

Test **Cornered Audio C5**



Thought out for the corner!

There are residential situations where even compact speakers cannot be installed or where they need to remain as invisible as possible. Special speakers like the C5 from Cornered Audio offer themselves as problem solvers in such cases – but do they sound convincing?

Cornered Audio is the brand name of the Danish loudspeaker manufacturer, as the Scandinavians have specialized themselves in the development and production of sound systems for corners. The placement of speakers in the corner between two walls - or horizontally between the wall and ceiling - has some unbeatable advantages: first of all it makes the speaker system extremely compact and unobtrusive. And at the same time the speakers use the walls to amplify the low frequency output. Speakers of this type can therefore be very compact and still provide the full sound spectrum, down to the deepest bass.

Cornered Audio C5

The Danes from Cornered Audio provide a real problem solver with the C5, because with dimensions of about 44 x 20 x 14 centimeters, the C5's fit practically any corner. The very well made cabinet is made of extruded aluminum and is therefore extremely stable. While the back of the C5 is made with a 90-degree angle, the front is slightly curved with the silver-gray front cover covering the screw holes for wall mounting. The wiring of the C5 is made virtually invisible, as there is a small groove in the rear "corner" of the speaker which allows problem free installation of the speaker cable in the corner of the room. In order not to have any speaker terminals interfering on the back, it has been moved to the front of the cabinet. The cable is then simply passed through a tube going through the cabinet and out the rear. As an option, the C5 is also available in black or white.

The C5 is acoustically and mechanically anything but a compromise, because with high-quality drivers and a solid cabinet, the C5 has optimal conditions for good sound. The bass features a 13-centimeter low-mid driver which is supported by an additional 13-centimeter passive woofer. A tweeter with a 25-mm silk dome is responsible for the dynamic high frequency response. As the C5 is an 8-ohm speaker with a good efficiency just short of 90 decibels, the corner speaker can deliver significant output even with small amplifiers and if needed it easily handles more than 100 watt.



Laboratory test.

To document the loudspeakers acoustic design for corners, we have conducted two test procedures: one in the acoustics lab and another in a corner of the room. In reflection free standard measurements in the acoustic laboratory, the C5 proves itself as very balanced and amazes with excellent dispersion characteristics, which even at an angle remains virtually unchanged. In the free field measurements, the compact C5 drops naturally in level below 120 hertz which documents the acoustically relevant "energy distribution" under real corner conditions. With four screws we easily installed a pair of C5's in the corners of our test chamber in a matter of ten minutes. Measuring again in this position, the C5 proved to deliver strong bass and even delivered serious sound pressure below 60 Hz.

In the Listening room

Quality playback devices such as an RG 14 integrated amplifier and a Primare CD22 CD player was used. Tears for Fears provided the music in the form of the excellent produced album "The Millennium Collection". "Sowing the Seeds of Love" was reproduced by the C5 in full bandwidth, from the deepest synthesizer bass line right through to fine hissing cymbals. And the best part; the voice of front man Roland Orzabal sounded strikingly with all his special tonations, exactly as it should be. We discovered a further practical advantage of the Cornered C5 in the listening test: There is no distinct "Sweet Spot". At almost all positions in the room, it is possible to enjoy perfect music. Great! By the way: Nothing speaks against using the C5 as Surround speakers, and as rear speakers they are even perfect!

Conclusion

The excellent made corner speaker C5 from Cornered Audio are perfect for use in space-critical situations or whenever sound systems should be mounted as invisible as possible. And they play very well indeed. Apart from extreme volume and abysmal lows, the C5 hold any comparison against conventional compact speakers. Cornered Audio C5 - a real alternative and a serious recommendation

Test Information Shows that in the free field measurements in our laboratory, the C5 is quite balanced, and its radiation characteristics are excellent. The somewhat subdued bass in free field is relativized in a corner installation in the listening room, because then the lower cut-off frequency is increased to about 80 Hz