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Intelligent Feet

As Audio Physic's development engineer, Manfred Diestertich (above) is always seeking opportunities to further improve upon the loudspeakers of this specialty manufacturer from Germany's Sauerland region. One approach in this regard involves accessories such as the proven "Vibration Control Feet", or VCF for short, which via their network structure convert all kinetic energy into tensile forces, and in place of the spikes, can be screwed into the aluminium traverses of the loudspeakers. Now he has designed them in a more elaborate "magnetic" version with additional magnet decoupling.

Naturally, we wanted to hear what these little gizmos could do, in a room where a pair of Audio Physic's large Cardeas plus+ were connected up to reference-class electronics from the company Accoustic Arts. The 80 kg loudspeakers were first mounted on spikes when rendering Mariah Pihl's "Malvina" in full tone colour, power and spatial depth. As we're on a tight schedule in the workshop, and we didn't have time for tedious disconnecting and reconnecting, the team simply mounted the traverses in a flash on a VCF set (a 8-piece set costs around 400 Euros), so that the spikes no longer had floor contact.

This solution led to a cleaner bass, improved detachment of the spectrum from the loudspeaker cabinets, as well as more precisely textured details in the acoustic pattern. We quickly ran the track from the listening test CD VI again, this time replacing the basic VCFs with the Magnetics (an 8-piece set costs around 1,200 Euros); which intensified the positive effect, in that the bass was even more nuanced and the singer -- free of distorting influences from the fundamental range -- was standing physically before the amazed listeners.

Comparison test with Liza Minelli's "Old Friends" (Listening Test CD VII). Once again, there was optimal reproduction of



"Sound improvements by coupling and decoupling loudspeakers or devices? Well, you're asking the right guy! Nearly all my components are mounted on special feet. The positive effects are so

obvious, as just witnessed in the workshop, which makes me want to own the Audio Physic's 'Magnetic' bases."

> Workshop participant Peter Raguse

Carnegie Hall as well as fine nuancing of the exuberant live number only on the Magnetics. When placed beneath the high-quality Accoustic Arts pre-amp as well, they worked wonders, making its rendering calmer, steadier and clearer. So: It's time to get up on your feet.

