

AUDIO TEST

STEREO | STREAMING | HIGH END

Echter Röhrensound

So warm kann Musik klingen: High-End-Stereovollverstärker von Opera Audio Consonance und Cayin gemessen und angehört



40 Jahre Rega

Vinyl-Know-how

Edel, klangstark, bezahlbar:
Das leistet der RP40 von Rega

TEST PDF
GAUDER AKUSTIK ARCONA 100

...st mit einem
5.2.-System ordentlich
die Wände wackeln

aktivierte Lautsprecher

Brandneue kompakte
Modelle von KEF,
Quadral und Nubert
im Hörtest



Den perfekten Sound im Ohr

Neue Modelle von Sony und Audio-Technica für
ambitionierte Musikliebhaber im Testlabor





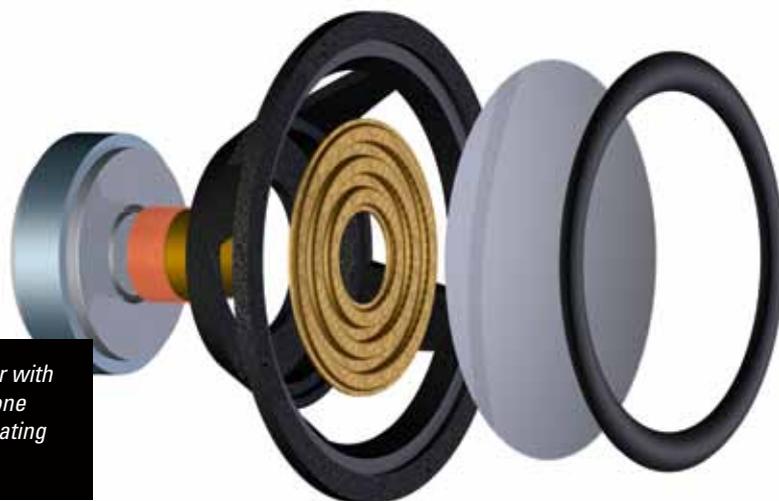
Emotional Math Magician



AUDIO TEST
1.2014
Excellent (94 %)
Gauder Akustik Arcona 100
www.audio-test.at

Create, create, build loudspeakers! The fact that Swabians can do more than cook Spätzle has long been proven to us by speaker designer Dr. Roland Gauder – now in a new situation and marketing attractively priced loudspeakers under own name.

Torsten Pless



The Xpuls driver with an aluminum cone and polymer coating on the rear side

For many of us the traditional Isophon brand name will remain in our memory. Its disappearance from the market was as much a surprise as its resurrection under the name Gauder Akustik. With the change in company name, however, the previous product line-up did not change; and the Arcona Series models, which had been available for about a year, continued to address and compete in the more affordable, good value segment of the market. With the Arcona 100 we brought the top-of-the-line model in the series into our listening room. Design enthusiasts will appreciate this tall (1.14 m) floor standing loudspeaker with its elegant contour and slender profile. Available in cherry, piano finish black, and white lacquer, the finishes are immaculate, clean, and flawless. Function and design also come together with rounded corners to reduce unwanted diffraction effects and the use of curved non-parallel walls to avoid standing waves and reflections inside the cabinet. To reduce vibrations two internal braces are employed to ensure maximum rigidity and to make the outer panel essentially resonance free. The terminal plate color is customized to complement the choice of veneer. WBT Nextgen 0708 single conductor terminals are mounted in a recess on the rear of the cabinet, and accept both bananas and spade connectors with ease. Not to clutter the area, the bass reflex port is attached to the speaker's underside. Spikes which are included raise the Arcona 100 a few inches, and together with matching washers prevent direct transfer of sound to the floor.

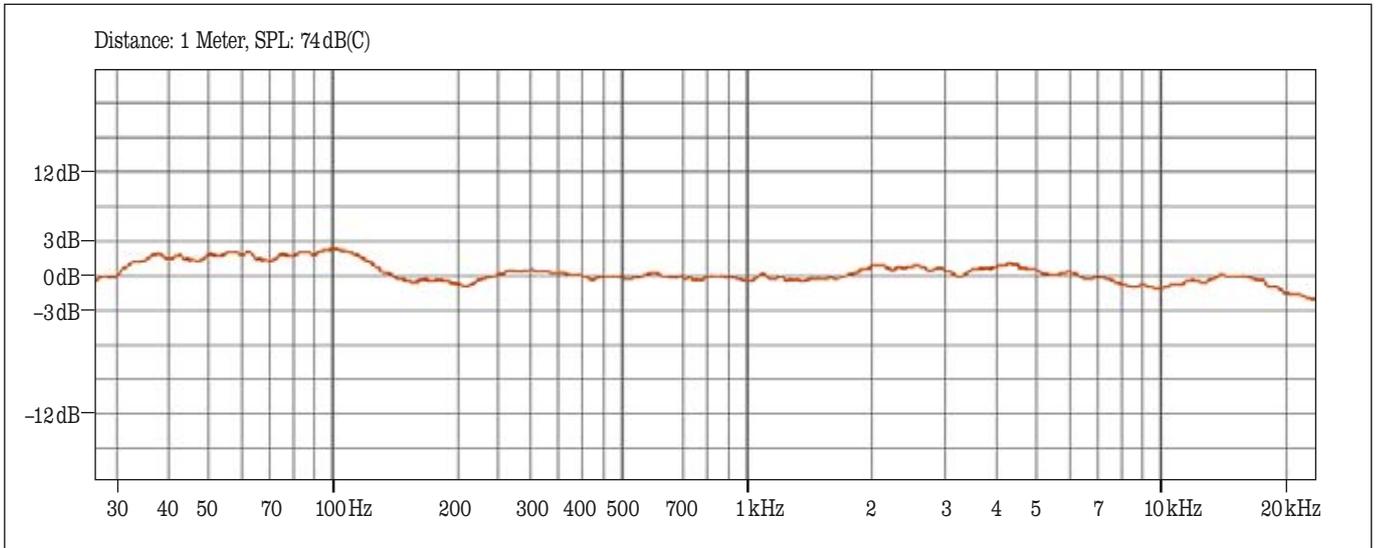
In selecting cone materials for his drivers, Dr. Gauder remained true to himself, and to the Arcona Series, and put his trust exclusively in hard materials. He felt that soft paper and plastic cone materials contributed to soft impulse response. Since the typical Gauder choices of ceramic and diamond proved too expensive for the Arcona Series, he opted instead to use an aluminum diaphragm with a rear polymer coating for the three drivers. By specifying mass, the transient response of the whole series could be modeled and the mechanical resonance characteristics examined.

Above the three 17 cm midrange and LF drivers is an Air Motion Transformer (AMT), which was developed by Dr. Oskar Heil. With a strong permanent magnet comprised of a combination of iron, neodymium, and boron the driver achieves very high efficiency. Gauder Akustik normally avoids the ordinary and tends to just

the choice of materials. The crossover design is also somewhat unusual, with slopes of more than 50dB/octave – something few would ever dare to attempt. Thus the individual drivers in the transition region have little overlap, which results a more focused center image and the sonic approximation of a point source. The basic idea of a symmetrical architecture, as implemented in the Berlina series, was transferred to the Arcona 100. By using the same components on the plus and minus side, the rear motion of speaker is better damped and the amplifier is presented with a more balanced load. The European retail price varies from 5,798 to 6,298 depending on veneer – reminding us of the extremely high quality materials used by Gauder. As for crossover components the company puts its trust exclusively in German manufacturers Intertechnik and Mundorf – rightly, in our opinion. Dr. Gauder left well-trodden paths for the noise shaping in the Arcona 100 and gave it a distinct and very pleasant character. Emotion is the keyword here; and proves that loudspeaker design isn't just a question of mathematics. Sonically similar to the whole range, this speaker allows voices and fundamental instruments, even at low listening levels, to sound great. This points to a very musical, high resolution presentation, and the same added dimension we found earlier in another good piece – in the Berlina RC7 (see AUDIO TEST 3/12). With rock and blues titles the A-100 did very well, and rather than impart unnecessary additional aggressiveness, the speaker seemed to hold back and refrain from contributing more distortion. Individual instrument groups seemed to be spatially correct, with instruments placed in their proper respective positions. Heavily com-

A symmetrical crossover structure ensures a focused sonic image

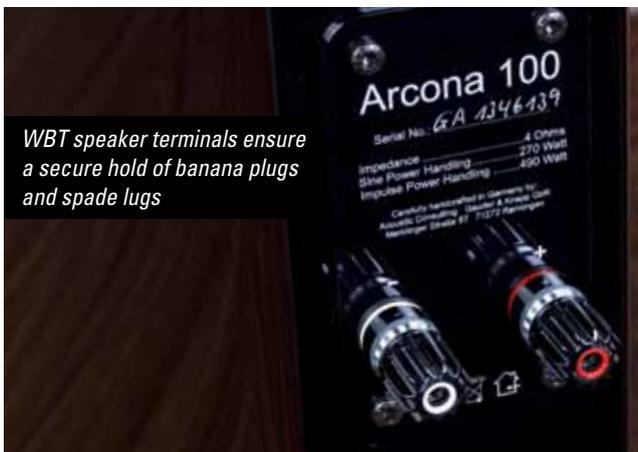




Frequency response very linear without any particular irregularities

pressed vocals were never too intrusive. Voices were located precisely within the musical arrangement and the system proved capable of articulating ‘S’ and sibilants. The emotion conveyed by this speaker is achieved in general as a result of a slight coloration in the lower midrange region, a character generally described as warmth. This results in a certain strain which is evident particularly in close and intimate passages such as single instruments and solo voices, and in this instance is not due to the membrane material selection. Some may miss the heavy gnarl of the contrabass, but this also seems to be part of the overall concept. While other manufacturers equate even a small amount of warmth with strain, the Arcona 100 has found the right balance, and provides a desirable listen-through quality with complex musical works. In the width and depth of presentation these speakers create a large and generous stage which operates as if detached from the speakers themselves. Both smaller recording venues and grand church halls are recreated faithfully by reverberations in the mind’s eye of the beholder, which confirms the speaker’s transparency.

With the Arcona 100 Gauder Akustik has created a very high quality speaker, freed from convention to simply sound right to our ears while we derive pleasure listening to music.



EQUIPMENT DETAILS

General	
Manufacturer	Gauder Akustik
Model	Arcona 100
Suggested Retail	from Euro 5 798 (pair)
Dimensions (W×H×D)	21 × 114 × 39 cm
Information	www.gauderakustik.com

Technical Data	
Operation	3-way, passive
Design	Bass reflex, with ducted port on underside
Recommended Amplifier Power	15–150 W
Sound Pressure	86 dB@4 Ohm/ 2 Vrms (1 W/1 m)

EVALUATION

Bass Reproduction	<div style="width: 85%;"></div>	10.5/12
Midrange Reproduction	<div style="width: 85%;"></div>	10.5/12
HF Reproduction	<div style="width: 85%;"></div>	10.5/12
Three Dimensionality	<div style="width: 92%;"></div>	11/12
Naturalness	<div style="width: 85%;"></div>	10.5/12
Vividness/Signal Fidelity	<div style="width: 88%;"></div>	10.5/11
Dynamic Behavior	<div style="width: 83%;"></div>	10/11
Playback Quality	<div style="width: 61%;"></div>	73.5/82
Equipment Workmanship	<div style="width: 89%;"></div>	8/9
User Friendliness	<div style="width: 89%;"></div>	8/9
Interim Results	89.5 out of 100 points	
Construction Material Cost	+ 4.5	
Price/Performance	Very good	
Final Result	<div style="width: 95%; background-color: red;"></div>	Excellent 94/100