



English Translation:
Review GermanMAESTRO EPIC-Line EV 6508

German „autohifi“ Magazine, Issue no. 2/09
(Text written in Latin letters are additional explanations by the translator)

Page 102

Headline: **E-Class**

Supported by the (recent German) MB-Quart engineers' experience.
 How does the new (GermanMAESTRO) EPIC component system perform?
 By Holger Seybold (editor at the German autohifi magazine)



“German master” means the translation of the brand name German Maestro. Being led by this English-Italian term creation towards an understanding of an arrogant Newcomer will be the absolutely wrong direction, because German MAESTRO is the new brand of the recent MB-Quart manufacturing facility.

As already mentioned some time ago, the MB-Quart brand remained at Maxxsonics USA, after the (Maxxsonics Europe) Insolvency in 2008.

The new founded Maestro Badenia GmbH in Obrigheim was forced to look for a new brand name: German Maestro

Many years of experience

In addition of the fully equipped production- and engineering-lab facility this (new German MAESTRO) enterprise has also kept most of their employees; their decades of experience is extremely valuable. So Maestro Badenia didn't start at the point zero, but went through at once and at full force. And the Obrigheim guys didn't stick only German Maestro labels on old MB-Quart systems, but refined and upgraded their – being partly as legendary regarded – technology.

As an example you can take the new upgraded tweeters. As launched under the MB-Quart label, the wide-sphere technology was upgraded to the more mature Mega-Sphere technology within the last months. These tweeters are the “pride” of that young company and part of the new 16 cm (6,5”) system German Maestro Epic EV 6508, which you can buy (in Germany) on a very good price point of EURO 280,-.

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Epic EV 6508	280 Euro
Vertrieb: Maestro Badenia german-maestro.de Neckarstraße 20, 74847 Obrigheim	
Top & Flop	
+ hervorragender Klang	
+ hoher Maximalschalldruck	
+ kompakter Hochtöner	
+ flexible Montage	
Besonderheiten/Ausstattung	
Tiefötöner: Polyamid-Korb, Euronorm, Ferrit-Magnet mit Metallkappe, Polypropylen-Membran, Gummisicke, Kunststoff-Phase-Plug, verchromte Doppel-Terminals, Abdeckgitter	
Hochtöner: 24-mm Titan-Membran, konkave Nawi-Form, Metallgehäuse mit Kühlrippen, 12-mm-Schwingspule, Gitter, Schutzbügel, 2 Montagehalter, koaxiale Montage möglich	
Frequenzweiche: verchromtes Metallgehäuse, Plexiglasdeckel, 6-dB-Tiefpass, 12-dB-Hochpass, Luftspulen, Folienkondensator, 8 Hochtonpegel, vergoldete Schraubterminals, flexible Montage	
Messergebnisse	
Nennimpedanz	4 Ω
Resonanzfrequenz	57 Hz
Minimale Impedanz	3,2 Ω bei 182 Hz
Wirkungsgrad gesamt	86,1 dB
Wirkungsgrad 90/50 Hz (2V, 1m)	91/85 dB
Maximaler Schalldruckpegel 90/50 Hz (10% Klirr, 3dB Kompression)	107/94 dB
Empf. Verstärkerleistung	50 bis 100 Watt
Messdiagramme	
Frequenzgang	
Kräftiger Basspegel, sonst sehr linear verlaufend mit sanfter Anhebung des Brillanzbereichs.	
Wasserfall-Diagramm	
Sehr schnelles Abklingen im gesamten Frequenzbereich, Hochtonpeak außerhalb des Hörbereichs.	
Qualität (max. 50)	
Klang (34 von 50)	34
Technik (Summe, max. 50)	
Maximaler Schalldruck (16 von 20)	39
Ausstattung (15 von 20)	39
Verarbeitung (8 von 10)	39
autohifi TESTURTEIL	
Absolute Spitzenklasse	73
Preis/Leistung	★★★★★

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Optimum radiation behavior

The outstanding capability of the tweeter named as ET 20 WS shall be its extensive radiation behavior in a coexistence with its small outer dimensions. Out of axis this „pill“ shall provide a much lower loss of SPL compared to those other tweeters being usually in the trade. Strongly focusing/concentrating tweeters have to be directly aligned towards the listener, in order to get the benefit of the full frequency range.

With Mega-Sphere tweeters this shall be not necessary, because Maestro Badenia says that also on a larger angle those tweeters will still provide an extensive frequency range. So, also unfavorable installation positions will loose their scarieness.

This phenomenon is mainly driven by the inverted titanium dome. Different to usual half-spherical domes, the Epic domes provides a more wavy profile, which has to get produced in a more-step stamping procedure. That's about the theory; how it will work in a practical use, we will see in our laboratory. Docked to that dome we find a 12mm voice coil. As a thermal compensation support, the metal housing balances the (*tweeter's*) thermal energies. The (*GermanMAESTRO*) engineers are very confident about their tweeter and dare to abstain from a tweeter protection element on the cross-over. One part less on the cross-over at least supports the sound performance.

Manifold installation material

Notwithstanding that the tweeter ET 20 WS with its small outer dimensions fits into nearly any installation location, the Obrigheim guys have paid for an additional round of “mother's little helpers”. With an open installation you have the choice among the traditional grille or two elegant metal bars. The grille provides extensive protection; the bars will allow a more sonically transition, and from the acoustically perspective they are the better choice.

In addition to the installation mounting body and a console, there is also a little “pillar”. Mounted in the woofers EW6508 mid section it converts the component system to a coaxial speaker. Therefore you have just to pull out the woofer's magnetically fixed phase plug.

Obrigheim classics

The phase plug does not provide a cooling impact, it is only used to control the (*the woofer's*) frequency range. But you will still realize the Obrigheim guys' genes. What seems to be as a simple plastic on the first view, appears as polyamide – you can see it at the print <PA>. This high quality synthetic material provides a pleasant stability, stiffness and tenacity. The black metal cover does not only protect the woofers magnet driver against damages; it also balances the heat from the 25 mm voice coil. Also the holes of the metal plate – keeping the spider in the right position – are used for another temperature balancing purpose.

The two chrome plated terminals already existed at the old MB-Quart times; they work on one side as the pure cables' connectors as well as they also take cables' eyelet connectors. The remaining additional terminal connectors are working as docking stations for the tweeter's cables in case of the Epic Compo's coaxial application.

Very flexible X-Over

The woofer's frequency response seems to be so good-natured, that a dolce 6dB-low-pass was already the right fit. As a high-pass towards the tweeter a common 12dB filter was applied. You can connect the tweeter in 3 different ways (= 3 different SPL levels). Using the little switch inside you can add further SPL adjustment levels. So in combination with that switch you have the choice on eight different SPL adjustment levels.

Also in terms of installation comfort this x-over provides a high flexibility. On each side (*of the end caps*) are numerous slots waiting providing (*in combination with the installation brackets*) manifold installation options. If horizontal or vertical on metal- or the plexiglas's window-side everything is possible without any problems.

The new Epic compo-system with its standard-conform 6,5” woofer, the very small tweeter including accessories and the flexible x-over mounting options is an extremely “installation friendly” product. The installers will be very happy with it.

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The Epic provides a saturated SPL

The test “jumping-course” in our laboratory was mastered by the German Maestro EPIC EV 6508 with bravura.

The compo’s frequency response convinced with a very well balanced range. In the bass- and the fundamental note area the EV 6508 accelerated very impressive and scored in terms of SPL phenomenally: 107 dB at 90Hz is a quite challenging statement.

The tweeter provides at a 30° angle only at least at above 13.000 Hz. a slight SPL loss – so the Mega-Sphere technology – as described in our intro – works wonderful. So it shall be!

The peek as shown in the frequency response curve is above 20 KHz. existing so out of the listener frequency range. You can feel on the very save side, there won’t be any disturbing in the (system’s) practical use.

Distinguished sound performance

The frequency response as measured in our lab was acoustically traceable. Voices especially man’s voices were reproduced with much volume and corpus. Sometimes it seems to be a slightly little to much, so that sonorous voices seemed to be a little bit to much expanded. And who tries to find something “between the crumbs” could judge about the woman’s voices’ reproduction as being a very little breeze towards “nasality”. But in reproduction of music instruments the German Maestro always met the right “sonic color”. All tracks of our test CDs were sounding very natural and extremely pleasant. Also the tweeter provides enthusiasm to the listeners. The US-Singer/Songwriter David Munyon’s acoustic guitar in “For Wild Horses (on CD “Greast Music V” free of charge in our sister magazine Audio, issue 1/2009) were excellent reproduced by the tweeter.

Very subtle it (*the tweeter*) reproduced every string to perfection. It acted very lively and dynamic, but although not overemphasizing acerb and always with a direct and quick strike, but never harsh or pushy, even just exactly and precisely well dosed.

The 34 points Reference Canton CS2.160 provides indeed a more stable/realistic projection, but didn’t achieve the tweeter’s filigree high resolution capability. So also the German-Maestro-System was scored with 34 points for sound performance. “Stalemate”! (*between both competitors*).

A system of the “Absolute Top Class” available for 280,- Euro – Congratulation to the guys from German Maestro. They do not only continue to keep the traditional MB Quart virtues alive, but also topped that.



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Translation of special section- and picture texts

Top & Flop

- + Outstanding Sound Performance
- + high maximum SPL
- + small tweeter
- + flexible mounting options

> Picture x-over (1)

Straight: the x-over provides only high quality filter parts without (negatively) impacting tweeter protection

> Picture tweeter (front side)

Core-piece: the tweeter with its unique (inverted) dome shape provides also on angel an extensive frequency response

> Picture tweeter (backside)

Cool: the metal housing with its cooling fins balances the voice coil’s temperature, providing with that a higher power handling

> Central statement

The extremely “compact” tweeter is the core-piece of the new Epic loudspeakers

> Woofer picture (front side)

The magnetically clamped phase plug can be ex-changed with a tweeter support part; so you can create a coaxial version of this speaker)

> Woofer picture (backside)

Power tower: thanks to the heat sink plate and the magnet cover made from metal, the Epic woofer is thermally stable, and it achieved outstanding SPL scores in our lab

> Picture x-over (2)

Two faces: the x-over shows on its bottom side the filter parts; on the other side you can see the very shiny chrome plated metal housing

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