

PRESS RELEASE

SONUS FABER: AIDA IS HERE

AT THE END OF 2011 THE NEW SONUS FABER SPEAKER IS BORN, RADICALLY RENEWING AND EXPRESSING THE ESSENCE OF THE ARCUGNANO BASED COMPANY

The precious knowledge gained through 'the Sonus Faber' speaker has pushed the Arcugano company to close 2011 with the new and exciting Aida project

The newest arrival at Sonus faber is a speaker 'as grandiose as a Giuseppe Verdi opera, able to radically renew and at the same time express the unchanging Sonus Faber values'. Just as Giuseppe Verdi signalled a turning point in opera combining tradition with innovation in his spectacular opera 'Aida' so too does Sonus faber aim at absolute excellence with this new project, a tribute to a great Italian master on the 150th anniversary of the unity of Italy, and a symbol of beauty and a new era for Sonus faber.

The new speaker will be presented at the world premier in New York on the 13th of December held at the dealer Stereo Exchange (672 Broadway, New York) for the press and selected members of the public with the sponsorship of Sumiko Audio, a Fine Sounds company distributing Sonus faber in the US. Aida will also be the star at further presentations in Florida and Arizona.

As always, in this new Sonus faber project innovation is key: the 3.5 way floor speaker is characterized by its 'lyre' shape which, compared to previous solutions implemented, significantly increases the structural strength and guarantees excellent management of the energy produced inside the speaker. The complex deadening system implemented eliminates the final traces of any possible resonance: the internal walls and the external 'wing', both with dual curves in multi-layered cross veined okume, are technically employed with a decoupling system made up of a layer of a viscous insulating material, thus implementing the technique of 'constrained layer damping' at the highest level.

The electro-acoustic project is made up of the 'Bound soul', an anti-vibrational axle in non-magnetic alloy steel which binds the internal spaces for the frontal-main emission drivers, the 'Tuned Mass Damper', an element designed to handle dispersion and spurious vibrations, the 'Stealth Reflex', which provides important advantages in terms of extension and reduction of low frequency distortion, and the 'Z.V.T' (Zero Vibration Transmission) patent deriving from the flagship 'the Sonus Faber' and instrumental in the decoupling of the speaker from the floor. For sound reproduction, Aida boasts the patented 'Sound field Shaper' which allows for a balance between direct and indirect emission.

The absolute innovation in Aida is found in the hybrid suspension called 'Bow Spring', that uses a 'crossbow' drawn to flexing point and elastomer with progressive yielding, in order to reduce spurious resonance and acoustic feedback and, in terms of direct emission, the presence of the DAD 'arrow point' tweeter for the reproduction of high frequencies, without doubt an uncompromising choice, aimed at maintaining the set sound objectives of Sonus faber.

Design and craftsmanship also have key roles in Aida, a step towards an increasingly sophisticated market and global public. The fluid lines of Aida, tense and harmonic form the 'lyre' shape, ten leaves of overlaid curved okume dress the cabinet, together with vertical motif leather. Two external wings tighten in an embrace surrounding the central structure of Aida, closed at the base by the 'Bow Spring' crossbow in anodized aviation aluminium, 'CNC' worked from whole pieces, and the top sees the use of a mirror in tempered glass, which highlights the timeless beauty of Aida, "proudly hand-crafted in Italy".

PRESS RELEASE

SONUS FABER

Founded in 1983 thanks to the passion and desire of a few audiophiles, Sonus Faber is today an entrepreneurial reality of excellence, which has invested craftsmanship and ability in the construction of audio speakers that offer a unique listening experience. The company is based in Arcugnano (Vicenza). Sonus faber, or rather 'handmade sound', is truly the attempt, successful but in continual evolution, to create, thanks to the study of avant-garde technologies combined with knowledgeable craftsmanship, speakers that are able to reproduce a sound experience never before heard and which, from a design point of view, create harmony in every environment, bringing out the architectural lines and enhanced elegance. Many professionals listen to music thanks to these speakers, from Uto Ughi to Salvatore Accardo.

Sonus faber has introduced many products and series to the market, through a range of speakers designed for every listening need: Toy, idealized for those just moving into the world of high fidelity; Vintage, a call from the not so distant past; Liuto, echoes from the renaissance with enhanced acoustic capability, Cremona and Homage, tributes to the city that for centuries has held the secrets of violin making.

Research and development aimed at constantly pushing the boundaries of sound reproduction and its purity. Sonus faber has always invested in research and believes that it is thanks to this and the study of innovative techniques that a product can be seen as competitive. This is the true motivation that lies at the roots of Sonus faber; technical-scientific development and product innovation, which has allowed the company to grow so quickly and with a continual increase in turnover, even in the difficult economic situation we are currently seeing.

A company in growth, with more than 30 employees and as many consultants, with a strong presence in the global market (in more than 40 countries), as well as through the other companies belonging to Fine Sounds Group, i.e. Sumiko Audio representing the brand in the US, and Sonus Faber Asia Limited located in Hong Kong and dedicated to the promising increasing Chinese market. Such dynamic energy can be found in all companies that together with Sonus faber belong to Fine Sounds Group, i.e. Audio Research and Wadia.

The Arcugnano company was awarded the Golden Sound Award 2010 last January in Tokyo for the speaker category thanks to its flagship the Sonus faber. The award was presented during the annual ceremony by the editor and selected journalists from Stereo Sound, the most prestigious specialist magazine in Asia.

It was a huge gratification receiving this prestigious acknowledgment from the world of hi-end with world wide repercussions, seeing as the magazine is translated into both Korean and Chinese as well.

At Sonus faber it is the passion for music that speaks for itself.
Sonus faber. The architecture of sound, making a home for music.

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DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS

SYSTEM:

3.5 way, Sound field Shaper Technology, “Zero Vibration Transmission” technology, para-aperiodic vented box “Stealth Reflex System”, staggered low frequency floorstanding loudspeaker system.

CABINET:

“Lyra shape” design, dual side curvature, special cross grained okoumè plywood, used in a double thickness constriction layer damped configuration. Sub-structural ribs are strategically placed for total rejection of spurious vibrations and standing waves control. Two “dampshelves” (from “The” experience), i.e. CNC anodized machined avional “vibration dampers” (on the top and on the bottom of the cabinet) “stiffen” the column structure reducing consistently structural micro-vibrations coming from the cabinet walls and the transducers.

The “Anima legata” system is used in an innovative way, encompassing the 3 inner chambers of the front firing drive units. A special steel rod, a high speed mechanical interface, concentrates the remaining micro-vibrations conveying them to the dual multiple “Tuned Mass Dampers”, i.e. two differently tuned special custom devices optimized to erase micro-vibrations, by oscillating in anti-phase.

A totally new floating bridge “Bow spring” suspension for vibrational interface has been devised to decouple the enclosure from the floor through the Zero Vibration Transmission technology, a patent pending suspension system, eliminating any acoustic feedback and any vibration propagation to the listening room.

TWEETER:

Sonus faber “Arrow Point” DAD (Damped Apex Dome, synthesis of the classic dome and ring transducer) 29 XTR-06. A Sonus faber designed 29 mm moving coil driver, with Sonus faber’s vibration optimized mechanical interface. The ultra dynamic linearity is given by the new Neodymium motor system. Implemented with a natural wood acoustic labyrinth rear chamber, a mechanical anti-resonator designed for this application. To perfectly match the high frequency performance to different listening rooms and different tastes it is possible to adjust the SPL of the tweeter.

MIDRANGE:

Sonus faber M18 XTR-08. A Sonus faber designed 180 mm neodymium magnet system ultra dynamic linearity midrange. CCAW wire is used on a composite former “eddy current free” voice coil. The dynamically linear magnetic field motor incorporates triple Kellogg/Goeller rings. A special custom diaphragm is made with a real time air dried non pressed blend of traditional cellulose pulp, kapok, kenaf and other natural fibers, developed according to the most natural sound. To further inhibit any residual cone coloration we are using a transparent viscous surface damping coating.

The basket is thoroughly optimized to eliminate any resonance, thanks to a high-tech dual metal (Avional and Gun Metal), CNC machined from solid billets. The combination of the two different materials, Avional and Gunmetal, allows eliminating any mutual resonance.

The same way as the tweeter, the midrange is decoupled from the main baffle board and designed synergistically with its optimized “acoustic chamber”. A special coaxial anti-compressor is used, designed to remove cavity resonances and distortions.

WOOFERS:

Sonus faber W22 XTR-12. A pair of Sonus faber designed 220 mm lightweight “sandwich” cone structure (high-tech syntactic foam core and two external surface skins of coated cellulose pulp) woofers are embebed in an acoustically amorphous “stealth reflex” chamber. Designed to blend perfectly with the special midrange and, at the same time, to have absolute definition in their range: the sandwich structure with outer paper pulp skins has the same sonic character of the midrange cone. A long-throw motor system with a 2” controlled “eddy current” voice coil is implemented for high speed, performance and linearity. Special coaxial anti-compressor are used, designed to remove cavity resonance and distortions.

INFRA WOOFER:

Sonus faber SW32 XT-08. Sonus faber designed a 320 mm infra woofer, lightweight honeycomb composite sandwich cone structure with Nanocarbon technology for a maximum rigidity and implemented it in an acoustically amorphous “stealth reflex” chamber. The unit features a very powerful long throw motor with a 3” voice coil for ultra dynamic linearity. To perfectly match the low-end performance to different listening rooms it is possible to adapt the SPL of the infra woofer.

SOUND FIELD SHAPER:

The special patented Sound field Shaper technology, a direct derivation from the “The”, allows the control of the direct/reverberant radiation ratio of the Aida. The sound field shaping module can be SPL optimized.

SOUND FIELD SHAPER TWEETER:

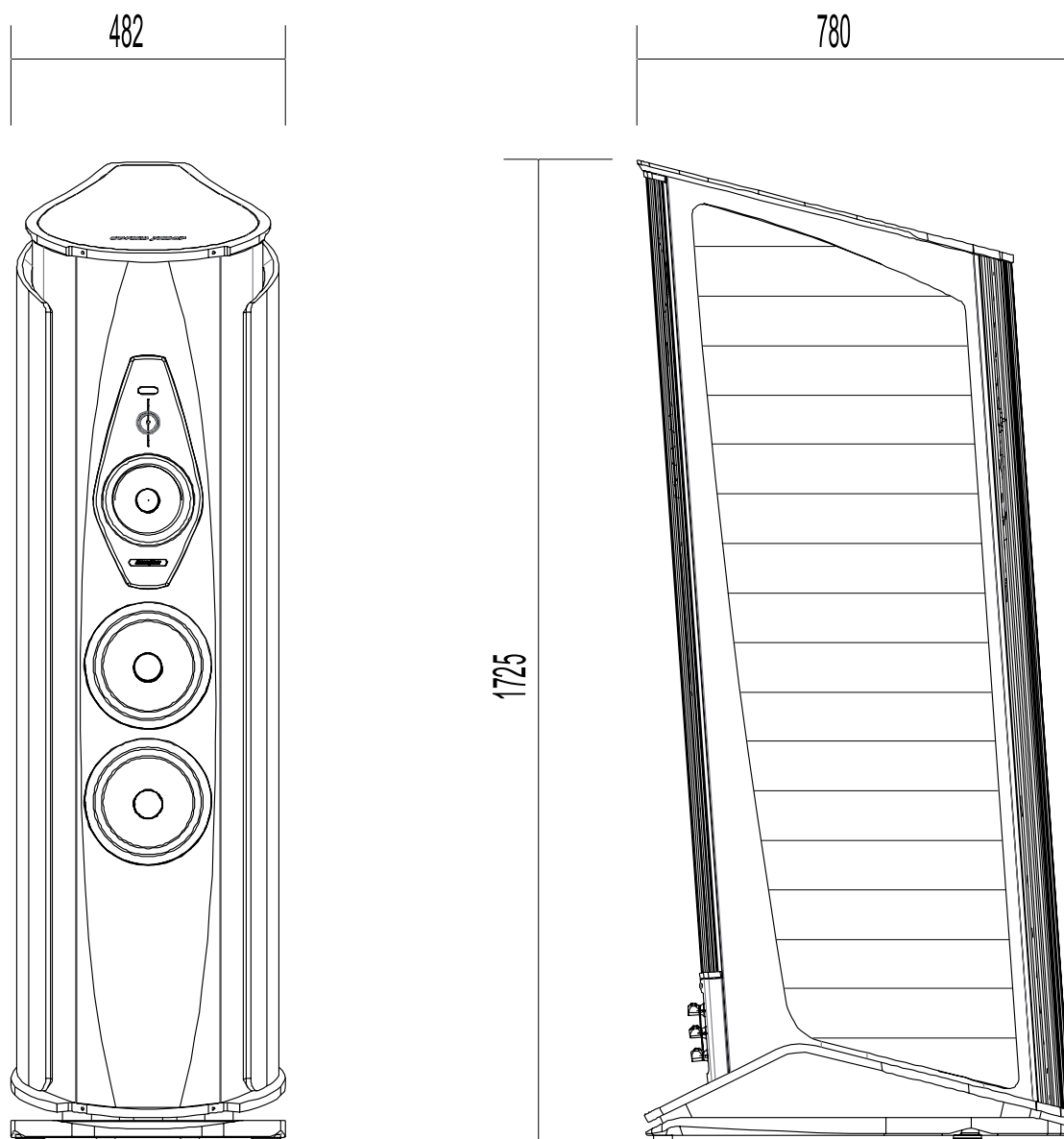
29 mm ultra dynamic linearity neodymium dome driver. Optimized off-axis radiation for this special application.

SOUND FIELD SHAPER MIDRANGE:

120 mm, paper pulp/natural fiber blend cone driver for maximum coherence with the front midrange emission.

CROSS-OVER:

Non-resonant design, optimized amplitude/phase response for optimal space/time performance. “Paracross topology” on the tweeter hi-pass. The impedance at low frequencies is controlled for a clear and friendly amplifier performance. Triple staggered transfer function low frequency/room interface optimized filter. Highest quality is used in terms of the components: Mundorf “Supreme” Silver/Gold/Oil capacitors, Jantzen inductors. Cross-over: 55Hz - 180 Hz - 250 Hz - 3000Hz.



FREQUENCY RESPONSE:
20 Hz – 35.000 Hz, Stealth reflex included.

SENSITIVITY:
92 db SPL (2.83V/1 m).

NOMINAL IMPEDANCE:
4 ohm.

POWER HANDLING:
100W – 1KW, without clipping.

DIMENSIONS:
1725mm x 482mm x 780mm (HxWxD).

WEIGHT:
330 Kg per pair – net weight / 550 Kg per pair - shipping weight (The shipping weight may slightly change from time to time because different humidity values over the year might affect the wooden boxes' weight).