

RESTORING THE ORIGINAL

isophen

For the Love of Music

Founded in Berlin in 1928, the house of Isophon can look back on one of the longest and most innovative histories in quality loudspeaker manufacturing. Both in loudspeaker components and in loudspeaker systems, the Isophon brand has long become synonymous with supreme loudspeaker technology.

During the past decade the actual brand name was keeping a somewhat lower profile with the public. This was primarily due to the company's concentration on producing high quality speaker components for world-famous German car manufacturers. Over the same period, Isophon were also supplying many internationally renowned manufacturers of loudspeaker systems with chassis for dozens of award-winning speaker models.

At the beginning of the 90's, the Isophon

engineers felt that it was time to prove to the world of music lovers – and, of course, also to themselves – that they still knew how to build a series of world-class loudspeaker systems. With a genuine love of music they set out on their highly ambitious task: the restoration of the original performance.

Almost two years of hard and uncompromising but by the same token passionate and determined research went into the development of this outstanding speaker series. It is with great pride then, that we introduce AVALON, ODEON and INDIGO. These speakers are intended especially for those music lovers, who – when judging the performance of a loudspeaker system – will allow but one standard of reference: the Original.

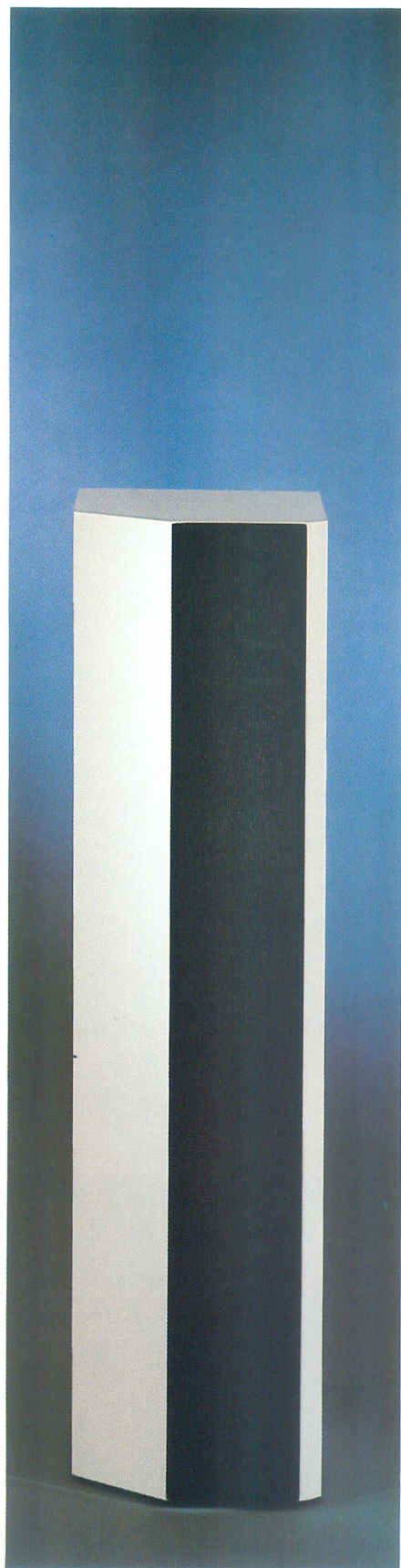
Your Isophon-team



“ Restoring the original performance is a continuous strive for perfection. The constant quest for the magic of that singular musical moment. And step by step you’re approaching the object of your burning desire. But, the closer you come to your goal, the greater the certainty, that you can never bring it back again completely. And after all, there’s no way you’ll ever do better than the Original; for ‘improving’ on the Original would be self-deception and, simultaneously, falsification and failure. ”

isophen

AVALON



Standing a mere 95 cm (37"), AVALON represents the smallest speaker system of the Isophon family. However, it takes just one brief audition to ascertain that the attribute 'small' can be applied to her physical dimensions only. As even independent test reports have shown, AVALON's sonic qualities are clearly anything else but 'small' (for test quotations, please refer to the back of this brochure).

For the reproduction of the low frequencies AVALON uses two powerful parallel 20 cm (8") woofers. The bass drivers – invisibly located inside the cabinet – work according to the band-pass principle. While posing absolutely no problems in speaker placement, this sophisticated woofer arrangement also enables AVALON to deliver a bass response so far only heard and felt with speaker systems at least twice her modest size.

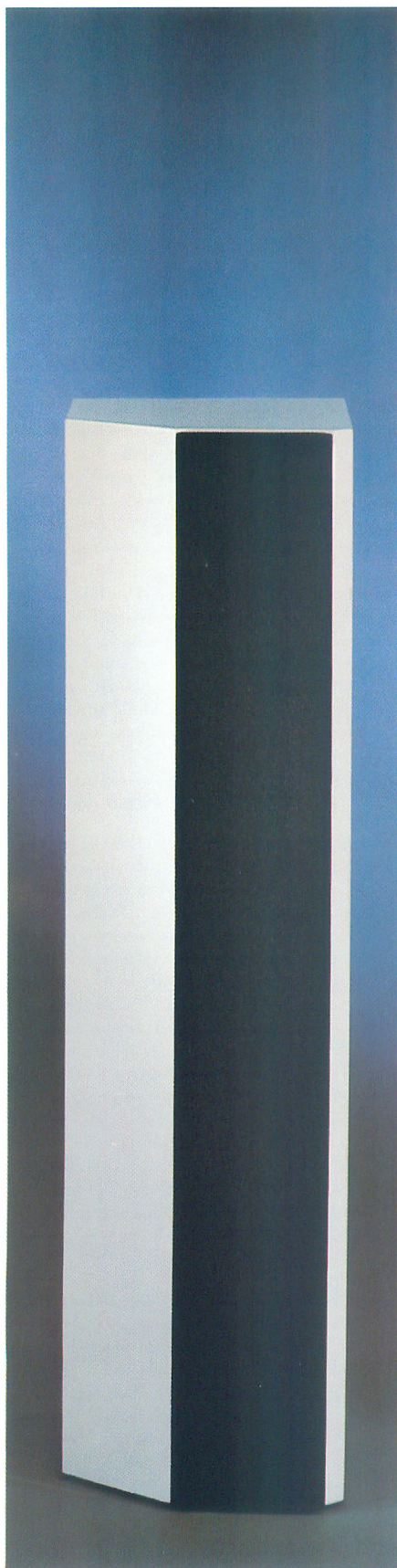
The mid/high frequencies are reproduced via two parallel 10 cm (4") mid-range cone chassis flanking a specially designed 2.5 cm (1") high performance dome tweeter. This symmetrical arrangement of the mid and high drivers has also become known as the 'd'Appolito' principle. The frequency crossover of the AVALON 3-way-system is designed with phase-corrected fourth order filters, exclusively.

The clear-cut cabinet design of AVALON features a fine-lined, angled front baffle that not only makes her look even smaller but also creates an even smaller acoustic source. This causes less diffraction while at the same time rendering superior definition and more precise stereo imaging. All three mid and high range drivers as well as the two woofer vents disappear completely behind the slim baffle cover.

AVALON sees her main task in bringing an authentic and lively reproduction of the original musical event to your home. Neither the most complex orchestral passages nor the most extreme impulses can ever affect the brilliant performing skills and the natural ease with which she plays all of 'her' parts. In fact, you will be more than surprised how effortlessly AVALON outperforms many a larger sized speaker system.

The first time you hear and feel our 'little' AVALON play, it might well take a second look to detect the source of this impressive musical spectacle. Thus, if you can do without two massive pieces of 'stereo furniture' but not without the great original sound of your favourite music, your best bet will be AVALON!

ODEON



Only 10 cm (4") taller than AVALON, ODEON faithfully follows our concept of the optical understatement. After all, we strongly believe that in audiophile home speaker engineering dynamic sonic performance should come before static physical volume. Yet, looking at most conventional loudspeakers, we can well apprehend that many an audio expert's eyes might not believe his or her ears at the first auditioning of our modestly sized ODEON.

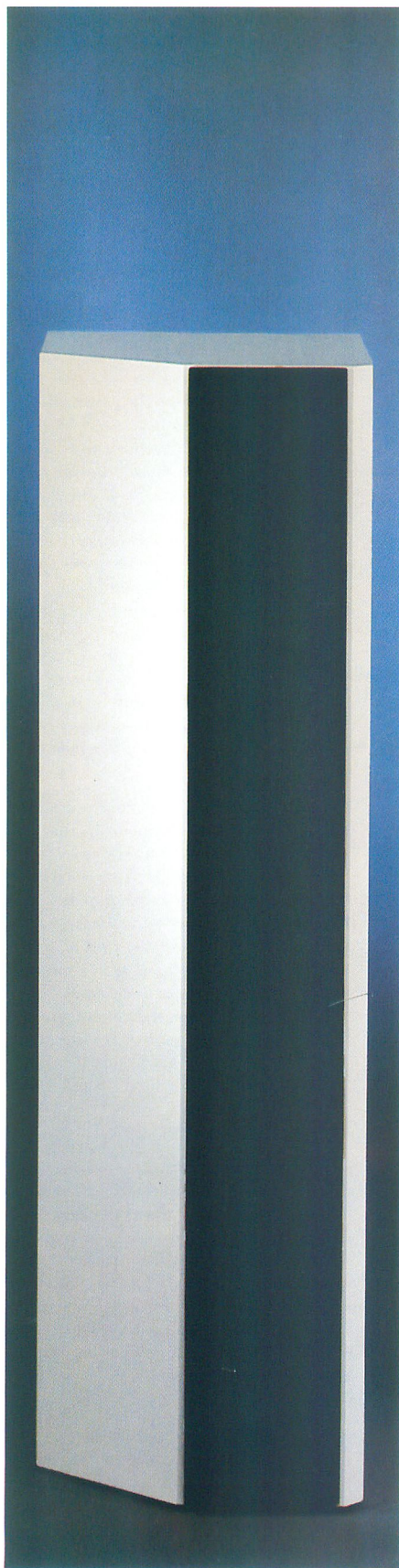
Once again, there is much more to this speaker system than meets the eye. Underneath her slim baffle cover and inside the compact confines of her cabinet ODEON offers the same advanced technology as her sister AVALON. ODEON also produces her lows and super lows via a double bandpass construction: Two parallel 22.5 cm (9") bass drivers are delivering the bottom end from a closed inner chamber through two vented chambers opening into the front baffle. The bandpass bass construction efficiently eliminates any form of unwanted boom or colouring and it is ideally complemented by a symmetrical mid/highrange system. The 4th order 'Butterworth' crossover guarantees a smooth and seamless sound reproduction over the whole frequency spectrum.

The Isophon speaker concept not only ensures uncritical placement in real home environments, it also gives you extended freedom in listening position. Whether standing up, sitting or lying down, with ODEON you will always enjoy the privileges of the 'best seat in the theatre'. From classical to contemporary, ODEON – like her sisters – feels perfectly at ease with every musical style. Whether you like it loud or low, as long as you don't grow tired of your music, you'll never grow tired of listening to ODEON.

For ODEON, true sonic qualities such as naturalness, neutrality, transparency, depth and dynamics have absolute priority over superficialities like gulling gimmicks or pretentious proportions. In comparison with her smaller sister AVALON, ODEON is capable of playing with the same musical excellence but at higher sound pressure levels over the whole spectrum, which will be especially welcome in larger living-rooms.

In a nutshell: ODEON is another 'living' proof that life-size music for your home does not necessarily have to come from an out-size speaker system. A speaker made for many years of pure listening pleasure – Isophon ODEON!

INDIGO



Isophon's INDIGO simply stands for the ultimate in musical reproduction – for the power and the passion for the original performance! Once more: Never judge a speaker's sonics by its cabinet dimensions, for what your eyes can see is far from what your ears and your body are going to experience.

In recent years, raving reports for speakers have become extremely rare. However, when tested and compared with a number of other high-end speakers of international fame, INDIGO proved to be an exception. Being neither the physically largest nor the most expensive of her category, INDIGO outperformed each and every one of her competitors; and – as the acclaimed German *Stereoplay* stated – by an extraordinary wide margin! Admittedly, all this sonic splendour was not achieved in one day. In the constant search of the original sound reproduction there were many moments, when our engineers were faced with problems almost impossible to solve within the concept of a relatively compact design. Thanks to their patience, passion and professionalism these obstacles were eventually overcome. The waiting was well worthwhile, we believe, when even independent experts are attesting INDIGO to be a standard-setting speaker, true to both science and music.

Attentive to the aesthetic eye of her beholder, INDIGO skillfully succeeds in keeping the source of her exceptional musical talents a secret that she will only share with her proud owner. Her incredible bass power also originates from an invisible double bandpass construction featuring two 27 cm (11") woofers. Her crystal clear and wide open mids and highs are reproduced by a symmetrical set-up of two 12 cm (5") midrange cone drivers centering a 2.5 cm (1") dome tweeter. Each and every drive unit is carefully selected to meet its exact specifications. Of course, INDIGO also uses a Butterworth-type 4th order crossover conscientiously calculated with the specific characteristics of each speaker chassis.

Reaching just 110 cm (43") in height, INDIGO's appearance is perfectly sculpted for the home environment. Soothing to the eye while indulging to the ears with a performance that is – in every sense of the word – breathtaking: INDIGO expertly combines a stunning sensitivity for delicate detail with the raw and awesome power of the forces of nature. Time and again the 'Beauty and the Beast' will take you to the extremes. Simply a sonic superlative – INDIGO!

What independent audio experts said...

AVALON tested and reviewed by German Stereoplay¹
Translation excerpt from Stereoplay test: „Neue Meisterstücke für jede Wohnung“, February 1992, pages 22-23.
„New Masterpieces for Every Home”

„The makers from the house of Isophon wanted to set up new standards. Their main incentive being, that most of the really good home hifi speakers were too big and optically unattractive...Thus the department of research and development received a fairly clear task outline: the new Isophon speakers had to be well proportioned, very compact but at the same time powerful in their performance. In our test it soon became obvious, that the dreams of the Isophon management have now come true.



Especially AVALON's bass response convinced with a clarity and control absolutely unheard with speakers of her modest size...In fact, even the actual reference system in the 'Spitzenklasse II' (Audiophile Class II)², a speaker of at least twice the physical volume of AVALON, did not produce a more impressive bass performance...Regarding dynamics and sound pressure AVALON proved to be a real 'high energy pack'. At the same time, her spacious sound-staging was extraordinary...”

In short: „AVALON is by far the most compact speaker system in the 'Spitzenklasse II' (Audiophile Class II)², and therefore definitely setting new standards.”

INDIGO tested and reviewed by German Stereoplay¹
Translation excerpt from Stereoplay test: „Superboxen - Die jungen Wilden“, April 1992, pages 10-20.

„Super Speakers - Young and Wild”
„In this test INDIGO has clearly carried away the victory, and that by so wide a margin, that has become extremely rare with loudspeakers in recent years. What did our audio experts experience with this speaker? No other loudspeaker was capable of producing the bass frequencies with such easiness and such energy. Even Michael Jacksons "Dangerous" CD – an album loaded to brink with the fattest of computer basses – never managed to intimidate this INDIGO. Her unmatched rendition of the lowest octaves had the whole auditorium tremble and shake, including the reviewers...”

Changing programme to acclaimed recordings of classical piano, with and without orchestra: rarely ever did a passive speaker system - and above all, of such modest dimensions - deliver this universal musical instrument with such captivating sonority, such unbelievable expression, so equally powerful and precise as this INDIGO.

During her piano performances Isophon's INDIGO could deal out key strikes as sharp as a whiplash, and, after a change of mood, all of a sudden play as loving and charming as if she were the incarnation of tenderness.”

Conclusion: „Although neither the most expensive nor the largest speaker in this test, Isophon's Indigo outperformed her competitors by a wide margin...This system hardly sounded like a loudspeaker at all. Even during the most demanding musical passages she just played her parts, absolutely unperturbed like a rock in the surf. In short: INDIGO is the new reference loudspeaker in the 'Absolute Spitzenklasse II' (Absolute Audiophile Class II)².”



¹German Stereoplay is one of largest and most renowned hifi magazines in German speaking Europe (Germany, Switzerland and Austria).

² Within the comprehensive loudspeaker assessment scheme of German Stereoplay the categories 'Absolute Spitzenklasse' and 'Spitzenklasse' represent the two top-most sound quality classes. Furthermore these classifications are referring to sonic performance only, irrespective of price. E.g. at date of print, INDIGO is still the reference speaker in her category, despite not only featuring a relatively low price tag among her test competitors but also despite costing less than half the price of the most expensive speaker system in her class.

Specifications

	Avalon	Odeon	Indigo
Bass principle	bandpass		
Bass drivers (Ø in mm)	2 x 200	2 x 225	2 x 268
Mid/High principle	symmetrical / d'Appolito		
Midrange drivers (Ø in mm)	2 x 100	2 x 120	2 x 120
Tweeter (Ø in mm)	1 x 25	1 x 25	1 x 25
Crossover	4th order Butterworth-type		
Dimensiones (HxWxD in mm)	950 x 241 x 317	1045 x 275 x 365	1100 x 317 x 429
Weight (in kg)	28	37	44
Nom. power handling (Watts)	150	180	220
Warranty	5 years		

All three models are featuring gold-plated binding-posts with bi-wiring/bi-amping option. All enclosures are made from medium density fibreboard (MDF) and are available either in black or white semi-gloss paint finish, or in natural oak veneer. The front baffle covers are black for all models and finishes. Other finishes available on request.
Models and specifications subject to change without notice.

