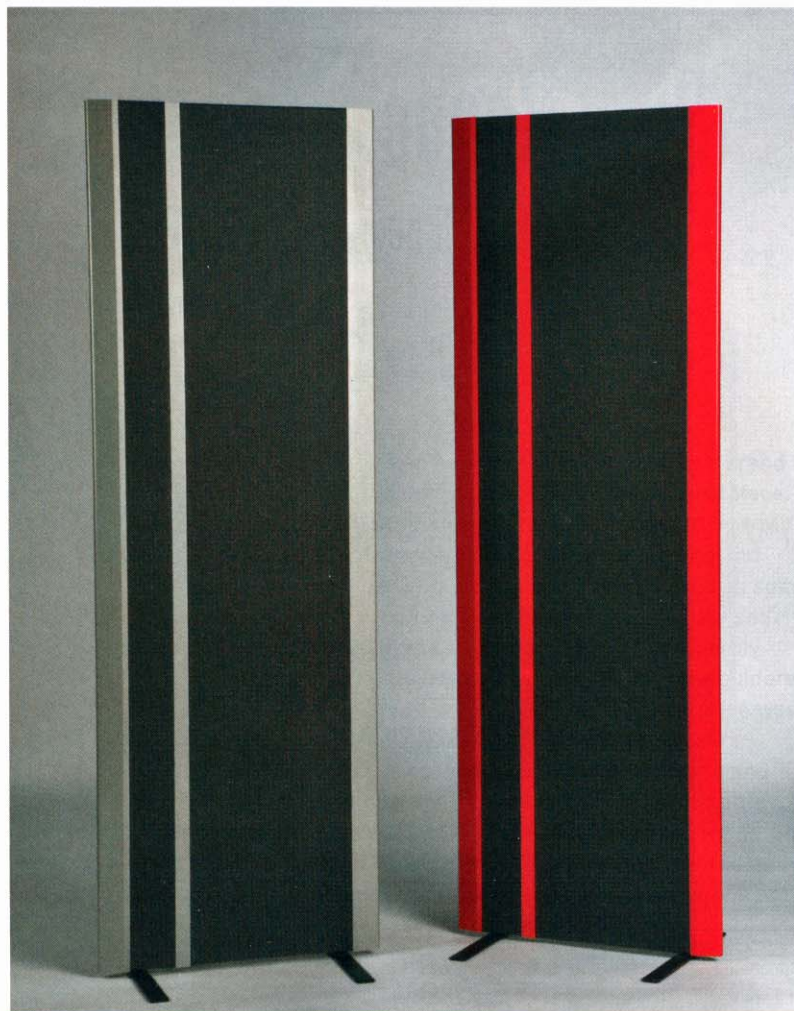


Mid-Priced Dynamic GoldenEar Technology Triton One

\$4995

GoldenEar Technology has garnered a well-deserved reputation for creating great-sounding, highly affordable loudspeakers. Now the company has gone upscale with the \$4995 Triton One, the company's most ambitious effort. The Triton One is built around the GoldenEar's tried-and-true technologies, including powered oval-shaped woofers (now under DSP control), passive radiators, and a custom folded-ribbon tweeter. The low-diffraction cabinet contributes to the Triton One's remarkable ability to throw a wide and stable soundstage with appropriate image size and scale. Don't be fooled by its relatively modest proportions; this loudspeaker goes far lower in the bass, and with much more dynamic impact, than you'd think. But that's not even the Triton One's strongest suit. This loudspeaker has tremendous speed, clarity, and resolution in the midrange, matched to a very smooth and detailed top end. Anthony Cordesman concluded: "The Triton Ones are one of the best buys in speakers I've had the chance to hear at anything like their price." We couldn't agree more. (246)

FLOORSTANDING LOUDSPEAKERS OF THE YEAR



Mid-Priced Planar Magnepan 3.7i

\$5995

The Magnepan 3.7i, like not a few of its predecessors, offers a superbly coherent sound and lifelike imaging. But where it sets a new bar for planar loudspeakers is in its dynamic power and smooth treble, both areas that were somewhat problematic in the past. To listen to the ease and sinuousness with which the 3.7i reproduces piano or vocals is nothing short of revelatory. Whatever crossover changes Magnepan has effected—and they are clearly quite significant, as the number of current-robbing capacitors and coils is drastically reduced from earlier models—have audibly lowered the noise floor, allowing fine details to emerge with much greater clarity. The reduction in electronic grain also enhances the 3.7i's dynamic alacrity and punch. Perhaps the most welcome change is that the ribbon tweeter, always amazingly transparent but somewhat overly exuberant, now has a rather blissful and seductive character. All of this has been accomplished while, in true Magnepan fashion, keeping a firm lid on the price. Is the 3.7i, then, a value? Hardly. It's a steal. (247)