



ACCESSORY OF THE YEAR

Lateral LAS-4 Integral equipment stand | Reviewed in Issue 173

The Lateral LAS-4 Integral is a two-to-five tier equipment support system that uses a combination of oak-veneered machined birch ply/mystery lightweight wood platforms with machined solid oak legs. Each of these platforms is CNC milled not only for the basic shape of the platform, but to mill out the two crescent shaped spaces cut into the centre of the platform, which are designed to lower resonance and vibration (the ideas come from the aerospace industry, in particular how modern jet engines manage to be both more fuel efficient and quieter using similar anti-vibration techniques).

There's a stated goal of Lateral to help bring out the best from reasonably priced audio equipment, and the Lateral system achieves that goal almost perfectly. In our test, we felt that "there's a lightness of touch to the sound; not insubstantial (in fact bass is clear, distinct, and deep), but deft and fleet-of-foot. The sense of rhythm is entirely unconstrained and the stand helps bring out the best of that aspect in any component it rests upon." The stand's improvements to imaging were also noted, "It was more spacious too, although the platform doesn't fill in the blanks creating a soundstage where there is just a wall of sound." In other words, this is a lot more than just another stand!

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