



English Translation:

## Review German MAESTRO Linea-D F-One

### German „STEREO“ Magazine, Issue no. 4/09

(Text written in Latin letters are additional explanations by the translator)



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SERIOUS ABOUT AUDIO

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high pass x-over (*directly to an amplifier output*), in order to get him reproduced bass. This does not sound really good, but this tweeter survives (*those experiments*), and many other (*competing tweeters*) won't.

The very attractive profiled speaker box (available in black-, white- or aluminum decorations) and a bottom plate made from natural glass is designed as a real 3-way system, where the upper section works as a 2-way monitor system down to 140 Hz. in a separate housing, being responsible for the musically most important (*frequency*) range. The 2 (*bass-*) drivers below provide the necessary bass foundation, as well as they significantly disburden the High-Mid-Range section.

I think there should be no further detailed comments necessary about the fact that we deal here with very long-lasting 5" woofers. Because of the two 5" drivers' job sharing, there is provided a (*SPL*) result comparable to 8" – 10" woofers. But those (*big*) woofers you cannot integrate in such a front panel's format without getting that panel widened, and this also would burden the existing (*speaker's*) radiation capabilities. This slim shape does not only provide the advantage of a very discrete and pleasant integration (*into interior design environments*), it also provides the advantage that the speaker as itself would not be directly located as the sound's source. In addition to that you will have the new technologies "UltraSphere™" and "SyncVoice™", invented by German Maestro. Based on existing developments for car audio, the engineers created a 40 mm tweeter with inverted dome and neodymium magnet providing an extremely wide homogeneous radiation. Also the large diameter of the (*inverted*) dome provides a very low resonance frequency and allows a very well balanced frequency reproduction down towards the upper midrange section. But especially this allows dynamic capabilities, which are usually totally untypical for (*usual*) tweeters.

### More universal as expected

The German Maestro's special radiation characteristics leads to the fact that the listener is not anymore fixed to such a middle sweet spot as compared to most of other speakers – or also loves to lead to the advantage that additional joining listeners on left- and right hand side will benefit much more (*from the received sound information*) as usual (*with other*

*speaker systems*). Occasionally Hi Fidelity is considered as a "lonely" hobby, but in this case there is much less truth behind that as in any other cases.

The German Maestro plays well balanced providing good timing and exceptionally vividly. The bass surprises us as being very powerful with excellent contours, but not absolutely dry, more as a well done compromise between high volume and high speed response. The small mass of the single 5" double packed woofers seem to provide some advantages in this case compared to a single bigger woofer. Here is nothing to hear about any uncontrolled wishy-washy follow up woofer movements. The whole thing is realized as very relaxed and easygoing, just as taken granted.

In the upper mid-range section the F-1 provides a pleasant deemphasizing, avoiding nearly with 100% any hissing voice reproductions. But something like a twang effect, which pretty often comes along with such a harmonic voicing could not be attested from our side.

Just that minimum self-effacement and the slightly warm, soft character makes them (*the Linea-D F-One*) not only to a very pleasant companion for longer musically excursions through all genres, but she also provides significantly advantages in 2- or more channel home theatre applications. In those applications you very often found master mixes with very sharply cut dialogs, and a speakers' voicing like this provides significantly advantages in sound reproduction performance.

Apropos home theatre, "SyncVoice™" means by the manufacturer that all Linea-D models - where there stands the F-One for the flagship -, independent from their size, are sounding absolutely similarly in the very important frequency range of 200 Hz. – 4.000 Hz. So (*the F-One combined*) with these small rears or the center, a Cello's sound will not become a violin's sound – the grand-piano will not degenerate to a simple piano, or the Titanic will not get shrunken to a paddleboat. Instead of those negative effects, all sonic color proportions of projected effects will be well kept (*on the same high performance level*). Without any doubts, this is an aspect, which should not get as underestimated.

With all that enthusiasm there must be also some criticism: The connector terminal on the speakers' bottom plates is a little bit tricky and because of the limited room not all kind of banana- or ring connector options will fit. But compared to a

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(magazine's) test team, ... thank god, usually a private user has to connect those speakers just for one time.

The German Maestro did not only surprise us – in contradiction to our skepticism due to her very slim shape – but also we like her very much, because of her very universal applicable sound performance capabilities. Also the calculation on 2.300,- Euro price point (in the German market) has to be regarded as very fair. So the new market start with “MB” certainly should be a successful one.

(Editor:) Tom Frantzen

#### Key word: Front Panel

Here there are the drivers mounted. The front panel's shape directly impacts the speaker's radiation performance.

#### The Competitors

In the price class at about Euro 2.000,- (in Germany) where this technically innovative German Maestro belongs to, there are benchmarks with the high glossy Elac FS 241 (1, at about € 2.000,-/P. and the Amphion's Prio 520 (2, starting with € 2.100,- /P., Stereo 3/08), which are sound wise also convincing products. The Elac gained points with her deep sonority and her excellent sounding jet tweeter, which could be adjusted, if needed, by mounting different rings from foam rubber. The Amphion with it's emphasized factuality and neutrality is currently the most audiophile speaker box in this price class. And the F-One nearly achieves its performance level.

**Picture Connector Terminal:** The terminal as integrated in the speakers bottom plat is visually pretty chic, but a little unpractical

(Steckbrief) **German Maestro Linea-D MD F-One**

Price per pair (in Germany): Euro 2.300,-

Dimensions: 17 x 120 x 16 cm.

Warranty: 5 Years

Distribution: Maestro Badenia

Phone +49 6261 6380

www.german-maestro.de

#### Laboratory (Statement)

The frequency response appears as a little bit wavy, what in practice will have a minor meaning as suggested by the curve's picture. The MB F-One provides a saturated bass foundation, the slight dint in the upper midrange section explains the slightly reduced “voice-area “ and the very pleasant rounded character. You can see very well the tweeter's superb radiation behavior: The of-axis measurement (dashed line) is nearly identical with the on-axis line. The impedance curve is always uncritical; the step function response (from the waterfall diagram) is super. All drivers are working as practically full synchronized.

#### Stereo – Test

Sound quality level: 64%

Price/quality ratio: Very good

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