

A CLASSIC:

Sonor Audio utilises the ideals of Joseph D'Appolito for the arrangement of the woofer placement. The tweeter is horn loaded.

SPACE & LOCATION



Set up close to a wall or free, control brilliance by angling towards the listener, acoustics neutral, listening distance from 2.5 m.,

The breakdown of the symbols can be found on page 94.

TERRA INCOGNITA

Speakers from South Africa have appeared on the radar screens for only a few of us. Yet, they are worthwhile considering, as the Sonor Audio Claro 6.2 demonstrates. These speakers surprised us.

The Claro's give you a huge sound stage for an affordable price. Consider this a hot tip.

— ■ Von Andreas Günther —

We are familiar with speakers from the USA, amplifiers from New Zealand and electronics from Sweden.

However, an entire continent is unknown to many high-end fans: Africa is terra incognita and is for most of us a blank spot on the map. This included us as well – until the moment we met the transducers from Sonor Audio. The company is based in Gauteng, South Africa, and has recently been represented on the German market. Sonor Audio was founded in 1989, headed by Roy Witelson.

His current team of twelve are mainly responsible for the fine finish of the boxes. We were pleasantly surprised by the craftsmanship of the Sonor Audio speakers with their fine wood finish, pleasing to both the eye and touch.

COMMAND PERFORMANCE

The model Claro 6.2 delighted our listening room with its stately appearance, at a relatively manageable price. The German agent's asking price is 495 Euros for this large floor standing cabinet, which is after all 123 cm high and weighs 45 kilos a piece. Fortunately, this industry is not about an ideal weight to price ratio, but about tonal values. To which end the South Africans have taken a sparring partner on board. Sonor does not build their own drivers but rather employs Scan-Speak transducers.

The fact that Sonor does not build their own drivers does not diminish their standing, especially since Sonor Audio really chooses the finest from the catalogue of the Danes – such as the superb ring radiator from the Discovery series. Roy Witelson uses two 6-inch drivers, according to D'Appolito's



THIS IS HOW HIGH-END SHOULD LOOK

rules, again from the Discovery series. The woofer cones are made of coated fibre-glass. The crossover frequency is around 2.7 kilohertz. Sonor Audio adds distinctive value through the use of a reinforcing baffle, the curves of which lend it a lightweight aesthetic.

In addition, the tweeter is loaded by a waveguide modelled after a Tractrix curve. The construction boasts a further three apertures below the driver complement, these being three ports in a vertical array for bass reflex tuning. Everything seems thoughtfully and lovingly implemented. Without a doubt: This is how high-end craftsmanship should look.

ACOUSTIC SUBTLETTY

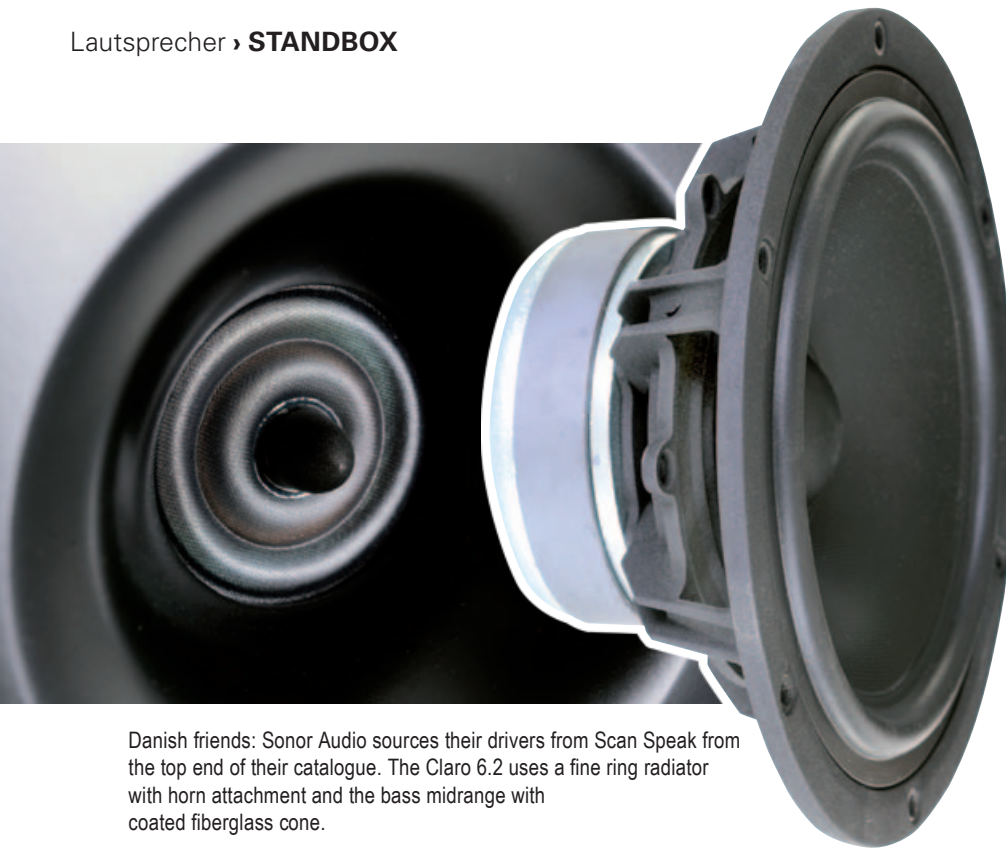
For us there is a new star in the high-end sky. The most important requirement has to be right – the sound.

Deutsche Grammophon recently released a very taxing track for loudspeakers, to be exact, Stravinsky's masterpiece "Le sacre du printemps" as a HiRes download. Esa-Pekka Salonen conducts the Los Angeles Philharmonic. The recording is at 24-bit and 96-kilohertz.

This is live a recording in the new but already legendary Walt Disney Concert Hall in L.A. The acoustics there are a dream, the stereo playback no less so.

The German sound engineer Rainer Maillard achieved a marvel.

The bad news: we have experienced many speakers that have been sunken by this recording.



Danish friends: Sonor Audio sources their drivers from Scan Speak from the top end of their catalogue. The Claro 6.2 uses a fine ring radiator with horn attachment and the bass midrange with coated fiberglass cone.

For me, The greatest possible acoustic subtlety and a sizable punch in the low tones must be introduced simultaneously. The Claro 6.2 manages this brilliantly - and with integrity. Some demonstration model speakers would have produced the ultra-low sounds of the kettle drum with the colouring of an over-fat bass. Not so with the Sonor Audio - the sound was well contoured, gnarly, and highly defined. While in turn, other demonstration model speakers may have exaggerated the soundscape into a cinematic render rather than portray the subtleties of a concert hall. The Sonor Audio remained strictly true to reality and none the less reproduced the most subtle reflections of the acoustics of the Walt Disney Concert Hall.

Initially we had just intended to listen to the critical parts of this luxurious recording. But the reproduction captivated us to such a degree that we found ourselves enjoying the entire Sacre.

Exceptional sound art: from the composer, to the conductor, the sound engineer and finally the loudspeaker. After the final chord, the verdict of all the participants in the listening room was: "This is a speaker you have to have, that you want to have". As a contemporary disc we chose the new album by Courtney Barnett, "Tell me how you really feel". Consciously contentious: A small-girl's voice on a massive rock mix.

The woofer cones have to bear the brunt. The Claro 6.2 intoned this music with great accuracy as well. Everything was spot on, from the deep bass to the already present holographic picture of the singing voice.

It not only had structure but the absolute ability to draw you in. In addition to the above we found something that only a very few speakers can do: natural, self evident musicality.



SPECIFICATIONS

SONOR AUDIO CLARO 6.2	
Distribution	ProWorld GmbH Tel. +49 08441 7978161
Website	www.proworld.de
List Price	4595 Euro (4995 Euro Feb 2020)
Warranty Period	5 Years
Dimensions WxHxD	21 x 123 x 42.5 cm
Weight (Each)	45 kg
Venner/Foil/Lacquer	•/-/•
Finishes	Walnut/Mahogany/Cherry/Others
Format	Two-way / Bass reflex
Room adaption	-
Of note	Bi-wire terminals

AUDIOGRAM

AUDIO 07/2018

+ everything is spot on, exceptionally honest but still rich

Nuetrality(2x)	98	██████████
Attention to detail (2x)	98	██████████
Soundstage	98	██████████
Spatiality	101	██████████
Fine Dynamics	100	██████████
Maximum sound level	97	██████████
Bass Quality	96	██████████
Depth of bass	96	██████████
Value for money	Excellent	

AUDIO PRICE / **98 POINTS**
PERFORMANCE **OUTSTANDING**

CONCLUSION



Andreas Günther
AUDIO STAFF

This performance really convinced us: A manufacturer from South Africa combines the finest Scan-Speak drivers in a perfect cabinet; and achieves the highest sound values. Additionally, the price is good. Having carefully read this review, perhaps you may here, find the speaker of your life. The soundscape is grand, exact and spot on.

Laboratory Test

The Claro 6.2 is efficient (89 dB at 2V) and therefore will harmonize with weaker amplifiers - ideally with those of the AUDIO code 47 or higher. The frequency response shows a certain mid-emphasis, the bass reaching with 35 Hz (-6 dB) comparatively low down.

The Sonor Claro 6.2 portrays especially the mids at high levels with low distortion, and plays at maximum 107 db.

