

Super troopers

Neville Roberts puts a pair of Fyne Audio's unique-looking S-Trax super tweeters through their paces

Having heard a pair of the S-Trax super tweeters at an audio show recently, I was very keen to get my hands on a set to try them in my system. I have a pair of three-way transmission line speakers that have the excellent Falcon T27 Mylar dome tweeter, which sounds superb. However, in my experience, these speakers benefit from the addition of a super tweeter. The S-Trax has a unique 'time aligned' omnidirectional design said to result in the reflected energy from the super tweeter having the same harmonic structure as the direct on-axis energy from the speaker it is used with. It's this time alignment that, according to Fyne Audio, brings an improvement in the perceived sense of air and space.

The S-Trax is placed on the top of the existing speaker and connected across the main terminal panel using standard speaker cables, ensuring that the terminals are matched correctly with the S-Trax positive connected to the speaker positive, and the negative to negative. Fyne Audio recommends positioning the S-Trax so it is a few inches back from the front of the existing loudspeaker, and it supplies a table of recommended values for when used with its own speakers. If employing them with other makes, Fyne Audio suggests placement according to driver size – though some experimentation may be required to achieve optimum results.

The S-Trax is typically suitable for use with loudspeakers up to 98dB and has a 400W maximum power rating. Frequency response is quoted as 16 to 50kHz, so well beyond our normal range of hearing. The driver is a 25mm magnesium dome with a neodymium magnet system, which is fed from the internal CryoLite treated third-order high-pass 16kHz crossover. The super tweeters need a recommended 100 hours of running in from new, so I do just that on my burn-in system before auditioning starts properly.

Sound Quality

I start proceedings by playing The Don Rendell and Ian Carr Quintet's *Blue Mosque* on vinyl and notice that the tinkling of the hi-hats that accompanies the main theme seems immediately clearer with the super tweeters in place. However, more apparent still is a greater depth to the soundstage alongside improved levels of reality and intimacy. A classic LP of CPE Bach's *Symphony No. 2* played by George Malcolm and the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields shows how the powerful performance sounds fuller and brighter, without sounding at all edgy or harsh. Imaging is quite superb and each instrument has a improved focus, while Malcolm's harpsichord playing is clearer throughout and perfectly complemented by the orchestral accompaniment, which adds authority to the performance.

The pronounced drum roll is so much more perceptible and better controlled

Overall, I experience a better and more emotional involvement with the music.

Next I turn to Stravinsky's *The Firebird Suite* by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra to see how the S-Trax handles the recording's huge dynamics. This version has a very pronounced and extended drum roll during the opening sequence and it is particularly noticeable when it pauses for a few bars before starting again. This is so much more perceptible and better controlled, while the twittering of the strings is clearer, beautifully delicate and more lifelike.

Eleanor McEvoy's *The Meeting Of The Waters* sounds more lifelike, real and involving. The tinkling intro on the grand piano played by McEvoy and her accompanist Damon Butcher is sweeter and a perfect complement to her slightly husky vocals.

Conclusion

I never cease to be amazed at the improvements in sound quality that can be offered by the addition of super tweeters and the S-Trax provides a fine example of just how good they can both look and sound ●

DETAILS

PRODUCT
Fyne Audio S-Trax

ORIGIN
UK

TYPE
Super tweeter

WEIGHT
1kg (each)

DIMENSIONS
(WxHxD)
82 x 79 x 149mm

FEATURES
- 25mm magnesium dome with neodymium magnet system
- Suitable for speakers up to 98dB
- 8ohm impedance

DISTRIBUTOR
Fyne Audio Ltd.

WEBSITE
fyneaudio.com

Hi-Fi Choice OUR VERDICT

SOUND QUALITY ★★★★★
VALUE FOR MONEY ★★★★★
BUILD QUALITY ★★★★½
FEATURES ★★★★★

LIKE: Great sound quality that elevates your speakers

DISLIKE: Nothing at the price

WE SAY: A super performer with great looks to boot

OVERALL ★★★★★