

the absolute sound

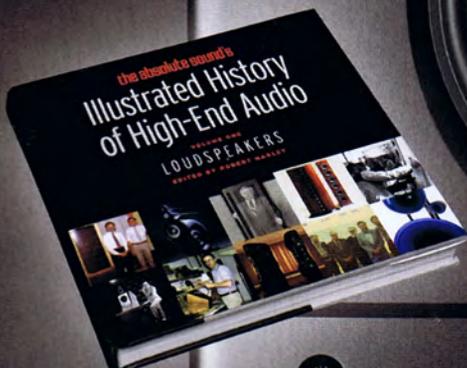
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Future **TAS**

A Tradition Continues

The CS1.7 follows in a long line of Thiel two-way floorstanding speakers that employ Thiel's renowned phase-and-time-coherent design, precision-engineered first-order crossover networks, and the latest driver technology engineered specifically for the CS1.7. Its tweeter, based on the platform used in the CS1.6, has been optimized for the CS1.7 and features a new voice coil and magnetic circuit, as well as a reworked aluminum diaphragm for improved linearity, lower distortion, and greater efficiency. The 6.5" aluminum woofer's "star" diaphragm was designed using the latest laser-measurement technology. The cabinet is one-inch thick and the massive baffle, with a low-turbulence vertical port, is two-inches thick, delivering high rigidity and inertness. An optional brushed-aluminum Outrigger base is available.

Price: \$3999. thiel.com



Pure Wow

The newest member to join the Acoustic Signature family of precision-engineered German turntables has created such enthusiasm that it could only be named WOW. Belying its entry-level price is a list of premium features taken directly from the flagship Acoustic Signature 'tables. Standard equipment that might make pricier competitors green with envy includes the identical AC motor and the same proprietary Tidorfolon bearing-design used in all Acoustic Signature turntables, plus the same ten-year warranty. And there's been no scrimping on the platter either. It's a robust nine-pound CNC-machined spinner complete with leather mat. Topping it off, the WOW ships complete with the excellent Rega 202 tonearm. Two finishes are available—high-gloss acrylic black or white. This is the kind of a wow that sets an analog enthusiast's heart a-flutter.

Price: \$2000. info@goernercommunication.com; acoustic-signature.com

A Standup Threesome

NAD is redefining "form factor" with its new vertical line of D Series Digital Audio Products. There are three models. The 50Wpc D 7050 combines NAD's most advanced digital platform, the Direct Digital technology (introduced in the Masters Series M2 amplifier), with Apple's AirPlay WiFi streaming technology to create a seamless plug 'n' play solution. Next is the D 3020, an audiophile icon reinvented with high-speed digital technology. It offers 30Wpc and its USB input supports 24-bit/96kHz playback. Finally, there is the D 1050—an affordable, 24-bit/192kHz, high-performance DAC for adding HD digital to an existing system. It features Delta/Sigma architecture with active oversampling filters. There's a premium-quality headphone amplifier output that includes a high-quality volume control. Eco-friendly, all the new models contain fewer non-renewable resources in manufacture. Credit is due David Farrage of DF-ID for the industrial design.

Price: D 7050 Direct Digital Network Receiver, \$999; D 3020 Digital DAC/Amplifier, \$499; D 1050 USB 24/192 DAC, \$499. nadelectronics.com

