



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



“There’s enough space available on the soundstage for each instrument to be described in full.”

T+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 key-press 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 even-handedness for reticence initially. Not for long, though.” **+**

Reviewed in Issue **193**

T+A Elektroakustik | ta-hifi.de