



# Journey to the Peak

They celebrated their debut at the High End Audio Show. Now Peak's Dragon Legacy mega speakers came to Essen, Germany, for a thorough check. STEREO took the opportunity for a listening session.

*Matthias Böde*

It was one of the most impressive demonstrations at the Munich High End Audio Show in May 2023: the premiere of the almost man-sized Dragon Legacy from the Danish manufacturer Peak Consult, playing on amplifiers from Audionet, which are no less opulent in their field, plus a Bergmann turntable equipped with a tangential arm. The short presentation turned out to be a sheer listening feast for the visitors. However, we only got a spot standing on the edge of the room, which somewhat diminished the experience.

„Don't you worry,“ said Peak co-owner Wilfried Ehrenholz (top right) at the time,

„there will certainly be another opportunity somewhere else at some point.“ The founder of Dynaudio, who sold that company in 2014 and joined the little-known manufacturer Peak Consult seven years later (see STEREO 4/23), was indeed right. After an international tour, the loudspeakers, each weighing 225 kilograms, came to Fink Audio-Consulting in Essen, Germany, for an all-round technical inspection.

There, something akin to the birthplace, and refinement center for speakers of many origins and names (see box) is to be found. Development legend Karl-Heinz Fink (top left), who has been running the company

**At the High End we only had side seats, while in Essen, we had the best**



**The crossovers, here a part for the midrange, are distributed over several boards and, according to Peak, consist of the highest quality components available.**

**If you need professional advice on loudspeakers, you go to Fink Audio-Consulting**

discreetly in the background since 1984, is the origin of a whole host of creations, ranging from miniature Far Eastern compact systems to flagships of the international loudspeaker scene.

Many companys are happy to make use of his expertise and extensive capabilities. And Wilfried Ehrenholz – the two men have known and appreciated each other for decades – also seeks the cooperation with Karl-Heinz Fink „to push Peak to the highest level“.

**Goal: A Giant Compact Speaker**

Although development and manufacturing of Peak loudspeakers is based in Middelfart, Denmark, there is no such sophisticated and therefore expensive measurement technology as that which Fink has. That’s why Ehrenholz brought his Dragon Legacy in to have them checked in all possible ways.

When we heard of this, we immediately thought: we have to go there! Especially as it’s only around an hour from our office

in Euskirchen to Fink Audio-Consulting – if we don’t get stuck in traffic, that is. What’s more, the company’s listening room has an excellent reputation, meaning that the mega-speakers, which cost around 185,000 euros per pair, should be presented in the perfect light.

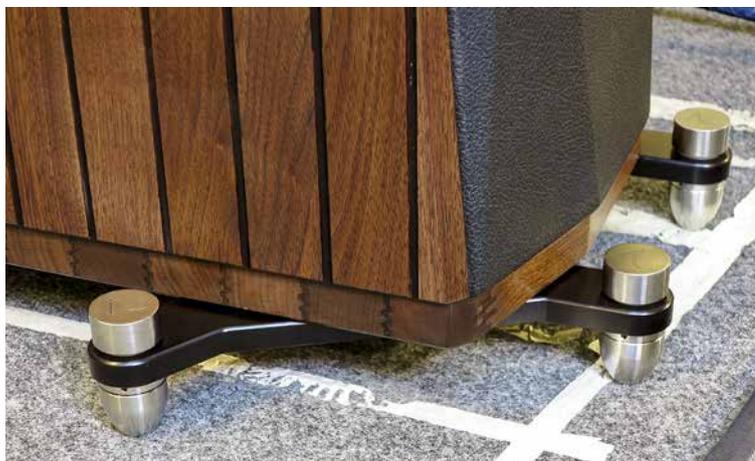
Despite their generous dimensions, the well-shaped Danish speakers do not appear too bulky. That may also be due to the grooves that run vertically through the 14 millimeter thick walnut wood and give the bulky speakers a noble touch. Underneath is the four-layer cabinet, 42 mm thick and made from highly damping materials. The baffle around the five drivers is a full 82 mm thick.

The drivers are arranged symmetrically around the central tweeter, which is fitted with a coated silk dome and intended to combine maximum resolution with perfect naturalness. Well, after all, Ehrenholz is more than spoiled in this respect from his Dynaudio days. The two midrange drivers are mounted close to the tweeter, their special features including the symmetrical magnetic drive with eddy current brakes in the shape of copper rings for unrestrained dynamics and low distortion at all levels. Finally, at the top and bottom are the 28 cm woofers with a stiff, lightweight sandwich cone made of cellulose and special foam, driven by a 75 mm voice coil.

All in all, the Dragon Legacy is intended to resemble a point source or super-high-end compact speaker that reproduces music



**Fink Audio-Consulting’s device fleet also includes an old but perfectly fit Telefunken M15 tape recorder (left), which was used to celebrate the Dragon Legacy’s visit. To improve the lateral stability of the 172 centimeter high loudspeaker, it stands on six instead of four feet (below).**





During the High End Audio Show in Munich, Peak's Dragon Legacy impressed with components from Audionet and Bergmann.

new to discover on mega systems such as this one. One of the surprises was how freely and acoustically independent the audience can be depicted babbling at some distance from the front of the stage during Red

accurately, but at the same time is capable of realistic fortissimo levels and powerful „thunderstorms“.

### Finesse and Violence Combined

What this means in reality quickly became clear when Geoff Castelucci's popular demo track „Sixteen Tons“ came from the Peaks. The lead singer came across very sonorously, but without any thickening. The backing voices appeared precisely positioned behind him. The Danish speakers delivered the bass impulses just as vehemently as they did dryly and without any aftertaste. Altogether, a well-defined, concentrated performance, controlled down to the finest nuances, differentiated and characterized by ease and naturalness.

Of course, we also listened to our own test songs, in which there is always something

Norvo's „Saturday Night“, while the vibraphone strikes boldly pop up in the foreground.

Another one of those surprises was how clearly the guitar and after it the cornet on Beat Kaestli's „Day In Day Out“ stood beside the base to the left. Reaching this level of perfection is only possible with very phase-accurate speakers and is all the more difficult for large speakers, whose expansive cabinets are essentially blocking their own path. No problem for the Dragon Legacy, however, which demonstrated its power with Paul Kuhn's „Young At Heart“ and created a real big band feeling. This is what might be called the „fascination of big speakers“.

We round off the listening session with some treats from Fink's Telefunken M15 tape recorder. Oh, by the way: the „Twin Peaks“ can also play extremely loud. But we were expecting that anyway. ■



### BALL BEARING

The six robust feet are each mounted on an extremely hard ceramic ball for defined coupling to the ground.

## FROM MEASUREMENTS TO FINISHED SPEAKERS

At Fink Audio-Consulting, the sky is not full of violins, but electric guitars. The boss is a fan and collector. Karl-Heinz Fink and his team have an international reputation as a partner for everything loudspeakers. You can order a measurement for your own speaker here, but you can also have one designed from scratch according to your own specifications such as size, price and other characteristics, including individual driver development. Klippel systems are available for this purpose, which for example

measure cone movements by laser (m.) or use a complex procedure to surround the speaker with a measuring microphone in order to record the dispersion behavior on all sides. There is even an anechoic chamber for measurements without disturbing wall echoes (l.). The company also manufactures its own products, for example for its own brands Epos and Fink Team (r.). However, the company mostly serves as an „extended workbench“ for customers who don't want to – or can't – do everything themselves.

