



transmission of structure-borne sound both in the rack and the equally recommendable »Silence Plus« device base.

In our test rack four planes are supported by massive side walls designed using a sophisticated sandwich construction. On the bottom side there are four chrome-plated, height-adjustable spikes to allow for an easy level alignment. By the way, what the picture of the rack does not nearly suggest is its enormous dead weight.

During my trials with very diverse components – from a phono pre to a heavy integrated amplifier to the Clearaudio Performance – there wasn't a single device that would not respond in a positive way. The comprehensibly changing details such as the gain in acoustical fine structure, the clearer contoured bass lines, the spatial firmness and the greater dynamic range can be summed up in one word: naturalness.

The price for the rack (review model: 8,990 EUR) seems to be incomprehensibly high only until you experience it »in action«. To me the SMD Ambitious has definitely component status.

Olaf Sturm ■

Support Point

For music listeners racks seldom play a priority role – cables, power supply and maybe also absorber feet come first. And indeed, I didn't take notice of the young company from Düsseldorf named Thixar because I would have been shopping for new device parking spots, but during a demonstration by Audionet at the CES 2015. Until that time I had thought to know the components inside out. However, neither the speakers nor the wiring delivered the reason for the convincing resolution, the three-dimensionality and the rendering of the smallest details, but Thixar's SMD Ambitious rack.

Customers can choose between one and four floors and pick one of ten colours. Yet the secret behind the sound

promoting effect is not obvious. Upon a closer look one will recognise that each floor consists of two plates the upper one of which rests on a gel layer. It was com-

Thixar is a maker of solid, visually appealing high-end furniture.

pany owner Dirk Rüdell's goal to inhibit any transmission of structure-borne sound from the base into the direction of the component. To this end he set out to experiment with various recesses, materials and designs. Until in a completely different context he got his hands on a special gel, which now prevents the

| Thixar SMD Ambitious Rack | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Rack | 8.990 Euro |
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