



ACCESSORY OF THE YEAR IsoAcoustics zaZen I/II

IsoAcoustics' zaZen is a black lacquered high-density fibreboard platform that has dimensions of 43x38x3cm and change, with a foot screwed into all four corners. The foot itself has a slightly sticky black termination stuff (you can put the platform on almost anything and it will remain immobile, but not stuck fast) and a disc of – un-named – red stuff, that allows a degree of flexibility in all planes. Why 'stuff'? The material composition of these vibration-reduction materials is a closely guarded secret. The feet act as isolation, preventing most ground-based vibration from passing through to the platform itself.

The difference between zaZen I and II ultimately comes down to the II being 4mm taller and mass of the product that is going to sit on the platform; the I tops out at 25lbs/11.3kg while the II can cope with the huskier product with a 40lbs/18.1kg

mass. Beyond that, and you are looking at IsoAcoustics Delos platforms and OREA isolators, which give you a theoretical maximum product weight of 192lbs/87kg.

In Alan Sircom's test of the zaZen I and II, he felt they both "bestow a sense of calm upon the products they support, allowing important aspects like soundstage to expand to their rightful size. Low frequencies – especially low frequencies on turntables – are especially well catered for." He added that the effect is significant on turntables and valve amps, "Here, the impact of a zaZen is more about midrange and high-frequency clarity... There is improvement with headphone amps, streamers, phono stages and solid-state in general, but the effects are more subtle. I tried it on a range of products and at a range of prices from the relatively inexpensive up to the nursery slopes of 'sharp intake of breath' and the improvements were still noticeable."

He summed up the zaZen approach; "IsoAcoustics zaZen models help reduce ground-borne vibration; you put the zaZen on a shelf, put a product on the zaZen... and that's it. Aside from some care in selecting the right model for the weight of the product, the job is done. And it works, too." +

Reviewed in Issue **198**

IsoAcoustics | isoacoustics.com

“ I tried it on a range of products and at a range of prices from the relatively inexpensive up to the nursery slopes of 'sharp intake of breath' and the improvements were still noticeable.”

