



ERZETICH AUDIO'S BACILLUS TILIA

The Audiophile's choice

\$941
erzetich-audio.com



One of the key insights one looks for while reviewing hi-end audio devices is the singular chance of discovering something new, a new interpretation to tracks you've been hearing for many years. And Erzetich Audio's Bacillus Tilia desktop amplifier promises just that.

Start from a design angle, and the Bacillus Tilia scores straight away with a single-cut, contemporary and yet individual vibe, as against the punkish, DIY design inspirations of devices like the Phobos. Founder Blaz Erzetich draws on his past as a designer, and follows an artistic approach to the Erzetich production line. Meaning, much like signed limited editions from artistes, the devices are assembled by hand, tested

by ear and numbered. Each of the units of the Bacillus Tilia are distinctive, being handmade with linden wood sourced from the woods of Trnovo in Slovenia, near the Italian border. Combine that with the aluminum fascia, and the end result is a truly striking, premium work of audio that will feel at home both in any luxury penthouse or your Man Cave.

Plugging in the Grado RS1 Headphones with the Astell&Kern Kann player as the source and post a 20-hour burn-in phase, I sent out to rediscover some favorites.

I started off with Chris Isaak's Baby Did A Bad Bad Thing. The graspy, almost guttural vocals came through brilliantly communicating torment, confusion and the emotional quotient at play. My next track was an old favorite, Kansas' Dust in the wind. The laid back ambience, slow melancholy melody and its meditation on mortality impressed,



while one could make out the harmonious blending of the dual six-string guitars. Revelatory.

An instrumental is mandatory in the evaluation process, and what better than Han Zimmer's score for Dunkirk? I was very keen to find how the much hyped Shepard tones would be interpreted. The auditory illusion that ratcheted up tension seemingly endlessly carried me into middle of a world at war, to moments of helplessness. On tracks like Supermarine, the Basillus Tilia imparted the feeling of time ticking away and the dark tonal ambiences, creaking ships included, a peek into life as a participant in the conflict. Brilliant.

Of course, no review is complete without a touch of reggae, and for that I turned to perhaps UB40's finest piece of music ever, Madame Medusa. A scathing attack on the Thatcher era, the anger and frustration of the time come through in Campbell's haunting vocals, infectious reggae beat and the distinctive sax.

In total, the spatial characteristics of the Bacillus Tilia were super impressive, with a clean, unhurried and wholly natural tone to the music. We loved the sheer amount of details in the midrange and treble and the

THE **BACILLUS TILIA AMP** USES A CURRENT DRIVE OUTPUT, WHICH MAKES IT QUITE DISTINCT FROM A REGULAR VOLTAGE DRIVE AMPLIFIER. DEEP DOWN IS WHERE IT TRULY SHOWS OFF, WITH OBLIGATO GOLD PREMIUM QUALITY PULSE INPUT CAPACITORS, DOUBLE 180 MHZ/250 MA BURR-BROWN CURRENT BUFFER, ALPS BLUE VELVET VOLUME POTENTIOMETER, HIGH QUALITY GOLD PLATED RCA CONNECTORS AND TWO ON-BOARD 15 V STABILIZED POWER SUPPLIES. COME TO THE TECHNICAL SIDE, AND THE DEVICE BACILLUS TILIA TICKS ALL THE RIGHT AUDIOPHILE WISHLISTS. THINK 8-600 OHM HEADPHONE IMPEDANCE, SIGNAL-TO-NOISE RATIO GREATER THAN 104 DB AND A 3 HZ-500 KHZ FREQUENCY RESPONSE.

focused, punchy bass lines. Our final comment? Balancing distinct design aesthetics and great sound, this is one device that definitely deserves to take a prominent place in any audiophile's set-up!

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VERDICT



LOVE

Individualistic Design
Detailed sound
Price point

HATE

Slightly restricted soundscape

WE SAY

Whether you're a veteran audiophile or taking those eager, early days into premium sound equipment, the Bacillus Tilia comes highly recommended.

★★★★★