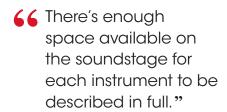
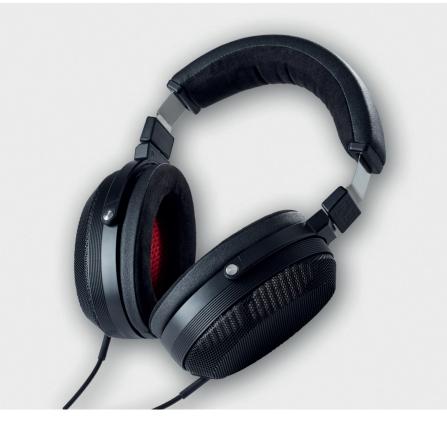


hi-fi+ HIGHLY COMMENDED 2021

HEADPHONE OF THE YEAR **T+A Elektroakustik Solitaire P-SE**







+A's Solitaire P-SE are a planar-magnetostatic design, just like the Solitaire P. The 110 x 80mm oval transducer is based on the single-row magnet array of the Solitaire P's TPM3100 transducer – but here it features entirely new filters and membrane. Dubbed TPM2500, the transducer's neodymium magnets are carefully shaped and matched in length to suit the shape of the diaphragm – the intention is to negate air turbulence and maintain consistent airflow. The ear cushions feature allergen-free velour and synthetic leather at the point of contact and are designed to keep the listener, listening. The detachable connecting cable runs to both earcups, and it's of oxygen-free copper with a silver layer – the sheath shielding the line is robust, and about as resistant to tangling as these things ever get. As standard, the Solitaire P-SE comes with both a cable terminating in a 6.3mm barrel jack and an alternative ending in a 4.4mm Pentaconn connector. If that doesn't suit your purposes, the 4.4mm cable set can be swapped for a lead terminating in a four-pin XLR connector.

Simon Lucas was extremely impressed by the Solitaire P-SE. "Theirs is a startlingly spacious and open presentation, one which manages to put appreciable distance between each element of a recording without making them sound in any way estranged from each other. There's enough space available on the soundstage for each instrument to be described in full. Also,

the Solitaire P-SE do outstanding work in reporting on the harmonic dynamics that make the leading edge of each strum or keypress distinct. The co-dependence of bass and drums is explicit, allowing the timing to seem natural and unforced."

He loved the accuracy, too. "It's the coherence of the T+A presentation that is, perhaps, the single most winning aspect of the Solitaire P-SE sound. The lowest frequencies are resonant, textured, packed with momentum and yet rigorously controlled." In fact, they could be too accurate, "It's possible to mistake their balance and evenhandedness for reticence initially. Not for long, though."

Reviewed in Issue 193

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