

# TOMEI HI-FI STARS MAGAZINE REVIEW

## A system for gourmets

It is well known that excellent loudspeakers come from Canada. However, the different models have so far appeared as rather down-to-earth constructions. With Eden Acoustics (coming from Montreal), a modern designer enters the worldwide loudspeaker scene and has a visual impact with his very first work. There are exactly two opinions on this: "like or dislike". There's nothing in between but an indecisive "mmh". When I first saw it, I immediately noticed the technical idea behind it, next to the extraordinary design.

### The “open air” principle

Also known as "open-baffle", such loudspeaker constructions radiate sound energy to the rear and front with a form of 8 dispersion. The typical sound is very open - airy and spacious, well defined. In addition, the old saying goes: "Where there is no housing - There is no discolouration due to it". I was immediately interested in the Eden Acoustics system and wanted to see if it was critical to position. "Basically not," Robert Ross (the German distributor) said to me. Let us say that the known principles are still valid and I'm very accurate when it comes to setting up speakers anyway. It always paid off in terms of sound.

### Four modules - one system

The special feature of this handmade loudspeaker system is - apart from its futuristic appearance - its components. Clearly the two satellite loudspeakers are immediately noticeable due to their construction with the neatly lined-up acrylic surfaces and the matching base, which are available in any desired colour. In addition, the elegant wooden stands, inside which the wires are hidden, and of course the wood finishes are also available on request. The drivers used are a 13cm midrange driver from ScanSpeak's Revelator series and a 4.5cm Satori

tweeter. The subwoofer has a 31 cm driver from the same manufacturer. Sinar Baja Electric (an Indonesian loudspeaker manufacturer) has been producing loudspeaker drive for more than 25 years and founded the label SB-Acoustics especially for the high-end loudspeakers market. This series already has an excellent quality, regardless of the price. The manufacturer went one step further and developed the series "Satori" - which in Buddhism means "illumination". Costs played a minor role in the development process, since the goal was to develop drivers that would be better than the previously known ones in all areas.

### **Central component**

The DSP and Class D control unit with five power amplifiers and more than 2000 watts of total power can be seen as the core of the entire system. A 40-bit/192 kHz crossover completes the whole. One high-quality, multi-channel, 40bit/768 kHz DSP module controls the five power amplifiers (one for the bass, two each for midrange and tweeter). The numerous inputs, analog as RCA and XLR, as well as digital (S/PDIF - USB) have multiple predefined settings and therefore the best prerequisites for adapting to each room very quickly. Equipped with all the necessary speaker cables, the manufacturer from North America offers a set that appeals to people with a love for design as well as friends of high-quality sound.

### **Music, music - what can the Eden Acoustics Tômei DSP system do?**

After the system has been positioned freely in the room (the satellites about one metre from a wall, the subwoofer half a metre away), the selection of the music program corresponds to my typical approach and starts with a woman's voice. Previously, the bass frequency of the subwoofer was cut off at 80 Hz. Via the selected input, the digital signals come from the outstanding music server Entotem Plato (see test in HiFi-Stars 29). I sit in the intimate stereo triangle of about two meters in front of the center in a room of about 20 square meters and listen to Adele's "Hello". The loudspeaker system has already been in use for the recommended 100 hours and the first few tones already show where the journey is heading - wonderfully three-dimensional, spacious and even in orchestral music,

the Tômei system shows excellent composure. This immediately makes me curious about classical music. Frédéric Chopin, Prelude in E-Minor (op. 28, no. 4) - yes, here a Steinway grand piano plays completely freely, with hard hung strings light and long notes presented so lively and beautifully. Goosebumps? Yes, indeed! I lean back, forget about the speakers and simply enjoy the listening... Pure musical bliss. Genre change with Gregory Porter to "Water Under Bridges" - yes, I admit, again piano, this time a very catchy black voice corresponds, easily worn by the piano sounds - I'm again desirous of the wonderfully soft sounds, whose fragile three-dimensionality becomes again and again conspicuous. Mostly suboptimally recorded studio recordings of Joe Bonamassa, I rarely get the chance to listen to the musician's records. The live recording "An Acoustic Evening at the Vienna Opera" and "Jockey Full Of Bourbon" make a real exception here - to swing along! And once again, the Eden Acoustics Tômei DSP system's outstanding ability to reproduce voices and natural instruments is striking. The 30 cm chasis presents crisp basses with casual sovereignty and the overall idea of the divergent sounds are extremely relaxing without losing the necessary speed. With a presentation like this, everyday life can be moved back and forth easily...

### **In a nutshell...**

These speakers are not only a feast for the eyes. They easily manage the full spectrum of all kinds of music and they can satisfy even the most demanding audiophile. The fact that the product is available "as desired" covers the entire spectrum of needs/wishes. The active control system ensures problem-free handling in every room and the appearance and finish are sensational. In short: A real winner!