

BRYSTON

A Lifetime of Music

MEMO: To All Bryston Customers

SUBJECT: Bryston @ Toronto Audio Show – Demo Room



Bryston Model T Active Loudspeaker System at TAVES 2016

Canadian affordable high-end audio electronics and speaker maker Bryston chose TAVES 2016 to debut the third iteration of its towering flagship Model T speaker system, one that's based on a dedicated electronic crossover.

The company contends that many active speaker systems are compromised because inferior built-in preamps and amps are used. Its solution is the Model T Active, which uses a brand-new external electronic crossover—the BAX1—that allows the customer to choose the amps they use to power the flagship Model T speakers. All you need are three channels of equal-gain amplification per speaker and you are in business.



Bryston's Model T speakers go active.

You get to choose the amps you use with the Model T active, but at TAVES 2016 Bryston went with it's own amps.



At the show, Bryston made the unsurprising decision to power its flagship speakers using its own amplifiers. A pair of Bryston 7B³ monoblock amplifiers (\$5700 CAD each) handled the bass department, and a pair of 3B³ stereo amps (\$5000 CAD) were used to power the midrange and tweeter arrays.



Reproducing well-recorded opera with a properly positioned and proportioned soundstage is a challenging task for any speaker system. If speakers can't pull off three-dimensional imaging they will fail to present the soundstage as appearing to come from a stage in an opera hall. If they do succeed, the reward is a captivating and believable sense of immersion.

"Carmen Habanera Fantasia" on Producer's Choice, Vol. 1, was very impressive, painting an aural picture that was wide, deep, involving, and appropriately grand. I'm not one to listen to the genre in my spare time, but I'll certainly be using this track to evaluate speakers in reviews. Crucially, all the elements of the recording—voices and instruments—gelled into a cohesive whole with the Model T Actives.

"On Patrol (From Paths of Glory)", on 2001 (Music from the films of Stanley Kubrick) contains some 24 Hz percussive bass that the Model T Actives reproduced in an impressively effortless manner; when I arrived home last night after flying home from Toronto I played the same track on a system with dual JL F112 subs and found the impact was much like what I heard at the show just a few hours earlier. Christy Moore's "So Do I" from the folk album This Is The Day provided an opportunity to hear well-recorded and produced acoustic guitar accompanied by male vocals. It's a textbook perfect acoustic recording with zero artifice, and the Bryston system handled it perfectly.



"Alone Together" by Chet Baker from The Art Of The Ballad offered a taste of how well the system handles sax, flute, and trumpet. It was delicious, subtle, with texture galore and a "perfect" soundstage that was suited to the style. Then, Oscar Peterson's "You Look Good to Me" sealed the deal—these speakers make me happy when I listen to them.

Aside from the tracks already mentioned, the demo included some audio show staples, which was handy because these tracks act as an intra-system point of reference when at a show. I may be sick of hearing these tracks, but I'm also deeply familiar with them at this point. Stevie Ray Vaughn's audio show staple, "Tin Pan Alley (AKA Roughest Place in Town)" and Nils Lofgren's "Bass and Drum Intro" handled the "sounds live, great dynamics, and these speakers can in fact image well" aspects of convincing show-goers of the Model T Active's value.



You can only gauge so much from a show demo, but I can't really spot a flaw in these active towers. To my ears, Bryston's move to add an active crossover option to its flagship towers is a success. I count their refined presentation among my favorite listening experiences the show.

P.S., While the new active crossover is currently programmed specifically to work with the towers, since it's software-based the potential exists to employ it with other speaker systems. James Tanner, VP of sales and marketing at Bryston said the company is thinking about doing exactly that.

**Mark Henninger,
AVS Forum**