

STEREO SPEAKERS OF THE YEAR OVER \$2500

LEGEND ACOUSTICS KUMBAR WIRRI (BIG RED) \$9990 TO \$14,990

The Kumbar Wirri is Legend's top-of-the-line speaker, also known as the Big Red, the translation from the Australian Indigenous Koori language (as used throughout the Legend Acoustics line) of Kumbar Wirri.

It's a two-box-per-channel design, made up of a slightly modified Kurre (version 5) acting as the mid and high frequency transducer, sitting atop the Kurlo, a 500W Class-D powered bipolar subwoofer. The Kurre uses the highly regarded Scanspeak 18cm 8545 driver (as used on many of the best speaker designs) for midrange/midbass duties, and a 2.5cm Visaton pure ceramic tweeter for the top frequencies. The Kurlo is a cut-off pyramid bipolar subwoofer, whose dual purpose is to serve as the stand for the Kurre, placing the tweeter at the ideal ear level, and to provide the prodigious low frequencies this system is capable of reproducing. Contained within the elegant Kurlo are two respected Peerless XLS 25cm drivers, one either side of the enclosure.

Connections and features are a-plenty, including a 180-degree phase switch, volume, variable crossover frequency from 50-160Hz, and auto standby sensor. Methods of signal connection are the preferred low-level line input via RCA connectors, and high level via speaker binding posts.

This flagship model is also available in a fully active configuration for \$14,990, which includes DEQX's PDC-3 digital 'Swiss Army knife' processor/amplifier, an Australian-made all-in-one-box digital solution that contains Hypex Class-D amplifiers to power the Kurre's drive units individually. The PDC-3 also includes room-correction software via the supplied calibration microphone, speaker correction, timing error correction in real time, an active digital crossover, a preamplifier with analogue volume control and a 24-bit/192kHz DAC. That's some list of features!

This means that the only additional hardware needed to complete a full system

BASS CONTENT IN SOUNDTRACK OR MUSIC HAD SLAM, POWER, DETAIL AND TREMENDOUS PUNCH. MIDS AND HIGHS WERE SWEET AND FULL-BODIED, WITH JARRING DYNAMICS, DELICATE DETAIL AND EXTENSION...

is a CD or DVD transport with a digital output to connect straight to the PDC-3's digital input. *Et voilà*, an operational system with full DSP capabilities. The PDC-3 also includes further inputs, both digital and analogue, catering to multiple source systems or for those who wish to utilise precious exotic valve preamplifiers, say. A partially active version is also available where you can use the DEQX for DSP processing and DAC duties, but keep your own preferred amplification. The Kurre has a modest sensitivity of 87dB/W/m and presents a reasonably amplifier-friendly 7-ohm impedance load. The wide frequency response spans from 20Hz to 25kHz.

The judging panel auditioned the Kumbar Wirri in all its configurations and were extremely impressed with the sound quality and set-up options. Of particular note was the bass quality. Any bass content, whether in film soundtrack or music, had slam, power, detail and tremendous punch. The mids and highs were sweet and full-bodied, with jarring dynamic range, delicate detail and extension.

Whether passively or actively configured, the Kumbar Wirri is a tour de force in speaker design that, from its basic form to its ultimate configuration, represents an outstanding Australian product. More info: www.legendsspeakers.com.au

