

New finery

Speakers from the Argentum range have been Quadral's best sellers for many years now. "You can make a good product even better" is Quadral's claim and they have recently launched a completely updated range of Argentum 400 speakers.



Typical Quadral: Aluminium damped polypropylene membrane for impulsive music reproduction

The price of around 900 euros for a pair of speakers makes the Argentum 490 comparatively inexpensive and it comes with some enhanced technical details as well as attractive workmanship. The 3-way speaker's 1 metre-tall case consists of a white laminated, rectangular MDF case and Quadral also decided to fit a front-plate with a high-gloss finish to enhance the overall visual appearance. In general the Argentum 490 has a superb visual appearance, with the final touch of elegance being provided by the silvery smooth membranes used for the woofer and the mid-ranges.

Configuration Two woofers with 130 mm membranes are used in the Argentum 490 to provide the rich bass pressure. Their low resonance, aluminium damped polypropylene membrane based technology is taken from the higher-priced range made by Quadral and they both use a powerful magnetic actuator. Together with the generously dimensioned bass reflex tube fitted at the rear of the case they ensure powerful bass depth and bass pressure without causing any interfering air flow noises. The same membrane material that is used in the woofers has also been used in Quadral's mid-range unit and this pure mid-toner uses a small, 90 mm membrane. The 25 mm fabric tweeter dome has also been updated and the frequency response has been extended downwards so that it can be more harmonically coupled to the mid-tone unit. The developers at Quadral also paid a lot of attention to the expensive frequency separating filter, which was designed using top quality components in order to produce the best sound quality and also to ensure that the Argentum 490 has a well-balanced impedance curve so that the choice of amplifier is no longer critical.



A 25 mm fabric dome has been used to ensure silky high tone reproductions that go way above the auditory threshold

The generously dimensioned reflex tube prevents any flow noises occurring with high peaks

Laboratory The Quadral Argentum exhibited exceptional radiation properties in our test laboratory and there were no frequency response break-ups within the arc. Only the high tone section above 10 kHz fell slightly below 30° and this was overcome by specific repositioning (re-aligning the listening area) as well as acoustic fine tuning. The two large woofer membranes are used in combination with a huge bass reflex tube and this combination ensures that the tremendous deep bass pressure that is generated can be used without any distortion around 50 Hertz. This also means that the low distortion (klirr) ratio and the best pulse ratio can both be realised without any faults or flaws.

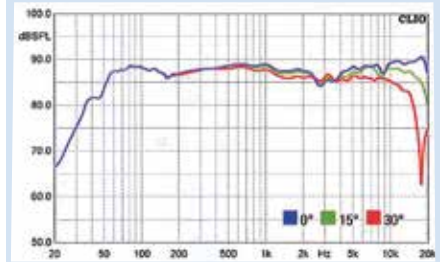
Sound In the aural evaluation using our favourite CD from Chris Jones, the Argentum 490 was truly "gigantic". The rich, parched and deep E-bass produced during the "No Sanctuary Here" track sounded both sudden yet powerful. This Quadral upright speaker produced a clear, precise deep bass, which always remained impressive even with high peaks as any flattened bottom tones were never exaggerated. The mid and high tone ranges always sounded effortless and fresh as well as being free of any intonations or neglect in specific frequency ranges. The Argentum 490's reproduction is pleasantly neutral, without it losing any enjoyment or impulsivity – a true all-rounder with excellent musical qualities.



Conclusion The new 3-way Argentum 490 upright speaker from Quadral will delight you all the way down the line. Its clean, undistorted sound is paired with an impressive, dynamic deep bass performance that will simply astound you. For the price of a pair, which is clearly less than 1,000 euros, you get Argentum 490 speakers that have been really well prepared and are true musical all-rounders.

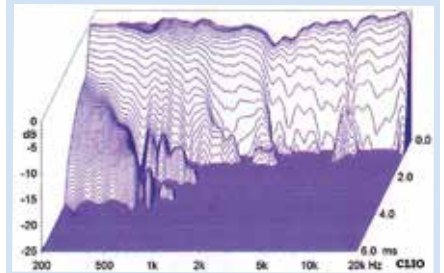
Michael Voigt

Test information



Frequency response

Quadral's Argentum 490 has enormous bass potential and even uses full peaks at 50 Hertz. The Argentum 490 reproduces superbly audible mid and high tones that do not break up. Recommendation: It will improve your listening room



Cascading

The Argentum 490's pulse ratio is amazing for a speaker in this price class. It is virtually impossible to detect any ringing or membrane resonance

Stereo speaker	Quadral Argentum 490		
• Price per pair	900 euros	Sound	70 % 1.2
• Sales	Quadral, Hanover	• Tonal balance	20 % 1.2
• Tel:	+49 (0) 511 79040	• Reproduction accuracy	15 % 1.2
• Internet	www.quadral.com	• Resolution clarity	15 % 1.2
• Guarantee	5 years	• Spatiality	10 % 1.1
		• Dynamics / vitality	10 % 1.0
Configuration		Laboratory	15 % 1.1
• Dimensions (W x H x D in mm)	185 x 1060 x 345	• Frequency response	5 % 1.2
• Weight	20.1 kg	• Distortion	5 % 1.2
• Styling	White, black (front)	• Peak consistency	5 % 1.0
• Design	Bass reflex / single wiring	Practical tests	15 % 1.2
• Woofer	2 x 130 mm	• Workmanship	5 % 1.3
• Mid-bass unit	1 x 90 mm	• Configuration	5 % 1.2
• Tweeter	25 mm dome	• User guide	5 % 1.2

Assessment **Preistipp** HiFi Test

In brief:

- ⊕ 3-way principle
- ⊕ Huge reflex port
- ⊕ Price/performance ratio

Sound	70%	1.2
Laboratory	15%	1.1
Practical tests	15 %	1.2

HiFi Test TV-HIFI **Top class**

Price/performance ratio Rating

Superb **1.2**