

Axton ATS-FT160C:
Good sound for little money

Sound for Ducato & Co.

► **Vehicle-specific speakers are generally somewhat dearer than universal component speakers on account of the tooling costs for ever new customized special baskets. With the Axton ATS-FT160C we have found a speaker set that comes at a particularly affordable price.**

At Axton there is no high-end, but instead car audio equipment with a particularly good price-performance ratio. That should also apply to vehicle speakers, and for Axton that means vehicle-specific. There are still not overly many, but there is already the complete flush of BMW kits available, including various baskets, component speakers, coaxial systems and underseat woof-

ers. Now with our ATS-FT160C a further two-way system is added, covering a range of popular vehicles, namely the Fiat Ducato and related vehicles. This continues to be the number one among cheaper used



**Solid driver
with cleanly stamped upper pole plate**

campers, so there is a lot of aftermarket demand here. Beside the Ducato III the list of vehicles includes the counterparts of Citroen and Peugeot, but also of Opel Movano, Ram Pro Master and various Fiat cars. The FT160C costs 180 euros at ACR dealers, therefore putting it at the lower end of Ducato speakers. The woofer in the standard 16-cm format comes in a tailor-made plastic basket of injection-molded fiber reinforced plastic. It is well made and boasts perfect ventilation. The upper pole plate is cleanly stamped, and in the ferrite driver a 25-mm voice coil drives the cone. Niceties like the moss rubber seal and the rubber surround testify to the degree of care taken. The cone is made of paper coated with quartz crystals on the surface. This is intended to optimize the mechanical and hence also the acoustic properties. The crossover solution is very elegant:

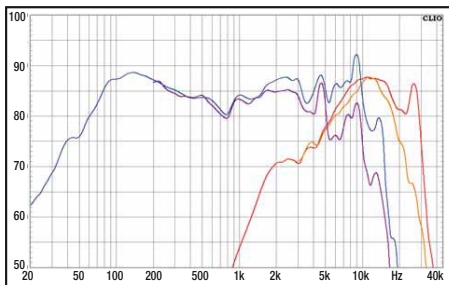


The 16-cm speaker has an accurately fitting plastic basket. Even a decent seal has been thought of



Elaborate crossover with low pass and RCL circuit

there is one fitted to the woofer and one on the tweeter for optimal ease of installation. A circuit board in the form of a quadrant is cleverly attached to the basket of the woofer, and here we in fact find a whole load of components. Beside the low pass coil there is another coil, a capacitor and a resistor, which in parallel together form an RCL circuit. This is a passive equalizer, which blocks the frequency response at a certain frequency, thereby attenuating the amplitude response. In the case of our FT160C that is approx. 1200 Hz, where it was obviously thought better to restrain the 16-cm speaker. Matching that is a small tweeter that has its high-pass capacitor in the supply lead to protect it from harmful low frequencies. We don't miss a gain control as installation slots in the Ducato are fixed and therefore there is no need for flexibility. The tweeter works with a 19-mm woven fabric cone, which makes it so small that it really will fit in anywhere. The relatively small dome should also help it more at the highest frequencies.



The FT160C does not run perfectly, but there are no major faults to report. The sound pressure at around 89 dB is quite high so that not much amplification power is required.

The small 19 mm tweeter fits in any installation slot



Measurements and Sound

The amplitude frequency response of the FT160C is ok, but not perfect. Residual cone resonance of the woofer are found at a high 9 kHz, but also at 4.5 kHz. The tweeter falls into a hole around 20 kHz – sonically all harmless. Where the system really can score is with our distortion readings. Here there is very little to measure – and that up to high listening levels. This earns correspondingly good marks, so that the Axton comes out of the lab walkthrough with head held high. We are more than satisfied with the sound. In view of the affordable price perhaps one does not expect so much. But nevertheless, the system does sound quite outstanding, with clear mids and a superb vocal range. Treble is neither too much nor too little, and the resolution here is also just right. One small negative is the little amount of low bass coming out of the 16-cm speaker: on the other hand, on the plus side it has a wonderfully precise reproduction in the bass that it plays. Overall the sound components fit really well together so that the system sounds mature and of one piece. It turned out really well, and not just for 180 euros.

Summary

The Axton ATS-FT160C turned out really well. In terms of sound it outperforms a whole range of systems on the market – and that at a nice price.

BEST PRODUCT
Fiat-loudspeaker
CAR & HIFI 4/2025

Axton ATS-FT160C

Price	about 180 Euro
Distributor	ACR, CH-5330 Zurzach
Hotline	info@acr.eu
Internet	www.axton.com

Summary

Sound quality	55 %	1,2	■■■■■
Bass	11 %	1,5	■■■■■
Neutrality	11 %	1,5	■■■■■
Transparency	11 %	1,0	■■■■■
Soundstaging	11 %	1,0	■■■■■
Dynamics	11 %	1,0	■■■■■
Lab	30 %	1,2	■■■■■
Frequency response	10 %	1,5	■■■■■
max. volume	10 %	1,0	■■■■■
Distortion	10 %	1,0	■■■■■
Practice	15 %	1,2	■■■■■
Installation	5 %	1,0	■■■■■
Crossover	5 %	1,5	■■■■■
Workmanship	5 %	1,0	■■■■■

Technical Data

Basket diameter W	165 mm
Mounting depth with ring	46 mm
Magnet diameter	85 mm
Tweeter dome diameter	19 mm
Tweeter housing diameter	33 mm
Slope W/T	6 / 6 dB
Tweeter protection	–
Tweeter adjustment	–
fits in	Ducato and similar
other	–
Nominal impedance	3 ohms
DC resistance Rdc	2,51 ohms
Coil inductivity Le	0,21 mH
Coil diameter	25 mm
Cone surface Sd	139 cm ²
Resonance frequency Fs	86 Hz
Mechanical quality Qms	5,34
Electrical quality Qes	1,03
Total quality Qts	0,86
Equivalent volume Vas	7,9 l
Moving mass Mms	11,7 g
Rms	1,18 kg/s
Cms	0,29 mm/N
B*I	4,42 Tm
Pressure 2 V, 1 m	89 dB
Power handling	30 – 100 W

Axton ATS-FT160C

Fiat-loudspeaker **1,2**

CAR & HIFI 4/25

Price/performance: very good

"Very good sound at a relatively good price."