



Meridian Argent 3

New Meridians

Some months after their original release date Meridian Audio have provided details of three new loudspeakers in a range called Argent. All passive designs, they use new drive units, including a Boothroyd Stuart developed aluminium dome tweeter. The Argent 1 has a cabinet derived from the irregularly shaped midrange/treble module of the Meridian D6000 'flagship' digital active design, which was described (and shown) in "Meet the Manufacturer" last July (page 431). A two-way sealed enclosure design, it combines the tweeter with a 165mm Kevlar coned bass/midrange driver. The useful frequency range is 50-20,000Hz with a sensitivity of 88dB/Watt/metre and amplifiers up to 150 Watts are suitable. Large magnet systems, high purity copper cabling, a silver wire voice-coil on the ferrofluid damped tweeter and bi-wire-capable terminations are features, and the cabinet shape is said to provide optimal dispersion as well as to contribute minimal coloration. The overall dimensions of the Argent 1 are 260 x 335 x 260mm, the finish is piano black lacquer on Finnish birch plywood and the price is £1,200.

The Argent 2 is also a two-way designed primarily for stand mounting, although a shelf location is permissible. It combines the new dome tweeter with a 178mm Kevlar matrix cone bass/midrange driver which has an oversize 32mm edge-wound voice-coil. Bi-wired with gold-plated socket/binding posts it has a frequency range of 45-20,000Hz (-6dB LF point), an efficiency of 89dB/Watt/metre and a nominal

impedance of 6 Ohms. The MDF cabinet is heavily braced, and has dimensions of 300 x 210 x 490mm, and the price is £1,050. Specially designed stands for this model are available at £395.

The Argent 3 is a floor-standing, four-unit design combining the new tweeter with a 170mm polymer coned midrange unit and two 170mm long-throw polymer coned bass drivers operating in parallel and reflex loaded. With a nominal impedance of 6 Ohms and a frequency range of 50-20,000Hz (-6dB LF point—a substantial output down to 35Hz is claimed) it has a 90dB/Watt/metre sensitivity and a very high 200 Watts peak power handling capability. The 18-litre cabinet has a small 'footprint' and is 1000mm in height. The price is £1,800. Meridian Audio Ltd., 13 Clifton Road, Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 7EJ. Tel: 0480 434334.

In brief

- As from the beginning of last month, Zenonlec Ltd. has changed its name to Heco (UK) Ltd. This follows two years of successful distribution of Heco products in the UK as a result of which the brand has grown to a level whereby it "justifies its own identity".

- Radford Hi-Fi have opened a new branch in Torquay, stocking equipment from various major manufacturers as well as a range of blank tape and accessories. The shop has three demonstration rooms with facilities for audio-video, satellite and surround-sound set-ups. The workshop is expected to accept all types of service and repair. Radford Hi-Fi, 6 Fore Street, St Marychurch, Torquay, Devon TQ1 4NE. Tel: 0803 326723.