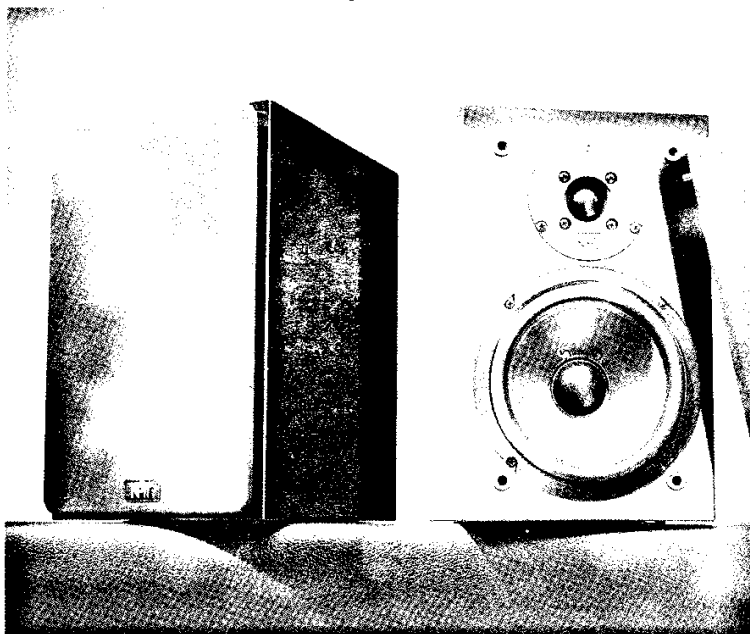


TEST REPORTS



NHT SuperOne Speaker

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The NHT SuperOne is a compact two-way speaker system that, in the manufacturer's words, "sets a new standard for compact performance" and "provides the clarity, balance, and seamless response usually found in only the most expensive loudspeakers."

The SuperOne is an acoustic-suspension (sealed-enclosure) system with a 6½-inch woofer and a fluid-cooled 1-inch soft-dome tweeter. Its drivers are magnetically shielded so that it can be placed close to a video monitor without distorting the picture.

The SuperOne is finished on all surfaces in high-gloss laminate. Our test sample was black, but it is also available in white. The removable black cloth grille is on a frame retained by rubber grommets that hold it about ¾ inch out from the enclosure.

The woofer crosses over to the tweeter at 2.2 kHz, with slopes of 6 dB per octave (high-pass) and 12 dB per octave (low-pass). System frequency response is given as 57 Hz to 25 kHz ±3 dB and sensitivity as 86 dB sound-pressure level (SPL) at 1 meter with 2.83 volts input. The SuperOne is recommended for use with amplifiers

rated to deliver between 25 and 150 watts, and its impedance rating is 8 ohms nominal, 6 ohms minimum.

The NHT SuperOne, which probably qualifies as a minispeaker, is compatible with a variety of placements. According to the manufacturer, its best performance will be realized when it is mounted on stands approximately 26 inches high and placed at least 12 inches from the wall behind the speakers and at least 30 inches from the side walls. We followed that suggestion, which is consistent with how we usually situate speakers for measurements and listening tests.

Since NHT included a pair of its own OneStand speaker stands (\$100 a pair) with the speakers submitted for

DIMENSIONS: 11¾ inches high, 7¼ inches wide, 8½ inches deep

WEIGHT: 10 pounds each

FINISH: High-gloss black or white laminate

PRICE: \$350 a pair

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review, we used them during of the SuperOne; they are and sturdy, and it was easy ble them from their compor The instruction manual indic OneBracket is also available mounting (\$90 a pair), and t the SuperOne has threaded i that purpose. The input term cessed into the rear of the ca insulated binding posts that patible with single or dual plugs, wires, or spade lugs.

The averaged room respon pair of NHT SuperOnes, about 12 feet from the left sp corrected for the high-freq sorption of the room surface excellent ±3 dB from 60 kHz. A ground-plane mea (which minimizes room-bot fects) essentially confirmed surement — and the manu ratings — with a ±3.5-dB from 55 Hz to 20 kHz. A c choic MLS response mea (valid only above 300 Hz) fu forced our initial results, s variation of ±3.3 dB from 2 20 kHz.

System impedance measur imum of 6 ohms at 20 Hz an with a maximum of 26 oh system's bass resonance fre 80 Hz. There was a broad r upper midrange, to 16.5 oh kHz, and the impedance s to about 8 ohms in the rang 20 kHz.

The SuperOne's sensitiv sured 85 dB SPL at 1 mete input of 2.83 volts of pink that drive level, the measun tion in the woofer's range v 0.5 to 1 percent from 2 kHz, rising to about 2 or 3 perc 500 Hz and climbing more sl low 100 Hz.

Since the NHT SuperOn signed for both music liste home-theater applications, measured the magnetic flux rounding it. The maximum f surface of the speaker encl only 1 gauss, and on most o face it was virtually unmi (under 0.5 gauss). In practic these speakers can be placed on or near a TV or video without affecting the pictu way (also verified by experin

Our measurements and tests both confirmed that the perOne is a remarkable spe without considering its barg

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ment price and Lilliputian dimensions. It had an exceptionally wide and uniform frequency response throughout its operating range, although that unfortunately does not extend much into the lower bass. Offhand, I cannot recall any speaker we have tested with the MLS program in the past that covered the full range from 300 Hz to 20 kHz with a variation as low as ± 3.3 dB. Most were doing well to achieve a ± 5 -dB response over that range (a tweeter resonance peak or a crossover dip has generally been the limiting factor).

Apart from measurements, how did the SuperOne sound? Most strikingly, perhaps, it sounded as if it wasn't there at all! Unlike many other speakers, this one does not seem to have a special sweet spot or require a particu-

**Unlike many other
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SuperOne does not seem
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lar orientation for precise imaging. There was no need for a "toe-in" angle to give directional or spatial clues to a listener. Simply pointing the speakers straight into the listening area created a very believable stereo stage, which stayed pretty much in place when I moved about the room.

Although the SuperOne's sound quality is very much "all there," it might not satisfy a dyed-in-the-wool deep-bass freak. There are many good powered subwoofers on the market, however, including those from NHT, and adding one to a pair of these small speakers would give you a hard-to-beat combination. I tried such a combination and found it to be very potent, without sacrificing the outstanding imaging qualities of the NHT SuperOne. For most applications, though, this little giant does a superb job on its own. □