SASHA^M WP_{Series 2}



VVILSON

VIDEO LINKS

DNA: The announcement video for the Sasha Series 2

An evocation of the heritage behind the Sasha, all the way back to the original WATT?Puppy, and how that heritage has impacted the design of the current loudspeaker



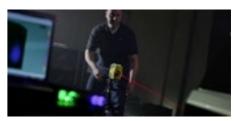
Sasha Series 2: The Legacy Continues

An in-depth look at the technological evolution of the WATT/Puppy platform and how it has informed the design and materials of the new Sasha.



Sasha Series 2: Technology and Features

A conversation with Dave and Daryl Wilson exploring the performance characteristics of the new loudspeaker





Research and development is a never-ending process at Wilson Audio. Inevitably, technology that didn't exist at the debut of Sasha W/P Series 1 influenced the design and execution of Sasha Series-2. Two prime examples:



Laser Vibrometry Analysis, long used in automotive and aerospace applications, allows us to measure mechanical vibrations in our cabinets down to the level of nanometers. This invaluable data allows Wilson to optimize the composite structure of the cabinet, as well as the position and thickness of the internal braces.





EVOLUTION



The WATT/Puppy is perhaps the most salient and iconic example of Dave Wilson's lifelong quest for the absolute sound. The WATT, the upper module of the combination, began in the mid-eighties as a utilitarian recording tool, a portable, ultra-high resolution location monitor for the recordings he was then making. The WATT was later paired with a dedicated woofer module—the "Puppy." The WATT/Puppy combo became Wilson Audio's largest selling product. The reason was simple: it was a truly compact, full-range loudspeaker that could fit easily in most real-world listening rooms while still offering the bass speed and extension, the dynamics, and musicality associated with much larger systems.

The sloping front baffle on the WATT was a testament to Dave Wilson's early recognition that correcting the time-alignment of the drivers was critical to realistic music reproduction. Over the course of two decades, new materials, advancement in drivers, and other technologies constantly pushed the performance envelope of the venerable platform.

With the advent of Sasha W/P, Dave and his team re-imagined the platform as a unified system. The previously discrete WATT, which, emblematic of its location-monitor heritage, could function as a stand-alone loudspeaker, was discontinued. The Sasha was redesigned from the ground up as an integrated system, allowing Wilson to optimize every detail to achieve the next quantum leap in compact loudspeaker performance.

When Sasha W/P debuted in 2009, it heralded a name change: a reflection of the comprehensive redesign of the WATT/Puppy platform. The addition of W/P to the name was meant to signify the new loudspeaker was still part of an evolutionary chain that extended back to the original introduced in 1988.





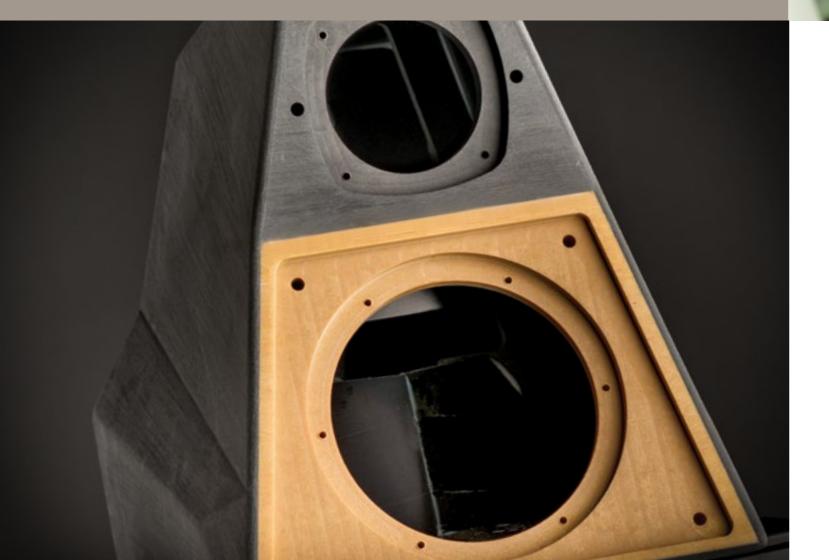
THE SHAPE OF THE SASHA SERIES-2 IS LARGELY DRIVEN BY THE DISPERSION CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NEW TWEETER.

BEAUTY IS ALWAYS MORE THAN SKIN DEEP WHEN IT RIGOROUSLY FOLLOWS FUNCTION.



Instead of the traditional flat-sloped front baffle, the new Sasha features an angled baffle. Far from simply being a fresh design element, the shape was determined by the dispersion characteristics of the new Convergent Synergy Tweeter. Whereas the previous titanium tweeter actually sounded best slightly off-axis, the new tweeter sounds best on direct axis to the listener. The Convergent Synergy tweeter, as modified for Sasha, delivers superb power handling with extended frequency range but without the hardness often found in exotic rare-element designs.

Research has shown that humans can hear timing errors on the order of milliseconds. Accurate alignment of the leading edge of transients emanating from the individual drivers in a multi-way loudspeaker results in natural harmonic expression, transient speed, and a sense of listening ease. The obsessive attention to proper correction of the time domain errors caused by multi-driver systems is in large part why Wilson loudspeakers sound like live music. The Sasha Series-2 features an exponential increase in the number of time-domain adjustment settings available, making correct alignment possible for a much greater range of listening distances and ear heights.



The material to which a driver is mounted provides the "launch pad" for cone excursions. Years of empirical listening trials and materials testing, most recently with Wilson's Laser Vibrometer, have shown that different materials provide optimum baffles for different drivers. Wilson's proprietary X Material is the ideal "launch pad" for woofers and tweeters. The research surrounding the original Sasha led to the development of S Material, which was ideally suited to Sasha's midrange driver. Given that model's continuous slope baffle, however, the practical choice of baffle material became an either/or proposition. Now, with Series-2's angled front, the tweeter gets X Material and the midrange is mounted on its optimum launch pad, S Material.

Thus, one design decision—to incorporate the revolutionary tweeter that transformed the sound of Wilson's flagship loudspeaker—has driven a host of cascading improvements and inaugurated a new era of musicality for the legendary WATT/Puppy platform.



+ FUNCTION

"The area that is most important to me sonically is that phenomenally engaging upper bass, lower midrange region. That part of the spectrum is, for me, the biggest glory of Sasha Series-2.

"It doesn't matter whether it's popular music, or jazz, or classical, you will hear that benefit in all kinds of music."

DAVE WILSON



THE SOUND

While the new tweeter may have driven most of the visible design changes in Sasha W/P Series-2, it would be a mistake to assume that it is the sole improvement in the sound of the loudspeaker.

That's because one objective was paramount in every stage of Series-2's development—take an already great platform, and dramatically lower the noise floor.

Noise in a loudspeaker system can take many forms: panel resonance, crossover distortion, rear-wave energy from drivers. Inaccurate alignment of the various drivers in the time domain generates noise. Misalignment of the leading edge of transients blurs the sound and produces an unnatural texture heard as audible grain.

When Dave Wilson extols the sound of the upper-bass to lower-midrange region in Sasha Series-2, it's not because that frequency band has been artificially enhanced. It is because that region is particularly susceptible to cabinet-induced colorations. The use of laser vibrometry has reduced resonance and overhang, allowing that part of the spectrum to shine through even more naturally and purely.

The Sasha Series-2's much lower noise floor across the frequency- and time-domain spectrums gives the listener the sense that music effortlessly emerges from a blacker background. Beauty without fatigue; dynamic alacrity without distortion. A compact, full-range loudspeaker, at home in nearly any size room, that simply invites you to relax and listen deep into the music.



SPECIFICATIONS

Measurements:

Frequency Response: 20 Hz – 27 kHz +/- 3 dB room average response [RAR]

Minimum Amplification Power Recommended: 20 watts/channel

Drivers

Woofers: 2 X 8 inches (20.32 cm) Material: Polypropylene
Midrange: 7 inches (17.78 cm)

Material: Cellulose/Paper Pulp Composite

Tweeter: 1 inch, Dome (2.54 cm) Material: Doped Silk Fabric

Dimensions:

Height: (w/o spikes): 45 1/8 inches (114.61 cm)

Width: 14 inches (35.56 cm)

Depth: 22 1/8 inches (56.24 cm)

Enclosure Type:

Woofer: (Rear ported) Material: X Material

Midrange/Tweeter Material: X Material with S Material Midrange Baffle

Product Weight:

Weight per channel, uncrated: 207 lbs (93.89 kg)

Total Approximate Shipping Weight: 650 lbs (294.84 kg)

