

TEST

Amphion
Krypton3X

lite Testurteil
2024

99/100
Referenzklasse

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Amphion Krypton3X

IMPECCABLE
SOUND IN A
FUTURISTIC GUISE

Precise
precision
work.

Spatial and
rich in detail.





The 25 years of development that have gone into the Krypton3X have by no means aged the speakers visually. The design of the Finnish high-end sound transducers is Nordic-modern.

Amphon Krypton3X

Impeccable sound in a futuristic guise

The Finnish manufacturer has been optimising the Amphon Krypton3X for 25 years now. And it's already won over a number of testers and listeners with the sound of its most elaborate speakers. The soaring towers offer a number of visual features that are continued inside. According to the manufacturer, they should also offer good performance in small rooms and near large window areas. I'm curious to see how the Finns can position themselves in our smaller listening room with a wide window area. Are they really that uncomplicated?

The Amphon Krypton3X arrived at our editorial office today in two large wooden crates – well protected as if they had come from overseas. The heavy artillery we retrieve from these boxes promises precise, phase-correct sound reproduction – and should largely ignore spatial limitations. So we heave the 1.37 metre high towers – each weighing 70 kilograms – into the intended listening room. This is set up like a living room to provide our readers with experiences rather than sober measurements. We place the columns next to our hi-fi shelf, on which

a Hegel amplifier provides the necessary power. The Krypton3x are not quite identical, as they have a side-mounted base driver that can be directed either inwards or outwards. In our setup, they radiate outwards towards the wall – the intention here being to provide a wide spatial image. We leave a good 40 centimetres of space towards the wall.

Craftsmanship

When positioning the Amphon Krypton3X, it is not only the weight that stands out, but also the excellent workmanship. The white housing has an excellent paint finish. All edges and drill holes are immaculately executed and the metal covers sit perfectly and bombproof on all drivers – including the high-frequency driver. There are black fabric covers on both sides of the lower section. Behind one side is the 10-inch bass driver, the other side is closed off with a solid wooden panel. The entire housing rests on an equally solid wooden plate to prevent the heavy column from falling over. The side walls of the housing have two conical areas with numerous holes.



The sturdy housing of the Krypton3X has an excellent finish. Thanks to the side-mounted bass driver, the shape remains quite slim.

This not only looks interesting, but also has a sonic function – which I’m going to come to later. The cones and the waveguide for the tweeter are then fitted into the housing with perfect precision. The screw connection is practically invisible thanks to the metal grille.

Features

The Amphon Krypton3X has a D’Appolito arrangement. The two 8-inch bass-midrange drivers are positioned above and below the high-frequency driver. The two bass-midrange drivers acoustically form a sound source directly at the height of the tweeter – creating a supposed point sound source for the listener. Since all tones that can be localised now sound from one point, this should result in excellent spatiality. The bass-midrange drivers sit in a wedge-shaped chamber – as can be seen from the dot matrix on the side walls. A special foam is used to dampen and delay the sound from the rear of the membrane so that it reaches the listener’s ears in the correct phase. The bass range takes up about half of the speaker volume. A 10-inch woofer works here, supported by two bass reflex tubes at the rear, which are tuned to 21 hertz. They provide really deep bass and give the large driver enough air for powerful punches.

Special crossover and terminal

Inside the loudspeaker there is, of course, a crossover that routes the signals from the terminal to the individual diaphragms. The very low crossover frequencies of

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Model:	Amphon Krypton3X
Device category:	Floorstanding speaker
Price:	20,000 euros (pair)
Warranty:	2 years
Versions:	- White - Black - Walnut
Distribution:	Amphon Loudspeakers, Kuopio (FIN) +358 17 2882111 amphon.fi

Dimensions (H x W x D):	1370 x 330 x 480 mm
Weight:	70 kg
Type/principle:	3-way, passive, bass reflex
Constellation:	1 x 1 inch tweeter 2 x 8 inch midrange speakers 1 x 10 inch woofer
Frequency range:	21 Hz - 55 kHz
Impedance:	4 Ohm
Load capacity:	100 - 300 Watt
Connections:	Screw terminals, single-wire

Scope of delivery

- 2 x Krypton3X
- 1 x product sheet

Pros & cons

- + very good workmanship
- + enormously detailed sound image
- + extremely good spatial imaging
- + low installation dependency
- + full sound at low volumes
- no spikes or covers included in the scope of delivery

Score

Sound (60%):	100/100
Practicality (20%):	99/100
Features (20%):	98/100
Overall rating:	99/100
Class:	Referenzklasse
Value for money:	angemessen



Durch die D'Appolito-Anordnung werden die drei Chassis als einzelne Schallquelle wahrgenommen. Dazu sind genau definierte Abstände und sorgfältige Konstruktion erforderlich.

160 and 1,600 Hertz are unusual. This allows the high-frequency driver to play very far into the range of the mid-range drivers, which in turn can also reach very far down into the bass range. These are out and about as a pair – and together have the necessary surface area. As individual drivers, they boast enough kick to achieve the necessary agility for powerful response. The connection terminal has changed somewhat compared to the older models. The terminal can now incorporate cable lugs or stranded wires as well as banana plugs too. For this purpose, there is a slot at the bottom of the holder through which the cable is fed. The clamps, which are reminiscent of volume controls, are then screwed into the mount and provide a secure hold. This means that the Amphon Krypton3X can be safely controlled with 300 watts.

Enjoyment from the very first second

After connecting the sound columns, I called up the "Milk Bar Seaside Season 10" to brew myself a cosy cup of coffee. What the Amphon Krypton3X does here with rather



While spade lugs and stranded wires can be pushed into the connections from below and locked in place with the large clamps, banana plugs can simply be inserted from behind instead of the screw terminals.

cosy material is quite remarkable. So as not to disturb anyone, I set the volume to a very moderate level and returned to the room with my coffee during "Walk with the Dreamers". I'm amazed, because even at room volume a rich bass foundation fills the room. Space lasers whizz through the ambience, the background of electric guitar and synthesiser spreads out to the front. The singer's voice has a strong basic tone and is reproduced with many nuances in the overtones. The jazzy electric guitar sounds absolutely authentic and natural – as far as you can say about an undistorted electric guitar. The trumpet sounds just as clearly, its echo reverberating throughout the room.

Deep and crisp bass

Inspired by this sonic transparency, I switch to "Limbo" by Yello. The 10-inch woofer picks me up from the very first bar. It delivers the crisp bass of the bass drum without booming. I often have to deal with room modes in this room, but that doesn't seem to bother the Amphon Krypton3X much. The growling basses of the synthesiser also have an incredible sharpness. The outward-facing bass drivers create a wonderfully crisp and wide stage on which the other instruments can let off steam. And Boris Blank knows how to impress in a variety of ways with his fascinating playful sounds. When Dieter Maier's spoken vocals are reproduced here on both stereo channels, you can hardly believe your ears how wonderfully his voice and the bright nuances harmonise with the humming bass.



The Amphon speakers are very frugal in their positioning and offer good dispersion behaviour. The stand on the base plate is stable, but no spikes are included.

A marvellous web of sound

This continues in "30,000 Days". The snare drum sounds, gently operated with a brush, and I can hear every single wire that touches the eardrum. The careful tuning of the individual chassis can be heard in every detail. I really like the fact that the driving rhythm synth sounds as if it were directly in my ears. It has an incredible breadth and depth – and still sounds close enough to touch. When I close my eyes, I'm no longer sitting in front of the loudspeakers – but in the centre of the sound fabric. This is particularly true here, as the sounds flood the entire room in a really well organised way. All the instruments are precisely positioned and envelop me in a perfectly



The midrange and tweeter offer a great depth of detail and transparency. Instead of a magnetic fabric cover, each driver has a separate grille cover.



The hole structure in the side walls reflects the chamber shape of the two midrange speakers.

crafted cloud of sound. Amphion has done a really good job in tuning the individual components. You can tell that many years of development work have gone into the Krypton3X.

Precise precision work

The playlist now serves me “Faded” by Zhu. A plucked sound reminiscent of an acoustic guitar with a lot of reverb can be heard from afar. A perfectly timed echo pours into the scenery to the left and right, while the high-pass filtered rhythm sets the timing. From bar five, the hard bass drum kicks in and provides the piece with the necessary punch. At the same time, the slightly softer bass layer hums with plenty of depth. The cymbals that now set in settle cleanly in the treble. They sound rich and rousing, but without a hint of tearing. On the contrary, the Amphion Krypton3X brings details to the surface – fine points I had previously missed. Many small synth sounds play in the background, which would otherwise be lost in the sound mix. I listen to these pieces again and again and always discover details that I had previously missed.

Powerful and yet light

I switch to “Help me lose my Mind” by London Grammar so that more natural sounds can also have their say. Here I was actually surprised by the very hard hi-hat, which the Amphion Krypton3X didn’t reproduce as brutally and hard as I’m used to. It still sounds rousing, but not overly groovy. Hannah Reid’s voice is reproduced absolutely naturally by the drivers. As such, it’s positioned centrally between the very spatial sounds of the synthesiser. The metallic breathing of the synthesiser in the background also sounds round and not exaggerated. The synth oscillating in the treble sounds excellent, which comes into its own before the chorus of the track. What’s exciting too: the difference between the muted bass drum in the verse and the open, assertive sound in the chorus. The drivers work out the many small details from the material carefully compiled by the musicians.

Spatial and rich in detail

Of course, I can’t do without the master of sound art in such a fascinating and precise performance. Jean-Michelle Jarre inspires me with Part 2 of Oxygene with an incredibly spatial presentation on the Amphion Krypton3X. Even the transition from Part 1 to Part 2 – where a warm, softly tuned layer meets chirping sounds – is an absolute delight. And when the typical background dam-da-dam hits my ears, absolute precision is at work. The sound fireworks have begun and the piece is a real listening pleasure. The lower mid-ranges in particular connect cleanly to the bass and treble. The warm tuning is not so plump that it lacks the necessary sharpness. The tweeter provides the necessary accents, resulting in a perfectly rounded picture.

Thrills, spills and goosebumps

In Kari Bremne’s “Kanskje”, softly plucked guitars on the left are paired with the rhythmically warm sounds of a synthesiser on the right. Then the singer’s voluminous voice rings out – giving me goose bumps down my arms – rich and well-founded. The slightly gloomy atmosphere that the Amphion Krypton3X creates here is very impressive. When the rich sound of the bass drum with its menacing pattern kicks in, things become even darker. Finally, the strings heighten the scene even further and the tension increases immeasurably. And once again, the speakers deliver the necessary volume and warmth to fully inspire the sound. It becomes even more exciting towards the end of the piece, when the strings and flutes simply leave the built-up gloom behind with bass and echo. A really moving experience and a fascinating piece.

I just can’t stop

And so it goes on and on. This is followed by the intro to “Electrified”, in which only a warm synthesiser plays the keynote. Then gentle basses glide through the room, only to be replaced by hard-hitting sounds. It’s always amazing how precisely Boris Blank composes sounds across



The one-inch titanium tweeter and its large waveguide form a visual and sonic unit with the two midrange drivers at the top and bottom.



With the help of the bass reflex tuning, the frequency response of the Krypton3X is right down to the lowest ranges. Yet the tweeter also plays far beyond the range of human hearing - reproducing each and every detail.

the entire bandwidth that a loudspeaker can offer. Not only are all drivers confronted with a mixture of hard-hitting and velvety-soft sounds. These sounds also spread throughout the room and are thrown forwards and backwards at the listener. This spectacle should definitely be demonstrated at a local dealer. The gigantic 70-kilogramme behemoths not only bring mass to the scales, they also throw everything into the balance acoustically. The Amphon Krypton3X is particularly good at mixing modern pieces.

me. The warm and deep tuning is exactly to my taste - while the skilful arrangement of the drivers brings order to the variety of instruments. Everything has its place and all the fine details are teased out of the material. Especially at normal listening volume, the Amphon Krypton3X deliver a sound that usually takes more power to achieve. For me, these are the ideal speakers for everyday music enjoyment. Unfortunately, they now have to move on and inspire others - so my cold coffee and I are left wistfully behind.

Conclusion

The Amphon Krypton3X offer a unique musical experience. While listening, I was constantly floating in a wonderful cloud of sound. On my musical journey, I discovered many facets in pieces that had previously escaped

Test & Text: Dieter Pfeil
Photos: Branislav Ćakić

Elegant, with a high-quality finish and excellent sound, the Krypton3X offer precise listening pleasure and great everyday practicality in equal measure.

