Family Labo Sound System
September 25, 2023

‘Oval’

Hand Hollowed Speaker by Inami Sculptors, using Old Wood Seasoned over One Century.

Master sculptor Mr. Hakuun holding old wood

The speakers shall be made from solid wood

Almost all instruments that produce sound are handcrafted from solid wood by skilled craftsmen. Music reproduces the sound of instruments and voices, so it is natural that the speaker body should also be made of solid wood, but today, almost all commercial audio products are made of artificial materials. Even in the case of high-end audio products, at best plywood or veneer is used for the surface.

Acoustic properties of Koboku, rare antique good

In terms of acoustic characteristics, just producing speakers from solid wood alone is an advantage over other manufactures, but the attempt to use old solid wood that has been naturally dried for more than 100 years as a material is revolutionary. The fibre quality of solid wood changes as it dries naturally, making it harder and lighter and dramatically improving its rich resonance and high frequency characteristics. The reason why classical instruments such as the Stradivarius, which are national treasures, are able to produce an overwhelming sound is because the wood of the instrument itself is naturally dried over a long period of time, just like old wood. Even handmade classical guitars and high-end violins are generally made of wood that has been naturally dried for five to ten years. As solid wood is said to be a living thing, it can be expected to grow richer and richer in sound as it ages, just as a masterpiece ages when it is played as a speaker.

The ideal speaker, the oval shape

The oud, which is said to be the world's oldest stringed instrument, is an instrument that boasts astonishing acoustic characteristics, with the

ability to hold a concert of 3,000 people in the open air with live sound without a PA. Family Lab's representative, who is also an oud player, has long paid attention to the egg-shaped structure of the oud, and furthermore came up with a speaker design using solid wood that is spherical on the inside and egg-shaped on the outside. However, the difficulty of processing, the fear of cracking and cracking, and the cost of production made it difficult to realise the idea, and after 20 years of searching for producers not only in Japan but also overseas, we finally established a workshop in the sculpture town of Iba the year before last and were able to produce them.

Hand-carved speakers by sculptors in Inami city, a Japanese heritage site

Speakers of this shape cannot be realised without the skills of special woodworkers. Inami city has flourished since the Edo period as a town of sculptures for shrines and temples in Kyoto, and it is said that even today one out of every four houses is involved in carving woods. Therefore every process of making our speakers is hand-carved by skilled sculptors who have inherited the traditional techniques as Ranma art works from generation to generation.

As an excellent quantum speaker

Quantum physics messages that every molecule, cell, organ, etc. is a vibrating body with a unique frequency. Therefore, the human body and mine are organic organisms, which are incompatible with inorganic man-made objects and resonate harmoniously with the energy created by the vibrations of solid wood, which is also a living tissue. Sound is not only 'heard' by the eardrums, it spreads 360 degrees and the whole body absorbs the energy created by the speaker vibrations through the space. Even if you play a CD of natural sounds, from a plastic speaker it is only plastic energy, whereas the energy of solid

wood is the life energy of the forest, and this speaker can fill the space with organic energies.

How it sounds.

The sound is simply rich and dynamic, which you wouldn't expect from ils compact size because of the vibration of the solid wood mass. The sound is so realistic that you feel as if the instrument is playing right in front of your eyes. The egg shape diffuses the sound energy 360° in all directions and fits naturally into the room, so you can enjoy a pleasant sound wherever you listen. The energy produced by living organisms means that your ears won't get tire even after long periods of listening, and you can expect to feel refreshed in body and mind.

About speaker stand; refurbished spools of thread

Since the Edo period (1603-1868), clothing in Japan had to be made and mended many times before it could be worn. In this process, sewing became an important handwork for women, and a set containing a needle barrel, a spool of thread and a needle stick was an essential part of a bride's wardrobe. This continued until the Meiji, Taisho and early Showa periods, but with the spread of sewing machines introduced from the West and the start of factory garment production, clothing bécane something to be bought and the custom of creating one's own clothes disappeared, leaving the traditional spool of thread as unnecessary.

At the Family Lab, we happened to find an old spool of thread in the house of a sculptor, and when we combined it with a prototype speaker, we found that it had very good acoustic properties, so we decided to refurbish used it as a speaker stand for our custom-made speakers. Especially when combined with egg-shaped speakers, the sharp tip of the string roll makes it an insulator with

ideal contact points, and the wood naturally resonates as the solid wood makes contact with each other, creating the effect of a speaker stand that transmits vibrations without unpleasant turbulence.

Internal circuit is using only PC TripleC wires and cables

Another essential feature of our system is the quality of cables and wires that is comparable to the importance of the quality of water in cooking. After the end of the production of PCOCC, new team was formulated in Japan to proudly announce the debut of ever higher quality audio signal wire material, PC
TripleC, not as a replacement of the former model but the ultimate answer to the best audio reproduction.

All electric components are hardwired by skilled engineers
(Our amplifier is sold separately from Oval speakers)

Our amplifier as an essential part of “musical instrument” is also hand
assembled and every electronic components are soldered point to point by the hands of skilled engineers, which is known as an ideal method of building a
boutique amp, not to mention that every parts are selected from the spécial audio grade products.

About Inami city, a Japanese Heritage Site

In May 2018, Inami city was recognised as a Japanese Heritage Site for its 600-odd years of history, centred on Zuisenji Temple, and the tradition of wood carving techniques for sculptures that has been handed down for over 200 years.
The splendid and magnificent Inami sculptures,

which originated in the reconstruction of Zuisen-ji Temple and were created with a single chisel by a temple carpenter, and the town of Inami, which was built by these woodcarvers, have been recognised as a Japan Heritage Site. The main city streets lined with sculpture workshops and town houses echo with the sound of wooden hammers and the scent of the trees. The streets are decorated with wood carvings of the Seven Gods of Good Fortune and the twelve signs of the Chinese zodiac, making the town a museum of wood carvings. In spring, a parade of yatai and lion dancers decorated with Inami carvings parades through the streets, praying for the safety of the community and a good harvest. Inami Sculpture, which is rooted in local life, is widely recognised throughout the country for its high level of skill and artistry, and is now the guardian of Japan's wood carving culture and sculpture.

Family Labo Atelier in Inami

Inami Sculpture

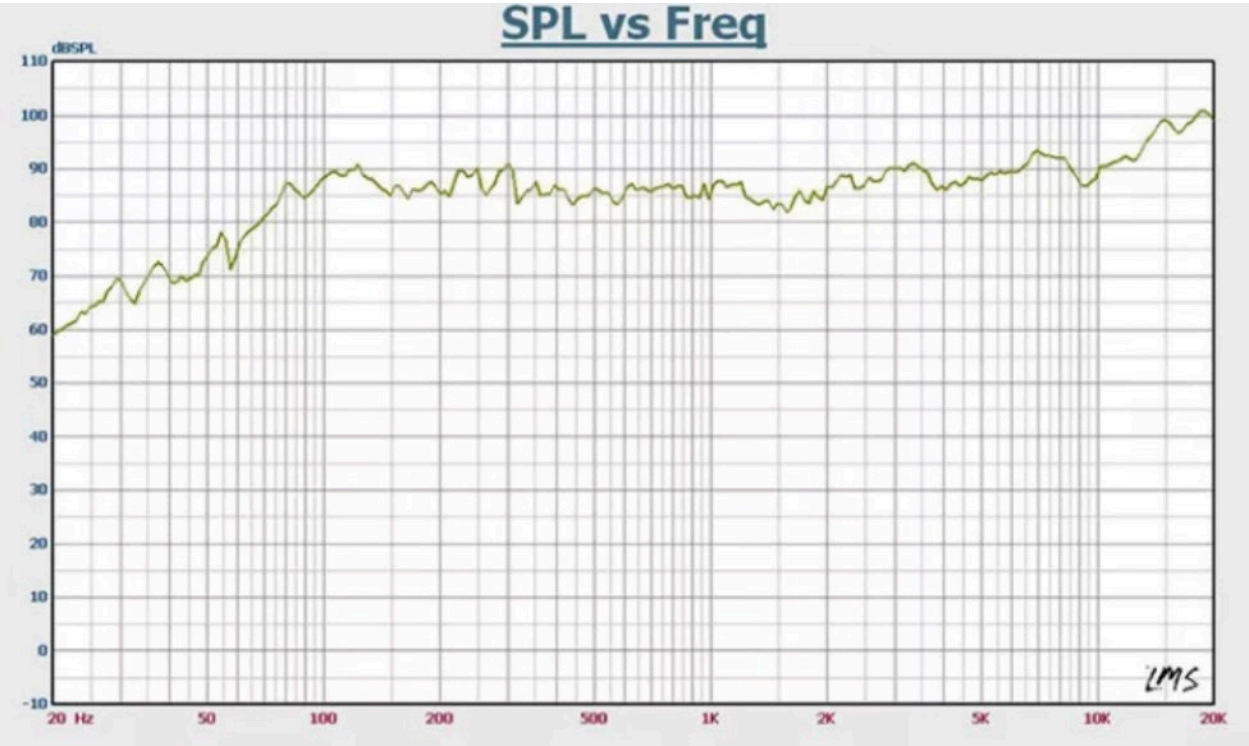
In 1390, the fifth generation of Hongwanji priests, Shonin Nyo Shonin, founded the Inami Annexe by the order of Emperor Go-Komatsu, but the temple was destroyed by fire several times and rebuilt each time. In particular, when the main hall of Zuisen-ji Temple was rebuilt in the mid-Edo period, Maekawa Sanshiro, an official sculptor, was dispatched from the Honganji Temple in Kyoto to carve the main hall.
In 1792, Shichizaemon carved the 'lion cubs falling off' on both sides of the door of the Chrysanthemum Gate of Zuisenji Temple, which is considered a masterpiece in the history of Japanese sculpture, using the relief technique in the Kano school style.

The technique was used mainly for sculptures of shrines and temples until the end of the Edo period. In the Meiji period (1868-1912), new forms of Inami Ranma for residential use were developed by applying ingenuity, and Goun Oshima I in particular devoted himself to the study of Ranma sculpture and opened up a new frontier.
In the Showa period (1926-1989), he continued to be active in temple and shrine sculpture, working on numerous sculptures for temples and shrines throughout Japan, including Higashi Honganji Temple, Tokyo Tsukiji Honganji Temple and Nikko Toshogu Shrine, while at the same time focusing on general residential transoms, lion heads and other ornaments.
Today, traditional Iwa sculpture, which has been handed down by the descendants of master craftsmen, is shifting with the passage of time from the luxury of temple and shrine sculpture to the interior sculpture of private houses, with the mainstay of which are the transoms for houses.
In 1947, the Inami Sculpture Cooperative was formed, and in 1975 it was designated a traditional craft by the Minister of International Trade and Industry. Today, Inami city is not only a center of traditional craft, but is also active for many artists in exhibitions such as the Nitten (Japan Fine Arts Exhibition).
The accumulation of techniques cultivated over the past 250 years is not evident in the traditions of Ranma, lion's head, Tenjin-sama, impulse stands, panels, etc.

Specifications:

Speaker power rated 15W
Frequency reaponce 80 to 20kHz
Sensitivity 87db to 90db
Speaker weight 950g(one speaker) approximately
Size 14cm x 14cm x 16cm approximately
Stand 10cm x 10cm x 14cm weight 100g approximately
Amplifier 14cm x 14cm x 6cm weight 600g

Power rated 20w RCA stereo analogue input, equipped also with bluetooth receiver.
Attachments: CE verified Power adaptor, power cable, speaker cable 1.2 meter



Total weight 3250g (approximately)

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