



EQUIPMENT STAND OF THE YEAR

Lateral Audio LAS-9 Cadenz

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At first glance, LAS-9 Cadenz is very much the traditional modular equipment stand, with four screw-in tubular uprights at the corner of each platform, with contrasting finials for the top plate and spikes at the bottom. You can choose anything from two to five tiers, with 120mm, 160mm, 220mm and 280mm uprights to accommodate anything from narrow DACs to chunky power amps. It will hold up to 25kg per level on the upper tiers and 35kg on the lowest level. The vicious looking LAS Counterpoint spikes and optional full set of spikes and feet finish the look.

Looks can be deceptive, however. There are a lot of clever techniques used to help dissipate vibrational energy. Those uprights, for example, are not simply well-finished tubes, but end with a Delrin cap to reduce any hysteresis effects those uprights might introduce. Then, if you flip over one of the platforms, a pattern that Lateral calls its ‘Dissipation Array’ is cut deep into the underside of the board itself effectively ‘wicks’ vibrational energy away from the device that sits on the platform.

In his test, Alan Sircom drew some comparisons between the LAS-9 Cadenz and the LAS-4 Lateral stand that started the Lateral ball rolling. “It imparts much of the same ‘light, precise and quiet’ performance of the LAS-4 Lateral,” he said, “but scaled to match the kind of products you might expect to place in three-tier stand at this price.” In absolute terms, however, it is still extremely impressive. Alan said, “Lateral brings the innate character of the equipment to the fore. If there is a tonal ‘signature’ it is an open, clear midband precision. The Lateral LAS-9 Cadenz also digs deep into the bass, but there is no sense of enforcing a rhythm or emphasising the upper bass to simulate or enhance timing effects; the LAS-9 Cadenz is far too honest for that.”

He summed up by saying, “The Lateral LAS-9 Cadenz should be one of the main ‘go to’ equipment stands... Best of all, for such users, the LAS-9 Cadenz looks like an ordinary equipment rack even if it performs far, far better.” +

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