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STEREO

THE GERMAN HI-FI MAGAZINE

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> T+A TALIS S 300

A WORK OF ART



> STRONG COMPETITION

HIGH END HEADPHONES

**REVIEWS: CANTON GLE 496.2 +++ KEF Q550 +++ ELAC UNI-FI F 05
+++ FOCAL CHORUS 716 +++ WHARFEDALE DIAMOND 11.4 +++
AVM PA 8.2 AND MORE!**



FULL

METAL JACKET

Aluminum makes it possible: thanks to its metal cladding, the eye-catching T+A TALIS S 300 floorstanding speaker looks both comfortable and elegant in the living room.

T+A can still spring surprises: after a firework of innovations coming from its electronics department in the HV and R series, now it's the turn of the loudspeaker section again— and with the compact R 300, and the 33kg TALIS S 300 floorstander discussed here, it's delivered almost sculptural speakers.

The special – and most eye-catching – feature of the duo is the cabinets, which are made of pure aluminum, giving the

TALIS S 300 such impressive elegance and beauty that we could hardly wait to get it into action with some high-quality electronics.

First we headed for the small STEREO listening room, where the extreme rigidity of the aluminum housing proved partly responsible for the authority and potency on offer, and giving it properties more similar to those of the spectacular Criterion TCD 110 S stablemate than one

might have expected. It makes the speaker much more delicate and elegant than a comparable wooden cabinet. Assuming a material density of about 500-650 kg per m³ for the MDF used in most high-quality loudspeaker construction, that figure would be 2700 kg for aluminum, which is easily four to five times as much – and we better not talk about the resulting additional costs for processing.

However, the higher sound transmission of the material must also be considered, which can, in the case of aluminum, presumably only be significantly influenced and optimized by internal coating and profiling. In fact, developer Jochen Fabricius revealed to us that both the S 300 and the R 300 are lined with 4mm of bitumen heavy foil and additional damping material, without which the enclosure would probably ring like a bell. We've seen measurements showing the vibration behavior of undamped and damped versions of the cabinet, and the damping brings 10-20dB of attenuation, especially in the midrange to low frequencies!

With the damping, the enclosure here seems to keep itself largely out of the music – on the contrary, it asserts its 33kg mass in a reassuring way.

Three-way split

In the TALIS S 300, we have before us a real three-way design with bass reflex tuning. The lower frequencies are handled by two long-stroke 17cm bass drivers with 5cm voice coils, whose combined surface can definitely contest a much larger driver, while delivering better speed and a slimmer baffle. The specially designed midrange driver is also a cone driver with a 12cm diaphragm, while a 25mm dome tweeter handles the high-frequency range. The cleverly designed and well-equipped crossover separates the drivers at 250 and 2200 Hertz.

Slim, but oho!

“The speaker will blow your mind,” Jochen Fabricius prophesied – with a touch of unvarnished pride – just before the test and it turned out that he was right.

Of course decades of listening experience have taught us to approach attractive, but rather slim and not overly large speakers with cautious expectations. That makes it even more delightful if a speaker can excel these expectations!

The authority and controlled bass power of the new T+A proved easily enough for the large – more than 40m² – STEREO listening room, which prompted us to change the listening situation. With the S 300, there are no serious problems when it comes to filling a space with music, although in an extreme emergency the bass reflex ports can be closed with the included plugs – in our big room this was absolutely not required!



„THE ALUMINUM HOUSING
COMBINES PHYSICS AND PLEASING
LOOKS, TURNING THE SPEAKER
INTO A SCULPTURE.“

The solid base is bolted to the cabinet and provides stability. ▶



expected from a comparatively medium-sized speaker.

Katja Maria Werker's "Here Comes the Flood" or Adele sound superbly focused and with natural height, detached clearly above the upper edge of the cabinet, while the soundstage reaches noticeably beyond the dimensions of the speakers. The power of the performance, for example when Adele's "Lovesong" uses the bass, inspires us and immediately lets us switch to Johnny Cash via Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" and AC/DC's "Back in Black", listening through each title completely in turn.

What dynamism and vibrancy! Whether with the strings on the Vivaldi or the guitar on the instrumental "Stairway to Heaven", the emotional temperament never goes at the expense of objectivity, and even the timing, the rhythmically driving element, is superb. The characteristics of the instruments, the dimensions and last but not least the depth of the soundstage always remain credible.

In fact the TALIS has so much of that certain something, you find yourself

In addition, the S 300 makes every improvement in the electronics with which it is used clearly audible, meaning it benefits enormously from the amplifier chosen. Yes, it sounds convincing and full-bodied even when played quietly thanks to relatively high sensitivity, but more power can never do any harm. After all, you can easily hear, even with an ultra-sensitive horn speaker, whether an amplifier is working hard or has power in reserve, and so it is here, too. In simple terms, T+A's PA 2500 R or even its PA 3100 HV are fantastic ways to drive this superb loudspeaker, whose coarse and fine dynamic abilities are absolutely outstanding: never does it get lost in detail, and nor are there any signs of compression.

The TALIS S 300's performance is captivating, sometimes almost shockingly clear, accentuated, extremely precise and detailed, all being paired with a naturalness and solidity, and topped off with an ability to reproduce the scale of a recording far beyond what one might have

Like the drivers, the elaborately designed crossover is located on the baffle.. ▶



Dynamic, and captivating

Even with more complex instrumentations such as Michael Bubl e's Big Band, the TALIS S 300 retains a consistent overview despite all the explosive colors, and follows the cleanly focused protagonist in "Feeling Good" with incorruptible precision. It never sounds overly analytical, but rather draws the listener into the action, conveys emotions and even lends the performance a pleasant color with a small dash of warmth and charisma. Not so many speakers this side of the €10,000 barrier can do all of that.

I must admit that this aluminum column impresses me, as does its sister the Criterion TCD 110 S – even though the two are technically completely different, and only share their common ancestry.



This gives an impression of the stability and coating of the enclosure. ▶

almost desperately looking for the chink in its armor – without success. Yes, there are better speakers, and not just in T+A’s own portfolio; but for 9000€?

True, that’s no small money, and in this price range, one is already among very demanding buyers, even lovers; but the range of similarly successful complete works of art is quite slim – this speaker sounds unbelievably good, and is also exceptionally room-friendly.

Better living?

So far we have not mentioned the notorious WAF factor (Woman Acceptance Factor), which is more dominant in the

choice of speakers for the living room than it would be for those destined for the separate “Man Cave”. And indeed I only raise this slightly archaic consideration now because this T+A has sufficient elegance to slip under that particular radar in streamlined manner; if not in an oak-lined rustic room, definitely in a modern home. It plays, and fills a room, but won’t dominate it.

T+A knows exactly who has a say in a purchase, and with this speaker, the compromise is ultimately no compromise at all. The TALIS is a beauty, and yet –or more precisely because of it – good. Terribly good.

Tom Frantzen

T+A TALIS S300

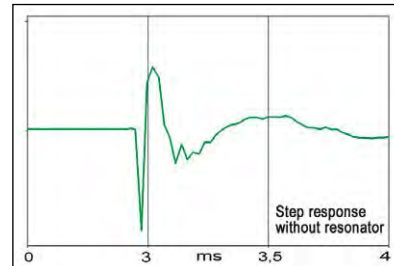
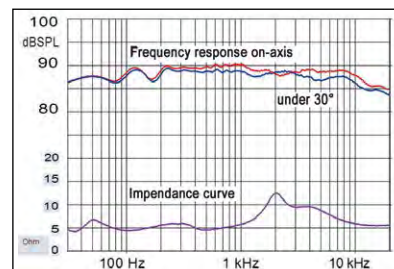


€8990

Dimensions: 21 x105 x28 cm (WxHxD)
 Warranty: 5 years
 Contact: T+A, Phone: +49 5221 76760
 www.ta-hifi.de

The new T+A TALIS S 300 floorstanding loudspeaker astonishes with its combination of an elegant, sculptural silhouette and the kind of high-end, superior sound image one would expect from much larger designs. It’s a sound that inspires, and a major part of the secret is the all-aluminum housing.

MEASUREMENT RESULTS



DC resistance	4 Ohm
Minimum impedance	4.5 Ohm at 35 Hz
Maximum impedance	12 Ohm at 2000 Hz
Sound pressure level (2.83 V/m)	89 dB SPL
Power for 94 dB SPL	14 W
Lower cut-off frequency (-3dB SPL)	29 Hz
Distortion factor at 63/3k/10k Hz	0.3/0.1/0.1 %
Weight:	33000 g

LAB COMMENTS: The balanced and neutral frequency response, the timing that is exemplary not only for a three-way construction, the almost identical on-/off-axis dispersion characteristics and the low level of distortion – all are great testimony to the development team, and the speaker is also easy to operate.

STEREO-TEST

SOUND QUALITY 91%

PRICE/PERFORMANCE

★★★★☆

EXCELLENT