



Bookshelf Speaker

Vienna Acoustics Haydn SE Signature Review

Having had the pleasure of experiencing numerous Vienna Acoustics loudspeakers, from floorstanding to bookshelf models, we were already familiar with the distinctive sound of the HAYDN. This time, our journey took us to Yue Dian Pro Audio, a long-standing establishment in Taipei's Daan District, to immerse ourselves in the sound of the HAYDN bookshelf speakers in a different environment and with varied pairings.

Premium Materials, European Craftsmanship

The HAYDN, launched by Vienna Acoustics in 2022, represents an evolution, featuring a brand-new tweeter: a 1.1-inch hand-coated silk dome. For the mid-woofer, it retains Vienna Acoustics' acclaimed 6-inch Spider-Cone™ X3P driver. The crossover has been meticulously redesigned and optimized by the manufacturer, employing only the finest audiophile-grade components. These include meticulously hand-selected capacitors and metal oxide film resistors with an error tolerance of less than 1%. The HAYDN GRAND SE cabinets are handcrafted in Europe, finished with a multi-layer piano lacquer that exudes exceptional quality and texture.

A Rich and Complete Frequency Spectrum

Despite its modest cabinet size, the HAYDN boasts incredibly solid construction. The cabinets convey a warm, resonant thickness and a pleasing density when held, offering a substantial feel. Yue Dian Pro Audio's showroom is impressively stocked with a wide array of compact speakers, including both bookshelf and floorstanding models, all

readily available for audition in the primary listening position. This convenience is a boon for audiophiles visiting the store. It also presents a formidable challenge for any speaker aiming to stand out and capture the discerning listener's heart. Different drivers, diaphragm materials, internal circuitry, and cabinet dimensions all contribute to unique electrical characteristics and sonic signatures. Even among bookshelf speakers, the sonic differences can be profound. The HAYDN distinguishes itself with a sound that is exceptionally dense, full-bodied, and remarkably natural. Setting aside its physical dimensions, the scale and breadth of its sound reproduction approach the completeness of a floorstanding loudspeaker. Furthermore, its ability to project sound and handle sound pressure levels is superior for a bookshelf speaker. For those who appreciate a rich, natural, and detailed sound, the HAYDN is an outstanding choice.



Remarkable Density and Naturalism, Abundant Energy

Referencing Leopold Stokowski's rendition of "Smetana: Moldau; Liszt: Hungarian Rhapsody No.2; Roumanian Rhapsody No.1," the HAYDN delivers exceptional sonic density. This allows for a palpable sense of the brass and woodwinds' power and the dynamic energy transfer crucial for weighty symphonic movements and orchestral performances. Insufficient sonic density and body would result in a weak, anemic sound. Even at a considerable listening distance, the speakers project ample energy. Faced with such a grand musical piece, the HAYDN provides a sufficiently enveloping soundstage and impressive width, delivering a truly impactful experience. For a bookshelf speaker of its size, the effect achieved is nothing short of remarkable.

Vivid, Natural, and Perfectly Balanced (Wacko Wang)

Our audition of the Vienna Acoustics HAYDN SE at Yue Dian Audio in Daan District began with Rachael Yamagata's "Duet" as a reference track. The vocal reproduction was notably full-bodied and rich, even in the opening whispered



dialogue. Even the slightest vocal nuances were reproduced with a palpable sense of “meatiness,” essential for authentic vocal presence. The vocal lines were smooth and clean; despite the soft and gentle delivery, the subtle details remained exceptional. The airy quality of the voice retained a well-judged amount of breathiness, while the nuanced vocal contours exhibited pleasing elasticity and a natural sweetness, free from any harshness or sharp edges.



The dynamic range was also impressively rendered. The transition from a breathy vocal to a more grounded tone was fluid and lifelike, blooming like a vibrant flower. The instrumental performance, in contrast, was more reserved, with a solid sound and a rich, lingering resonance that fully conveyed the performer’s touch. Each note was light yet distinct, with a clear and defined physical presence. The tonal balance was neutral and uncolored, neither overly warm nor excessively cold, striking an excellent equilibrium between

firmness and softness. The overall listening experience was vivid, natural, and unblemished.



Expansive Soundstage, Dynamic Prowess



Next, we sampled Hanne Boel's "Chance of a Lifetime." The overall presentation of the song was in no way constrained by the HAYDN SE's compact bookshelf design. Instead, it revealed a spacious soundstage with indistinct boundaries, allowing the individual instruments to be clearly delineated within this expansive space. The music unfolded with a vivid and energetic dynamism, akin to ripples spreading outwards from

a stone dropped into water. From the very outset, as the music began to emerge, there was an immediate sense of blossoming notes and vibrant festivity.

The song's details were exceptionally well-rendered. The percussive impact on the body of the instrument and the accompanying air were brought to life with their crispness and the physical characteristics of their vibration. The notes produced by the plucked strings naturally conveyed their metallic texture, sounding authentic and unforced, with an inherent naturalness. The vocals exhibited comparable dynamism and spaciousness, allowing for a direct perception of vocal energy. They commanded attention with a palpable presence and spirit. Simultaneously, the timbre remained clean and clear. While not overly thick or heavy, the vocals possessed a certain weight, and the contrast between lightness and weight was skillfully managed.

Packed with Energy, Grandeur and Presence

Our final reference track was Adele's "Easy on Me." The HAYDN SE's performance here was astonishing, demonstrating such a vast and commanding sound from such a compact enclosure. The sonic energy felt abundant and densely woven. As the piano notes cascaded, a multitude of closely spaced notes appeared before the listener. The tone was clean and luminous, with well-defined edges that conveyed a sense of polish. The articulation and spacing of each note were outstanding, with no interference between them, yet they flowed together seamlessly, creating a delightful and dynamic ebb and flow.

The vocals possessed a remarkable presence. While not overly weighty, the vocal lines were incredibly "meaty" and delivered with no shortage of the essential energy. This performance projected a significant spirit and presence. With no discernible boundaries, the sound was free to expand and roam, moving with exceptional freedom. The accompanying instruments were high without being shrill, bright without being piercing, and while possessing definition, they also exhibited a full-bodied quality. The driving force of the background drums further enhanced the HAYDN SE's ability to create a truly commanding sonic picture.

Vienna Acoustics Haydn SE Signature Bookshelf Speakers

- * **Type:** 2-way, 2-driver, bass-reflex design
- * **Impedance:** 4 Ohms
- * **Frequency Response:** 40Hz – 20kHz
- * **Sensitivity:** 88.5dB
- * **Recommended Amplifier Power:** 50 – 180 Watts
- * **Dimensions:** 174 x 361 x 265mm (W x H x D)
- * **Weight:** 20kg/pair