



Boenicke Audio W8

Boenicke speakers aren't great only because they're made out of solid wood. They're great because Sven Boenicke, the founder and owner of Boenicke Audio, is a craftsman and an artist.

Turns out that when it comes to speakers, bigger isn't necessarily better. This fact became starkly clear a few months back when our editor in chief, Eric Yang, told me that he needed an hour of my time. "I want you to hear something that's going to blow your mind," he said.

The two of us walked several blocks east from Gear Patrol's New York offices to Park Avenue Audio, a rather large high-end speaker showroom on the corner of 30th Street and Park Avenue. There, a luxury sales consultant named Andrew walked us downstairs into a listening room to demo these gorgeous wooden speakers from Boenicke Audio.

Chances are you've never heard of Boenicke Audio — I sure hadn't. It doesn't make many speakers, and the few it does produce are really expensive. And because it's based in Switzerland, not a lot of its speakers make it overseas to the States. But the audio company is a good one to get to know because it crafts some of the most beautifully designed, best-sounding speakers available. Period.

One of the things that make Boenicke Audio speakers special is that they're made out of solid

wood. Most big-box speaker manufacturers opt, for various reasons, for metal or wood composites instead. But solid wood features innate acoustic properties that make it a particularly good material for loudspeaker construction. It's dense, stiff and naturally non-resonant, so speakers made from it produce very little distortion, and wooden enclosures naturally amplify and enrich the sound. There's a reason why most of the best instruments — grand pianos, guitars and even a centuries-old Stradivarius violin — are made of wood. It's not just dumb luck.

But Boenicke speakers aren't great only because they're made out of solid wood. They're great because Sven Boenicke, the founder of Boenicke Audio, is a craftsman and an artist. As an audio-engineer-turned-speaker-manufacturer Boenicke spares no expense in making sure these speakers sound perfect. If you were to slice one open vertically, you'd see the meticulous detail of the enclosures, and how uniquely beautiful the internal signal path is. And before releasing them out into the wild, Sven personally tests and listens to each speaker to ensure the proper calibration and performance.



Specs

Type: 3-way, 4-driver solid wood floor-standing

Drivers: Dome tweeter, aluminum cone, paper cone mid/bass, long throw bass

Frequency Range: 25Hz - 25kHz

\$7,960



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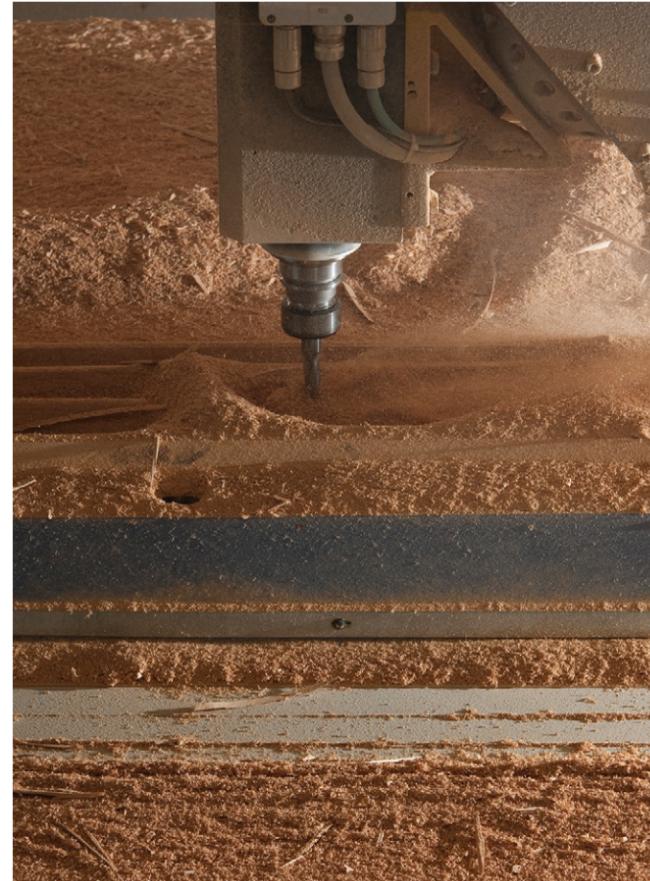
And he manages to do that without making massive speakers. Even though the W8s are tiny compared to other floor-standing models, they sound significantly bigger and better than they actually are. The result is that any first-time listener will have the same reaction I did: *there's no way a speaker that small can sound like that.*

Sitting in that small room in the basement of Park Avenue Audio, listening to the W8 speakers, it was almost an out-of-body experience. Like being in the front row of a concert and then having Glenn Frey pull me on stage with The Eagles in the middle of a show. The midrange and treble on these speakers are absolutely huge, and it feels like you're not simply listening in the room, but immersed in the action. The speakers and their

sound simply affect you — they feel more real and more impactful (not necessarily louder). All of this sounds like hyperbole, but it's actually true.

With the proper amplification and the right tracks, a pair of Boenicke speakers will outperform almost anything that you've ever heard costing up to six figures. Don't believe me? That's fine. Go online and search "Sven Boenicke" and you'll see nothing but universal praise. And if you're at all interested and think you're ready to listen to a pair, just make sure you talk to Andrew at Park Avenue Audio in New York; it's the only place where you can listen to and buy a pair of Boenicke speakers in the United States right now.

Tell them Gear Patrol sent you. — TB



SVEN BOENICKE, FOUNDER AND OWNER
BOENICKE AUDIO

