

Preset: Ava V2 In1

DRC	-117		
Out 1	-126		
RMS		GR	0
Out 2			
RMS			0
Out 3			
RMS			

für [www](http://www.ayon.com) lizenzierter Auszug aus FIDELITY 49 – 3/2020

Ayon BlackRaven





Ayon BlackRaven

FELIX

AUSTRIA

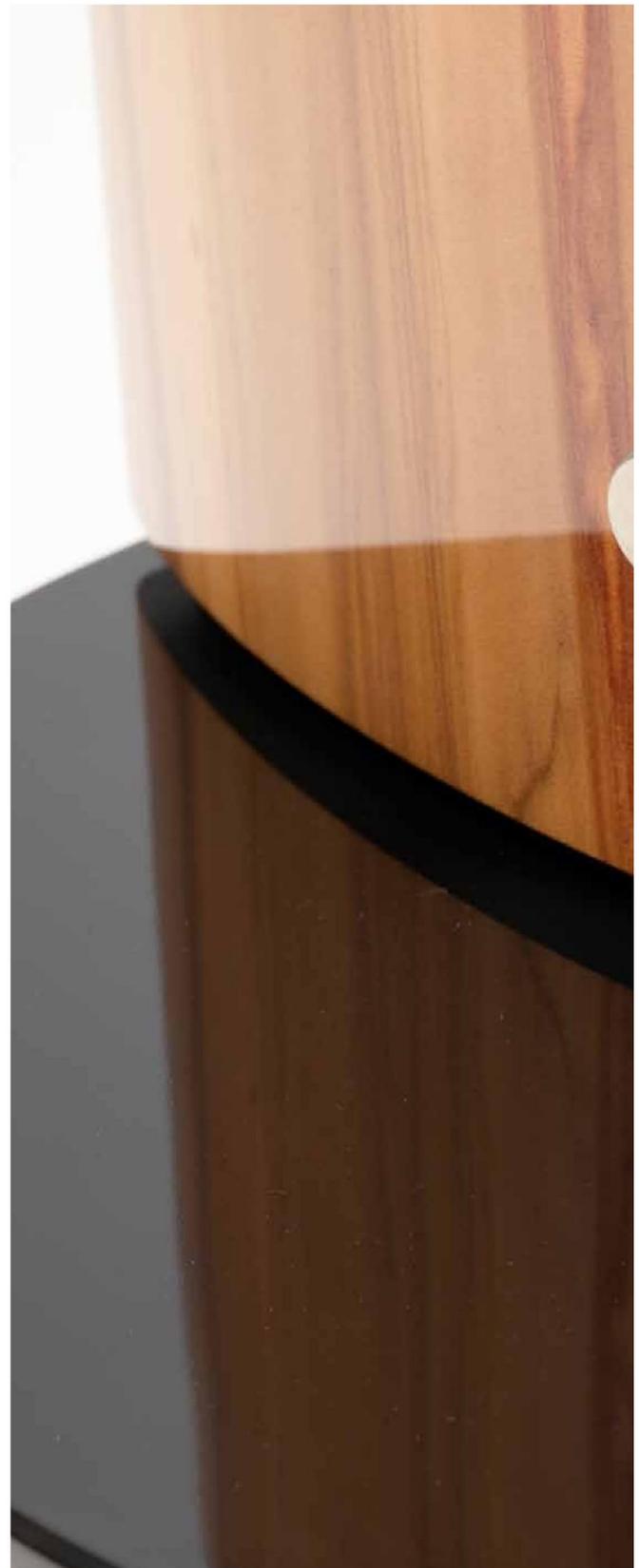
TONewood AND
HIGH-TECH CERAMIC:
OF THESE INGREDIENTS
THE AUSTRIAN
MANUFACTURER AYON
CONSTRUCTS A VERITABLE
OMNIPOTENT SPEAKER FOR
HIGHEST REQUIREMENTS

High-quality terminals grant access to the BlackRaven. The speaker offers a switchable adaptation for low-output tube amplifiers

-- I am a sucker for tube amplifiers. The reasons might possibly be irrational, technically only little speaks in favour of these current-hungry amps, which occasionally like to react miffed on complex loads. But perhaps it is not the tube amps as such, whose sound excites me every time. Much more likely it is the installations composed with much finesse because of the amps' sensibility, that make me catch fire. Installations in which special attention was explicitly drawn to a good match of loudspeaker and amplifier. That is to say a commonplace: on the fitting (speaker-) load even the touchiest amp gets wings.

When, 14 years ago, a pair of waist-high floor-speakers of the house of Ayon arrived in my listening room for testing, I was absolutely ignorant of this. But what I recognised already after a few bars of music: that never before my Naim amplifiers had played as freely and dynamically as on these unusually designed Austrian loudspeaker named Seagull/c. Consistently I bought this test pair and never regretted my decision for one second. Especially as years later the Silbatone JI300 Mk III triode integrated amplifier with a nominal output of 8 watts arrived in my home and on the spot provided such a competent dynamic performance, that the Naims would have had to ask themselves what was meant with the statement of ten times more power. Today, richer by many (tube-) experiences I know that my specification requirement for loudspeakers are only two criteria: no staining and tube friendly electrical parameters. Both are prominent features of the Ayon Seagull/c.

We are writing the year 2020. Ayon took abundantly time for the upgrade. The successor of the Seagull comes along with a trendy camel case and is called BlackRaven. The first impression: same driver equipment with two ceramic low-midranges and a ceramic tweeter of the brand Accuton. The cabinet now is smaller but deeper and hence equipped with a bigger volume than its



predecessor. When approaching one can notice details of manufacture which place the BlackRaven at least one quality level above the Seagull: even more perfect veneer and lacquered surfaces, finer connection terminals, big threaded inserts for the spikes in

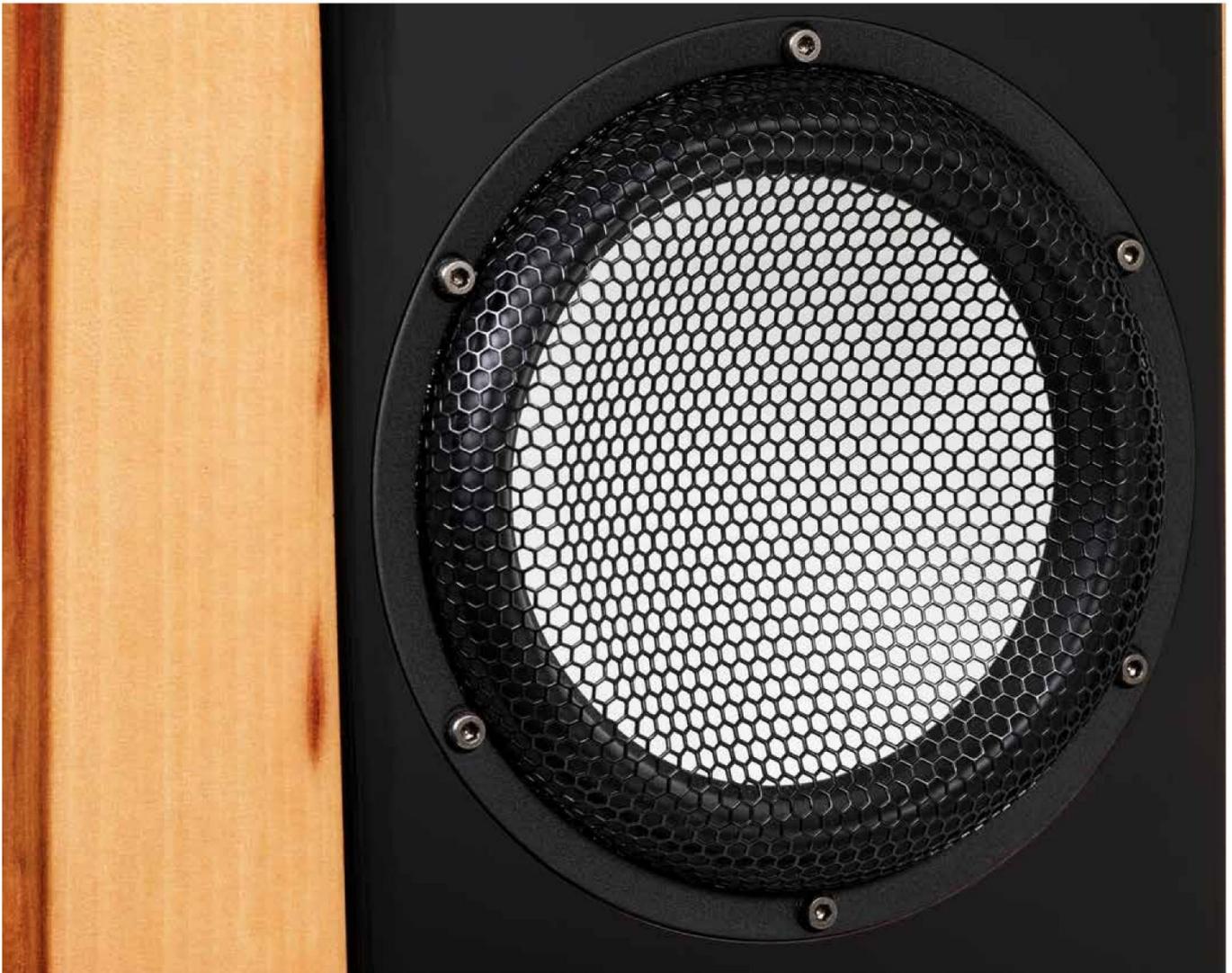
4 Ohm
Tube Amp
Transistor



ay audio
Type: Black Raven
Impedance: 4Ω
S/N: 191001 a
Made in:  CE 
www.ayonaudio.com

ay audio
Type: Black Raven
Impedance: 4Ω
S/N: 191001 a
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The ceramic drivers of Ayon's 2,5-way-system come from Accuton



the base plate. The weight gained, but less than the price which now is more than double. 14,000 Euro is quite a word also considering the timely distance. On the other hand, the material effort really is immense. Only the cabinets manufactured in-house must cost a fortune, they have nothing in common with the usual MDF blocks. The BlackRaven is, at closer looks, doubtlessly no successor of the Seagull. Here, the basic concept has been thought further and then carried to extremes. Just think in automobile jargon Mercedes AMG.

Ayon-head Gerhard Hirt starts his explanation of the Ayon BlackRaven with an excited "a madness!" to immediately afterwards give a

lecture about the quality of the layer-bonded cabinets hidden to the eye. Here Ayon combines in a self-detected order layers of "tonewood" – in instrument making resonant types of wood such as maple, pine, or poplar are called so – to a sandwich. By the cambered shape it gets an immense rigidity, concurrently due to the selected types of wood it would feature controlled resonance characteristics. Where in the Seagull only one type of wood has been applied here there are three. Also, the glue has been chosen according to its tonal characteristics, and also the varnish of the finished cabinet. When constructing the cabinet experience of the non-plus-ultra sound converters of Lumen White have been incorporated, in the

development of which Gerhard Hirt also is involved. The particularity of the first generation of Ayon speakers would stick in the interior of the cabinet. The basic ideas come from the pen of the unfortunately prematurely died streaming technologist Stefan Fekete. He wondered about the utilization of the sound radiated into the interior of the cabinet and finally conceived a structure with minimal damping and clever sound guidance in the end supporting the efficiency of the speaker. In the BlackRaven too again sound guiding stiffening elements are applied. Gerhard Hirt explains, that these selectively and very precisely applied stiffeners (in development modern measuring technologies such as laser-interferometry were used) would optimize not only bass reproduction but also the vibration behaviour in the area of harmonic overtones.

The applied drivers are coming again from Thiel & Partner of Pulheim (Germany). For the deep-midrange two 17cm ceramic cones are responsible. They are differently placed and also differently wired from the optically similar drivers of the Seagull. The BlackRaven is a two-and-a-half-way speaker. Only the upper driver processes the complete spectrum from 35 Hz (-3 dB) until the operation of the tweeter. The lower cone is freed of the topmost octave via the crossover. This, and the position close to the floor, supports a clean and powerful bass reproduction. The ceramic diaphragm of the tweeter of the Accuton cell-series has a diameter of 30 millimetres, giving it a comparatively low lower critical frequency – favourable for the integration into a two-and-a-half-way system without a real midrange chassis.

The crossover works with flat 6 dB-filters and high-quality components of the assortment of the specialist Mundorf are applied – much more of this subject cannot be elicited from Gerhard Hirt, as the crossover is one of the spots where Ayon is working with tricks that must not be made public. At the end there is an efficiency which cannot be taken for serious in view of the seemingly conventional bass-reflection design. But as a matter of fact, the claimed 92 dB/W are not only an attractive figure on paper. Connected to the Silbatone integrated amp the BlackRaven kicked off so much louder and livelier than it's also not

clumsy predecessor Seagull that the author did not know what hit him. Mr. Hirt, what's going on?

The Ayon boss referred to the range of products. One also builds tube amplifiers oneself. This way the Ayon developers are best familiar with the interdependency of dynamic drivers and transducers. Therefore, when conceiving the follower series of the first generation of ceramically equipped speakers first a development order was given to Thiel & Partner to especially for Ayon tease out the best possible efficiency out of their drivers. Then the cabinet: alone by the mentioned optimizations in design, selection of timbers, glue, varnish, and wall thickness as well as the internal sound guidance the noble cabinets shall provide another 1dB-boost to the high-developed ceramic drivers. The easily driveable crossover is also part of the concept. Which – chapeau! – is thoroughly realized.

The Ayon BlackRaven top the extraordinary proficiencies of the Seagull. They play sheerly tantalizingly relaxed, react in a flash on course and fine dynamics and thus involve the listener directly into the action. The crossover obviously is a real masterpiece, because where omnidirectional behaviour is concerned the speakers behave textbook. Even who sits significantly apart from the stereo hotspot gets presented more than just an idea of the three-dimensional action.

Tonally the BlackRaven take the path of pristine neutrality. If one would want to notice a tendency, then this would be a fine impression of warmth – but only in so far to prevent the sensation of a too clean studio monitor. Apart from that the Black Ravens as were already the Seagulls are speakers with which one can hear “the fleas cough” (note: a German saying for finest resolution). The pleasantly softly acting Cell-tweeter seems not to know any limitations in resolution.

In respect to sound dissolution where my Seagulls are brilliant the successors do not lower their guard. Both speakers master the disappearance but the BlackRaven give more to the sounds, how shall I express it....? Aura. It seems as if the micro-space e.g. around a voice or an instrument would be reproduced more precisely as a discrete information. In the

The opening of the bass-reflex unveils: the BlackRaven is made of multiple bonded layers of instrument wood, the order of which – together with the selected glue – has a big part on the low resonance sound of the speaker



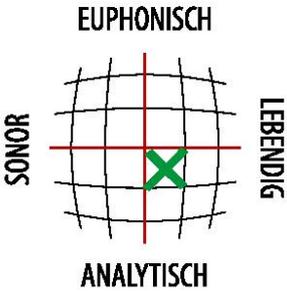
end this may lead to the feeling of a positive very close contact with the music.

In the bass the BlackRaven are typical Ayon: fast, deep, slender. Exactly the kind of bass I like and perfectly fitting my listening room of 20 m² and 3m height. Once on a title of the soundtrack to the pirate-wingding *“Pirates of the Caribbean”* I pressed “Play” which then turned out to be a remix of the title theme with official club-basses. As at this moment the 320 W transistor power amp Lumin Amp served as power unit, the impulses came out so humourless and dry as if Ayon had hidden real cardboard 18” in the slender housings. Well, they can also party.

But sometimes they can be a bit annoying. A dear friend passed by with gourmet-vinyl, half-speed mastered, one-sided (!) pressed LPs of the series Signoricci vinyl of fonè records. The already legendary violinist Salvatore Accardo here plays tangos by Astor Piazzolla. The sound technician meant it very well with the maestro and placed the microphones so close to the violin that the sensitive diaphragms did not miss one mote of rosin. With this the Thiel-drivers showed their monitor character and disguised the recording as an audiophile spectacular, that you rather would not like to put on accompanied by a glass of Barolo after a long working day.

The components of the audiophile 6-dB crossover come from Mundorf. Ayon emphasizes that they are not just “simple ingredients” but each element has been selected in hearing tests

Ayon BlackRaven
 More than just an update:
 Ayon's smallest speaker is a high-end jewel. The compact floor standing speaker inspires with a rare talent: it lets tubes sing.



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HERAUSFORDERND =  Eine Komponente ist zu 100 % intuitiv, wenn Sie unmittelbar ihr volles Potenzial ausschöpfen können.
INTUITIV = 



The Ayon BlackRaven are speakers completely to my taste. On both the 320-Watt power amp as well as on the 8-Watt triode they played not only convincing – they did not admit any doubt that at any moment you got presented 100 percent of the power of the respective amplifier (and of the connected sources, of course). That this result is achieved without milling aluminium blocks weighing tons, designing unaffordable drivers, possibly even applying quantum-accelerated panaceas – that makes the slender Austrians even more likeable. May be once again I fell in love with an Ayon. A madness!

Floor-speaker Ayon BlackRaven

Concept: dynamic 2,5-ways floor-speaker, passive

Equipment: Accuton Cell-tweeter (30 mm ceramic diaphragm), 2 x Accuton bass-midrange (173 mm ceramic diaphragm)

Frequency range: 35 Hz – 30 kHz

Impedance: 4 ohms

Efficiency: 92 dB

Special feature: switch for adaption of the crossover characteristics to tube amplifiers

Models: veneers walnut, tineo, etimo, others upon request

Dimensions (W/H/D): 25/111/23 cm

Weight: 35 kg

Warranty period: 5 years

Price: 14,000 Euro per pair

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