



## Review on A06 and C06 in Norway Magazine "Hjemmekino 07/07"

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You don't get the world's best hi-fi set-up for 10.000NOK but you come incredibly far with this set up from Xindak and Xavian.

Text and photo by Roy Ervin Solstad.

As a hi-fi journalist one gets the opportunity to listen to enormous amounts of hi-fi gear in all price ranges. This means that by time one adopts enough experience (at least I like to think so) that one possesses a certain overview regarding what one can expect of sound quality at a given amount of money. This is the case either if the amount is 5.000NOK or 50.000NOK. But the danger with such experience is that you risk blindly looking at the price tag, almost searching for those improvements you know ought to be there compared to cheaper equipment. And if one is so lucky that the test equipment, that one sits so thoroughly and listens to, is a bit better than what one has experienced earlier in the same price range, then you suddenly has an amplifier, cd-player or loudspeaker which gives more than expected for the money. Who hasn't read "C and by all means I can add i°writtenj± "C that a given product performs incredibly well for the money?

One part of the cause why the consumer nowadays gets a lot more for the money than for only a few years back, is because a lot of western hi-fi manufacturers have moved the main production of their products to low-cost-countries (read China), and not least because the Chinese themselves now exports their own hi-fi products around the globe. This leads to bigger price competition, which for us consumers means more for the bucks than ever before.

But even though I already possessed this knowledge I was not prepare to the shock I got when receiving the new budget-components from Xindak and the smallest new Italian/Czech Xavian bookshelf speakers. The amplifier and cd-player from Xindak costs only 2.500NOK each, while the Xavian Mia MkII speakers reduce your account with the same amount as the electronic together. Still 10.000NOK for a complete hi-fi set-up is not much in a country which is over flooded with oil, gas and money.

### **Sanken- transistors**

Even before you have turned on the amplifier, there is a lot suggesting that Xindak has prioritized sound over flexibility and stash. The beautiful front of brushed aluminium only has one volume knob, one on/off knob and five knobs for line choices. At the back there is not much more, and some will definitely miss pre-outputs for easy adding of for example subwoofer. Xindak has chosen to use the money on whatj's inside the amplifier, and here we find a large trafo, AD712 transistors in the power supply, Toshiba 2SK170 FETs in the pre-amplifying stage, double Hitachi 2SD667/SB647 transistors and finally two sets Sanken 2SC4468/2SA1695 double output transistors per channel.

**Audiolab** is amongst those who swear to use Sanken amplifying transistors because of their good sound qualities, but the integrated 8000S from Audiolab costs slightly more than three times the Xindak amplifier. Xindak states the A06 as being 80watts in 8 ohms, and without measurement equipment I have no reason to doubt these specifications. The simple grey remote control gives the possibilities for volume adjustments and choice of source input.

### **Upsampling**

The cd-player C06 is neither overloaded with features. It is for example only equipped with coaxial digital output. The laser is a Sony 213 and the mechanism is a Philips CD18. The well known TDA1543 16Bit digital to analogue converter, and a chip which upsamples the signal to 176,4 kHz is used. The power supply is well shielded and the remote does what it is supposed to do despite its antique appearance. Neither the amplifier nor the cd-player has the possibilities of balanced use, but this is not normal in this price range anyway.

### **Mini-Duetto**

When I asked for the Xindak set for review I also asked the distributor to suggest a matching speaker, and Audifoni was quick in suggesting the new Mia II from the Czech/Italian Xavian. The speakers are actually a bookshelf variant of Duetto which I tested earlier this year. The only thing that separates the two speaker's "C despite the obvious smaller cabinet "C is that the Mia II only has one bass/midrange instead of the two in the Duetto.

The design is as one can expect from Xavian; the nicest I can think of in its price range. They make use of real wood-finer and small design-details which increases the all over quality-impression a lot! Xavian also offers high quality speaker stands.

### **The sound**

Earlier I wrote that I was shocked by the built quality and design of this Xavian/Xindak set after unpacking. But even though the design and quality-feeling expressed a much higher price than the 10.000NOK this set costs (without cables and speaker stands though), it was the sound that really got my eyes and ears wide open. It seems almost to be against the laws of nature to get so good quality out of so little money. It was perhaps my neighbour across the street, who after regaining his speech after the cat had cached his tongue after listening to the setup for just a few minutes, that said it the best.: j°It is amazing how much money I have wasted on just a fragment of better soundj± he cried out. To elaborate I can tell you that his cd-player alone costs five times the whole Xavian/Xindak set.

What you get for 10.000NOK is remarkable-musical-communicative abilities. Here are neither screechy high frequencies, undefined bass definitions nor soundstage as flat as our neighbour country on the south side of Skagerrak (read Denmark). Especially the last, the soundstage, surprises by being deep, wide and relative precise. On the Dire Straits record Love Over Gold the sound is fare beyond the speakerj̄'s position and it is extremely easy to place the musicians in both width and depth. The acoustical guitar on the title track has body and you can hear Mark Knopfler's fingers run across the guitar neck on their way to new harmonics. At the same time it is just as easy to spot when things are wrong in the sound stage, as for the recording Hallelujah with the gentlemen Kurt Nielsen, Askil Holm, Alejandro Fuentes and Espen Lind. Here they have mixed the vocals in a way

that makes it hear like all four vocals are being singed through the same shack in the middle, and not four vocalists sitting next to each other in line as they do on stage. It is possible that the new 'guitar-buddies's recording have fooled many, but this fault is very easily noticed by the Xavian/Xinak set sitting in the sound producer chair.

Still this set is not just a 'play-well-for-my-mother-in-law-setup', because here you also have surprisingly speed and dynamics. It is powerful when it is supposed to, and becomes quiet just as quick. The drums on the end of Private Investigation on the before mentioned Dire Straits album can almost wake the dead, and rockers like Ramstein and techno artists like Infected Mushroom are being reproduced in a superb way. The fuzz-guitars sounds like they should, and you are never in doubt regarding separating acoustical from electrical instruments used by the Israeli band Infected Mushroom.

It is not until the music gets very complex and at the same time at high volumes this setup tends to get breathing problems, but at this price range I doubt that it could have been done any better anyway. The amplifier probably also lacks a bit air in the top compared to for example Holfi's integrated amp INT 8S, but on the other hand this costs four times as much as Xindak A06. When it comes to the cd-player, Xindak C06, I must say that I think this is the best bargain there is on the market nowadays. Compared to many peoples budget reference; Cambridge Azur 640C MKII, the C06 behaves a bit quieter. The high frequencies in the Cambridge seem sharper and more tiresome over time, and the dynamical contrast between sound and quiet is not as good as in the Xavian C06. Even though these differences are small this still contributes to creating a bigger calm to the sound stage through the C06.

I have also tested the C06 up against cd-players costing up to ten times more, and in fact it competes quite well in these companies too. Although you get a little more air, a little better control of the bass and slightly better definition of rhythm and space in these expensive cd-players, the C06 follows them quite a long way. This is no less than fantastic when considering what this cd-player cost.

## **Conclusion**

Of course I could have said that the Xindak A06 and C06 and the Xavian Mia II reproduces sound which you frankly speaking cannot expect in this price range, but I wont. Because these products have now set the level. You see they are now my reference points in their price ranges. Boy I am glad I'm not a hi-fi manufacturer who need to compete with these products. Mashang qu mai! (Run and buy it!)

### **Xindak A06. 5 of 6 stars.**

Pros: Good musical performance, nice design, price.

Cons: No pre-out, lacks a bit of air.

### **Xindak C06. 6 of 6 stars.**

Pros: You will not find better sound for the money, nice design.

Cons: Nothing at this price!