

**SPECIAL AWARDS ISSUE 2023**

# SOUND | 50+ IMAGE

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FUTURE

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# ELAC Vela FS 407

**M**odern décor has driven the move to tower speakers rather than the wider boxes of old. But tall thin towers generate difficult cabinet standing waves, and with multiple bass drivers it can be hard even to position the bass port without issues. Elac’s solution in the Vela FS 407 is to use two vents — one downfiring to enable easier positioning (see opposite), and a second vent at a point that has opposite phase excitation from the cabinet’s standing wave.

That’s just one innovation which assists these Elacs (the German company is more fully called Electroacoustic GmbH) in their remarkable performance. Another is version five of Elac’s famed JET tweeter, which employs the innovation of squeezing sound from a concertina-like diaphragm which dates back to Oskar Heil’s Air Motion Transformer, first used in 1972. Various companies have since made their own versions, Elac very successfully, with the latest version claiming frequency response beyond 50kHz, and unmarred by the resonances that appear in dome tweeters. But it’s not entirely the extension that impressed us when listening, it was the smoothness and silkiness of the sound quality, even with high-frequency flute notes, which are as difficult for a tweeter to reproduce as for a flautist to play — yet the JET 5 tweeters did it beautifully.

Below is a pair of what Elac calls ‘crystal membrane’ cones, a 150mm (6-inch) sandwich design with a paper cone bonded to the back of a stamped aluminium cone, with extraordinarily wide rubber roll surrounds. With the 2.5-way arrangement, both of these cones deliver bass frequencies, but midrange frequencies are delivered only by the uppermost of the two cones.

It’s a recipe for success — you can instantly hear the immediacy of fundamentals, with no overtones or doubling at all. They deliver smooth, engaging sound across the entirety of the audio spectrum and look extremely attractive while doing it, being very slim towers exactly one metre high. They currently retail at \$7995 the pair. More info: [synergyaudio.com](http://synergyaudio.com)



JUDGES’ **“** COMMENT

Beautiful tower loudspeakers with Elac’s latest JET tweeters and overall a wonderfully smooth and engaging sonic performance.