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BIG, HEAVY AND EFFECTIVE

There are more and more anti-vibration accessories that appear on the market, said to improve sound quality. And so we got a very massive construction made by Pro Audio Bono company from Mysiadło. We „listened to it” and were impressed

We already had the opportunity to get acquainted with the PAB platform (AV 10-11/2010). That product, characterized by its unique construction, fared exceptionally well in our listening tests. Władysław Skrzypczak, a geographer and audiophile, designed since a vast amount of prototypes of other accessories, with the new model of platform – B&H – taking the lead.

HOW IS IT MADE

The name is an abbreviation of the words big and heavy, what is a good description of what we deal with. It cannot be denied, that the platform is big, however the word ‘mighty’ would be even better fitting. It occupies more space than some power amplifiers. The construction is based on the standard version, which – I’ll just remind you – is composed of two plywood shelves; one being the plinth, while the second, identical one, ‘floats’ above it. To achieve this, four strings were used, supported by pulleys mounted in brass funnels (the material is not sound neutral!) – one in each corner of the platform. Those funnels are columns extruding from the platform and diminishing the maximum size of the unit that can be placed

on it. The constructor decided also, that the thickness of the plywood shelves is not sufficient. So the idea of putting the standard platform ‘upside down’ was born, as well as placing it between two, much thicker plates of hardwood plywood. This resulted in significant increase of the mass and size of the whole platform. The central platform, with the known suspension system, is not permanently connected to the top and bottom plate. It is being placed upside down on a three layer plywood base with holes milled for the funnels, and then is covered with a two layer plywood top (the edges have an extra layer) with external dimensions of 57 by 46 cm. Owners of the standard platform can upgrade it to the B&H version, what is a big asset of the whole concept. The base of the platform has threaded holes, where ingenious metal feet with adjustable thread were mounted. Their main characteristic is the use of a self-aligning bearing, what means in practice, that the bottom part of the feet (the ring) adapts to the foundation, always placing itself parallel to it.

SOUND

There is one reason, that I decided to describe this, somewhat unpractical platform (due to its size) – but a fundamental one. Namely, I verified it many times, that you listen to music in a much more engaging and comfortable way when using it – regardless of what kind of music it is, and regardless the quality of the recording. I realize that it is a broad statement, but it is exactly how – in a very broad and general way – the changes are, which the B&H platform introduces. To make things clear, I should add, that the reference point was the modular rack from Quadraspire (MDF shelves connected by threaded steel tubes).

Instead of improving one or two aspects of the presentation, we get a sound, which ‘sticks together’ much better, is finished better and is much more spacious. Very interesting and intriguing were, in the test system, the changes in the midrange. The sound became thicker, had more shape and texture, was less sharp, encouraging more daring operations with the volume, which – in consequence – resulted in an intensified ‘live’ effect: subjectively better dynamics and more fluent timbre. Also the perception of rhythm and timing was improved. The urge to move your feet, or even the whole body, became much stronger. With classical recordings we could also notice an increase in clarity of the upper registers. How big are those changes then? Well, on Saturday I listened to the Briston DAC I was currently reviewing with a dedicated transport BDP-1 (review will appear soon) and I was more than happy. Then I removed the platform from under the DAC. Everything got worse; I lost interest in the listening of music. Placing the platform back returned all the homogeneity and special flavors lost when it was removed...

OUR OPINION

Reviews of accessories are often treated with the tongue in cheek. However, the case of PAB B&H shows clearly, that it really does matter where you place high quality audio electronics upon. B&H placed only under one component (eg. the sound source) can significantly improve the sound of the whole system. Owners of systems costing thousands of euros should really try out this really unique platform, before they start exchanging cables for yet another, more expensive ones. The price is comparable. And the effect? It might be significantly better! ■

Manufacturer	ProAudioBono, www.proaudiobono.pl
Price	3860-4660 zł

Specifications

Construction	two plywood shelves, two suspended ply hardwood platforms, PAB self adjustable feet
Dimensions	570 x 460 x 205 mm
Mass	over 20 kg