

Designtipp
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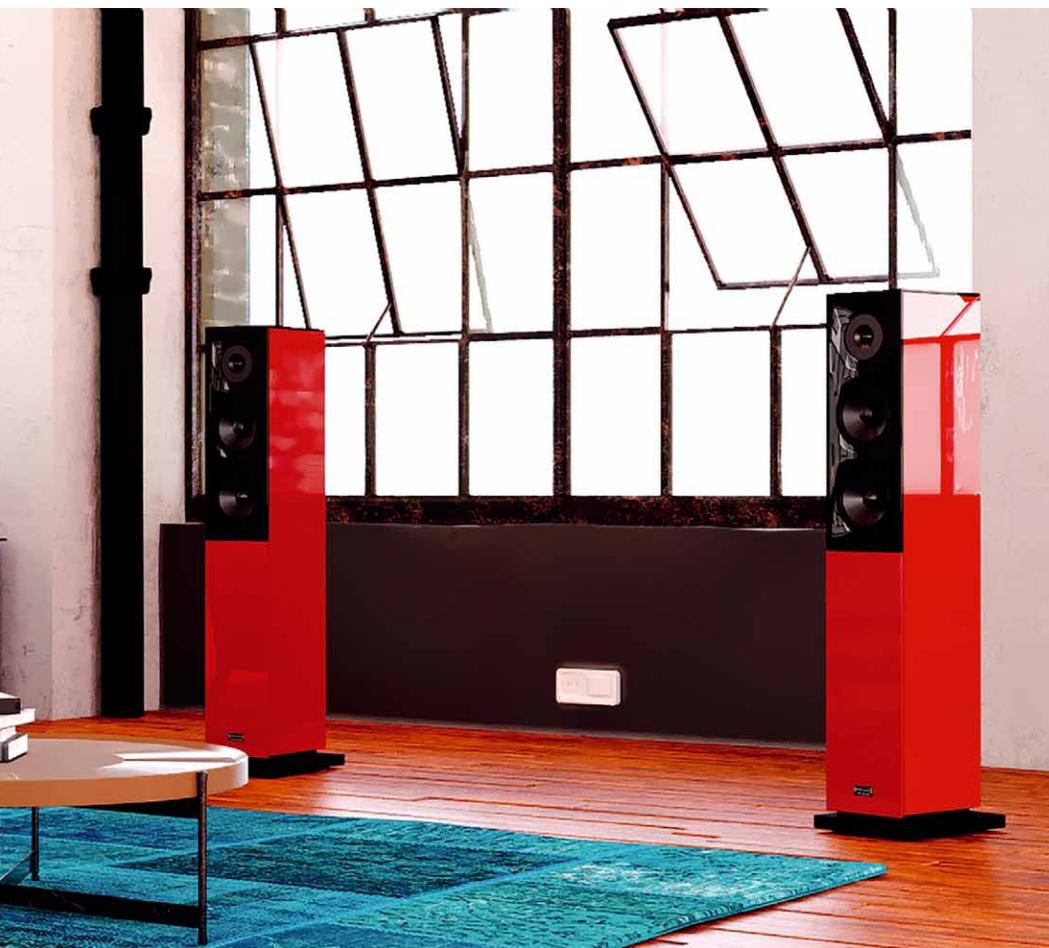
**HiFi
Test**
TV-HIFI



Pure Elegance

When Audio Physic delivered their brand-new Classic 15, we were immediately smitten by the floorstanders' gorgeous finish. Read on to find out how these slim beauties performed in our test.

It has become something of a habit for Audio Physic loudspeakers to impress us with their maturity and sophistication. They never fail to provide those precious moments when you stop listening to music as a reviewer but simply enjoy it. It is like drinking a well-crafted wine, really. Facet after facet the music reveals itself, emerging from an enormously round and pleasant sound with a comforting warmth to it that encourages one to forget the outside world and listen a little longer. But, when called for, these speakers also have an edge to them and allow the character of any music to manifest and elevate the listening experience.

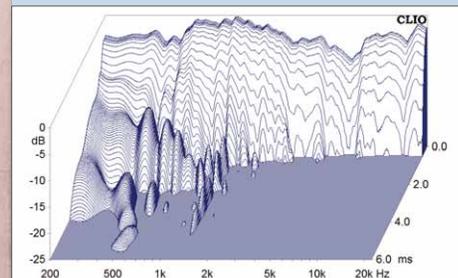


Measurements



Frequency Response

Very even response overall, excellent sound dispersion at an angle



Waterfall Diagram

Flawless behaviour above 1,200 Hz, a few inconsequential narrowband resonances below that

Obviously we were keen to find out if the same is for Audio Physic's newest addition to the Classic Line, so we send the Classic 15 through its paces in the lab and in the listening room. The 2-an-a-half way Classic 15 stands about a metre tall and 24 centimetres deep but its front is only 17 centimetres wide, giving it a slim and unobtrusive appearance.

Features On first sight the Classic 15 impresses with "Made in Germany" build quality and a host of innovative solutions aimed to please the eye as much as an engineer's mind. Chief among those solutions is the sandwich design of the cabinet which consists of an inner MDF "core" and outer panels made of coloured glass attached to the core by means of an elastic adhesive material. This sandwich construction results in a cabinet that's virtually immune against internal resonances, thus reducing cabinet colouration dramatically. It also gives the Classic 15 a timeless and elegant look with pleasing proportions and a stunningly glossy glass finish. For 2,790 Euros the pair, you have a choice of Black or White as standard colours. Spend only 100 Euros more and you can chose from a wide range of other colours, too. Another advantage of its unique cabinet construction is that it helps in disguising the speaker's bass reflex port. It is located at the bottom of the cabinet and opens towards the base plate, hidden away from any but the most prying eyes. This also makes the Classic 15 very easy to place as deep frequencies from the port radiate in all directions simultaneously.

All in all, the Classic 15 is capable of delivering a solid and deep bass that's belying its modest dimensions and will surprise any casual listener unaware of Audio Physic's technological prowess.

Technology For the first time, Audio Physic use their Dual Basket Drivers in the Classic Line. Designed to minimise transfer of mechanical energy between driver and cabinet, this design replaces the conventional single basket with two parts. The inner basket to which all the driver's moving parts are mounted is made from a high-tech material with excellent internal damping properties. A second, outer basket is used to mount the driver to the cabinet with only a very small contact patch between the two baskets so that no vibrations from the diaphragm or the voice coil can be transferred into the cabinet. Both woofer and midrange driver feature diaphragms from the same glass fibre fabric but are otherwise easy to tell apart: The midrange driver sports an aluminium phase plug to optimise heat management. There are also some obvious differences in the surrounds and the motor systems, each in turn tailored to the specific requirements of the drivers. Treble duties are fulfilled by a soft-dome tweeter, tailor-made by a German manufacturer for Audio Physic, that resides in a small horn-shaped indentation with a felt-like fabric around its edge which subtly adjusts the sound radiation behaviour. Adjustable metal spikes mounted to the solid base plate with M8 threads provide sure and solid footing.



A gap at the bottom is used to ventilate the cabinet. The base plate is made from solid MDF and has M8 bushes for metal spikes (standard) or optional VCF feet

Anyone looking to get even more out of their Classic 15 can purchase the optional VCF II Magnetic feet which decouple the speakers from the floor and are also perfect for delicate surfaces.

Lab Audio Physic's Classic 15 also proved its quality in our measurement lab, showing a relatively even frequency response from around 50 Hz at the bottom up to well beyond 20 kHz. Only a small step around 600 Hz and a minor dip at around 7,000 Kz are visible but no cause for concern. The measurement taken 15 degrees off-axis is virtually identical to the on-axis graph, and even at 30 degrees off-axis there is only a slight drop in sound pressure. The waterfall diagram is without flaw, especially above 1,200 Hz and both harmonic and non-harmonic distortion are at very low levels below 1% where it matters.

Sound Check Although it might not be everyone's first choice for speakers of such modest dimensions we started off the listening session with some rather brutal romantic rock by German band Colaris. The band's album "Nexus" shows that some care has gone into recording and mixing and subsequently is a challenge for any hi-fi system that's asked to deliver the full impact of Colaris' music.

We chose the album's bombastic second track „Mælstrøm“ to suss out the dynamic abilities of the Classic 15 and were rewarded with opulent power, vivid bass lines, energetic guitars and crisp drums, all positioned precisely on a very wide sound stage. Encouraged by this, we stayed within the realms of 'bombastic', although this time coming from an entirely different genre.

We called on Gary Numan, the old master of New Wave, and his "Ghost Nation" from "Savage (Songs From A Broken World)". Through the Classic 15, Numan's distinctive nasal vocals sounded authentic and created a suitably dystopian mood, but the song's powerful synth riffs filling the room put a smile on our faces again in no time.

The story was the same with all other tracks we tried: the Classic 15 always played lively and energetic, with precise, punchy bass notes and an abundance of musical information across all frequencies. Especially the spaciousness of the sound created by these slim floorstanders never stops to impress. When listening to Dire Straits, for example, each musician gets placed in a precise position on a wide and roomy sound stage. Sometimes we would maybe want for a little more body to the bass drum but placing the Classic 15 a closer to the wall



Single-Wiring terminal as standard, bi-wiring option available on request



Some of the colour choices available for the Classic 15: Black and White are standard, Anthracite, Silver Gray and Pearl White are examples for the many special colours, available at a modest surcharge of 100 Euro / pair

proved to be an easy remedy for that. With the extra punch the low end gained by that we went on to see how the speakers would cope with Rage Against The Machine at full pelt. And were amazed by its ability to keep the music together even at very high volume. In a word: fun!

Back to more reasonable sound pressure levels and to some less aggressive music to wind things down: Cassandra Wilson's voice is temperamental and colourful as they come and the Classic 15 was able to reproduce every facet of it faithfully, creating instant goosebumps with the singer's first syllable.

Summary The Audio Physic Classic 15 is an exceptional loudspeaker that looks and sounds great. Both is the result of bold engineering decisions, excellent build quality and innovative technological details. As a music lover you'll find the Classic 15 very pleasant to live with as it entices with a very emotional character of sound, delightful vocals, precise bass and a wealth of musical detail in the mids and treble. Well done, Audio Physic!

Jochen Schmitt

Floorstanding Speakers **Audio Physic Classic 15**

· Price (pair)	ca 2,800 Euro
· Contact	Audio Physic, Brilon
· Phone	+49 2961 9617-0
· Web	www.audiophysic.com

Features

· Colours	2 glass finishes standard (White and Black, other colours on request)	
· Dimensions (W x H x D in mm)	170 x 1055 x 290	
· Weight (in kg)	15	
· Design	2.5-way, Bass Reflex	
· Terminal	Single-Wiring	
· Impedance	4 Ohm	
· Woofer (nominal / diaphragm)	1 x 150 / 110 mm	
· Midrange (nominal / diaphragm)	1 x 150 / 110 mm	
· Tweeter	1 x 25 mm	

Sound	70 %	1,1
· Tonality	20 %	1,1
· Precision	15 %	1,0
· Resolution	15 %	1,0
· Spaciousness	10 %	1,0
· Dynamics	10 %	1,2

Lab	15 %	1,2
· Frequency Response	5 %	1,2
· Distortion	5 %	1,1
· Sound Pressure	5 %	1,2

Practicality	15 %	1,1
· Build Quality	5 %	1,1
· Features	5 %	1,1
· Manual	5 %	1,1

Verdict

In A Nutshell:

- + beautiful design
- + innovative technology
- + available in many stunning colours

Sound	70 %	1,1
Lab	15 %	1,2
Practicality	15 %	1,1

HiFi Test **Spitzenklasse**
 Preis/Leistung Note 1/2019
sehr gut **1,1**