



Testing Ground

Kii Audio SEVEN

An agile wireless stereo speaker system

Simon Lucas | 5/12/26

It's been a decade since Kii Audio launched its first product, the THREE active wireless loudspeaker. Now the German manufacturer is back with the smaller, more affordable SEVEN—so what has it been doing all this time?

Specifications

Price: €7500; \$8995; £8295

Drivers: 25mm custom wave-guided tweeter; 127mm midrange driver; 2 x 165mm bass driver

Frequency response: 40Hz–20kHz

Power: 600w RMS (per speaker)

Inputs: (speaker) XLR/6.3mm combination analogue; AES digital; 4 x RJ45 (for connection to Kii Control, to further SEVEN speakers, to Dante or AES67 "audio-over-IP" networks); dual-band wi-fi; Room Tested; Qobuz Connect; Spotify Connect; TIDAL Connect. (Kii Control) S/PDIF; digital optical; USB-B; Bluetooth

Outputs: None

Dimensions (HxWxD, mm): 310 x 200 x 310 (per speaker)

Weight (kg): 14 (per speaker)

Kii Audio is the latest company to allow audio engineering savant Bruno Putzeys to showcase his sonic expertise. It also gives him the opportunity to reassert his conviction that worthwhile improvements in the way music is reproduced in the home can only be achieved by addressing the absolute fundamentals of product design. Since his involvement in the co-founding of the brand back in 2014, Kii Audio has been judicious to the extreme in the number of products it's brought to market—and this SEVEN active standmounting loudspeaker is the latest, and consequently, the most intriguing.



Kii Audio SEVEN: An Overview

You can buy just one SEVEN for use as a standalone mono audio player, or you can connect as many as a dozen in order to create a multiroom/multizone system. Kii Audio is adamant the SEVEN is just as suitable as a nearfield monitor for professional use as it is for use in a domestic setting, which is why it's available as a single item—naturally, I'm using two as a stereo pair. They're attached to their bespoke stands (a pleasantly functional design, and available for an additional €666 / \$890 / £798 per pair).

The SEVEN is a relatively compact speaker (just 31 x 20 x 31cm, HxWxD) and is made from foamed structural polyurethane with aluminium side panels; the main body of the speaker is available in white, grey or titanium finishes. The front of the speaker features a relatively complex 25mm dome tweeter above a 127mm paper midrange driver, and there is a 165mm bass driver on each side. There's a total of 600 watts of Class D amplification on board to power the four-driver array, and frequency response is a claimed 40Hz–20kHz.

But it's the way the SEVEN goes about delivering sound that sets it apart from your run-of-the-mill active speaker. The amplification is in a "current drive" arrangement to reduce distortion, the tweeter has a lens and a waveguide to even out its dispersal characteristics, and the bass drivers overlap the output of the midrange driver in an effort to create a heart-shaped (or "cardioid") pattern of sound radiation.

None of this is possible without some fearsome (and fearsomely complicated) engineering and digital sound processing being brought to bear—but the upshot is a loudspeaker that's far less affected by its position in a room, and by the characteristics of the room itself, than is the norm. Which means it should sound more natural and, well, musical.



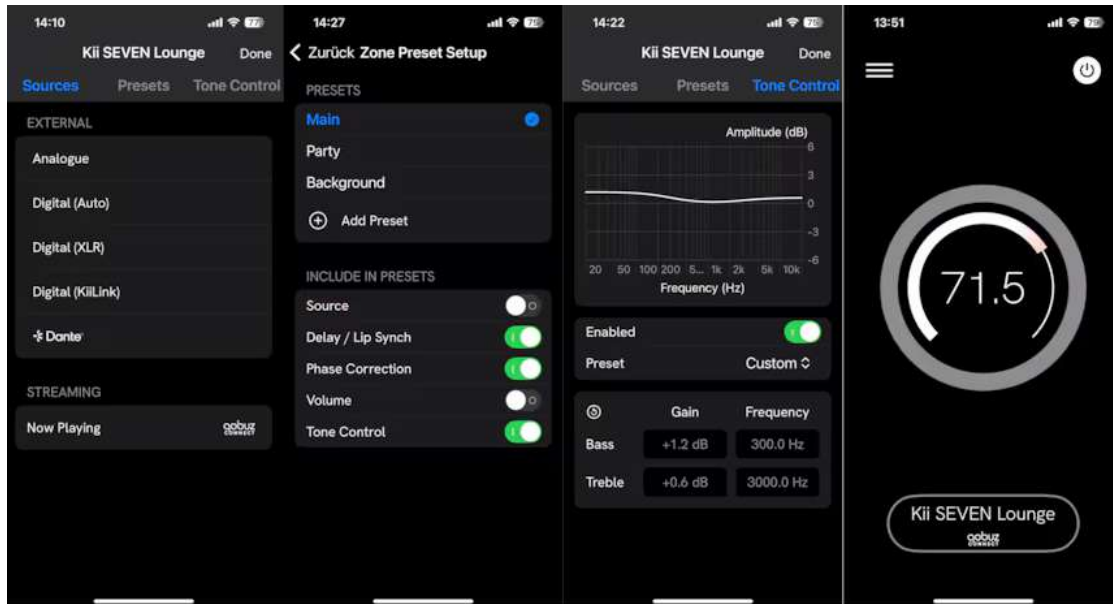
Operating the Kii Audio SEVEN

A wireless audio system requires wireless connectivity, of course, and the Kii Audio SEVEN is fitted with dual-band wi-fi, so it's compatible with Qobuz Connect. It also allows the system to be operated, up to a point, by the Kii Audio control app: Here's where you can adjust volume, adjust bass and treble EQs, and fiddle around the edges of the speaker's behaviour where peripherals like LED brightness are concerned.

There's a control panel on the back of each speaker that duplicates much of what the app can do. And the back of the speaker is also where the physical inputs are found. Along with a socket for main power, there's a hybrid analogue input that combines an XLR with a 6.3mm jack, a digital XLR, and a number of RJ45 sockets. There's an RJ45 for daisy-

chaining to other SEVENs, one for connection to a Dante or AES67 "audio-over-IP" network, and one for connection to the Kii Control.

The Kii Control is a square, desktop-sized controller that needs to be hard-wired to the speaker, and offers a lot more control over the system than the app does. Pro users in particular will find it very useful. The rest of us, though, will discover it offers Bluetooth, S/PDIF, optical, and USB-B connections in addition to those on the speaker, forcing us to think long and hard about parting with an additional €750 / \$895 / £795 to acquire it.



Kii Audio SEVEN - Home app

Listening Impressions

This classic of the post-punk U.K. scene is barely up and running before the Kii Audio SEVEN system has demonstrated its credentials where rhythmic expression and the control of attack, fade and decay are concerned. “Angular” is as good a word as any to describe the character of this album, and the SEVEN gives the terse, twitchy sound all the attitude it requires, observing the onset and termination of individual events with something approaching fanaticism, which means the choppy tempos and rhythms strut rather than stagger.

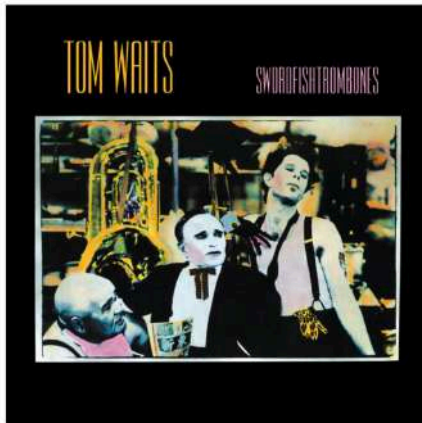


Wild Is The Wind

Nina Simone
Released on 9/16/66 by
Verve Reissues
Main artist:
Nina Simone
Genre:
Jazz
Available in
Hi-Res 24-Bit/192 kHz
Audio Stereo

Listen →

It's difficult to tell whether it's Nina Simone's voice or her piano-playing that's more characterful, but when the Kii Audio set-up goes to work, both are absolutely loaded with personality. The ability of the SEVEN to tease out and contextualise the finest of details means there's an immediacy to the way this record sounds, and a strong sensation that you're getting the complete picture. The dynamic variations apparent in the piano, the information regarding the over- and undertones that surround the fundamental, is almost enough to make me want to crack out the old “right there in the room with you” hi-fi clichés.



Swordfishtrombones

Tom Waits

Released on 9/1/83 by
Island Records

Main artist:
Tom Waits

Genre:
Rock

Available in
Hi-Res Audio
24-Bit/192 kHz
Stereo

Listen →

The Kii Audio SEVEN is one of the most uncoloured and naturalistic systems around when it comes to tonality, and this recording is a brilliant way of demonstrating that fact, because it's absolutely packed with instruments and sounds that require no augmentation where tone or texture are concerned. No matter if it's blaring or grinding, no matter if it's on-key or off-key, the SEVEN lets you know exactly what's what. And its ability to organise and control a soundstage means all of the very many competing elements of the recording have plenty of space in which to do their thing.

Conclusion ★★★★★

Yes, a pair of Kii Audio SEVENS is quite expensive even before you've purchased the stands to put them on, and, no, it's not exactly awash with input options unless you spend even more money on the Kii Control. But the sound the system makes is so revealing, so direct, and so articulate (and so unconcerned about the room it finds itself in) that it's possible to convince yourself it's actually a bit of a bargain.



Staggeringly detailed, agile, and convincing sound.

More forgiving of room position than most.

Admirably single-minded engineering.



Minimal options where connections are concerned (unless you spend extra).

Control app is extremely brief.