

# hi-fi news

THE HOME OF REAL HI-FI

&amp; Record Review

## ULTIMATE HI-FI 2011

The year's best products  
and essential music

In this special 164-page issue

**Equipment:** 50 standout separates tested

**Vintage:** The audio heroes of yesteryear

**Music:** Your guide to the best releases

**Opinion:** Our columnists speak out

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• **OUTBOARD DACS & MEDIA PLAYERS** Arcam to Olive • **AMPLIFIERS** Audio Research to Yarland  
• **LOUDSPEAKERS** Dali to Vienna Acoustics • **VINTAGE** JBE, Goodmans, Quad, Jim Rogers and more

UK £4.50 US \$10.99 Aus \$10.50





Four-way floorstanding speaker  
 Made by: Vienna Acoustics, Austria  
 Supplied by: Audyus Distribution  
 Telephone: 01480 270550  
 Web: www.viennaacoustics.at

AUDIO  
FILE

# Vienna Acoustics The Music (£19,750)

The flagship in Vienna Acoustics' top-end Klimt series, The Music's focal point is its flat-plane spider-cone coaxial driver. Aiming to reduce the upper frequency horn-loading colouration of traditional midrange cones, company designer Peter Gansterer and his team spent many years perfecting a perfectly planar 7in midband driver. The key technology of the unit lies in the bespoke cone materials and the ribbed bracing of the mid driver, coaxially mounted around a hand-built 25mm silk dome tweeter.

The flat plane driver is said to operate down to an incredibly low 100Hz and up to 2.6kHz, offering a theoretically seamless crossover-free response through the critical

'Can we find subjective fault with the delivered result? No, none at all'

vocal range. The silk dome tweeter extends through the audio band to around 20kHz, effectively making the separate upper section of the speaker, which Vienna calls the Music Center, into a near full range speaker in its own right.

The lower part of the speaker cabinet is divided into isolated sections that house a trio of custom-built 9in bass drivers and a Murata Super Tweeter. The bespoke spider-cone bass drivers are actually transparent and look cooler than a penguin's toes.

More importantly, as this section takes over LF duties from the coaxial driver only from 100Hz and below, it can be engineered more precisely. It is effectively a purpose-built and tuned sub-bass system. For very fine room tuning there are three switches mounted on the rear panel offering a very small amount of adjustment to Midrange (M), Upper

**RIGHT:** A 7in coaxial with flat-panel mid and silk dome tweeter, super-tweeter and a trio of 9in spider-cone bass units

Bass (UB) and Lower bass (LB) should the user desire.

## A REVELATION...

Every few years something comes along that furthers what you define as a musical reference and makes the eventual return to your own kit a disappointment. For this is a speaker that once dialled in simply disappears. It has a monstrously dynamic sound yet one graced with rare articulation and delicacy throughout the top end of the spectrum. There is no grain, no tweeter ringing and no cabinet colouration, while the imaging is both immaculately focused and tangible. Then just as you are trying to get your head around the mind-scrambling upper-end dynamic, the bass kicks in and blows you away.

Spin Aretha Franklin's 'Think' from the CD of the same name and The Music crafts the wickedly fast opening piano notes as if there was a Steinway parked in the room, while the opening bars of 'The Peter Gunn Theme' from *The Blues Brothers* soundtrack punches out with the speed and power of a heavyweight boxing champion.

Yes, they are tricky to set up, but can we find subjective fault with the delivered result? No, none at all.

## VERDICT

Elegant, dynamic and incredibly natural sounding, The Music sets a new standard. Always engaging, the even balance and superb bass are perfect for rock and pop; the rich treble and articulate midband a classical buff's dream. But remember, letting a well-trained Vienna retailer do the set up is best for your ears and your back... ☺



## HI-FI NEWS SPECIFICATIONS

Sensitivity (SPL/1m/2.83Vrms - Mean/IEC/Music)	89.4dB/87.9dB/86.6dB
Impedance modulus min/max (20Hz-20kHz)	3.0ohm @ 83Hz 19.5ohm @ 2.2kHz
Impedance phase min/max (20Hz-20kHz)	-44° @ 3.4kHz 46° @ 1.2kHz
Pair matching (200Hz-20kHz)	±1.8dB
LF/HF extension (-6dB ref 200Hz/10kHz)	42Hz / 34.1kHz/35.6kHz
THD 100Hz/1kHz/10kHz (for 90dB SPL/1m)	0.4% / 0.2% / 0.4%
Dimensions (HWD)	1295x273x630mm