

Closely Related

Visually, the two standmount speakers Canton Townus 2 and Townus 30 look almost identical to each other. But what about the sonic relationship between the active and passive version?

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The question of active or passive is not about beliefs

Sooner or later, almost every music lover is confronted with the question of how to give their somewhat outdated, possibly (partially) broken hi-fi system a contemporary facelift. The choice of a new loudspeaker plays a significant and decisive role then. You not only have to decide between the almost unmanageable variety of floorstanding and standmounted speakers as well as various design alternatives, you also

have to choose between classic passive or one of the numerous different active solutions that are on offer nowadays.

Passive & Active Advantages

With a bit of luck, your shopping trip will not have to entail replacing your entire system, but perhaps only the speakers. This means that the receiver or amplifier as well as the CD player or turntable are still in a good



shape and operational or can be repaired with a reasonable amount of effort.

The following question as to whether this configuration should remain the same for the foreseeable future then arises; or whether you are perhaps speculating on upgrading your TV sound via your stereo or if you possibly aim to reduce the amount of equipment in the somewhat near future. In most cases, the sound of your TV can also be freed from the croaking of its built-in transducer via your hi-fi system. But at least one all-in-one device, i.e. the modern edition of a category formerly called compact stereo and similar names, always remains part of the setup. Possibilities for expansions in the direction of a multi-channel or multi-room system are very limited or even non-existent.

To make up for that, you have only spent money on what you really need at the moment. And you also do not have to get used to completely different cabling and operation.

Know What You Want

The number of different devices necessary for music playback has been annoying you for quite some time? And the idea of building the amplifier into the speaker has always appealed to you in theory? But you'd still like to use your old, but functional CD player, despite a Qobuz streaming subscription – while also upgrading it a bit in terms of sound? And the topic of „music in multiple rooms“ or your desire to complement the big screen with adequate and multi-channel sound is also slowly ripe for discussion? Then active speakers might be the solution you're looking for, just as they are if you only want to send your music to the speakers from your smartphone or tablet.

Thus, you should think hard about what you want and be sure which direction you want your journey to take before you make a decision.

In any case, the two Canton speakers here clearly show what their advocates like about them. The drivers and the cabinet are very similar for both speakers, and the workmanship is a real delight, especially considering the price range.

The tweeters in the Townus 2 active speaker have a 25 millimeter membrane made of aluminum magnan, while the passive sibling



The informative display is easy to read, even from a distance. It can be dimmed if desired and only switches on briefly when in use.

Townus 30 was given a ceramic dome of the same size. Both models are designed as bass reflex speakers and exhale towards their rear. The titanium woofer with the typical Canton „Wave“ surround has a diameter of a good 15 centimeters in the 2, the passive and slightly larger 30 boasts a 17 cm woofer. All screws holding the drivers are hidden behind precisely polished cover rings. If you want to completely cover the drivers, you can do so with the included oval and magnetically adhering covers.

Fine Workmanship in Detail

On the passive Townus 30, we took particular note of the very solid single-wiring terminal with gold-plated connectors, which allows both banana plugs as well as bare cables or spade terminals to be connected.

The rear of the active sibling is somewhat more spectacular, while also less familiar. Here, the two drivers are powered by an amplifier delivering up to 350 watts of power per speaker. Before any sound can be heard, however, you have to decide which of the numerous digital or analog connection options on the back is the right one for you. Then, the type of operation, which ranges from normal stereo playback to virtual

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