

Quadraspire

QAVX Rack



EQUIPMENT SUPPORTS

GENERALLY fall into one of two categories. For two-channel users, a single-width rack that stacks equipment on top of one another is the norm, while the AV fraternity more commonly makes use of the greater width required by screens in the setup to place equipment alongside one another for a lower all-up height. All very logical and something reflected in range after range of AV and hi-fi furniture.

What if you need an equipment stand to cater for both approaches though? If you run separate two-channel and multi-channel systems – or even run a single system with a few external power supplies, ‘legacy sources’ or other paraphernalia, you can find yourself needing to go both upwards and outwards. Into this specialised requirement steps Quadraspire. As well as producing conventional stereo and AV racks, it also offers this solution that uses the same modular construction as the two-channel ones.

This means that as a bare minimum, the QAVX is able to hold three units per shelf with a flat screen on top of that. This rather defeats the object, though, as more conventional stands can match this capacity. Specify a four-shelf QAVX and the Quadraspire starts to make more sense. Four shelves gives nine equipment slots – each capable of holding a conventional 430mm-wide unit – and a top shelf big enough for a whopping television or a brace of turntables. A conventional single-width stand able to do the same would require a basketball player to be able to reach the equipment near the top.

Made to measure

The overall height of the QAVX will depend both on the number of shelves you specify and their spacing. The configuration builder on the website allows for at least eight to be selected and these can be anything between 100 and 326mm apart. While this means that it is just as possible to make the top shelf



inaccessible with the QAVX as it is with a conventional rack, you will at least have a huge number of slots in such a unit. The width is fixed at a big but not unmanageable 1,630mm.

In practise, the QAVX masks its bulk well thanks to the high standard that it is finished to. Quadraspire offers a variety of wood and glass finishes, allowing the QAVX to blend into its surroundings better than you might expect. Neat tricks like the slight curve on the leading edge mean that it feels more like a piece of furniture than something you stand kit on. The build quality is excellent too. The columns countersink into the shelves and then screw together so that it's both rigid and solid.

Sonically, the most significant advantage of the QAVX is that the sheer size and cumulative mass it has – certainly in our four-shelf review sample – mean that it provides an almost completely inert base for equipment. This is most noticeable with turntables placed on the top shelf that are impressively decoupled from the activities of speakers and the like on the same floor. There is a complete absence of low-level interference on any equipment I've placed on it and even with a product susceptible to valve microphony, the isolation is impressive.

None of this capable isolation seems to come at the expensive of altering the overall tonal balance of the equipment in use. With the wood finished shelving, there is no suggestion of additional brightness creeping into the performance, but equally the detail and vibrancy of my Naim equipment is entirely intact. Judging the neutrality of any support is no easy task, but the Quadraspire goes a long way to achieving such a presentation.

Rack 'em up

This big but rather self-effacing rack is undoubtedly a specialist product as there is only a small subset of customers that will need the considerable storage capacity that it offers. If you do need capacity for six or more components – particularly if any of them are AV focused – the QAVX is a genuinely well thought out product that manages to combine enormous potential storage with a room-friendly finish.

Above all, it delivers all of the performance of the more conventional stereo Quadraspire racks and this means that if you do have a sprawling system to accommodate, the QAVX is a clever and seriously talented solution to the problem. **ES**

DETAILS

PRICE
From £560
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OUR VERDICT
★★★★★