



ACOUSTIC EPICENTER

When a speaker has a legendary predecessor, succeeding it is complex. The Rubikore series is now supposed to transfer the top technology of the Kore and Epikore models into affordable regions.

Text: Tom Frantzen

The exceptionally attractive DALI Rubikore 8, our test sample coming in a slightly blue shimmering, high-gloss black, is a full-grown, yet still ambient-friendly slender floorstanding speaker measuring over 110 centimeters in height and a weight of 30 kilograms per speaker. Impressive, but not expansive, one could say. Compatible with the majority of people. And with a pair price of 7,000 euros certainly not cheap, but this sum does not make the connoisseur hesitate. Because it seems appropriate. As we will see – and above all hear – even rather cheap. Well, almost.

Noble equipment

The Danish speaker is equipped with everything that the parts storage in North Jutland offers in terms of top performance. Thus, at the top end of the speaker, we find the already legendary, hybrid arrangement of a fabric dome and ribbon tweeter, which guarantees a delicate high-frequency

range and uniquely and brilliantly combines the dynamics of the dome tweeter – quite large with 29 millimeters – with the detail resolution and brilliance of the almost massless ribbon driver. Taking heritage from the Kore series, it was redesigned and now does without liquid cooling via ferrofluid in the air gap of the dome, which allows it to play even more freely and quickly without compromises in load capacity.

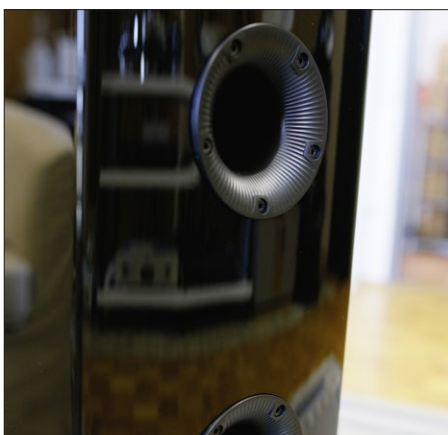
Directly below this proven ensemble, a midrange driver with a paper cone membrane (Clarity Cone) is active, reinforced with wood-fiber and equipped with new embossing patterns to reduce resonances. It acts so fast that it blends in seamlessly with the high-frequency dream team and yet plays so pleasantly smooth that it contributes to the practically fatigue-free, pleasant and yet open style of the DALI. For the same reason, namely starting speed and acceleration, instead of one very large, possibly sluggish model, two additional,

synchronously oscillating – and again very fast – 16.5-millimeter woofers work in the lower frequencies, again featuring the new embossing pattern. Three such drivers in total are already an asset for powerful reproduction from low to mid-range, also favoring and helping a powerful kick bass and bass. This much in advance, the DALI does not lack pressure in the bass range at all, but it also remains unusually precise at the same time.

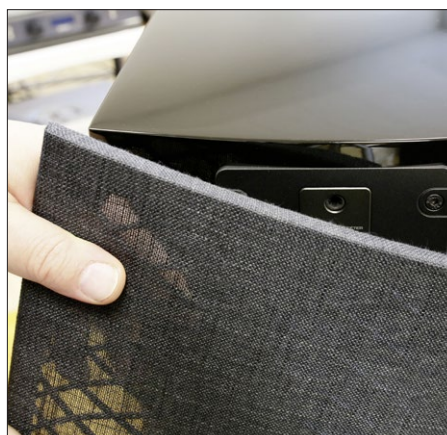
Another advantage of this division of labor is the halved stroke, so to speak, as each driver works in its particularly low-distortion, linear comfort zone, most of the time far from its mechanical limits.

Complex crossover

A firmly wired crossover with precision components from Mundorf and special SMC-Kore coils ensures the division of labor of the five drivers according to the unusual scheme 2 ½+1/2+1/2-way. We need to explain that: A classic 2 ½-way system



Full tube: No less than three generous reflex tubes support the bass at the back.



The attractive, gray mottled grille is not magnetic, but is plugged in.



The supposedly familiar hybrid tweeter now does without ferrofluid cooling.

Photos: STEREO, Manufacturer



The high-quality terminal is also perfectly suitable for bi-wiring and bi-amping.

works as if a two-way standmount speaker would reproduce the full frequency range, and below that, upward-limited bass drivers would only be responsible for support in the lower frequencies, like a subwoofer.

This is also the case here, but the ribbon tweeter only enters the action from 14 kilohertz upwards, and the last woofer only enters from 80 hertz downwards, a further division so to speak, partly supporting. Accordingly, there is a complex and thus elaborately equipped crossover managing this division of labor. With the cone drivers, particularly powerful double magnets made of the in-house, soft composite magnet material SMC ensure appropriate reserves. The more than 40 years of experience

the DALI engineers have in building speakers is impressively noticeable everywhere in details.

Grandiose performance

Thanks to its relatively high efficiency of around 90 dB, the Epikore 8 is also suitable for larger rooms and does not require monstrous power to unfold its sound. It behaves as an efficient sound transducer, rather „easily accelerated“ and comes to life even at low volumes. However, it brings the quality of the used electronics immediately to your ear and mercilessly reveals corresponding limitations.

Thus, you shouldn't save on the wrong end here because the DALI speaker improves almost unlimited, proportionally with the electronics, well into the highest level. On the other hand, as a relatively moderate load, it places no enormous technical demands on the driving amplifier. It should only and definitely be „good“ sounding. At least. A tired conductor completely unnecessarily slows the ensemble down.

Harmonious and dynamic

The size and depth of the DALI cabinets provide mighty pressure. That's pure physics, bass needs volume, and that is offered here – the three bass reflex ports on the back support this strongly and prevent blowing noises even at very high listening levels. The focus is intentionally more on the fast, crisp, precise reproduction of bass impulses, but also „low pressure“ is plentiful here. And that's a good thing.

The textures, background details of the low-frequency structures in other words, are unusually transparent in Supertramp's „School“, for example, and therefore easily traceable. The DALI always seems effortless and natural. This provides a vital-agile, detailed, and very rhythmically swinging music reproduction that is downright infectious and spontaneously captivates. The energy balance of the Rubikore is exemplary, very balanced and natural.

The offered detail resolution is very high across the entire offered bandwidth and is never lost even with more complex structures, for example orchestral ones. The DALI projects a fantastically wide, deep stage that also extends beyond the speakers with good electronics. Timing and depth staggering are unusually good and cleanly achieved, notwithstanding the five drivers. You get the impression that this speaker never fully explores its limits, no matter how much you „try it“. Whether it's level, complexity, juicy impulses: there always seem to be sufficient reserves left. Nothing compresses or becomes opaque.

This is even the case with outrageously brutal demo software like „TriCycle“ by Flim & the BB's with its bass attacks, which are hurled into the room confidently and completely unimpressed. DALI states 112 decibels as the maximum undistorted sound pressure level. That is enormous in for an interior space, believe us.

On the other hand, the DALI Rubikore is also capable of working out the finest microdetails and even barely perceptible moods of the protagonists, for example in Joe Jackson's „A Slow Song“ and „I Can't Make You Love Me“ by Bonnie Raitt.

Whether Blues or chamber music in small ensembles or even Big Band music with Michael Bublé up to pressing tutti with Dvorak's „9th Symphony“ under Mariss Jansons, admittedly a favorite classical work of the author, the DALI plays with seemingly great joy. That is more than music; these are emotions made audible. You can tell that we are really enthusiastic about this speaker!



The interior of the DALI Rubikore 8 shows the positioning of the components in overview.

WHAT WE'VE HEARD



**JOE JACKSON:
NIGHT AND DAY**
The resourceful British musician hit the mark with this versatile album – great!



**BONNIE RAITT:
LUCK OF THE
DRAW**
A beautiful voice, a top album: More emotion is not possible!

TEST DEVICES

Turntable: Sonoro Platinum

Phono preamp: Brinkmann Edison MKII

CD player: T+A MP 3100 HV

Integrated amplifiers: Symphonic Line RG14 Edition, T+A PA 3100 HV

Preamplifier: Accustic Arts Preamp V

Power amplifier: Accustic Arts Amp VI

Speakers: B&W 801 D4

Cables: Audioquest, In-Akustik, Silent Wire, Supra Cables



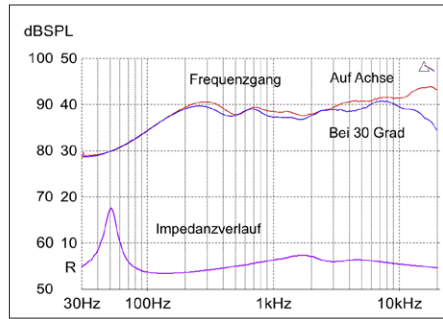
For detailed information on test devices scan QR code.

Perfectly satisfied - Recommendation!

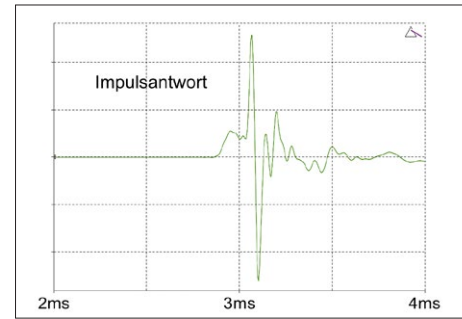
In terms of sound, the Rubikore 8 reminds us very much of the beloved and at the time more expensive Epicon 8 and 6 of the manufacturer. The latter has for years been one of our listening room references, a higher-positioned series thus.

A nicer compliment can actually not really be given to the flagship of the new Rubikore series. The new DALI is so outrageously good that it can even be further exploited audibly with small to large tunings like bi-wiring or even bi-amping – the terminal makes all this possible. This is an absolutely outstanding speaker!

For the money anyway, but also beyond that. And this dream is for some definitely not – like the „Formula 1“ of High End – prohibitive, but at least still realistic as a goal to save up for. Completely breathtaking. Therefore and thus: Congratulations to Denmark! ■



The amplitude frequency response of the DALI Rubikore is balanced, the impedance good.



The step response representing the timing is very good for a 5-driver speaker.

DALI RUBIKORE 8

Product type / price range	floorstanding speakers / 5,000 to 10,000 Euros	
Website	www.dali-speakers.com	
Price in Euros	6,998 / pair (in four versions)	
Dimensions (W x H x D) in cm	22 x 110 x 44	
Weight in kg	23	
German distributor	DALI (www.dali.gmbh)	
Phone	+49 6251 8079010	
Principle	dynamic, 2.5 + 1/2 + 1/2 way, bass reflex	
Terminal	Bi-Wiring	
Recommended Positioning	straight to slightly angled towards the listener	
SOUND	60 %	very good 1.2
Sound quality	balanced, naturally coherent and three-dimensional sound image	
MEASUREMENTS	10 %	good 1.8
Frequency response	good	
Sound pressure level (in decibels)	good (88.2)	
Impulse response	very good	
Minimal impedance	very good (3.8 ohms at 135 hertz)	
Distortions at 63 / 3k / 10k Hz (in percent)	good (0.89 / 0.13 / 0.12)	
Combination capabilities	good	
FEATURES & HANDLING	25 %	good 2.5
Placement	good, quite easy to align	
Quality of the instructions	good, comprehensive with much additional information	
First setup	good, quite easy, feet need to be mounted	
Sound correction possible	no	
Finishes	very good (4)	
Scope of delivery	good, grille, spikes, tool, bi-wire bridges made of metal	
Haptics & workmanship	very good	
Upgradable	no	
Warranty (in years)	good (5)	
STEREO TEST RESULT	good 1.6	