



# Solid Tech Balance

WINNER  
ACCESSORY



**T**he Balance rack is part of Solid Tech's component isolation range, and it features corner posts from their Radius series, offering flexibility in shelf height. These posts can be filled with sand to enhance isolation further. The rack comes in two levels – Basic and Iso – with the latter including an additional isolation platform. The shelves are 22mm thick and have a high load capacity, and Iso adds a level of additional decoupling from vibrations.

Its platforms can be single-width or wide enough for two components. Solid Tech suggests using a single-width platform for up to five levels. The design allows for extended, interleaved racks.

Constructing the rack requires careful attention to detail, such as centring the built-in spirit level. The Iso platforms have springs that must be selected using a look-up table based

on weight. The springs can hold weights ranging from 2kg to 100kg and can be used to balance uneven products.

"The clue is in the name here; the Solid Tech Balance table is all about... equilibrium. It's about adding or subtracting as little as possible from the sound," said Alan Sircom in our test. It allows systems to perform dynamically and with expressive detail, offering a less peaky frequency response. In other words, the Balance rack brings order to systems and enhances the performance of clean and honest components.

Alan Sircom also said Solid Tech, "offers a 'balance' of performance and price that will bring out the best in good systems but doesn't make you crave the bigger products. I can see this bringing a sense of Balance to many good systems."

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# Solid Tech Balance rack

Alan Sircom



**S**wedish isolation expert Solid Tech is perhaps best known for its deliciously named – and highly rated – Rack of Silence. This clever and skeletal support system has components sitting on cross-members and is an ideal platform for using the company's Feet or Discs of Silence passive isolators. The trouble is, while all this is great for the dedicated listening room, it all looks a bit... industrial in more domestic settings. This is where Solid Tech's Balance equipment supports swing into place.

Balance, the fifth rack series in Solid Tech's more than a quarter of a century of component isolation. It uses the same corner posts found in the company's Radius range, which come in four post lengths, affording the Balance a high degree of shelf-height flexibility from the outset. These posts can be filled with sand. There are two levels of equipment shelf – basic and Iso, with Iso having an additional isolation platform. The shelves are 22mm thick with a very high load

capacity. The shelves are available with or without built-in isolation. This isolation system effectively decouples the equipment from external or internal vibrations.

## Single or double

These platforms can also be single-width 'Single' or wide enough to hold two components 'Double.' Solid Tech recommends a single-width platform extending to five levels, with the double holding six products in total. There's enough wiggle room in the design to allow extended, interleaved racks. You can choose silk oak, white oak, and black oak platforms with silver anodised aluminium uprights in the first two, and matching black uprights in the last. You can, of course, also mix and match to your needs; Basic and Iso, and colour combos. Outriggers at the base of the uprights extend to the front and rear, standing slightly proud of the tables. These have spikes to add rigidity, but you can place these spikes in floor protectors, or upgrade with the optional Feet of Concrete.

The stands build up easily and well and everything is supplied. Take your

time building the racks, ensuring the spirit level built into the top shelf of the Balance is perfectly centred. This is also a rack that is best built tightened carefully; that's tight not 'Linn tight' which is one-eighth of a turn away from broken. The Iso platforms need to be dealt with carefully; each one has a set of springs (up to seven). You maximise the performance of the product by checking against a look-up table to see how many springs are required for its weight. The standard springs can hold anything from 2kg up to 45kg, and the optional HD springs take it from 7kg to 100kg. You can also use these springs to help balance out an uneven product, once again checking the rear spirit level on the Iso platform... assuming the rest of the platform is level. This does make the stand a lot harder to construct than simply bolting some wood to some metal, but the results are worth it.

And yet, this complication to the equipment stand is cleverly hidden away and – unlike the aforementioned Rack of Silence – the casual listener might never notice they are in the presence of something 'special'. The





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clever parts are all stealthily hidden away. But this has the ability to really help isolate a product from the other components in the rack and the rack itself. Go carefully, go slow.

### Tweekin' Acid Funk

The clue is in the name here; the Solid Tech Balance table is all about... equilibrium. It's about adding or subtracting as little as possible from the sound. Yes, that phrase is rolled out with practically every cable, table, stand, and platform... but it rings true here. And that's the only 'ringing' you'll hear from the Solid Tech Balance... unless you use it to play the Tweekin' Acid Funk mix of Josh Wink's 'Higher State of Consciousness' at gig levels. Your ears will break before the stand does.

The stand is an exceptionally even-handed performer, and in (not) listening to what it does to the sound, you come to realise just how often the support system shades that sound. It lets the system do what it was meant to, with lots of dynamic freedom, plenty of expressive detail and a less 'peaky' frequency response. It has elements

of the 'disappearing' sound of stands like finite elemente, but at a fraction of the cost. Does it reach those lofty performance levels? That depends on how good the equipment it supports, and how well set up the Balance is for the equipment. Once again, the name is a giveaway; use it with the highest of high-end and the big hitter stands will justify their existence but use it in a more balanced system given the price of the stand, and it makes excellent sense. My go-to benchmark at this level is the Primare I35 Prisma, and the Balance brought out the best in its clean and honest performance. I played 'Misty' by Donny Hathaway [*Everything is Everything*, Atlantic], and his wonderful voice sits apart from the piano and brass section perfectly. This track can sound out of kilter as either the voice is over-exaggerated or the brass section dominates, but here, the balance (that word again) is bang on!

### No box swappers allowed.

The downside to the Balance is a simple one. If you are an inveterate box-swapper, matching the spring-isolated platform to the product will

involve more than simply plopping the new product on the stand. Is it worth the effort? Of course. Is it worth the effort if you churn through CD players or integrated amps weekly? Probably not.

Often, companies like Solid Tech will use their entry-level products as a diffusion brand, offering little but the name from the original, or as part-compromised first rung on the brand's ladder. The Solid Tech Balance doesn't do that. It offers a 'balance' of performance and price that will bring out the best in good systems but doesn't make you crave the bigger products. I can see this bringing a sense of Balance to many good systems. +

### Price and contact details

**Solid Tech Balance** from £1,565/\$2,710 to £3,495/\$6,040

**Manufacturer** Solid Tech

🌐 [www.solid-tech.net](http://www.solid-tech.net)

**UK distributor** Harmony Hi-fi

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