



LOUDSPEAKER OF THE YEAR (£10K-£20K)

Boenicke W8 SE+



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Boenicke Audio's W8 four-way floorstander is small and comes in three versions; the standard, the SE and the SE + we tested. The SE+ variant has a number of internal upgrades such as electromechanical parallel resonators (a tuned cable, connected to the positive speaker terminal to counter any mechanical resonances), and an acoustic phase linearisation network (a phase-wrangling capacitor/resistor network for better imaging). There are also a pair of Steinmusic Speaker Match Signature devices, Mundorf Silver Gold Oil and Duelund tinned copper capacitors, a set of Harmonix RF 5700 Tuning Bases, Bybee Quantum Purifiers (also present in the SE version), two series 16-cm series resonators and a Swing Base to 'float' the cabinet from the floor.

In his test, Chris Thomas waxed lyrical about the W8 SE+'s performance. "The presentation is immersive and is certainly the first thing that grabs you. Soundscapes are laid out before you without the usual bass, mid and treble layers being the overriding character. The concept of depth is different with the Boenickes. The dimension extends not only from front to way, way back but hugely sideways too. Small changes in instrumental placements and shape are fascinating and pull you into the music. I would say that the presentation is virtually cinematic in its scope and it never stops surprising. You look at the drivers and where they are situated and wonder how this speaker can knit the music together with such amazing balance, shape and integration. But, put the comparisons with what you are used to aside and let the speaker talk to you because it can tell wonderful stories."

He concluded the review by saying, "I really enjoyed just about everything about the time I spent with them and they certainly illuminated my listening and appreciation of the music, which is what really good products always do." +

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