



You can unscrew the tweeter assembly, rotate it and turn the 99.25, quite literally, into a centre channel

XTZ 99.25 | Bookshelf Speakers | ₹1,24,300

In a relationship with the X

FOR Superb balance, detailed midrange, airy treble, tight bass

AGAINST You just get two for that price, we want more

We have to give it to them. The Swede's know a thing or two about audio.

We've seen many beautifully designed products that sound equally wonderful or better.

One such offering is from a lesser known company in India called XTZ. Located in Torup, Sweden, XTZ offers a range of products available through its Indian distributor Chennai-based Surround Swar.

The speakers in front of us today are from the higher-end 99 series of XTZ. Weighing in at a whopping 10kgs, our review units of the 99.25 came in a gloss black finish that you could keep ogling at. It's almost as if we have a little crush on these simple and elegant classy beauts. Who wouldn't? The build is top-notch as you would expect from something that costs upwards of the ₹1.2 lac mark and a quick check reveals these comprise thick walls made from MDF, which are at least 16mm thick to be absolutely precise. There's also a dollop of damping material applied that should reduce backward radiated sound.

Turning infatuation to love is the lovely ribbon tweeter from Fountek that is paired with a 6.5in mid-bass driver from SEAS. The ribbon cone has a thickness of 18 microns and the magnet system is a two-row high-efficient neodymium offering moulded in a chassis of ceramic carbon steel. The SEAS

mid-bass unit is made from high purity, die-cast and machined magnesium cones and each cone is machined from one solid piece of magnesium.

Still not in love? Well, the versatility of the speaker might win you over. Around the back, you'll find bi-wiring options the screw terminals of which are gold plated. But here's where XTZ offers more. Apart

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from the supplied plug that can be used to close the bass reflex port, there are jumpers on the back that can be used to adjust the tweeter to tailor the sound to the kind of room you are in.

The star of the show here is well, the harmony of the two units. The tweeter and mid-bass combo manage to produce a magnificently balanced sound that you'd normally get from units slightly more expensive. The two complement each other wonderfully.

Higher frequencies are handled really well and don't sound unpleasant when pushed hard. There is enough detail on offer and the output is a finely carved

sound. Play a bit of Adele and the vocals are delivered with emotions intact, while the mid-bass also supplies sufficient low end to complement the wonderful vocals in a track such as *I Miss You*.

The 99.25 are capable of quite a wide soundstage as well. With some careful positioning (away from the walls and slightly toed-out of the sweet spot) demanding tracks like *9 Crimes* by Damien Rice come into their own and are beautifully presented, layer after layer of detail unfolding in front of you.

We have hardly anything to complain about here. If there has to be pointer, it would be the 99.25's disagreeable nature with MP3s. You make that mistake and the XTZs don't forgive you for your bad judgement. Feed these only the best you have to offer and enjoy a sound that's well rounded and balanced.

These are speakers best enjoyed with a nice glass of whatever poison you like and a playlist that won't end.

WHAT HI-FI? Says

VERDICT A versatile and well built pair of bookshelf speakers, the budget for which if you have, there is no where else you should put your money

TECH SPECS

Construction Type: 2-way
Midrange / Woofer driver: 1x 6.5in cone driver (Magnesium, natural rubber)
Frequency Response: 45 - 40,000Hz
Nominal impedance: 4 - 8 Ohm
Sensitivity: 87 dB
Power Handling: 300W
Dimensions: 202 x 370 x 320mm (W x H x D) **Weight:** 10Kg



Official XTZ stands are available for an extra ₹17,800