



RECOMMENDED
AV MAX
Seamless Sound | Seamless Vision

The Bald And The Beautiful

Thiel Audio's new marvel was inviting us for quite a long time now. Finally we reviewed it...

Be it repairing radios or incorporating the principle of time and phase accuracy in loudspeakers, it was only the passion for electronics and music that has driven Jim Thiel throughout his life. Jim Thiel's, 'Thiel Audio' is an apt example of an amazing amalgamation of these two seemingly bipolar subjects namely physics and music. It is this understanding of the 'Physics of Music' that has helped Thiel Audio make its mark as one of the finest and celebrated names in the AV fraternity. Originating from Lexington, Kentucky of the US, Thiel manufactured a number of products that have earned rave reviews and

a perfect option for an audiophile who wants his speakers to be well built and competent for the WAT (Wife Acceptance Test) factor. What more would one want!

TECHNOLOGY

It has been a policy at Thiel to put considerable effort and expense on increasing each component's strength and stiffness, be it the cabinet, the drivers or any other minute element of the product. And the result is the CS3.7 in the form of its exemplary build quality as its legacy from an esteemed lineage of products from Thiel Audio.

In the CS3.7, there are also some developments in terms of engineering by way of rounded

SPECIFICATIONS

DESIGN 1 x 1" Aluminium Dome Tweeter, 1 x 4.5" (11.5 cm) Voice Coil, 1 x 10" Wave-Shaped Aluminium Diaphragm
DRIVERS 1 x 10" With Wave-shaped Aluminium Diaphragm Woofer; 1 x 4.5" With Wave-shaped Aluminium Diaphragm Mid-Range Woofer; 1 x 1" Aluminium Dome Tweeter
FREQUENCY RESPONSE 33Hz-26kHz ± 2dB
IMPEDANCE 4 Ω
SENSITIVITY 90dB
RECOMMENDED POWER 100-600 watts
DIMENSIONS (H x W x D) 45" x 12.5" x 21"
WEIGHT 41.5kgs
CONTACT www.theaudiopeople.net

inside the cabinet to pass to the outside, but in a very controlled manner. The 4-1/2-inch aluminium mid-range driver is also specially designed for the 3.7 and has ridges extending from the centre to the outer edge. The ridges increase strength and rigidity, expanding the driver's operating range out to an amazing 20kHz.

The 3.7s use an elaborate crossover network employing "first-order" filters. This type has a more gradual roll-off compared to other filter designs, and requires higher-quality drivers that can cleanly and accurately reproduce an extended frequency range. It is also a good choice because first-order filters have less tendency to distort the musical waveform and are especially known for their phase accuracy, which can result in better imaging than speakers employing crossovers with steeper slopes. The accuracy and aptness of the crossover network allows them to avoid the use of an unnecessary external crossover network in the form of the bi-wiring posts. The existing sophisticated crossover networks do much more than act as "traffic cops" directing the right frequencies to the right drivers. And that's why unlike most of the floorstanders you do not see bi-wired binding posts in the CS3.7.

THE SPEAKERS REPRODUCED ALL THE TRACKS WITH A GREAT AMOUNT OF DETAIL AND DECIPHERED ALL THE FINE POINTS OF THE MIX WITH EQUAL EMPHASIS.

critical acclaim from experts for about 4 decades. We reviewed their latest product making it to the Indian shores — the CS3.7.

OUT OF THE BOX

There are products that are unusual and there are products that are beautiful. But it's not very often that we see products that are unusually beautiful and the CS3.7 is one such example. The 'bald' structure of the cabinet lends it a very unusual and unconventional look for a speaker. Yet at the same time, the shimmering silver colour of the tweeter and the mid-bass drivers swiftly translates it into a beauty. And on top of that is its amazing build quality. Everything put together, these two towers personify strength and beauty to the brim. They are

cabinet contours, an aluminium cap piece, and a sloping-aluminium front baffle. The cabinet sides are formed from 15 layers of hardwood laminated together into a curved shape under high pressure. Now that's something we can unanimously call strong. The front baffle provides time coherence between the woofer and the mid/tweeter array, which preserves the music's timing information, ensuring that all of the music's spatial cues are reproduced naturally. Two custom-designed wave-shaped 10-inch aluminium drivers occupy the bottom half of the speaker. The upper unit is a woofer while the lower one is a bass-enhancing passive radiator. It works just as a bass reflex port allowing low-frequency energy



TRIED & TESTED
RETURN OF THE KING



As we played our first reference CD the OST on the CS3.7, the only word that can describe its performance is 'grand'. The speakers added a whole new meaning to the muscle and glory of the soundtrack by lending a sense of completeness to the soundtrack.

OST

PERFORMANCE

We had a real good workout while hearing the CS3.7 in the listening room. These humongous speakers require at least two people to move them around. So do invite some friends over in case you decide to move them. We finally placed them in accordance to the 1/3 rule of speaker placement and parked ourselves at the listening position which is the third vertex or point of the equilateral triangle formed along with the two speakers.

First up, we had a Bryston set (BCD-1, BP-26 and the 4B-SST) (AV MAX, Dec'08 issue) connected to these towers using the Straightwire Encore speaker cables. As we played our first reference CD the 'OST-Return Of The King', on the CS3.7 the only word that can describe its performance is 'grand'. The speakers added a whole new meaning to the muscle and glory of the soundtrack by lending a sense of completeness to the soundtrack. Each note, every chord and stroke on the percussion was clearly audible while the speakers effortlessly interpreted Howard Shore's amazing background score with sheer finesse. The quick yet accurate transient response of speakers accentuated the entire experience even further and took it a notch higher. It provided the speakers with an incredible sense of directivity.

The 3.7s presented an elaborate and deep soundstage that lent a

very realistic sense of tangibility to the music in our listening room. Also worth mentioning was the wide dynamic range of the speakers which was evident as we played the album 'OVO' by Peter Gabriel. All the tracks from the album are as busy as it could get with a great blend of electronic sounds and acoustic recordings. The speakers reproduced all these tracks with a great amount of detail and deciphered all the fine points of the mix with equal emphasis as it did even for the loudest parts of the mix. Another characteristic of the CS3.7 was that they laid a tad more emphasis on the high frequencies which made them a mark brighter than usual. This can be the only factor that you would have to take care of. A proper choice of an amplifier or the CD player can be a great help. Otherwise the CS 3.7 had a balanced tone with no emphasis on any other section of the audio spectrum.

CONCLUSION

The CS3.7 scores on exemplary aesthetics, excellent transient response, ability to produce a deep and a meaningful soundstage and also for its capability to reproduce immense power. For all those who like their music bright and sparkly, the CS3.7 is a perfect option along with its otherwise balanced tonal quality.

Sumit Bhosle



THIEL AUDIO

MODEL >> CS3.7
CATEGORY >> FLOORSTANDING SPEAKERS
PRICE >> Rs 5,96,500
WARRANTY >> 5 YEARS

AESTHETICS

★★★★☆

BUILD

★★★★★

AUDIO

★★★★☆

EASE OF USE

★★★★☆

VFM

★★★★★

WHAT SAY AV?

The CS3.7 is simply worth every penny of the almost six lakhs you would be paying for it. And if you are left with any more money after that, you may use them to take care of your guests gate-crashing to experience this bald beauty.

AV MAX ★★★★★
OVERALL SCORE