

Here's a toast!

No matter how you look at it: Either a manufacturer has staying power in the market because its products are good, or its products are good because it can look back on many years of experience. With Audio Physic, both statements are correct



On its 30th jubilee, the company has rewarded itself with a few new models – one of the jubilee highlights is the Avanti, a classic in the history of the company. All the new version has in common with the old Avanti is its footprint – a sleek, slightly rear-tilted standing cabinet, whose chassis for the mid-range driver and tweeter face the front. The woofers, previously located on the sides, however, seem to have disappeared completely – which appears odd at first. In fact, I had to think for a minute where the bass support was hidden – an initial clue is found in the reflex port, which is fitted below the baffle. If you happen to be searching around in this area, the bottom of the cabinet feels strange. One look in the technical description of the Avanti, along with its superb technical drawing, in fact reveals the principle of the hidden subwoofer in the cabinet. The peculiar structure on the bottom is a permeable metal foam supporting a downward firing bass chassis. This is achieved through a sort of minimal enclosure, which does nothing more than channel the sound a short distance in the direction of the floor. On the reverse, the bass has practically the entire volume of the Avanti available, which is also ventilated via the aforementioned reflex port.

Audio Physic has mid-range drivers and tweeters manufactured according to their own specifications – and considering the chassis used in the design, that's no mere sales gimmick. We among the editorial staff here are quite familiar with the chassis manufacturer's range of products – and the components assembled by Audio Physic are not commercially available in the market. The mid-range driver actually looks quite normal at first glance, except for the unconventional phase plug. But if you take a closer look at the basket of the chassis, you see a sophisticated dual-basket design, the outer structure of which only serves to ensure the airtight installation of the chassis, whilst the vibrating parts are suspended in the inner basket. This means that the cabinet and the membrane

are perfectly uncoupled from one another in the Avanti Cabinet. The tweeter (at least nowadays) is a rare bird indeed: It is in fact a cone tweeter which up into the 1970s was still quite common, whereas today it has been almost completely replaced by dome and film tweeters. In terms of its basic design, a cone tweeter is actually nothing more than a tiny "normal" cone chassis, i.e. with a normal membrane and a dust cap in the centre, which are freely suspended on the outside. The problem areas typical of such chassis in the past, specifically resonance due to the relatively large membrane and quite powerful bundling, have been completely eliminated. Even the recessed tweeter design exhibits no disturbing side effects in the frequency range – or at least if there are any, they are not audible to the human ear. In fact, this tweeter actually plays above 30 kHz – and this is measured not only on axis but also on the side. Well done!

Audio Physic would not be Audio Physic if they weren't also able to pull a few aces out of their sleeve – for example, the sophisticated, stiffened design is also surrounded by the previously mentioned metal foam along on the interior walls – on our test loudspeaker, there were also additional exterior walls made of glass. Before anyone raises objections against glass as hi-fi construction material: This configuration is ideal for loudspeakers! A hard exterior layer, a dampening mid-layer and something rather soft inside – the perfect sandwich recipe for the cabinet. The glass panel is an optional extra versus the normal varnished finishes. The same goes for the special magnetic feet, which effectively uncouple the Avanti from the ground. The loudspeaker hovers – just a few millimetres above the ground – thanks to neodymium.

In the described configuration, the Avanti costs EUR 6,050 per pair – prices start EUR 650 lower for the basic wood finish with normal feet.

In the measuring lab, Audio Physic, true to its craft, demonstrates an extremely wide spectrum and linear frequency – with the

Teammates

Turntables:

- Transrotor Fat Bob S with SME 5009 and Figaro
- EAT C-Major with Ortofon Quintet Blue

Phono amplifiers:

- Vitus Audio
- Quad Twentyfour Phono

Amplifiers:

- Musica Nova Phoenix and Pegasus
- Bryston 3BBST2

Accessories:

- Power socket: PS-Audio, Silent Wire
- Phono cables: Nordost, Signal Projects
- LF cables: Van den Hul
- Isolation feet, racks and bases: SSC, Thixar, bFly

Adversaries

Loudspeakers:

- Inklang AdvancedLine 13.4
- KLANG+TON Studio 10



Floating on air: the new magnetic feet for uncoupled set-up



Tracks played

Beethoven
Piano Sonatas, Glenn Gould

Dire Straits
Communiqué

Hélène Grimaud
Water

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

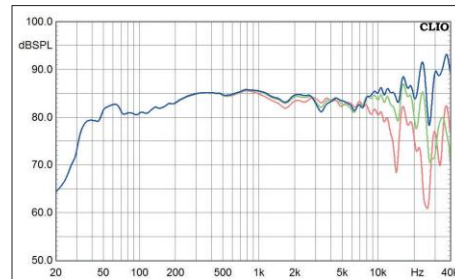
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Waisenhausmesse
(Missa solemnis in C minor),
Claudio Abbado

Oscar Peterson Trio
We Get Requests

Jazz at the Pawnshop

exquisite tweeter, exhibiting an incredible range, from roughly 2000 Hz to almost 40 kHz. In our view, the woofer is cleverly balanced, which with a slightly subdued volume level compared to the mid-range driver, extends to very low levels – it's just the right mix for normal living interiors: This enables the cabinet to be placed quite close to the back wall without causing an unseemly booming in the bass. When you set it up in an open space, as we did in the listening room, the bass sounds somewhat more slender, yet incredibly profound, whilst remaining extremely clean. This is not equally important for all types of music and recordings, yet it is simply marvellous when you want to be able to REALLY hear the deep basses – also considering the fact that it is such a slender loudspeaker, whose quality is difficult to discern solely based on appearances. The mid-high range is perfectly balanced. It discreetly accentuates voices and natural instruments, only to turn around and demonstrate subtlety in the critical presence range – a pleasant experience all the way around, providing for an unbelievably profound spatial impression. Quality classical recordings in a large space with natural reverberation thus become a genuine experience where you feel as if you are in a concert hall. When showing its "other side", the Avanti can also pack a punch, when delivering a drumbeat to the listener amid a loud band – also in terms of dynamics, everything is right about this truly universal loudspeaker.

Thomas Schmidt



Taking Measure

Measurement Technology Review

Enormously deep range of bass fidelity with a practical reduction in volume. Minimally-emphasised mid-ranges, incredibly wide-range tweeters. The sensitivity is roughly 85 dB. Extremely good omnidirectional sound. As regards harmonic distortion and resonance, the levels are practically imperceptible. The impedance curve is not amplifier-sensitive, yet it also does not predestine the Avanti for use with a tube amplifier.

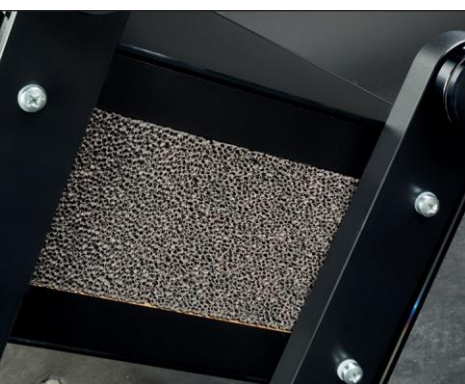


Audio Physic Avanti

- Unit price from EUR 2,700
EUR 3,025 (Test unit with magnetic feet)
- Sales: Audio Physic, Brilon, Germany
- Phone: +49 2961 96170
- Email: info@audiophysic.de
- Internet: www.audiophysic.de
- Warranty 10 years
- H x W x D 108.7 x 17 x 39cm
- Weight approx. 29kg

Bottom line ...

The Avanti is the worthy bearer of a great name: It combines modern design and engineering with an absolutely practical balance, creating a superbly-sounding overall work of art – what a perfect way to celebrate a jubilee!



Thanks to the sound permeability of the bottom, the woofer is directed to the floor



Even the WBT terminal is uncoupled from the cabinet



At first glance, it looks like a dome, but it is in fact a cone tweeter



The conspicuous phase plug is but one of the special features of the midrange driver – the uncoupled basket design is spectacular



The dampening all around the cone is an essential element of the tweeter



The glass walls lend the Avanti a unique appearance



It has a more chiselled appearance since the last iteration, but no less elegant: the Audio Physic Avanti