

平衡、准确的暗黑小跑车

XTZ Master M2书架式扬声器

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Introduction

Master M2 from XTZ is from the first look a very unique speaker with a “Darth Vader” design that really drags your attention to it. I am sure the design is not for everyone, but I get really excited and the more I watch it, the more I get that kind of feeling you first get when you're watching some of the crazier car concept designs like some from BMW, where your first think, “what is this?”, “is it nice?”, but then after some time you realize that this is really cool and unique.

XTZ speakers have found their way in to more and more Hi-Fi fans homes lately and just by the look, I am sure that many will want to buy this speaker.

Master M2 is a completely new “line” of speaker and XTZ says that there are plans for more models in the family if the demand is high enough. So now I'm of course very eager to see “under the hood” what's behind these speakers and to pass along my thoughts. As I lifted the Master M2 out of its box I was immediately struck by two things. The first is the weight!, 18kg and second the build quality. The weight is massive and it really raises my expectations even higher. A normal and good bookshelf weighs around 10kg so what in the h#! did XTZ put into this? This is without question an astoundingly solid speaker. Other thing to notice are the copper binding posts, the magnet grill and in the middle of the woofer, a pure copper phase plug! Not bad! It's solid, impeccably built, and looked terrific sitting on top of my speaker stand.

Now to the tech info

The M2 is a 2-way speaker with 6,5” mid/woofer and a 30mm softdome tweeter. The mid/woofer and tweeter is developed together with SEAS and is tailormade for this construction. From the outside the driver looks very sophisticated with a nice looking surface on the polypropylene cone and a shiny fixed phase plug of pure copper. The material of the cabinet is really unique.





It is a mixed material, a polymerization of epoxy & polyurethane and some secret ingredient that the producer in Korea do not want reveal. The “knocktest” really give a feeling of a dead and solid cabinet. The waveguide is not a mould plastic piece. it's made in same material so its give a very serious impression. Even the port tube is solid and could be one of the most stable ports I've ever touched. XTZ confirmed that this is the most resonance free port they have ever produced. The unparalleled shaped cabinet in combination with the right damping foam allows M2 to absorb sound that would normally radiate back, thereby reducing possible resonances. Interestingly enough, XTZ includes jumpers of copper to bridge the bi-wire speaker posts instead of the more typical gold plated plates that one typically finds with bi-wire speakers.

The crossover looks as it should with lot of air between the components and the components is of high quality include capacitors from Mundorf. Even the internal cable is special twisted construction. Overall the inside looks impressive and I have nothing more to wish, good work!

Set up and listening experience

After XTZ's recommended 50 hour break-in period, I did some room calibration while I played some of my reference records. I tried some different distances to the back wall with toe in and toe out tuning while playing with the three bass plug options. Walking around the room with music playing, I noticed that the Master M2 is very forgiving to where you sit. I hear clearly that the dispersion is very “well behaving” and even, both in horizontal and vertical direction. That's all good but on the other side I'm not normally a big fan of 360 degree speakers since the room becomes a big factor of the sound. XTZ claims they put a lot of work in finding the right balance of width of spreading in the upper frequency. In my room the sealed option and toe in on axis give best balance. The different character in the bass depending on what plug is very clear and I am sure it can help to find the right in other kind of rooms.



Finally time to listen

The first track to play is "Keith Don't Go" by Nils Lofgren and is classic with both vocals and guitar. As the song got started, I was literally blown away with all the additional details. My reference speakers for this test are the B&W 805D, and my impression so far is that XTZ is very well in the same level with a luscious mid-section, a lot of detail yet with a really "relaxed" character. The sound stage thrown was incredibly large for speakers of this size. Bass was admirable, dry and precise in the way I claim is correct. Vocals were completely clean, precise and enjoyable. When it comes to test the overall balance I prefer to listen to fast music with lot of information so I chose "LOS" from Rammstein's album "Reise, Reise". This song is good recording for this genre. After some listening I notice how loud I played without I notice it and this is a sign of good balance and I am really impressed how well the speaker handle this more complexed music and the control is absolute. I also tried to push them to the max and the power handling is massive! It is really unbelievable how loud I can play. I actually do not miss the last octave of bass, so the M2 seems to fit very well in my room and the sound is magic. I also played calm and slower music at low level and the speaker is very precise no matter what I try. A better allround speaker is hard to find.

Conclusion

Master M2 is a pure high-end allround speaker. It is as good as it can be, it's really "sound in balance". But as for any great and detailed high-end speaker these speakers can fall towards "unkind" with mediocre material. I would claim that this is a proof of quality because the speaker just plays the source you feed them with.

Over the last few years, my wife has been subtly pointing out the obvious to me: that my tower speaker, while beautiful, were impractically large for our apartment. For this reason, bookshelf speakers have been on my radar for quite some time, but I was apprehensive: was it possible for a bookshelf to provide the same sort of presence as a tower speaker? The answer to this question was a resounding yes with the M2. Not only were they capable of throwing a gorgeous and enveloping sound stage, I was greeted with a level of detail that was clearly a step above anything that I had heard previously. Whether challenged with any music, the M2's were capable of providing an incredibly satisfying experience and even at very high levels. Coupled with drop dead gorgeous looks and superlative build quality, these speakers represent a compelling candidate for anyone looking to fill a small to medium sized room.

I would say that the price XTZ is asking for them is very low and you really can't find anything else in the same price range which is even close when it comes to performance. 影音 SUPER AV 极品