

Baby driver

Combining the experience of its high-end designs, Wilson Audio introduces the TuneTot standmount – its most affordable loudspeaker

PRICE: £10,998 **AVAILABLE:** NOW
CONTACT: 0208 9713909 **WEB:** ABSOLUTESOUNDS.COM

WILSON AUDIO IS perhaps best known for its high-end floorstanding loudspeaker designs with their uncompromising levels of performance and money-no-object designs. We've been lucky enough to experience some of the brand's extraordinary models at The Hi-Fi Show *Live* showcases run by our sister title *Hi-Fi News*, and the brand is sure to draw eager crowds once again to its UK distributor Absolute Sounds' listening rooms at this year's event running from 10-11 November – advanced tickets on sale now through eventbrite.co.uk.

While it makes some lofty designs right up to the £700,000 WAMM (Wilson Audio Modular Monitor) Master Chronosonic, the TuneTot is the Utah-based company's smallest ever speaker, designed to bring its high sonic standards in a compact form built for tight, awkward, acoustically hostile spaces around the home.

Tiny Tot

Priced at £10,998, TuneTot draws its name and much of its design philosophy from the Wilson Audio Tiny Tot (WATT) – one of its most

iconic loudspeaker designs from the mid-eighties. The asymmetric cabinet design ensures that no two internal surfaces are parallel, to help reduce unwanted reflections. A two-way standmount design, it measures just 377mm tall and uses Wilson's proprietary, ultra-vibration-resistant X- and S-material composites with a 146mm mid/bass driver and 25mm tweeter, and claims 86dB sensitivity into 8ohm. Austenitic stainless-steel spikes isolate the speaker from its environment and provide time-alignment adjustability.

TuneTot is designed to work in tight and acoustically hostile spaces at home

Available finished in quartz, teak, ivory, carbon and crimson, the TuneTot can be customised with ISOBase platforms (£2,398 per pair) to enhance performance when placing the speakers on a resonant surface such as a desktop, for example. Optional grilles are available in slate grey, parchment grey, black, blanco, Le Mans blue and mocha (£335 per pair), and coloured aluminium rings for the mid/bass drivers are also available in steel grey, clear, red or black (£698 per pair) for further customisation options.



Finished in crimson with red TuneTot rings

COMMENT

LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE GIRLS

I'm a member of a lot of audiophile appreciation groups on Facebook and apart from countless photos of Americans proudly smoking cigars in front of their enormous home setups, the other trend that appears on pretty much every thread is comic strips or memes highlighting the plight of the plucky 'hi-fi widow'. You know the sort of thing, you've probably seen it yourself. An image of a husband proudly telling his wife how good his ultra-rare vinyl pressing of a Led Zep album will sound or a nerdy-looking man discussing the intricacies of speaker placement while in both cases the wife looks sadly on wondering where she went wrong with her life that it's come to this...

But in these days of equality where it's finally sunk in that, yes, women do actually like doing some of the same stuff as men and are just as good and in some cases actually superior, is the pursuit for perfect sound still mainly a male one? Anecdotal, at least, it would appear that the answer is still sadly yes.

If hi-fi shows (below) are anything to go by, female audiophiles certainly exist but are very much in the minority. Similarly, our own *Letters* pages are dominated by men and in the last five years the number of queries from women can be counted on one hand. This trend appears to continue in the industry itself, and though there are a number of women across all sectors – from the factory floor constructing equipment to running companies – they are the exception to the rule. Even in the world of reviewing and writing about hi-fi, where things have certainly changed and there are more women than there have been for a long time, this still seems to be very much a male-dominated pursuit.

The strange thing is there's no logic to this. Everyone loves music and there's no biological reason why this should be a male-dominated world. So come on ladies, make your voice heard. *HFC* wants to know you're out there. Get in touch via the *Letters* page and show that it's not just the boys that have a passion for sound. **JDW**



Picture credit: Andrew Sydenham