



Ready to Overtake

Monitor Audio is going in the offensive! With their Gold series they are about to become one of the most important manufacturers – also in Germany.

Michael Lang

For a long time, the British loudspeaker specialist Monitor Audio, founded in 1972, led a rather modest existence in Germany. Having been among the top 5 strongest brands in its home country for many years, the level of recognition in Germany has always remained rather low. That is even more surprising as the product range of the still completely independent manufacturer covers almost everything that delights the heart of music and cinema lovers: inexpensive entry-level models in compact and floorstanding formats, complete home cinema sets including rear and center speakers and a whole range of subwoofers as well as a large assortment of in-wall speakers. The chassis

have been developed in-house and cannot be found at other manufacturers. The range of production goes right down to the cabinets, which is more than remarkable. It is also noteworthy how the British under Andrew Flatt managed to transfer the technology of the drivers from the loudspeakers of the top Platinum II series into the considerably cheaper models of the "Gold" series presented here.

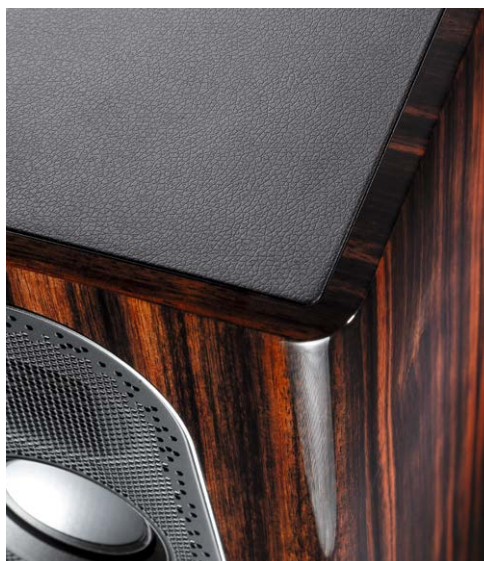
Noble chassis

The developers saved money rather inconspicuously. The cabinet, for example, which is also in the Gold series beautifully crafted, is much cheaper to produce than the Palladium models with their curved design and extreme strength, which are manufactured at outstanding expense. The AMT tweeter is protected from curious fingers by a grille, the drivers are all flush and embedded into the finely veneered baffle without visible screws and can disappear under the magnetically adhering cover if required. Instead of veneer, artificial leather has been used on the top, which the author does not consider to be an invitation to decorate with flower vases or decoration.



SOLID

The outriggers increase the stability and are height adjustable.



The carefully crafted cabinet with imitation leather on the top is visually and haptically pleasing.

Makes high end affordable in terms of sound and workmanship

WHAT WE'VE HEARD

Verdi: Requiem



Exciting contrasts in speed and dynamics. Fantastic tenors!



AMT

Abbreviation for Air Motion Transformer – a folded foil ensures precise high-frequency reproduction.

The midrange driver consists of an aluminum/magnesium/ceramic mixture, the two 16.5 centimeter bass drivers are sandwiched with an additional Nomax honeycomb layer in the middle and a stiffening carbon layer on the back. Each of them works on its own rear bass reflex port. Designed for small to medium-sized listening rooms, with a good efficiency and uncritical impedance curve, the Gold 200 is designed to be in top form even at low and medium levels, without yielding at high levels.

We put it to the test in our small listening room, which measures a good 20 square meters. The speakers were about two meters apart, had 80 cm of space to the back and to each side, with the listening position having been about 2.30 meters away. From the very first note it was clear that the sound of the „gold-speaker“ builds up from the bottom. The bass, for example in Yello's "Till Tomorrow", came out of the delicate speaker powerfully, contoured and with excellent timing. Voices and acoustic instruments, here in Verdi's "Requiem", were so real that one could fall into a depressive mood while listening to the Mass of the Dead. What was particularly striking, however, was how unobtrusive and inconspicuous the AMT tweeter played, which is usually considered rather a little cheeky, resulting in a very delicate reproduction of choirs, strings and female voices. Also keeping in mind the first-class workmanship, one can only congratulate the British on this excellent achievement. ■



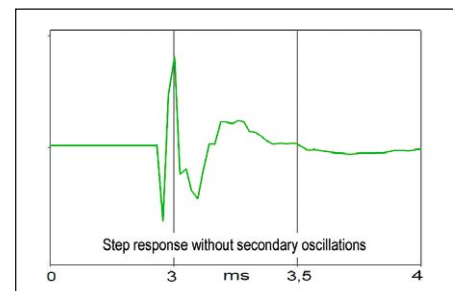
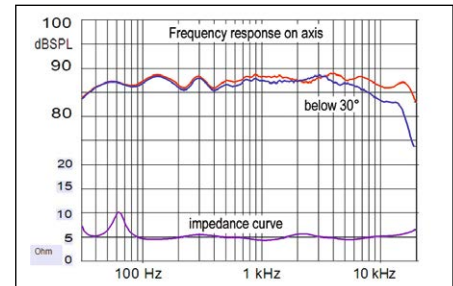
High-quality connection panel with wire bridges and height-adjustable outriggers.

Monitor Audio Gold 200

Price: around 4250 € (various finishes available)
Dimensions: 28 x100 x39 cm (WxHxD)
Warranty: 5 years
Contact: Monitor Audio
Phone: +44 (0) 1268 740580
 www.monitoraudio.com

A bulls-eye hit from the British. The Gold 200 plays powerfully from the bottom up, has a very low discoloration midrange and captivates with silky tweeter reproduction. The workmanship is excellent.

Measurement results



DC resistor	4 Ohm
Minimum impedance	4,2 Ohm bei 1100 Hz
Maximum impedance	10 Ohm bei 63 Hz
Sound pressure level (2,83 V/m)	88,8 dB SPL
Power for 94 dB SPL	7,2 W
Lower cut-off frequency (-3dB SPL)	36 Hz
Distortion factor at 63/3k/10k Hz	1/0,2/0,1 %

Lab Comment

Impedance and efficiency make the Gold 200 a pleasant playing partner for most amplifiers; low distortion, balanced frequency response and good step response; easy to adjust to listening position.

Features

Three-way bass reflex speaker with rear openings; AMT tweeter, magnetic adhesive covering; bi-wiring terminal; height-adjustable, screwed outriggers; various cabinet designs available

STEREO - TEST

SOUND QUALITY 78%

PRICE/PERFORMANCE

★★★★☆

EXCELLENT