



Critical Mass Systems

Center Stage² equipment supports

Reviewed in Issue 163

Critical Mass System's Center Stage² is a black anodised aluminium foot with an almost free-spinning aluminium foot pad on the base, and the top is covered with stiff, black paper-like material. You have three sizes of foot, dependent on the mass of the device and the size of its own foot. You need four feet per device. They are placed on the underside of the device, not on a screw-head or as a footer under the component's own feet. It works on practically everything except turntables and loudspeakers (but including turntable power supplies). Center Stage² is made by "choosing and sequencing materials that possess the perfect combination of damping, elastic modulus, and thin rod speed to lock in the desired effect." That effect is, "a catalyst in a complex energy reaction that occurs between your equipment and its environment." The idea is that kinetic and vibrational energy act in an unregulated and undamped manner inside a product and Center Stage² can "change the prevailing state of equilibrium in that energy reaction and to permanently hold it in a reduced or damped state.

How it works is immaterial. What it does is fascinating. First, your system gets appreciably worse for a few days. Then, over a few hours, it transforms to something far better than before. In our test, Alan Sircom said, "you begin to find this feeling of being immersed in the music, which truly transforms your listening sessions, and it becomes uppermost in your requirements for a good system. Everything just seems more natural, more real, and more like the recording engineers and the equipment designers had in mind when they got creative." He concluded by saying, "If you can take the short-term pain, the long-term gain is more than worth it!" +



Everything just seems more natural, more real, and more like the recording engineers and the equipment designers had in mind when they got creative."

