





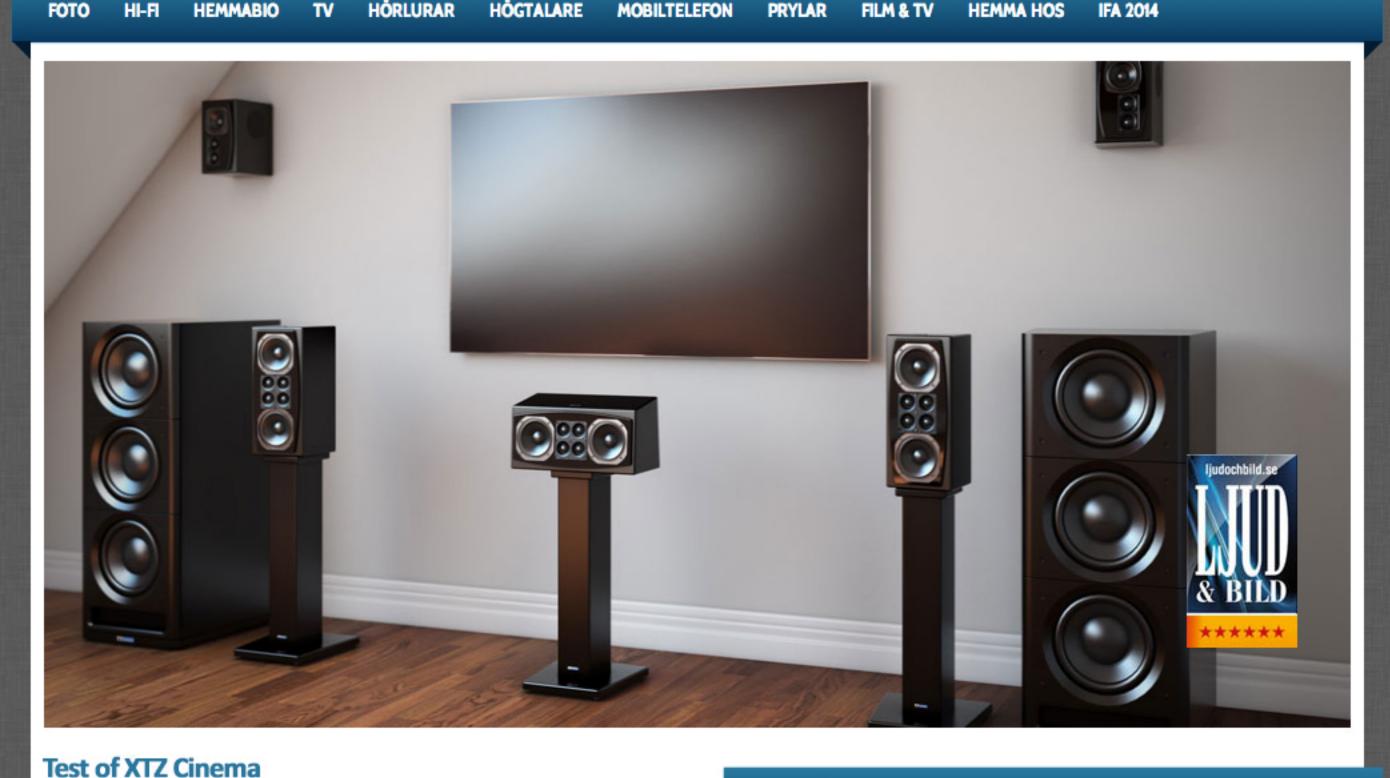


PRENUMERATION

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KONTAKTA OSS

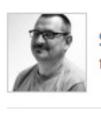
MEDIAPLAN



# **Home Theater**

## on a Budget XTZ Cinema is the best home theater speaker systems we've heard that is still affordable!

Sven Bilen 9. september 2014



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extremely powerful - and that's an understatement.

This speaker system is a hit. It performs at a reference level of

▼ Tweeta ⟨ 0

Kommentarer (3)

### sound quality and dynamics at a price tag where we thought it was impossible. It is simply great. The biggest subwoofer is

**PLUS** 

**MINUS** The speakers require some initial playing time, especially the treble. Listen to a well played system before you decide. The manual is fairly messy, it can be made better.

something special.

At the end of last year Audun Hage tested a surround speaker system that almost took his breath away. He gave six stars on all parameters and was completely overwhelmed. Audun knows surround speaker systems, so then you have the system, which was the new Kreisel speaker system, was

But a lot can happen in a year. The cooperation between the engineering

firm that represented the basic design and Kreisel himself ended, and

Swedish XTZ, known for stereo speakers with often very good price /

performance ratio, came in as a new partner to the engineering firm. The design was optimized at several points, the production moved, the price was pushed and eventually the speaker system XTZ Cinema Series, which is the system we're testing here. It premiered at the prototype stage at this year's CES in Las Vegas and the attention was great from the industry. Rightly so! **Optimization** There has been some very visible design changes. First, the four tweeters in

the front and center channels has been placed in the center of the speaker,

For the surround speaker there are now only two tweeters and the speaker's

physical size has been optimized to to perform better. It has also revised the

### which is quite logical, in my opinion, given that further optimize the dispersion from the speakers. They call it the d'Appolito plus quattro array.

surround sound system.

the Kreisel systems.

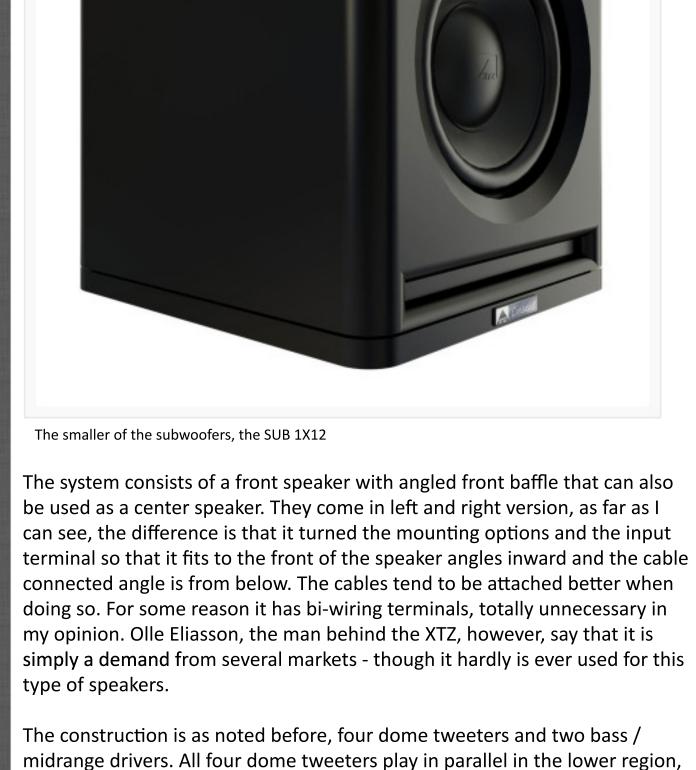
filter and put in better internal cables. Aesthetics are also redesigned, the cabinets have become slightly larger with a sleek and front baffle and cloth grilles with magnetic mounting, and the build quality of all speakers are of truly high standard. I have had other speaker manufacturers on visit and they have approved to build quality of the speakers and construction. Already when unpacking the speakers you can see the high quality and thought behind it, truly high class. I'm

impressed, it really gives absolutely no impression of being an affordable

All speakers meets the requirements of THX Ultra II specifications, but to cost

something else that also has changed - the system is now much cheaper than

reasons, they have chosen not to certify the speakers. And yes, the price is



dome tweeter and one bass / midrange driver of the same type as the front / center speakers are complemented by two full range drivers directed to either side. For active subwoofers, there are two models to choose from, one with one 12-inch driver and one with three 12-inch elements. The subwoofer will we get back to shortly.

The manual is messy, most of the information is there but it is difficult to read, there is clearly room for improvement. I chose to start by placing the

speakers about where the JBL Synthesis system I tested last winter was

the center in the middle of about 50 cm in front of the screen.

placed. This means that the rear speakers were driven as 3D dipole on the side walls just behind the listening position and about 160 cm on the wall, the fronts on either side of the screen with about 20 cm to the rear wall and

I tried first with a manual adjustment of speaker positions and levels in my

then three of them rolls of and one tweeter continuous all the way up taking on the uppermost peak. The rear surround speakers can be used in several ways. Either as "regular" speaker (front firing), dipole or "3D-dipole". Two

### processor, later to make the entire room correction. It is a very good system already with quick settings, but with room correction is becomes extremely good, simply.

Construction

speakers who are not necessarily similarly constructed. But the important thing is that all speakers sound the same, thus giving the same sound character. With the amplifier built broad spectrum test sound you can hear the different channels and if they sound the same. It tends to be quite large variations, but the XTZ Cinema Series is unusually matched well with what you hear from the front and rear channels. **Movies and music** I tried first the concert videos from the guitar hero Jeff Beck at Ronnie Scott's

and Mnozil Brass, who is a seven-piece brass ensemble based in Austria that mixes humor and musical virtuosity in a fantastic mix. I've seen them live and

The quick setting truly performs nice and both concerts may properly

high-class reproduction. Unexpectedly good! But, with room correction in

hear generally much brass due to my son is a trombonist.

Here I will also add, that the surround system as we know consists of several

place shows XTZ Cinema sound reproduction that I simply did not think was possible from a surround sound system in this price range. It is tuned to play with a naturalness and not least as a natural representation of the audience and surround environment to me in pure amazement. I was glued and sat through the whole two concerts again because, even though I have seen it many times before. It has never sounded this good before. Good - or perhaps this is the reality how it should sound.

Prometheus and any movie where it is driving a car, in this case, it was Fast

spectacular, speech intelligibility was also great and naturalness striking. The

stage in every way. The resolution is surprisingly good, which means that the

dispersion is remarkably good, it becomes a large sound and a large sound

sound image breathe properly. It is quiet when it should be quiet, so that

What happens is quite interesting - no matter what I put on, I was stuck

As for the film I usually try with the introduction to The Dark Knight,

matching. It was not just that it was spectacular when it would be

and Furious (who has quite exaggerated effects in general).

effects and music just sounds better. Not to mention the dialogue. To mess with the system I also tried a stand-up show with Billy Connolly, Scottish speech and laughing and cheering crowd can put speech recognition to the test. XTZ Cinema Series did not hesitate at all, here I was on the spot in the hall and just sat and enjoyed and every syllable that was carved in wood. Truly impressive and outstanding considering the price of the speakers.



I tested the system a week with my own powerful subwoofer and when I

## received one of the first of two complete copies of the large subwoofer I ran through all the movies and music examples again. The largest subwoofer is 117 cm high and has three 12-inch element with

affordable money.

Oh my god what a subwoofer!

adjust-ability you can wish for. And yes, compared to my own highly powerful subwoofer we can take a long step further here. Thus, this is pure awesome.

With three times 12-inch subwoofer drivers in the system, I get the real feeling that I am sitting in a "real" movie. It has never moved so much air in the bass region in my room before. It's long throw but still quick drivers, I tried to put my hand on a membrane at a proper transient and it felt like a

500 watts of amplification each. It is great! There is a simple pre-dotted and

marked setting so it can be used as a THX subwoofer, but also all the

rebound from an automatic weapon. It's as if all air in the room moved, not just a subwoofer that stands and pushes air. Truly impressive - and violently like it's crazy. You jump involuntarily in the chair and is amazed by the

pressure of the impact.

However, the way the air moves is still controlled and in line with the rest of the presentation. This is furious competent. And yet you get those close to shock dynamic transients that movie producers love to post. You do not need a butt kicker, believe me. And even though it says the Cabinet as a cast large

booth on the floor. It has done much to stiffen and stabilize the cabinet, it shows indeed. The strange thing is that it actually also works on music, much better than I

expected. Normally this type movie subwoofers are not so happy to play

music and get easily crude and insensitive, but I cannot complain at all about what the three 12-inch drivers and a total of 1500 watts are performing here. It's a bit like Schwarzenegger trying to dance ballet - and actually succeeds.

Highly interesting...

Conclusion XTZ Cinema Series is a very well constructed and great sounding speaker system that simply sets new standards for price / performance ratio for these kinds of systems. It is extremely well done. I have not much to object to, go

and listen for yourself and be surprised by how good it can get for actually

**GRADE** 

Sound quality

**Functionality** 

**Usability** Quality \*\*\* **FACTS** 

- Frequency range 75 Hz 30 kHz
- Sensitivity 89 dB Price \$1000 / €750

Front speaker M6

4 Dome tweeters

2 Bass/Midrange drivers

- **Surround Speaker S5**
- 1 Front mounted bass/mdrange driver
- 2 side mounted broadband drivers
- Sensitivity 87 dB Price \$700 / €500
- **Subwoofer SUB3X12** 3 12 inch bass drivers with 500 W power aplification each

2 front mounted dome tweeters

Frequency range 80 Hz - 30 kHz

XTZ

XTZ

**Subwoofer SUB1X12** 1 12 inch bass driver with 500 W power amplification

Price \$2500 / €2000

Price \$1100 / €800

Manufacturer:

Importer:

- **Price (5.1 set):** \$6900/€5250 or \$5500/€4050