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## Hsu Research CCB-8



I was excited to finally hear the new CCB-8 bookshelf speakers from Hsu Research. Dr. Hsu was on hand to run through a selection of tracks that demonstrate the abilities of the CCB-8 speakers, and, as a stereo pair, the imaging and dynamic range that they presented was remarkable. Although the room was setup as a 5.1 system, I referenced them as a stereo pair. From the little bit I heard as a 5.1 setup I found the center and surrounds were hardly needed since the CCB-8 pair imaged so well. The CCB-8 speakers use a coaxial driver design. The tweeter is mounted directly behind the woofer and uses the pole piece of the bass driver as the throat of a horn, and the cone of the woofer as the horn mouth. While this design is sometimes seen in pro-audio speakers, it is seldom used in home audio. Legendary speaker scientist Don Keele Jr. aided in the design of the CCB-8 by determining the proper geometry of the horn. As I was leaving the Hsu room, I overheard other guests comment that the CCB-8s sounded far better than speakers many times their price; a sentiment which I heartily agreed with. Hsu also brought along their subwoofers, and we listened to their most modest offering, the new **VTF-1 mk3** which was released late last year. It is a 10" variable-tuned subwoofer using a 250 watt BASH amp, and despite its status as Hsu's smallest sub, it still energized the room with strong bass and backed up the CCB-8s with an authoritative foundation. Even though the CCB-8 speakers and VTF-1 subwoofer were some of the least expensive products at the show, they were still one of the standout exhibits, proving once again that you do not need to spend a fortune to get great sound. After hearing the CCB-8s and VTF-1, I was delighted to be taking them home as a review set. Keep an eye open for our full review of them in the coming months here at Audioholics.