



COST-NO-OBJECT LOUDSPEAKER OF THE YEAR

YG Acoustics Hailey 2.2 | Reviewed in Issue 175



In a way, the YG Acoustics Hailey 2.2 is not a 'cost-no-object' loudspeaker in the manner of products that cost as much as a house, but because it is so heavily derived from the mighty Sonja VX flagship from the brand, and its performance so elegantly reflects its heritage, it is hard not to think of it as a truly top-end proposition.

The Hailey 2.2 is three-way, three-driver, modular loudspeaker fitted out with XV-inspired improvements. It uses the same tweeter used in the Sonja XV, along with 184mm mid-bass driver and 260mm woofer all manufactured in-house by YG. These diaphragms are machined out of thick cylindrical billets of aircraft-grade aluminium and given black anodised finishes. Although this might seem an unnecessarily difficult and complicated way to manufacture driver diaphragms, YG maintains that machined diaphragms allow more precise dimensional tolerances and the use of complex 3D diaphragm shapes that improve rigidity and resonance control. Couple these to a cabinet also milled from solid billets of aluminium and massive custom-made inductors sitting on crossover circuit boards that feature milled rather than etched signal paths, and it's clear this is a loudspeaker built without compromise, in the tradition of cost-no-object designs.

In our tests, we discovered that it was easy to hear the familial ties between the Sonja range and the Hailey 2.2. We felt that, "The Hailey 2.2 conveys a sense of extraordinary sonic transparency, meaning the speaker will show you low-level transient, textural, and spatial details in recordings that you perhaps never knew existed. At the same time, though, the Hailey 2.2 consistently sounds smooth and natural, never edgy, analytical, or harsh." Also, in terms of soundstage, we felt that "stereo imaging just doesn't get much better than this."

Our original conclusion holds: To hear them is to want them!

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