



EQUIPMENT STAND OF THE YEAR
Gryphon Audio Designs StandArt



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Gryphon Audio Designs StandArt equipment support looks at first like just another rack system. It's a modular design; each upright is available in one of four heights, including short ones to suit amp stands. The uprights themselves are formed out of a figure-eight aluminium extrusion, the central 'bridge' adding stiffness and creating two separate cells within each leg. Once you've built even a modestly sized rack, the differing grades of kiln-dried sand that fill each hollow in all four uprights make it feel like its bolted down anyway. For once, the sand doesn't leak and the large composite cones on which the rack stands make levelling it and locking it in place a straightforward process.

The shelves themselves are deceptively simple constrained layer designs. The top

surface is a layer of Kerrock acrylic resin/mineral composite material, bonded to a thicker substrate of HDF, using bitumen-based damping compound between the two. The result is a shelf that's thin enough to be practical, stiff enough to support any amplifier known to man and handy when it comes to sinking and dissipating the mechanical energy generated by the supported components.

In our test, Roy Gregory felt that, "Place a component you know well on or in the StandArt, and it simply sounds more like itself. Of course, that might be good or bad, but it's hard to ignore the simple truth that the Gryphon rack is letting you hear more of (or more about) the products it supports than it intrudes itself." He also felt that, "The sound comes up fresh and direct, expressive and communicative – just like somebody opened the musical taps. The combination of unforced clarity and musical organisation, rhythmic flexibility and dynamic shading combine to free the music from the system producing it. The stand also eliminates the thickened low-frequency fog belts or etched transparency, smeared harmonics and collapsed tonality that seems to afflict all but the best equipment supports." +

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