BLADE &
BLADE TWO
BLADE IS AN ATTITUDE.

IT'S ABOUT EXPLORING

THE ART OF THE POSSIBLE,

WITHOUT PRECONCEPTIONS.

PUSHING BOUNDARIES.
“Of all the arts, music is the most expressive, the most insubstantial and the most immediate. Transformed to a dance of electrons along a wire, its ghost lives on. When KEF returns music to your ears and mind, we aim to do so in the most natural way – without drama, without exaggeration, without artifice.”
— Raymond Cooke, OBE

For audiophiles all over the world, KEF has for more than half a century stood for innovative acoustic engineering in pursuit of outstanding sound purity. We have the awards and reputation to prove it; no other manufacturer has done more to advance the state of the art.

Ever since loudspeaker guru Raymond Cooke founded KEF in 1961, we’ve been leading the field – and as a high-end expression of this passionate engagement with fresh ideas, advanced materials and new technologies to enhance the pleasures of recorded music, BLADE and BLADE Two are pure KEF.

Founder Raymond Cooke’s vision holds true today in a brand driven by original thinking and engineering integrity rather than passing fads.
SNOW WHITE

Cool, clean and glowing serenely like the marble of the
Branca masterpiece that inspired their form, the crisp Snow White
finish gives Blade and Blade Two a distinctive sculptural presence
that looks stunning in modern interiors.
Blade is an attitude. It’s about exploring the art of the possible, without preconceptions. Pushing boundaries. So we gave our most talented engineers carte blanche to create the best speaker they can, with no design or cost restrictions. After years of research and testing, what they came up with looked and sounded like no other speaker: Concept Blade. Its startling acoustic precision was so acclaimed when it first broke cover that we spent two more years refining the concept to produce an edition that serious audiophiles could own and enjoy.

The result was so well received that we decided to take things even further and expand the Blade range. With all of Blade’s acoustic prowess and iconic design on a slightly smaller scale, Blade Two is easier to place in environments where space is at a premium, and where Blade’s extreme bass extension would be superfluous.

Blade Two. Same DNA. Same striking aesthetic. Same advanced driver technology and unique single apparent source configuration. And above all, the same lush, phenomenally realistic sound.

Like the original Blade, Blade Two is based on the advanced materials and innovative technologies we developed to replicate the shattering performance of the prototype, and the same method of forming the seamless parabolic cabinets. The drivers on both models share the sophisticated enhancements responsible for the concept’s magical acoustics.

Whatever model you choose, you get a unique synthesis of cutting edge audio technology and inspired design – and yet, while the technologies involved are anything but, the simplicity of the original vision remains. Every single component operates so comfortably within its performance envelope that they work together as a single, flawlessly coherent unit – in effect, each speaker performs as a giant full-range Uni-Q driver array.

It’s a spectacularly warm and expansive sound, wherever you sit. Seamless. Totally natural, even when played loud. Effortlessly accurate in every tiny detail, and as emotionally true as a live performance.

If you’re into your music, you’ll soon see that the years it took to make the dream a reality were well worth it.
KEF has always been obsessed with perfecting the reproduction of recorded sound, with a continuous stream of technical innovations that have shaped the evolution of loudspeaker design.

KEF was the first to apply computer analysis to optimising sonic performance, using aerospace-derived modelling techniques such as finite element analysis. We pioneered driver decoupling, pair matching, coupled cavity bass loading, conjugate load matching, acoustic compliance enhancement. But of all these breakthroughs, the most influential is KEF’s signature Uni-Q® ‘point source’ driver array. Uni-Q’s outstanding clarity and exceptionally broad dispersion characteristics deliver immaculate defined sonic imagery over a listening area far larger than is possible with any conventional speaker. Painstakingly refined through no less than eleven iterations, the latest Uni-Q® driver arrays on both Blade models are essentially the same as those on KEF’s Boss Lovegrove-designed Mu-so, a contender for the best consumer loudspeaker ever made.

Blade set out to extend the boundaries of what high-end audio can achieve. Its exceptional acoustic integrity derives from the combination of carefully chosen components: new high-performance drivers designed to behave with no break-up or resonance over their required frequency range, and a new, tediously shaped cabinet engineered never to interfere with the uncompromised purity of their output.

You don’t need to be an audiophile to hear that familiar tracks sound noticeably sweeter and more involving as a result, or that the bass sounds fuller, cleaner and better controlled. But if you are, Blade and Blade Two are investments in a lifetime of pleasure.
When the visionary electrical engineer Raymond Cooke set out to perfect the reproduction of recorded sound in 1961, he set up his first research lab on the banks of the river Medway in the garden of England, in a wartime Nissen hut formerly occupied by Kent Engineering and Foundry. Hence the name, KEF.

To celebrate KEF’s unrivalled heritage of continuous innovation in the half century since, and the part that the iconic Blade loudspeakers have played in consolidating KEF’s reputation among serious audiophiles, we’ve commissioned two bespoke editions.

With two striking special finishes — Frosted Blue, hinting at the blue of the original KEF logo, and Frosted Cooper Black — the Kent Engineering and Foundry editions combine the latest Blade technology with an aesthetic that subtly evokes this rich pedigree.
FROSTED COPPER BLACK
To celebrate over five decades of KEF innovation, we’ve created a special Frosted Copper Black finish for Blade and Blade Two that pays homage to the iconic SE9A. World class acoustic integrity then as now.
KENT ENGINEERING AND
FOUNDRY EDITION

FROSTED BLUE
From tips lazuli artefacts of antiquity to blue anodised aerospace components, ultramarine has always been prized for its purity. No wonder the Frosted Blue finish works so well on Blade and Blade Two. Its seductive sheen emphasising the taut contours of the cabinets while hinting at the sophistication of the engineering within.
Like listening to one voice rather than many, sound from a single source is inherently clearer.

In Blade, not only do the HF and MF drivers in the Uni-Q array share an identical axis, but the four superlative LF drivers are mounted symmetrically equidistant on either side, so that their acoustic centres occupy exactly the same point in space. This single apparent source configuration is what makes Blade speakers so coherent right across the frequency range, with noticeably more precise imaging than is possible from any conventional speaker. What you hear sounds as if it’s being performed live in front of you.

With speakers as ambitious as Blade and Blade Two, everything has to be as right as it can possibly be.

**TERMINALS & TERMINAL LINKS**

Two pairs of the finest audiophile quality WBT connectors allow bi-wiring or biamping to ensure lossless transmission and to optimise the retrieval of low level detail in the music. The patented screw-in linking plugs are to full audiophile specification (as well as simplifying set-up by eliminating fiddly wiring links).

**LOW ORDER CROSSTERS**

The simple low order crossovers employ the best components available, carefully selected by rigorous auditioning so that every part of the signal path is fine-tuned for maximum clarity.
**ADVANCED ACOUSTIC TECHNOLOGIES**

Unique technologies configured in a radical new single apparent source architecture.

**Midrange**

1. **HYBRID CONE**
   
   So light and rigid that it never reaches its natural break-up point, Blade and Blade Two's hybrid MF cone has a lithium/magnesium/aluminium alloy outer skin braced at the back by a precision-engineered skeleton of liquid crystal polymers which increases rigidity while venting the space behind to eliminate distortion effects from compression. By optimising sensitivity and transient response, this unique combination reproduces upper midrange frequencies with an accuracy that allows you to enjoy the full subtlety of emotionally nuanced performances, especially with vocals and keyboards.

2. **MF CONE SHAPE WITH SMOOTH SURROUND**
   
   Both the shape of the tweeter dome and the contours of the midrange horn are optimised to flatten HF response compared to a conventional baffle, and the surround is calculated to provide a perfectly smooth transition to the cabinet. The Uni-Q array is fully decoupled to prevent unwanted vibrations from muddying the sound you hear, allowing the harmonics of live vocal and instrumental performances to be reproduced in flawless detail.

3. **LARGE VOICE COIL WITH NOGAL DRIVE**
   
   To boost power handling and minimise thermal compression effects, the midrange cone is driven by a much larger voice coil than normal, playing more loudly and more cleanly than any previous Uni-Q driver array and investing the music with superb dynamics, especially with high energy tracks. Consequently because this large voice coil further stiffens the cone by bearing on the exact point of its first resonant mode, it contributes to the cone's reassuringly high break-up frequency.

4. **TANGERINE WAVEGUIDE**
   
   The segmented waveguide designed using KEF's own pioneering computer modelling software manages the airflow so as to widen the dispersion of high frequencies instead of becoming forwards. It recreates the wide, even spread of a natural soundfield, minimising traditional sweet spot effects so that the astonishingly pure HF imaging is shared by everyone in the room.

**Tweeter**

5. **HF DRIVER**
   
   With its stiffened, computer-optimised dome and patented 'tangerine' waveguide, the vented tweeter operates polystyrene over its entire working range for the greatest clarity and transparency with nothing added to or subtracted from the sound originally recorded. Whatever type of music at whatever volume, HF response is consistently sweet, lucid and lyrical.

**Bass**

1. **LF DRIVER**
   
   After two years of intensive development, the four powerful LF drivers (225mm/9-in for Blade, or 165mm/6.5-in for Blade Two) are perfectly integrated with the Uni-Q for exceptionally clean, clear and authoritative bass response — delivering seismic punch when required, while retaining the delicacy and musically you would expect if you were in the room with the original artists.

2. **VENTED COUPLER**
   
   Distortion effects caused by trapped turbulent air have been engineered out by venting the space above the voice coil to allow the air to escape freely, however hard they are driven. LF performance therefore remains lucid, clean and involving when played loud.

3. **DECOUPLED DIAPHRAGM**
   
   Instead of using high order crossovers to prevent the LF cone from reaching its break-up frequency, decoupling the voice coil from the diaphragm allows both Blade models to benefit from the acoustic advantages of low order crossovers: purer sound and slimmer bass response, irrespective of volume.

4. **FORCE CANCELLING**
   
   To avoid such potent bass drivers exciting the cabinet at high volume, the large kinetic forces involved are cancelled out by mounting the drivers rigidly to the back. By eliminating cabinet colouration, this contributes to Blade and Blade Two's natural-sounding and engagingly musical response.

5. **DISCRETE BASS CHAMBERS**
   
   The binned pairs of bass drivers are mounted in discrete chambers. By increasing the frequency of any internal standing waves beyond the crossover point, the need for damping is reduced, which can otherwise impair bass quality. Nothing has been overlooked in the quest for clarity right across the frequency range.
PIANO BLACK

As curvaceous and as effortlessly authoritative as a concert grand, Blade and Blade Two look spectacularly elegant in classic Piano Black, with subtle highlights reflected in the deep, ultra high gloss lacquer finish. More than mere speakers, these are objects of desire.
The challenge was to design an acoustically efficient enclosure for a speaker whose unique driver configuration demanded large capacity at the upper portion, without looking remotely bulky.

Initially, KEF engineers worked with Eric Chan of New York-based ECCO Design to create a distinctive look to match Blade’s towering performance capabilities. As functional as they are beautiful, the resulting cabinets are like works of art in their own right — indeed, their form was inspired by the great sculptor Brancusi’s Modernist masterpiece, Bird in Space. Tapering gracefully from top to bottom and from front to rear, the slim proportions made possible by the orientation of the bass drivers give Blade speakers a sculptural presence, with a single continuous keynote describing a fast, seamless curve along the back edge and over the top.

This award-winning form was dictated by acoustic considerations rather than mere styling: the gentle radius of the front face presents the sound with no discontinuity to mar its clarity. The cabinets are constructed from an ultra-high density polymer: an inert and exceptionally rigid material for forming the complex parabolic curves that help to eliminate standing waves that might otherwise blur the output.

It took years of painstaking development to refine the revolutionary innovations in Concept Blade for the Blade and Blade Two models that audiophiles could own and enjoy.
PERFECTION NEVER ENDS

Today’s models are even better: Purer. Closer to the acoustic ideal, subjectively as well as objectively. How perfect is perfect?

The quest for perfect sound reproduction goes on, of course. As new materials and technologies emerge, KEF research engineers are constantly pioneering new ways of achieving the ultimate in acoustic response. Compromise is not a KEF word — and given the freedom to ignore the limitations that others accept, they create loudspeakers acknowledged to be among the best anywhere, at any price.

The Ross Lovegrove-designed Muan, for example, whose staggering performance is matched only by its extraordinary sculptural form. Blade and Blade Two, the world’s first single pool benefits from the latest developments, combining groundbreaking performance technologies with another equally innovative design vocabulary. Bold, clever ideas, executed with passion and obsessive attention to detail.

This is the spirit that first inspired the original Reference forty years ago, which is why so many of the original units are still prized. Today’s models are even better: Purer. Closer to the acoustic ideal, subjectively as well as objectively.

How perfect is perfect?

MUON
Few projects in this world dare to aim for the ultimate. But this was precisely the goal when KEF combined its state-of-the-art acoustic engineering capabilities with the genius of visionary designer Ross Lovegrove. Lovegrove sculpted the sound by shaping KEF’s most advanced technologies in a sensual, organic form that evolved naturally from a radical rethink of what a 21st century speaker could be. The result is one of the most extraordinary audio speakers ever made — an art object in its own right, and a celebration of functional excellence and aesthetic delight in flawless harmony.

BLADE & BLADE TWO
When our engineers came up with the revolutionary Concept Blade prototype — the world’s first single pool benefits from the latest developments, combining groundbreaking performance technologies with another equally innovative design vocabulary. Bold, clever ideas, executed with passion and obsessive attention to detail.

THE REFERENCE
Perfect reproduction of recorded sound is what KEF’s legendary Reference Series has always stood for. After forty years of continuous development, it has earned its name as the benchmark of audiophile loudspeaker performance. The Reference exemplifies the relentless attention to detail of KEF’s ‘Total System Design’ approach. Some details you can see, some you can’t — but because apparently minor details can otherwise be a limiting factor every one has to be of the same impeccable standard. That’s why, if you’re a perfectionist when it comes to movies or music, one name towers above the rest: The Reference. It speaks for itself.
Three-way bass reflex, single Apparent Source driver configuration
Unit Q drive array
MF: 25mm (1 in), Li-Pg Al/Copper hybrid cone
HF: 23mm (0.9 in), Al dome
Bass units:
1 x 2x235mm (9.3 in) with force cancelling
29Hz – 460Hz
25W
100W
45Hz – 33kHz ± 3dB
(44Hz at 1kHz)
355Hz ± 3dB
50 – 400W
17dB
Harmonic distortion 2nd & 3rd harmonics (1kHz, 1W)
0.03% @ 1kHz – 1kHz
<0.02% 1kHz – 1kHz
1WdB
114dB
4Ω (min. 3.2Ω)
57.2 kg (126 lb)
192 x 363 x 542 mm
263.3 x 143 x 212.1 mm
Piano Black, Snow White, Racing Red
Warm Metallic Grey, Light Metallic Silver
**BLADE & BLADE TWO**

**Frosted Copper Black — Kent Engineering and Foundry Edition**

- Cabinet colour: Frosted Black
- Li-Mg A/ILCP Hybrid cone — Uni-Q driver array
- Performance plinth and spike set

The distinctive copper finish acknowledges KEF’s 50th anniversary colour combination, in honour of the new iconic KEF LS50 model.

**BLADE & BLADE TWO**

**Frosted Blue — Kent Engineering and Foundry Edition**

- Cabinet colour: Frosted Blue
- Li-Mg A/ILCP Hybrid cone — Uni-Q driver array
- Performance plinth and spike set

The striking blue Uni-Q driver that complements the frosted blue cabinet evokes the colour of the original KEF logo.

**BLADE & BLADE TWO**

- Performance plinth and spike set

A unique composite resin plinth and performance spike set feature as standard.
FINISHES

BLADE & BLADE TWO

Cabinet colours:
- Piano Black
- Snow White
- Racing Red
- Warm Metallic Grey
- Light Metallic Silver

An aluminium silver Uni-Q driver array is standard on all cabinet finishes.

Li-Mg AILCP Hybrid cone – Uni-Q driver array

Performance plinth and spike set
BLADE AND BLADE TWO
ARE WHAT ALL GREAT DESIGN
ASPIRES TO: BEING THE BEST
IT CAN POSSIBLY BE.