

Soundbites - Sonic Freedom Offspring Spikes

Neville Roberts



Sonic Freedom Offspring Spikes - £74 for 3 or £98 for 4

Sonic Freedom has been marketing their Sonic Freedom Spikes product for over two years. These were reviewed in the September 2007 issue of Hi-Fi World, where they converted the spike-sceptic Adam Smith! Now they are launching a simplified version, aptly named the "Offspring" Spike system.

Like their parents, these entry-level Offsprings are beautifully made isolation mounts crafted from medical grade stainless steel and are nicely presented in a quality box. These spikes are placed under any audio component or loudspeaker in either a tripod formation or a 4-point setup.

The spikes are claimed to improve the sound by reducing the unwanted frequencies that may be present in the Hi-Fi stand or support unit and also by extracting the noise generated by transformers and motors within the Hi-Fi components themselves. They are not simply equipment spike anchors which are usually designed to work with the pointing downwards onto the support unit. The Sonic Freedom spikes point upwards onto the equipment and the large stainless steel bases sit on the Hi-Fi stand and clearly have a part to play in damping out unwanted vibrations.

The effects that specialised supports can have are often very subtle. However, when these were placed underneath my turntable, the sound stage noticeably opened up giving more air and space around the individual instruments and vocals. Transient response was also subjectively improved as cymbals had better attack, but there was no added harshness to string section of an orchestra.

What I found more surprising was that the effect with my CD player gave similar improvements – in fact, just as dramatic as with the turntable! The overall bass response was cleaned up by the Offsprings and the noise floor was significantly lower giving a beautiful flowing clarity and crispness to performances. Removing the Offsprings gave the impression that I had smeared a thin layer of mud on my CD!

I would generally suggest the tripod configuration if possible as this avoids the problem of rocking around the fourth point. Trying to get four supports all touching is like sequentially sawing bits off chair legs to stop it rocking! However, having said that, it is not always practical and I found that with my CD player, which has an uneven weight distribution due to large internal transformers, the four supports improved overall equipment stability.

I found the improvements I heard with the Offsprings were very similar to those I heard with the main 'Spikes', but the Offsprings are lower profile and a bit harder to setup with some equipment as they are not height-adjustable, being a one-piece construction. At about a third of the price of the 'Spikes', these affordable Offsprings bring the very significant improvements to within the pockets of most audiophiles and, in my opinion, are well worth the money.

OK Adam – I'm with you!

For more information, please contact Sonic Freedom by email on info@sonicfreedom.co.uk , by telephone on +44(0)845 017 6208 or visit their website at <http://www.sonicfreedom.co.uk/> .

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