

ELACs new entry-level series



They are called „Debut“ and are available as from € 160* per piece: the new entry-level speakers from ELAC. The range comprises the compact bookshelf speaker B5 (€ 160*), the slightly bigger B6 (€ 200*), the floorstanding speaker F5 (€ 380*) and the center speaker C5 (€ 250*). There are also three active subwoofers priced from € 330* to € 800*. As icing on the cake ELAC offers the coaxial Dolby Atmos speakers A4, which are to be simply placed on the main speakers. All woofers work with cones made of aramide fiber-reinforced material, the tweeters feature soft domes and special waveguides. Also revamped by ELAC - especially visually - comes the 240 line of products.

www.elac.com

Sennheiser re-invents the Orpheus

On the upwardly open price scale for headphones, Sennheiser sets a new record: € 50,000* is the cost for the new „Orpheus“, a set of tube amplifier and electrostatic headphones. Sennheiser manufactures the amplifier housing from Carrara marble, and the control dials from solid brass, chrome-plate finished. By pressing the volume control, first the controls on the front slowly protrude out of the amplifier housing, then an octet of tubes rises up and starts glowing gently. Finally, a glass cover raises automatically, allowing the headphones to be taken out. The tubes are encased in quartz glass against microphonic effects. With a voltage of about 5 volts only, the music signal is transmitted to the headphones via a special cable and amplified only then to the high voltage required for electrostatic transducers. The electrodes are made of gold-sputtered ceramic and the diaphragms are vapour-plated with platinum. For the headphones Sennheiser has chosen a classic shape with oval, leather-covered ear pads. Orpheus' amplifier can be operated via analogue XLR or RCA and digital optical or coaxial inputs. Via USB it also handles high-res PCM or DSD files provided by computers. The D/A converter section consists of no less than four parallel ESS Sabre ES9018. The new Orpheus is manufactured at Sennheiser's headquarters in Hannover and coming to retail stores by mid 2016.



www.sennheiser-reshapingexcellence.com

McIntosh: new preamps

New preamplifiers were announced by McIntosh: two of them transistor powered and one equipped with tubes. The two transistor models C47 AC and C52 AC provide lots of XLR and RCA inputs, and even a D/A converter with optical and coaxial S/PDIF inputs, as well as a USB port for computers. It accepts PCM signals up to 384 kHz/32 bit and DSD up to 11.2 MHz. The impedance of the phono inputs (MM and MC) can be adjusted. As icing on the cake the C52 offers an 8-band equalizer and the famous illuminated blue VU meters. Strictly puristic, however, comes the tube model C1100: It works purely analogue without any tone controls. The impedance of the headphones output can be adjusted from 16 to 600 ohms.

www.mcintoshlabs.com



Dynaudio expands the Xeo family



The new small active speaker from Dynaudio shows up in a width of mere 17 cm: The Xeo 2 (€ 1,300* per pair) follows the master/slave principle and can be operated either in analogue or digital-optical mode, via Bluetooth (with aptX or AAC codec) or wirelessly from Dynaudio's transmitter units „Hub“ or „Connect“. It is available in semi-gloss Black or White and can be also mounted to the wall. Also new at Dynaudio are two models of the Excite series: The floorstanding speaker Excite X44 (€ 4,200*/pair), as the new top model of this series, and the compact speaker X18 (€ 1,400*/pair) are both available in the finish options Rosewood, Walnut, Satin Black and Satin White.

www.dynaudio.com

Micromega M One on its way

Initially the M One was introduced way back at the High End in 2015, but during the CES 2016 information about it got more specific: The Micromega M One, a true all-rounder retailing for € 3,500*, is finally said to be released in spring. The slim case made of solid aluminum houses an integrated amplifier, a network player, a hi-res DAC for USB and S/PDIF sources, LAN and WLAN, Bluetooth with aptX, Airplay, analogue inputs for phono MM/MC and line-level RCA and XLR, and a DSP with automatic room correction. In short: It carries pretty much all modern functions, interfaces and protocols. For the individual touch finishes in different colors and variants with leather or carbon applications are available.

www.micromega.com



*All prices listed are German retail prices incl. VAT valid at the time of evaluation.

Music server with USB output

The Korean brand Aurender comes with four different music servers/network players onto the market. They store music on the internal hard drives, but use an SSD as a cache for playback. A D/A converter is not installed, but the signal is provided to external DACs via USB 2 instead. Digital processing comprises PCM files up to 384 kHz/32 bit and DSD up to 5.6 MHz, as well as AAC and others. The LAN port offers access to the home network. Playback is controlled by means of the Aurender app. Depending on the size of the internal storage memory (2 to 12 TB), the type of the installed outputs and the complexity of the power supply, the prices range from € 3,300 to € 18,900*.

www.aurender.com



Aurender X 100

New dream amplifiers from Gryphon



Gryphon Antileon Evo

At the beginning of 2016 Gryphon replaced the power amplifier Antileon Signature. After 15 years it is followed by the all-new developed Antileon Evo. In the stereo version it retails for € 35,000* and in the double-mono version for € 70,000* the pair. The stereo version boasts 150 W at 8 Ohm in pure ClassA operation mode, while the monos offer 175 watts each under the same measurement conditions. The electronic components rank among the best and most expensive available on the market, and the circuit topology presents itself at its best as well.

www.gryphon-audio.dk

DALI: Center for Rubicon

The Danish speaker specialist DALI complements their Rubicon series with a center speaker. It is dubbed „Vokal“ and equipped with the same drivers as the floorstanding Rubicon 6: two 17 cm bass/midrange units, a 29 mm fabric dome tweeter and a ribbon super tweeter. The 58 cm wide speaker can also be used vertically as a regular speaker in d'Appolito configuration when required. As from mid-January it enters the stores for € 1,700* in the finish versions high-gloss Black or White and semi-gloss Walnut or Rosso.



www.dali-speakers.com

*All prices listed are German retail prices incl. VAT valid at the time of evaluation.

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Record brush made from bog oak

Exotic materials make noble equipment somewhat even more exclusive. Transrotor and Levin Design now come up with a record brush using a body made from centuries-old bog oak. The wood is



water resistant, and so Levin Design also offers a record brush for wet cleaning purposes. It is equipped with horsehair, while the dry variant cleans the grooves with Chinese goat hair. The market launch is planned for 2016 - the price is approximately €130*.

www.transrotor.de/en.html

Limited to 30 pairs: Audio Physic Cardeas 30

The speaker specialist from Brilon celebrates its 30th anniversary with a loudspeaker of superlatives: The Cardeas 30 will be built in a limited edition of only 30 pairs, each pair retailing for €35,000*. The high and midrange frequency ranges of the Cardeas are equipped with „Hyper Holographic Cone“ drivers to reduce micro-vibrations. The lows are handled by two 25 cm chassis that sit opposite to each other in the side walls. The crossover features „Clarity Cap“ capacitors, while the speaker connects via WBT Nextgen binding posts and sensitive floors are protected by the proprietary „VCF V Magnetic“ feet. The Cardeas 30 comes with an aluminum front baffle and real wood veneer cabinets, available in Ebony or Rosewood finishes.



www.audiophysic.de

Media center tags vinyl records

The British manufacturer Entotem brings up a media center that digitalizes vinyl records by retrieving tags and covers automatically via the internet, embedding them directly in the files. It's called „Plato“ and uses the „MusicID“ technology from Gracenote. The phono input accepts MM and MC systems, and features switchable capacities, input impedances and gain levels. Additionally on board: three line inputs, an analogue pre-out, coaxial and optical S/PDIF in- and outputs, USB ports for memory sticks, and LAN and HDMI connectors. Analogue audio signals are digitalized with up to 192 kHz/24 bit and stored on the internal 3 TB hard drive. Digital audio/video files in all current formats can be archived on the hard disk and be played from there. Even music and video streaming services can be accessed by the device. Operation is done via the touch screen on the front or via a smartphone app. Pricing: €4,800* resp. €6,000* with built-in 2 x 50 watt amplifier.



www.entotem.com

Beyerdynamic: T5p, second run

Over-ear headphones, optimized for mobile use, but at the price of a high-class studio model: That's the new T5p from Beyerdynamic, retailing for €990*. The circumaural, acoustically closed type was optimized for its second generation in detail, and equipped with an additional damping against high-frequency resonances, stronger baffle fabrics made of high-tech compound material and an improved baffle geometry. At the very heart of the T5p operate 32 ohm transducers with Tesla technology. The ear cups are filled with memory foam and covered with leatherette. The textile-braided cable is interchangeable, 1.40 m long and equipped with a 3.5 mm jack. A 6.35 mm jack adapter and a hard case are included in the scope of delivery. Optional accessories include two 3.0 m long audiophile cables, one of them in a balanced version with a 4-pin XLR connector. The T5p, which is completely manufactured at Beyerdynamic's Heilbronn headquarters, is granted with a five-year warranty.



www.beyerdynamic.com

Octave: 420 watts out of a tube



Octave expands its reference line around their mono amplifiers Jubilee Mono SE. With a total of eight tubes, the Jubilee provides impressive 420 watts - which places enormous demands on the output transformers. The bias points of the tubes can be adjusted by eight 10-turn potentiometers. A special power management limits the inrush current, so that the household fuses are avoided to respond. Upon request, the amplifier switches to standby mode after being ten minutes on idle, so that only the input stages are supplied with voltage. Special highlights are the aluminum parts cut from solid blocks and the stone slab forming the front of the Jubilee Mono SEs. And, there is a cost for all this: €75,000* per pair.

www.octave.de/en

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Deezer invests 100 million euros in streaming

Since Apple entered the business, competition among music-streaming services is getting harder. Anyone who wants to survive within this industry, is forced to acquire as many customers as possible, and that does cost money. So Deezer now has got an infusion of capital in the amount of a tidy 100 million euros. This, not only to bring new subscribers on board, but also to introduce new product features and open up new markets. The fresh money comes from the largest Deezer

shareholder Access Industries, which also owns Warner Music, and from the French telecom group Orange, that also holds significant shares in Deezer. Deezer claims to offer the world's largest streaming catalogue containing 40 million titles, including radio broadcasts, audio books, podcasts and live transmissions of soccer matches.

www.deezer.com



„Moving iron“ from Grado

The New York based manufacturer Grado is not only famous for their headphones, but also plays an important role in the cartridge industry. Now coming are two new cartridge series with wooden bodies, which follow Grados concept of „Moving Iron“. Both coils and magnets are fixedly mounted, while the stylus moves an iron rod that immerses into the magnetic field by changing it through its movement according to the



music. The new series are available as „Reference 2“ in a high-output and a „Statement 2“ in a low-output version. Both of them are recommended to be terminated with 47 kOhms. Each of the two versions is available in four variants with different cantilever and stylus types. Prices range from € 430 to 1,600*.

www.gradolabs.com

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Apple Music now included in the Sonos system

Until now, the possibilities of reproducing the music streaming service Apple Music on high-fidelity speakers were limited. So recently Sonos has integrated Apple Music in their multiroom system - initially as a beta version. Many Apple Music features can now be controlled via the Sonos app on iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Mac, PC or Android smartphones. Playback can be effected in a single or in all rooms. The final version is intended to follow shortly.

www.sonos.com



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stereo 01/2015

“The authentically innovative structure of in-akustiks new interconnect Referenz NF-2404 has propelled it right to the top of the class.”

“Listening to this air cable will take your breath away!”

stereo 09/2015

When it comes to high-end applications, air is still the best insulator currently available as it achieves low capacities and low losses. To meet this, in-akustik has designed a special clip. Inside the cable, many of those clips are arranged to form a special helical support holding two symmetrically arranged conductors freely in the air while maintaining the exact distance to the shield.

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WWW.IN-AKUSTIK.DE