

Filled With Inspiration
Integrating All Aspects

Aavik Acoustics

R-180

Phono Stage



Aavik Acoustics, a Danish high-end Hi-Fi brand, is rather mystical. The chief designer and head of development is the same person for 3 brands.

A Person Dominates 3 Big Audiophile Brands

This magical character is Michael Børresen. Ever since he was a student, he found interest in creating different products. In college, he started to develop mechanical and audio products. In terms of product creation, Michael Børresen not only had bold ideas, but he also had the motivation to carry them out. He will do his best to achieve perfection. In fact, he gets many things done by himself.

In around year 2000, Michael Boerresen created his first brand. This brand, Raidho, specializes in creating Hi-End loudspeakers. After, he created rather affordable loudspeakers called Scansonic, Hi-End amplifiers Aavik Acoustics, and cable brand Ansuz Acoustics. Today Michael has left the loudspeaker brands Raidho & Scansonic and has created a new loudspeaker brand Børresen Michael Boerresen claims that

he hopes to create a complete product line, so that the image of these products shows a sense of completion.

The mentioned product in this review, Aavik Acoustics R-180 phono stage, is the new creation by Michael Boerresen and his individually led team.

Separate Units and Scandinavian Design

Besides R-180, the Aavik Acoustics phono stage also includes R-280 and R-580, from lowest to highest levels. The higher the level, the better the resonance control. These products also focus on lowering the noise level, increasing the bandwidth and dynamic, and having weak signals, sound stage, and quiet background reappear.

Although this product is of the lowest series, the R-180 phono stage maintains the primary technology of the manufacturer.

1, Separate units. This separate unit design is reflective of Aavik's space management without having any sonic compromise. The sufficient spacing per segment has allowed for adding a high-grade power supply with a huge capacity, leading to an effective cooling design. The Aavik series has increased in dynamic momentum and expansiveness in sound by separating individual units and redesigning them in an isolated manner.

2, Scandinavian simplicity. Only a few buttons are used for logical operation. These few buttons are to control the on/off power, volume, and menu. Unexpectedly, the front panel utilizes a huge red backlit display. Even when operating with a remote from a distance, the details are still presented clearly.

Specifications

Phono:	Floating RCA (1 set) Max input: 5mV rms Gain 65dB @ 1 kHz Load-impedance adjustable from 50 ohm to 10k ohm Frequency response +/-0.5 dB (20Hz-20kHz)
Output:	1 pair of RCA output THD: <0,005% (at 1kHz, 0.5mV input) Output impedance: 120 ohms
Aavik Noise Reduction:	Active Tesla Coils: 36 Active Square Tesla Coils: 104 Dither circuitry: 5
Power consumption:	Standby: <0.5W On: <10W
Dimensions:	102 x 384 x 380mm
Power consumption:	Standby: <0.5W Idle: <50W
Weight:	5.4 kg

also ensures sufficient cooling. Aavik Acoustics had tested various materials, and ended up using an innovative natural-based composite material to design the cabinet. This is used to decrease negative mechanical effects, ultimately improving its sound.

4, The shape of the cabinet focuses on good sound. The audio engineers of Aavik Acoustics look into the design and construction of musical instruments, including shape and material. They've discovered that the contours and ratio of sizes can define the tone. For example, the cabinet with too much damping would decrease its dynamics, and metallic resonance would generate a bright and peaky sound. Therefore, an appropriate ratio in the cabinet would decrease metallic resonance. In fact, a



cabinet with natural-based composite material may influence the sound to be warm and harmonious. Not only that, but the sound would also be detailed and clear as well.

Premium Noise Cancelling Technologies Exclusive Power Supply and RIAA

Cabinet Material and Shaping are Emphasized

3, The cabinet enhances sound performance. Usually, the testing of new circuits and electronic components is done without enclosing the cabinet. However, when installing these in the cabinet, the sound

performance will be affected by the cabinet. For example, the aluminum cabinet may result in mechanical resonance, ultimately affecting the final sound performance. To eliminate this sonic distortion, Aavik Acoustics minimizes the use of aluminum with its cabinets, which

5, Technology with absolutely unconstrained signal flow. The new Aavik series utilizes the experience and extensive R&D of sister company Ansuz Acoustics. For example, Tesla coils, dither circuitry, and anti-aerial resonance coils are used to achieve noise cancel-

lation. The top and bottom surfaces of the new products also have a special design, which effectively prevents mechanical vibrations. Tesla coils have double reverse winding to generate mutual exclusion, which lowers the noise. Therefore, more winding leads to lower noise. The dither circuitry uses radar technology by adding random noise signal through a calculation and transformation process, resulting in lower quantization distortion.

6, Quiet and powerful resonant mode

ply to various parts of the circuit. The noise of these regulators can go as low as a few microvolts, respectively nanovolts, and is clearly lower than the noise level of conventional regulators.

7, Exclusive RIAA / Phono Stage. The Aavik RIAA section is based on a discrete, floating, balanced, ultra-low noise bipolar input circuit. The moving coil cartridge is a floating, balanced, signal generator. Input circuitry of Aavik's phono stage uses ultra-low noise bipolar transistors.

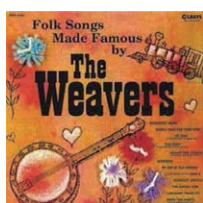
Elegant, Quiet, Vivid and Lively

The Kuzma Stabi R turntable was used in the process of listening. The R-180 phono stage demonstrated a very quiet background and a great sense of rhythm. While playing Rubinstein Chopin The Nocturnes", it is easy to notice that the R-180 sound stage maintained a very good sense of purity and clarity, with a sharp contrast in sound, if compared to other brands. The piano had a rich air vibration, lively echo and weak signals. The dark background set off a strong sense of presence. When the piano hammer hit the string, the string's vibration led to the case's vibration, demonstrating a very lifelike performance. The sound of every key was layered and vivid. The piano performance was noble and elegant, with a charming timbre and a very nice feel.

The vocal performance of the R-180 phono stage is very good as well. While playing The Weavers folk songs from last century's American 50s', the rich male vocals sounded very easy and natural, the chest resonance was very lively, and the sounds of every enunciation were clear.



power supply. The new Aavik series is designed to ensure massive power resources with ultra-low noise. Unlike a conventional square wave switch mode power supply, the new Aavik series uses sine waves to develop a resonant mode design. When the equipment needs more power, the operating frequency and power density also increase. This allows for higher peak power when required by the music. Although the noise floor in the raw power supply is very low, it could be further lowered by using the ultra-low noise regulator sup-



Paralleling several transistor pairs creates the prevention of interference and an absolutely quiet input section. The phono stage has a 62 dB gain, and the cartridge loading is adjustable from 50 Ohm to 5 K Ohm. The S/N ratio is 94 dB measured at 1 kHz. Different MC cartridges can be matched with a different cartridge loading, resulting in the highest picking efficiency and the perfect match.

You could tell that the distance between the singers' positioning was accurate and clear. This magical feel of positioning came across as if the singers were performing in our listening room, which was a trait worth praising.