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Technik

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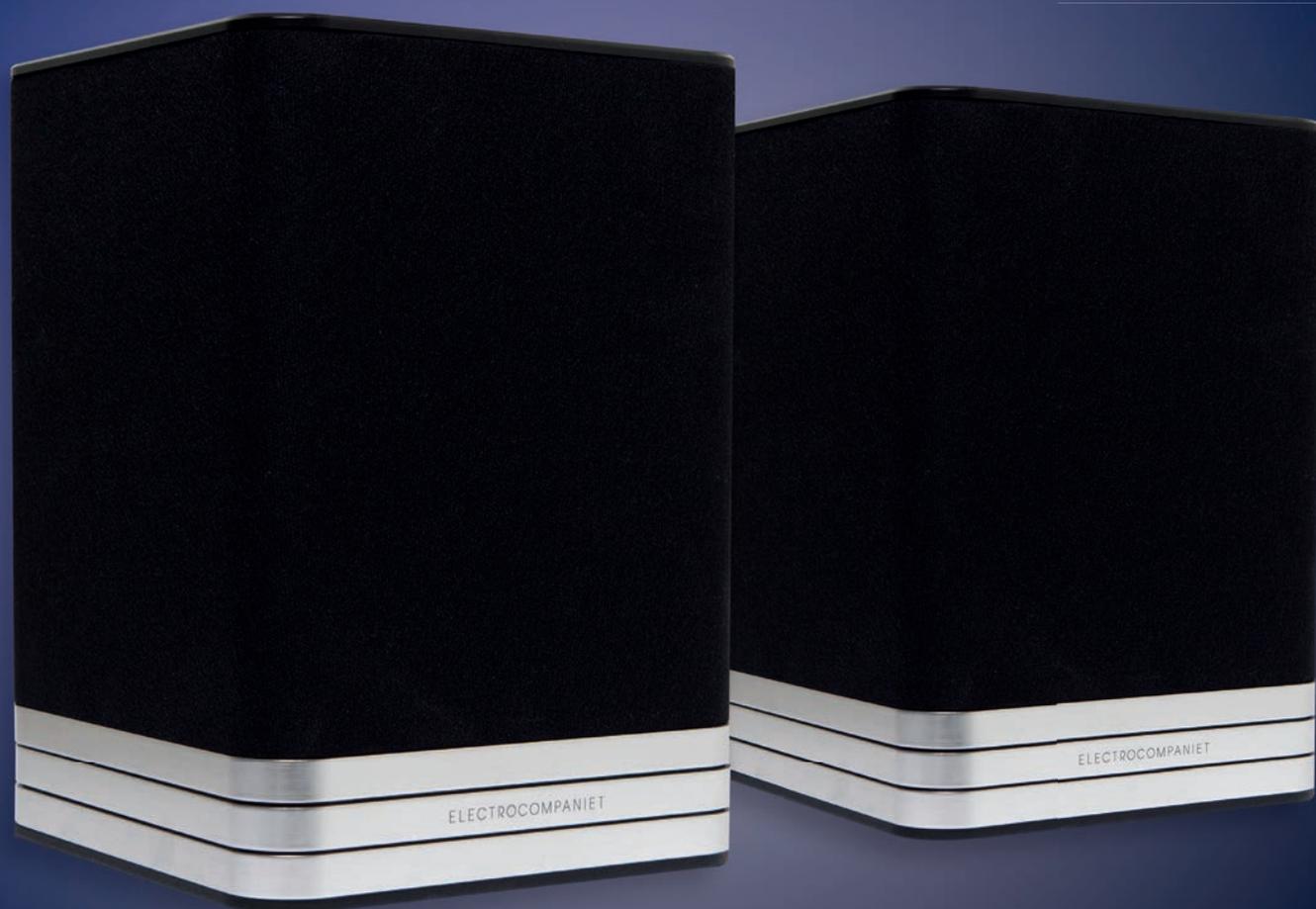
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Ascendo System M5-S S.E. active

The other league

Active loudspeakers are becoming more and more popular in the living and listening areas of music lovers. In the increasingly economical and modernly furnished apartments, the hitherto known „HiFi altars“ are getting less and less entrance. The active loudspeaker systems in the market, which usually play in a different league music than passive systems, offer a way to the high-quality music enjoyment with few devices. The difference lies, on the one hand, in the type of construction of the active loudspeakers and, on the other hand, in the possibility of digital adjustment to the respective room acoustics (but not all active speakers). Completely new in the league of active loudspeakers is now the Ascendo System M5-S S.E. Available – and here exclusively in the test.

„M“ stands for „Mighty!“

An Ascendo System M5-S S.E. is a powerful product of sonic transducer design with the accompanying stand. 40 cm (the foot at the bottom has 50 cm) in the width, 159 cm in the height and 65 cm in the depth open into a piece weight of 125 kg each. For Ascendo is a real black piano lacquer (no high gloss „brimborium“), other piano lacquer paints are available on request and the low magnetic VA2 stand is available in polished or matt finish. It has a bearing function in the truest sense of the word, because in the upper area is the vertically adjustable high tone unit with the two switchable magneto stats / surface spotlights (front and rear side). For Ascendo, this adjustable device is called VTA – which means „Variable Time Alignment“. The adjustment of the high-frequency section makes sense in that the time behavior in the reproduction can be optimized. Correct



phase behavior (or lack thereof) is very clearly perceived by human hearing; between a positive and a negative impression, the degree is very narrow. After the high-frequency range reacts to pulses significantly faster than a mid-range or woofer, it makes sense to be able to make an exact adjustment and to align the sound image exactly to the listening position. The time compensation of the different fast response is called time alignment. The operating times from the high, medium and bass drivers to the ear of the listener vary according to the height and distance. In order to achieve truly perfect group run times, the loudspeaker should be adjustable to the individual listening position. This is called „Variable Time Alignment“ in Ascendo. A technically not easy to implement solution. Only a few loudspeakers can do this – and the passive Ascendo System-M has patented standards. For the active system M5-S S.E. is adjusted both more precisely via the in-house amplifiers than with the passive solution. An ascendo design with the patented SASB low / midrange system and one of the best bass drivers is already in a class of its own. The modular design with fully separate, effectively decoupled low / mid and high tone units provides excellent detail resolution throughout the frequency range and ensures the perfect timing of this system M version. The M5-S S.E Aktiv system also features a 21.5 cm chassis with a phase plug and a solid 28 cm bass driver with a hexatone honeycomb membrane inside. The hexacone membranes of the Eton HEX chassis are 300 times lighter, but 70 times stiffer than conventional membranes. Hexacone woofers have a sandwich membrane made of Nomex honeycomb with a double-layer coating, which shows an exceptionally smooth transmission behavior in the respective frequency range. Kevlar is, as is known, a light and very hard plastic, characterized by its high elongation and unprecedented stability. Above all, Kevlar is known for its enormous tensile strength, which is 1000 times higher than that of iron for the same material thickness. Thus, the hexacone membrane tone is almost impossible to build up partial vibrations, and in the final result an extraordinarily good, because fast

bass reproduction is given. A very important fact in the interplay with the very fast drivers (ascendo modified and in parts specially modified by Ascendo) are the two surface-mounted tweeters, which are well-known as a resolution miracle in the scene – they have a playback quality for kneeling down. Ascendo-C floor decoupling enhances the responsiveness and transparency of the playback. Due to their perfectly homogeneous radiation, this loudspeaker can already be used to enjoy fascinating music performances from room sizes from 18 m² to 200 sqm – the perfect decoupling from the room makes it possible.

„M“ stands for „Everything is possible!“

Who is the proud owner of a slightly older Ascendo „System M“ and friend of the current overall performance; finds in the update service of Ascendo all possibilities. Details can be obtained from an authorized Ascendo dealer. Everything that is possible here is astonishing and speaks once again for German HiFi and its flexibility as well as longevity. Today it is called sustainability – there has been such a long time!

„M“ stands for „Musical!“

After correct installation in the room, the adaptation was made via a WLAN interface of the external multi-channel amplifier. In the M5-S S.E., there are no passive crossover parts. All chassis are controlled via their own DSP channel. Within a few minutes the system plays to the point! With a few settings, the M5-S S.E. To the respective room perfectly – and what happens afterwards sonically, demands a stable seat. Watt – the bass drivers are each driven with 1000 W, the midton chassis with 500 watts each, and the two radios receive 250 W for easier playback of the music signals, which is what we are talking about. Under musical reproduction I understand an uncompressed airy atmosphere – regardless of the volume. And that is the great strength of this active ascendol speaker system. Unbraked, it



relays each signal to its loudspeaker chassis and they convert it equally openly into sound. I would like to add a well-known example at the beginning of the sound description: The most sonorous thing that Manger ever made is the CD / LP sampler „Music as from another star“. All the music signals required to assess the sound quality of a hi-fi device are included. I like this sampler also because you can let this CD run completely relaxed from the beginning. I know him in and out. It starts with the famous bell, which has to be sounded in a metallic, radiant manner, free from any artifacts in the room – and that is exactly the sound of the Ascendo M5-S S.E. In a rarely so directly perceived quality. I am a fan of an authentic music reproduction, the term „live“ I reluctantly use because „live“ can not be replaced by anything except „live“ and he has been abused in the hifi scene too often. I am hardworking Livemusikgeniesser – no matter, what kind – and want therefore the o.g. Do not use the term in comparison to the playback quality of a HiFi device.

Back to the description of the description, the pair price of around 73,000 Euros yes also not exactly to the special offers in the market. But this is not the case in this highly competitive price class, because here we are clearly in the top high end and my expectation is correspondingly sophisticated.

Language reproduction is one of the most critical tests – we have all this in our ear, and finally, our daily, unintentional training takes place. On track 2 of the CD mentioned, many of us know the radio play „The sky covers everything with silence“. The special feature is the noise and its meaning – directly and bluntly, this shows the Ascendo M5-S S.E. Active. One does not necessarily have to be a big fan of Hermann Prey and his song circle, but what is offered here just tonally in „Beethoven, I love you“ is more than impressive. The next tracks are about classical music and here I sit emotionally in the large concert hall in an exposed place – really good, because authentic! The quality of playback in a loudspeaker is uncomprehended with acoustic instruments. If they are also frugal in the performance (as in No. 8 by Stefano Grondona with „Tárrega, Capricho Arabe“ the Spanish guitar), then it is usually louder with me in the listening room – I want to experience the sounds directly and directly. This kind of active ascendo can be in an almost brutally honest way. Especially the volume of the wooden guitar body can be experienced comprehensibly and the enormously long swinging tones remain in my memory lasting – an enormous goose bumps, one must have experienced it! This „Isn't She Lovely“ is probably the most littered piece of song in our scene, I call it nevertheless, since here the combination of voice and acoustic guitar is so intensively carried forward that one wants to hear it (unfortunately) again and again. Choirs – yes, it goes straight to the point of the sound reproduction. When and wherever an M5-S S.E. will be performed please be sure to include this piece. For whoever feels this without goosebumps has probably already been deprived of his emotional life ... Please let go immediately, because the next track



is going on with Percussion and drums right away really crunchy – louder? The use of the tenor saxophone follows immediately. Ha – such a slag less music reproduction in the highest musical resolution from the lowest octave is almost sensational. Let us talk about bass reproduction. Experiencing a double bass in a realistic way? Yes, please, at Jazz concerts this is now no topic at all – and here ... ? Let's take track number 8 of this CD and listen to Renaud Garcia-Fons with his play „Ghazali“. The French musician is regarded worldwide as one of the most virtuosic contrabassists of the present, especially in the stylistic environment of jazz and world music. He plays with great passion a five-string double bass, since this instrument paves him a way to the highest positions of the tonality of this powerful wood instrument. And indeed – such a „singing“ big bass must be heard through the active speaker system Ascendo M5-S S.E. once physically felt ...

I've been able to listen to these incredible loudspeakers for several weeks and play countless records on it – unfortunately, it's in a price class in which I can not play. But to him who can afford it! I then simply simply continue again with my Ascendo D9-C. Oh yeah, which is to be activated soon ...

To the point

Let's make it short: the spins at Ascendo! For anyone who builds such an infinitely „horny“ piece of loudspeaker, must smoke something special / drink etc. Who already uses an M5 system – on it goes to Ansbach to the conversion to active. By the way, here Marla Glenn with „The Cost Of Freedom“ just rocks my listening room ... I stick to it – the spins at Ascendo ... !

Information

Active Speakers Ascendo M5-S S.E.

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