

ハイファイオーディオ ラジオ技術

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Audience Clair Audient The One Speaker System

It is a small speaker system. It makes use of self-developed long-stroke 3 inch single cone (A3S) unit, which only weighs 2.5 grams with titanium coating. External dimensions are 13 x 18 x 18 centimeters.

Where this speaker excels, first of all, is that 50Hz signal is reproduced properly, which is rare even among slightly larger speakers. Because of the support in the low frequencies, one can feel natural quality in music.

Brochure mentions 80-22KHz, 8 ohm impedance, 84dB efficiency (maximum continuous power handling capability of 25W), but when actually checked with sign waves, 50Hz can be clearly heard. When checked on their web site, it was mentioned as having 40-22KHz for indoors. In actual use, since it is expected that low frequencies generated by passive radiator located in the back is reflected off of a wall, low frequencies are not brought forward unless there is a wall.

Basically, there is no coloration, yet there is sense of speed, and relatively large sound image is projected unthinkable for a small speaker system. Bass region is better than anticipated, and there is no sense of sound balance tipped towards higher frequencies, which is often found in small speakers of even larger size. Mid-range is full, and higher range is clear but not annoying.

After trying different things, both analog amplifiers and digital amplifiers gave very good results. Also, when used in a space with 32 square meters (about 340 sq. ft.) area size and 6 meter (19 ft. 8 inch) ceiling height, it gave beautiful sound. I was quite surprised by the finding.

Although good imaging as well as natural frequency and phase responses have been mentioned as strengths of single cone speakers for some time, many users stayed away from using them as part of their main systems, because of lack of

frequency range in actual practice. Although there is an idea of using co-axial unit as a solution, it tends to be unexpectedly expensive.

However, The One has enough frequency range, and can be recommended as the first introductory high end speaker system for music lovers. Also, it can be an acceptable substitute when there is no space for large speaker systems.

Good for chamber music, Jazz, J-Pop. Even holds its own with electric bass/drums of R&B, and mid-range and above is reproduced without being disturbed. This is an amazing reproducing capability for speaker system of this size. This comment is not meant as a mere flattery, but anyone who listens to it will agree.

Listening to "Hikouki-Gumo (vapor trail left by airplanes)" (Translator comment: A popular tune from 30 or so year ago, recently enjoying resurgence due to its use as a main theme music for just released animation movie by Hayao Iwasaki, depicting the life of Jiro Horikoshi, the designer of zero fighter planes) by Yumi Arai through these speakers gave superb results. I had just watched the movie "Kazetachinu" by Hayao Iwasaki, and the sound was even better than that from poorly adjusted cinema complex theater.

Area somewhat lacking was with complex passages by orchestra, but since this is an area any speaker would have a problem, I may be asking for too much. At any rate, as a speaker system capable of accommodating almost any musical genre with comfort, it may very well become a best seller.

The additional good thing is that the system is not very sensitive towards amplifiers. Even with speaker systems with good reputation, there are those which expose amplifiers' weaknesses. Making it difficult to bring out good results.

The One is lightweight and easy to carry. It could be positioned in almost any space, and is kind to older people. I have heard of a story where a seasoned audiophile one day finds that an amplifier can no longer be lifted, although it could be easily carried in the past. This speaker system will not pose such problem even for those people.

However, there is much competition in this price range, and I hope genuine sales/marketing efforts will be made so not to let it sink among the competition.

This speaker system will immediately provide energetic yet delicate sound just by connecting it to a high quality power amplifier without thinking much about complicated things. In the process, using optional dedicated base will provide stability and lower resonance.

By listening to a small speaker system capable of delivering high level sound, I am convinced of definite progress in technology. This is an epoch making product. Standard price is 125,000 yen (for a pair, excluding sales tax).