



Solidsteel HF-4

HIGHLY COMMENDED RACK

Solidsteel's weighty HF-4 rack is part of the Italian furniture maker's top 'Hyperspike' range, so called because the uprights for each platform end in a spike, which sits in a dimple in the upright of the platform below; at the bottom, there are four powerful-looking spikes that will either pierce deep into your floor or – more likely – rest on four provided metal cupped feet. Part of the reason for the Solidsteel HF-4's high mass has nothing to do with steel; it's those MDF shelves and the fact they are 30mm thick. But this thickness does explain why Solidsteel claims the HF-4 can take up to 80kg per shelf. However, if you are deciding to max-out the weight of the HF-4, bear in mind that 320kg of electronics and a dozen or more kilos of stand sitting on four armour-piercing spikes is going to be 'fun' on some ancient rickety floorboards. Regardless, the HF-4 is easy to build and elegant.

In our test, Alan Sircom said, "Set and levelled, this rack is going nowhere and your spiffy, cost-as-much-as-a-Merc turntable, streamer, pre or power amp is in exceptionally safe hands as a result. That holds as much sonically as it does physically because the platform makes products sound so well controlled. You don't realise how much a stand influences the sound until you hear one that doesn't, and this one just lets your equipment sound as it was supposed to."

Alan concluded that, "Solidsteel has long been the choice of audio manufacturers at shows and demonstrations worldwide to show off their products in as neutral a way as possible, for good reason. The secret's out now, though. If you want your equipment to sound as unaffected by its support as possible, seek out the HF-4."

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