



IO DESIGN®

«NAKED»

Reference Concept Speaker





A new concept in hi-end

Traditional loudspeakers can't be improved beyond the limits of their own concept, and to take one step forward we had to rethink everything from scratch and to try thinking out of the box ... **we took the box out.**

The heart of the «NAKED» speaker is a **deep bass** that you wouldn't believe, free from boomy pollutions and resonances from the box which alterate timber, harmonics, and introduce distorsions.

The head of the «NAKED» is a clean, refined, **natural midrange** litterally bringing the players in your room.

The soul of the «NAKED» leans on a **shockingly realistic performance**, or we should better say «real», achieved by a low decay through space and total preservation of timber, tone and the harmonic structure of the original instruments.

High technology materials and solutions are diffusely implemented in the «NAKED», but technology can't do anything if it's not driven by the ears, the heart and the **knowledge of a lifetime...**

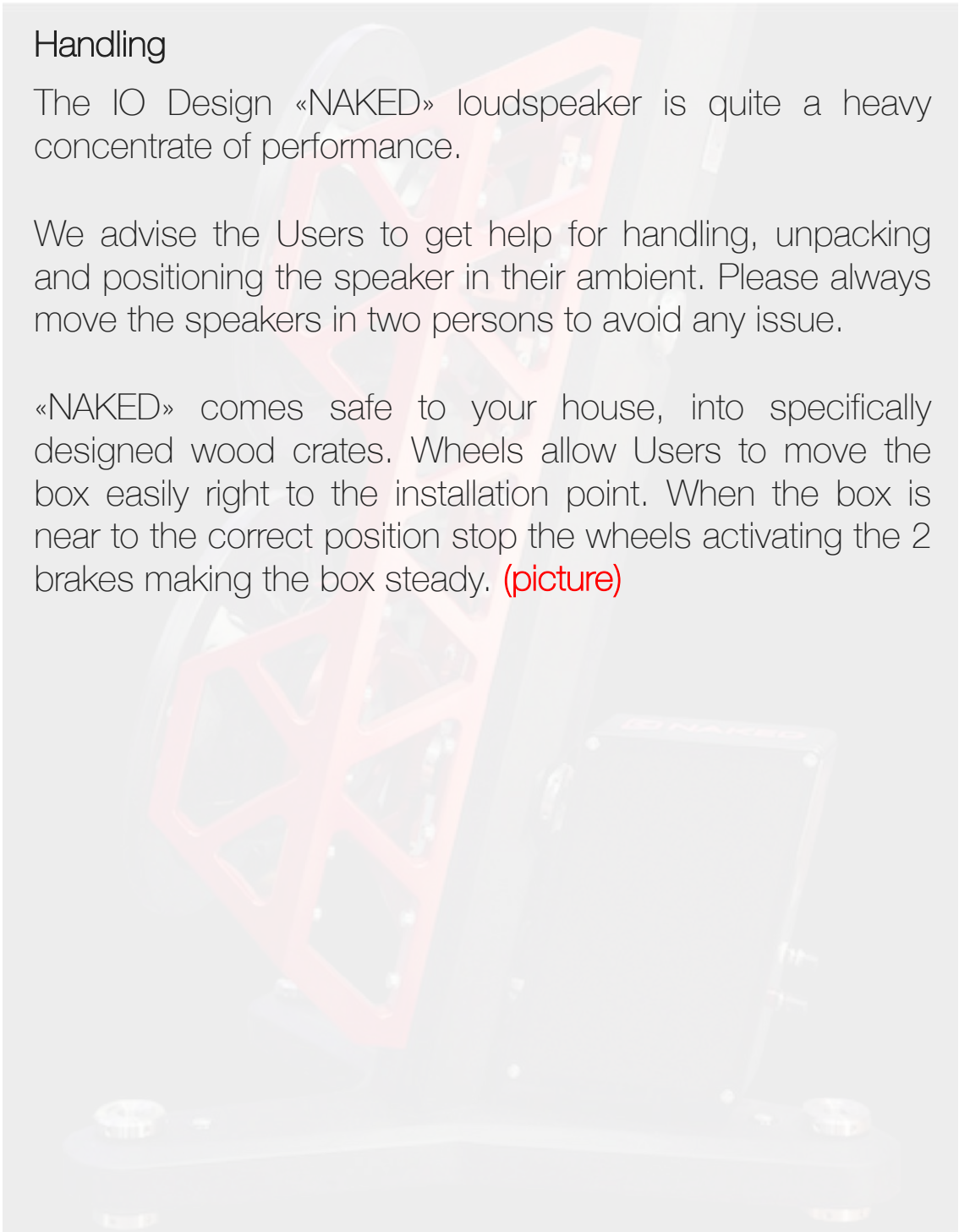


Handling

The IO Design «NAKED» loudspeaker is quite a heavy concentrate of performance.

We advise the Users to get help for handling, unpacking and positioning the speaker in their ambient. Please always move the speakers in two persons to avoid any issue.

«NAKED» comes safe to your house, into specifically designed wood crates. Wheels allow Users to move the box easily right to the installation point. When the box is near to the correct position stop the wheels activating the 2 brakes making the box steady. (picture)



Un-packing

Before start unpacking, clear the area from all possible impediments that could obstacle your work, then remove the screws on the upper front panel



and from the lower side panel



When the two panels are removed, lift the wood crate from the lay down position, up in a vertical position with the Y-shaped base downwards on the floor. Please mind the points, use a thick protection in order to avoid marking the floor.



Never forget to brake the wheels before lifting the crate up and always move the speaker in two persons.

The original accessories are in a separated box.



Please remove the cable-tie holding it to take the box out. The User's manual is available only in pdf format as a download from IO DESIGN website. (picture)

When the top and bottom panels are removed, the box is lift in vertical position, and the accessories box is removed as well, you can remove the two blocks that holding the «NAKED» in place. Please unscrew the wooden lock at the bottom of the speaker on the Y shaped base.

Then remove the straps preventing the «Naked» to move during the transit (they are positioned below the tweeter).



Now that the loudspeaker is unlocked and free to move, please prudently slide back the wooden box leaving the speaker standing on the floor.

The «NAKED» loudspeaker is shipped with the steel feet already mounted, we advise you to take care of your floor using a thick carpet or other thick (but soft) materials able to prevent that the diamond points of the feet can produce any scratch or even being damaged.

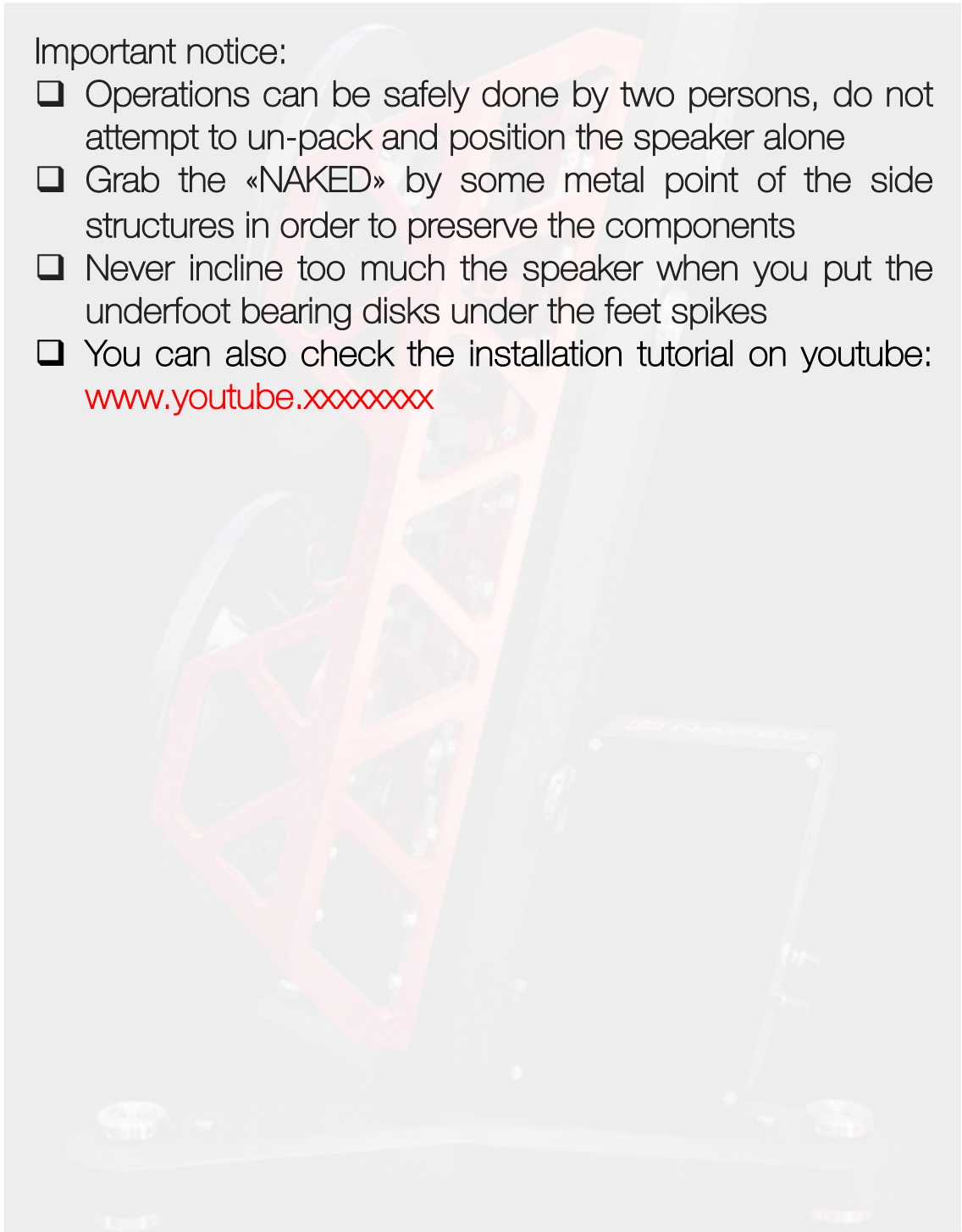
At this stage you should not yet place the underfoot bearing disks, because they make it impossible to move the speakers.

Important notice:

- Operations can be safely done by two persons, do not attempt to un-pack and position the speaker alone
- Grab the «NAKED» by some metal point of the structure in order to preserve the components
- Never incline too much the speaker when you put the

Important notice:

- ❑ Operations can be safely done by two persons, do not attempt to un-pack and position the speaker alone
- ❑ Grab the «NAKED» by some metal point of the side structures in order to preserve the components
- ❑ Never incline too much the speaker when you put the underfoot bearing disks under the feet spikes
- ❑ You can also check the installation tutorial on youtube: www.youtube.xxxxxxxx



Correct use

The handling and use of the «NAKED» loudspeaker is very safe, if few common sense rules are used.

- Take out rings, watches and belts to avoid scratches
- Plan your next move before doing it
- Never incline the speaker out of its' axis alone
- Respect the usual connection rules using only audio cables expressly suitable for loudspeakers
- Don't drive speakers with excessive volume, it's a precision instrument not the «merry-go-round»
- If you perceive distortion when playing too loud, it comes from the amp and you should reduce the volume to preserve your speakers
- Don't use the «NAKED» for anything else than playing high quality recorded music

IO Design and its partners, are not responsible for any damage due to an incorrect use of the loudspeaker

Connection

After both the «NAKED» loudspeakers are in their initial position, you can remove the protection cloth and connect them to your amplifier using loudspeaker cables only.



The system shall be switched off. You then plug the right cable from the amplifier terminals to the right input of the «Naked». Repeat it with the left channel.

Never use tools to lock the terminals if you are using spade connection type.

Respect the polarity (+ red ; - white or black) to preserve the acoustic phase and improve the sound. Audio test media is available to set the speaker up at the best.

Important notice: never short cut the loudspeaker's cable putting together + and -, it might damage your amplifier and the speaker itself.

Concept introduction

Setting up the IO Design «NAKED» is usually easier than with normal boxed speakers. Due to their concept and engineering, the Naked are «facilitated» in optimizing the room positioning because the ambient is used somehow as part of the speaker itself.

Without a cabinet, the “Naked” emission is not flawed by own resonances that affect in particular the bass notes but impact all ranges in effect. These resonances produce a reduction in the dynamic range, in the micro and macro details and an unnatural timbral coloration. With the IO DESIGN “Naked” loudspeaker instead, the dynamic range and the micro/macro dynamics are valorized and reproduced with a “live-like” realism. Music attacks raise at the speed of light but preserving the richest materic texture of the harmonics, while the timbre is simply perfect as in the original recordings.

A correct positioning in your room, will enable such a top performance to recreate live event emotions. That's our target, even though to achieve it we had to design extreme solutions without any compromise; radicalism was the only choice in a market saturated with many loudspeakers absolutely similar for design, engineering, projects, components, performance and, often, lthe ook.

Break-in

The «NAKED» are supplied after a factory test and pre burning-in of minimum 72 hours.

However the speaker sound will continually improve along the time for months, even though not as quickly as during the first days.

We advise to play your new speaker continuously (cd – repeat all) for at least 100 hours using a disc with real music (no waves). It should contain a various musical program like orchestral music with wide and varied dynamics.

You don't need to play loud, but you must at least listen music from the loudspeaker to allow a quick electrical and mechanical adaptation of the Naked components to the rest of the system.

Of course you can start listening to your music immediately and enjoy of the improvements that your Naked speakers will deliver daily, it just depends on how impatient your are...

Speakers positioning hints

In general we advise the Customers to respect the room's symmetries as much as possible targeting to have the speakers working with aesthetic or architectural elements in the most specular way.

For example if you have a window on one side only, you should intervene with acoustic treatments in order to compensate and obtain the same sound pressure on left and right sides.

A professional tuning of the room is crucial in terms of focalization, tri-dimensionality and timbrical balance, we invite our Customers not to under evaluate this aspect.

To achieve a perfect positioning of your “Naked” loudspeakers, we suggest few important rules.

When possible the minimum distance from the back wall should be 70 cm. (referencing the back of the planar midrange).

Please check to have a different distance from the side walls; the back and side walls distance shouldn't be the same, the difference should be minimum of +/- 10%.

For example, if you position your “Naked” loudspeaker 90 cm. from the back wall, the distance from the side walls should be 81 or 99 cm. (i.e. +/- 10% or more).

The larger the difference, usually, the best (e.g. +/- 20%).

It is also important to create an equilateral triangle between the main listening point and the two speakers (reference is the tweeter-to-tweeter distance). The convergence point of the triangle should be 80 cm. to 1 mt. in front of the main listening seat.

Even though the “Naked” loudspeakers are much less sensitive to the “canonic” center seat than normal boxed speakers, the suggested “geometry” will probably improve the soundstage obtaining also a more homogeneous reproduction of the frequencies.

Should it be possible, you might also want to try positioning the “Naked” on the long wall (always respecting the above points). In this situation, the system can produce a huge amount of energy on all the frequency ranges, in an homogeneous way, thanks to the interaction with the back wall, and usually achieving even higher sound pressures.

Also the sitting height is important, we advise to keep the ear position at the height of the tweeters.

The “Naked” toe in, is conditioned to the result you want to obtain, the room dimension and the ceiling height.

If the “Naked” toes a bit in, you usually improve tri-dimensionality and sound stage depth.

If you keep the “Naked” parallel (no toe-in), you will probably increase the soundstage height and width.

You should then adapt these parameters testing the system in search for your favorite option.

When you find a reasonable positioning, you can proceed fine tuning the midrange inclination by acting on the blocking knobs aside the midrange panel.

W.E.C – Wideband Emission Calibration is a patent pending solution proprietary of IO DESIGN.

As a general rule:

- if your listening point is nearer than 3 mt, you might want to increase the inclination towards the floor (this should provide a more materic, precise and homogeneous sound)
- If your listening position is farther than 3 mt, you might want the midrange more flat (this usually provides a wider and higher image)

Please note that when the ceiling is high, you will get a wider and higher image even if you incline the midrange.

A test record can be useful to check the correct distribution of energy in the room and find the best position.

We advise you to note down your setup evolutions when you reach a satisfactory result, you should use this as a “reset” point before starting to adjust the midrange inclination or fine tune the position further.

When the sweet spot is found, you need to check the speaker’s levelling using the two bubble level embedded in the structure of the speaker’s Y shaped base.



The speaker’s height, levelling and the forward/back inclination can be set by regulating the cone feet.

Usually it is advisable to achieve a perfect levelling of the speaker’s base in order to respect the designed geometry and therefore the “time alignment” of the drivers to keep the correct emission and interaction of the drivers (the listening sessions are always crucial).

To unlock the steel feet, please rotate the big knob on top of each feet.



When the feet is set open, you can rotate the conical steel feet to increase or decrease the height; you can use a small screwdriver or an allen bolt key as a lever to turn it smoothly.



You need to repeat the same action for each feet until when the speaker is levelled, then you need to lock the feet closing again the big knob.

Another crucial tuning step, is the setting of the pressure of the woofer magnets covers. Every tiny detail has been considered to reach a no-compromise performance.

The **B.D.F.R** – **Bass Damping Force Regulation** is a patent pending solution proprietary of IO DESIGN.

To make this fine tuning regulation, you first need to unlock the rear knob positioned behind the central pillar on the back of the speaker.



When the B.D.F.R regulation is unlocked you can regulate the pressure using the second knob positioned on the front of the central pillar (between the pillar and the B.D.F.R pressor).



Please pay attention while doing this operation to avoid spoiling the structure.

By turning the two pressure regulation knobs, you can change the pressure that the covers apply on the magnet of each woofer.

By turning clockwise you increase the pressure, while turning anti-clockwise you decrease such pressure.

The effect is to increase or decrease the coupling of the woofers with the structure that's working as an "anchor" and makes the woofer's response even more prompt, matic and powerful.

When you are satisfied with this setup, lock the knobs again.

Turning the knob clockwise you lock the woofer more tightly to the structure and the effect will be to increase the damping, the timbre will be better defined, sharper and standing more accurately out.

Turning the knob anti-clockwise, you release pressure from the woofer magnet and you decrease the damping and the coupling of the woofer to the massive structure of the “Naked” speaker.

The effect will be a slightly more mellow bass, a bit more smooth and rounded with a little warmer timbre.

This setup, like the midrange one, is conditioned by the amplification system you are using and the tuning of your listening room. Also the distance from the back wall can impact on the result of this regulation, like in a F1 car you have infinite possibilities to tune the speaker according your personal preferences, your system characteristics and your room acoustics.

You should not exceed with the pressure on the woofer magnet; from thousand of hours tests we achieved the evidence that a medium strength is usually optimal (and that's how you receive the speaker from the factory).

Like for all the other tuning possibilities, we advise to note the starting position to be able resetting.

Experience and tests will teach you the right way according you personal preferences and situation.

As a further operational hint, you should consider that the more the speaker is near to the back wall the more it will increase its sound pressure (at the same amp volume) and impact on bass frequencies, without losing balance, speed and transparency. Such performances can't be matched by normal boxed speakers.

Before exceeding with the woofer regulation, please check if you can benefit from a slight move of the speakers backwards nearer to the back wall.

Final setup conclusions

Like a Formula 1 car requires a specific setup for each circuit, the IO DESIGN “Naked” can be fine tuned for any system and room response.

Unlikely a Formula 1, the Naked sound just beautiful in any situation and is forgiving of even little positioning mistakes like no other speaker, full stop.

Every detail is appreciated and exposed with the Naked: recording, execution, quality of the electronics, players, accessories and room acoustics.

The “Naked” is not critical to be driven, they don’t require a particular electronics or amplifiers, they are not a difficult load to be driven by the amplification.

After many tests with many different amplifiers, we can state that the best performance can be obtained with a fast and tone/timbre balanced amplification able to deliver the live like performances that the Naked can support brilliantly.

The IO Design «NAKED» loudspeaker is a pure concentrate of high performance and will drive you into such a realism dimension, that you will be unable to renounce to the exclusive parameters that only the «Naked» can deliver.

Specification

The IO Design «NAKED» loudspeaker is an extreme concentrated of performance.

List of the contents

- 2 speakers
- 2 cover cloths
- 6 adjustable steel feet (with diamond points)
- 6 steel underfeet plates
- 2 white gloves
- 1 factory quality check list
- 1 warranty card





Ordinary care

The IO Design «Naked» loudspeaker is made of metal parts. The finishing varies upon Customer's request.

Vegan or normal Leather:

Clean with a soft antistatic cloth slightly humid. No chemical products are needed, in case just a bit of neutral leather cream on the genuine leather (optional).

Painted or anodized aluminium:

Wipe regularly with anti-duster wipe.

For more deep cleaning, if needed, clean with a soft antistatic cloth slightly humid. Never use chemical products because they are too aggressive

Drivers:

Wipe (gently) regularly with anti-dust wipe.

Notes:

- Avoid to expose the speakers to direct sunbeams
- Cover the speakers with their protection cloth if you don't play music for a few days

Preventing technical inconvenience

The IO Design «Naked» loudspeaker is designed to deliver the most natural performance today possible in your ambient.

But it's not designed for playing at painful volume (no hi-end speaker is), apart from being harmful for your health, such a sound pressure might create issues to your amplifier and your speakers too.

No particular recommendation is needed, just:

- A bit of care when playing very loud
- Reduce a bit the volume if you perceive distortion from the amplifier, this little attention can save it
- Never shortcut **+** (red) and **-** (white or black) terminations

Limited Warranty

The IO Design «NAKED» loudspeaker is designed and manufactured to the highest industry standard currently possible in audio, therefore we reserve the possibility to change the specification without notice, in the pursuit of continual improvement.

IO Design and its local resellers grant a repair solution, for a period of 5 years (parts and labour).

Warranty terms

1. Defects must be reported through an authorized dealer allowing him to connect with IO Design for a solution
2. After IO Design approves the Warranty claim, the dealer will receive all the needed instructions
3. The Warranty covers parts and labour but not shipping
4. This warranty is applicable only to the original customer and can't be transferred
5. Customers with second hand IO speakers must obtain the Warranty balance (total 5 years from the original purchasing date) showing the original sale documents
6. Warranty is void without a valid purchase document
7. Warranty is void in case of misuse, alteration, dismantling, opening by non authorized personell or any other incorrect operation

This manual contains all information currently available on the product (as-is). The manual is available only in English.

All claims with regards to the information of this manual is disclaimed as well as the possibility to use, market and fit the «NAKED» loudspeaker for a different use than hi-end audio domestic reproduction of recorded music programs.

Under no circumstance can IO Design and its dealers, officers or employees, be held responsible or liable for any incidental, consequential, special or exemplary damage even if apprised of the likelihood of such damages occurring.

IO Design disclaims also any responsibility against deficiencies of any kind in the manual or any other document related to the «NAKED» loudspeaker.

IO Design reserves the right to change products, finishing, features etc. without prior advise.

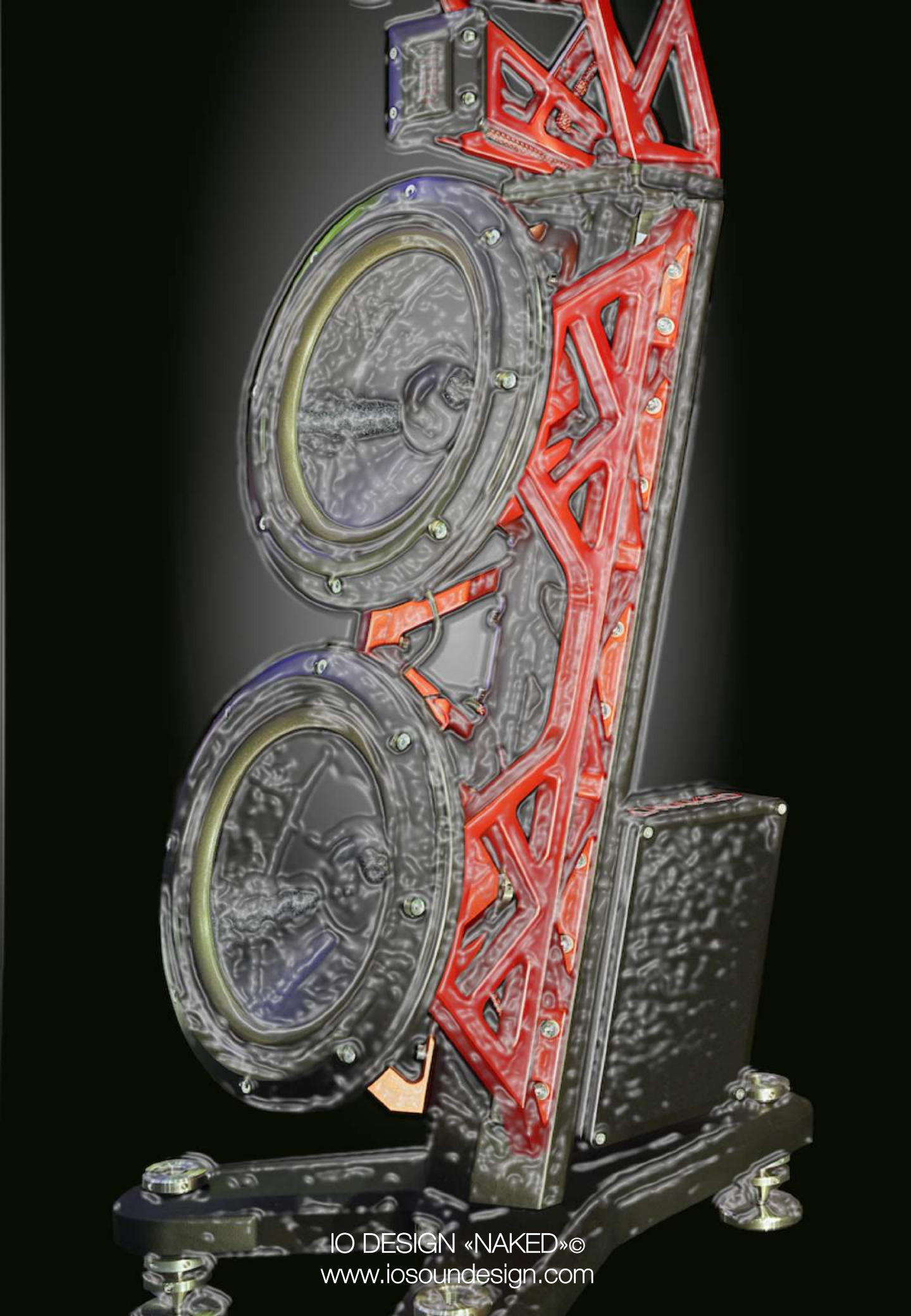
IO Design is a patented trademark

Naked model design is pat. pending

W.E.C. - Wideband Emission Calibration is pat. pending

B.D.F.R. - Bass Damping Force Regulation is pat. pending

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