specific ways to deliver elevated performance. First was the compact three-way Super Denton; now comes the larger Super Linton.



Left The Super Linton is taller, wider and deeper than the Super Denton, which joined the Heritage Series earlier in 2024

In the mid-1900s, Wharfedale often used the word 'Super' to classify superior product iterations, so this nomenclature fits the Heritage Series theme. In fact, a previous Super Linton model was launched in 1967, two years after the first Linton, although the new Super Linton bears no technical relation.

Making the Linton 'Super'

The original 20th century Linton incarnations began in 1965 as a two-way design and ended as a three-way with 1975's Linton 3XP. Styled by Robert Gutmann of the British Design Council, its cabinet was substantial enough to hold a large bass unit yet not overly unwieldy by the standards of the day. And its

sound was rich, natural and full-bodied, a 'proper' hi-fi speaker that was not excessively priced. This combination of attributes earned great popularity.

The 2019 Linton, which remains current, drew from the three-way configuration of the Linton 3XP and Gutmann's classic styling but re-engineered every aspect, capturing a mix of vintage style and sound elevated by modern technology that is as attractive to today's music lovers as the original Lintons were to their audience half a century earlier. Ultimately, the current Linton is a hugely enjoyable speaker to own, delivering music in heart-stirring fashion, and that is the key to its success.

While the 1967 Super Linton offered little more than a revised cabinet design over 1965's two-way original, the new Super Linton is a much more substantial upgrade compared to 2019's three-way iteration. It sports the same look, evolved from Gutmann's original design, but the cabinet is now a little taller and its construction enhanced to improve acoustic behaviour. The three drivers have been upgraded, including a new treble unit and an updated motor system for the bass driver, joined by a new crossover now split onto two boards and utilising superior circuit components. Even the speaker grille has been redesigned to deliver sonic enhancements.



Left Robert Gutmann's classic industrial design of the 1960s lives on in the 2019 Linton and new, upgraded Super Linton

The result is a speaker retaining everything that continues to make the 2019 Linton so popular, whilst enhancing performance across the frequency range. Crucially, it maintains the effortless, full-bodied 'fun factor', adding more detail, more control, more extension and more impact to the sonic mix.

With sales of the 2019 Linton continuing apace, the Super Linton arrives as a new premium option, beneath only the flagship Dovedale in Wharfedale's Heritage Series hierarchy.

Super Linton upgrades: the cabinet

While its footprint is the same as the regular Linton, the Super Linton's cabinet is 4cm taller, increasing the speaker's internal volume. Its construction is enhanced by the application of dual layers of fibreboard coupled by latex-based damping glue, specially formulated to reduce panel resonance to below audibility. The interior space is filled with long-hair fibre and strategically placed acoustic damping foam, aiding the absorption of internal resonances.

Super Linton upgrades: the bass driver

The Super Linton's greater internal volume has allowed Peter Comeau and his team of engineers to make improvements to the bass driver. While the 200mm woven Kevlar cone is the same, a more powerful motor system with increased magnet strength deepens low-frequency extension to 32Hz and delivers superior bass control and impact. Improved transient performance from this new bass unit and cabinet combination plumbs musical depth and detail in a way that is thrilling to experience.

Super Linton upgrades: the treble unit

The Super Linton's new high-frequency unit inherits much of its design from the one used in the £5,000-per-pair Dovedale, with a 25mm dome formed from a fine fabric weave coated in a special damping material. The diaphragm is driven by a ceramic magnet-based motor system, with a damped rear chamber to absorb output from the rear.

This reduces the resonant frequency of the treble unit to well below the crossover region, allowing full treble detail and harmonics to be revealed whilst remaining sweetly integrated with the rest of the speaker's output. A revised short horn profile around the dome ensures a smooth response extending down to the upper midrange, while the new front plate design enhances high-frequency dispersion.



Left The Super Linton's driver upgrades include a new treble unit and a more powerful motor system for the bass driver

Super Linton upgrades: the midrange driver

The Super Linton uses the same midrange unit as its regular Linton sibling, with a 135mm woven Kevlar cone. Here, though, the driver is housed in its own generously proportioned cylindrical chamber, with graded layers of long-hair fibre to cancel out the back wave from the rear of the cone. This further contributes to the clean, seamless integration of all three drive units, resulting in the natural and realistic portrayal of instruments and vocals, with impressive scale, expression and transient impact.

Super Linton upgrades: the crossover

Combining the output of the bass, midrange and treble units is an all-new crossover network. This superior design is split onto two separate circuit boards, eradicating the possibility of electromagnetic interference from the bass crossover components affecting higher frequency signals, and incorporating specialised inductors and capacitors selected for their first-rate audio performance.

The midrange and treble inductors are superior air-core designs, while the bass inductor, which must maintain low DCR (Direct Current Resistance), is wound on a proprietary 'Super-Power' laminated silicon-iron core. Low-loss polypropylene capacitors are used for top-tier transparency, alongside low-inductance resistors. Even the internal cabling has been upgraded, with a polyethylene dielectric and LCOFC (Linear Crystal Oxygen Free Copper) conductors for optimal signal transfer.

Super Linton upgrades: the speaker grille

The speaker grille is also an improved design. It incorporates internal shaping to smooth the power output of the midrange and treble units and enhance the transition through the crossover region, further aiding the integration of all three drive units into a coherent transducer.



Left Collectively, the upgrades applied to the Super Linton elevate the classic style and sound to another level

History elevated

The requirements of modern-day speakers are quite different to those designed half a century or so ago. Today's solid-state amps deliver greater power, and modern speakers need power handling to match. The demands placed on frequency response by contemporary digital recordings and sources, especially at the extremes of bass and treble, are also quite different to the midrange-focused vinyl records and turntables of the 1960s and '70s.

The new Super Linton is ideally adapted to these requirements, combining the most advanced drive units, crossover and cabinet construction of any model bearing the Linton name. The speakers are easily matched with a vast array of amps – power outputs from 25W to 200W per channel are recommended, with high sensitivity of 90dB enabling even modestly rated amps to drive them at high volume levels whilst remaining in control. Impedance scarcely varies from a nominal 6 ohms over most of the frequency range, further extending the Super Linton's broad compatibility.

In keeping with a design intended to be treasured, the new Super Linton sports hand-matched wood veneers, polished and lacquered to a satin finish. The speakers can be purchased with the same stand developed for the 2019 Linton, intended to position them at the correct height and ensure critical

damping of unwanted vibrations. The stand's rigid metal frame is complemented by matching wood-veneered panels at the top and bottom, and as the two Linton models share the same stand there is no need for anyone upgrading from 'regular' to 'Super' to buy new ones.

The Super Linton raises every aspect of the Linton's performance whilst retaining its essential magic. Its bass is deep and impactful, its midrange open and expressive, its treble sweet and detailed, with free-breathing dynamics and an expansive scale that brings music to life. This is a sound you can dive into and lose yourself in as you play album after album; a speaker that exudes authenticity, designed for passionate music lovers who simply want to revel in their favourite works of any musical genre.



Left As well as ensuring the Super Lintons are perfectly positioned, the matching stands are a nifty way to store vinyl

A few words from Peter Comeau

Speaking about the success of 2019's re-engineered Linton and the development of the new Super Linton, Peter Comeau, Wharfedale's Director of Acoustic Design, said:

"The popularity of the re-engineered Linton we launched in 2019 has been – and continues to be – quite remarkable. And yet, I'm not surprised. There is authenticity in its design and joy in its performance that holds great appeal to those of us who are truly passionate about music.

"The Linton continues to be the clearest example of the strength of demand for re-engineered classic hi-fi – when it's done 'right'. By this, I mean two things. First, your brand must have a history genuinely worth celebrating – and no loudspeaker manufacturer has a richer heritage than Wharfedale. Second, the original design must be meticulously re-engineered to maintain the identity of the original whilst fully utilising today's technologies to bring the design forward – if it doesn't meet modern requirements, it has no worth beyond shallow nostalgia.

"Those who love the current Linton do so for the joy it brings when listening to music. With the Super Linton, we have simply applied the expanded budget afforded by a higher retail price to engineer solutions that further magnify this feeling of joy.

“We’ve utilised advanced computer modelling and the latest lab technologies to assess and enhance every critical aspect. And yet, as ever, final tuning comes down to thousands of hours of listening tests. Just as Wharfedale’s founder, Gilbert Briggs, would emphasise: ‘Response curves alone can hide a multitude of sins.’

“Ultimately, when listening to the music that moves you the most, the Super Linton delivers an intensely realistic and emotional experience. And that should *always* be the goal of high-fidelity sound.”

Price and availability

A modern-retro classic lovingly upgraded using the latest technology, the new Super Linton is available from mid-November in a choice of walnut, mahogany and black oak wood veneers.

The Super Linton’s RRP is £1,999 per pair including matching stands, or £1,849 per pair without stands. The 2019-edition Linton continues at £1,249 per pair with stands and £1,099 without. The stands are priced at £349 if purchased separately.

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 10:00 (GMT) ON FRIDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2024.



SPECIFICATIONS	WHARFEDALE SUPER LINTON
Speaker type	Three-way standmount
Enclosure type	Bass reflex (2x rear ports)
Treble driver	25mm fabric dome
Midrange driver	135mm woven Kevlar cone
Bass driver	200mm woven Kevlar cone
Sensitivity (2.8V @ 1m)	90dB
Nominal impedance	6Ω (8Ω compatible)
Recommended amp power	25-200W
Frequency response (+/-3dB)	39Hz-20kHz
Bass extension (-6dB)	32Hz
Crossover frequencies	550Hz; 2.5kHz
Cabinet volume	6.6L; 33.4L
Speaker dimensions (HxWxD)	605x300x330mm
Weight (each speaker)	19.8kg



British loudspeakers have always enjoyed an excellent reputation around the world, and Wharfedale is perhaps the most famous brand of all. Stretching back to 1932, when Wharfedale's founder Gilbert Briggs built his first speaker in the cellar of his Yorkshire home, Wharfedale has been responsible for some of the most important loudspeakers ever produced, introducing many techniques and technologies that became commonplace such as the two-way loudspeaker (invented in 1945) and the use of ceramic magnets (pioneered in 1962). Now in its 93rd year, Wharfedale continues its quest to deliver excellent sound quality and value-for-money with a wide range of class-leading speakers, from the latest iteration of the famous Diamond line – the classic entry point to high-fidelity sound – to the upmarket EVO4, Aura and Elysian series.

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