

# Master of Contrasts



With their „Callisto“ line, DALI aims to combine tradition and modernity, simple controls and sophisticated engineering. Has it worked?

*Julian Kienzle*

## TEST DEVICES

### CD player:

T+A MP 1000E

### Integrated amplifier:

Audionet Sam 20 SE

### Loudspeaker:

B&W 606

### Active speakers:

KEF LSX

### Cables:

in-akustik; KLEI;  
Lua; DALI; KEF

**H**aving worked at a HiFi studio for some years, I have often heard sentences of the following kind: "I don't need all those bells and whistles. I just want to listen to my music." And who would blame a customer for being put off by the sheer mass and variety of modern technologies? As a result, these traditional audiophiles more often than not tend for the well-tryed and well-known "source-amplifier-passive

speaker combination" – following the age-old "never stop a running system"-principle. Unfortunately, this also means that it is often ignored how modern technologies are nowadays at least on the same level as old-school systems and have even clearly overtaken them in terms of "simplicity" – such as for example DALI's Callistos.

Anyone expecting complicated pairing, meagre sound or unstable connections will be forced to revise their image of the "digital loudspeaker" concept after their first time setting up the Callisto 2C, which is the compact sister of the 6C.

The procedure is extremely simple. So simple, in fact, that even complete novices can wirelessly connect the speakers to the sound hub within minutes. All you have to do is press one button on the hub and one button on the loudspeaker in the correct order – that's it! The only thing missing now is the music...

The easiest way to change that is to feed the tunes wirelessly into the system via the AAC/AptX Bluetooth interface or the optional Bluesound module, which adds a full-fledged and perfectly integrated streamer to the system. In both cases, the Smartphone/Tablet or the PC/Mac become the remote control for selecting and controlling music. The connection to Bluesound was incredibly fast via the hub. Without virtually any delay you could watch the volume indicator on the

**On the Sound Hub you will find not only the classic analog and digital in- and outputs, but also the optional BluOs module (r.) and the button for pairing the speakers (m.).**





Use the „Link Connect“ button on the back of the speakers to assign them to the left or right channel.

front of the speaker climbing and falling, while moving the slider on the tablet back and forth.

Don't worry, of course also traditional wired sources will find their place. These are simply connected to the hub, which then sends the signals wirelessly to the speakers. There are two optical (TosLink) inputs, a coaxial (S/PDIF), a cinch and a 3.5 mm mini jack connector. Due to the very low latency, a TV can also be connected.

In the loudspeakers themselves, the music is then sent through a DSP and subsequently converted and passed on to the Class D amplifiers with up to 250 watts. In the Callisto 2C, these work with a single 16.5-centimetre woofer/midrange driver made of wood fibre with an SMC magnet system as well as with the hybrid tweeter module consisting of dome and ribbon tweeter.

The latter not only looks but also sounds good, because in the upper registers the 2C plays with a stunning clarity and openness. Snare and cymbals of Nils Petter Molvær's "Khmer" hovered on the back of the stage, light as a feather and with precise speed. Simultaneously the bass went very deep and featured energetic vehemence, seemingly in stark contrast to the lightness of the trebles. When the heartbreakingly lamenting trumpet started, we immediately had goose bumps!

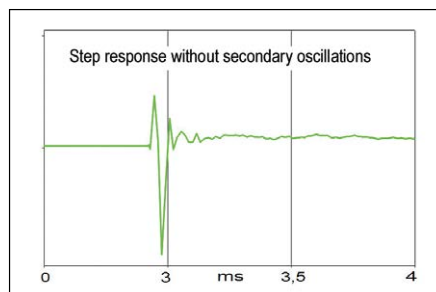
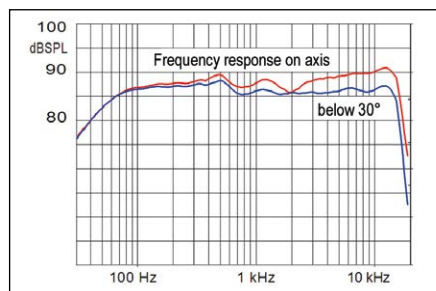
Emotions – anyway a strength of DALI – are conveyed effortlessly by the Dane, because she is courageous and has a feeling for the musical spirit. Any criticism? Only if you're searching for it. But it hardly comes to that, as you are too busy "just listening to your music". ■

## Dali Callisto 2C

**Price:** 3950 €  
 (incl. Sound Hub and BluOs module)  
**Dimensions:** 20 x40 x31 cm (WxHxD)  
**Warranty:** 2 years  
**Contact:** DALI  
 Phone: +45 9672 1155  
 www.dali-speakers.com

With the Callisto 2C, DALI combines its refreshingly dynamic sound philosophy with sophisticated active technology. The wireless connection of any analogue or digital source ensures practicality and maximum ease of use. The fact that it is easy to handle makes the compact speaker even more attractive. The captivating sound quality completes the Callisto package.

### Measurement results



Lower cut-off frequency (-3dB SPL)	52 Hz
Distortion factor at 63/3k/10k Hz	1,0/0,1/0,1 %
Power consumption stby./idle (at)	/13,3 W

### Lab Comment

Convincing measurement results. At the limit, the electronics automatically lower the volume so that you can turn it up safely as far as you like. The loudspeakers are designed for positioning straight to the listening position.

### Features

Wireless, digital, active loudspeakers with external control unit and radio remote control; analogue and digital inputs, subwoofer and pre-amplifier outputs, Bluetooth, optional Bluesound streaming module (around 500 Euro)

**STEREO-TEST**

<b>SOUND QUALITY</b>	<b>78%</b>
<b>PRICE/PERFORMANCE</b>	
<b>OUTSTANDING</b>	

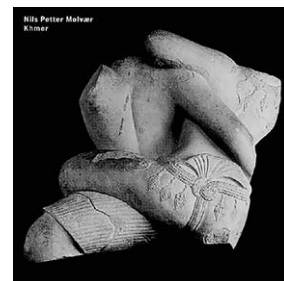
### KEYWORD

#### Soft Magnetic Compound

A specially processed granulate patented by DALI that combines high magnetic conductivity with very low electrical conductivity to minimize distortion.

### WHAT WE'VE HEARD

#### Nils Petter Molvær: Khmer



Highly emotional debut album of the Norwegian jazz trumpet player, who is a pioneer of the „Nu Jazz“ genre.