



Bassocontinuo AEON X

WINNER
EQUIPMENT SUPPORT

Established in 2008 in Bergamo, Italy, Bassocontinuo has built a reputation for creating high-end vibration-dampening equipment support systems. The AEON X, is a part of the company's latest Revolution X line. Unlike high-mass platforms that attempt to damp any vibration by creating a solid barrier between the system and the outside world, the AEON X relies on the flexion and compliance of its materials to mitigate vibration effects. It's a design philosophy reminiscent of Colin Chapman's maxim: "Simplify, then add lightness." This design philosophy demands a set of washers, collets, and damping pads, to visco-elastically connect the solid steel uprights to carbon-fibre cross-members, but unlike one of Chapman's Lotus cars, these parts don't fall off!

“There's less of that electronic background hash or brashness, imaging is improved, bass tightens and deepens... the works.



Setting new standards

If the AEON X is necessarily complicated to construct, once it's built, it stays built. As Alan Sircom says of the AEON X in our test, "It sets new standards. Normally, this works in the over-used 'quieter silences' manner, and while the AEON X does that, it's the stand's delivery of leading edges and the overall coherence. He felt that highlighted the significance the impact of vibration has on a system, especially systems that include tube amplifiers and turntables. However, Alan also said, "the performance 'bump' is consistent across the board with the AEON X; your system sounds more integrated and coherent and can be played louder and quieter without complaint. The 'loud' part came as no surprise, as an equipment support system that takes on vibration will help most when there's a lot of air moving around. But the late-night, low-volume improvement was entirely unexpected. Volume controls – even the best ones – get inconsistent and uneven at whisper-quiet levels. Still, when sitting on the AEON X, there seems like more resolution and scope available to the listener."

Alan added that "Played at normal listening levels through your existing system, more music comes through the loudspeakers. There's less of that electronic background hash or brashness, imaging is improved, bass tightens and deepens... the works." He also noted, "the solidity of instrument sounds within a 'right-sized' soundstage is a consistent AEON X trait, irrespective of what rests upon its carbon fibre shelves. Yes, the more 'turntable' or 'tubular' the component, the more immediately noticeable this effect becomes. But it improves the sound consistently." The price of the AEON X likely means it will partner the best electronics but, in closing, Alan said, "Those components already deliver stellar performance, but the AEON X will take them to the next level. And if one of those components is either a turntable or has tubes, prepare to be amazed!"

Reviewed in Issue **231**

Bassocontinuo • bassocontinuo.biz