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Chilling in the Caribbean  
with Duran Duran

**Group Test:**  
We audition six of the  
latest active speakers



# Hi-Fi Choice

**PASSION FOR SOUND**

Issue No. 517

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p107

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# KEF

## LS60 Wireless £4,500



### DETAILS

**PRODUCT**  
KEF LS60 Wireless

**ORIGIN**  
UK

**TYPE**  
Active 3-way  
floorstanding  
speaker

**WEIGHT**  
31.2kg each

**DIMENSIONS**  
(WxHxD)  
212 x 1,090 x 394mm

**FEATURES**  
• 19mm aluminium  
tweeter  
• 100mm aluminium  
midrange driver  
• 4x 135mm Uni-  
Core bass drivers  
• Claimed power:  
700W (each)

**DISTRIBUTOR**  
KEF

**E**ven in this exalted company, the LS60 Wireless looks like it's landed from a more exotic high-end tier, impossibly slender with a distinctive driver configuration lifted from KEF's £22,500 Blade Two Meta and a pristine look of such pure, clean elegance, some might even prefer it to the Blade's more extravagant curves.

Naturally, and as with the Blade Two Meta, a Uni-Q unit (12th gen) takes centre stage. It's the only driver facing the listener. What's more, it's bespoke to the LS60, teaming a 100mm aluminium diaphragm for the midband with a concentrically mounted 19mm vented aluminium dome tweeter, making it the smallest Uni-Q the company has ever produced.

Bass is fired sideways from either side of the enclosure by KEF's Uni-Core

driver array tech, first seen in its dinky KC62 sub. The two pairs of 135mm drivers are mounted back to back and use force cancellation with a shared motor to extract maximum bass from the limited working volume in this slim sealed-box design. Rather than being located towards the bottom of the enclosure, the drivers are in an equidistant formation around the Uni-Q driver, the idea being that all the frequencies are projected from a single point – widening the stereo sweet spot. Each enclosure delivers a whopping 700W from three amplifiers: 500W for the bass, 100W for the midrange (both Class D) and 100W Class AB for treble.

The right hand 'primary' speaker's connections include HDMI eARC, optical and coaxial, a pair of analogue RCA inputs plus a couple of Ethernet ports, one to connect to your router, the second to the other speaker if you want full 24-bit/192kHz capability. There's additionally support for DSD256 and MQA. Amazon Music, Deezer, Qobuz, Spotify and Tidal are all on the menu, and the ways to connect comprise Apple AirPlay 2, Google Chromecast and Bluetooth. There is a small plastic remote, but it's largely redundant as the excellent KEF Connect app covers everything as well as providing a comprehensive suite of EQ options.

### Sound quality

Hold in your mind all your most cherished sonic touchstones in a pure hi-fi sense. Such is the LS60's power, transparency, dynamic reach, control and EQ flexibility, I'd be surprised if it didn't knock every single one of them clean out of the park and into the middle of next month. It's a supremely impressive, potent and entertaining speaker period, wireless or not.

Clarke's *Combat Continuum* is a clear win. The KEF's clarity and grip, high powers of resolution, analysis and organisation, knockout dynamics and, for all suckers of the low stuff, extension-adjustable, heavy-fisted bass raise the track to the next level, the midband precision of the tiny Uni-Q driver erasing a slight

chestiness from narrator Steve Blum's voice and further swelling an already vast soundscape while the sub-derived, side-firing drivers shift the piece into window-rattling territory without any perceptible onset of distortion or decoherence. It's quite something.

All right, so the LS60 leaps at any chance to show what its 700W can do. But playing the gentler Lizzy

### This is a supremely impressive, potent and entertaining speaker, period

McAlpine and David Sanborn cuts show it has a penchant for subtlety too, with a deft musical touch, handling vocals and the songs' more nuanced moments with an easy assurance, delicacy and skill. There is a suspicion, with these tracks especially, that the KEF doesn't have quite as many fractional tonal shades in its palette as the DALI and Dynaudio do and its top end isn't quite as airy. In isolation, though, you'd never guess ●



### Hi-Fi Choice

#### OUR VERDICT

**SOUND QUALITY**



**LIKE:** Tremendous, user-flexible sonics; clean aesthetic; build

**VALUE FOR MONEY**



**DISLIKE:** Nothing

**BUILD QUALITY**



**WE SAY:** At the new price, KEF is effectively extracting the you-know-what

**FEATURES**



**OVERALL**

