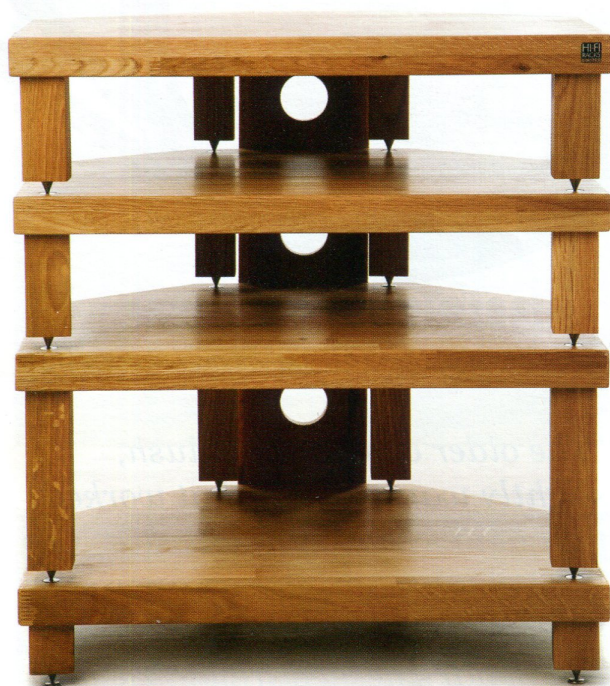


EQUIPMENT REVIEW

Hi-Fi Racks Akorner Reference table

by Alan Sircom



Hi-Fi Racks is one of those rare no-nonsense brands. Built from solid wood, its very much 'furniture' (and nice with it) rather than 'oil rig'. And yet, with simple but effective isolation systems in place between each platform, it does also help keep audio things on an even keel.

The Akorner Reference is a play on words; the standard wood option is oak (hence the 'acorn' bit) and the rear edges are cut away, so it goes into 'a corner'. There's no 'off the shelf' Akorner rack – you choose your platforms, spike colour and legs, maybe increase the width or depth of the whole package or the height between tiers and perhaps opt for a cable management system. However, we went for one of the most commonly selected choices – a four tier with a tall lower platform (ideal for a power amp, especially as each tier can hold 150kg) two similar smaller sized tiers and a cable management panel at the rear. Armed with a craft knife, the whole construction process took approximately 20 minutes from flat-pack to fully built, although in fairness I have built a

Hi-Fi Racks product before and the construction process is almost identical. Two observations from the build; the cable management system needs a large Philips screwdriver (not supplied) for the two mounting screws and this is not listed in the instructions. In fairness though, you'd have to be pretty DIY dense not to see how it works together.

It works seriously well, too. It's solid enough that items placed on the Akorner are given a good solid home. It sort of defeats the object of using the Akorner with very deep products, because they will hang over the edges of the equipment rack, which might not look so spiffy when the rack is in the corner of the room. However, if you align the front of your product with the fronts of the legs of your rack, the back of most players and amplifiers will not hang over the rear. However, those trying to use the Akorner with overlarge products might need to be more careful in their dimensions. The management system is more for décor than for any robust sonic benefit, but it does make things look a bit more tidy (I'd go one stage further and put little loops along the back of the management system to better dress the cables).

Some find the idea of a table having an intrinsic 'sound' absurd, but this kind of wins either way. If you think "it's just a table" then it's a very solid, well-made dedicated equipment support that doesn't cost as much as a small BMW. If you think "what does it sound like?", it's pretty good too in the way all Hi-Fi Racks sound – fundamentally neutral, but with a very mild drive and extension to the bass.

The Hi-Fi Racks Akorner Reference is a good all rounder, designed specifically for corners. It is powerfully well made, easy to put together, doesn't get in the way of the sound at all and looks good in the room too. Highly recommended. +

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Price: from £110 per tier

Available in six finishes

Isolation platform available

Manufactured by: Hi-Fi Racks

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