

The New Midrange

The Audio Physic Tempo – the 6th generation has been launched – sports a new midrange concept enabling it to hit the mark even faster.

Test Review by: Holger Biermann, Photos by: Julian Bauer, Tilman Schreiber

The visual appearance cannot be bettered: the proportions, size and curves, with a sure taste for style, as well as the workmanship of the predecessor model were already perfect. This is why the Tempo VI looks every inch as elegant as the Tempo V. Well done! Technically speaking, however, Audio Physic's chief designer Manfred Diestertich has turned everything upside down. He has replaced the two side-firing 7" woofers with another type of driver, featuring a generous 1.6" voice coil, which makes for even lower distortions. The new soft dome tweeter effortlessly reaches well beyond 30 kilohertz. The superiority of these cutting-edge chassis could be established the very moment the loudspeaker was put to the test. The 6th incarnation of the Tempo has a much higher level stability (106 compared to 101 Decibel) and reaches much further down due to a lower cut-off frequency of 42 Hertz (Tempo V: 65 Hertz).

Diestertich, a true decoupling specialist who came up with the tried and tested SSC feet (among other inventions), takes special pride in his new midrange driver featuring a 5.9" aluminium diaphragm. It

is based on an ingenious double basket configuration where the inside basket holds the diaphragm and the outside basket supports the entire structure (see figure on the next page) which is safely mounted to the baffle panel. The only firm connection between the two baskets is provided by the lower part of the magnet system. Such a decoupling enables Diestertich to effectively prevent transmission of wall vibrations from the baffle to the sound-sensitive midrange area (frequency range from 150 to 3000 Hertz).

However that is not everything, the meticulous inventor has also attached a tuning chip to the magnets of the midrange driver in order to further support the damping of resonances - see the interview on the next page. This is an interesting detail as *stereoplay* has already done some testing on these chips (available at www.creaktiv.de) in many listening sessions. It can be said that most of the tests showed results in favour of the flat silver chips. However in the blind tests that followed, the results often levelled off and therefore our reviewers have not yet come round to making a definite statement. ōō



The metal stands ensure high stability. The provided spikes (perfect precision with thick carpets) as well as the VCF (Vibration Control Feet, 200 Euro for 8 pieces, see picture) can be screwed into the 0.3" sockets of the solid feet. VCF add more openness to the midrange when placed on smooth floors.



The midrange driver featuring a double basket construction and a 5.9" aluminium diaphragm is the heart of the new Tempo.



Manfred Diestertich
Chief Designer at
Audio Physic

stereoplay interview

stp: Mr Diestertich, you attach a tuning chip by Perfect Sound to the magnet of the new Tempo midrange driver. What is the purpose of these chips?

MD: The manufacturers say that the chips "suck" electromagnetic radiation out of the surrounding area.

stp: And what exactly do they do in a loudspeaker?

MD: We put the chips through a number of tests and invited many friends and colleagues to come to the listening sessions. There was never really any doubt that with the chips the loudspeaker sounded more open, more precise. This is the reason why we use them for the Tempo.

stp: Aren't you afraid that people will see this as some sort of HiFi voodoo?

MD: You know, there are more things between heaven and earth than we can explain... As long as the chip tuning makes for a better sound, I am more than willing to accept this.

Apparently there is no harm done with the chips, and above all it was the midrange which opened up and blossomed when put to the test. Alan Taylor's voice in "Isn't She Lovely?" (*stereoplay* CD 5/07) came through superbly where the Tempo VI excelled at delivering a sumptuously rich and full-bodied sound with lithe grace and without introducing any soft-focus effects that blurred the details. The low frequencies were so convincingly portrayed and realistically spread across the room by the Audio Physic loudspeaker that even a room heavyweight such as the KEF 203 did not achieve a better performance.

It got even more exciting when the Tempo VI was up against the equally priced Isophon Corvara (55 points) which, in our test review of 4/05, had tied with the predecessor Tempo V. Again the very coherent and in itself highly precise Isophon was a hard nut to crack. But in the end it had to admit defeat and bow to the new Tempo with its tremendous degree of plasticity, wealth of tone colours and increased bandwidth. Alan Taylor's voice, played on the Isophon, was portrayed with the same clarity and attention to detail, however the Isophon's rendition was slightly flatter, less expressive and more inhibited in terms of tone and timbre. And: The Tempo made the sound of the plucked guitar strings even more sophisticated...

Just for the record: It is common practice at *stereoplay* to let test loudspeakers play

overnight at sufficient levels in order to run in the drivers and crossover components. In the case of the Tempo, this was completely unnecessary because

The Tempo chassis are burnt in before the loudspeaker leaves the factory.

Audio Physic takes care of this detail by making sure each tweeter and midrange driver (except the chassis of the lower-priced Yara series) is burned in prior to leaving the factory. Therefore new Tempo owners do not need to rely on a long burn-in period to fully enjoy the loudspeaker in their own home. An excellent service!

Is it also necessary to burn in the woofers? Apparently not with the Tempo. Thanks to the double woofer configuration, the Tempo is ready to perform at full throttle in jig time. The graceful, column-like loudspeaker delivered superior punch and power handling the "Tuva Rap" (*stereoplay* CD 5/07) where the bass drums shook the listening room. Our reviewers have seldomly enjoyed such a sovereign bass reproduction coming from such a slender loudspeaker.

Maybe the Isophon performed a little bit more precisely at this point, however the overall result remains the same: The Tempo VI is a loudspeaker which truly excels in all aspects - while at the same time being the most competitively priced entrance model to *stereoplay's* Absolute World Class to date!



stereoplay
Highlight

Audio Physic Tempo VI

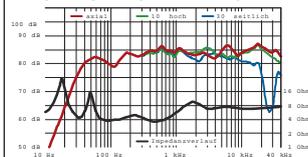
Distribution: Audio Physic, Brilon
Telephone: +49(0)2961/96170
www.audiophysic.de
See website for distributors abroad

Dimensions: 7.4" x 39.4" x 11.4" / 18.7 x 100 x 29cm (W x H x D)

Weight: 20 kg

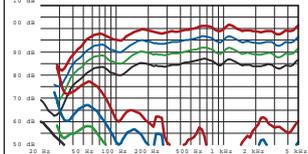
Positioning: can be placed free-standing and approx. one meter away from the side and back wall. For rooms of up to 40m².

Frequency Response & Impedance

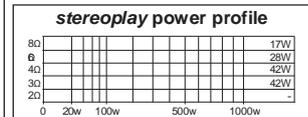


Well balanced, less pronounced yet low reaching bass; Imp. 3,5 Ω

Level & Distortion Response 85-100dB SPL



Very low distortions, increasing slightly in the low frequency range



Requires amplifiers supplying 42 W into 4 Ohm for HiFi performance levels

Lower crossover frequency: -3dB 42 Hz
Maximum level: >42Hz 106 dB

Rating

	12	11	9	11	13
Naturalness (out of 14)					
Resolution (out of 14)					
Dynamics (out of 14)					
Woofer output (out of 14)					
Imaging (out of 14)					

Sound 56

Measurements 7

Practice 4

Value 8

Audio Physic is adding a brilliant new chapter to the success story of the Tempo. The 6th incarnation is a visual stunner delivering homogenous and broad-band sound. An awesome loudspeaker.

stereoplay test result

Sound
Absolute top class 56 points
Overall result
good - very good 75 points

Price/Performance outstanding