

Loudspeaker

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CS7.2AW ¥2,680,000(pair)



STEREOSOUND



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Speaker System

THIEL CS7.2

Each unit consists of: 12-inch cone woofer, 6.5-inch cone lower midrange, 3-inch cone upper midrange, 1-inch dome tweeter. Crossover frequencies: 250Hz, 1.2kHz, 3kHz. Impedance: 4 ohms. Sensitivity: 86dB 1w/1m. Weight: 168 pounds. Dimensions (inches): 14w x 19d x 55h. Price: 2,680,000 yen/pair (approximately \$24,000 U.S.)

Comments from the COTY/Components of the Year judging panel:

All-around top of America's high-end. An accurate, clear sound delivered on a scale where it really comes alive.

• *Thiel represents the top of the class among America's high-end speaker manufacturers. For designer Jim Thiel's ideas to become reality, drivers are now being produced in-house. This latest speaker is very good, the work is thorough, and they have a very distinct sound. The characteristics of these speakers are a correct and clear reproduction.*

• *In America, it is a rarity to find a speaker manufacturer that builds both the driver and the cabinet, as well as performs the design and assembly of the product. But Thiel is one of these rare manufacturers. One does not perceive any distortion or noise while the sound is clearly reproduced. With its clear sound, the CS7.2 creates a fascinating world and its design and sound are such that one can really look forward to selecting an amplifier.*

Asanuma: If you look at the big picture, you can see that Thiel speakers, just as we previously discussed with Avalon, definitely fit into the category of High-End speaker makers. Indeed, Thiel falls within the category of a major manufacturer.

Yanagizawa: They're at the top.

Asanuma: That's right. Perhaps the reason so many people have turned to them is due in part to the neutral sound of their speakers. In fact, even if you look at each of the speaker's characteristics, their sound is universally at the top.

Inoue: This company is very good at doing several things well.

Asanuma: They seem to put forth an independence in design.

Yanagizawa: They really are a progressive manufacturer. But, there are numerous companies out there that are progressive.

Asanuma: I believe that the term "Proficient in Sound" was used to describe Thiel.

Inoue: From another perspective one might say that they have some very Japanese characteristics.

Sugano: Oh really? When you think about it, that's probably true.

Asanuma: Unlike past American speakers, they don't have a wild appearance.

Inoue: They have an orderly beauty.

Kamisugi: They also have the sound of a top product.

Asanuma: Yes, they are moving in that ultimate direction.....indeed, I must say ultimate—for when you think on a scale of the entire world, the CS7.2 is it.

Sugano: That's right. Indeed, the designer Jim Thiel's priorities are, first-off, time coherence. In other words, as

we discussed at the very beginning, these are speakers that have strength in stereo imaging, partly due to cabinet shape. And the CS7.2 epitomizes the success in this kind of thinking. It symbolizes a coherent speaker.

Yanagizawa: It is a really high-quality speaker.

Sugano: If we are looking at it as a time coherent speaker, then we must look at placement in relation to time, and must also focus on the sound source in order to assess the coherency.

Kamisugi: All of the speaker's components, including the drivers, are manufactured by the company.

Sugano: A while back, the company began building their own drivers, but there were a few areas that didn't appear to be going so well. But recently, they have demonstrated their true value.

Yanagizawa: That's right. The drivers' cones are metallic, and they have improved the drivers other areas as well.

Inoue: They have used a number of elements in the crossover network, and have become proficient at eliminating frequency peaks and dips. This is greatly reduced in the CS 7.2. By having many of the crossover parts out of the signal path, this gets rid of distortion. By doing this, I think that the technology is praiseworthy.

Yanagizawa: It has a sense of liveliness.

Inoue: We said it was accurate, but the sound is very clean, it sounds alive. Indeed these are marvelous speakers.

Asanuma: They almost have a life of their own.

Sugano: But, if you use a cheap amp, the sound is lost. You really need a powerful amp that can handle Thiel's specialized bass system.