

**Special Print**  
**AUDIO Magazin 06/2017**

# A LOVE AFFAIR

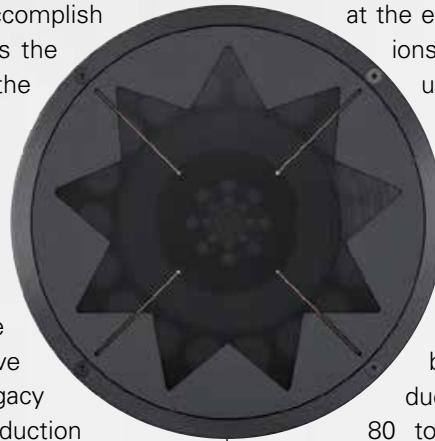


**T**o hear it, is to love it. I love this loudspeaker, because it doesn't fit in with the conventional cliché. It is bold and tremendously good. If you as an avid concertgoer are familiar with the natural aura of musical instruments, you will adore the equally natural reproduction of the Manger. How do they accomplish that? Of course, it's the know-how behind the special transducer.

However, there have been sad news lately: Josef Wilhelm Manger, the ingenious innovator, died at the age of 87. The assuasive message: His legacy will live on – the production line in Franconian Mellrichstadt resembles insofar a watch manufacturer as they are working in the micromilimeter range as well.

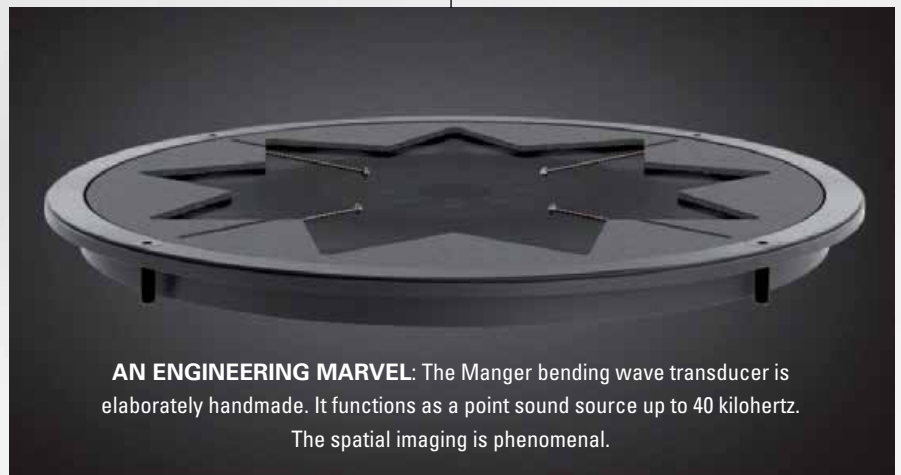
How does a Manger transducer work? This topic could fill a book and you don't have to understand all the details. In a nutshell: The transducer

consists of a foil that vibrates according to the bending wave principle. Think of it as a pebble dropping onto the calm surface of a pond. The waves will propagate concentrically from the center to the edge. High frequencies level off earlier while low frequencies are muted by star-shaped extensions



at the edge to prevent reflections. This design calls for utmost fine-mechanical craftsmanship to make sure everything works perfectly. Side effect: The Manger Transducer looks beautiful.

Officially the membrane is able to reproduce frequencies from 80 to 40,000 hertz. This equals a fullrange loudspeaker – with the advantages of a point sound source. A supporting tweeter is not required. However, as Manger wants to have more punch in the low range with their MSM S1 model, they combined the transducer with an 8" woofer. The sandwich-type membrane is made of



**AN ENGINEERING MARVEL:** The Manger bending wave transducer is elaborately handmade. It functions as a point sound source up to 40 kilohertz. The spatial imaging is phenomenal.

You can tell at first glance: This loudspeaker differs from the rest. Fortunately. Its center piece consists of a bending wave transducer which offers gorgeous panoramas. Moreover, the Manger MSM S1 is a fully active loudspeaker. We want to have it. ■ Author: Andreas Günther

fiber glass and polyester, the crossover frequency is at 340 hertz.

The loudspeaker weighs an impressive 106 pounds, although you cannot tell by its looks. The design of the S1 is very tasty and elegant and could originate directly from the Bauhaus. But what makes the loudspeaker so exceptionally heavy?

That's quite simple: The rear panel of the S1 houses amplifiers plus digital filters based on a massive Class-A/B design. Each chassis has a power amp of its own. The woofer is driven by 250 watts at 8 ohms and the sound transducer is driven by 180 watts. If you take a closer look at the amp board you will be amazed by the perfect workmanship of the aluminum panel. In addition, there are numerous controls for fine tuning: The input sensitivities can be adjusted in eleven steps. And there's a room alignment switch as well. Chips by Burr Brown are working in the background. The room, in which this loudspeaker doesn't perform perfectly, has not been invented yet. Photos on the Manger website show the S1 in exquisite environments – and suggest that it

will also integrate aesthetically into any room. Manger is offering the MSM S1 in many colors and classy veneers. A gem.

### BEYOND THE NOTES

But how does it sound? We feeded it many different diets and started with Bob Dylan's new triple CD "Triplicate." The grandmaster interprets tunes from the 20s and 30s, all of them hit songs at that time. The mix is dusty and sometimes dry. Another grandmaster, Jack Frost, produced the album. In moments like these you need atmosphere, the fine tones beyond the notes.

And that's exactly what the S1 could deliver. The spatial representation of the drums was wonderful, the fine circling movement of the wire brush that set the rhythm. Then Bob Dylan's voice, that sounded so maltreated and brittle – and then again much more pleasant in the next moment. The analysis of the room was highly graduated and absolutely plausible. There simply is no finer way to reproduce music.

Primarily, I liked the composedness or the elegant snobbery, so to speak, that



### POWER FROM THE REAR:

The S1 is fully active, each chassis has its own power amp. In addition, a filter before the amp section allows you to meticulously align the loudspeaker to the room.

### ROOM AND PLACEMENT

Room Size

S M L

Acoustics

D B R

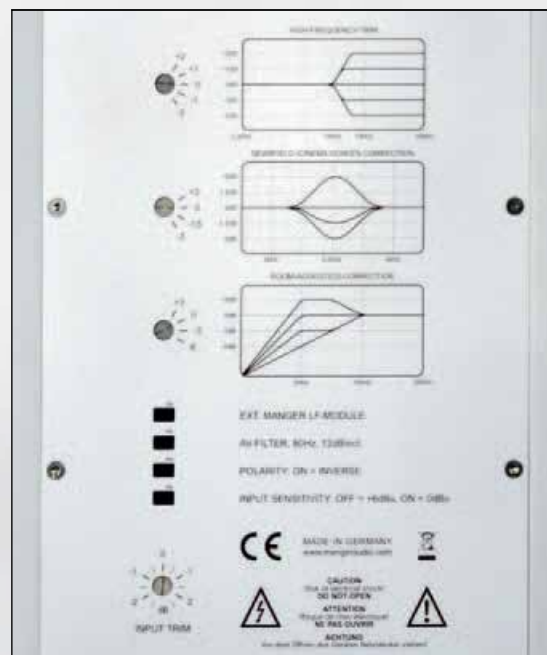
Placement

D C F

Close to the wall or free-standing, brilliance adjustment by angling the speaker to the listener, acoustics neutral, listening distance 2.5 meters and more.

Room Size	Acoustics
S = Small	D = Dry
M = Medium	B = Balanced
L = Large	R = Reverberant

Placement
D = Directly on the Wall
C = Close to the Wall
F = Free-standing



the music emanated. This loudspeaker was never annoying, but always highly poised.

And then the width of the imaging! In terms of reference music we fell in love with the new remastered edition of the Sibelius symphonies under Lorin Maazel (Decca). It was amazing to hear, how a single clarinette was able to change the atmosphere. No other instrument is harder to reproduce. And the S1 did it. It was enchanting, how the clarinette evolved into the image of a full orchestra. And then the finale of the 5th Symphony: Here the brass take charge. Rarely did I hear such convincing power and impact. With every new measure we fell even more in love with the MSM S1. It is not only our inside tip but we also agreed that we were listening to a real master of the reference class of loudspeakers.

At the end, we focused again on the core of the music and listened to a mono recording of Wilhelm Furtwängler. The Berlin Philharmonic were performing the Symphony in C major (a.k.a. the Great) by Franz Schubert. The MSM S1 gave it enormous power. The differentiation of the frequencies and the distinction between the violins and cellos was plainly wonderful. Plus the interspersed woodwinds. Definitely the best reproduction of this legendary recording I've ever heard. And this triggered an impulse, which is rather uncommon for a reviewer: GET IT – this loudspeaker became my personal fetish, for which I'll readily spend my savings.



**The room, in which this loudspeaker doesn't perform perfectly and look stylish, has not been invented yet.**



## CHARACTERISTICS

MANGER MSM S1	
Distribution	Manger Audio Phone +49 9776 9816
www.	mangeraudio.com
Warranty	3 years
Dimensions W x H x D	10.6" x 44.8" x 8.4"
Weight	105.7 lbs
Veneer/Foil/Lacquer	• / - / •
Colors	RAL, Macassar, Rosewood
Design	2-way, fully active
Room Alignment	•
Features	Bending Wave Transducer

## AUDIOGRAM

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➕ perfect panorama, very high resolution, everything works fine and elegantly

Neutrality (2x)	104	██████████
Details (2x)	105	██████████
Localization	105	██████████
Spatiality	107	██████████
Micro-dynamics	106	██████████
Maximum Level	97	██████████
Bass Quality	99	██████████
Bass Depth	98	██████████
Finishing	outstanding	

**AUDIO SOUND 103 POINTS**  
**PRICE/PERFORMANCE OUTSTANDING**

## CONCLUSION



**Andreas Günther**  
AUDIO Staff

**This loudspeaker fascinated us like almost no other before. Its special total design offers all advantages of a point sound source. As the Manger MSM S1 is fully active and provides many adjustment options in addition, you don't have to consider electronics at all. Again: The room, in which the S1 doesn't perform perfectly and look stylish, has not been invented yet.**

## MEASUREMENT LAB

On-axis frequency response looks a little rippled and high frequency radiation towards the sides is decreased, which calls for precise alignment of the Manger transducer. Thanks to multi-stage filters for bass, upper mids and highs the sound can be flexibly adapted to the room and personal taste. The dynamically determined maximum level (frequency-dependent THD) is 93 dB.

