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PAPER PIONEER

A widebender in a compact speaker format. Could it possibly go well? The leading manufacturer Voxativ accomplished this with the "Hagen". It creates an extraordinary rich sound image, for which however Voxativ charges a high price. ■ By Andreas Günther

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It is quite unusual to name the smallest loudspeaker in the catalog "Hagen". One thinks of a big grown evil hero from the Nibelungen saga. And this is an image you should keep in mind. Hagen von Tronje is the eponym for the compact box weighing only six kilos, rather contradicting. Another surprise comes when one reads the pricelist. There are two models, one smaller with ferrite magnet, one larger with neodymium magnet, with a price tag of 4900 or even 6900 €. This is a lot of money for a compact monitor speaker. However, Voxativ also offers a lot. What we see is a full range driver with a bass horn.

The Berlin based manufactory produces the 5-inch chassis, the Japanese calligraphy paper is formed by hand, while a phase plug of hand-lathed wood is perched on the inside. The entire design comes without a crossover. So no sound-altering components interfere with the signal flow.

The name lured us into listening music of a special kind. As the first piece of music, we confronted the new Voxativ with Hagen's Wachtgesang from Wagner's "Götterdämmerung". Gottlob Frick sings and the Vienna Philharmonic plays under Sir Georg Solti.

This is the legendary Decca recording from the 60s. What came to mind: The Hagen had a magic touch for the spatial details, it very precisely modeled the recording room. At first, the pressure was missing, especially in the bass region. We experimented and realized that this loudspeaker should not be heard at a greater distance - it must play as close as possible to the ears. Its character is clearly that of a near-field monitor. Which could also belong in a well-kept recording studio. So we moved the Hagen significantly further to our listening position - and suddenly there it was, the presence of bass and lower mids.



EVERYTHING IS HANDCRAFT: Not only the cone is formed from Japanese calligraphy paper also the phaseplug is turned from solid wood.

SIMPLE & EFFECTIVE: Voxativ offers the Hagen with a simple but very high-quality single-wiring terminal.





ROOM AND PLACEMENT

ROOM SIZE

small and middle rooms (up to 25 m²)

ACOUSTICS

from slightly to fully damped rooms

POSITIONING

directly on the wall up to 90 cm (3 ft.) away

Place as close as possible, Control brilliance by angling, Acoustics neutral, Listening distance from 1 m.

SOPHISTICATED MIND:

The membrane of the Hagen is elaborately formed from Japanese calligraphy paper. The exit on the bottom is not just a bassreflex-opening it is from a complex bass horn construction inside.

Voxativ knows about the bass phenomenon. The Berliners have delivered their dipole bass extension together with the Hagen. The combination really merged it into an impressive overall picture. But again: The Hagen can also play well without a subwoofer, it even should if it is used as a pure near-field monitor. Then the speaker performed an astounding tonal image. Above all, we liked the high speed. This time in a song by Paul McCartney - "My Valentine". It is a fine love ballad, very light, but complex in the mix. The Hagen knew perfectly how to deal with it.

As it presented the vocal it was perfect together with the guitar solo and the fine shimmer of the drums in the background. Really rich in sound, which the Hagen also knew to transport dynamically. And yet it was not completely free from discoloration - which is also the results from our laboratory measurements. The Hagen played very mid- and high-accented. If one likes this, a long friendship can evolve. The lightness as informations uncouples from the membranes, this suddenness and high dynamic is definitely worth trying.

STECKBRIEF

AUDIO 01/17
RECOMMENDATION
MICRODYNAMIC

	VOXATIV HAGEN
Distribution	Voxativ GmbH Tel. +49 30 21005662
www.	voxativ.com
List price	4900 €
Guarantee	5 years
Dimensions (WxHxD)	20,5 x 36 x 25 cm
Weight	6 kg
Veneer/film/varnish	• / - / •
Colors	black, white
Operation methods	Full range
Room adaptations	
Special feature	Basshorn

AUDIOGRAMM **AUDIO** 01/2017

+ quick, explosive, very fine and wide soundstage
- not completely free from discoloration

Neutrality (2x)	90	
Detail (2x)	92	
Locatability	94	
Spatial impression	95	
Detailed dynamic	95	
Maximum level	87	
Bass quality	90	
Lower bass	85	
Workmanship	outstanding	

AUDIO SOUND QUAL. **91 POINTS**
PRICE/PERFORMANCE **VERY GOOD**

CONCLUSION



Andreas Günther
AUDIO-Editor

A special loudspeaker. The construction should address owners of sound studios. Also consumers should consider to make a purchase, if the Hagen can be placed close to the listening position. The sound image is not ultra-neutral but dynamic, highly dynamic. The price is high but corresponds to the comprehensive handcrafting.

MEASURING LAB

In front of the driver the Voxativ emphasizes the highs (green graph left and right). The frequency response shown in the red graph of the left diagram is produced above or below the loudspeaker, it has an accentuation in the mid-range sound. The high efficiency (89 dB with 2V) is characteristically for the Hagen, combined with its nominal impedance of 12 ohm, there is no stress load for any amplifier (**AK 41**).

