

# There's a lot inside!

Gauder Akustik loudspeakers are typically quite expensive. This is due to the high cost of their development. But the Arcona 40 has caught us off guard—and demonstrates what is acoustically possible for € 2,000.

The arrival of the first Arcona loudspeaker took place exactly as the company name was changing from Isophon to Gauder Akustik. Arcona is an attempt to offer Gauder-like knowledge and technology in a more affordable form—something the company had not managed to do successfully in the 80's. At that time, the pinpoint focus and the powerful bass we had become accustomed to were sadly lacking.

My conclusion was that the Roland Gauder team could really only deliver things that cost a lot of money.

I was wrong. In our listening sessions it took only a few bars of music to appreciate what a jewel Gauder has developed in the Arcona 40. Using their recommended stand and after a short warm-up period this small speaker proved itself to be both gripping and transparent. And not only with test discs.

Even with a critical recording such as Konstantin Wecker's

'Live in Munich', the Arcona 40 reproduced this 80's concert with breathtaking realism. Wecker's defiant voice was so lifelike and clear that it gave you the impression the master was sitting just across from you. Equally impressive was the powerful sound of the flugelhorn and the precision with which its dimension was rendered—beautiful, exhilarating. And much more dynamic than you would have thought possible from a



WBT's new plastic connectors sound incredibly good.

The Arcona enclosure is a sealed box, and tapers slightly to the rear. The crossover is so complex that its 22 components are distributed over three separate boards.



The recommended Gaudeur speaker stand (300 Euros / pair) is sand filled and 70 centimeters in height, which brings the Arcona 40 to exactly the right listening height. The AMT high frequency driver has enormous power reserves, 94 dB sensitivity, and shines because of its wide dispersion and small radiating surface.

speaker of this size. The bass driver in this infinite baffle sealed enclosure impressed us with its pinpoint accuracy. That the last octave is missing is absolutely a non-issue. Particularly since the accuracy and neutrality that the Arcona displays over the entire frequency range is rarely found in its price range. wMany music enthusiasts might now conclude that the description 'very neutral and precise' means a rather bland

transducer. On the contrary, dear friends. With the Arcona 40 emotion is created by more information; to the extent that you can look more deeply into the recordings and derive an even more satisfying experience.

The previous market leaders at or around 2,000 Euros were quickly displaced. They simply can't compete in the area of tonal accuracy. The acknowledged reference in this price

range, the Cabasse Bora, doesn't match up in overall resolution—although you could argue that it can ultimately produce more sound pressure and greater maximum output. Otherwise the Arcona outperforms every other product in its price range rather impressively.

How is all this accomplished? With research and a meticulous technology transfer from large RC models. The high-pass filtered—and therefore highly protected—mid/bass driver employs an optimally light aluminum membrane over the cone, additionally stiffened at the center; which begins to resonate rather markedly above 6 kHz. The high frequency driver is an Air Motion Transformer (AMT) which is manufactured to Gaudeur's specifications. The drivers are mounted in a stable housing, and WBT's best sounding connectors make perfect contact. The result? A great loudspeaker which we could not fault — except, that it requires a stable amplifier and lacks the ability to play really loud. Beyond that, the Arcona is fairly and competitively priced, and can be applauded for its ability to deliver genuine high end performance in small rooms, particularly those with bass problems. We call something like this a 'highlight.'

*Holger Biermann* ■

### Others can play louder.

Mid/bass and HF drivers are separated by extremely steep crossover slopes. Through the clever combination of driver behavior, the use of classical frequency points, and additional resonance circuits the drivers are crossed over with 50 dB per octave slopes at 3.5 kHz. The advantage: the HF driver is highly protected, and the woofer's 6 kHz resonances are rigorously suppressed. The disadvantage is low efficiency. With 79.6 dB sensitivity and a maximum noise level of 91 dB the Arcona 40 is clearly among the quietest members of the audio industry. Because of its impedance drop to 2.4 Ohms at 50 Hz the Arcona 40 also needs a stable amplifier.



The three-part crossover (displayed here on the thick carpet of the listening room) is equipped with components from the respected supplier, Mundorf.

## stereoplay Highlight

### Gaudeur Arcona 40 € 2.000 (Suggested Retail Price)

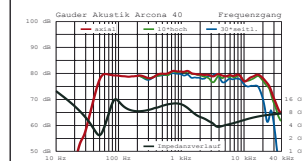
**Manufacturer:** Gaudeur Akustik, Merklingerstrasse 67, 7172 Renningen  
**Telefon:** 07159 / 920161  
**www.gaudeurakustik.com**  
**Auslandsvertretungen:** siehe Internet

**Maße:** 21 cm W x 36 cm H x 33 cm D  
**Weight:** 12 kg

**Installation tips:** free standing or near a wall; listening distance up to 3 m; and normal / well damped rooms up to 25 square meters.

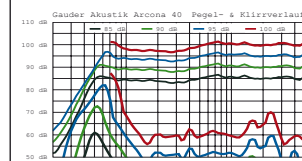
### Measurements

#### Frequency Response and Impedance Curve

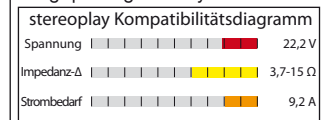


Response very neutral and quite deep, good omni-directionality; minimum impedance 2.4 Ohms.

#### Distortion levels. 85-100 dB SPL

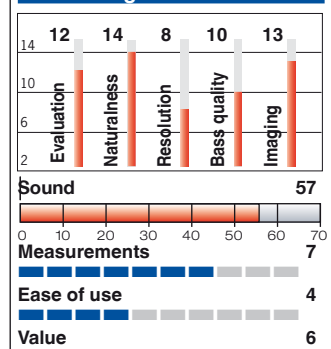


Very clean midrange; distortion increasing quite significantly in the bass.



Requires a reasonably powerful amplifier with good impedance stability.  
**Low frequency.** -3/-6 dB 47/43 Hz  
**Maximum level.** 91 dB

### Bewertung



Enormously transparent, neutral, and vivid. A compact loudspeaker with precise, highly musical bass and perfect musical pacing. Thanks to the sealed enclosure it is also an extremely clean performer in small rooms.

### stereoplay Test Results

**Sound**  
**absolute top class** 57 points

**Gesamturteil**  
**good - very good** 74 points

**Price / performance: outstanding**