



Vienna Acoustics ORATORIO

The musical form of the ORATORIO combines the full force of human and orchestral voices. Giving this name to our most capable center channel speaker acknowledges that film soundtracks require the center channel speaker not only to provide dialogue reproduction, but also to be an equal partner with the front speakers in reproducing the full force of the dynamic and tonal structure of the main stage. As the perfect partner to a large-scale MAHLER or STRAUSS based theater, ORATORIO shares technical features developed for both of those benchmark products. Housed within the striking cabinet, raked back for perfect time alignment, sheathed in veneer formed perfectly over the complex corners of its surface, are drivers of extraordinary capability. The silk dome tweeter incorporates a unique multiple magnet system and an integral decoupling mounting block to reduce extraneous resonance interaction. The tweeter block's small size permits placement immediately above the midrange driver for improved dispersion characteristics. Supported by the dual woofers functioning as ultra-low-frequency drivers, the single mid-range driver reproduces the entire vocal range, resulting in system voicing of superior clarity and grand scale.

The tradition of unrivaled finish quality continues with the ORATORIO, providing the warmth and beauty of real wood for the most harmonious integration into any listening room.

ORATORIO is a speaker capable of both great scale and subtlety, seamlessly integrating with MAHLER and STRAUSS, providing prodigious output while possessing all the hallmarks of the Vienna Acoustics sound: liquid transparency, vibrant neutrality, thrilling dynamics, and sheer musicality. ORATORIO further adds to Vienna Acoustics' heritage of superb physical design and construction, and will ably occupy a place in any ultra high-end Vienna Acoustics home theater system.

1.

Immediately apparent to the eye is the massive block of pure aluminium, beautifully bead blasted, black anodized, and precisely sunk into the cabinet's front baffle. Decoupled by an underlying layer of soft rubber, this specially engineered mounting block's sheer mass additionally suppresses any resonance, keeping all harmful influences away from the tweeter, leaving it free to reproduce the most delicate of hidden musical details without any interference from detrimental resonance effects. The small size of the tweeter and mounting block assembly allows the tweeter to be mounted immediately above the midrange drive for improved dispersion characteristics and permits the front baffle to be raked back for further improvements in phase coherency.

2.

The hand coated silk dome tweeter is a totally new construction, incorporating a unique multiple magnet system. A stack of three neodymium magnets are center drilled, allowing the internal sound waves to be guided into a damping chamber for complete suppression of internal pressure and elimination of compression effects. The resonance frequency of the driver is designed to be very low, so that the tweeter's contribution to the overall sound is optimized with the midrange's contribution. The sonic benefits of these features are that voices flow naturally resolved, from a convincing and stable position in the soundstage.

Using the smallest amount of a special, ultra-thin viscosity ferrofluid protects the tweeter and preserves the purity of its performance. Further, the ingenious design of the magnet structure of the tweeter results in 100% magnetic shielding with no compromise in performance, a feat virtually impossible to achieve using conventional techniques.

3.

To perfectly convey the frequencies covering the human voice, the midrange driver is tailored to cover the entire vocal range without the intrusion of a crossover point. The 7-inch midrange driver cone is formed of air-dried paper that is heavily hand coated and reinforced by lengthwise oriented strands of carbon fiber to achieve a perfect balance of high rigidity with internal damping characteristics. The linear frequency band of this driver effortlessly spans a full five octaves, from 120 Hz to 3,500 Hz, making it ideal for the role demanded of a center channel speaker.

All drivers used in ORATORIO are 100% magnetically shielded, thereby avoiding any restrictions in the listening room by allowing placement near any television or monitor.

4.

Featuring the same cone technology of the midrange driver, the dual 9-inch woofers function as ultra low frequency (ULF) drivers operating below their crossover point of 120 Hz. Massive die cast baskets, long-throw voice coil construction and medium-loss rubber surrounds enable these drivers to produce frequencies as low as 33 Hz with fully realized dynamic impact.

5.

The massively overbuilt cabinet utilizes extensive bracing based on finite element analysis and is raked back for optimum phase coherence. This raking of the front, as well as the back baffle, serves to dissipate and control the back-wave of both midrange and bass drivers realizing improvements in clarity and precision of the overall sonic presentation.

6.

The front and rear 1.5" thick baffles benefit from Vienna Acoustics' exclusive veneer wrapping process involving the use of sophisticated membrane presses to allow the veneer to form over the sharply curved edges and complex corners of the cabinet's surface.

Three finishes are available: a dramatically grained handselected rosewood; a warm and rich handselected beech; and a special high gloss black, featuring an 11-layer lacquer finish on the front and back baffles, combined with handselected black ash-veneer for the main body.

7.

For their inherent simplicity and natural sound, first-order, 6 dB per octave, slopes are used for the crossover design. Final layout and component selection for the crossover was determined through extensive listening tests.

8.

One department of the crossover is mounted on the rear side of the terminal block, the massive 8mm acrylic glass. At Vienna Acoustics, we have addressed the issue of transition resistance by designing proprietary terminal blocks that form a direct connection to the speaker terminals with no additional wiring. Our gold plated input terminals are designed to accept banana plugs, spade terminals or bare wire connection.

Two switches provide additional flexibility in tuning the ORATORIO to its surroundings. When in the neutral-position the switches are not in the signal path of the crossover. However, when needed, adjustments can be made to compensate for bright, over-reflective, or "cold" listening environments, thereby regaining that critical natural balance that exemplifies ORATORIO.