

finite elemente CARBOFIBRE° Statement platform

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In the already high-end world of finite elemente equipment support systems, CARBOFIBRE° Statement stands above them all. We've already looked at the first versions of the CARBOFIBRE° Isolation base in Issue 189 and the Carbon version of the Pagode Edition Mk 2 equipment support system in Issue 204, but the CARBOFIBRE° Statement takes the concept to new standards.

CARBOFIBRE° Statement is designed for use with heavy power amplifiers and large analogue sources. However, it also features a more complex internal structure than the standard CARBOFIBRE° models, making finite elemente's ultimate isolation product for any audio component. The company isn't selling itself short – the CARBOFIBRE° Statement can hold up to 350kg of audio electronics, and the CARBOFIBRE° SD is more than good enough for sub-50kg products. Meanwhile, the CARBOFIBRE° HD has a load capacity of up to 100kg.

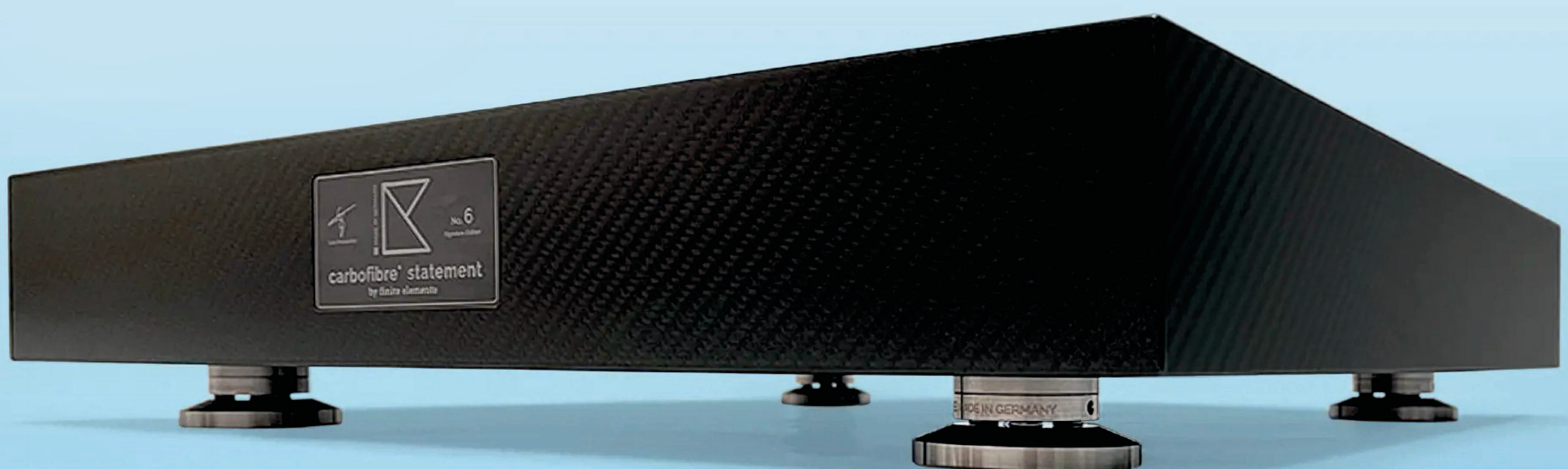
Size matters

The big difference is in the internal layout of the three CARBOFIBRE° models. The 23mm thick SD has a single ultra-light honeycomb core wrapped in carbon fibre. HD effectively doubles this arrangement with two honeycomb cores, each encapsulated in carbon. This results in a 45mm thick platform. The CARBOFIBRE° Statement stands 85mm thick and features multiple honeycomb cores wrapped in carbon fibre,

with the inner layers reinforced to improve torsional rigidity. This torsional strength might seem like overkill – it's unlikely that your power amplifier will pull a Top Gun-esque high-G roll – in a high-mass, high-torque turntable, the more torsional rigidity in the platform, the better.

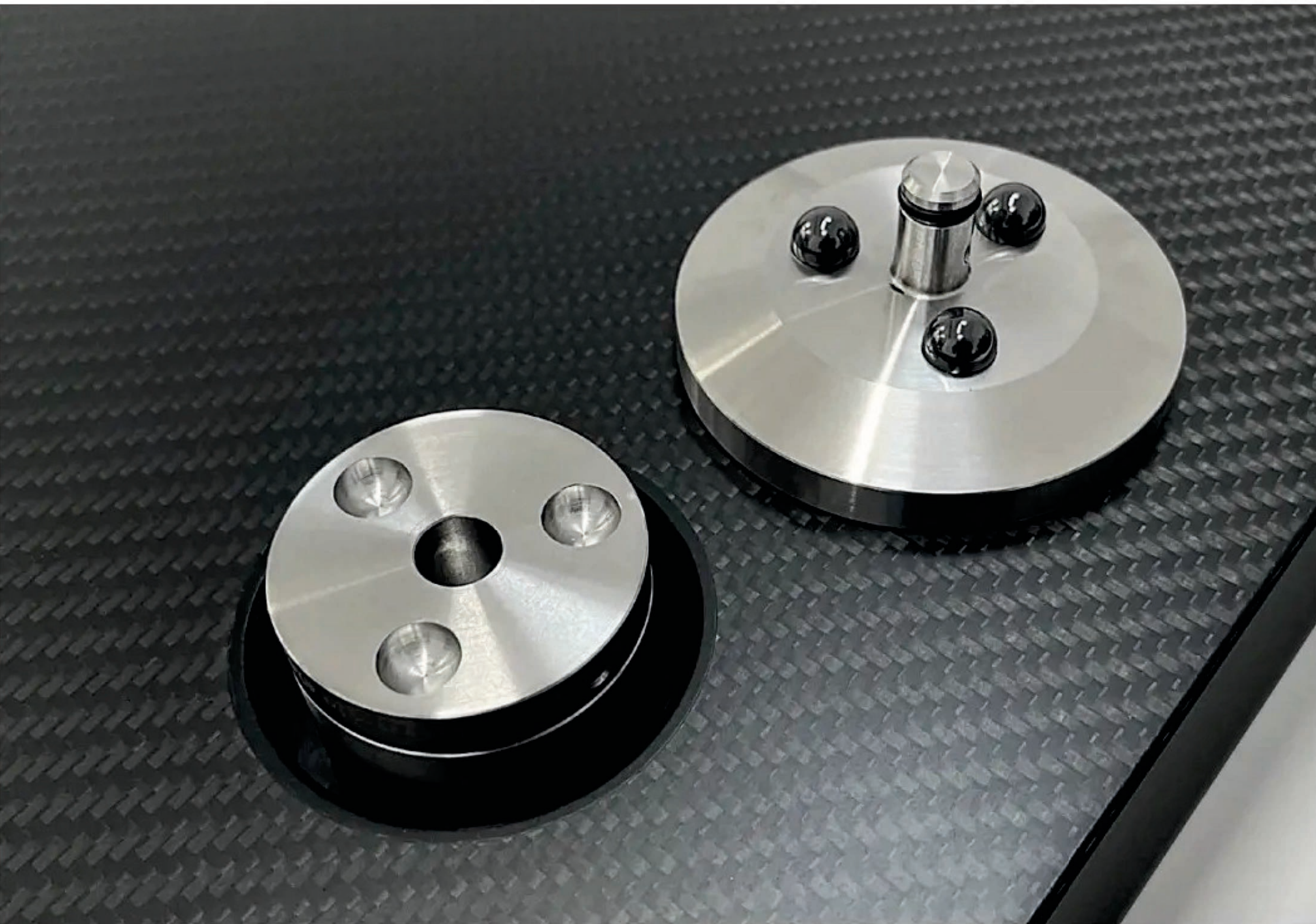
The CARBOFIBRE° Statement includes a four finite elemente's CERABASE° ceramic ball interface feet as standard. That is a departure from the SD and HD versions, which offer CERABASE°, CERAPUC°, or CERABALL° products as optional upgrades. There's a reason for this; the original CARBOFIBRE° platforms are first considered an upgrade to finite elemente's platforms in its Pagode support systems. The CARBOFIBRE° Statement is a stand-alone device. It could sit inside a Pagode system for turntable users – and the degree of 'upon request' custom sizing suggests it's ideal for such settings – but is more of an independent platform.

At the rear of the CARBOFIBRE° Statement's top plate is an inset pair of precise bubble spirit levels, set at 90° to best level the platform on its four CERABASE° feet. These are supplied locked in place during shipping, and an Allen key frees the foot to decouple the platform from the outside world. It comes shipped with the appropriate tools (Allen key) and the high-end-obligatory white gloves in its solid packaging. Setting up is straightforward, and levelling is best done before the behemoth amp or turntable (or, maybe any audio device... >>





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» high mass is becoming ubiquitous in high-end audio) is installed. It might be worth double-checking a few days after installation to see if anything changed with the addition of hundreds of kilos of audio in place, but such is the solidity of the CARBOFIBRE° Statement, that's more likely to be down to the flooring beneath the platform than the platform itself.

I'm used to the inherently 'hands off' approach to sound from finite elemente products, but I was pleasantly surprised at how much more (more accurately: how much less) you get from the CARBOFIBRE° Statement. It has a tiny sonic footprint, to such an extent that you quickly hear where most tables hold back the sound. Bass seems to benefit from the CARBOFIBRE° Statement in the most immediately audible manner, with increases in texture, definition, precision and 'slam'. It's as if your loudspeakers just got a bigger, more taut and precise bass replay system. CARBOFIBRE° Statement doesn't change the tonal balance or emphasis of the system; it just lets those bass notes be better defined, unconstrained or influenced by the product it rests on. You then start to hear the resolution boost permeate through the rest of the audio band; there is greater space, dimensionality, dynamic range and shading across the board. Yes, these changes are easiest to hear on well-recorded acoustic music – paradoxically, the extremes of jazz trio and full orchestra register the improvements fastest – but once experienced, they apply universally.

This isn't some fake bloom to the system; that extra bass does not mean added volume or boosts in the bottom end. The equipment on the CARBOFIBRE° Statement gets as neutral a platform as possible to show what it can do. And,

for super-high-mass devices, such platforms are hard to find elsewhere, as more advanced support technology is put under excess strain from the weight of the turntable or power amp.

The CARBOFIBRE° Statement is intended to extract the most out of a select list of extremely high-performance products, where nuance is everything. This is like a Formula One team getting an extra 1/1000th better performance from an engine, resulting in a race-winning car. However, with the CARBOFIBRE° Statement, this takes a little time to parse; the additional bass information initially makes the listener think the music has slowed down slightly. A few minutes later, when your brain starts processing that extra bass information correctly, the sound seems to speed up again. I've occasionally encountered this in extremely well-balanced, full-range systems... it's almost like our brains hear this more like the live event and take a few moments to reboot.

More than heavy

The benefits of the CARBOFIBRE° Statement don't simply apply to super high-mass devices. You get better bass definition and texture, a sense of greater and more effortless dynamic range, space around instruments, and inherent honesty to the tonality of the equipment, no matter the product that sits on the platform.

Unlike many top-notch equipment support systems that wear their technology on the outside, which results in sometimes 'challenging' looks, finite elemente has long been a proponent of a more elegant solution. The CARBOFIBRE° Statement extends those refined lines to support the heaviest audio electronics. But, even when used with products that don't weigh as much as a car engine, the CARBOFIBRE° Statement's ability to let the device play without sins of omission or commission places it among the best equipment supports. It does so without looking like an oil rig! +