

Wolf Langa Son

Son of a gun

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12-inch woofer with electromagnet
AMT in an open bay
Passive radiator

A speaker different from the others, who travels us back in time and in the glorious period of high fidelity. With a large paper woofer with electromagnets, high sensitivity, easy resistance, Son is the ideal introduction to the range of the German company.

In recent years, revivals of past audio technologies are fashionable, not from boredom, irrelevance, or even from peculiarity, as some people want to believe, but much more because the world of high-fidelity has suspected that developments in technology are not necessarily improvements. Thus, it is perfectly normal for audiophiles to want to experiment with the old and compare it with the new. Yes in digital audio, for example, but let us see what a turntable or a tape recorder can do. Yes to Sabre and the AKM, but let us check out a modern non-oversampling. Yes, to the small woofers, the bass reflex and cheap watt switches, but let us see what a big paper cone does in an open baffle that raises the roof with a few dozen watts. Yes to the modern metal tweeters, but let's see what a corn can do today or a sophisticated cone tweeter. And it goes without saying that, no matter what else, today's techno can produce much better „Ancient“ designs, so it's the ideal time to compare and decide what you want. Here we have vacuum tubes in complete (Nutube) as the new trend of the season! The general idea is that we are moving away as a civilization from physical specifications of human nature, such as diet, lifestyle, and so many want to return to timeless values and the simplicity of past mentalities. This is in essence also true to old audio technologies,

the need to return to a more original era that served better the basic need for music, compared to the most ephemeral - I rent therefore I exist-, in the present day the distribution of music and the plastic, with expiration date, hi-fi. In this context, no one is entitled to face a priori as a graphical case the likes of German designer Wolf von Langa who designs and constructs loudspeakers with electromagnets and produces speakers with them, the introductory model of which we present here.

SON, THE BENIAMIN OF THE RANGE

The SON is rather short for a floor-standing speaker, with simple lines and quite tasteful in a classic concept, it undoubtedly has excellent construction quality. The „plume“ with the AMT tweeter on the transparent flash, is what gives it points visually and makes it easily identifiable and distinct, next to the competition. The speaker receives two of the main loudspeakers that are manufactured by the German company, while the rectangular low-reflecting cabin of HDF of 20 mm thick, is charged by using a passive radiator on the back. This is the field coil 12 inch woofer with him A1200S code and the AMT tweeter (Mundorf source) in a two-way design of high sensitivity. This introduction to range of Wolf von Langa is more conventional, while the older models of the German are open baskets and bass with 15inch, three of them have special loudspeakers for middle and treble, from hoppers to wide range Lowther. SON's woofer, although the smallest of Wolf von Langa, is the most costly and has about 200W peak. It has a paper cone and triple, hard cloth suspension, varnished (its polished and pulls the dust as a magnet), the diaphragm and the chassis are packed to the standards of the legendary Altec 414. This loudspeaker has a hard dust cup with mesh in its center, for ventilation of the motor and rear suspension and decoupling in the upper operating range. It features an impressive, mounted metal chassis

with four-massive nerves to hold the magnet screwed on the „front panel“. The square aluminum side of 40x40 cm 5 mm thick is not a cabin liner of the speaker but the woofer chassis itself! instead of the classic circular shoulder. The total weight of this unique mega-mind exceeds 15 pounds! Important detail here is the circular acrylic slice that holds the rear suspension and, in two extensions like ears, the two signal terminals. Also, we remained speechless with their huge voice coil 3 inches, which is a legacy of Altec, the wrapped in a paper base (heat does not create a problem here, since it drastically from the huge chassis that receives the aluminum plate of the facade, which is warmed up after a few hours of reproduction). The electromagnet driving the 50 grams of moving mass makes the big difference with Altec and similar woofers from the professional space with permanent ceramic magnets and its opponent is permanent magnets, such as alnico and neodymium, which we do not find on speakers at least as expensive as the SON. It has a huge size, with over 16cm about 11cm in height and bearing the special terminal to power the power supply. The latter is of paramount importance with the German manufacturer to claim that the power - not voltage - justifies it. The speaker is accompanied by a small exterior power supply 25V / 2.4A but it was brought to us along with a large one, made by Wolf von Langa to see the differences and if it is worth the extra € 3,500. The 12inch passive radiant-the backpacker shows ... unbearably modern next to this woofer, with the conventional, all rubber suspension and its plastics and diaphragm, but they are excellent for the role it plays. The interior loudspeaker includes sinks of abrasive material in critical points and a strange, asymmetrical placed ribbon of wood like a donut joins facade and back and is wrapped with damping, very close to the cut out of the woofer. The filter is implemented on a board at the bottom and includes a large air coil for the woofer with a Mundorf capacitor. In total we measured three coils, four capacitors

and three resistors, with implementation on the side of the tweeter to be the fourth order for protection of the loudspeaker and the crossover, which is happening just before 2KHz, be more free – probably of the 2nd order - from the woofer side, so that it „catch“ up to about 4.5KHz and to give the impression of the loudspeaker complete spectrum. The tweeter is placed externally in acrylic sloping baffle and pulls with strong magnets with the main cabin, being stable but also relatively decoupled from the shocks produced by the bass button. It can be placed on fairly wide where the magnetic attraction is strong and the company suggests a distance of 12.7-13 cm from the of the façade, where a time-alignment with the acoustic center of the woofer. From here you can fine-tune the character of the speaker, with 13 cm more full and smooth and 12.7 cm a little more detailed. The asymmetric placement of AMT in the small bacon reduces the cancellation of the design and enables two ways of locating positioning - by means of distances from the center is quite large (> 2m.) or if the speakers are spaced apart minimum (1.5-2 meters). The power supplies, finally, two very long, detach to wires with the special terminals that are fit on the back of the speaker. According with the manufacturer, the length does not affect the performance of the electromagnet.

LISTENING

The SON arrived at the magazine with just 30 hours of operation, however it showed its potential far above the middle expectations of the range of such a woofer. The tie between the loudspeakers was judged to be successful in sound-color and timing - so that the speaker speaks almost like a single unit in timbre and focus. Our experience in electromagnets is limited to 15 inches of Grande Utopia EM, where there is the sensational feeling the terrible dynamic area and the physical force and in this we were also astonished with the SON. It may have been on a smaller scale at the lows, but it covered all the

spectrum up to the highest medium frequencies, while the tweeter simply continued the good work of the woofer without it drawing attention to itself (up to a certain level). The result is an ... extraterrestrial level of analysis of timbre and micro dynamic contrasts, where the sense of control and transparency easily matches the best experiences we have gained from large woofers / mids with alnico magnets (Tannoy, Ocellia etc.) and/or surpasses them, especially with its use of the better power supply, which increases drastically analysis and dynamics. We rarely hear such piano, with the body of the instrument reproduced much more clearly, embracing with volume and warmth the crystal notes of the right hand and the harmonics the lasting forever! On the low end, the SON will surprise you with the body mentioned but it also produces the mania with which it yields power, where you have the feeling of pure pistonic movement and the very low distortion. In simple words, the mighty Electro magnet makes the 50 grams of its 12in swoon with joy at the demands of the music but does not dry out the signal letting it run out its full duration. The speaker will go down very low with the help of space, grasping competently a part of the first octave, and will rise to high levels without distortion of tonality, thanks to the charging of the passive radiator. However it ceases to be a party animal like the Minoas II of Rois. We say that, both because it cannot fully render the former octave and because its tweeter has small margins of intake and a tendency to „protest“ at a certain levels. On the other hand, it is absolute on low levels, with unprecedented and clear sound even at the limits of silence. It describes like an electrostatic, but with better and with far greater possibilities of sound coverage. The tonal curve does not provide unpleasant surprises, but it is not a monitor, with slightly laid back mids and highs and a small emphasis on the ends of the spectrum that create a more exciting and dynamic character - typical pattern of the German manufacturers. Our first contact with the very unique

Wolf von Langa's speakers convinced us that the electro magnets are a technology that is worthwhile reviving on the high-end scene. It's one excellent alternative to exotic bulkheads of the panels and the only, perhaps, way to surpass a loudspeaker with alnico, which many consider to be the end of the road. It is of course difficult to make such speakers as well as their power supplies and few have the technique and infrastructure today so we raise the hat on Wolf von Langa who dares today to change the rules of the game with the SON.

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Wolf von Langa loves vintage loudspeakers and with Son offers us the modern „turbo“ version the Altec 414 in a surprise speaker, with a sound inversely proportional to its compact size. Thanks to the electromagnet that drives it ...

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Details from another planet
Construction of the woofer

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First octave
High levels (tweeter)

Quality rating
4.9 points out of 5.0