



Custom made damping

He has been copied many times, actually very often, that is the point why he got very cautious. By now it is nearly normal, that so called High End racks look like Copulare clones. But even if Gerhard Brandl delivered ones the blueprints, the original "Copulare Tonebase" will only be manufactured in the lower Bavarian village called Otzing – in Brandl's studio. We are honored, because we were allowed to visit this studio and Mr. Brandl showed us his new ideas. Especially, because the trade mark rights have been in progress but in the meantime

Exciting new trends in tone-bases: Mr. Gerhard Brandl from Copulare introduced hifi & records into his new concepts.

everything is patented. The new Copulare Tonebases take care about a special topic – the damping – and a lot of people believe this is the key to a good sound of a rack. In general there are two different kinds of theses in High End. One thesis propagates damping by a lot of

mass – the other thesis requests stiffness combined with low weight and is based on "energy storing effects". Mr. Brandl's constructions have been based long time on the first thesis. He is milling out the shelves and fills them either with sand or lead shot. Measurements have been made at the University of Applied Sciences in Deggendorf and they underline the effect of sand. Such a shelf has the lowest proper motion during acoustic irradiation.

But since three years Gerhard Brandl has also a base in his portfolio, which can be counted to the "light and stiff"



fraction: The “Artificial Coral” (test in issue 4/2007). It contains from white ceramic foam and is only damped minimal. That means it sounds lingering when you knock on it. That is too much self-generated tone for Mr. Brandl, therefore it will be equipped with a neoprene layer (picture below right). This sandwich is hearable quiet down and only marginal heavier.

But this isn't the only improvement, which Mr. Brandl has up his sleeve. The actual attraction is a new filling for the steel pipe frame construction. How is it possible to damp them very effectively but with only little increase in weight? Brandl tried a lot for this. In the end he came up with the idea to use an elastic material. This can be compressed in contrast to the clay granulate which is

very often used in the High End scene. First tests with caoutchouc balls have been very successful, but such a filling would have cost hundreds of euro. Gerhard Brandl found a recycling rubber granulate which does the same job a lot cheaper. This material will be treated with a talcum powder so that the rubber particles grind on each other as little as possible, when they get compressed. Therefore, Mr. Brandl included threaded bolts into his tonebases (picture below middle) and with their help it is possible to press the rubber filling together (upper picture, Gerhard Brandl personally at work). By adjusting the level of filling and the amount of compression it is possible for Mr. Brandl to customize the amount of the damping of the pipes like his customer request. Of course, Copulare owner can adjust the damping level on their own, if they are keen to experiment.

The new “Artificial Ceramica” platform with neoprene layer and the damped frame construction from Copulare

(phone 0049 - 9931 - 6490, www.tonebases.com) should be available when this magazine is printed. Prices are not available yet. In addition, Gerhard Brandl got more cautious – the techniques which have been subscribed here are patented. People who plagiarise have it harder in the future hopefully.

Wilfried Kress ■

