



The Rack With An Edge

Is Creaktiv's device rack Reference plus physics or metaphysics?

Unconventional approach to help with highest performance.

We were looking for the cutting edge.

A hi-fi rack has no real secrets: bars hold shelves, whose properties define their resonance characteristics, forming oscillating circuits with the devices and defining the sound performance of the rack in combination with other elements, such as materials, damping or the kind of feet – and thus the performance of the installed components.

Granted, it becomes clear that a rack is a highly complex structure, but still somehow comprehensible and tangible. And in this way the Bad Honnef brand Creaktiv has designed its many models. Since quite some time the Rhinelanders

are concerned with the “new physics” and reference to the eddy theory basics and potential eddy theory of Prof. Dr. Konstantin Meyl, a scientist, whose theses are disputed and mythical – including conspiracy theories and all that goes with a dazzling personality.

Creaktiv has shown his approach and the assumed consequences for music lovers in a brochure. In general it is about avoiding eddy currents in materials in our electromagnetically contaminated world, allegedly creating interference fields and thus affecting the natural

harmony. And by this – allegedly even in a kind of interaction with the listener – the playback of hi-fi devices. Creaktiv counteracts this by adding “structural information” to the materials and the attachment of small passive chips, which positively interact with these fields just like safety tags with the scanners in shopping centers. With these chips and the “Twister-Stop” lenses for glass amazing results can be achieved; for this reason some manufacturers include them in their devices and speakers. Generally this is done tacitly. Who would expose himself to mockery and ridicule of the wisenheimers?

ci²p – Activate and Inform

But Bad Honnef drums up support for the “ci²p”. This abbreviation stands for “Creaktiv Integrated Information Process”. What really happens is the secret of technology partner Gabriel-Tech. Even Creaktiv's managing director Arno Selker and development chief Norbert Maurer don't know all the secrets. That's what they say. At the end there are products such as the mentioned rack Reference plus, which are said to be double effective: mechanically and electromagnetically; because all materials which could cause eddy currents are permanently “activated” and “informed” by the “ci²p” technology, meaning affecting their electric and electromagnetic environ in a certain way.

Before getting lost in the vague and abstract, the detached and even for specialists difficult theory should not cloud the objective view. The high-quality rack has much more to offer. At first the massive bolts are noticeable, which protrude from

COMMENT



Honestly: I experienced enough with hi-fi to laugh about the headstrong approach and the daring theses of creaktiv. To think the world of hi-fi mysterious it is not

necessary to get into such detached spheres. Many changes in sound after simply exchanging the power strip or treating a CD with a suitable spray gives me pause for thought. Everywhere we are surrounded by phenomena, which we do not immediately understand. So what?

mb



The sound changes according to the filling. It was even audible if the sand/steel ball mix stayed in the plastic bag (left) or was poured out (center). On the right with "terostat".

a glass plate with printed logo. They sit in openings, which can be locked with cut aluminum-framed stoppers and carry the devices, which in this way, lofted off their feet, quasi float and have no contact with the glass plate or the outer frame, which is uncoupled by a layer of silicon.



The devices are placed on height-adjustable bolts and stand directly in the trough.

ment bass and unrestraint flow; this is why the sand/ball mix is now only used underneath the aluminum plate. Such observation is not astonishing, as we have seen similar significant differences with regard to the shelf filling material with other racks, for instance by Copulare.

In practice it is important that the contact counter area of the bolts – metal on metal allows best uncoupling – is level, meaning that no screw heads are in the way at the bottom of the components. There are seven holes in all, so that for problem cases the bolt position can be varied. In practice we had hardly any problems to correctly place devices of different brands; they had to be moved a bit to the front or the back, which was responsible for non-uniform appearance.

The actual basis is formed by an aluminum trough, which is filled. By now this is done by strings of "terostat", a sealant used in car body construction, coming like a sausage out of its casing, and is "activated" – naturally – by a secret formula. The plasticine-like, highly damping material is pressed in spirals into the trough. It is not in the way, since the height-adjustable tips of the cylindrical bolts simply cut through.

During a meeting in the editorial department the manufacturer demonstrated the production in a kind of simplified workshop. At first Creaktiv banked on a compound from quarry sand and steel balls contained in plastic bags. It was clearly audible that terostat caused more homogeneous colors, more promi-

Bagged Stuff Sounded Less Good

For a quick comparison three levels had different fillings: once with terostat, twice with the mentioned mixture, of which one stayed in the supplied plastic bag. If the contents with the plastic bag were placed in the trough, instead of being poured out and evenly distributed, then the amplifiers and CD players sounded more flat, compact and livid. Interestingly, the terostat version in the end was clearly best.

Equipped in this way the Reference plus presented itself as a real super rack. Our components approached top form, sounded massive, competent and powerful. A luxurious, clearly subdivided stage was created. Compared to Finite Element's similarly demanding Pagode Master

Reference playback with Creaktiv sounded always fuller, more massive and at the same time stringent. From the Finite rack the devices sounded slim, finessed, but dynamically rather conservative.

We don't know, which part "ci²p" played in this convincing result. But certainly more than just some mumbo jumbo is behind it.

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Matthias Böde