

English Translation: Review GermanMAESTRO Linea-S F1 German "Stereoplay" Magazine, Issue Nr. 9 from October 2009

SERIOUS ABOUT AUDIO

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GERMAN



Intro-Headline: **Old Masters**

MB Quart became to German Maestro. But as before the guys from "Schwaben" (region in Germany, but the Company's' location region's right name

is "Baden") are practicing their mastery in manufacturing speakers

Reviewer: Holger Biermann Pictures from Julian Bauer, Manufacturer



MB Quart in Obrigheim (= recent German MB Quart Company Location): For many years there were manufactured superb speakers. Especially in the middle- and upper class the guys from "Schwaben => Baden" set benchmarks over benchmarks. And thanks their sophisticated speaker drivers made by in-house manufacturing, they worldwide own a superb image. But at the end of the 90-s things didn't run anymore smooth at MB. US-American investors went in, but

ran by their selves in economical difficulties and withdraw their engagements.

But they kept what looks for them as very valuable: The brand MB Quart. Suddenly in 2007 the Obrigheim guys were without money and without their brand name.

But not without a perspective. Managing Director Thomas Sauer found new investors and convinced many employees to join the new team again.

And this is the situation of today: In the former MB (Quart)-facilities former MB (Quart) -employees are manufacturing as before excellent headsets, car-hifi components and (home-) speakers.

Like the Linea S F-One, which costs in it's basic version (black matt lacquer) € 1.400,- (German Retail Price) and in the nice high glossy version of our test model € 1.800,-.

The slim Linea-Cabinet provides two separated chambers with different volumes: The lower 7" woofer is responsible solely for the bass section (up to 120 Hz.) supported by a bass reflex port. The second 7" is taking over the midrange section (up to 2.200 Hz.) and it is working in a smaller closed chamber. This shall improve the dynamic capability in this very relevant (frequency)

Could be that they did with that the right move. The laboratory results provide a frequency range, which is very linear, and so it is still (linear) far away from an on-axis listener position (blue line = 30°) (meaning by 30° off-axis). Also efficiency at nearly 85 dB and the lowest frequency limit at 38 Hz. (-6dB) proves that this slim 2½-way design piece is above the classes' average.





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

"Extract Header": The Linea S F-One provides a "bass performance fun level" which is usually very rare in this class

And so is the sound quality performance. The "Reference Magazine CD", we made for the last (Munich-) High-End Show, is a nice touch-stone to start a listener session. Already with Livingston Taylor's whistling intro from "Isn't she lovely" the wheat is immediately separated from the chaff. The Linea was mastering this critical obstacle directly, lively on high sound pressure levels may be sometimes with a little bit to much pepper. Then guitars and vocals are joining. Is the recording chamber right and well filled, is the guitar in the right position? With the Linea we have to say: yes. Downright meticulously it modeled the singer and guitar into our listener chamber and pronounced very fine Taylor's tonal accent. That was already pretty good. Again better it becomes with Friedemann's (European Artist) "Kleiner Zupfmusik". Superbly how dynamic as well as precise directly and airy the harp's strings were "dying", simply convincing, how realistic that big instrument was projected. The best-in-class reference Magnat Quantum 705 (3/08) overall plays a little bit more round and more fluently getting strings (Haydn, Sinfonie Nr. 88) more full-bodied, warmer and at least nicer.

On the other hand with the bass beats from the "Tuva Rap" the Linea provides some advantage against the Magnat: The kettle drum's beats provide exactly the power and force, decorating big (sound) systems. The comforting flabbiness, representatives of this class pretty often apply, in order to make you believe of more (-bass performance as really can be provided), was in no way an attitude of the Linea.

With a tonal well fitting amplifier like the Rotel RA 1520 (please see page 24) (of this magazine issue) the Linea S F-One fascinates with a stunning realness – and makes you really very keen to listen music.

Picture: Cantilever

The cantilevers provide the right stability for this slimly shaped floorstand speaker; the spikes you can use also to equalize bigger asperities

Pictures: Michael Hoff, Thomas Sauer

The Makers of German Maestro and respectively the Linea S F-One: left hand Engineer Mr. Hoff and right hand Managing Director Thomas Sauer

(Characteristics) German Maestro Linea-S F-One

Price (in Germany): Euro 1.400,-Distribution: Maestro Badenia

Phone +49 6261 6380 www.german-maestro.de Dimensions: 19,5 x 100 x 30 cm.

Weight: 23 Kg.

Recommendation how to get them placed:

If possible freestanding from the wall, but also applicable for "near wall" placement. For rooms up to about 35m².

Measurements:

- > Over the whole frequency range well balanced and also ofaxis markedly linear
- > Moderate harmonic distortion down to bass section going

Evaluation:

Realistic sound performance: 11 from 14 points
Accurateness of performance: 10 from 14 points
Maximum Dynamic performance: 10 from 14 points
Bass reproduction quality: 11 from 14 points
Accurateness of sound projection: 10 from 14 points

Classy painted, slim floorstand speaker from a dignified stable (MB Quart), providing enormous grip in sound reproduction and performing very lively. Especially the lusty Bass (performance) sets a benchmark in this class

Stereoplay overall judgment:

Sound: Top-Class 52 points

Overall in total: good – very good 70 points

Price/quality ratio: Very good