

The OA-51 Loudspeaker from Carlsson

The first of a new generation of Carlsson loudspeakers, the OA-51 is a wall-mounted loudspeaker which incorporates an absorbent panel (patent applied for) and joins with the wall to produce a smooth and virtually flat frequency response in a normal domestic listening environment.

Improving the Bass and Midrange Definition

Loudspeakers of traditional design cannot avoid the detrimental effects of reflected sound from the wall behind the loudspeaker. This results in a colouration and boominess of the bass and diminishes definition and impact.

In the OA-51 such detrimental effects are avoided by a world first design whereby the reflected sound from the wall co-operates smoothly with the direct sound from the loudspeaker throughout the bass range and is mainly absorbed at higher frequencies.

Maintaining the Integrity of Musical Sounds

Conventional loudspeakers have a tonal balance which varies with direction and produces a characteristic change of timbre during the build-up of sound in the listening room. The result is midrange and treble colouration.

The OA-51 avoids this through a unique Carlsson design whereby the frequency response of the total sound from the loudspeaker is made virtually the same as that of the direct sound from the loudspeaker to the listener. Thereby the concept of frequency response curves in loudspeakers, which to date has been more misleading than informative, is, in the OA-51, given a real meaning.

Opening a New Stereophonic Scene

With conventional loudspeakers the stereophonic illusion is often quite unsatisfactory outside the stereo seat.

Carlsson loudspeakers uniquely allow the listener to enjoy a musically informative portrayal of the recording virtually anywhere in the listening room. The ultimate spatial information, however, is obtained in the stereo seat equidistant from both loudspeakers. To listen to a recording with natural ambience through the OA-51 is to experience the illusion of the wall behind the loudspeakers disappearing to reveal the acoustic space of the performance.

The impression obtained is that of a sound liberated from the loudspeakers and having an openness which is very close to the real thing.

Form Follows Function

The OA-51 has a seven-sided speaker cabinet specifically designed to place the drive units at a very short distance from the wall on which the loudspeakers are positioned. The pioneering acoustic absorbent panel (patent applied for) is attached to one side of each cabinet. The positioning of the drive units, together with the absorbent panel, are essential in achieving a bass and midrange reproduction with smooth response and undistorted definition and impact.

The patented inclination of the drive units is essential in making the frequency response curve of the loudspeaker's total sound become virtually the same as that of the loudspeaker's direct sound. Thereby the characteristic change of timbre during the build-up of sound in the listening room is avoided; thus the integrity and natural timbre of musical sounds are maintained.

The striking appearance of the OA-51 is the result of a collaboration between speaker designer Stig Carlsson and Swedish industrial designer Lars Lallerstedt.

The Acoustics of the Listening Room

The natural acoustic qualities created into the OA-51 will add a new dimension to the listening pleasure that can be enjoyed from any high-quality music system under domestic listening conditions.

The listening room itself has as important an influence on the sound as any of the other components in the sound recording and reproducing chain. The acoustics of a normal living room are usually better than is commonly realised, especially if the room is already furnished in such a way that it gives a pleasant sound to live voices and instruments. Most audio demonstration environments, however, because of their musically often unsatisfactory acoustics, cannot avoid reducing the impact and the beauty of the reproduction.

To best appreciate the acoustic qualities of the OA-51, we recommend that you audition this loudspeaker in the comfort of your own home.

The Associated Components

Sound reproduction of the highest quality is a rare achievement because, all too often, several of the many components used in the sound recording and reproducing chain are liable to segregate the listener from the richness of the original performance, thereby diminishing detail and impact. Only the very finest associated components and recordings are capable of transferring the most delicate qualities of an original performance. The OA-51 is one such component.

With a loudspeaker of this quality, any subsequent improvement in associated components and recordings will be clearly appreciated.