

EVERYTHING SHIFTING?



The exquisite floorstanding speaker Gauder Elargo 200 features new drivers and a crossover with a „phase shifter“. On the following pages, we explain how it works and what it does.

Text: Michael Lang

Striking, but not overwhelming – that is how our first visual impression of the Elargo 200 can be described. It can be quickly pulled out of its packaging and into the daylight in just a few simple steps by one person. The combination of the lacquered rosewood housing and the solid, glossy black base made of a composite material with the integrated, precisely height-adjustable spikes is absolutely successful. The multi-layered, internally reinforced housing tapers towards the rear in the shape of a teardrop, which adds additional elegance and is advantageous in terms of acoustics.

On the back, you will also find the high-quality bi-wiring connection panel equipped with the latest WBT sockets. Next to it is the three-stage adjustment – by 1.5 decibels each – to the bass range using a plug-in contact and the option for the Gauder signature “Bass Extension” section, which extends the frequency response downwards using plug-in modules. The optimum module for the room in question can be easily identified using suitable, bass-intensive music material such as the

TEST DEVICES

CD Player: Rotel Michi Q5

Streamer / DAC: Eversolo DMP-A10

Integrated Amplifier: T+A PA 3100 HV

Preamplifier: T+A P 3100 HV

Power Amplifier: Accustic Arts AMP VI

Speakers: Gauder Darc 100 MK II,
B&W 801 D4

Cables: Inak, AudioQuest, Silent Wire, Kardas



For detailed information
on test devices scan the
QR code.

organ played by Virgil Fox on the album "Encores" or Ray Brown's double bass on the live album "SuperBass". The bass reflex port is located on the underside of the loudspeaker to ensure a uniform intensity that is largely independent of the distance to the wall, thus ensuring even room coverage without any booming tendency. If your existing loudspeakers sound grumbly, unclear and boomy at a certain frequency, you can use a CD with test signals available from Gauder to determine the disruptive frequency before ordering a speaker from the Swabian region of Germany. This droning frequency can then be communicated to the team.

During production of the speaker, a matching filter composed of a capacitor, coil, and resistor, precisely tuned to this frequency, is then integrated into the bass crossover. Using a jumper on the rear, the filter can be connected or disconnected to immediately verify its effectiveness.

Innovation and Mathematics

In recent years, the developments in Gauder loudspeakers have attracted attention not only in Germany but also internationally for their innovative ideas. Some time ago, the decision was made to change the driver supplier, and at the same time the gradual departure from ceramic cones was initiated. Now, drivers with aluminum, beryllium or even diamond cones are built in Germany exclusively for Gauder, completely in accordance with the company's specifications, from the initial idea and the calculation of all parameters through to production.

Purchasing the drivers has by no means become cheaper as a result, but the inspection of manufacturing consistency now takes place during production and not only when the finished drivers are installed in the loudspeaker enclosures.

Another advantage arises in the crossover design. By aligning the electrical properties of the transducers during their development, less adjustment work is required from the crossovers in order to homogenize the interaction of the drivers. The fact that the crossovers in Gauder loudspeakers are nevertheless constructed with more components than those of most competitors stems from their initially calculated and later acoustically confirmed properties.

First of all, the Elargo is equipped with a separate crossover for each of its three frequency ranges, the filters of which have a slope of above 50 decibels. This means that the working ranges of the tweeter,



Base with height-adjustable spikes, the reflex port can be seen in the reflection on the floor.

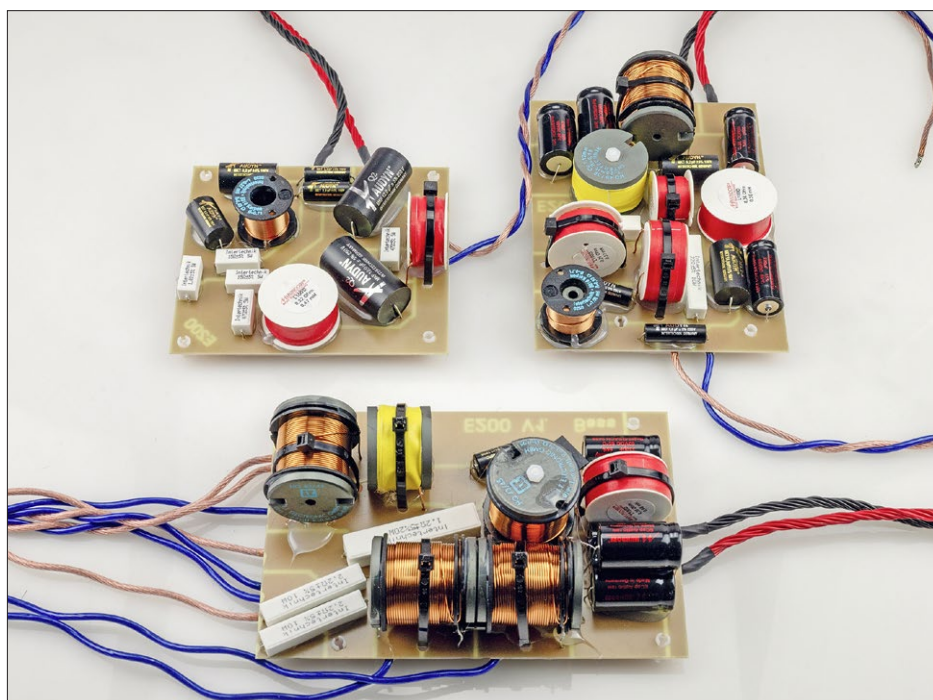


The WBT bi-wiring terminal has new wing screws and allows for high clamping pressure.

midrange driver and woofers only overlap slightly at most. That in turn has a positive effect on power handling, distortion and impulse response. The crossovers are designed symmetrically. This means that each driver is cut at the high frequencies with the same filter slope as at the low frequencies. It furthermore also means that the components of the crossovers are arranged both in front of (i.e. in the positive branch) and behind the drivers (i.e. in the negative branch). Thus, the driver is decoupled from the ground of the system, the negative line of the amplifier, and has a lower feedback effect on the amplifier.

In the next step, Gauder then added Time Delay Control, or TDC for short, to the crossovers. This technology introduces a tiny delay to the tweeter to allow it to emit its energy with the same timing and phase as the midrange driver. In terms of sound, this gives the speaker more attack and makes it sound more impulsive.

In the Elargo, the German company takes things to the next level and introduces another new development: a phase shift between the midrange driver and the tweeter by a seemingly insignificant 12 degrees. Although this hardly makes a difference in terms of measurements, the



Each frequency range of the Elargo 200 has its own, high-quality crossover with cables. It is symmetrically structured and very steep with 50 dB per octave.

TEST FLOORSTANDING SPEAKER (PASSIVE)



The 22-cm-woofers with their aluminum cone are particularly long-throw and extremely resilient.

improvement in sound quality is said to be significant. If company owner Dr. Gauder wasn't known as a professional physicist and serious developer, we would hardly have believed his explanations of the great acoustic significance, especially as no new world opened up in our laboratory in terms of measurements.

The low distortions measured in the mid and treble ranges were absolutely convincing. Our measurements in the bass range were considerably worse, but the overall result is still good. The impulse response is impressive and the efficiency is so high that even many tube amplifiers can drive the Elargo without any problems. As the minimal impedance of around 2.5 ohms is at 130 hertz and therefore quite high, it generally causes no problems even with decent integrated amplifiers.

Lasting Impressions

The powerful and sturdy visual appearance is seamlessly continued in the acoustic reproduction. From the very first note onwards, you can hear and feel that an exceptional performance is waiting to be discovered here. The sound image is large and spacious, built on a massive, clean, but full-bodied and juicy rather than dry bass foundation. The plasticity, which creates an almost holographic sound image in the room, is impressive. The speakers then also add a timing that really clicks and doesn't miss the mark every now and then. In addition, the reproduction of the high and highest frequencies is completely unobtrusive and gentle, while offering an almost unbelievable transparency and wealth of information that never seems exhausting, even at low volumes.



Above: the bass adjustment. Below: the „Bass Extension“ module perfect for our listening room.

As much as the crossover may be the star of the ensemble, the drivers, their working range, their positioning on the baffle, their damping and their mechanical separation inside the cabinet of course also play an important role. If it were otherwise, we wouldn't need to talk about the €8,000 surcharge for a pair of 26 millimeter diamond tweeters at this point. Compared to the standard models with beryllium, that is quite hefty, but nevertheless accounts for a significant percentage of orders. For a wider sound dispersion, the diamond tweeters from Bliesma are convex in shape.

The Elargo 200 has benefited greatly from the Darc speaker series with its aluminum ribbed housings. Due to the larger enclosure, the Elargo model has, however, been fitted with precisely matched drivers, such as the two long-throw XPulse woofers, each measuring 22 centimeters. Those bass driver's reinforced aluminum cone, in conjunction with the specially developed centering spider and the single-layer voice coil, ensures clean bass response and high power handling. The midrange driver in the Elargo 200 is also built with a damped yet lightweight and very

The magnetically attached cover costs 280 € per pair.

rigid aluminum cone. It has twice the volume available in its own chamber compared to the Darc models, enabling for it to be tuned to between 130 and 3,500 hertz.

And of course, the so-called minor details always play a decisive role in the high-end sector. For example the better crossover components installed in our test model and the higher-quality internal cabling of the Double Vision version. This adds a further €2,000 to the purchase price, so that we are talking about a total pair price of €38,000. If you prefer a non-technical look, you can also order magnetically adhering, acoustically permeable covers for a hefty €278 per pair.

Second Listening Session Delights

Once our thirst for knowledge about the technical details had been quenched, we hurried back into the listening room. After all, we had to find out whether the old motto: "The first impression is the deepest" could also prove its relevance here.

After around two hours of warming up in the listening room, the Elargo were acclimatized and demonstrated this with an increased degree of smoothness and temperament. No audiophile recordings were needed for this, it was enough to listen to familiar music and allow it to take effect. Sade's "Sally" was perfect for

this, as it reproduced the saxophone a little more gently and flatteringly than just a few hours earlier. Sade's voice now seemed a little more relaxed and her variability with its slightly smoky flavor was slightly more evident.

A Trumpet, surrounded by various other wind instruments, guitar and playfully light percussive elements plays the leading role in Quincy Jones' "Desafinado". The lightness with which the Elargo pushed the music into the room, even without Peter Schilling's completely detached "Major Tom", gave rise to thoughts of the feeling of complete weightlessness of the sound unfolding. The way the Elargo kicked off here was also a little reminiscent of the diffe-

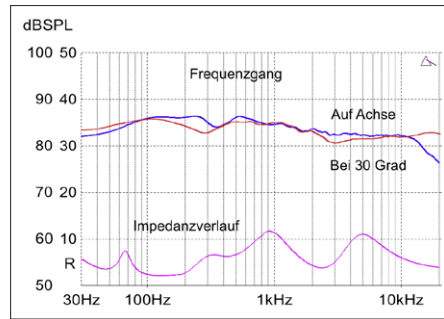


rence between decent cover bands and first-class artists: you don't notice the effort put in by the real experts; everything seems easy and natural, while you notice how hard the less gifted musicians try not to make a mistake. And precisely because of this, they always seem a little tense and less elegant.

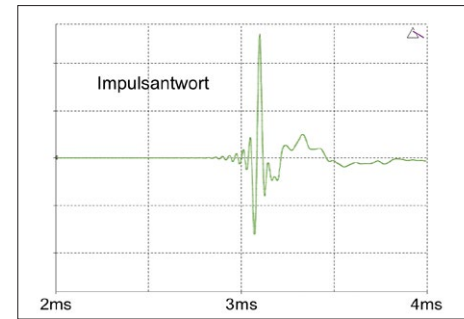
The Audiophile Hurdles

The "Feeling Of Jazz" performed by trumpeter Wynton Marsalis and Dianne Reeves made it virtually impossible not to be captivated. All the more so as double bass and piano were integrated into the context and the present space in a way that we have only ever experienced in a few great moments in our listening room.

In the next round, Frank Sinatra, recorded live at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas, confirmed that "Fly Me To The Moon" seems to be within the realms of possibility in a figurative sense with the Elargo. Once again, the cohesiveness and sense of authenticity conveyed by the Gauder speakers was inspiring. An impression that was reinforced with each subsequent day of listening. No matter whether it was a studio or live recording, whether the voices of Liza Minnelli or Kiri Te Kanawa in Verdi's "Otello" were playing – the Gauder Elargo 200 delivered. It met or exceeded our very high expectations, even with the wildest hard rock songs. Gauder's shifting action undoubtedly hit the target! ■



Balanced and deep frequency response, also in the treble range at a 30-degree angle.



The step response of the Elargo 200 is excellent for a 3-way system.

GAUDER ELARGO 200

Product type / price range	floorstanding speakers (passive) / 20,000 to 40,000 euros	
Website	www.gauder-akustik.de	
Price in Euros	38,000	
Dimensions (W x H x D) in cm	30 x 126 x 43	
Weight in kg	50	
German distributor	Gauder	
Phone	+49 7159 920161	
Principle	dynamic, 3-way, bass reflex	
Terminal	Bi-Wire	
Recommended Positioning	at least 30 cm distance to rear and side walls, slightly angled	
SOUND	60 %	very good 1.3
Sound quality	exceptionally spacious, yet precise in localization, very good timing, excellent resolution, and very balanced over the entire frequency range.	
MEASUREMENTS	15 %	good 2.5
Frequency response	good	
Sound pressure level (in decibels)	good (87)	
Impulse response	good	
Minimal impedance	satisfactory (2.45 ohms at 130 Hz)	
Distortion at 63 / 3k / 10k Hz (in percent)	good (2.2 / 0.086 / 0.106)	
Combination capabilities	satisfactory	
FEATURES & HANDLING	25 %	very good 1.5
Placement	very easy	
Quality of the manual	very good	
First setup	good	
Sound correction possible	yes	
Finishes	Black and White High Gloss, Rosewood High Gloss	
Scope of delivery	Spikes, washers, adjustment bridges for bass	
Haptics & workmanship	very good	
Upgradeable	yes	
Warranty (in years)	10	
TEST RESULT	Very Good 1.5	

WHAT WE'VE HEARD



QUINCY JONES: BOSSA NOVA

Versatility and passion can be heard from Quincy Jones from the first to the last sound.



FRANK SINATRA: LIVE AT THE SANDS

Here too, Quincy Jones was part of the album as arranger and band leader. Outstanding!



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