

Listening to a New Product Much Talked About Technical Brain TBP-Zero EX

Surprisingly generous driving power, you will be touched by brilliant timbre

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Technical Brain, located in Kawagoe-shi, Saitama, has been well known as a high-end audio maintenance shop besides a manufacturer. I assume some *Stereo Sound* readers have already been their clients.

The TBP-Zero monaural amplifiers that made Technical Brain famous have been upgraded to the TBP-Zero EX with a number of modifications. In particular, the power supply has been strengthened and the heat sink enlarged. As a result, the driving power has been further increased. The chassis has been improved as well. Technical Brain always gives the highest priority to a sound quality, which has been highly regarded, and the TBP-Zero EX has won this year's *Stereo Sound Grand Prix*.

The most significant feature of the Technical Brain power amplifiers is the elimination of emitter resistors that compensate for the differences between power transistors but at the same time deteriorate a sound quality. Output units with painstakingly handpicked 4 parallel/push-pull structures are individually wired with equal length in order to control the operation timing precisely. Relays and line fuses that become a cause of sound deterioration are also eliminated from the signal pass. Technical Brain's pursuit of high sound quality is far from superficial. Personally, I was particularly impressed by the fact that XLR input units attached to the thick back panel are not directly connected to a circuit board. Other ideas gained through many years of experience in audio maintenance include a large size transformer which floats in the case with the aid of vibration absorption rubber. With a BTL circuit, the TBP-Zero EX operates in full balanced mode from input to output at 350W.

A sound as clear as mineral water

To compare the TBP-Zero EX with the previous model TBP-Zero/ver.2, the audition took place at Technical Brain's listening room in a Scandinavian-style log-house. The amps were used with a Denon CD/SACD player, the Technical Brain TBC-Zero preamplifier and the Technics SB10000 speaker system.

In short, a sound of the TBP-Zero EX is as clear as mineral water and has a refreshed feeling, while they have surprisingly generous driving power. The basic characteristics of the TBP-Zero EX and the TBP-Zero/ver.2 are more or less the same but when it comes to a sense of scale and sound dynamism, the latest model is far much better. The amps' response to attack is amazingly fast and strong, and without any hesitation they deliver a sound from zero to the highest volume level at once, like a strong wind blowing up. Seiji Ozawa's recording of Brahms Symphony No.2 with Saito Kinen Orchestra was truly fantastic. Another thing I was impressed with was the consistency of a sound quality from pianissimo to fortissimo. I listened to an improvised piece by Paul Bley and Masahiko Togashithe from the *Jazz SACD 101*, which I edited, and was touched from the bottle of my heart by breathless tension and brilliant timbre.