

STEREO

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MAGAZINE FOR HIFI • HIGH END • MUSIC



BACK TO

THE FUTURE

Hey, I thought the Bronze Age was long gone. Rack specialist Gerhard Brandl rediscovered the material for his Copulare racks.

by Matthias Böde

The issue did not let us rest. "Have you seen the bronze rack by Copulare yet?" you could hear from everyone at this year's High End show. Comments ranged from "ingenious" to "crazy", which could by all means express the same in the HiFi scene.

Cause for this furore was Copulare chief Gerhard Brandl who once again wanted to set an example. He succeeded. You are in for a shock when you learn about the price of the Bronze sculpture: around 10000 Euros for the three layer rack including support plates made of hard beech wood for the bronze bases. Equivalent bronze amp stands are available for 4000 Euros each. Is it worth it? Brandl offers top

notch HiFi furniture with his Zonal series after all. We wanted to see ourselves and scheduled a "hearing" in the editorial office. There we put the 80 kilogram bronze truss next to a regular triple shelf by Copulare. We listened in turns with the same sound level to a reference class power amp and a corresponding CD player on both shelves. Thereby bronze proved its qualities: Ron Nelsons' orchestral "Rocky Point Holiday" on the "Tutti" sampler

Same thing with "Someone Help Me" by blues legend Mighty Sam Mc Clain (Audioquest). When we placed the units on the bronze rack it made the bass a little blacker and more concentrated, voices had an earthier, more intensive timbre. It supported serenity as well as authority of the rendition. Brandl's bronze sculpture gave a superb performance indeed. Seldom had we heard our references in such good quality, maybe never. But the price for this handmade rack is exorbitant. However, for those who own exclusive equipment and who value the extraordinary the step into the Bronze Age is a step forward.

CATCHWORD

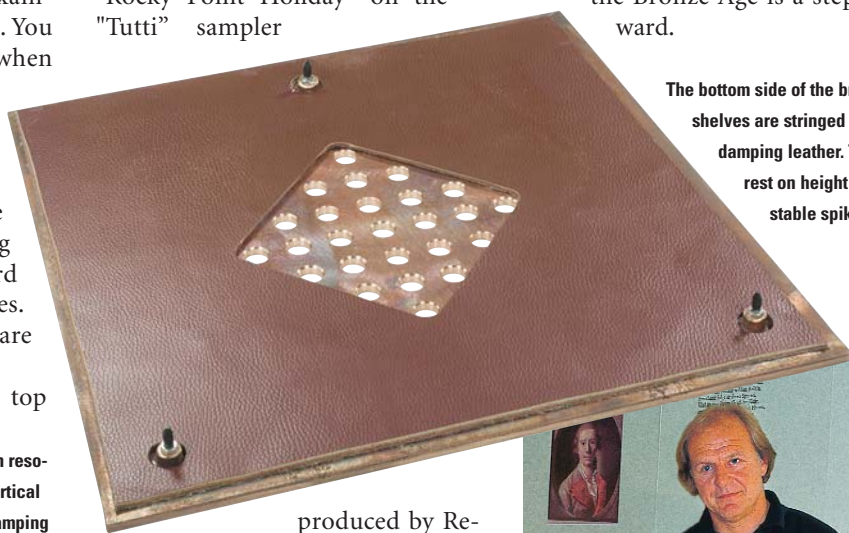
End Stands

Power amps are oftentimes placed on the bare floor, which has negative effects on the sound quality. Better put it on a basis.

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The bottom side of the bronze shelves are strung with damping leather. They rest on height adjustable spikes.

To keep the rack from resonating like a bell the vertical columns are filled with damping dental gypsum.



produced by Reference Recordings delivered the sound already on the "normal" Zonal rack with impressive sterical differentiation and undamped dynamics. However, after putting the components on the bronze shelf the level skips came out even smoother and more natural, formation seemed slightly more stable. Regarding tonality especially the upper levels were affected by the change. Glissandi appeared more restrained and silkier. The system sounded more velvety and homogeneous when playing complex and high tone passages. No big differences, but more than just nuances.

We might have never heard our references as good as on Copulare's bronze rack. The price however scares you off.

