

# Floating on air



Making very significant improvements to a good thing within a very short period of time is something that takes a burning desire, and above all, the ability, to make it happen



*Concealed beneath the black panels are a total of four woofers per cabinet*

Manfred Diestertich is no one to rest on his laurels. So the truly legendary Avantera Plus+ – which basically means "Mark II" – had truly arrived as one of our loudspeaker references after a test two years ago, and now Diestertich has once again really upped the ante. But that's just the way it is with developers who have a passion for their work: Once they have reached a certain level, they never rest for long on their laurels, there are other projects in the wings. In the case of Audio Physic, this certainly includes the wonderful Codex, which I was able to listen to at length last year. And in 2017, it was Avantera's turn again. Before we turn to the third generation of this model, it's worth taking a look at the big picture: In the hierarchy of the Brilon manufacturer, the Avantera is the number two after the magnificent Cardeas, which is available in two versions, which are in fact very similar, however.

In terms of the number of chassis, the Avantera is somewhat leaner than the Cardeas, but certainly not in terms of technology and meticulous craftsmanship. The Avantera III, like its predecessors, is a three-and-a-half-way loudspeaker. Its tonal foundation rests on a total of four bass drivers, positioned in pairs in the lower half of the cabinet facing the left and the right side. As all the drivers oscillate either to the outside or to the inside, the impulses cancel each other out and there are no disturbing vibrations that could be transferred from the bass drivers onto the cabinet. Apparently, the engineers in Brilon thought that would naturally be a practical solution for the midrange drivers as well. But a side configuration of pairs would tend to be counter-productive on the chassis, which



*The fantastic midrange driver in what is now its third generation*

transmit the most important musical information. So a few years ago, Diestertich went the more challenging route and developed loudspeaker baskets that provide a second uncoupled inside basket for the actual oscillating unit. Two of these high-tech drivers are located in a vertical alignment on the 7° rear-tilted front, whereby the lower of the two chassis only works at up to 500 Hz. That is the "half way" of the Avantera. While both midrange drivers do have a metal membrane, this is so effectively damped by means of a diaphragm pre-tensioned in the assembly, that there are no resonance issues for which metal membranes are so notorious. This opens up the possibility to enjoy the perfect cone-shaped oscillation by means of high stiffness, without making any sacrifices.

The next special feature is the tweeter, which does indeed look like a normal dome, at least at the first glance, but in reality it is also a cone driver with a stiff metal membrane. The round convex shape



*The unique cone tweeter, also meticulously re-engineered*

## Teammates

### Turntables:

- **Transrotor Fat Bob S with SME 5009 and Figaro**
- **Klein Technik Sinus 105**

### Phono amplifiers:

- **E.A.R. 324**
- **Quad Twentyfour Phono**

### Amplifiers:

- **Musical Fidelity M6**
- **Symphonic Line RG**

### Accessories:

- **Power bar: PS-Audio, Silent Wire**
- **Phono cables: Nordost, Signal Projects**
- **LF cables: Silent Wire**
- **Isolation feet, racks and bases: SSC, Thixar, bFly**

## Adversaries

### Loudspeaker:

- **Verity Parsifal Anniversary**
- **Ascendo D7 active**



*The characteristic shape of the Avantera with its 7° backward-sloping cabinet*



## Tracks played

**Michel Legrand**

**Legrand Jazz**

**Beethoven**

**Piano Sonatas, Glenn Gould**

**Dire Straits**

**Communiqué**

**Kari Bremnes**

**Svarta Bjorn**

**Ludwig van Beethoven**

**The Late Piano Sonatas,**

**Christoph Eschenbach**

**Peter Tchaikovsky**

**Piano Concerto 1 in B Flat Minor,**

**Martha Argerich,**

**Royal Philharmonic Orchestra,**

**Charles Dutoit**

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

**Vaisenhausemesse (Missa solemnis in C minor),**

**Claudio Abbado**

**Oscar Peterson Trio**

**We Get Requests**

**Jazz at the Pawnshop**

in the middle is only part of a membrane with a diameter that is in fact nearly 40 mm. Before anyone starts raising objections due to the size of the tweeter: It is precisely this protrusion that ensures sound dispersion characteristics equal to that of a 25 mm dome, perhaps even better. The large overall surface of the cone reduces the required amplitude and thus limits distortions to an absolute minimum.

The tweeter has undergone another refined facelift for the Avantera III, which in combination with the new silver conductor between the crossover and the chassis provides for more detailed tweeter reproduction.

And while we are on the topic of crossovers: At Audio Physic, it is a proven concept that each branch of the crossover is positioned in close proximity to the respective controlled chassis. The crossover boards are immaculately produced and fitted with optimally-sized components. In terms of film capacitors, the company has recently been relying on the exceptional Clarity Caps.

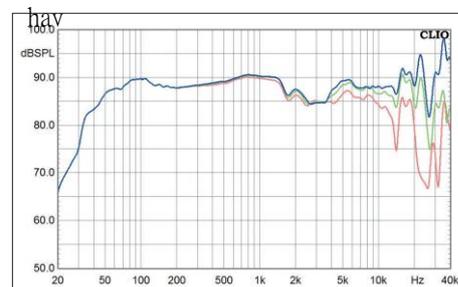
The WBT terminals are positioned in the already well-known vibration-reducing dual suspension: Here, each detail is painstakingly observed!

Now we come to the cabinet: It is multifaceted in the truest sense of the word. Both bass compartments are lined on the inside walls with ceramic foam, which totally eliminates internal vibration and resonance. As opposed to the previous models, only the two lower drivers work as a bass reflex system with downward-facing tubes, the two upper basses are located in a closed compartment.

The midrange drivers also have their own chambers, which with two different absorber plates and even some additional insulation material also no longer allow any parasitic vibrations.

The magnetic feet, "VCF V Magnetic", available for an additional EUR 1,300 per pair of loudspeakers, as always, come with our urgent recommendation. There is no more effective way of decoupling a loudspeaker from the floor.

Regardless of how many decoupling measures it may have to offer: Musically, the Avantera III is balanced to perfection. It really is true: I have seldom heard a



## Taking Measure

### Measurement Technology Review

*The frequency range of the Avantera III exhibits a room-friendly reserve in the low base and fundamental tone. The midrange from 800 Hz is very well-balanced from all angles, emitting an extremely harmonious sound. The tweeter cone delivers full volume up to 40 kHz. Coming in at near record-breaking lows is the harmonic distortion from the bass range upwards, even at 95 dB. There is very low fluctuation of impedance, registering clean minimum values of precisely 4.0 ohms. No disturbing resonance.*

loudspeaker that offers so few occasions, or no occasion at all, to hear its individual components. And, practically as a by-product, one that renders every type of signal with the same uniform neutrality.



## Audio Physic Avantera III

- Price from 16,490 euros per pair
- 17,490 euros for the test LS in high gloss finish
- 1,300 euros for the magnetic feet set
- Manufacturer Audio Physic, Brilon, Germany
- Phone +49 2961 96170
- Website [www.audiophysic.de](http://www.audiophysic.de)
- Weight 38 kg
- Warranty 10 years
- H x W x D 240 x 1150 x 420 mm

### Bottom line ...

» With a combination of model upgrading and many innovative engineering features, Audio Physic has designed a new Avantera, which in the sum of its technical refinements also simply gets everything right in terms of music. »



*The "swimming" terminal and the highly-recommended magnetic feet*



The new bass refinement is stable, crisp and tight all the way up to brutal volumes, and disciplined down to the lowest depths. The highly dynamic midrange benefits in the lower ranges from the doubling of the membrane surface, and in the upper ranges functions cleanly like a true studio

*Only the lower pair of woofers is located in a bass reflection cabinet*

monitor. We are indeed sufficiently convinced about the qualities of the fantastic tweeter. And here there is dynamics galore, along with finely-attuned sensitivity and awe-inspiring timbre.

And giving credit where it is due, all this works brilliantly at any desired volume, which indeed allows for live volumes and, yes, relaxed music listening.

Add to this an extra-wide spectrum and a three-dimensionality that is totally second nature, giving sound recordings back their natural quality that of course everyone wants to listen to at home. After all, that is the major strength of the Avantera III: Its numerous qualities, originating from just as many ingenious detailed solutions, all create a whole package which is purely dedicated to music.

*by Thomas Schmidt*

