



DEVORE FIDELITY ORANGUTAN O/96

PREVIEW



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By K.E. Heartsong

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As most readers know, listening at an audio show is definitely a mixed bag when it comes to “high-fidelity” sound actually being high-fidelity sound. There are of course the rooms where, against the odds—difficult room, non-working components, poor system synergy, etc.—the music is engaging, immersive, and

a great deal more to contend with in regard to synergizing components within the system, faulty components, room compatibility with too large speakers, etc., which can lead to at best a rather poor listening experience. We’ve all been there and have excused ourselves, hopefully diplomatically, from those rooms. We all have



technically astute. The size of the room or the price tag, in particular, of a given system is more often than not of little relevance, or antithetical to a musically engaging system. Perhaps it’s that the smaller rooms have much less to contend with and are more easily able to tune in good sound. Whereas the rooms boasting six-figure price tags have

our bad days.

There have always been those rooms, certainly a number of the smaller rooms, which have had the music dialled in beautifully. These are the rooms where one gets behind schedule because the music is so very good and the folks hosting are considerate and kind. One such room is John



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Devore's DeVore Fidelity room, where the Orangutan O/96 loudspeakers have anchored component trios or quartets, and always beautifully so.

Though late to the Orangutan O/96 show, I had expressed my interest early on in reviewing John's Orangutan O/96 loudspeakers for the magazine. And why not? The music always flowed through them, they were beautiful in a new/old-school way, and they were very efficient and had excellent impedance—96dB/10Ω. The latter point is ideal for a reviewer in that the Orangutan O/96 made amps from five watts to 400 watts available for review.

The Orangutan O/96 has also proven to be one of John's most popular loudspeakers, which interestingly enough found John receiving heaps of scorn and derision, with some folks even questioning his sanity, on its

debut.! I guess this is part and parcel of a creative having to deal with and endure those who are decidedly not creatives and possess little to no imagination.

The timing for one of John's most popular loudspeakers was an all-important issue, as was lining up the magazine space to feature them. Though coming late to the party did establish one thing: there had been numerous very good reviews, awards, and purchases by the most cynical of all buyers—reviewers—and the continued growth of the Orangutan loudspeaker family—O/Reference, O/93, O/Baby, and micro/O—is always a good sign of success.

The DeVore Fidelity Orangutan O/96 is currently undergoing break-in, though with 200 hours already on them

when they arrived and now another 200 hours added to that, the threshold for “review-level” evaluation is almost at hand.

AKRM

