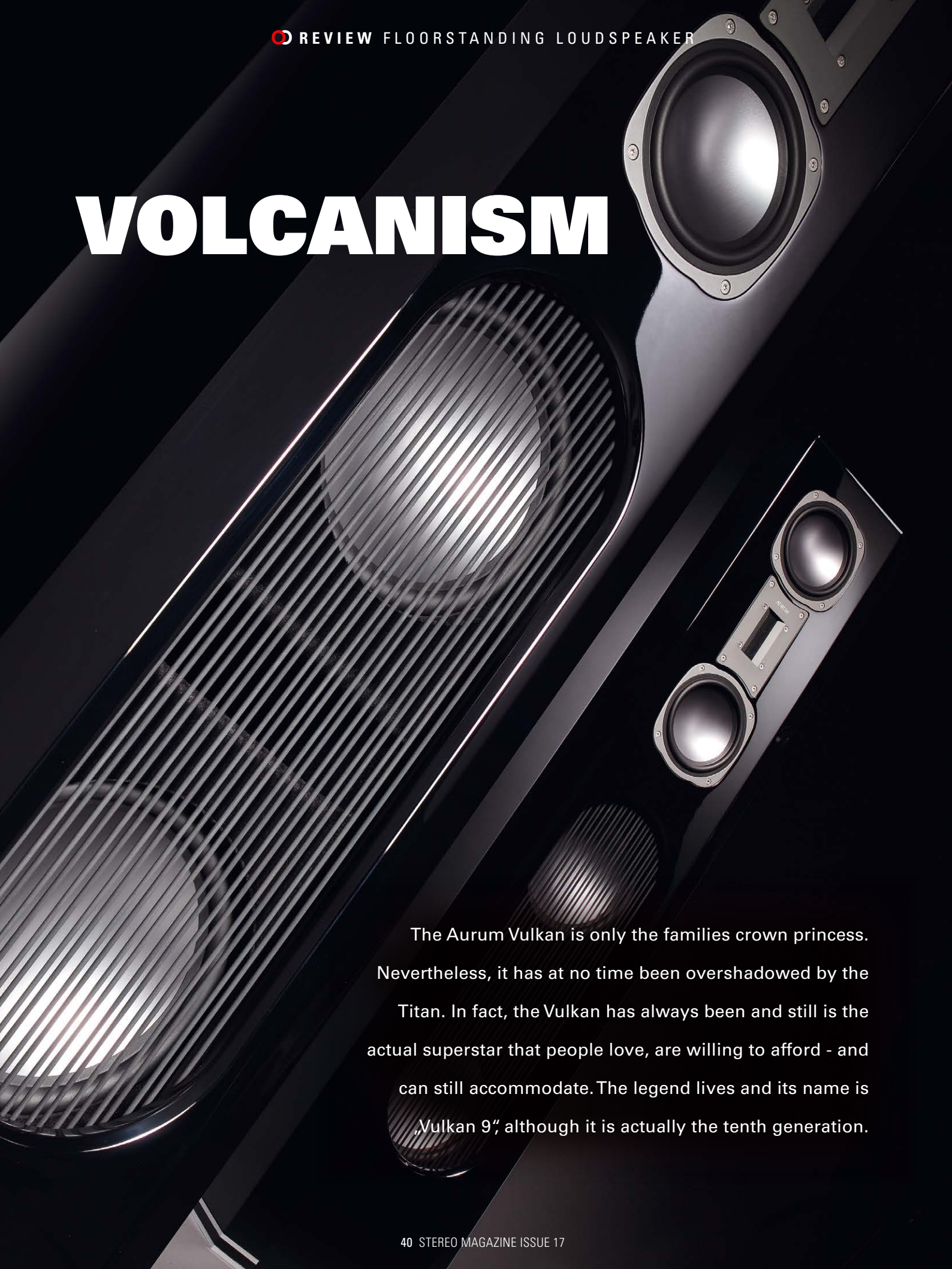


VOLCANISM



The Aurum Vulkan is only the families crown princess. Nevertheless, it has at no time been overshadowed by the Titan. In fact, the Vulkan has always been and still is the actual superstar that people love, are willing to afford - and can still accommodate. The legend lives and its name is „Vulkan 9“, although it is actually the tenth generation.

The Vulkan was and is the real star in the portfolio of the Aurum series, which are the flagships from Hanoverian company Quadral. And this has, in fact, been the case since 1981, when the first generation began its triumphant rise. The German living room measures about 25 square meters on average, which is, while probably being too small for the mighty Titan, the perfect size for the Vulkan, although it would also tolerate a few square meters less and appreciate a few more. In the legendary loudspeaker's tenth generation the development team from Berlin and Hanover have, again, placed great value on versatility. The new Aurum Vulkan should be easy to operate, i.e. efficient and uncritical in terms of impedance and installation, sound full-bodied even at low levels, naturally have pronounced audiophile virtues and, if necessary, be able to unleash nearly abnormally explosive dynamics. In addition, of course, they had to embody a certain elegance and, committing to the company's legacy, use the most noble ingredients. All of these goals were achieved brilliantly – and even a few more. The Vulkan reaches very deep into the bass-range and represents the lower frequencies with an unobtrusive sovereignty that is unparalleled even in the 10,000 euro

environment. The tremendous power is always tangible, even if it is not directly used. They benefit a lot from potent electronics, as our test models outgrew themselves in proportion to the driving electronics and made even supposedly small changes in the chain, an XLR cable between the used Bryston amplifiers, for example, or even a power cable on the T+A player, easily traceable. It is no secret that the Quadral Aurum Vulkan also enjoys an enormous reputation for ambitious home cinema installations. The author has already heard them several times in such an environment and was deeply impressed by their performance. In fact, even under absurd strain they remain completely unaffected and always deliver what they're supposed to, without ever compressing. Compared to its, especially early, predecessors – we've also met the Titans and Vulkans of the 80s several times – it is noticeable that the modern Aurum is a much finer, more precise and more flexible representative. It is much better than the somewhat coarser and more two-dimensional ancestors, which, still, sounded impressively at the time. The current Vulkan conquers its audience more with the naturalness and effortlessness of its virtues than with spectacular



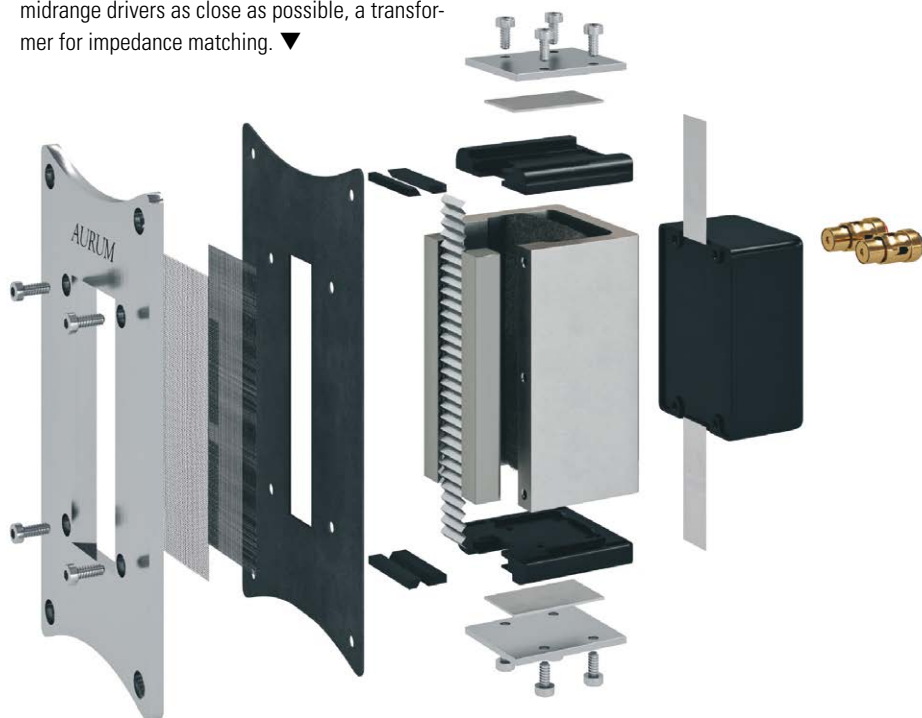
▲ Cross-section through one of the new Quadral drivers with "ALTIMA" membrane

effects. Its strengths are more those of an outstanding heptathlete than being highly specialized.

Typical Quadral flagship

Of course, the concept again includes a powerful ribbon tweeter called „quSense“, which was developed and manufactured in-house and whose 10µ thin aluminum diaphragm has a large surface area that optimizes dispersion characteristics. Two fast 160 drivers, surrounding the high-resolution tweeter, frame the midrange and two long-stroke 24-centimeter bass drivers, located in the pressure-chamber bass-reflex cabinet, are responsible for the low frequency range. All cone drivers

The ribbon tweeter developed by Quadral in modular view: the cut front serves to position the midrange drivers as close as possible, a transformer for impedance matching. ▼



▲ Room correction: the bass can be raised, mids and trebles can be raised or lowered.

were fitted with new, extremely stable cast aluminum baskets, powerful drives and ultra-rigid, lightweight diaphragms made of aluminum, titanium and magnesium.

despite their 57 kilograms, the pair is set up rather quickly, as the Vulkan is anything but a Diva. Slightly turned in towards the listening position, in the shape of a isosceles triangle, which is beneficial for most large loudspeakers, they push hard from the first second. Some believe due to the damping and general construction of the cabinet, spikes weren't even needed. We cannot confirm that, but we strongly recommend a second man if, like us, you place aluminum cones or

spikes under the speakers. As soon as the loudspeaker no longer touches the floor over its entire surface, the Vulkan 9 sounds again a whole class better and almost disappears as a sound source. Its cabinet was designed according to the best acoustic principles. Contrary to the, financial motivated, trend to return to straight walls, it collapses backwards in a trapezoidal shape and also tilts backwards by a few degrees. The same applies also to their midrange casing, where attention has been paid to render standing waves impossible by building non-parallel walls. In the cross-sectional view it is visible where the cabinet has been damped, stabilized or even optimized, using mass insulation.

In our neutral, living room-like listening room 2, the Quadral sounds perfectly balanced and lively, draws extremely naturally and detailed over the entire listening area, while the wide stage appears excellently illuminated and even textured bass lines can be traced effortlessly. They are also capable of filling the large STEREO listening room with pressure and to make it almost tremble with a physically tangible foundation, for example with Bach's „Toccatà“. The so-called „Kickbass“ is also remarkably lively and fast.

The sound is unified and does not afford any escapades. Instead, it is a proper pleasure to listen to this loudspeaker's extraordinarily good energy distribution. Michael Bubblé's emotional „Feeling Good“ demands transparency, timing and dynamics, in which disciplines the Vulkan performed outstandingly. However, also in a fragile and intimate atmosphere like Tori Amos' „Winter“ it does not lose any of its previously proven qualities. Amazingly, the Quadral behaves, despite all its charisma, unobtrusively like a studio monitor, without ever being blinding. This is, without a question, a speaker I'd like to have. By the way, a colleague who was involved in the hearing test – there are always at least two at STEREO – agrees all along.

Tom Frantzen

◀ The sectional model shows much of the functional structure, such as the unusual reflex channel and the wall coating.



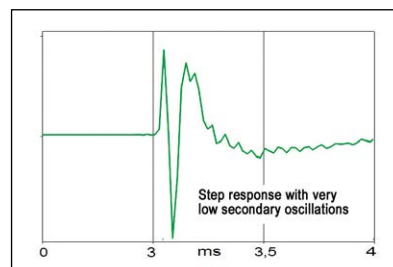
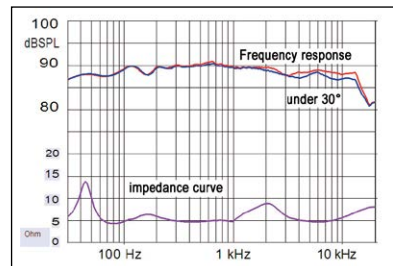
QUADRAL AURUM VULKAN 9



from 10,000 €
 Dimensions: 28 x 120 x 46 cm (WxHxD)
 Warranty: 10 years
 Contact: Quadral
 Tel.: +49 511 79040
 www.quadral.com

The new generation Vulkan is undoubtedly a wonderful speaker. It connects audiophile, neutral virtues with an explosive vividness and absurd dynamic and level capabilities down to the deepest bass ranges, making them ideal for top-class stereo as well as home cinema installations..

MEASUREMENT RESULTS



DC resistance	4 Ω
Minimum impedance	4.4 Ω at 79 Hz
Maximum impedance	14 Ω at 44 Hz
Sound pressure level (2.83 V/m)	90.2 dB SPL
Power for 94 dB SPL	4.7 W
Lower cut-off frequency (-3dB SPL)	25 Hz
Distortion factor at 63/3k/10kHz	0.3/0.1/0.1 %

LAB COMMENT: With all switches in neutral position the Vulkan shines with a straight frequency response and top radiation behavior; turning inwards is not absolutely necessary. The impedance is low, timing/distortion behavior excellent and efficiency with 90 dB above average. It goes down to 25 (!) Hertz.

STEREO - TEST

SOUND QUALITY 91%

PRICE/PERFORMANCE



EXCELLENT