



## **Solid as a rock**

### **ACTIVE STUDIO MONITOR UNITY AUDIO, THE BOULDER 'MKII**

The Boulder '1, loosely translated, the boulders' - where the name comes from, we were already in building up the listening session to feel. The Boulder is a pretty massive built Midfield Monitor, as regards its ne performance. Smaller listening distances, such as in our direction, but are still not a problem, because thanks to a concentrically constructed as a point source means / tweeter, this, chunks' to be used in small rooms with high localization precision. Dating from ELAC Dual Concentric system X-Jet covers seven octaves, and makes the Boulder become a true point source. In combination with two 220 mm or 8 inches measured SEAS aluminum woofers to obtain a full-range monitor with high power reserves that a loud, yet precise interception, either for rapid fatigue of the ears or for bridging Groener allow ßerer listening distances. You know, times will not hear loud for a long time, if you do not want to after half a day lose its decision-making basis. Nevertheless, it is a great help if you can when recording or during the mixing between once, Flying Cow 'leave. I would be quite considered as a quality criterion, for listening pleasure is off al ler decision also an aspect of safety, you should not underestimate. If the two go, also loud and accurately, the better.

## **X-Jet**

A special feature of the Boulder monitor is employed Dual Concentric-system, first time in 2004 presented by ELAC as a base idea. Ah, that's the tweeter, which is also used by Adam Audio or Audio Eve': If you do not look closely so, probably first thinks. Well, not to be dismissed out of hand this knowledge is not, because the jet design with a vertically pleated membrane is actually a hallmark of the mentioned manufacturers. However, the X-Jet chassis is a very independent development. A Jet III tweeter sits centered on a flat ring radiator, whose membrane made of a fibrous material called Nomex (DuPont), and was provided with a honeycomb structure. In this way, a coaxial system that radiates off the covered, wide frequency range as a point source. The very light honeycomb membrane is driven by a powerful neodymium magnet motor and has a large, 78 mm measured voice coil is copper-plated aluminum with GEWI oped flat wire. The X-Jet chassis of second-generation, which is used here, is characterized by a transmission range up to 50 kHz and a very homogeneous dispersion of.

## **Overview**

The closed housing is made of solid birch plywood with a 30 mm thick front Corian, a robust mineral material from DuPont, which can be easily brought into bold organic forms and behaves very resonant. So it was obviously not a problem, a umlaufen-

to model de beveled edge at the front of the housing, the fluid passes in the range of coax into a notched rounding, which serves as a sound guide for the agent / tweeter to waste crack to avoid reflections from the housing edges. The material looks with its glossy surface of very attractive and gives the monitor be character-ristisches appearance. The Verstärkerelek- electronics consists of four power amplifiers with a total output of 200 watts. The two 8-inch woofers in D'Appolito arrangement provide for a lower limit frequency

32 Hz (-3 dB) and make a subwoofer support completely unnecessary. The Boulder is therefore a genuine full-range system that can be operated both horizontally and vertically. The back is equipped with a balanced XLR input and a few Schalterchen very rudimentary (or purist?) Tee t described. Customization options are in the central region at around 1 kHz with a switchable deviation from linear 'of about plus / minus half dB (500 Hz to 2.5 kHz) and in the high range at 10 kHz with +/- 2.5 dB as a tilt filter. In addition there can be found a flat verlaufendes high-pass filter, which is switched at 30 Hz and reaches a soft reduction of about 6 dB at 20 Hz. This filter is

operated with a pressure switch. At activation, a green LED on the back lights up next to the switch. These interventions are more category, taste 'associate and have nothing to do with a classic space adaptation. The case measures 39 x 26.8 x 61.4 cm (D x H x W in a transverse arrangement) and brings some 25 kilos.

## Hearing

My fellow editor Jürgen Wirtz went me build the active monitors on hand. The task was to heave the stapling but tig heavyweight guys on our Sky Audio Verdade to reference not to lose the Hörre-. Were happily fit this somewhat adventurous construction up just so and I had The possibility to bring both switchable and calibrated vol- kemäßig on our Crane Song Avocet Monitor Controllers. The Verdade system runs with a double stack subwoofer support I usually turn off at compact test candidates to create an imbalance in higher pure pressure. This time it was different sensation because the Boulder monitors deliver a truly powerful, but in no event exceed exaggerated bass that made the deep impression appear equal with switched subwoofers (in reality the rich Sky Audio subwoofer with its closed case even a corner deep down). So was ever clear that the Boulder Speaker would need a subwoofer support under any circumstances. I handled it ever so that I switch only after a longer Einhörphase on my home system for Testkandi- data because then enter into that moment and the seconds, the significant differences in the sound impression most evident.

In forming precision distance of Boulder made immediately an extremely good figure: the phantom is tommitte sharply defined, the volume balance of the productions were remained completely intact when switching and the rooms of the stereo stage fanned on very deep and accurate. In things, timbre 'I could a little empha- sis of the lower middle perceive somewhat wa in the range of 300 to 500 Hz, although the frequency Wrote the Boulder monitor's ruler looks smooth.

This gives the Boulder a certain warmth or color but very pleasant sounds. When Transientenabbildung, the spatial representation and the localization sharpness can probably display its strengths of coax chassis. The mid-range sounds very balanced, which makes itself loinstrumenten positive effect especially in the volume balance of voices or solar. The Stereo Stage fans out separately from the speaker positions very nice, but does not act on the basis wide, but very natural and right. A descriptive special stocking may fenbereich pull out of his sleeve in animals of Boulder. The Moni- tor is there (but also in the rest of the spectrum) pulse very strong, and is especially

capable of different colors in the bass range and represent significantly differently. This special property of, I would assign the closed housing. Often bass-reflex enclosures have the character, the depth range as, Einheitswumms' map, so that individual frequency locations are not to be distinguished. Here the Boulder carries out his work really excellent. Kick Drums, Bässen, stored deep synthesizer pads or toms can be in their Frequenzstruktur recognize individually and make up. Very good! Although the Boulder be in direct comparison to our really discoloration poor house system something Mittenfarb brings into play, one has been listening after a few minutes later and also will certainly enjoy it. I would not assert in any case that one might feel compelled to sound interventions with the equalizer. The sound image as a whole remains consistent and balanced. Recording and mixing? Yes, that works beautifully and the recoverable listening volume is constant at constant pre-amplifier really brutal.

Mastering? A lot easier of Boulder is a little here about 'or, euphemistically'. Because the injected heat makes them but slightly IR-referring noticeable. I still have a little experimenting with the filters, but then I still supply in the linear position remained. As standard, the coax chassis are covered by a magnetically held Grill, which the manufacturer recommends taking ERS if you want to enjoy the full resolution. I have come to the view that the sound impression on the frequency level somewhat, linearized 'when the grill is placed displayed. But that may be a matter of taste or simply fulfill my personal higher expectation.

## **Conclusion**

Unity Audio does not have exclusive distribution in Germany appointed, but work processed with currently four dealers directly together: Digital AudionetworX Berlin, ES Pro Audio Ingolstadt, Hieber Lindberg Munich and KMR Audio Berlin. I have exemplified a price of 8,978 euros including VAT for the couple cherchert re-. Alone it can tie you that Unity Audio thinks it truly serious. The price is due to the high quality materials, which cost-price leagues chassis and exquisite amplifier electronics of EAR certainly justified. As a result you get for this price a very precise Monitor with a balanced behavior, the cording for mixing work and re excellent and reliable can afford Liche services. A special re strength is the precise delineation and transient response in low range. The ELAC X Jet chassis as point source serves not only short distances interception, but can through its midrange clarity, be perfectes transient response and precise spatial imaging and localization points. Even outside of the listening axis remain stable

transmission characteristics. The quick vote a mixed balance succeed with the Boulder the right away, there remain no doubts about the volume of a vocal or solo instrument. Also during undercover Details are readily identifiable and the dosage of reverberation requires no big experiments. One constantly hears well what you are doing. And - this is the end, you have fun, occasionally turning up correctly and to rejoice in the intact permanent, accurate representation at high volumes. This has a little bit of rock and roll and colleagues who like len times, want to hear original volume ', very well fallen. The Boulder may be in its price class, no doubt claim and may, in the revised MK II version, quite safely boldly spelled out in the same breath as other pro, British Lautsprechermar- ken are called. Who is willing to put on a high-quality, reliable recording and mixing tool right money on the table, can be very happy with Felsbro- bridges' from England.