



Soundboard

If you don't have much space at home or have elegant surroundings, it's often difficult to fill your room with hi-fi sound. Loudspeakers are often bulky and large hi-fi systems are not really elegant-looking. So what's the answer?

It's good to know that there are designers and manufacturers on the planet who have taken up this challenge. Finite Elemente is one of these manufacturers. Based in Germany's Brilon the company is renowned for producing exceedingly well designed audio products. This is not restricted to just high-end rack systems and hi-fi accessories, as the company also develops and builds stylish loudspeaker systems with truly excellent sound quality. Modular audio furniture units with clear lines, timeless design and well thought-out details can also be found in Finite Elemente's range of products. This has now been augmented by the "Hohorizontal 51" Soundboard that at first glance looks very much like a normal shelf unit. You couldn't be more wrong.

Features: The Soundboard is fitted with an integrated interface for Apple players. Devices such as iPods can be docked in the centre of the board's top, from where music info is sent to the

integrated amplifier with a rated output of 25 watts per channel. The Soundboard from Finite Elemente, measuring no more than 51 mm in height and a metre long, has two small, unobtrusive tweeter speaker units fitted at the edges of the board's front and protected from damage by fine-mesh wire covers. Additional external players can be connected to the concealed sockets of the Hohorizontal 51. The Soundboard can even handle music from a PC connected via the mini USB interface. The video output can be used to send images to connected TV units. The Hohorizontal 51 is also well suited for use as the main loudspeaker system for flat-screen TVs. It would be difficult

to find a more visually discreet possibility of upgrading the sound quality of today's TVs. Hohorizontal 51 is available in six different lacquer finishes, with the colours ranging from classic white and black, cool anthracite via fashionable red up to the trendy options of mallow and cobalt. And if you prefer a more natural look, then there is also a finish with real walnut veneer.

Sound: The Soundboard, weighing in at 10 kg with a load-bearing capacity of 25 kg when mounted on a stable wall, produces surprisingly full music reproduction. Music is reproduced very spaciouly, and the small loudspeakers are very persuasive with their lively performance. The Soundboard is surprisingly good at its job, and 500 euros is more than a fair price for such a clever design solution offering such fine sound quality.

Summary: The Hohorizontal 51 from Finite Elemente is a highly innovative solution for music lovers. Mounted unobtrusively on the wall it fills a living room environment with fine sound.

Jochen Schmitt



Four small mid-woofers on the bottom assist the tweeters in the shelf's front in music reproduction.

iPod docking station Finite Elemente Hohorizontal 51

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|----------------|-------------------------|
| · Price | around 500 euros |
| · Distribution | Finite Elemente, Brilon |
| · Phone | (+49) 2961 966110 |
| · Internet | www.finite-elemente.de |

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|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Measured values | |
| · Dimensions (w x h x d) in mm | 1000 x51 x 300 |
| · Weight | 10 kg |

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|--|-------------------------|
| Features | |
| · Soundboard with iPod docking station | |
| · Audio input | 1 x cinch, 1 x mini USB |
| · Video output | 1 x composite |
| · Remote control | • |
| · Charging function | • |

Assessment:

In brief:
 + very clever idea / good finishing
 + surprisingly balanced sound quality

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|------------------|-------------|------------|
| Sound | 40 % | 1,3 |
| Operation | 30 % | 1,2 |
| Features | 30 % | 1,3 |

Player

Very good

Price-performance ratio

Top class **1,3**