



# WELL DONE!

Slightly bigger, stronger, faster and profitably decluttered:  
 Dynaudio's supposedly discreet product update elevates the attractive  
 Xeo concept to a whole new level of quality!

**W**hen we received the news that Dynaudio was transferring its popular Xeo models to the next generation, we immediately got the feeling of „What, already?“. However, „Tempus fugit“, as one says in Latin; “time flies”. And it does indeed, as if the devil himself were after it. It was already in 2014, almost four years ago, that the Danes presented the Xeo 4 (the compact) and the Xeo 6 (the counterpart to our standing test candidate). Considering the significant amount of digital technology used in such sophisticated active loudspeakers, we can be confident that the tradition-conscious Scandinavians remain true to their long production cycles.

Of course, we could tell you extensively what Xeo actually is; what distinguishes them from the boring, average “activists” and from their own predecessors – but we won't. As Dynaudio's most lifestyle-ish line of speakers is most refreshingly different, we'd rather tell you about the customer-experience one has just after returning home from the hi-fi store and balancing the brand new pair of Xeo 6 out of the trunk into the living room.

Now, don't worry: “balancing”, in this regard, sounds worse than it actually is.

The columns measure just below 86 centimeters and weigh 13 kilograms. They can, therefore, be comfortably carried with just one arm. Four small outriggers at the foot end, in which spikes are bolted, provide enough stability to convince even critical Members of European Parliament. As you probably don't want to perforate your precious parquet floor, you should definitely through in some base pads, because the pointed spikes are obligatory for optimally detached and three-dimensional sound!

### Unpack, Power - fun!

Once you have lifted the speakers out of their boxes and freed them from various protective covers, they are each connected to the mains, using a Euro power cable, which is exactly the same that is, e.g., used for electric Shavers. Since

the Xeo is not Dynaudio's first active loudspeaker, the Danes know what is important when it comes to equipment and include longer-than-usual 2.5 meter cables. Consequently, if connected to a central multi-socket-outlet, the speakers can be placed at a base width of about 4 to 4.5 meters. As the Xeo 30 is, due to its size and wattage, best suited for rooms between 20 and 40 square meters, this is very appropriate. There are no mains switches, therefore, the red LEDs of both

The optional „Connect“ hub adds two analog, two digital and one computer input (mini USB) to the Xeo. However, the box is not mandatory: the master speaker also has two analogue (RCA/mini-jack) and an optical digital access as well as AptX Bluetooth. ▼



speakers, located in black fields below the woofers, light up instantly. Already, the new hi-fi system is set up.

Well, at least for the most part... Obviously, the sources are still missing. A quick glance at the cabinet's back reveals that the two speakers are not entirely identical, as one of them is designed as the „master“ and accommodates all the sockets: two analog inputs, gold-plated RCA as well as a mini stereo jack, and an optical digital connection. The fourth input is represented by a Bluetooth symbol on the solid metal remote control. Hold this button for a few seconds and the Xeos emit pheromones to indicate potential music suppliers their willingness to pair. In our case, it caught the attention of a FiiO X5 III portable. Less than two minutes after unpacking the music played, and we really enjoyed it from the first second!

The „hum along qualities“ should, nevertheless, not be misinterpreted as an exclusive Xeo feature. Of course, it is perfectly possible to get a comparable and as emotionally captivating low frequency also from other Dynaudio speakers. However, you'd then have to find a suitable amplifier first. Especially the Dane's older models could prove to be exceptionally picky in that regard.

Such „seek and find“-games are superfluous for active speakers. Each Xeo 30 is equipped with a power amplifier trio, that has been adjusted to now deliver 65 watts per chassis, which is altogether 45 watts more than the predecessor had, thus adding some additional micro-dynamics. We attribute a large part of Xeo's characteristic musicality, which is one of its unmistakable qualities, to the fact that it does not require a phase-inverting filter



▲ The master speaker has four inputs (2 x analog, optical-digital and BT). Both speakers can be adjusted in the channel (left/right), pre-corrected for positioning close to walls and assigned to one of three room zones.



▲ For those who are into extravagant hat fashion, the new Xeo models could be a disappointment: the „On Top“ controller of Xeo 4 and 6 (left) is missing with the 30 (right). The LEDs and infrared sensors are now discreetly located under the woofers.

network. Instead of the crossover, the 30 has an, now even faster, DSP, whose coding has been optimized and purified, compared to the previous series, to guarantee extraordinary timing.

### Even less complicated

The completely stripless plug'n'play function of the new Xeos is the central and probably also coolest feature that distinguishes the newer generation from older models. They had to rely on the „hub“, a small external connection box, to operate, while Xeo 20 and 30 are based on the „master/slave“ concept. Thanks to clear task assignment, they can network independently from any external device. In fact, even with increased bandwidth:

Also the hub of number 4 and 6 could already receive digital signals with 24 bit and 96 kilohertz. However, these were transmitted to the loudspeakers „only“ in CD quality (16/44). The digital connections of the newcomers, on the other hand, process the full high bit resolution of 24/192, and though their radio traffic is once again scaled down a step, we are now talking about 24/96 of wireless communication between speakers and hub as well as between the Xeos themselves. Just to make it perfectly clear: the

loudspeakers of a stereo pair don't need any cables between them. Instead, they connect strictly wirelessly!

In many of these details, they benefit from Dynaudio's recent experience with the active studio series „LYD“ and the excellent, conceptually closely related XD models. The broadband radio communication, for example, is derived from the latter. However, we find the Xeo to be even more comfortable than the, sound-wise superior, XDs. If you want to operate them without a hub, both monitors have to be wired to the source, due to their lack of radio interconnection, which makes the setup slightly more complicated. The assembly of all physical connections on one of the two speakers catapults the Xeos to the haptic top.

As our previously mentioned example with the portable shows, you don't really need anything but the speakers. Any sources such as streamers, SAT receivers or CD drives can be discreetly hidden behind them or in the closest cabinet. Each of the two Xeos has a switch to assign it to the left or right channel. Therefore, no matter if positioning the Master on the right, adjacent to a shelf, appears more practical to you, or if you simply want it to get more light, hence, placing it on the left of the window, both is possible: be individual, be yourself and park the boxes wherever you want to! The integrated DSP can be operated with a three-step switch, to compensate positioning close-to-wall or in a corner, by reducing the bass. Though this works brilliantly, the basic rule remains: standing



freely, with a wall distance of at least 50 centimeters, floorstanding loudspeakers, like the 30, generally sound a little firmer, more detached and larger.

### The multiroom complex

The hubs are, however, not entirely superfluous on the new models. Buying a „Connect“ (around 350 Euro) will get you four additional analog/digital inputs as well as mini USB access for Mac/Windows and WiFi. Including Bluetooth, the speakers would then have ten inputs. For better orientation, the buttons on the included remote control are divided into the groups „Direct“ (the inputs on the loudspeaker) and „Hub“ (the inputs on the Connect).

In parallel to the wireless input-box, Dynaudio offers the „Link“ (around 150 Euro), featuring three outputs instead of additional inputs and transmitting Xeos' radio traffic either analog or digital to, e.g., a subwoofer or a recorder. All hub models also come with channel switches that can be used to operate up to three hubs or extenders in one house. Each speaker can be assigned to one of three colors that correspond, so to speak, to multi-room zones: if someone owns three Xeos-pairs and switches them all to „Red“, they play in synchronous party mode. If, on the other hand, they are spread over „Green“, „Blue“ and „Red“, each can play an individual source. The color coding is even

displayed via Bluetooth, so that one is provided with optimum orientation on the computer as to which loudspeaker is being addressed as the BT receiver.

And since we're already dealing with operational aspects: the small box on the top of Xeo 4 and 6, which contained the LEDs, an infrared sensor, and a power and level switch, has been completely eliminated by Dynaudio. Visually, the speaker benefits from this measure. Further praise is due to the „gracious“ standby mode. Like most active speakers, the Xeo retreats into daydreaming after some time of inactivity. However, as soon as it notices incoming signals, it is back within seconds - this even works via Bluetooth, which is very rare.

Finally, to reassure your audiophile conscience, we should mention that we have not tested the Xeo 30 only with a Bluetooth portable. They were also connected to a Macbook, among other things, and, as expected, they gained a considerable amount of plasticity and serenity that way. Especially the midrange reproduction has noticeably more presence and comes across somewhat more silky and polished. Dynamically demanding songs like Anna von Hausswulf's sinister and curious „The Mysterious Vanishing Of Electra“ are drawn hugely into the listening room, and although the mix of this progressive alternative title is not exactly a masterpiece, the Xeo manage to

**DYNAUDIO XEO 30**

around 3,600 €  
 Warranty: 2 years  
 (8 years after registration)  
 Dimensions: 23 x 85 x 28 cm (WxHxD)  
 Contact: Dynaudio  
 www.dynaudio.com

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With the new generation Dynaudio's Xeo concept is at its best - fantastic handling, intuitive operation, great workmanship and superb sound. Magnificent!

**FEATURES**

**Concept/Features:** DSP-equalized active speaker with integrated volume control, radio control and 3 x 65 Watt output stage power each  
**Inputs on speaker:** 2 x Analog-In (mini jack/cinch), 1 optical digital connector (24/96), Bluetooth 4.0 with aptX  
**Inputs at the „Connect“ hub:** 2 x Analog In (mini jack/cinch), 2 x Digital In (optical/electrical), USB audio (mini USB), WLAN (WiFi/DLNA)  
**Accessories:** remote control, manual, 2.5 meter power cable

**STEREO-TEST**

<b>SOUND QUALITY</b>	<b>70%</b>
<b>PRICE/PERFORMANCE</b>	
<b>OUTSTANDING</b>	

differentiate the dense web of organs, guitars, percussion and Hausswulf's hauntingly emotional voice. Instruments and voice are assigned to an exemplary clearly defined place on the stage. Thanks to Dynaudio's typically precise timing, the melancholy seven-minute song conveys so much spice and excitement that you can't get enough of it, but rather want to hear it a second, third and fourth time.

You could have by now already come to the conclusion that the sound and concept of the new Xeos have impressed us. Should anyone ask us in the upcoming months how the future of high-quality music reproduction might look like, we can tell them with a clear conscience: „It's already here“. **Carsten Barnbeck**

◀ Dynaudio's XD models, in the picture the outstanding Focus 20 XD (around 5500 Euro), have established many of the technical fundamentals, which are now also used in the smaller Xeo line - above all the radio communication with 24 bit and 96 kHz.

