

ONHIFI

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The Jimmy Awards: A Call for Nominations

Another smash hit was the King's Audio Limited King full-range electrostatic loudspeaker (\$6000/pair). Last year I drifted into the King suite at the Hilton Hotel and was both impressed and dismayed by the sound. To my ear, the large paneled monolith was unworthy of its "full-range" billing, and I did not repress my frank opinion at the time. Apparently, King's Audio's designer took my candid complaints constructively and responded with an engineering vengeance. I would venture that the King can now put to rest nostalgic memories of Martin-Logan's original CL3.

As good as the King's Audio King was, however, I was even more impressed by the slender hybrid Queen (\$1500/pair), whose electrostatic panel is detachable from the woofer cabinet. With the 'stat panel setting on the floor beside the woofer, the Queen sounded almost as full-range as the King (the -3dB point is 38Hz, versus 32Hz for the King) and because the speaker did so little to block the view, it imaged with even better width of field. The amplifier was JoLida's Musical Envoy, which costs \$8000.



...Jim Saxon

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