

AudioEngine HD3 Wireless Speaker System

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Compact Power

by Dick Tan

Over the years since its inception Audio Engine has acquired an almost unassailable reputation for designing and producing one of the most sought after range of IT/AV wireless speaker systems.

Remember the HD6? Well, the HD3 is a sort of a scaled down version but retaining many of the features that made it (HD6) such a runaway success with people in the IT world looking for a speaker system with true audiophile qualities.

Measuring a petite 7 1/4" high x 4 1/8" wide and 5 3/4" deep the HD3 is a two-

way powered speaker design featuring one 2.75 Kevlar coned bass/mid driver and a 3/4" silk dome tweeter. The mid-bass unit is reflex loaded via a slot located at the bottom front of the baffle. Clothed in real wood veneers the HD3 is available in three finish options of walnut, cherry or black and retails for RM2,100.



AudioEngine's HD3 seen here in its Cherry option. Note the headphone socket at the lower right-hand

Connectivity, important in speakers of this category, is ample and include a pair of RCA type analogue audio inputs and outputs, a mini plug audio input, a micro USB, a set of speaker terminals that connects to the second passive speaker unit, a headphone output socket and a stout power supply socket.

Although the analogue RCA phono type sockets are high level auxiliaries that will connect to a CD or tape player a phono turntable can also be similarly connected. To do that an external phono preamp that will raise the miniscule

output of a phono moving magnet cartridge to match that of an auxiliary of input will be required.

This will undoubtedly incur extra cost but it is good to know that it's possible to use a turntable with the HD3 should you require it.

As the saying goes, better to have it and don't need it than to need it and don't have it!

Wireless operation is via Bluetooth and the pair of analogue audio output sockets can be used to connect to an external active subwoofer should more bass output or extension be required.

Perhaps one of the most functional features of the HD3 is its bass switch control which when turned on reduces low bass energy from reaching the mid/bass drive unit.

The use of this feature is highly recommended when

the HD3 is connected to an external subwoofer as the bass cut reduces unnecessary low frequency stress on the HD3's mid/bass driver, allowing it to reproduce a cleaner more detailed midrange.

So, if you have a smallish room but require a big stress free sound do yourself a favour, check out this little marvel from Audio Engine.

The HD3 and other AudioEngine AV/IT products may be auditioned at the coming KL International AV Show 2017 at the Sunway PUTRA hotel from July 28 – 30, 2017.



Rear of the powered (left) section of the HD3. The passive section is on the right

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