

## Manger Swing/Subsonice

### The Success Curve

*The famed Manger sound transducer is always a good topic for discussion. But a great deal of the discussion has become yesterday's news with the release of the "Swing" subwoofer-satellite system by Holger Barske*

**Keyword**

*Manger sound transducer*

If you want to know more about this exclusive bending-wave transducer, look up the STEREO 11/2000 test of the Zerobox 103 floorstanding loudspeaker, which deals in detail with the physics behind this exceptional development

There are no two ways about it. You either love or hate the loudspeaker range designed around Josef W. Manger's bending-wave transducer. And Daniela Manger, Diploma Physicist, daughter of the company founder and for some time now the "woman at the helm" of Manger, is well aware of this. Her latest contribution to the subject of "Compatibility and Taste" goes under the catchy name of "Swing" and is actually quite appropriate for this 7000 euro subwoofer/satellite system.

The main speakers justify their "Swing" name visually with its silhouette curving upwards. The term satellite is a bit misleading because of the not inconsiderable size. This curved shape doesn't only help in integrating them into a living-room environment, there are also solid acoustic reasons for this, which brings us to the subject of the scattering of sound panel reflections.

Apart from the actual Manger transducer the main loudspeakers, fitted with a solid slate pedestal, accommodate a passive filter that cuts off the working range of the transducer at the lower end – and this is where we find the decisive difference compared to previous Manger loudspeakers. The lower cut-off is now effected much steeper than before, and this exceptional chassis clearly benefits from this audibly.

And to ensure continuity even below 160 Hertz, which is the frequency where the Manger transducer cuts out, Daniela Manger combines the Swing with the "Subsonice" subwoofer. Here a powerful 25 centimetre chassis ensures there is a lot in reserve at low frequencies, especially as a controller is used to help it get started up. The integrated 120 watt power stage regulates the driver to the correct deflection using the correction signal from a microphone fitted on the diaphragm. This means that you can achieve a lower cut-off frequency of 25 Hertz despite the quite compact size of the subwoofer.

But this is not what makes the difference in the sound impression of this system – it's the Manger transducer itself that dominates. And not just with tonal peculiarities, that you might have occasionally experienced in the past, but with "normality" – in the most positive sense of the word. The Swing forms a completely homogeneous mid-range unit with rarely to be heard transparency and plasticity, so there is no longer any need for it to be treated as an exotic outsider.

The actual integration of the subwoofer is not that easy, as the cut-off frequency is set quite high. We found that the best way was to move the rear-mounted potentiometer as far to the right as possible. Then experiment with the arrangement carefully, until at some point the sound impression slots audibly into position.

Anyone looking for an even more sumptuous soundstage should invest in a second Subsonice, which also gets rid of the problem of the high cut-off frequency. But even with only a single subwoofer, it must be said that this is the most compatible Manger arrangement ever!

## STEREO 10/2002 – Special Loudspeaker

### Manger Swing/Subsonice

**Caption1:**

Daniela Manger demonstrating the complete Swing and Subsonice system for the first time at the High End 2002

**Caption2:**

Response: The Swing subwoofer is a regulated model. A microphone on the diaphragm transmits the correction signal.

**Manger Swing**

Price around € 7,000

Dimensions: 34x113x34 cm (WxHxD, excl. subwoofer)

Manufacturer: Manger, Tel.: ++49 (0)9776/9816

[www.manger-msw.com](http://www.manger-msw.com)

The breakthrough has been achieved: With this arrangement the Manger transducer can display its full potential. Tonally completely clean, with ultrafine resolution – this is the benefit of the extremely precise temporal behaviour. With careful setting up, the Subsonice ensures a similarly "fast" bass range, and two would provide even more.

**Laboratory**

Frequency response/Impedance

Step response

The system's amplitude pattern is perfectly balanced, the gentle drop to the treble range was of no acoustic relevance. The subwoofer has real deep bass properties. The system offers an uncomplicated load with purely ohmic impedance pattern, with the efficiency factor at around 87 decibels. The step response (only main speakers) revealed the extra class of the bending-wave transducer from a measuring engineering standpoint. You don't get much better than this.

**STEREO test**

Sound level 90%

Price/Performance 3/5

Very good