

HI-FI WORLD

JANUARY 2011

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HI-FI WORLD AWARDS 2010



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COMPETITION
WIN A NAIM UNITIQUOTE
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£1,350!

**MARTIN
LOGAN
ETHOS**
speakers

EXCLUSIVE!

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POINT 5 TURNTABLE
- > DESIGN BUILD LISTEN
PICCOLO DIY KIT
- > DARTZEEL CTH-8550
AMPLIFIER

JANUARY 2011



**10 PAGES OF LETTERS - THE BEST WINS A
PAIR OF KEF iQ30 LOUDSPEAKERS! (UK ONLY)**



AWARDS

2010



Welcome to the latest and greatest
Hi-Fi World Awards special!

We're delighted to bring you the best
products we've reviewed over the past
twelve months, across no less than
fourteen different categories.

So please be upstanding for the
following exceptional hi-fi products...



TURNTABLE:	PALMER 3
TONEARM:	FUNK FXR II
CARTRIDGE:	BENZ WOOD SL
PHONO STAGE:	EMILLE ALLURE
DIGITAL:	MARANTZ KI PEARL CD
TUNER:	MICROMEGA FM10
INTEGRATED:	MUSICAL FIDELITY AMS35i
PREAMPLIFIER:	MF AUDIO CLASSIC II
POWER AMPLIFIER:	ICON AUDIO MB845/II DSS
FLOORSTANDER:	TANNOY DEFINITION DC10T
STANDMOUNTER:	ELAC BS243
SYSTEM:	NAIM UNITIQUE
CABLE:	TELLURIUM Q BLACK
ACCESSORY:	JAYS V-JAYS





★ STAND MOUNT SPEAKER WINNER: ELAC BS243

For those reviewers ensconced in their audio-ophile ivory towers, a sub-£1,000 speaker can be a shocking thing. If you listen to Martin Logan electrostatics at ten times the price as a matter of routine, putting up with the vagaries of a budget box boofing and booming is a pretty unsavoury experience! With this in mind, it's rare to find a reasonably priced loudspeaker that isn't holed below the waterline, so to speak, by variously poor cabinetry, weak drive units or simply its box-loudspeaker-with-moving coil-drivers orientation...

It was with great relief then, that we auditioned the £1,000 Elac BS243, only to find an exceptionally couth sounding small standmounter. It's no

fluke either; Elac's use of their JET ribbon tweeter is the hi-fi equivalent of a turbo charger; it magically wipes away so many of the pitfalls of small speakers by using a superb treble transducer that wouldn't disgrace a speaker at several times the price. It's a great device and all it has to do is integrate well with a decent mid/bass driver and a solid (285x170x232mm) cabinet for big audio dynamite. Fortunately, unlike certain other ribbon/moving coil drive unit pairings, Elac have got it right; the JET tweeter integrates smoothly with the Elac Crystal AS-XR aluminium sandwich mid/bass unit and the cabinet doesn't draw attention to itself either.

Hooked up to a beefy transistor amplifier (if it's valves you're running they've got to be particularly punchy)

and a decent front end, the Elacs really take your breath away. They're far more sophisticated than is expected at the price, with none of the squawking, screeching and boofing of many sub-£1,000 standmounters. The BS243's inherently transparent nature, allied to realistic three dimensional imaging, rhythmic alacrity and extended, delicate and sparkling treble make them an essential audition for those looking for grown-up transducers that take up a small space. They proved an unexpectedly pleasant surprise, and as such are worthy winners of an already hotly contested category.

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