2006 Product of the Year Awards STERED • MULTICHANNEL AUDIO • MUSIC THE BOSOLUTE SOUND

A NEW REFERENCE SPEAKER?

heab

HANSEN'S

Definitive Technology Gershman Bolzano Villeiri

Oppo's

The best dea

under \$150?

2006 Product of the Year Awards



Overall Product of the Year

MAGICO Mini Loudspeaker \$22,000 with stands magico.net

The market for two-way loudspeakers has never been more crowded with contenders than it is at the moment (see our Cost-No-Object Loudspeaker of the Year, for instance). At the very top sits TAS' Overall Product of the Year Award winner, Alon Wolf's MAGICO Mini. An all-out effort, the Mini is a revolutionary design that trades euphonious coloration for the flattest frequency response and lowest distortion yet in a stand-mounted speaker. The net result of this fabulous on-paper performance is fabulous transparency to the source, in-room. The Mini reports on what's upstream of it, be it hardware or soft, with lower coloration and higher fidelity than any mini-monitor we've heard. If a record is great, the Mini makes it sound great. If a record isn't, the Mini tells you that, too (although it never sounds cold or analytical when doing so). Limited by the size of its superb enclosure and titanium mid/bass driver to about 40Hz—unless you add a pair of Wilson-Benesch Torus Infrasonic Generators to create a Mini SuperSystem (for which, you'll have to wait until Issue 170)—the MAGICO is everywhere else a model of limitlessness, of what is possible when price is no object, with standard-setting resolution, neutrality, imaging, and soundstaging. Capable of the most complete disappearing act JV has yet heard from a direct-radiating speaker and a dynamic range and scale that simply belie its size and driver complement, it is, without doubt, the best minimonitor the high end has yet seen and one of the handful of truly great loudspeakers. (Reviewed by JV, Issue 163)