

Glass Pearl



No matter how you look at it: Of the "new generation" of loudspeakers, Audio Physic is probably the most important that Germany has to offer. All the more reason for the company to celebrate its 30-year anniversary – and to launch one fabulous jubilee edition loudspeaker after another.



It looks like a dome, but it is in fact a very special cone high tweeter with exquisite sound characteristics



On the smaller of the two mid-range drivers, you unfortunately cannot see the dual-basket design from the outside

On the 30th anniversary of the company, Audio Physic presented the jubilee Avanti, which is a milestone and a classic in the company's history. As we remarked in the test featured in our 3/2016 edition, the new version has only the basic shape in common with the old Avanti – a slender, slightly rear-tilted standing cabinet, with the mid-range and tweeter chassis facing the front. The larger Codex adheres to the same principles, only with one additional driver on – or rather: behind the glass baffle. The additional low-midrange driver is mounted above the tweeter, the Codex is a grown-up Avanti, so to speak – naturally it is also somewhat wider and more voluminous as a result. Overall, however, despite the larger cabinet in all dimensions, the result is

still a slender and elegant loudspeaker. Customers have a choice, by the way, between having the cover of the front chassis in the cabinet color or accentuated in black. There is generally a wide range of colors available – and with glass as the cover material, you have one surface finish anyway, which looks stylish, is extremely robust and very easy to care for – if necessary, by the window washer.

All joking aside, back to the technical features: The side woofers, previously a signature feature on Audio Physic loudspeakers, have been eliminated – replaced by a hidden subwoofer in the bottom of the cabinet. From the front, you see a sort of "mesh" made of permeable metal foam, the opening of the reflex tube, which thus increases the flow resistance of the sound. On the reverse, the bass has practically the entire volume of the Codex available.

Audio Physic has the two mid-range drivers and the high tweeter custom-made completely to its own specifications by a renowned manufacture; not just an advertising slogan for a change, but reality: The drivers are really something special. The mid-range driver, for example,

The backward-sloping shape is a trademark feature of Audio Physic standing loudspeakers

The loudspeaker terminal is excellent and bears all relevant information on the unit



Teammates

Turntables:

- Transrotor Zet 3 with SME 5012 and Merlo Reference
- Rega P2

Phono amplifiers:

- Audiomat 1.7
- Musical Fidelity MX-VYNL

Amplifiers:

- Accuphase C-3800 and A46
- Burmester 785

Accessories:

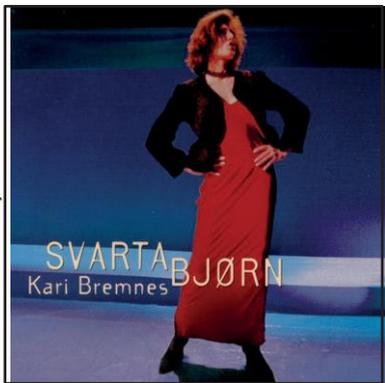
- Power socket: PS-Audio, Silent Wire, HMS
- Phono cables: Nordost, Signal Projects, Cardas
- LF cables: Van den Hul, Silent Wire
- Isolation feet, racks and bases: SSC, Thixar, bFly

Adversaries

Loudspeaker:

- Inklang 10.3
- Spatial Audio M3 Turbo S





Tracks played

Kari Bremnes
Svarta Bjorn

Friedrich Gulda
Message from G.

Tanita Tikaram
Ancient Heart

Dire Straits
Communiqué

Beethoven
Piano Sonatas, Glenn Gould

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

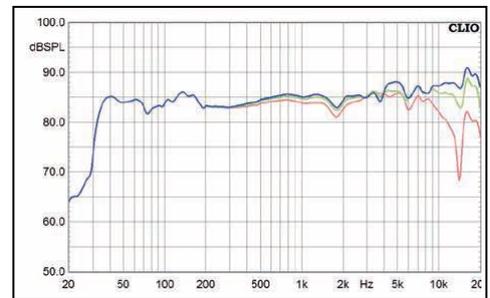
Oscar Peterson Trio
We Get Requests

Jazz at the Pawnshop

appears quite normal at first glance, except for the flattened phase plug. Yet it features an almost unique dual-basket design, which on the outside only serves the purpose of air-tight installation of the chassis, while on the inside, the driver unit in the inner basket is suspended. This means that the cabinet and moving parts on the Codex are perfectly uncoupled from one another.

The tweeter – currently Audio Physic's preferred design feature – is a cone tweeter that in the past was commonly used, for example in the legendary studio monitors of JBL. A cone tweeter is actually just a tiny "normal" chassis, i.e. with a normal membrane and a dust cap in the center, which are freely suspended on the outside – naturally clamped in relatively tightly. Thanks to the basic new design, you no longer have the problems typical of such chassis, specifically resonance due to the relatively large membrane and the quite powerful bundling. Even the lowered installation of the tweeter reveals no measurable disturbances. On the contrary, this tweeter plays far beyond the audible range of human hearing – and it does so even under angles.

As already acclaimed on the Avanti, the sophisticated, stiffened design is also surrounded by the previously-mentioned metal foam along the interior walls – add to this the exterior walls made of glass. All this achieves the technical optimum in cabinet design: a hard exterior layer, a dampening mid-layer and something rather soft inside – the



Taking Measure

Measurement Technology Review

Enormously deep-ranging bass reproduction at full volume. Minimally-emphasized tweeter range, incredibly wide-range tweeters. The sensitivity is roughly 85 dB. Extremely good omnidirectional sound. As regards harmonic distortion and resonance, there is nothing to object to. The impedance curve is not amplifier-critical.

perfect sandwich recipe for the cabinet. The glass panel costs somewhat more than the normal varnished finishes, but it is definitely worth it in terms of acoustics and looks in my opinion: In terms of resonance characteristics, this is exceeded only by cabinets made of stone



Audio Physic Codex

EUR 10,500 per pair

Manufacturer	Audio Physic, Brilon, Germany
Phone	+49 2961 96170
E-mail	info@audiophysic.de
Internet	www.audiophysic.de
Warranty	10 years
H x W x D	119.5 x 20.2 x 37 cm
Weight	approx. 44 kg

Bottom line ...



» A loudspeaker featuring modern and consistent design in all the details, performing exceptionally well and offering truly stunning bass reproduction even in large rooms. «

The cover, which comes in the same color, sets the Codex apart from the technical look





Compared to the Avanti, the Codex has this mid-range driver additionally on the baffle – enhanced dynamic capabilities included

or concrete, but then you have issues involving transport. Also available at an additional charge are the special magnetic feet, which effectively uncouple the Codex from the ground. The loudspeaker hovers just a few millimeters above the ground – this too is probably the ultimate creative solution in terms of decoupling.

As shown here, the Codex costs some 10,500 Euros per pair – thus, compared to the smaller Avanti, this is a premium of roughly 50 percent.

In the measuring laboratory, the Audio Physic loudspeaker demonstrates an extreme broadband and linear frequency – with the tweeter we've already touted exhibiting an incredible range, from roughly 2000 Hz to almost 40 kHz. Compared to the smaller Avanti, the woofer is just as balanced into the lower range, yet here, however, with the full volume at which the mid-range driver is playing. This is desirable, above all in larger living areas: The Codex exhibits the most highly balanced frequency when it is free-standing.

In our listening room, with roughly 60 square meters of space, the basses are also profound and exhibit high dynamics. Compared to the Avanti, optimized for smaller rooms, the Codex offers even more heft to unleash its power. It's loads of fun to listen to music with heavy bass and dynamics, especially because the unit does not back down in the slightest against electronically produced signals, rather it "holds its own", bringing down the house.

The mid-range is in turn virtually discreet, as it is perfectly balanced. You notice the additional low-midrange driver by the somewhat greater richness in voices and a dynamic presence that seamlessly dovetails with the enormous bass. The Codex is even capable of surpassing the awesome sense of spatial depth created by the Avanti.

The bottom line: once again, a perfectly balanced loudspeaker from Audio Physic, absolutely on the acoustic and visual cutting edge.

Thomas Schmidt

You can choose between the versions completely covered or black front panel

