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• Dec '11/Jan '12 •



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Issue 257 ■ R28 Incl VAT

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LOUDSPEAKERS

Aurum Cantus New V2M

Standing space

There were a few things I noticed when I unpacked the Aurum Cantus V2M loudspeakers on review here.

The first was that they were pretty heavy, and secondly (and far more important), was that they must be amongst the best finished speakers I've looked at ever.

Someone at Aurum Cantus knows how to paint and build speakers, and most of the speaker building world should go to this person for lessons. Every part of the speaker looked and felt like it was a quality piece.

The quality of the speakers extended to the drivers used – but more on this in a while – and to the components used internally. If you were to open up the V2Ms you would find M-Cap Supreme MKP capacitors used on the tweeter section of the crossover, and Aurum Cantus MKP capacitors for the crossover of mid woofer.

Aurum Cantus use crossover coils that are wound out of high purity OFC inductors and even the resistors in the speakers are military standard. To top this off, internal wiring is Teflon insulated.

Aurum Cantus manufactures its own driver, and the bass driver is a high tech model whose cone is manufactured from non-woven carbon fibre and Kevlar. Its voice coil uses flat wire, and the magnet system has a Faraday ring and demodulation coil. This geek speak, when translated, essentially means that the bass driver is an easier and less reactive load for an amplifier to drive.

On doing a little research for this review, I found out that Aurum Cantus is apparently the largest ribbon speaker producer in the world, but in a twist, the V2Ms don't use a ribbon tweeter. Instead this latest version uses what is called an Aero Striction Tweeter (AST) pneumatic tweeter that was developed for the company's top of the line speakers.

These tweeters use a folded, flexible diaphragm that has been described as working a little like an accordion.

The V2Ms were supplied for review with their solid and attractive stands, and like all good stand mount speakers they do benefit



from being placed on a decent support. As Z and P – the speakers' importers – are also audio furniture manufacturers, they can offer more affordable stand options for the V2Ms.

Once set up and run in, I got down to having a good listen to the speakers, and my overall impression was that the V2Ms sound a whole lot larger than they look, and I mean this in the most positive of ways.

Despite not being rated to play that low, the V2Ms are capable of playing low frequencies that can be felt as much as heard. This was verified when the auto set up for an AV receiver in for review listened to the speakers and decided that they were Large models.

Despite what the receiver thought, I would say that for theatre use, I would add a good sub, as this would give a little better low frequency extension, allow the speakers to handle a little more power, and make life just a bit easier for the amplifier.

For most music though, no sub is needed and the V2Ms did manage to play low enough for me to be able to listen to and get the feel of some organ music that I enjoy and that can tax the low frequency response of speakers. Yes, a little more extension would have added a bit more texture and scale to the music, but I prefer quality bass to quantity any time of the week.

Aurum Cantus has managed to get the line between making small speakers sound bigger – by accentuating bass response just a little at the expense of some ultimate extension, to make them sound cleaner and with greater pace.

If bass response is good, the speakers' ability to deliver a smooth and vocal friendly midrange is even better.

While I have heard loudspeakers that are perhaps just a little faster in the midrange and deliver a smidgen more detail, Aurum Cantus has once again found a balance that has enough midrange resolution for listeners to hear subtleties in vocals and instrumentation, yet not sound so clinical so that music feels like it's been dissected and every part is being looked at under a microscope.

Vital Stats

Audiophiles may prefer a little more precision here, but the rest of us who enjoy listening to music, will find that we can hear all the nuances we want to, yet still be able to just sit back and enjoy what we're listening to.

This now brings me to the high frequency response of the V2Ms and I have to say that I'm rather impressed with what the Aero Striction Tweeter does. The tweeters are up to the task of delivering high frequency harmonics that help you tell the difference between who's sitting where and playing what in an orchestra, yet they maintain a silky quality that lesser tweeters struggle to get right.

Ultimately I would describe the Aurum Cantus V2Ms as speakers that actually have the capability to deliver music. That they deliver a

Enclosure type.....Two-way vented
Drive units.....Aero Striction tweeter;
 130 mm woofer
Bi-wiring.....No
Impedance.....8 ohm
Sensitivity.....87 dB
Frequency response 50 Hz – 40 kHz
Power handling.....200 watts
Dimensions (HxWxD)
370×205×309 mm
Weight.....11.5 kg

VERDICT

The Aurum Cantus New V2M speakers

are superbly built and finished, and deliver a sound that is far bigger and bolder than their dimensions suggest. Good stands are a must.

PRICE

New V2M.....R16 356
 Matching Stands.....R4 300

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relatively wide sweet spot – particularly when compared to some of their own stable mates – and offer a convincing sound stage and seem easy to drive (that Faraday ring helps here)

all add to their value. Just remember to add decent stands if you want to get the most out of them.

Joel Kopping

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