

Best damn stand I ever heard

From Paul McGowan / PS Audio



While at the Munich show, I met a new friend, Roland Jaeger, who owns a very small company hand building acoustic stands, platforms and isolation feet. We used his products in the PS booth at the show.

Now, I have never paid a great deal of attention to such products. Sure, I use spikes on the speakers, have a very sturdy rack system and have played with all sorts of Sorbothane feet, isolation bases, sand filled boxes of all types and come away with pretty much the same conclusions: mixed results. Some benefits, some negatives, big pain in the butt.

But all of a sudden I meet Roland who is beyond passionate about his products. Ok, so it's good he's passionate but I am not excited. That is until I heard a repeated AB comparison and then found myself blown away. Stunned actually.

So, you have to picture this. Here we are in a small 15 x 15 room on the convention floor. The room is a flimsy prefab 'box' that is anything but soundproof or optimal for listening. We've got a nice pair of Von Schweikert's loudspeakers (you can see the whole setup in the Munich video) powered with a PS C-100 Control amp, fed from a DL III DAC, fed from a Metronome CD transport all connected with PS cables and power cords. Nice system.

The Metronome CD transport is extremely expensive (I think about \$30K for the transport). It has a separate power supply and this supply was placed on the shelf below the transport.

So, Roland says 'let me first show you the feet'. We listened to a cut on the system just as it was. Then he lifted up the power supply of the Metronome transport and placed his feet under the power supply and we listened again. The improvement was startling.

We did this several times and each time it was clear and easy to spot the improvement. The audio just seem to float in space with the feet and without them, it kind of hung in the speakers a bit more. But remember, this is to a power supply of a transport!



Now here's the interesting part. I was pretty impressed from the outset of how good this system sounded. We couldn't have been more than 5 feet away from the speakers and they couldn't have been more than 4 feet away from the rear wall and yet; and yet the system was really disembodied from the speakers in a good and natural way.

I would not have suspected this level of 'speaker disappearing' from the setup given the physical constraints we had, but there it was....

Roland explained that the spatial qualities we were hearing were, of course, due to all the factors including the speakers, the cables and electronics but....and this is a big 'but'....'the stands and feet really made it come alive'. I was suspicious of his claim.

So we placed the Metronome transport and power supply on the floor in front of the stand as an experiment. Damn if the entire soundstage didn't simply collapse back into the speakers a bit. I suspect had we set the entire system on the floor or another stand, the effect would have then matched my original low expectations of how the system should image.



Anyway, enough rambling. I told Roland I was so impressed with his product that I'd use our newsletter to introduce his work to the world. I also asked him to come up with a special package for interested folks he could send to those of you interested.

I am going to give you his email address and website. Deal directly with Roland. We're not involved either financially or any other way. Just sometimes you meet someone or see a product so noteworthy that you simply have to let the rest of the world know about it. This is one of those cases. He can ship anywhere in the world.

The stands, platforms and feet are all handmade by Roland personally, take about 2 to 3 weeks (depending on demand) and then get shipped to you.

I can vouch for his honesty and certainly for the effectiveness of this product. Roland's offering a platform (base for setting equipment on) and 3 feet for \$995 including shipping for the first few folks to apply. You can see a picture of the base and feet here. It's deceptively simple looking, but the entire piece is honeycombed with holes in a specific pattern, then filled and dampened with some proprietary stuff.

The actual stands themselves (pictured above) are quite a bit more money and are gorgeous pieces of furniture as well. If you're interested, contact him at this email address info@akustik-manufaktur.de or visit his website here <http://www.akustik-manufaktur.de/> but it's mostly in German.

Don't expect a lot of info and please remember he's a one man show trying to get started. I loved his passion, his art and the results he achieves and he deserves a chance to make it. Roland speaks reasonable English, he's a heck of a nice guy, and I gotta tell you, if you go for the package deal, you won't regret it.

In Roland's words: 'The feet are designed and developed to the bases – and bring this special flying and floating sound. When you get used of this performance for a while, you never will give away this bases and feets anymore.'

Paul McGowan