

2010 GRAND PRIX
Power Amplifier Category



TBP-Zero EX
Technical Brain

Selection Committee

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Takahito Miura
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*Exceptionally high driving power and great delicacy
A sound comes out of speakers like a pleasant breeze*

Fu - With the Technical Brain TBP-Zero EX power amps, a stress-free sound comes out of speakers like a pleasant breeze. You can usually imagine electricity flowing through an amplifier to drive speakers, but the TBP-Zero EX amps give you the impression that they just push speakers. The amps have such exceptionally high driving power that you may imagine a strong dwarf driving speakers, living inside the amps.

Onodera - The amps are powerful but have great delicacy at the same time.

Fu – A sound is not thick like that of American high power amplifiers. It is rather crisp and graceful.

Onodera – The TBP-Zero EX amps don't appeal their own existence in a good way.

Yanagisawa – They don't have their own sound like other amplifiers.

Onodera – Yes, that's right. There is no straight sound in a real sense but I think these amps are a real electric amplifier. You may call them one of the ultimate power amplifiers at the present time.

Yanagisawa – In this sense, they don't help speakers.

Miura – The amps reveal the conditions of recordings as they are. You can check precisely how a recording was done.

Yanagisawa – The amps simply pass what they receive to speakers without changing anything.

Onodera – And no information is lost along the way.

Miura – And energy is not spoiled.

Onodera – There is no boost either.

Fu – The amps can drive even extremely low impedance speakers very easily, which is terrific.

Miura – I've never come across such amplifiers before. They are great. Technical Brain's monaural power amplifiers started with the TBP-Zero and moved on to the TBP-Zero/ver.2. The TBP-Zero EX is the third model. It is remarkable that Technical Brain has reached this sound after numerous minor modifications over the years.

Since the original model, the amplifiers' foremost characteristic has been the same; the elimination of emitter resistors at the output stage, for which Technical brain has a patent. Their original circuit technology has been used from the beginning but Technical Brain has further refined their electronics and produced the TBP-Zero EX.

Onodera – I found the sound of the TBP-Zero EX coherent. I mean, from low level to high level, and from low end to high end, the amps attain high homogeneity and integration.

Fu – The sound is highly realistic.

Onodera – The amps don't sound stiff at a high volume, or sound thin at a low volume either. I can't stop being amazed by how a sound comes out so naturally.

Fu – Mr Onodera, do you find this sound a typical Japanese clear sound?

Onodera – Well, I don't get that impression because the sound is not only clear but also is pleasantly fatty. But the sound is neither American nor European. This is a Japanese sound and product.

Yanagisawa – Yes, I agree with you. Also, this is the product only a small-sized manufacturer can produce. Few manufactures can pursue the development of amplifiers to this extent.

Onodera – I am very happy that the TBP-Zero EX which is capable of competing with or being even better than ultra-high end amplifiers such as Goldmond, Souldution and Boulder was born in Japan.