

The AreaDVD compact speaker Master Test 2006: ten top class models compared (page 12 of 12)

all the important data in the tabular summary:

Model	A.C.T AL20	Adam inactive	Adam passiv	Elac C310	Focal Electra	Isophon Galileo	M.Audio GS-10	Mission e81	Supplies TS3
Processing	10	7	8	10	10+1	9,5	10	9	10
Klangpunkte	46	43,5	52	57	50,5	66,5	55	37,5	42
Price (MSRP)	400€	1550€	950€	650€	1650€	1299€	600€	600€	375€

Individual evaluations of the participants: - ACT AL20



As a classic 2-way design with solid, but not necessarily sensational art, the cheap AL20 in the middle of our test field positioned. and can thus propose a quite astonishing considering their price and size classification. Who the AL20 with a musical subwoofer (our tip: an actively controlled AL6 from the same home) combined, receives an equally audible and visually extremely appealing set. Other advantages of the ACT compact speaker is the individual production according to customer in terms of sound tuning, housing dimensions and surface finish. It so happens that the 400 euro expensive acoustic transducer, not necessarily as the best standalone speaker end the test, but can look back on a successful performance together with ordinary price / performance ratio.



**Compact speaker to 1,500 euros
review: 20 October 2006**



**price / performance:
- Adam A.R.T Compact aktiv**



The first active compact speaker in the listening rooms AreaDVD could not completely meet our high expectations, unfortunately. The Adam ART Compact active falls not only to the majority of the test field, but must be drawn also the passive counterpart from the same company. In particular, the mild-mannered to, almost lethargic timbre cost of the box many points. Certainly such a sound interpretation is not wrong in principle, but if even in terms of dynamics and power handling only mediocrity is offered, we can not unfortunately about to rate this fact in a corresponding degree. Too bad, because on the one hand the active speaker design holds much potential, especially as Adam delivers sustainable evidence with the Compact passive, that they are the art of loudspeaker design perfectly capable. Of course AreaDVD will continue to hold in the future nachinteressanten products in the field of active speakers out and undergo a test.



Compact speaker to 1,500 euros
review: 20 October 2006



price / performance:
- Adam ART Compact passiv



Amazingly, the classic passive-out version earned a distinct sonic advantage over the active construction and is thus clear winner of this duel. The Adam ART Compact passive but can be not only to its own stable mate behind, but also placed against the rest of the field very far forward. The

attractive sound properties primarily appeal to listeners who want their sound transducer an always pleasing, never aufgringliche gait. Together with the participants of Monitor Audio and Isophon would Adam ART Compact passive even belong to the balanced speakers. But unfortunately provides the low-level strength for a small downer. Before moving into the living room of the Republic shall, for the Adam speakers also to hope for a positive vote of wives, which, given the clunky appearance is not a matter of course. Users with moderate level needs (and tolerant life partners) place in the Adam passive bookshelf speakers with a rock-solid security solution that knows how to please in all other disciplines with sound balance at a high level.



Compact speaker to 1,500 euros
review: 20 October 2006



price / performance:

- Elac Jet C310.2



The ELAC engineers should champagne corks popping: the small C310.2 Jet is the surprise of the test field and wins the price / performance win! Perhaps it is now experiencing a second spring, because due to the solid overall concept is this speaker for over two years in the program and also currently even as Limited Edition purchase at select retailers. Worth they would have it: all she begins acoustically, it brings brilliantly to the end. Never you as a listener the feeling of hearing such a small box. Who sets aside the C310.2 Jet powerful electronics as well as a fine subwoofer that may experience the dream of a big sound in a small package every day in his listening room again. In addition just adds that little box Elac Although extremely detailed and informative airs, but never sounds exhausting. It allows therefore both the intense, conscious listening experience, as well as the subtle background music at a dinner. For the latter fits their very appetitliche optics. Despite the use of metal materials, the C310.2 Jet does not act as a foreign body in the apartment, but can be harmoniously and unobtrusively integrated in residential landscapes. Currently we have no alternative for an investment of € 599 (per piece), which combines such a fascinating blend of audiophile aspects and universal applicability.



+ PRICE / PERFORMANCE WINNER compact speaker to 1,000 euros
review: 20 October 2006 price / performance:



- Focal JmLab Electra 1007BE



To a final judgment on the Electra 1007BE, is anything but an easy task: the very large span of our listening experiences include mild disillusionment to complete enthusiasm, the whole range of impressions. In harmony render and playback music material (see sound rating) has come dangerously close to the very pretty Frenchwoman that stuff, even a Isophon Galileo. We would like to take this opportunity not a specific recommendation to buy, nor the deletion of your favorites list. Especially with this transducer mandatory audition is even more vital, as it is already in the speaker-buying already. Absolutely without a doubt completed the Box Focal our level tests - for the loud music hearing no speakers this comparison is better, especially fail the requirements for the electronics not overly large. For users, where the fun will start when looking at his equipment in listening to music, the Electra 1007BE would seem to be unrivaled on pole position and soon take off in the home AV system.



**Compact speaker to 1,500 euros
review: 20 October 2006**



price / performance:

- Isophon Galileo



Gradually, the situation in the AreaDVD-best list, the last Bundesliga season similar to: comparable as Bayern Munich, the Isophon troupe constantly occupied a place at the forefront. What the football

players owe their sporting ambitions, a bit of luck and skillful purchasing policy, the team developer Dr. Roland Gauderfest achieved by Isophon by meticulous development in combination with in-depth know-how. From the outside, the Galileo is pretty unimpressive, but thanks to sophisticated 3-way system including bandpass and time alignment board she has a sly behind their chassis. This would be alone, no unique selling point, other companies eventually donate their products absolutely fine ingredients, such as the beryllium tweeter in the Electra 1007BE. The Galileo travels ultimately therefore a test victory impress out, because it does not have its technology for its own sake, but this used to treat the ears of their owners. In our tests, none of our discerning editors did not notice a stunning performance in any sound discipline. She plays balanced at the highest level and has no objectively ascertainable acoustic weakness. In relation to the offered sound, the base price of 1299 euros a very fair price represents Nevertheless, the Galileo scars on a score with respect to the price / performance ratio by:. Costly listening pleasure with a pair of Galileo is namely when an adequate playback in the focus of the potential buyer gets. In this aspect of Galileo should provide an electronic system for the side, which also has audiophile virtues, but also acts as powerful and energetic. Put positively: the Galileo (but sometimes the purse of its owner) grows with the electronics beyond itself. Who but the investment in a quality pre / power amplifier combination of the caliber of Audionet Pre1G2 / Amp1V2 (about 6,000 euros) together with audiophile source unit does not shrink, which may be truly imagine and experience while enjoying his new acoustic conditioning flights of the highest sound level. A hard landing there only when the wife, the telephone or the neighboring provide a fault and abruptly snatch one from the realm of the famous Isophon sound artist. Such components deserve to be allowed to that coveted AreaDVD predicate "Masterpiece" wear. The Galileo put in the category of compact speaker simply the absolute masterpiece of our entire test history. If you also gain the desire for an exceptional audio experience, do not come around for a visit to the nearest Isophon-dealer.



MASTERPIECE COMPACT SPEAKER

+ TEST WINNER

Test: October 20, 2006



**the price / performance ratio:
- Misson e81**



Even if the e81 no resounding success was permitted in this test, so the traditional British manufacturers still enjoys a very high esteem throughout the editorial. With all the previously shown speaker highlights, it is quite normal that a development not quite "ignites" and against the market drops slightly. Sorry suffer this fate just the e81 compact speakers under this Master tests: sound to undefined, it missed the small box mission to offer a private, harmonious sound profile. Although the

tonal characteristics of the class mark not tip, but are certainly at an acceptable level. The problem area of the e81 starts up where dynamics and power handling is retrieved: compared with the remaining participants heard the e81 always something thoughtful, loud listening sessions they acknowledged even by very quickly overwhelmed woofers. Something better acts the e81 near a wall, satelittentypischen formation. The combination of extravagant appearance and the regular processing will provide in futuristic Höräumen furnished with security yet for happy owners. At this point we would like to express our esteem for the German sales reflected that have accepted our test result with sportsmanship, and in a few weeks with another Surroundset want to give a suitable answer in our listening rooms. We are already looking forward, and are confident that the brand "mission" at AreaDVD will still leave many interesting hardware tests.



**Compact speaker to 1,500 euros
review: 20 October 2006**



**price / performance:
- Monitor Audio Gold Signature 10**



Some readers may now think that our evaluation of the GS-10 anyway just the famous "Hornberger shooting" resembles, as a Gold Signature was 5.0 system anyway already chosen as the surround reference. But far from it: for this compact speaker master test requirements are different, especially the GS-10 had completely alone enforce against the (sometimes significantly more expensive) competition. At the end of our listening session of the smallest scion of Monitor Audio's top series may not only take the reference state, but at the same time the trophy of the price / performance winner in reception. Must be that the elegant MA transducer share his podium with the Elac 310.2, should both in Kiel (ELAC) and Rayleigh (MA; UK) are recorded without a murmur, as both products have completely different won this honor. Although the GS-10 to be among the cheaper models of the test field, provides almost complete sound only she really a pleasure to have no serious deficiencies in individual sound disciplines. Quite the contrary: well-balanced designed GS-10 is specifically in relation to the bass response and power handling absolute highlights of their class. Surely they will like perfect with her forderndem sound character not every listener type, but for users who know to still appreciate a strong and sometimes loud playing very, the GS-10 represents an absolute highlight of their market segment. As a bonus, she waits with an attractive appearance, many expansion possibilities for a high-end surround set up and prepares very much listening pleasure even without a high-end electronics.



+ PRICE / PERFORMANCE WINNER compact speaker to 1,500 euros review: 20 October 2006 price / performance:



- Piega TS3



Wherever space is tight, the Piega should have TS3 easy game to convince your potential buyer: big sound in small boxes format for compact transducers no advertising slogan, but a reality. Given the size boxes can be it the Swiss speakers not blame that they sound can not fight on a level with the most part far more expensive and larger competitors. The love of 'detail not only pleasing to the eye, but calls literally on hands. Who then provides a matching subwoofer, has also acoustically much reason to laugh. If you return the Tieftonarbeit the TS3 flourish downright and let their true qualities as a "small but mighty" Satellite Speaker recognize.



Compact speaker to 1,500 euros review: 20 October 2006



price / performance:

Final Conclusion



At the end of our comparison tests are not only the three prize-winning speakers as winner determined, but of course the consumer: although our 9 test candidates, of course, represent only a tiny fraction of the overall market, so alone provide these models sufficiently different sound characteristics to the individual listening preferences of many to correspond types of headphones.

Music is one of the oldest art forms of humanity and has evolved over thousands of years of primitive, monotonous sounds to a private macrocosm, which has an unparalleled complexity and manifest as Ambassador for past and present cultures an image of historiography. Therefore, music has a direct access to the emotions of the listener and transports acoustic information sensually in unshared perception.

To this end, a quote of a document of Prof. Dr. Michael Heinemann:

"The origins of the music are the beginnings of the world. Because the perception of both is directly adjacent gekoppelt. Jegliche cosmology, any attempt to explain the universe and its origin, accesses explanatory models associated with musical phenomena. Everything listening to music on the other hand is only conceivable as awareness of space and time: That sounds may be perceived as music, is mind ahead of sounds within one (even involuntarily) certain temporal portion structured and recognizes einsinnvolles in their organizing principle".

Exactly from this point we have considered this test: linear frequency response, optimized phase dispersion or accuracy may be true for the development of essential importance - for the pure user, however they are only means and purpose is to obtain the highest level of listening pleasure. Some readers may now expressed the view that objective measurements much more informative suitable for the evaluation of a speaker, as the subjective evaluation of several listeners extended editors - they neglect, however, that the different measurement methods and not least the interactions of the individual measurements to each other, this approach almost make it impossible in principle. For the broader group of buyers anyway, because without an academic degree in mathematics or physics misunderstandings or misinterpretations would even get out of hand and thus perform the actual objective absurdity. A similar approach certainly know a lot already from buying a car, you informed while ago about the most important fundamental properties, but the actual purchase decision is (almost) always after a test drive and the consequent subjective impression. It is in this form, we want to know understand this test and encourage them to listen to as many potential candidates in peace.

On closer examination, is the fact that speaker own individual sound and hearing must be adapted to each other, the way relatively easy to explain: even the world's best pair of speakers can reproduce an authentic orchestra is never 100%. The efforts of all speakers developers and engineers world is always as close as possible to arrive at the optimum, the perception of hearing is so complex that this

different weights must be placed on individual aspects. Expressed somewhat negative, each speaker design is nothing more than a compromise between dozens sound properties.

Your challenge as a prospective buyer is now to be found in balance with music preferences, electronics, listening room and aesthetic taste their favorites. We would appreciate if you could show this one way or another interesting alternative, our test and they may enjoy in the listening room acoustic performance nachihrem taste soon.

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