

Image HiFi (D) 3/2005 Cai Brockmann ESS AMT Tower

Quotations:

“Let me say a few words about the tweeter.”□

“Everything on the ESS AMT Tower originated from the tweeter, every detail was developed around this central component.”

“The talk here is exclusively about the original AMT. About the monster driver. The Real Thing.”

“The AMT is a real heavyweight of drivers, a mighty, big lad, a XL tweeter that weighs full six kilos on the scale because its construction calls for pretty big and powerful magnets.”

“Despite undisputed qualities and the meanwhile lapsed patent right, the original AMT is apparently too difficult for the ordinary copyists due to its sonic complexity. This is even better for Hermann Hoffmann, who together with his ‘engineer and crossover expert with an artistic streak’ Michael Weidlich, built in the new Tower what shall make the quality of the AMT really stand out and bring us a broadband loudspeaker.”

“The primary development goal of the ESS AMT Tower was therefore a coherent wave front, a most time-correct and phase-correct transmission of all participating chassis, the unconditional prerequisites for a clear assignment of sound events. The human ear is a particularly sensitive apparatus when it comes to time, which in this regard detects effortlessly every aberration between live and canned music. An optimization of the factor ‘time’ thus moves the canned music closer to a live experience. Hoffmann and Weidlich also use an in-house measuring system that does not focus on the attenuation behavior or the amplitude response of a loudspeaker, which is common with the popular MLSSA, but rather examines, illustrates the transient oscillation behavior of a sound converter across a broader section and virtually leads to its optimization.”

“Certainly the Tower is quick in action, powerful in acceleration, and yes, despite its dipole characteristics in higher frequencies instantaneously a real high-end precision machine, when the amplifier has a strong lead.”

“In addition, the Tower delivers a brilliant performance in terms of a most successful, uninterrupted transmission from the mid-range to AMT. Its penetration is at the same time just as outstanding as the speech intelligibility and the magnificently sprawling and clearly staggered stage. How good the ESS AMT Tower actually is will be most evident with difficult, preferably complex music material. And even though it certainly is also proficient in handling dynamic bursts effortlessly and when necessary moves air heftily, it can locate superbly and convincingly even markedly low levels of voices and instruments – an often underrated criterion that is only accomplishable by real top designs.”

“It is finally there: the coherent, quick acoustic pattern across the entire spectrum, with a fantastic Klassiker on board – cheers for the better years to come for AMT!”