

# Rogoz Audio 3T1/BBS

TEST

When creating a top-quality system, to get the best acoustic experience you need to take care of even the minutest details.

Many would say that purchasing dedicated platforms for audio cables is the supreme manifestation of audiophilic insanity. To that I'd reply philosophically: yes and no. For me it goes without saying that no one will buy a dedicated cable platform for an audio system that is worth several or a dozen thousand PLN for another couple thousand PLN.



REKOMENDACJA

HI-FI CHOICE

magazyn



And rightly so! As some degree of common sense is required in creating an audio system, spending this amount of cash for a platform in a system worth a few thousand PLN would seem to be folly. Nonetheless, as I'll explain below, you might want to consider a simple solution, e.g. placing wooden blocks under the speaker cables. You may find that even this little trick improves the sound.

So, the product described in this text is dedicated for those who already have a high-end system and are looking for a way to get even more out of it. This solution is best if applied at the final stage of perfecting your system, as you grow up to appreciate this idea. It is, after all, not without a reason, that at almost every presentation of a high-end system you will find that the speaker cables are led on some kind of supports, instead of lying on the floor. In some systems even power cables are supported, and in certain cases even the terminal blocks. What for? Its vibrations. As they degrade the sound, they are the villains in an audio system.

## ► DETAILS

PRODUKT  
Rogoz Audio

TYPE  
Anti-vibration platform  
for cables

PRICE  
EUR 295 (1 piece)

FEATURES

- Overall height: 70 mm
- Overall width: 147 mm
- Overall depth: 130 mm
- Top board: 147x130x30 mm
- Bottom board: 147x130x25 mm

MANUFACTURER  
Rogoz Audio

[www.rogoz-audio.com](http://www.rogoz-audio.com)

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Its vibrations that make the audio more or less distorted, which negatively impacts the experience. The sound may lose its purity and precision, the bass may appear less contoured and pointed. Extreme cases aside, even though these differences are quite inconspicuous, they are apparent enough to consider improving the system by adding anti-vibration components.

By and large, it is obvious that the electronics should be insulated from vibrations to the best possible extent, in particular when it comes to devices with vacuum tubes or mechanical components (e.g. turntables). This obviously also applies to speakers, as pieces of equipment that include moving parts (diaphragms). This is why these pieces should be placed on more or less sophisticated tables and/or anti-vibration platforms. Quite often, even the elements that are already placed on a table or a platform are

**“Such components as the tested platform are used to fine-tune the system by adding subtle, yet clearly noticeable improvements”**

additionally put on anti-vibration feet for even more seamless operation. On top of that, it is the very design of high-end devices that also eliminates most resonating vibrations.



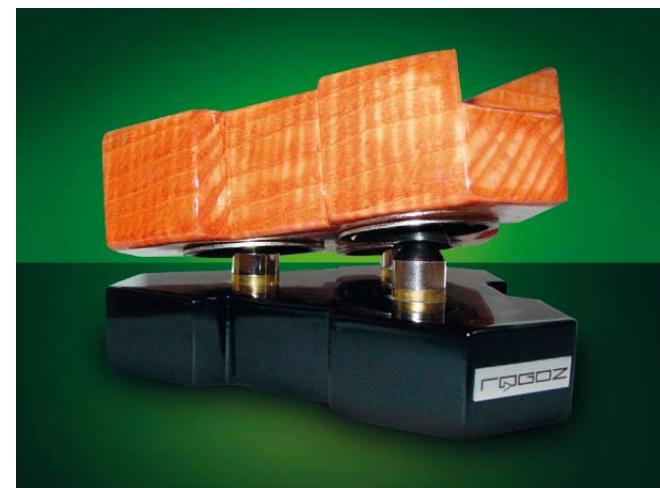
In this pursuit it is easy to forget about components that are seemingly unaffected by vibrations. Yes, it's cables. Think about it: Say, you've separated each piece of the system from vibration as best as you could, and the devices are designed to reduce inner resonances. Then you connected all the pieces with cables... that lie on a vibrating floor. Therefore, the cables carry all the vibrations from the floor to the perfectly insulated ele-

ments of the system, and the so-called microphone effect directly impacts the transmitted electrical signals. To what extent does this affect the sound? Even if it is not much, at a top level system, you struggle hard (and spend serious cash) to have all the improvements you can get. These few percent (an arbitrary value, as this kind of improvement is hard to quantify) may be just what you are looking for.

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Several years ago, I spent a pleasant evening with a friend and an owner of equipment by Lavardin, the famous French audio brand. Even though his views on audio were quite original, he undoubtedly had some points. One of the topics of our conversation struck me in particular. He said that this whole arms race of cable manufacturers was quite pointless. Audiophiles spend more and more to buy thicker and more expensive wires made of increasingly advanced materials arranged in increasingly sophisticated layouts and then... put the cables on the floor. And, as my friend remarked, the sound of every cable depends on its base. A solid floor gives a different sound than cables laid on a carpet, and those on a wooden floor also produce a different sound. None of these are optimal. He referred not only to the negative impact of vibrations, but also the electrostatic field present on any large surface area, and therefore on a floor of any kind. So then,



how can we cope with this problem? By separating the cables from the floor, naturally. At that time, we mostly discussed speaker cables, but the same applies to the power cables and terminal blocks, if there are long or heavy enough to lean against anything other than the connected pieces of the system. This is why at presentations of high-end systems speaker cables, power cables, and possibly also interconnecting cables are arranged on supports. And this is why even for low-end systems one should, at virtually no cost, separate the cables from the floor.

The tested product, made by the Polish producer Rogoz Audio, accomplishes that by means of platforms, not supports. This is for two reasons. First, the size – they are just big, and their shape resembles small platforms rather than some tiny supports. Therefore, the name represents the form. Second, they use the BBS (Balancing Board System) patented by Rogoz, and used in tables and platforms (the large ones – for the hardware) made by Rogoz, which makes the design of both types of equipment quite similar.

## Design

The 3T1/BBS platform is comprised of two boards. Each one is a sandwich structure made of several layers. The top board is made from ash wood, and the bottom one from MDF and HDF. The former is 30 mm thick, while the latter is 25 mm. The top, ash

board is finished in a high grand-piano gloss, and, on request, the wood can be made slightly darker or additionally coloured. In the middle of the board there is a wide groove for the cable. Thanks to the considerable dimensions of the platform, it can be used to hold even considerably thick cables. The bottom of the top board includes the Balancing Board System components, i.e. three recessed steel beds. The bottom board is lacquered in black, also in a high-gloss finish.

The BBS is comprised of a threaded cone made from high-carbon steel alloy that is screwed into the platform base. The thread is used to adjust the height of individual cones. On top each of them there is an intermediary (middle) element – a kind of hood made of carbon polymer. These hoods hold the top board so that the steel beds are the only contact points.

As described by the manufacturer, the point contact between the steel cone and the intermediary element made of carbon prevents the movement of these two elements along their axes but enables a swinging movement. The contact between the intermediary element and the bed inserted in the board enables limited rolling and sliding movements.

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This solution combines the advantages of point support on the cones (when the contact surface is reduced to minimum kinetic energy it is converted into thermal energy) with anti-vibration properties provided by sliding friction and rolling resistance. So we've got the features of the 3T1/BBS cable platform covered. To that I'll add my own opinion that their design is fantastic, and they look outstanding with cables. How many such platforms are required in a system? Having in mind the considerable size of the 3T1/BBS platform, a lot depends on the length of the cables used and the available space. If the cables are quite short, even one platform will suffice (for speaker cables) per side, i.e. two in total. The point is that the platforms should serve their purpose, meaning that they separate the cables from the floor. So if one point of support is not enough, add another one. The same can be made to also separate power cables from the floor. Here the amount depends on the length and the number of cables. The outstanding, practical advantage of Rogoz Audio platforms is their size. Even if the cables are extremely thick and heavy, the 3T1/BBS will handle it with ease.

## Sound quality

What can one expect after spending a considerable amount for this exquisite product? In my test, I supported only speaker cables.

A test of the power cables would require an almost complete rearrangement of my system – a lot of physical effort not so good for my miserable spine. If I were to keep the 3T1/BBS for good (that is, if my system were so perfected that an investment in the platform would give greater returns than an investment in a better amp/source, etc.), I would most likely buy them, eventually. But for the purposes of the test... let's be honest – for the sake of my spine, I took the easy route and used the platforms to support the speaker cables.

Now, I won't tell you that adding the platforms made my system sound as if it were a class better. It's simply not true. What I've been trying to explain from the start is that such components as the tested platform are used to fine-tune the system by adding subtle, yet clearly noticeable improvements. And this is exactly what the 3T1/BBS does. The differences are inconspicuous, but they are there and they are consistent – taking the cables on and off the platforms makes the sound change back and forth in the same way. I have tried this a number of times over several days, also during testing other elements of the system. When the speaker cables were placed on the platforms, the sound became a bit tighter, closer and loaded. At the same time, my attention was drawn to inconspicuous elements present in many recordings, less noticeable without the platforms.



The clarity and sonority of the trebles were also affected. When a piece was played that had some drums fun it in, both metal and wooden, their sound with cables on the platform was more sonorous, melodious and lighter, but not by being less loaded, but by resounding more easily. The better the recording and the more inconspicuous elements it contained, the better they were exposed by the 3T1/BBS. The more you hear it, the more realistic and immersive is the listening. And that's even though, let me stress that once again, the improvement is not objectively fundamental.

Generally speaking, the impact of the platforms was more noticeable in acoustic recordings than in electric or electronic ones. It's quite as if, by reducing the vibration of the cables, the system was better at converting the recorded vibrations of strings and resonance boxes to air vibrations sent by the speakers to my ears.

As far as other types of recordings are concerned, the sound was a bit more compact and pointed, and had a little bit more energy. So the impact that I noticed involved fewer elements, but was still perceptible.

## Summary

Is the purchase of the 3T1/BBS cable platform justified? The simplest answer is: it

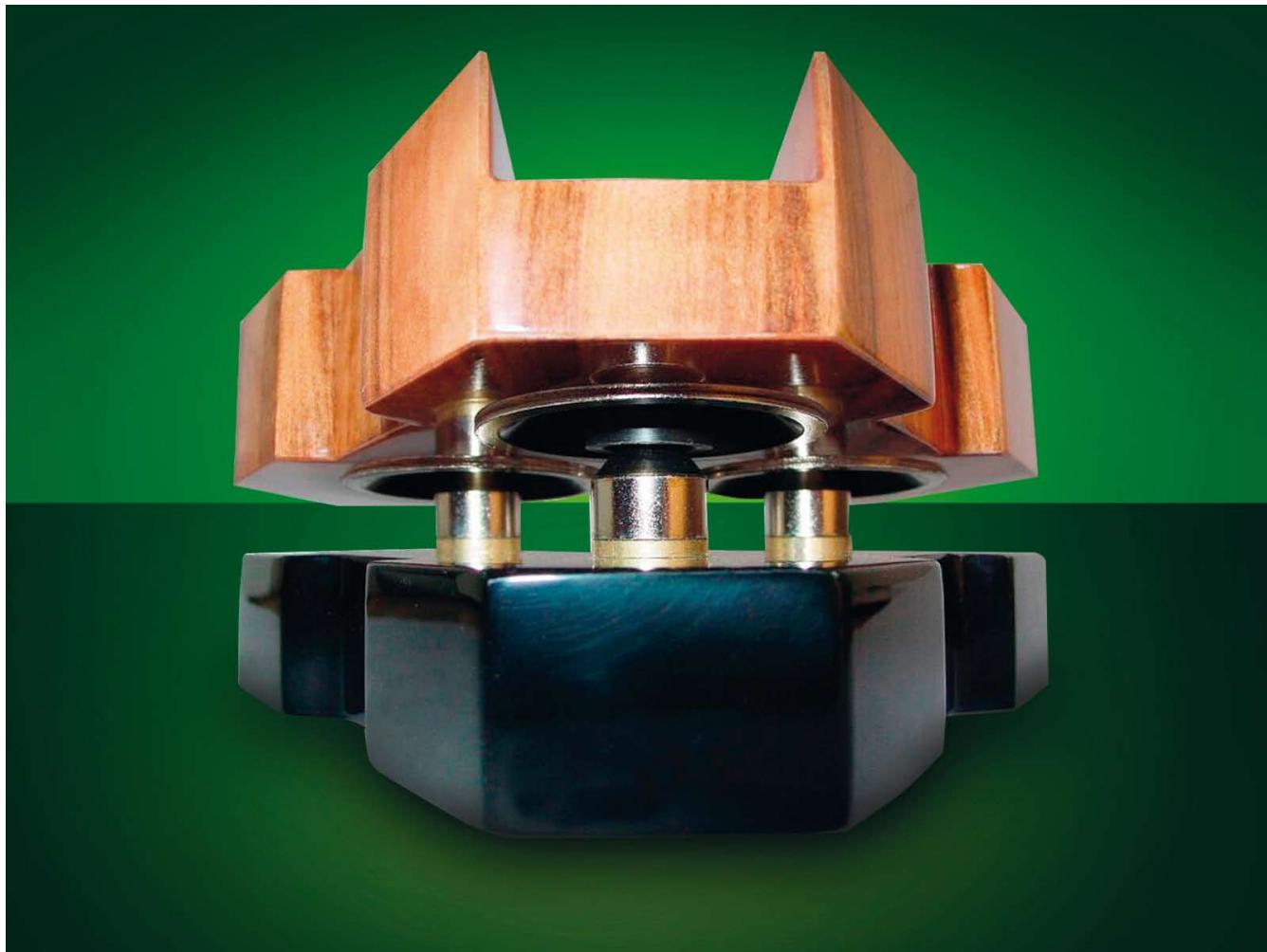
depends on the system.

I know, however, that this is not the answer you are looking for, so to put it differently – it's a matter of calculation. Say, you have to spend about 4 thousand PLN on four such platforms. If you can alternatively spend such an amount (or even a bit higher) to upgrade your amplifier/CD player/turtable/cartridge or other devices in your system, this would be a better choice compared to

buying platforms for speaker cables.

If, however, your system is so advanced and thus more expensive, and you are looking for a way to make it sound even a little bit more exquisite without making huge expenses, the Rogoz Audio platform might be just what you are looking for. The excellent sound of such a system can be further improved by adding these few subtle elements that make it fantastic, which is yet another small step to make played music resemble its unparalleled ideal – the sound of live music. I'm certain I will buy these eventually. Why not today? It's simple – my system still has some other elements to improve. When I'm done with this, I will get myself the Rogoz Audio 3T1/BBS platform. This will be certain!

Marek Dyba



## HI-FI CHOICE VERDICT

### SOUND QUALITY



### QUALITY/PRICE



### WORKMANSHIP



### CAPABILITY



**PROS:** Fantastic appearance. The sound is more focused and pure, little detail become more pronounced.

**CONS:** Large size – is the only feature that may be a challenge for some systems.

**OVERALL:** Pleasant to the eye and the ear, which also forces you to arrange your cable clutter.

### OVERALL SCORE



Translated by LinguaCity