

# IMFRIED MODEL Q

*Bookshelf Loudspeaker. Manufacturer: IMFried Products, 7616 City Line Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19151. Size: 20" x 11½" x 10" (approx.). Price: \$140.00 each.*

Most of our readers are probably uninterested in small bookshelf speakers. I know that. Yet there is, for us, an inherent fascination in the attempt at putting quality sound into a compact, relatively low priced package.

The IMFried Q is such an attempt. It is a small, two way system incorporating an 8" woofer and dome tweeter. The enclosure is of the damped resistive port variety, rather than acoustic suspension. A three position level control on the rear panel is provided to adjust the midrange output up or down by 2 db.

As with any other loudspeaker, positioning of the Model Q is important. The correct setup will depend on the room, but obviously, a speaker of this size will be used off the floor on a shelf

of some sort, so that is the way it was evaluated. Elevation off the floor was varied from 8" to over 3'. Three different rooms were tried. The Q's were at their best in smaller rooms {2000 cubic feet or less}. Even in our large listening room, however, the Q's made an unusually good showing, their chief limitation being in available SPL output. Because of their fairly low efficiency and modest power handling capability, the Q's were limited to levels that were comfortable but not stentorian.

The Model Q's did not project a huge sound front, pour forth with thunderous bass, or produce the last iota of transient definition from recordings. But they could not be expected to do so. What they *do* do, is reproduce an extremely well balanced, neutral, thoroughly *honest* sound. Their output capability is modest; there are other speakers at the price that will put out more sheer punch. But the Q's are extremely easy speakers to listen through. They have what appears to be a gradually tapering high end which minimizes irritations in much of today's program material, but do not sound in any way muted. Merely a bit soft. Bass appears to hold up well to 50 to 60 Hz then drops off. The bass range above this region is very clean and lacking in any boominess or mid-bass fatness.

Midrange coloration of the Q is quite low. There is some audible boxiness but it is not obtrusive. Imaging is excellent, as is the illusion of depth.

If it sounds as if I am impressed by the Q, that assessment would be correct. It is not inexpensive considering the size and finish {I would prefer to see real walnut veneer at this price — the Q is covered in vinyl}. It does have some limitations; compromises are unavoidable in any speaker system at this price. But the compromises made in the design of the Q appear to have been the right ones. Possibly the greatest praise one can give any speaker in a given price range is to state that it does not call attention to itself; that it lets the listener concentrate on the music. The Q comes surprisingly close to that ideal.

<sup>1</sup>*Though the power output here was not optimum, the sound was excellent within the power limits.*