

DOUBLE FANFARE

With the Uno Fino Edition
Avantgarde Acoustic wants to
make their gorgeous horn
speakers more affordable.

A successful coup?

■ By Stefan Schickedanz

Consistently implemented horn speakers with a serious sensitivity not so easy to build, especially when they are supposed to meet Avantgarde Acoustic's quality requirements. Judging by the standards of the exotics from the Forest of Odes, the second least expensive entry-level model Uno

Fino Edition is almost a steal, rounded down only by the Zero Series. Those who are now suffering from agonal respiration in view of the price of slightly over 17,000 Euros may heave a sigh of relief elsewhere: owing to a supernatural sensitivity of more than 100 dBs (1 W/1 m), the horns weighing in at 56 kilos (123 lbs) each content themselves



SMART: Owing to an active bass Babak Moayedpour from Avantgarde can fine-tune the sound to the room in essential parameters.

with a minimum power output. Low demands are also made on the control, because due to its semi-active design, the bass has a drive of its own.

The fact that this 3-litre car in the loudspeaker world indeed consumes only that much energy as stated by the manufacturer, is confirmed when looking at the specifications of the brand



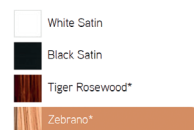
IT'S GOT THE KNACK: THE UNO FINO'S FUNNEL



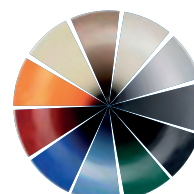
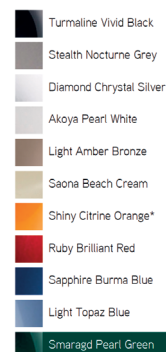
owned XA INT integrated amplifier. This affords the luxury to deliver just 1.1 watts per channel in class-A mode. With such an ascetic output a classic British studio monitor would downright starve. Not a trace of that elemental power which the author experienced at his first encounter with the Avantgarde amplifier tandem.

For the review Sales Manager Babbak Moayedpour personally carried the speakers to the editorial building in order to calibrate them for the AUDIO listening room. The active amplifier module supplies a sensible tool to curb the awe-inspiring bass with regard to the room situation. At the same time the bass, which is lagging behind the mid- and high-frequency horns in efficiency, can be adjusted to the passive driver

GEHÄUSEAUSFÜHRUNG



HORNFARBEN



BETTER LISTENING: As we know it from convertibles, the configurator lets you select between four enclosure and eleven horn colours. Moreover, special requests such as car lacquer finishes are available at extra charge.

AUDIO
EDITOR'S CHOICE

PORTRAIT

AVANTGARDE ACOUSTIC UNO FINO EDITION	
Distributor	Avantgarde Acoustic Tel. 06254 306100
www.	avantgarde-acoustic.de
List price	17 060 Euros
Warranty period	2/5/10 years (electr./drivers./cab.)
Dimensions W x H x D	52,5x125,5x50 cm (20.7x49.4x19.7 in.)
Weight	56 kg (123.6 lbs)
Veneer/Foil/Lacquer	• / - / •
Colours	White, Black, Rosewood and more
Design principles	3-way, bass reflex, semi-active
Room adjustment	Via active bass module
Special features	ABS horns

AUDIOGRAMM

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balanced, lively, dynamic sound with fundament	● Risk of addiction
Neutrality (2x)	100
Detail precision (2x)	105
Locatability	105
Spatial imaging	100
Fine dynamics	105
Maximum SPL	115
Bass quality	110
Bass depth	110
Workmanship	superb

AUDIO SOUND SCORE 106 POINTS
PRICE/PERFORMANCE OUTSTANDING

FINE TECHNOLOGY: Every detail here is top – from the spherical HF horn with a 1" mylar tweeter to massive spikes, 10" woofer and a 5" midrange driver.

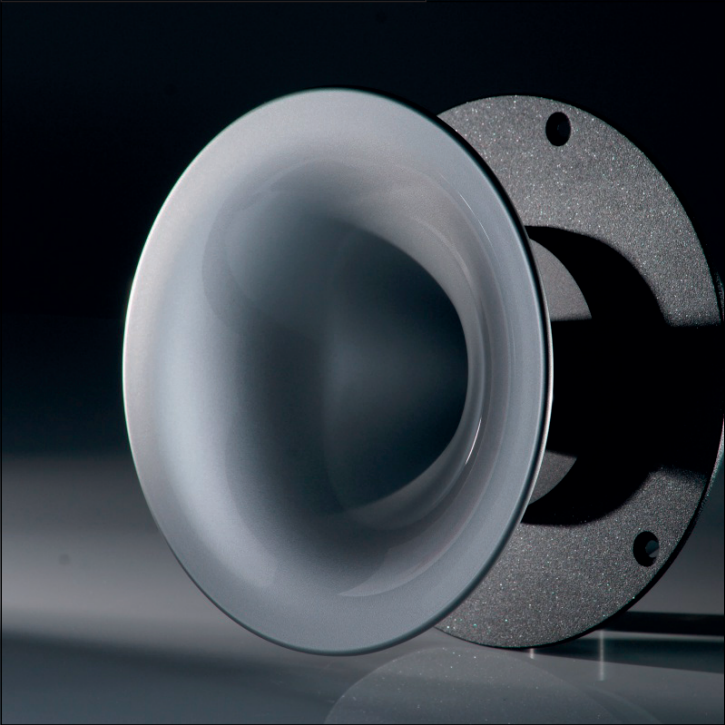
section. Moreover, Avantgarde Acoustic uses the possibility of equalisation to realise more compact enclosures. For this purpose developer Matthias Ruff, who originally comes from the pro audio scene, does not rely on a conventional equaliser, but on the "Motional Feedback" principle. With its analogue integrator the discrete real-time circuit compares input and voice coil signals, hence the reference and the actual status, and compensates deviations by lightning fast correction signals.

As to the passive section Avantgarde relies on minimalist crossovers equipped with high-grade parts. Designer Ruff's credo stipulates: resistors for compensating differences in efficiency

are a no-go. So only very high-impedance voice coils under the resounding name "Omega Technology" are used exclusively. Instead of the usual 4 or 8 ohms the Avantgarde drivers for the mid-high frequency range feature double-digit impedances to bring about a matching. The Uno Fino Edition and the entry-level Zero Series share the same tweeter. But this is not the only detail which sets them apart from the Uno XD, which actually draws on the even more expensive Duo here. The big sister also distinguishes itself by a slightly larger closed cabinet with two 10" woofers – the Uno Fino makes do with only one woofer and a downfire bass reflex tube.



SMART CONCEPT:
In connection with a calibration software, the active bass module offers perfect adjustment options.



Who has ever experienced live this abyssal and, even with little wall clearance, extremely dry bass reproduction will probably not miss anything despite this cost-cutting measure. After all, using the inhouse PC software via USB connection to the electronics module even allows to shift the Q factor and thus the quality of the driver in 25 steps. And you can set the transition to the mid driver according to taste or specifically influence the low end rolloff. The effect of these measures such as shifting the default crossover frequency to 300 or 320 Hz also had an impact on the reproduction of voices. Irrespective of the immense possibilities of its semi-active concept, the Uno Fino fascinated with an immedi-

ate, impetuous response to transients and a relaxed, yet extremely punchy way of playing. Rarely have we ever heard a drum solo or the plucking of electric bass or guitar strings in such an authentic manner. Homogeneity was on a level that also turned outings to the classic world into a thrilling, lifelike experience, though despite all neutrality the horn could not put the best conventional speakers of this price category back in their place with regard to naturalness. But this airiness and clarity, the feeling for room dimensions and dynamics easily offset this trifle. What might even more come as a surprise to many was its ability to offer a maximum of rich tone and fine dynamics even with soft listening volume.

BOTTOM LINE



Stefan Schickedanz
AUDIO-editor

For me the thing with horns was love at second sight or, more precisely, gig. Considering the liveliness and transient faithfulness – for me the decisive criterion above a minimum of freedom from colorations –, these in general and the Uno Fino Edition in particular, will get you a dramatic step closer to the live experience as we know it from rock, pop or jazz concerts.

MEASURING LAB

The frequency response shows some ripples, yet all tonal ranges are reproduced well-balanced. The dip in the bass/midrange transition area at 300 Hz can be minimised at the listening spot by DSP technology. The 30 degrees graph confirms a homogeneous directivity above 500 Hz. The bass with a maximum sound level of 108 dBs goes down to 30 Hz (-6 dBs). The record-breaking **AUDIO performance indicator** of 18 is very amplifier-friendly.

