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AUDIO PHYSIC AVANTI

Come on, let's go!

That somehow sounds familiar! Once again there is a loudspeaker from Audio Physic by the name of "Avanti". This series was always renowned for its vigour, enthusiasm and speediness.

Is the current model just as zippy?

If you can't beat them, join them." Audio Physic has obviously internalised this strategic maxim with respect to adversaries. Let's not be fooled by gender-correct waffling: Whilst we blithely assume that the decision for a loudspeaker is based on tests and extensive listening sessions in the hi-fi studio and at home, it is ultimately the woman of the house who decides what comes in and what stays out. And she often has her own principles.

In this, often enough in the female mind, the term "loudspeaker" connotes an "ugly black box". That's why many ladies will be pleasantly surprised by the tall, slender cabinet of the new Avanti, and it was no coincidence that it was delivered in white and with a glassed surface. This design version, which incidentally costs a bit more – the loudspeaker is available starting at EUR 4,990 per pair also in fine veneers – was first introduced by Audio Physic in its "Classic" series, and has generally been very well received.

A slender appearance

During their tests in STEREO, these Classic models exhibited refined qualities indeed, yet are somewhat more "main-stream", as they are tonally more appealing and less dissecting than their decidedly audiophile colleagues from the manufacturer's normal range. The company's latest creation bearing the

renowned name "Avanti", traditionally a guarantee in Audio Physic's line-up for crisp attack and precision, seeks to combine stylish looks with a sound quality that is right on the money.

The specialists from Brilon, after several years without the Avanti, have purposely revived this name. This could already be seen based on cross-checks with its Tempo^{plus+} model. Priced starting at EUR 4,590, it is not too far away from the Avanti, yet it cannot hold a candle to

the Avanti in terms of openness and spatial characteristics. "In this respect, the Avanti is modelled more after the larger Virgo", explained developer Manfred Diestertich in advance. We certainly agree. By contrast, the Tempo^{plus+} is somewhat fuller and more powerful in its fundamental tone and in the bass ranges, whereas the new Avanti is as slender and agile as its appearance. This invokes memories of past namesakes.

The appearance of the black WBT terminals may be unassuming, but in fact they contribute to the high-end sound. Their rubber-like "body dampener" eliminates vibrations in this critical place.



It doesn't lack any substance, yet the lower registers have such a bright, intricately-layered dynamic – an attribute that we otherwise use to describe mid-range drivers and tweeters – that its 'little sister' is not the only one appearing just a little bit more sluggish by comparison.

It's a pleasure to hear the agility and accuracy with which Avanti sorts the bass lines and even defines sophisticated structures in this area. For example, with Monty Alexander's challenging "Moanin'" from the STEREO Listening Test CD VI. Whilst especially at higher volumes, for which this song seems made to measure, many loudspeakers have difficulties not turning into pulp in the lower registers, this slender creation from Germany's Sauerland renders a concise and contoured performance.

In this, a woofer is not even visible. It is located on the inside, on the foot end. The 8-inch woofer there projects not only into a compact enclosure but also into the much more voluminous interior of the cabinet. In both cases, the sound is emitted from the bottom. Specifically, not only via ceramic foam, which provides flow resistance for both the selective dampening of the driver and additional stability to the bass box, but also through a small opening behind the baffle. This configuration is intended to guarantee punchy impulsivity and powerful drive.

The mid-range reproduction of the new Audio Physic model is absolutely stunning. It is rare to find loudspeakers of such diversity, delicacy

and softness, even in this committed price range. Not a trace of harshness or coarseness that cropped up on former Avanti models on critical material. Even crystal-pure recordings of female vocalists such as Esther Fellner in "Ma Chanson De La Rue" (CD VI) retain their charm, and appear with contours that are as resolved as they are precise.

This is due to facelifts in in both the tweeter and mid-range driver, as before featuring a low-

Tested with

TURNTABLES: Clearaudio Performance DC, Rega RP6/Benz ACESL
CD PLAYER: Audionet ART V3, Musical Fidelity m6sCD, Rega Apollo-R

AMPLIFIER: Exposure, 3010S2, Symphonic Line RG14 Edition, Technics SU-C700

LOUDSPEAKER: Audio Physic Tempo^{plus}, T+A TCD 310S

CABLES: Wireworld Eclipse 7 (NF), Silent Wire LS16

resonance dual-basket design, yet the one-piece surround of which is now located directly on the aluminium membrane, which also improves the definition. With the now more heavily ventilated cone tweeter, it forms a genuine "dream team" for the high notes.

For exact definition on homogeneous tone colours, we placed the Avantis on the new magnetic feet "VCF II magnetic", which cost some EUR 600 extra for an eight-pack,

The Tricks behind Avanti

A sheet of porous ceramic foam forms the direct bass outlet on the bottom. In addition, the internal woofer "breathes" through a narrow opening behind the baffle.

The back of the Terminal panel is dampened, which according to Audio Physic considerably improves the clarity of sound reproduction.

The 8-inch woofer works on the small volume of its enclosure, but also projects into the cabinet, which enhances both its speed and depth.

In many openings of the cabinet stabilisers, there are metal foam inserts for selective dampening, promoting clarity.





but in terms of enhanced performance, this investment paid for itself compared to ordinary spikes.

You can place it near the wall

In addition to its elegant looks, here's another thing our better half will love about the Avanti. What can you be sure to hear after buying loudspeakers: "And don't put those things in the middle of the room!" Audio Physic's new model is in fact designed for an open placement, but its bass characteristics, in combination with the clearly forward-leaning treble section, often enable a placement that is closer to the wall than usual.

We also enjoyed the Avanti, after moving it closer to the wall, without any muffling of Ray Brown's bass on "Soular Energy" or any attrition in the offset in depth of the chorus in "Mitt Hjerte Alltid Vanker" (CD IV). So you can do your

loved one a favour with an "integrated placement" – and even stay in her good books until the next discussion on hi-fi speakers – whilst enjoying all the sound rewards the responsive Avanti has to offer.

However, it does not fit into the role of the "lowest common denominator" at all. After all, Audio Physic's creation, despite its being described as good-natured, is too uncompromising for that. This became evident when we listened to the entire latest Listening Test CD VIII on it. The loudspeaker not only mastered all the challenges with ease, but also adapted to each musical style; it thus presented the opener "Galop" with bold verve, only to present the elegiac "Visions" from a more contemplative and reflective posture. In fact, the new Avanti is on the ball in those genres as well. *Matthias Böde*

This is where the new height-adjustable, top-tightening magnetic feet are mounted.



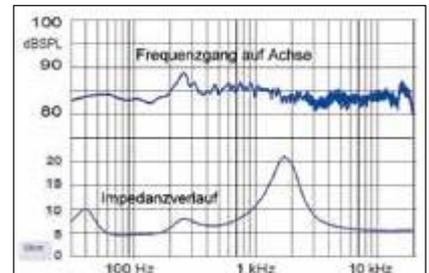
AUDIO PHYSIC AVANTI



from EUR 4,990 per pair (three veneers, white or black glass finish about EUR 5,390, special glass finishes about EUR 5,790)
Dim.: 17.2x108x29.5 cm (WxHxD)
Warranty: 10 years (registration)
Contact: Audio Physic, Tel.: +49 2961 96170, www.audiophysic.de

Hurray, the Avanti is back! Audio Physic combines in it several technical approaches such as the inside woofer with gorgeous looks, including the optional glassed surfaces and first-class sound reproduction.

MEASUREMENT RESULTS*



Nominal Impedance	4 Ω
Minimum Impedance	3.7 Ω at 72 Hertz
Maximum Impedance	21 Ω at 1650 Hertz
Sensitivity (2.83 V/1m)	86.5 dB SPL
Efficiency at 94 dB (1m)	13.2 W
Lower Crossover Frequency (-3 dB)	38 Hertz
Distortion at 63 / 3k / 10k Hz	1.0 0.1 0.1%

LABORATORY COMMENTARY

The spatial frequency response, determined here with an open placement and with linear "white noise", demonstrates the Avanti's total balance. The bass also has a deep range and is by no means cheeky. The exact step response is manifest in the punchy impulsivity of the Audio Physic loudspeaker. Its impedance curve – which hardly falls below the four-ohm level – is also uncritical, as is the orderly sensitivity. The loudspeakers should be angled towards the listening position.

STEREO-TEST

SOUND LEVEL 84%

PRICE/PERFORMANCE



EXCELLENT

* STEREO Club subscribers can access data and diagrams at www.stereo.de