

The 2023 AXPONA Show: Robert Harley on Electronics

- SHOW
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Cabasse Abyss Amplifier

One of the most remarkable demos at this AXPONA wasn't with one of the show's biggest systems, but with one of its smallest. French speaker maker **Cabasse** showed its **Abyss "High-Resolution Connected Active Amplifier,"** a 120Wpc integrated amplifier with built-in streaming. What's special about the Abyss is the DSP processing inside that can greatly improve the sound of any speaker, most dramatically with models from Cabasse. The DSP allows you to tell the system where your loudspeakers are positioned relative to room boundaries and the DSP will adjust the frequency response for smoother bass. You can also adjust the tonal balance with the integral tilt controls. But here's the best part: When used with a passive Cabasse speaker, the amplifier will engage a DSP program specific to that speaker to smooth out response. The frequency profiles of a wide range of Cabasse speakers are programmed into the Abyss; you just select which one to engage. The DSP filter has 30 bands, allowing for very precise adjustment. Non-Cabasse speakers benefit from a generic DSP algorithm. In addition, the Abyss has a patented processing algorithm called Dynamic Fidelity Enhancer (DFE) that analyzes the signal's dynamics and level in real time and modifies the signal to restore the music's dynamics and bass extension at low listening levels. Price: \$1795.