



Clear Message

Straightforwardness and professionalism without fuss have always been the hallmarks of Dynaudio loudspeakers. What about the new „Evoke“ series? We have tested the small compact as well as floorstanding models.

Matthias Böde

At a time when whoever is loudest gets the most attention, Dynaudio rarely had problems making itself and its products heard. However, instead of noise, the brand relies on intelligence and depth of development. During the more than forty years that the loudspeaker specialist has existed in Skanderborg, Denmark, most hi-fi enthusiasts will have come to realize that here it is all about what lies underneath the surface.

Which, of course, is often hidden away quite well. In fact, probably just insiders will realize that the Evokes are a new Dynaudio line. It consists of two floorstanding and two compact models as well as a center, with which the designers have succeeded to set pleasing visual accents by using the most economical means such as the screwless mounting plates of the tweeter, gently curved cover rings around the mid-bass drivers or a narrow, slightly slimmer at the rear cabinet.

Though they look rather inconspicuous, the Evoke10 and 30 – the smaller of each type – have a lot more to offer than the first impression suggests. There's only one pair of terminals on each speaker, because the Danes, as usually, refuse the bi-wiring option. I honestly appreciate this approach, because in this price range 95 percent of listeners – if not more – operate their loudspeakers with just one cable anyway. A bi-wiring terminal would then provoke losses in sound-quality due to primitive bridges and/or connection errors.

Before we took a closer look at the technical features, we wanted to gather some first sound impressions. So we positioned the freshly broken-in, somehow cute and

harmless looking Evoke10 in our listening room – and stumbled into a small sensation. Now, of course, we know that Dynaudio has been famous for outstanding compact speakers since the times of the blessed Contour 1.3 and all its relatives. However, the Evoke10 once again impressively demonstrated why that is.

To be honest, I would not have believed that the Danes could still surprise me after all these years. Most certainly not with these less than 32 centimeter high speaker in neat lifestyle-look – but that's exactly what happened. With astonishingly solid base note and foundation, the Dane projected Maria Pihl's powerful timbres in "Malvina" unwavering and expansive into our room. Uh, what is happening? You would never expect such substance from these dwarves, which are ventilated via a reflex opening on the back.

Evoke10: the audiophile Mini

Marika Cailly's "Les petits cafés", which we have heard countless times before, already showed conciseness and volume in the guitar intro as well as in the voice of the chosen Frenchwoman. Not a trace of the often associated with compact loudspeakers emphasis on the presence range. On the contrary: the Evoke10 appeared deliberately sonorous, even slightly round and rich, but nevertheless excellently transparent. Or does the impression go back to the clear trebles without any sign of artificial sparkle?

Searching for orientation we dragged over Dynaudio's more than twice as expensive and righteously highly praised Special Forty. Admitted, they played more

**The Evoke10
is a new
highlight in
Dynaudio's
strong history
of compact
speakers.**



MANY FINISHES

In addition to the variants „White High Gloss“, „Black High Gloss“ and the dark „Walnut Wood“ shown here, the Evokes are also available in the light veneer tone „Blonde Wood“ (above).

TESTED DEVICES

Turntables:

Acoustic Solid Solid Classic Wood MPX, Music Hall mmf-9.3SE

CD Players:

Musical Fidelity M3scd, Rega Apollo CDP

Integrated Amplifiers:

Musical Fidelity M3si, Rega Brio, Symphonic Line RG14 Edition

Loudspeakers:

Dynaudio Special Forty

Cables:

HMS Gran Finale Jubilee, In-Akustik LS-1603



Both Evokes have a single-wire terminal at the rear and a bass reflex port adapted to the inner volume and the cone surface.

brilliantly by nuances, shone some few more tiny details in the quietly babbling background of the live recording of "Saturday Night" played by the Red Norvo Quartet and they seemed slightly "bigger" according to their dimensions. However, the more authentic mids and more seamless homogeneity were with the Evoke10.

On the other hand they only have moderate efficiency. In order to be able to play a potent bass, the upper frequency ranges are somewhat scaled back, which results in a low average volume. The small Dynaudio therefore needs powerful amplifiers, but it never put the amps mentioned under "Tested Devices" in jeopardy. After all, you wouldn't use such small speakers for home disco, would you? And for audiophile listening – the preferred domain of two-way compact speakers – the Evoke10 is all the more suitable.

Of course, the reasons lie not least in the newly developed drivers, based on the proven top chassis of the Danes, which have been refined for decades. The "Cerotar" tweeter, for example, celebrates its premiere here, concealing refinements from Dynaudio's famous "Esotar" line behind its classic 28 millimeter dome tweeter. It features the "Hexis" inner dome, which optimizes the air flow behind the diaphragm and thus avoids

Besides the tested Evoke30 and 10 (2nd and 4th from left) there are the 50 and 20 respectively the Center 25C (around 4400, 2000 Euro/P., 1200 Euro).



resonances and distortions. Anyone who experiences the fragrant fine detailing of the Evokes in front of a pitch black, undisturbed background will gladly believe it.

The bass-midrange driver – which is doubled in the Evoke30, where the lower one works up to 1200 Hertz, the upper one, mounted close to the tweeter, up to latter's starting point of 2300 Hz – has a light, stiff and only 0.4 millimeter thick diaphragm made of magnesium silicate polymer (MSP). It is connected to the rigid glass fiber voice coil carrier via "Balance Ribs", which is intended to guarantee precise piston-shaped movements.

Evoke30: the mature

Though before I was convinced that the Evoke10 would be this duo's winner – a David with a lion's heart so to speak – I'm not so sure anymore now. The 30 not only takes over the highly audiophile character of its compact sister speaker and completes it, but also grows beyond itself. Thanks to its larger volume and the additional woofer, it not only reaches deeper down, but also achieves relevant bass volumes at significantly lower power levels, which is why its effectiveness is a good six decibels higher (c.f. measurement results).

What is more important is that the Evoke30, despite its modest size of well below one meter, reproduces the sound image at a realistic height. In the hearing test, it also developed a lavishly dimensioned horizon that was perfectly detached from the slim cabinets. The question of where the 10's bass energy came from has to be repeated in view of the full volume of the Evoke30, whose lower registers are not at all spongy, but pronounced and well contoured – and light! Yes, aside from its homogeneous, delicately accentuated midrange and its clear, unobtrusive, gentle trebles, the Dynaudio retains its airy, broad and transparent style right down to the lowest registers, resulting in a highly pleasant, non-technical and mature performance as a whole.

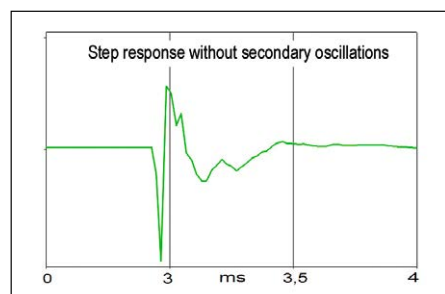
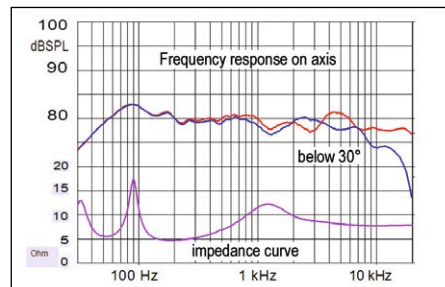
Sure, there are bigger and more eye-catching loudspeakers for the money, but the new Evokes will make themselves heard. And if you underestimate them because of their simple appearance, the surprise effect will convey their qualities even more clearly. ■

Dynaudio Evoke10

Price: around 1400 € (four versions available)
Dimensions: 18 x32 x27 cm (WxHxD)
Warranty: 2 years
Contact: Dynaudio
 www.dynaudio.com

An outstandingly homogeneous and harmonious sounding compact loudspeaker that lives up to its reputation and continues Dynaudio's success story in this field. With a powerful amplifier, the Evoke10 shows what is feasible in its class.

Measurement results



DC-resistance	4 Ohm
Minimum impedance	4,8 Ohm bei 180 Hz
Maximum impedance	17,5 Ohm bei 90 Hz
Sound pressure characteristic (2,83 V/m)	82 dB SPL
Power for 94 dB SPL	47 W
Lower cut-off frequency (-3dB SPL)	49 Hz
Distortions at 63/3k/10k Hz	03/0,3/0,1 %

Lab Comment

The frequency response is very balanced. The treble drops below 30 degrees, which is why the speaker must be angled towards the listener. Dynaudio gave its mini speaker a tiny peak around 80 Hertz, which somewhat conceals limits of the concept in lower registers. The step response is on point, which, however, isn't very surprising given the lightweight mid-bass driver. The efficiency is moderate, which is why the Evoke10 demands power at higher levels.

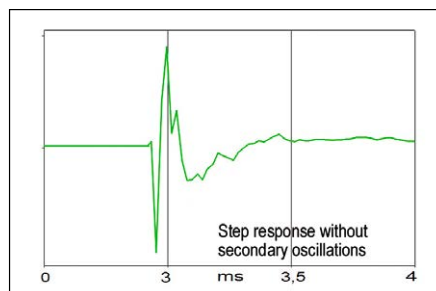
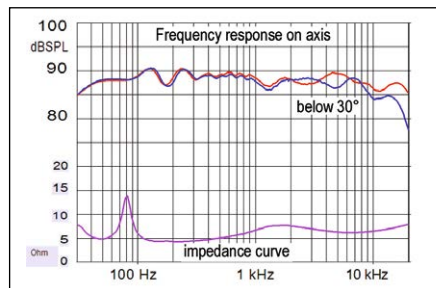
STEREO - TEST	
SOUND LEVEL	87%
PRICE/PERFORMANCE	
★★★★★	
OUTSTANDING	

Dynaudio Evoke30

Price: around 3200 € (four versions available)
Dimensions: 27 x92 x35 cm (WxHxD)
Warranty: 2 years
Contact: Dynaudio
 www.dynaudio.com

The Evoke30's profound and stable bass is a lie to its modest dimensions. The wide spatial sound horizon makes it appear larger than its cabinet. Natural mids join soft, clear trebles.

Measurement results



DC-resistance	4 Ohm
Minimum impedance	4,2 Ohm bei 230 Hz
Maximum impedance	14 Ohm bei 80 Hz
Sound pressure characteristic (2,83 V/m)	88,4 dB SPL
Power for 94 dB SPL	11,6 W
Lower cut-off frequency (-3dB SPL)	42 Hz
Distortions at 63/3k/10k Hz	0,3/0,2/0,1 %

Lab Comment

Very balanced frequency response whose amplitude curve stays within the boundaries of plus/minus two decibels. Outside the axis, the trebles drop, so the Evoke30 must be angled slightly towards the listening position. The Dane's flat impedance curve – no part falls below the four-ohm mark – makes life easier for the amplifier, as does the high efficiency. Exact step response.

STEREO - TEST	
SOUND LEVEL	77%
PRICE/PERFORMANCE	
★★★★☆	
EXCELLENT	

WHAT WE'VE HEARD

Rafael Fraga:
Trova Caminhada



The naturalness and lightness of the recordings with the Portuguese singer and guitarist sets standards.