

Backroom Revolution

The Swiss masterminds from Piega have redesigned their Coax series. This might arouse fears. But don't worry: it sounds better than ever.

■ By Andreas Günther

ROOM AND POSITIONING



Near-wall or free placement, adjust brilliance by angling in towards the listener, neutral acoustics, listening distance from 2.5 m (8 ft.).

For the symbol key see page 104.

NEAT KNITWEAR: Piega's German importer In-Akustik delivers the new Coax series with custom-made jumper cables.

Piega refurbishes their Coax series from scratch. Which is surprising, because this series has been the basis for the best turnover figures in the house so far. One ventures therefore on to dangerous ground when trying out new things here. Yet it's got to be, for the innovations push the sound tremendously.

On the face of it you won't see much: Piega keeps running aluminium through an extrusion moulding process; the result is the well-known lyre-shaped cabinet base. But inside surprises are waiting: Piega calls them "Tension Improve Module" (TIM). Imagine a block of aluminium which has been tensioned to minimise cabinet re-sonances.

Likewise in the Coax 311. People who meet it for the first time will be amazed at its weight: this small and very elegant loudspeaker tips the scales at a hefty 14 kilograms. The weight gives evidence of the high manufacturing quality using solid aluminium.

The new drivers are also worth taking a look at. Special attention was given by head designer Kurt Scheuch to its distinctive mark, the coax chassis. The foil is now manufactured and glued much more accurately. And even stronger neodymium magnets provide the driving force. The low-end department has also some novelties to marvel at: the woofer diaphragms now consist of an aluminium cone with a ceramic coating, and the voice coil supports are made of titanium.

Now things become exciting. Of course, the fans of the old Coax series want to know if the new one sounds so outstandingly better. The perhaps sad



NEW GLAMOUR: Piega has renovated their coax driver, the glue and cut details are now much finer. Considerably stronger neodymium magnets are also at work now.

HIGHER THRUST: Piega has also refurbished the low-mid drivers which now use a cone of coated aluminium, the voice coil support is made of titanium..

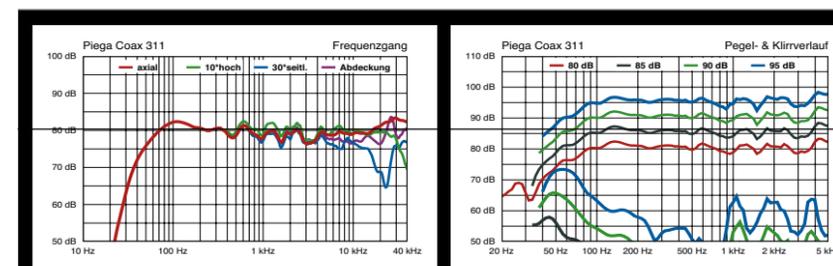


news: yes, it does. Thus it can happen that quite some older Piegas will soon appear on the well-known internet auction sites. The new series sounds better with regard to fine detail, and the bass plays in a much more mature style.

But one thing at a time. We began our listening sessions with the overture to Verdi's 'Un ballo in maschera' from the Decca recording under Sir Georg Solti. This is music which stalks up slowly. It starts with a pianissimo possibile, barely audible, only then the melody line develops. A loudspeaker must be a master of fine response, as absurd as it may sound: despite the low volume level, the sound should be space-

filling and full-bodied. The Coax 311 was able to perform precisely this art in our test, unfolding an immensely wide, yet so beautiful panorama to dig your hands in it. This music cannot be reproduced in a more three-dimensional way by a loudspeaker.

MEASURING LAB



The Coax 311 reveals some minor ripples in the mid-frequency range, otherwise the 4-ohm speaker shows a neutral tonality. Angling (left, blue graph) and cover (violet) have a significant influence on the high-frequency presence. With 101 dB spl the compact speaker can produce amazing sound levels, but needs quite some volts to pick up pace which results in an **AUDIO performance indicator** of 79.

AUDIO
RECOMMENDATION
DETAIL PRECISION

PORTRAIT

PIEGA COAX 311	
Distributor	In-Akustik GmbH & Co. KG Tel. +49 (0)7634 5610-0
www.	in-akustik.de
List price	6000 Euros
Warranty period	5 years after registration
Dimensions B x H x T	22 x 41 x 25 cm
Weight	15 kg (33.1 lbs)
Veneer/Foil/Lacquer	- / - / •
Colours	Alu natural, alu black/white
Design principles	3-way, bass reflex
Room adjustment	-
Special features	-

AUDIOGRAMM **AUDIO** 02/2017

● large panorama, wide resolution, high detail precision

Neutrality (2x)	96	■■■■■■■■■■
Detail precision (2x)	96	■■■■■■■■■■
Locatability	95	■■■■■■■■■
Spatial imaging	95	■■■■■■■■■
Fine dynamics	94	■■■■■■■■■
Maximum SPL	95	■■■■■■■■■
Bass quality	94	■■■■■■■■■
Bass depth	93	■■■■■■■■■
Workmanship	überragend	

AUDIO SOUNDScore **95 PUNKTE**
PRICE/PERFORMANCE **SUPERB**

FAZIT



Andreas Günther
AUDIO-editor

A great sounding upgrade to the well-known Piega Coax series: the Swiss have indeed kicked off a dexterous revolution. The new Coax 311 compact monitor delivers more air and freshness than its precursor, complemented by a lush bass boost. It features a phenomenal imaging talent which turns every opera recording into a crime story. The vocal representation is enormously sculptural while the old Piega character has been preserved. The coax ribbon driver is a masterpiece able to conjure a perfect panorama. With amazing ease everything falls into place. Experimenting with different cables is also worthwhile. Hint: this loudspeaker should be allowed some break-in time, everything will then turn out way more self-evident.