

Based on the review in Hi-Fi Choice
November 2012

Audiophile BetaBase Equipment Rack

Since launching its Base platform in 1993, Audiophile Furniture has produced some of the most elegantly designed affordable equipment racks for hi-fi separates, and it continues to do so with the new BetaBase, which forms part of its Traditional range.

With its angled and profiled shelves (600mm at widest and 490mm at narrowest depth), which have machined-out openings at the rear that the company opines are for acoustic purposes, the BetaBase cuts a striking dash that will set off most standard width separates superbly.

The 18mm shelves, which currently come in light or black oak finishes, are made out of sustainably sourced MDF and have a resonance disk in the underside for better sound quality. The polyester epoxy black powder-coated tubular uprights (spacer rods) are made from aircraft-grade 2014A (HE15) aluminium due to its good machining characteristics and lightweight, yet high strength supportive capabilities.

The BetaBase is modular and comes as a starter pack, which has the first level with spikes, or feet and top caps. Further levels can be added, with the uprights being ordered in 130, 155, 205, 255 and 305mm heights, depending on equipment dimensions.

Sound quality

In direct comparison to a high-quality solid wood – but non-hi-fi – support, the Audiophile BetaBase dramatically outperformed the sturdy furniture-grade table with superior timing. Bass lines to The Carpenters' *Yesterday Once More* snapped into focus with a wonderful lyrical flow to the music. Karen Carpenter's peerless vocals expanded and spread wide into the listening room, gaining extra depth and layering, so that the phrasing of her singing parts became effortless and more convincing.

The same was also true of the improvement in the recorded acoustic when I listened to *Its my Life* by Talk Talk, where low frequencies were wonderfully enunciated with texture, depth and drive.

In another direct comparison, this time with a proper hi-fi table in the form of a matching four-tier Quadraspire Sunoko-Vent equipment rack, the contrast was truly fascinating, as I wasn't expecting

a massive difference. The Quadraspire supported a leaner, more linear delivery with a touch more spatiality to vocals and instruments, which was well evident when playing *Love is a Stranger* and the title from *Sweet Dreams* by the Eurythmics. Indeed this was the same with the Carpenters. However, the BetaBase countered with deeper low-frequency articulation to basslines and drum tracks. Indeed, it was when I tested the BetaBase with the 1965 Elgar Cello Concert in E minor Op.85 (played sublimely by Jacqueline Du Pre) that it really came into its own, giving a deeper, richer and more fluid rendition of the piece, with the cello itself sounding finely textured and the orchestration flowing deeply and effortlessly.

The Audiophile BetaBase is a highly attractive, high-quality hi-fi support. Compared with ordinary furniture tables, it transforms the listening experience, bringing strong, textured bass, clean, detailed midrange and smooth, open treble to your music.



Details: Modular design
priced per level
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BetaBase Apps



BetaBase Frame in Light Oak



BetaBase Frame in Black Oak with Base 01 Platform



BetaBase Frame with Audio Equipment



BetaBase Amplifier Stand



BetaBase Frame with Audio Equipment



BetaBase Speaker Stand