

# Material check

From which material is the dream-rack made? "Tone Bases" (Copulare) delivered us one with four different shelves. Among these is one called "Artificial Coral": Does the artificial coral beat the common materials?



von Matthias Böde

Gerhard Brandl is a searcher, what is a optimal assumption for everyone in the HiFi-branch. The holder of the lower Bavarian company Copulare, which made significant contribute, that we doesn't put our components onto commodes, sideboards or orange-boxes nowadays, is always looking after new and clever materials for the "shelves" of his ultimate, umpteen times approved racks.

In doing so, he found accidentally a company, which processes a ceramic with porous structure from aluminum oxide, this looks like a coral. This material is so extremely inhomogeneous, that it is impossible to build up resonances, also light but stable. First, Brandl ordered little cubes as feet for turntables and other devices. The acoustic success was so dramatic, that he added the "Artificial Coral" to his established shelves for "Tone Bases", as Brandl calls the material of his dreams.

## STICHWORT

Messungen Elektronenmikroskop-Aufnahmen sowie Untersuchungen zur Belastbarkeit und Beschaffenheit von Artificial Coral zeigt [www.copulare.de](http://www.copulare.de) („Labor“).

Of course, we want to get an impression of the acoustic blessing from the wonder material, which is only produced by one company in Europe according

to Brandl, and set up an complex test. We got a "Zonal"-rack with four different shelves. Indeed we still know their "acoustic fingerprints" from the big amplifier comparison in the STEREO 04/05, but we wanted to prove that conclusion also with pre and full amplifier as well as CD Player. We abandoned on a unfilled shelf, but we placed our components alternating on with sand, lead/sand and lead shot filled shelves as well as the "Artificial Coral" shelf. These wood or coral shelves are available in every color you want.

You are sorry for us, because we had to listen at the limits? There is no cause for that, because the acoustic differences between the racks are clear and absolute hearable, like we demonstrated it already in many workshops. So we did this time. Here are the achievements from

our "audio loving material control": "tonal homogenous, till very light corpulent, big and good organized copy, colorful and dynamic" are some of our catchwords we listed during our test with the sand filled base (about 700 for a varnished model in 58x58cm). Components in all quality levels sounds very strong on this one.

It's basically the same with the sand/lead mix (about 750), but the music appears a little bit too round, the lower levels seems to be a little bit dull and nearly time displaced. People who are listening to classic music likes this filling most, because it gives strings more sonority, orchestras more drama and wide melodies more "heaviness" and expression. For fans of pop music it's only second choice, although the most equipment sounds better on it than on most other racks.

Our favorite so far is also on top of the "Tone Bases" shelves this time: pure lead (about 800). It is unbelievable, how much brilliance and exact dynamic energy the equipment develops on this shelf. In addition, the playback is perfect stable, it reaches in its depth on the horizon and allows not the slightest inaccuracy in bass. Outstanding!

And still only second winner, because Brandl didn't promise too much. The base "Artificial Coral", which is also with regard to the price on top with 1000, makes setting up equipment to art not only because of its optic variability. The demonstration gets extreme

Mit Hilfe der Unterstellfüße lassen sich die Vorzüge von Artificial Coral auch in Verbindung mit beliebigen Unterlagen nutzen



Heißt „Artificial Coral“ deshalb so, weil es sich kunstgerecht einfärben lässt? Unten eine schlicht schwarze Ausführung des Wunderstoffs

airy, three-dimensional and rhythmic fleet-footed, without failing in tonal substance and expression. The wide spectrum is elaborated to the smallest details, without getting a ostensible, analytic impression. Quite the contrary, the playback has a never annoying, but soft and golden tweet tone reproduction. There is a little bit more power on the lead base and it seems to have a stronger kicking bass, but several quick checks have been enough to certificate the artificial coral a larger naturalness and implicitness.

We also reached this positive influence only with the little feet to put under equipment, which is available in two different packages for 150 and 390 with always three pieces. The bigger version is adjustable in height and lead shot is helpful to optimize the energy flow. The two different versions achieved on top of the sand/lead base – the top version on a higher level – more drive and a delicate resolution. Now, there was nearly nothing left from the little bit bellied sound; the artificial coral took a lot from the distinct "calmness" of the board. Hifi fans should also get agitated facing the new super base of "Tone Bases". Finally we are nothing else than people looking after something new, isn't it?

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Gerhard Brandl is the holder of "Tone Bases" and boasts himself as the inventor of the high end rack

**STEREO:** Mr Brandl, your racks usually follow the philosophy of the large inertia. Now, you beat your own sand and lead fillings with the light artificial coral.

**GERHARD BRANDL:** That's true, but the new Base isn't questioning my hitherto work, but amend it. I wanted already a long time to experiment with ceramic. It is only minor matter, that this for our purpose highly qualified ceramic foam, because of its porous structure, is very light.

**STEREO:** How did you get to think about the perfect stand for high end stereo systems?

**GERHARD BRANDL:** Well, if you are a audio interested engine builder you just start to think about it. In the 80's there was simply nothing available like high end racks. At the exhibitions just everybody had anything to put the equipment on. My idea at this time was to create something, to set up the components nice and practical. The awareness, that the physical character of a rack has an important influence on the sound quality came later on as we experimented with different materials and wondered why the equipment sounded different.

**STEREO:** How did you work to enhance your racks. Is everything only experiment and error?

**GERHARD BRANDL:** You say that too deprecatingly. Without the courage to test also unimportant materials we would still be in the stone age, especially in the hifi area. However, neutral material testing is also extremely important. Therefore, we work very close with the University of Applied Sciences in Deggendorf and they made a lot of tests with the new material.



Die gefüllten Tragflächen aus Birkenholz-Multiplex weisen einen Hohlraum für Sand und/oder Blei auf

Unbefüllte Tragflächen sind ab 300 Euro in fast allen Größen und Lackfarben erhältlich. Artificial Coral gibt es nur in den Maßen 41x41, 51x51 und 58x58 cm.

Vertrieb: Copulare – Tonbasen  
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