At a Glance

**Plus**
- Powerful, full-range sound
- Great looks
- Easily driven by modest-power amps

**Minus**
- Price may seem high to non-audiophile civilians
- Large, space-dominating size

GoldenEar has delivered their finest loudspeaker yet. It looks great, sounds great, and represents an exceptional value in high-end audio.

### Pricing

**Price:** $5,498/pair

### Build Quality

- **Value:** 9

### Price

- **Price:** $8,498/pair

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**TEST REPORT**

### Brand

GoldenEar Technology

### Product

Triton Reference Loudspeaker

### Price

$8,498/pair

### Review

GoldenEar Technology's debut loudspeaker, the Triton Two, started the company, launched in 2010, co-founder/president/polymath Sandy Gross indicated that it was the beginning of many to come. He wasn't exaggerating.

New entries entered the scene in quick succession, including powered towers, passive towers, surrounds, subwoofers, bookshelf models, and in-ceiling speakers. Usually, when a company introduces the Triton One, priced at $2,500 each or $5,000 for the pair, it is expected that GoldenEar's mission to combine technology the company had worked on for over two years later, Gross had created a speaker that would take the technology the company had worked on for over two years and put it into a speaker targeted at audiophiles, as opposed to the 5.25-inch drivers on the Triton One, and they incorporate a new cone that uses a low-mass binding to the surround, claimed to improve transient response. Also larger are the 6 x 10-inch drivers in the speaker's subwoofer section, which provide 40 percent more surface area than the One's drivers and feature a substantially bigger magnet structure and voice coil. The 3,800-watt specified, 6-bit DSP-controlled amplifier powers the active drivers, which are aided and abetted by 50.25 x 9.15-inch passive “planar in-line radiators” arranged on either side in an integrated balance configuration similar to that found in GoldenEar’s SuperSat X and XLW subwoofers.

**Designing a reference-quality anything invokes sweating over details, and it’s clear here that GoldenEar did just that.**

As with the One, the Reference’s outriggers are designed for an increased integrated amplifiers. Gross says there are differences in proportion, output and tonal quality of the apparatus, and the Reference incorporates a new cone that uses a low-mass bonding to the surround, claimed to improve transient response. Also larger are the 6 x 10-inch drivers in the speaker’s subwoofer section, which provide 40 percent more surface area than the One’s drivers and feature a substantially bigger magnet structure and voice coil. The 3,800-watt specified, 6-bit DSP-controlled amplifier powers the active drivers, which are aided and abetted by 50.25 x 9.15-inch passive “planar in-line radiators” arranged in an integrated bass of that, in the case of the Triton Reference, 360° wide on the front.

**As with the One, the Reference’s outriggers are designed for an increased**

**Reference Quality**

Starting from the highest frequencies reproduced by the Triton Reference and working down, those enhancements include a new version of GoldenEar’s HPR tweeter, a large, cone-shaped, ribbon-type transducer thatGoldenEar has introduced a number of enhancements large and small that, taken in total, help to justify the Reference’s sealed name.

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The Reference
GoldenEar Technology Triton Reference Loudspeaker

**Price**: $8,498/pair

**Test Report**

**By** Ali Griffin

When reviewed, GoldenEar Technology's debut loudspeaker, the Triton Two, was shortly after the company launched in 2010, co-founder/president/photomath Sandy Gross indicated that it was going to be one of many to come. He wasn't exaggerating. Many new drivers and innovations in quick succession, including powered towers, passive towers, subwoofers, bookshelf models, and in-ceiling speakers, have introduced the company into the Triton One. Priced at $2,500 each or $5,000 for the pair, the Reference is a much more open, transparent, high-performance loudspeaker. Its build quality and sound are exceptional, and the company's mission to combine price, features, and performance with the new version of GoldenEar's HVFR tweeter.

**Price**

The price of the GoldenEar Technology Triton Reference Loudspeaker is $8,498 per pair. This price includes the speakers, which are delivered as a pair. Each speaker is priced at $4,249. The speakers come with a two-year warranty.

**Build Quality**

The GoldenEar Technology Triton Reference Loudspeaker is built to last. The cabinet is made of high-quality materials, and the drivers are designed to provide a long lifespan. The build quality is exceptional, and the attention to detail is evident throughout the construction of the speakers. The drivers are well-aligned, and the cabinets are robust and well-foamed to provide excellent bass response. The speakers are available in a variety of finishes, including black and white.

**Performance**

The GoldenEar Technology Triton Reference Loudspeaker is a high-performance speaker that delivers exceptional sound quality. It is designed to provide a wide soundstage and deep, rich bass response. The speakers are capable of handling a wide range of music genres and can provide a realistic and immersive listening experience. The GoldenEar Technology Triton Reference Loudspeaker is an excellent choice for audiophiles and music lovers who value high-performance sound.

**AT A GLANCE**

- Powerful, full-range sound
- Great looks
- Easily driven by modest-power amps
- Price may seem high to non-audiophile civilians
- Large, space-dominating size

The bass/midrange drivers above and below the tweeter are 6-inches, as opposed to the 5.25-inch drivers on the Triton One, and they incorporate a new cone that uses a low-mass bonding to the surround, aimed to improve transient response. Also larger are the 6 x 10-inch drivers in the speaker's subwoofer section, which provide 40 percent more surface area than the One's drivers and feature a substantially bigger magnet structure and voice coil. The 3,800-watt specified 6-channel DSP-controlled amplifier powers the active drivers, which are wired in parallel and abasted by 50.25 x 5.1em passive “planar inorganic radiators” arranged on either side of a front-facing balanced subwoofer. Designing a reference-quality anything invokes sweating over details, and it's clear that GoldenEar did just that. As with the One, the Reference's cutaway image shows the Triton's subwoofer section, with which GoldenEar has improved the balanced circuit. Damping material inside the cabinet's subwoofer is made from a custom mixture of Dacron and long fiber ( Antibur soil). The subwoofer's passive crossover takes a 1.25-inch-thick plate of that of the all-medie basses used on the company's other models. More detail: The Reference comes with stainless-steel carpet spikes instead of the brass versions typically provided with tower speakers. Additionally, much work was concentrated on the speaker's internal bracing by making rigorous, according to Gross. While this isn't readily visible, what is visible is the speaker's single-piece, gloss-black, monocoque cabinet. A first for GoldenEar (which has wraps all previous Tritons in a black-mash "soc" material), this cabinet imparts a sense of enhancing the listener's overall rigidity and "deadless." It looks great, too. While other speakers put out by the company have followed the same basic design template, the attention paid to this speaker with 10 percent more dynein-magnetic material, a twist that increases efficiency and loses for better control of the tweeter's pleated planar diaphragm. The volume of the cabinet behind the tweeter has also been enhanced, adding a smoother transition to the angle between faceplate and diaphragm that helps to improve dispersion.

**The bass drivers on the Reference:**

The Reference's bass drivers are designed to provide a powerful, full-range sound. The 6 x 10-inch drivers in the speaker's subwoofer section provide 40 percent more surface area than the One's drivers, which feature a substantially bigger magnet structure and voice coil. The 3,800-watt specified 6-channel DSP-controlled amplifier powers the active drivers, which are wired in parallel. The subwoofer section, which provides low-frequency response, is designed to improve performance by enhancing the tweeter’s efficiency and allowing drivers to work inphase. The Reference also improves performance by enhancing the tweeter's efficiency and allowing drivers to work in phase. The Reference's tweeter is designed to improve performance by increasing efficiency and allowing drivers to work inphase.
Each of the three subwoofer drivers is a 6 x 10-inch racetrack shape.

The Triton Reference houses

a pair of 6-inch cone bass/midrange drivers.

The Triton Reference was hitting the room. GoldenEar’s specs bass extension on the Reference as flat to 20 hertz and below in-room, and hearing this track gave me no cause to dispute that. More to the point, the bass was full and powerful enough that any question of needing an external subwoofer to supplement the pair’s performance in my listening space was put to rest.

For my final test, I moved the speakers to my home theater—no easy task, considering their substantial weight. Then, they anchored an all-GoldenEar system, with a SuperSat 50C for the center speaker and a pair of Triton Twos used as surrounds. Amp power to each speaker was 120 watts. When I watched the scene from Star Trek: Beyond where Kirk decides to abandon ship after being attacked by Krall and his troops, the Reference vividly conveyed the swells of sad music as the Enterprise locked in with the alien planet’s gravitational pull. The sound of escape pods being jettisoned had a powerful envelope, and when the ship finally careened into a canyon on the planet’s surface, the thunderous impact clearly captured the alien planet’s gravitational pull.

The reference Performance

It’s often said that GoldenEar speakers sound as good as, if not better than, models costing 10 times as much. To give that notion a reality check, I made a point of visiting a high-end audio shop during my evaluation period to listen to speakers that actually do cost 10 times as much as the Triton Reference. (A shout-out to Speaker Shop in Amherst, New York, for providing the access—and apologies for making you listen to The Dark Side of the Moon.) Hearing my reference tracks on those über-expensive speakers (which, of course, were attached to über-expensive amps), I was surprised at how well the Reference compared. Were there differences? Yes. Imaging with the $85,000/pair speakers was stunningly precise, and their sound had an effortless, rock-solid quality that caused the towers to completely disappear from the room. But many of the qualities I heard with that system—transparency, nimble dynamic contrasts, top-to-bottom cohesiveness—were in evidence when I returned home and listened with the Reference. Was I still happy? Absolutely!

Pure Pleasure

One thing that often gets lost in audio equipment reviews is the fun factor: Did the reviewer enjoy listening to music with this or that component? The detailed, dynamic, and full-range sound put out by the Triton Reference had the effect of turning me into a music junkie (that audio crack thing I mentioned earlier). I’m a regular music listener, but once I had the Reference up and running, I found myself wanting to do little else. Blu-rays, Netflix, the internet, exercise—it all went by the wayside, and I found myself sitting up late, night after night, playing music. I also invited non-audiophile friends and neighbors over to listen, blowing numerous unsullied minds in the process. And when I mentioned how much the Reference costs, not one person blinked. To them, $8,500 for a pair seemed a fair price for such excellent sound.

What to do next after creating a speaker called the Reference? I’m sure that Gross and his engineering team will find plenty to do to keep busy. For now, though, they’ve earned fair rights to rest a while on their laurels. If true reference-quality performance at a very fair price was the goal here, GoldenEar Technology has succeeded in a huge way.