## **Dmitry Snegin**

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I've been interested in acoustics for quite a long time. I've helped many of my friends with building subwoofers and designing home audio systems. I also worked as a live sound engineer for some time.

My first acquaintance with «Nida» started with Ceslovas, whom I met on the elektronika.lt forums. He wrote long and profound passages on loudspeaker design, and that got me interested. Eventually the photos of his system appeared, along with the articles and other information. Little by little my interest piqued and I finally found my way to the system's audition.

The audition lasted little over 4 hours, maybe even more. The first thing that surprised me was the author's preparedness. Instead of the usual "Here's the system, that's the source, and there's your volume knob...", that you encounter in the vast majority of show-rooms; our audition had a well-defined program. We started with a pretty low level - you could even hear the clock ticking in the next room, but as soon as my hearing adapted to it, everything took its rightful place. The tonal balance and the source localization were evaluated at the medium level. At the end we've checked the system's dynamic range at ridiculously high sound level. It is also worth mentioning the high quality treatment of the room the audition took place in.

The main advantage of the "Nida" loudspeaker system is its ability to play any musical genre and material - in other words, its versatility and neutrality. The complex and varied sound of the live big band, subtle female vocals and electronic music – all of it sounds equally good. The system presents precise and revealing monitor sound which lacks nothing and where nothing sticks out - bad recordings will sound bad whereas the good ones will reward you with their best. The designer's philosophy coincides with mine – a loudspeaker system must be active, it should use professional grade components, designed with engineering and common sense in mind, with no snake oil or spacemetal alloys. We had some disputes concerning the number of drivers, and their crossover frequencies; I was expecting some reproduction inaccuracies at the crossover point, with it being in the middle of the most acute range of human hearing, and I was pleasantly surprised when I found none. Professional TAD drivers account for system's high sensitivity which in turn leads to low distortion levels, sound transparency, and extended dynamic range. A unique design axisymmetric high frequency horn is a very bold move. Exquisite exterior design is certainly worth praising, the system was built using the highest quality materials, all the parts were milled on a CNC machine, so they fit perfectly. The loudspeakers give off an impression of stone monoliths; exotic wood panels complement the good looks without affecting the sound.

The essential characteristics of the system:

- 1) Accuracy, which results in precise localization and tonal balance.
- 2) Wide dynamic range combined with high sensitivity and absence of distortion.