

quadral's new range of Aurum speakers undergo the world's first home cinema test

# *No compromises*

quadral's Aurum speaker range has for several decades been awarded the highest accolades amongst music lovers. This range, which has recently been expanded, will allow the company from Hanover, Germany to enter the home cinema market with their presentation of a multi-channel package, which on a grand scale makes it the most uncompromising, exhilarating and best sounding surround set in Europe.



**HEIMKINO Quick-Info**

- Quick-Info
- Home cinema (small room)
- Music (stereo)
- Music (5.0)

Text: Roman Maier / Photos: PhilippThielen

The manufacturers will all tout the fundamental virtues of their product when they present their new speaker. They will extol the development work, praise the quality of the materials and workmanship and also promise optimum audio quality. Things are frequently different in reality and often depend on a mixture of design and sound, which is anything but “uncompromising”. The good news is that the manufacturers are true to their word and they have also achieved the best possible sound quality and this is extraordinarily good. quadral, which is a traditional company based in Hanover, is a manufacturer who knows how to delight even the most fastidious music enthusiasts and they have been doing this for more than 30 years with their Aurum range of speakers. Their philosophy is based on improving what is already good and creating and maintaining a product line that always enjoys an excellent reputation outside of Germany and this line has been the most coveted range of speakers in Europe for a long time now. In order to ensure that this range of speakers will also be well received by home cinema lovers, who always crave the best sound quality possible and be highly praised by them as well, the R&D department decided to participate in this specialised sector and expand their product range with the addition of a centre, using the flagship of their speaker range, the Titan VIII, which is an absolutely perfect match when it comes to sound quality and volume. Another good reason for making this decision is the setup, which in the meantime has now become the eighth generation of these “Bentleys” made in Lower Saxony, which was to be used for the world’s first multi-channel test in our hallowed hall and this was eagerly anticipated by everyone who wanted to see if it really could sparkle.

### Housing design

“Sparkling” is the precise attribute to use in this case, as its superb appearance is down to the brilliant black high gloss finish of the panels and all of our five testers were visually aware of this centre-point in our office cinema. Even though the Aurums have a lot more to offer the design of the current model’s housing already puts its legendary predecessors in the shade. This starts with the solid, well strutted and therefore absolutely warp-resistant MDF bodies, which present another special feature in addition to their incredible stability: The well-planned design enables the high and middle tone sections of each member of the Aurum family to use two enclosed and fully autonomous chambers and the orientation of their volume depends solely on the size of the oscillating system that is being used and this produces the best possible conditions for optimum sound output. Other details have enabled the quadral engineers to include all of the low frequency units in the housing: The rear of the membranes work at the bass reflex volume, as this port is aligned towards the floor of the housing. This is similar to the design used with professional studio monitors and it corresponds to a more powerful and clearly more precise reproduction of the high and middle tones as well as astounding enhancement of the bass areas.



#### **Additional tip:**

In the unlikely case of you considering the bass performance of the Aurum set tested by us to be inadequate, quadral also offer the Orkus R and even though this makes the ideal subwoofer enhancement, this new model was unavailable at the point in time when we carried out our tests. The 32 kg downfire design is based on a solid wooden body and the high-gloss or genuine wood finish makes it a real eye-catcher. It has a 32 cm bass chassis and is fitted with a 600 Watt amplifier unit that has unlimited peak sound reserves and this corresponds to a tremendous amount of bass power, which makes the Orkus R the ideal enhancement for two-channel or multi-channel systems from the Aurum range of speakers.

[www.aurumspeakers.com](http://www.aurumspeakers.com)

## Tone

5.0 Upright speaker

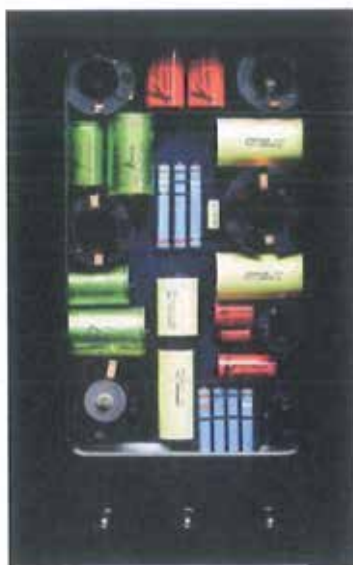


*Perfect conditions: The absolutely identical fittings make the flagship of the family, the Titan VIII, the unrivalled centrepiece of the Aurum Base Titan music centre.*

*You will also be delighted by the large ribbons in addition to the two 260 mm diameter Altima low frequency drivers and the 170 cm middle tone unit*

### Chassis fittings

One of the striking features of the Aurum speakers used in our test set is undoubtedly the expensively equipped high tone section, which is enthroned in the upper level of each member of the family. As only the best will do here, quadral have used expensively designed and highly effective ribbons in their flagship range. These can be briefly explained as being very small aluminium strips and they are powered and driven from the left and the right using very powerful neodymium magnets. Even though the membrane clearly covers a greater area it only weighs around two per cent (manufacturer's details) of the weight of a conventional dynamic tweeter and this makes it ideal as it virtually an oscillating unit without any mass. Acoustically it is noted for its low-distortion and finely defined sound as well as the clearly increased peak consistency. And it gets even better thanks to its tremendous performance as the quadral engineers have set the ribbon's crossover frequencies lower (model-dependent as from two kilohertz), which results in a clearly linear frequency response. Speaking of the "best", quadral's R&D department have also used select materials, the best technology together with the best quality available with regard to equipping the middle and low frequency ranges. The company from Hanover has combined all of these things into their so-called Altima drivers, which caused such a sensation when used in a similar way in the preceding Aurum models. It is no wonder that the three light-weight metals, aluminium, titanium und magnesium, used in the membrane surfaces produce the best possible conditions for realising an ultra-light, high-strength oscillating system that always reproduces clearly and precisely at the highest sound levels and reacts with tremendous power. The company from Lower Saxony have introduced another highlight in their Titan VIII, in the form of a three-position tone control that can be used anywhere and to drive any amplifier. Located at the back, directly underneath the frequency separator's window, it enables high, middle and bass reproduction to be optimised by plus/minus two decibels.



*You will also find: The large Plexiglas plate fitted at the back of the Titan VIII housing lets technophile music and home cinema fans take a peek at the impressive frequency separator, which is assembled solely from specially selected modules. The three-position tone control is located directly beneath it.*

### Sound

The extensive trials, the two-day warming-up phase and the fine tuning are now things of the past. This allows the time to be devoted to the actual test sequence and this had the biggest influence on the overall mark and we must admit that this is normally the most enjoyable part of the testing. And so it was here, as the enjoyment started off with the five "colossuses" in Batman's fight against the Joker in the high-rise scene in "The Dark Knight" and this brought about the first butterflies in the stomach. This feeling continued with the power of every blow from the quintet that was reproduced by the widely spaced surround setting and they were also reproduced with a dynamism that made you believe you were about to be on the receiving end! No wonder that every punch that was thrown made our huge leather sofa shudder and this also contributed to keeping the excitement at the upper limits. The unbelievable bass control was also fascinating, as it never lost its impressive depth even after a clear increase in the volume and the previously mentioned scene was reproduced powerfully and without any distortion. Home cinema is more than just pure force – home cinema lives from details, emotions and superb reproduction. I experienced all of these features a little later on in "Metropia". A spatial surround setting was created right from the very first second, in which a huge number of tiny sounds could be heard in-between the lowest and the highest frequency pitches and for me, this setup was offered on a silver platter. Steps, the clattering rain, the hubbub in the metro or even the main and background dialogs – every detail was reproduced cleanly and physically, just how we know it from real life. Furthermore, this had nothing to do with the volume selection, as the Aurum setup never lost its detail or ingenuity even after I had reduced the level. Just the opposite in fact, as the 5.0 package stayed compact and unbelievably superb even in the quiet pieces and this provided tremendous enjoyment that I could not and did not want to leave

### Conclusion

For a long time now quadral has been one of the manufacturers that prefer to be known for quality instead of making grand claims. In this case they can now do both as when the company from Hanover launches the new centre in the market they will have a multi-channel system in their product portfolio, which will put the majority of competitors well in the shade because of its gigantic dimensions, its seemingly infinite reserves of power, the precise spatial and detail reproductions as well as its fine overall reproduction capabilities. Anyone looking for the ultimate home cinema set will also find that the reproduction of two-channel and multi-channel music is right at the forefront technically and one cannot help but notice this once you have listened to this setup!

**Laboratory report: Quadral Aurum Titan 5.0**

<b>Price</b>	<b>Around 22,000 euros</b>
Guarantee	5-years for the speakers / 2-years for the subwoofer
Sales	Quadral, Hanover
Tel:	+49 (0) 511 79040
Internet	www.quadral.com

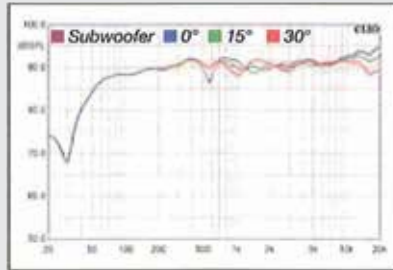
**• Configuration**

Styling	5 colours
Dimensions (W x H x D in mm):	
Front speaker	310 x 139 x 578
Centre	800 x 385 x 438
Rear speaker	270x112x448

<b>Front / centre speakers:</b>	<b>Aurum Titan VIII / Base Titan</b>
Weight (in kg)	88 / 44.5
Connection	Bi-wire / Bi-wire
Low frequency (in mm)	2 x 260 / 2 x 260
Mid-range frequency (in mm)	170/170
High-range frequency (in mm)	Aluminium ribbons / Aluminium ribbons
Design	Bass reflex / Bass reflex

**Technology: Centre & subwoofer frequency responses**

Our auditory impressions were confirmed in the test laboratory as the centre's omni-directional sound distribution is virtually perfect. In addition to this the Aurum Base Titan is astoundingly deep and is fully effective at 60 Hertz.



<b>Rear speaker:</b>	<b>Aurum Montan VIII</b>
Weight (in kg)	40
Connection	Bi-wire
Low-range / Mid-range frequency (in mm)	260
High-range frequency (in mm)	Ribbons
Design	Bass reflex
Recommend room size	80 m <sup>2</sup>

<b>• Sound</b>	<b>70 %</b>	<b>1+</b>	████████████████████
Dynamics / vitality	15%	1.1	████████████████████
Bass characteristics	15%	0.8	████████████████████
Tonal balance	10%	0.9	████████████████████
Resolution clarity	10%	0.9	████████████████████
Interaction	10%	0.9	████████████████████
Listening zone centre	10%	0.9	████████████████████
<b>• Laboratory</b>	<b>15 %</b>	<b>1+</b>	████████████████████
Frequency response	5%	1.1	████████████████████
Distortion	5%	0.9	████████████████████
Peak consistency	5%	0.8	████████████████████
<b>• Practical tests</b>	<b>15 %</b>	<b>1.0</b>	████████████████████
Workmanship	5%	1.1	████████████████████
Configuration	5%	0.9	████████████████████
User guide	5%	0.9	████████████████████

**• Price/performance ratio** **Correct**

**Quadral Aurum-Titan 5.0**

- ± Very deep bass tuning / excellent reproduction
- ± Opulent fittings

Reference class      Test verdict:      5/6-2013

**HEIMKINO**

Excellent

1+