

Speaker of the year 2017-2018 selected by Masanori Hayashi

Audience 1+1 V2+

The precision miniature garden feeling sound at desktop and near field reproduction provides a pleasant sensation to the extent of thrilling experience.

I choose among other high quality loudspeakers of the world this Audience compact high-end speaker. The "1+1 V2+" speaker system is priced at 285,000 yen. V2+ is the newest version, and when distributed by other dealer before, I listened to its lovely sweet sound at audio show etc. From now on Audience speaker is distributed by Audience Japan that Mr. Akio Horiuchi (former AK Associates) started, and the pipe to the Audience head office in San Diego has also become thick. That is, as Mr. Horiuchi said, in an old acquaintance with President John Macdonald there was his passionate offer to become Audience distributor in Japan. Audience company (established in 1977) is famous for the world-smallest full-range unit A3 driver (nine years development period), and is an advanced manufacturer that pursues the music reproduction without compromise. The driver performance is so excellent that large-sized amplifier makers adopted it as development reference, and "1+1 V2+" employs A3S2-16 new driver that belongs to the lineage of A3. With powerful magnetic circuit, only 2.5g titanium alloy diaphragm and expensive Au24SX wire etc., this loudspeaker has realized super-high speed, long stroke, and incomparable low distortion.

In any case, you should first listen to the sound that would give you goose bumps. We see the unique bi-pole structure incorporated in the jewelry-like enclosure. It is structured so that the 4-inch passive radiators on its both sides reinforce the 3-inch full-range drivers mounted on the front and rear side. One of the two is seen like a bass reflex port ...

The document says, "This model expands sound space, extends low-range and increases input power." The sound is actually very transparent and dynamic, big-scale, and wonderfully natural like live sound. You may wonder whether such sound comes out of this size. But facts are facts, and you might immerse yourself in an open feeling that removes the wall and ceiling of your room. This exactly is the worldview of "radically" simple full-range design without a crossover.

The Audience sound falls just glaringly vivid on the ear that got used to listen to large-sized multi-way system. The precision miniature garden feeling sound at desktop and near field reproduction provides a pleasant sensation to the extent of thrilling experience. I'd like to listen to Amerio recording jazz, my favorite Stacey Kent, opera and rock music with Audience loudspeaker in full space. I'd also like to thoroughly enjoy music from Audience speaker in combination with First Watt SIT-1 amplifier recently arrived.

(Masanori Hayashi)