

Unique compact loudspeaker with passive radiator

Two loudspeaker models have been released from Audience of the United States of which unique cables were reviewed in the previous issue. The loudspeakers are compact and equipped with passive radiator. Although Imai trade corporation imported Audience loudspeaker so far, Audience Japan distributes Audience loudspeaker as well as Audience cables from now on.

Highly attractive music sound exclusive to this loudspeaker

Distinguished interfusion power of sound with preeminent resolution

Honestly speaking, before testing I thought that the speaker was somewhat expensive. However, actually listening to the sound convinced me of the price. In short, these speakers have remarkable sound interfusion and preeminent resolution and are suitable for low to middle volume level reproduction. As a speaker for the room that is not much large or for the desktop system, these speakers can be recommended to those who cannot raise volume or do not want to raise volume. I believe that not a few people are looking forward to such speakers.

First, I want to stress the interesting design of these loudspeakers. The configuration "full-range + passive radiator", as is heard, successfully reproduces wide-range mid-high sound combined with just-sized and unique-structured passive radiator.

The lineup consists of two models; the inexpensive one is The ONE V2+ and the expensive one is 1+1 V2+. Both the driver unit and the passive radiator are common, but 1 set of them is mounted for the inexpensive one while the expensive one adopts 2 sets of them. The diaphragm of the driver unit is made from titanium alloy of the diameter of 3 inch (76mm), and so structured that a long stroke can be taken and the backpressure is quite easy to escape. The magnet of magnetic circuit has the almost same diameter as the diaphragm. The diaphragm of the passive radiator is 4 inches (100mm). In a passive radiator system it usually carries nothing on the reverse-side of the diaphragm, but a certain structure jutted out can be seen in the photograph. Of course, there is no wiring etc.

Even at low volume, sound does not lose its shape

The test was done in the audition room of this journal. The truly compact speaker was put on the usual speaker stand and connected to reference equipment. First, I listened to The ONE V2+. Since there is no passive network, the feeling of freshness is very high. The sound is delightful. Although the frequency response specified by the maker is from 50Hz to 21kHz and not the high-resolution standard, the merit of high-resolution is also fully audible. The remarkable point is the low frequency that seems to decrease slowly down like a closed cabinet in spite of passive radiator system. Probably this is due to the exquisite balance between the 3 inches front driver and the 4 inches wide passive radiator on the rear side. I was impressed by the quick sound response and the sound image was positioned clearly in space. Sound is not at all dull. The titanium diaphragm naturally excels at metallic percussion etc., but it can also express sweet tone of acoustic guitar or lovely female chorus. Incidentally the sound balance is clearly better when the grille is attached.

The 1+1 V2 has two driver units, one on the front and the other on the rear, which operate in bi-pole motion. That is, when the front driver moves forward the rear one moves backward. It seems that this motion has brought about better-than-expected sound. The sound density as well as energy is more than twice higher than that of The ONE, and the expression is well defined and also well fleshed. The feeling of sound

color is also well reproduced. The sound color is not a sticky touch but clean tone like a watercolor painting. It is surprising how calmly music comes out from the speaker that has good response characteristics.

In common with the both loudspeakers, the space expression power is high, the sound image is sharply defined, and the resolution is excellent at any rate. It also shows the merit of good total design that sound does not lose its shape even when the volume is lowered. Also, the good enclosure structure and paint finish should be added in this review. Audience loudspeakers create distinctive enchantments in reproducing music.

(Yutaka Suzuki)