

The absolute Sound (USA) 2006 Robert Green ESS Connoisseur Series AMT 450

Quotations:

„In a way, this is a speaker the world has been waiting more than twenty years for. It has taken that long for driver technology to catch up with one of the grand visions in speaker design - the symmetric-driver, phase-linear, two-way speaker.“

„Impulse in gives impulse out“ covers the whole story.“... „It may be a surprise that most speakers don't do this.“

„A measurement system from Kirchner is used in the design work, specifically to give a visual presentation of the time distortion (if any) of speakers.

Time/energy problems show up as mountain ranges.

Most speakers look like the Rockies. The ESS, by design, looks like the Great Plains. ESS aimed for time perfection, and it got very close to it – the AMT 450 has as nearly perfekt an impulse response as I've ever seen.“

„But how does the thing sound?“

„It is ultra-precise, transparent, and clear.“ ... „In any case, the clean, clear sound is both musically revealing and, as it happens, very relaxing and appealing to listen to.“

„The ESS speakers have remarkable dynamic ease. The Heil tweeter does not harden up when the going gets tough, and the SEAS magnesium mid/bass drivers similarly remain clean and unruffled at the big moments.“

„In short, these speakers really deliver the high-end goods – clarity, resolution, spatial performance, dynamics, you name it.“

„The deeper bass, below the lower mid/upper bass warmth region, is actually very good. The passive radiator system works quite well, apparently – there is no hint, not any, of “one-note” sound or frequency-dependent bloating, and bass instruments sound very convincing. This was a constant source of satisfaction – to hear the bass of an orchestra, especially so well delineated.“

„The ESS has very low perceived distortion, being as clean and clear as the proverbial whistle. Box effects are truly minimal. This is a box speaker that does not sound like a box at all, really. At a proper distance it is very coherent. It is, in particular, far more cohesive and coherent than first-order-crossover speakers that do not use symmetric-driver arrays (or coaxial drivers). In many respects, it will be hard to better these strong points at any price.“

„This speaker has an impulse response that makes most others look like a confused mess.“

„For whatever reason, this speaker seems to do a truly exceptional job of preserving the clarity of live music. In that vital matter, it will be hard to beat.“

„ESS has a larger model, but I can't imagine you'll need it unless you have a gigantic room.“

„I played the Mahler Fifth (Waterlily) on the bigger model at CES 2005 in a very big room, and the only word for that was “wow.“

This was about as close as you'd get to the sense of a full-sized orchestra in front of you.“