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Audio Physic Sitara

[Caldera]

Als Caldera (spanisch: "Kessel") bezeichnet man einen kesselförmigen Krater vulkanischen Ursprungs.



[audio physic]
no loss of fine detail

www.audiophysic.de

Audio Physic has undergone a tremendous change in the last few years. There was a time, not too long ago, when the product portfolio of the Brilon-based manufacturer was a bit confusing (the loudspeakers came in various designs, driver technologies and materials). However today a clear product line has emerged as Manfred Diestertich, head

directly below the tweeter. These drivers, fitted with double baskets in order to achieve maximum damping and stability with less mass, are mainly responsible for the sound of the current Audio Physic models – owed to the fact that they impart very little of their own sound to recordings.

In terms of sound the Sitara very closely resembles the larger Virgo. Hooked to

Little Princess

Small, slim and finely detailed sound: the new Sitara by Audio Physic.

of development, eventually had the product line streamlined, updated and revamped, using the same or similar technologies. In fact it makes sense to have all models benefit from a technical design to which one is committed. Meanwhile, most Audio Physic models have a great deal in common: cabinets with curved side or rear walls, self-designed aluminium woofer/midrange drivers which we talked about in our Avanti and Virgo reviews as well as new cone tweeters, developed at the company.

Naturally, a smaller and lower-priced loudspeaker cannot include a lot of the high-tech features from the much more expensive models Audio Physic has to offer in its state-of-the-art technology series. Many Virgo genes have nevertheless found their way into the Sitara where the side walls are also softly rounded. The rounded design to the rear wall of the cabinet was however not applied. Also due to the use of reduced parallel walls, standing waves have less opportunity to cause detrimental effects. The manufacturing quality of loudspeaker and veneer is as impeccable as ever, also in this price class. An area of cost cutting was the tweeter chosen for the Sitara: instead of a cone, a store bought and modified r" soft dome was used. Two woofer/midrange drivers featuring aluminium diaphragms sit

Audionet amplifiers, the loudspeaker was able to produce a similar wide and finely detailed sound image, showing to which extent the midrange drivers play a part in the overall sound quality. The spatial reproduction, one of Audio Physic's trump cards ever since, sounded open and effortless when we put on Roger Water's album »Amused To Death«. The CD itself is rather unassuming in terms of music, however one must give it credit for pulling off a couple of studio engineering tricks which create an astonishing spatial illusion. Sound effects like a radio blaring far away to the left of the left microphone and a dog barking in the background to the right can only be reproduced by a loudspeaker worth its salt. The Sitara is perfectly capable of doing exactly this. All sonic events are portrayed with accuracy and great realism where despite a very wide sound stage the events can be heard clearly enough.

Such qualities also lift the listener's heart when music from an opera is played where

Audio Physic Sitara / Rhea II

WxHxD*	15 x 98 x 22 cm
Warranty**	10 years
Price	2.290/2.690 Euro
Distribution	Audio Physic Almerfeldweg 38 59929 Brilon, Germany
Telephone	+49 (0) 29 61 - 96 170

* Rhea II: 41,5 x 40,5 x 51 cm; ** Electronics: 2 years



and Rhea II together cost nearly as much as a pair of Virgo V – what an intriguing comparison.

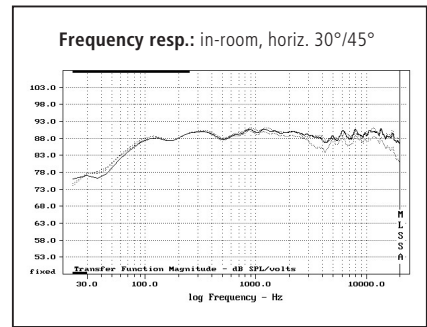
The Rhea comes as a massive cube featuring two 10" side-firing aluminium drivers (see image), one active and one passive. It can be easily adjusted from the listening place by remote control enabling you to also turn your woofer on and off. Powered by a 250 watt Class D subwoofer amplifier,

the main characters' positions on stage can be precisely located, allowing the listener to follow easily.

The Virgo was able to top the Sitara which still did remarkably well when faced with the challenging task of playing Wagner's »Tristan« (Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, Thielemann). However let us not forget that the Virgo is in a different price range. Another of Sitara's strong points which was highlighted by the record is its ability to produce a deeper, controlled bass offering a more life-like sound staging and imagery of the orchestra. Manfred Diestertich knows all about this, therefore he brought along one of the new Rhea subwoofers. The Sitara

Diestertich's technology of choice for subwoofers, the Rhea shows its quality when we played a sine waves CD: there was hardly any audible sound at 200 Hz. As with most subwoofers, alignment problems arise from the fact that they reach too far into the midrange – however this one does not.

If a subwoofer like the Rhea is mated to the loudspeakers, the deep bass area is reproduced with adroit confidence. Only very few passive loudspeakers are able to give a bass reproduction which comes close to what a good subwoofer can do. Here the combination clearly scored a point. Moreover, only a true specialist is capable of achieving such an enormously wide sound-



stage and breadth of moving air. However what the Virgo is capable of is delivering a more coherent and integrated sound as well as producing a more full-bodied midrange and a delicate, airy top end, thereby documenting its position higher up in the product chain.

Conclusion

The Sitara is a top performer that competes well in its price range and does not try to impress with particular features – which is just the way it should be. The loudspeaker is perfectly able to step aside and let the music speak for itself. Together with the Rhea II, the Sitara achieves a sound quality which puts it in a much higher league, last but not least because of the subwoofer's highly engaging performance. After all, it would be very exciting to also mate the Rhea II with one of the larger models. Now that's a thought! Stefan Gawlick ■

Blitze der Leidenschaft

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audio physic

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