# Klangoptimierende Spike-Konterstücke »Spike Shoe«

Eine Musikanlage hat unzählige klangkritische Punkte. Einer davon ist die Art und Weise, wie Komponenten und Lautsprecher mit dem darunter liegenden Boden verbunden sind. Genau hier erzielt der »Spike Shoe« von Bluehorizon beste Resultate.

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Der »Spike Shoe« von Bluehorizon findet seinen Platz zwischen der Spitze eines Spikes und dem darunter befindlichen Boden. Zur Entkopplung dient ein Materialmix aus Gummi und Kork, der unter einer Hülle aus Aluminium versteckt ist. Bis zu 100 Kilogramm Last können die Konterstücke vertragen. Ziel der Entwicklung war es, die unterschiedlichen Resonanzfrequenzen gleichmäßig zu bedämpfen. Normalerweise finden an dieser Stelle nur Verschiebungen statt, was zu unsicheren Ergebnissen führt. Die Kombination aus verbesserter Kopplung und effektiverer Steuerung der Resonanzverteilung liefert deutlich hörbare Vorteile. Davon konnten wir uns inzwischen bei mehreren Komponenten und Lautsprechern überzeugen.

Der Einsatz des Spike Shoe führt zu einer verbesserten räumlichen Ortung im Klangbild. Perspektivische akustische Verzerrungen löst er gänzlich auf. Für die

Wahrnehmung dieser Steigerung ist nicht viel Zeit erforderlich, der Spike Shoe funktioniert einwandfrei und mit einem Kosteneinsatz von 40 Euro für ein Vierer-Set ist er zudem eine der preiswertesten Möglichkeiten, den Klang einer hochwertigen Anlage nochmals zu steigern. Er bekommt einen nachdrücklichen »i-fidelity.net-Tuning-Tipp«.

Bluehorizon Spike Shoe
Tragfähigkeit: 100 kg
Durchmesser: 3,8 cm
Höhe: 8 mm
Verpackungseinheit: 4 Stück

# Blue Horizon Spike Shoes


**HOW DOES ONE** achieve all the sonic benefits associated with using loudspeaker spikes without the risk of damage to polished wooden floors, carpets or other forms of flooring? One solution to this problem is to use a set of Blue Horizon Spike Shoes that are available from Mains Cables R Us of Huddersfield. In fact, it is claimed that these shoes provide additional benefits in terms of controlling resonances. Most other spike protection devices that are available have been designed to protect surfaces without giving any consideration to the sonic effect of their inclusion in the audio system.

The Blue Horizon Spike Shoes sit beneath the spikes that support floorstanding speakers and speaker stands and are designed to improve coupling. Of course, they can also be used under any equipment support that employs spikes at the bottom of the legs or feet. As well as protecting the floor, they are intended to enhance sound quality by suppressing resonance that leads to sonically damaging microphony in audio components. This is achieved by filling the aluminium outer casing of each spike shoe with a combination of specially chosen materials.

## Soft shoe shuffle

There is an extremely dense and firm material located beneath the indentation in which the spike sits, allowing loading of up to 100kg. This is surrounded by a proprietary mixture of materials that is much more elastic. The differing resonant frequencies of these materials ensure resonance is damped equally across the audio band, rather than simply delivering a tonal shift.

These shoes are great value and very discrete devices and, in my opinion, they are far superior to the copper coins of the realm that I have often seen used as floor protectors beneath spikes! They are great value for money and, in any case, it is a small price to pay for protection of your floors and for gaining some sonic benefits as well. ***NR***

**OUR VERDICT**

★★★★½

# soundbites

## BLUE HORIZON SPIKE SHOES

Although the spikes fitted to the base of most types of loudspeaker and speaker stand are helpful in isolating the speaker from the floor, vibration is still passed through to the supporting surface. At low volumes it will have the effect of clouding and slowing the sound of the bass, at higher volumes the resonance will contribute to that annoying thrumming bass that can penetrate walls and ceilings. The Spike Shoes from Blue Horizon aim to not only disperse this resonance but also protect uncarpeted surfaces from unsightly holes. They're made from an aluminium casing inside which is a reinforced plate to allow loads of up to 100kg per shoe. Beneath this is a composite material described as a dense composite chaotic mix of cork and rubber, for isolation purposes.

Placed underneath my Kelly KT 3s, which stand on polished black granite plinths, the sound showed noticeable improvements in both the tonal depth of all instruments, and in the focus of the soundstage. They also seemed quite effective when placed underneath the spikes on my 60kg Chario Ursa Major loudspeakers, and my equipment rack, both of which stand on carpet. The precision of the imaging improved, as did the perceived speed and depth of the bass. An effective value for money product that displays considered thought and attention to its quality.

**TB**

[Contact: www.bluehorizonideas.com]

# BRINGING BASS TO HEEL

## BLUE HORIZON SPIKE SHOES

These spike shoes look like dimpled discs, and sit under spiked speaker stands. Deceptively simple in appearance, the shoes are actually quite complex with an aluminium upper coating plus a steel plate positioned under each dimple to take around 100kg of force from above. Enveloping this is a suite of dampening material and a combination of cork and rubber which connects the shoe to the floor.

With the shoes, my reference system exhibited noticeably enhanced bass control while the entire presentation of the tested music provided added coherence – almost as if the music was becalmed where before it was struggling to make its way through choppy waters. This is probably due to improved distortion effects and reduced microphony: basically, frequencies that bounce around your room, entering your hi-fi and buggering up the output. For those with speaker stands, these spike shoes are a no-brainer. Oh… and they'll protect your floor too.