

ThivanLabs Eros-9 Anniversary Review

| HIGH-END TEST FLOOR SPEAKERS |



THIVANLABS NOT ONLY MANUFACTURES EXOTIC TUBES BUT ALSO HIGH SENSITIVITY SPEAKERS WITH FUNNELS. WE'RE LISTENING TO THE EROS-9 ANNIVERSARY AND WE'RE THRILLED WITH ITS ACCURACY, BALANCE, AND GRANDNESS!

KEIMENO: PARIS KOTSIS

The Eros series of speakers by ThivanLabs started in 2016 with the model of the same name and in 2018 came the anniversary model of the test with several changes in the points and in order to celebrate the ten years since the foundation of the Vietnamese company.

After four years of success, this outgoing model gives its "lights" to the creation of a whole new series this year, which lists six "heavyweight" models, two of which are base models. The prices of the new Eros series start at 6,200 euros (Eros-5, base with 12 inches), continue to 7,300 euros (Eros-7, floor with 12 inches) and reach 8 thousand with the new Eros-9 Ultra, i.e. the successor of the under test with 15in.

There are also the colossal Eros-12 and 15X with double woofers/cabins and prices above ten thousand. As you can see, the outgoing Eros-9 Anniversary, which is sold as a concept for under 5,000 euros, seems right now and for as long as it will be available as a very good opportunity, since it has already entered the discontinued models of ThivanLabs.

After all, its price was rather "special" for promotional reasons - such superstructures on European soil cost 2-3 times more - and its replacement has minor differences in points, such as the ability to adjust the tweeter level and the higher support base.



The Vietnamese company also makes large open-baffle speakers, giant funnels, wide range monitors and the beastly Grand subwoofer, but with the Eros series it “condenses” its experience into relatively... small-sized cabins, so that they fit easily into its usual living rooms. Europe and the USA.

The series serves the ideals of the ultimate two-way design, with a large paper woofer in a low-reflection cabinet and a 1.4-inch titanium dome tweeter in a compression chamber and funnel loading. It's a standard that few manufacturers bother to try as it poses enough challenges to maintain good continuity between the radically different functions of direct woofer radiation and tweeter funnel loading.

Famous "players" of the genre are the Italian Zingali, the German Blumenhofer and of course - above all - the famous Tannoy. In the case of ThivanLabs' Eros, however, we have something unique as it follows the path of simplicity, with first-order filters and 6dB/octave cutoffs, something... risky as large woofers and funnels tune strongly outside their linear operating ranges.

Nevertheless, our impressions of the Anniversary are very positive and include the complete absence of coloration on the part of the funnel and the large cabin, an extremely balanced frequency response for the genre and considerable ease of driving, ensured by high sensitivity, easy resistance and the simplest separation filter.

Obviously these custom loudspeakers are very special, designed for wide frequency operation so as not to betray the simple design.

HEAVY DUTY!

The Eros-9 Anniversary is visually impressive despite the rectangular cabin, thanks to the high-quality rosewood veneer that dresses it up impeccably even in the most difficult places. The uncluttered look gets points from the invisible screws for mounting the speakers, as this is done from inside the cabin.

The cutouts in the fascia open outwards to facilitate dispersal and are painted satin black, revealing the large thickness of the cabin walls. Its structure is double with internal reinforcements, the thickness of the MDF reaches 5cm and the charging is done with a hole towards the floor, one of the most basic changes compared to the reflexes on the back of the original 2016 model.



But it is not the classic tube loading that presents a high Q but a "tubeless" design with a low Q, that is, with a softer hole resonance in a wider frequency range.

Of course the 5cm thickness of the cabin forms a rudimentary short tube and the low reflection tuning is close to 35Hz, but the bass produced has a different character from

typical bass reflex speakers, quite reminiscent of open baffle speakers without the extension and cancellation problems of last ones.

Of course, for the size of the cabin and the woofer, the specification of 33Hz@-3dB is not impressive on paper and in practice there is "room" low even for a subwoofer, but the bass of the Eros-9 Anniversary is so uncompressed and undistorted that it will need something really colossal to harmoniously fill the first octave, like for example the Grand sister model with the two 18-inches and the external amplifiers.



We listened carefully to the low end of the speaker and found that in some tracks with electric bass and electronic beat it is less emphatic than we remember compared to the middle frequencies, while in some others with big percussion and symphonic music it is more and deeper!

In other words, in Thivan the scale is kept more faithfully and the intense but close frequency tuning of the reflex is simply absent, which sometimes favors and sometimes does not suit the recording depending on the frequency of the bass being reproduced.

The controlled dispersion of the pattern at 90 degrees in both the vertical and horizontal plane defined by the funnel is perfectly matched with that of the large woofer and finally the speaker provides a very wide sweet spot with peak focus, without sounds radiating unnaturally towards the listener, without ambiguities in the huge stage it sets up and without an obvious "shadow" and closing of the space in the upper lows and lower mids from the very wide cabin, that is, in the area where the frequencies start to become directional.

In other words, as excessive as it sounds, the Eros-9 Anniversary perfectly disappears like a small monitor! To make such an ambitious build possible, the entire back of the speaker is removable with screws, which we didn't bother to look at as it would void the warranty.

Finally, the speaker comes with circular woofer-only covers that fit magnetically while providing a pair of terminals, as the manufacturer sees no gain in amplification thanks to the fabled driveability that opens the door to single-digit watt amps.

WINDY, WINDY, STORMOUS!

We listened to the Eros-9 Anniversary with a multitude of companions and the speaker proved that it does not reject technologies and designs, yet it reveals with mythical comfort the identity of each link in the chain. High power transistors with musical origins are welcome as well as "well mannered" digitals, in other words any modern machine can match up to the ThivanLabs and give what it can without offending.

However, the speaker works quite well as a magnifying glass of imperfections and, at the same time, does not need the very high power and extreme signal-to-noise ratios of digital to deliver a huge dynamic range in the context of a huge sound stage.

So it opens the door to more specialized low power class A amplifiers and of course vinyl, where it is in its element. Thanks to its time-aligned design, high sensitivity and the simplest filter, the Eros-9 has absolute time resolution and immediacy, so it rewards with better flow, tempo and ADSR (Attack-Decay-Sustain-Release) time values accompanied by low feedback and a wealth of well-timed harmonics, resulting in an essentially cleaner and more organic low-level signal and more precise front-ends.

Its timbres are warm, dense and airy, and the volume of the midrange is majestic, with the levels of the scene endless in great depth, setting up a hologram that shocks.

The focus is top-notch and allowed us to enjoy the most three-dimensional and clear hisses from top female voice recordings.

It is a super spectacle of stage development and precision, without projections and colors, that embraces the listener without overloading them, however the huge size of the stage motivates us to sit a little further from the couple in order to have a better perspective and perception of the whole.

A few points of criticism would include the slightly limited low-end range for the size of the speaker and the relatively mild supersonic range of the tweeter, but that doesn't make it 'mid-centric' as its response is admirably flat in both the upper lows and mids.

It has excellent resolution and very fast transitions, but what dominates is the tonal consistency and dynamic immediacy, so that it lavishly gives musical experiences and emotions worthy of any recording.

A no-compromise speaker station that is (still) sold at a bargain price.



TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS

TYPE: 2-way, low-reflection floor speakers
SPEAKER: 380 mm. woofer, 35 mm tweeter
RESPONSE: 33Hz-20KHz ± 3 dB
SENSITIVITY: 98dB/2.83V/m
IMPEDANCE/CROSS: 8 Ω /2KHz
POWER HANDLING: 150Wrms
PROT. POWER: >7W
DIMENSIONS (HxWxD): 1050x450x350 mm.
WEIGHT: 45 kg

COMMENT

An incredible high-sensitivity speaker case, with excellent build quality, the simplest filter possible, and a huge cab that disappears perfectly! Marginal performance, calm reactions and an endless scene from Thivan Labs' anniversary Eros-9.

97 %
★★★★★

CONTACT

ACOUSTIC CRETE

EVALUATION

★★★★★



ULTRA

- ✓ Scale
- ✓ Hologram
- ✓ Timbro
- ✓ Dynamics
- ✓ Tonicity



AGAINST

- ✗ Outgoing model