

# Outdoor speaker test session



*Pictured: Athena AS-06 outdoor speakers*

While putting together an article about outdoor speakers, we also had the opportunity to play around with an Athena Technologies AS-06 outdoor speaker and an Energy Tempest Indoor/Outdoor speaker.

The Athena Technologies AS-06 is an affordable outdoor speaker designed to bring sound to your backyard, deck or patio. The attractive weatherproof enclosure does not look like your average rectangular speaker box - mostly curved lines and rounded edges define its shape. It houses a 6-1/2" injection molded polypropylene woofer with a rubber surround and a 1" Teteron dome tweeter. Capable of handling 125 watts per channel, the speakers have a frequency response of 80 Hz to 20 kHz. Removable mounting brackets make the installation process easy, regardless of where you want to place the speakers. You can install the speakers vertically or horizontally and then adjust the exact angle within the brackets. At the back of the speaker, two gold plated push-button connectors ensure a large contact surface and a tight connection. Having dimensions of 13-1/8" high by 8" wide by 8-3/8" deep these speakers are fairly large, but

this makes them sound good outside where sound disperses quickly. Connected to the Zone 2 of our Onkyo TX-SR701 receiver, the AS-06s offered excellent performance. The midrange and treble came through very clearly while the bass performance was surprising for outdoor speakers thanks to the large 6-1/2" woofer and the large enclosure. Many outdoor speakers lack in the bass department, but not these guys. If you

want to be able to turn up the volume or listen to bass heavy music outside definitely try the AS-06s. Positioning the speakers in several different locations on the patio produced similar results, although we did find the speakers to sound best against the wall of the house. Available in a matte black or white finish, the AS-06 will suit anyone's taste. Price: \$400 (Canadian)

The Energy Tempest speakers can be used in both indoor and outdoor applications. Their exclusive indoor/outdoor equalization system lets the user control the speaker's sound with the flick of a switch. In the indoor position the speaker will automatically adjust itself to produce optimum sound for inside rooms. Flicking the switch to the outdoor position will increase bass and protect the speaker from overdrive damage. Each Tempest speaker combines a 5-1/4" injection molded cone with a nitril rubber surround together with a 1/2" Dual Hyperdome tweeter. The speakers have a frequency response

of 65 Hz to 21 kHz and are recommended to be driven by 5 to 100 watts of power. Smaller size makes them easy to blend into your patio, and they can also be painted to match the surroundings - detailed instructions are provided in the manual. The enclosure features straight rounded edges all around and measures 10" high by 7" wide by 6-1/2" deep - substantially smaller than the Athena AS-06. Detachable brackets allow easy horizontal or vertical installation and adjusting the speaker's angle is a breeze with two nicely designed plastic knobs. Multi-binding posts allow you to use a variety of connectors and are well protected from the weather by a rubber seal. The indoor/outdoor switch is also under the same seal. Powered by the second zone of our Onkyo TX-SR701 receiver the Tempest speakers performed impressively. The speakers sounded slightly brighter than the Athena AS-06s, but not overly bright. In fact, they reproduced sound more accurately in the mid to high frequencies. Outdoors, the bass performance was good with the switch in the indoor position, and selecting the outdoor position made a noticeable difference in the lower frequencies. Indoors, the Tempest sounded equally as impressive and could be used in any bookshelf speaker application. So if you're looking for a compact weatherproof speaker with accurate sound reproduction, the Tempest could be the speaker for you. Also available in matte black or white finishes. Price: \$400 (Canadian)



*Pictured: Energy Tempest indoor/outdoor speakers*