



musikelectronic geithain

The Reasons Why ...

During 2013-2015, David Zells of Lydspesialisten in Norway, tested every High End Studio Monitor he could lay his hands on (and this was a lot) and published the results as they happened on the Gearslutz internet forum. The result: he sold his previous monitors and purchased two pairs of ME-Geithain monitors: The **RL 801K-1** for his main monitors and the **RL 944K-1** for his nearfield monitors – this tells why:-



So... These are the ME-Geithain qualities I found and fell in love with:-

The Truth

I have tried to highlight every aspect of a loudspeaker regarding finding the one with the most truthful picture that interacts with the way I perceive and mix music. This means a reference that produces sound as accurately as possible related to how I interact as an engineer. If I feel like doing a 2dB adjustment, I want this decision to translate and not have to return and back it off 1dB. I want to be able to compress a drum kit to the point where I feel the beat and know that the loudspeaker isn't helping me with an overly tight or punchy bottom end. I want the reference to be true to the source as how I perceive truthfulness. Not too wet, not too dry, not too 3D, not too 2D, not too wide nor too narrow, not too big nor too small, too tight or too punchy but balanced in every way. This was what I found in the Geithains.

Sound

I could describe the sound as very balanced, transparent, detailed and accurate with a big and wide virtual window, but the most describing words would be "calm and natural". They don't seem to exaggerate anything and every quality is presented with confidence and calmness. This adds a level of inspiration in the everyday work, which naturally has a big impact on the resulting product. They are by no means a flattering monitor and present the flaws as accurately as the positive side of a production. They sound just as natural or truthful playing a smooth jazz production, as they are to a modern rock song; making them an accurate reference no matter what genre you're in.

Imaging

The imaging is something else on the Geithains and something that "floored" me right away when listening to them. I really don't mean like "high end", a little bit better than the rest, but rather a big step and a game-changing experience. I measured them after this experience and confirmed a close to perfect phase response – better than any other speaker in the test. When I received the bigger **RL 801K-1**, I could also confirm a sensational phase response with the same exceptionally imaging features. This contributes to an overwhelming confidence in mixing the balance between the five elements. I don't think the aspect of good imaging can be overdone; it just gives you better control over the different elements of the mix.

Frequency response

The Geithain K-series cardioid design, along with the co-axial drivers, contributed to the best overall response interaction in my room. I have had loudspeakers that have measured 10db worse in the bottom end compared to the **RL 944K-1**. It is like the room isn't really there and I am listening to the direct sound of the loudspeakers rather than the reflections and room interactions. Every note is balance all the way down to about 33Hz, with more than enough headroom – which is exceptional for a single 8" driver. This makes my brain perceive the sound as very un-confusing, calm, realistic and accurate. The aspect of imaging and frequency interaction made me confident that the investment was well worth the money.

"I feel that the Geithain monitors are superior to any other in the test. They interact with a perfect balance of detail, power, frequency-extension, imaging, 3D, transient response, flatness, room integration qualities, and at the same time a wonderful musicality to my ears. All my work seems to translate very "effortlessly" with less processing and less production time."



RL 944K
Birdseye Maple

3-way co-axial
fully active
K-series Cardioid

"The Geithain RL944K can really take whatever you throw at them with a gentleman's approach. They will let you know what you have got without the 'steering bumpers'. They are truly wonderful tools ... Everyone that listens to them walks behind my desk searching for the sub. It is really hard to believe this kind of performance from an 8" cone."

"The imaging on the Geithain 944K is the best I have ever experienced in my life and has become a real 'game changer' for me regarding balancing the mix at the speed of light - and very accurately to my ears."



RL 901K

3-way co-axial
fully active
K-series Cardioid

Translation

The aspect of translation has been tested thoroughly with mixes shared on Gearslutz and with fellow engineers in Norway. About 90% of the feedback about translation has confirmed that my interaction with the **RL 944K-1** is the best. I feel more confident mixing and mastering than ever before. I am not sure I work faster than before, but I work differently and more enjoyably with these in my possession.

Headroom

I tested the loudspeakers for headroom and distortion when pushed. In general the closed box design seems to have less artifacts when pushed. The port design often starts to pump and breathe when pushed a bit. Still... regarding headroom I would say the G---- and the B---- were the clear "winners" with seemingly endless headroom. However, other than impressing clients, I don't see endless headroom as a vital quality as long as it's within what you need it to be. The **RL 944K-1** has a red light that lights when you hit the overload limit. I have not seen the light yet. Even with cinema settings and modified EQ pre-sets that puts an extra load on the elements I feel the headroom is more than enough. They play very effortlessly in a way that doesn't make me scared when renting out the studio to hip-hop producers and the like.

Size and virtual window

When working with main control monitors you don't want your line-of-site to be blocked by a large nearfield loudspeaker. That is usually the fact if you want a nearfield monitor that provides a big virtual window to work with. The size of the **RL 944K-1** is only about 39cm x 25cm and this loudspeaker provides the biggest virtual window in the test. Every element seems bigger, with more space and separation. This lets me get a closer look on individual tracks in a mix, which leads to less soloing and more mixing with multiple elements present in the song. It also contributes to less strain on the ears and more inspiration when working.

Sweet-spot

My experience with loudspeakers with good imaging is that it comes at the cost of a smaller sweet-spot. Both vertically, horizontally and front to back. I have confirmed this with most loudspeakers in the test. However, the Geithain was the first loudspeaker with incredible imaging along with a very wide sweet-spot. I take it that the combination of a co-axial design and cardioid response results in the ear hearing more of the source from a single point in space. Direction then comes easier to understand because it comes from fewer points in the room. In the same way, it's easier to determine direction from one mono loudspeaker compared to two loudspeakers summed to mono. Anyway... this was a very welcome feature that my clients and I love.

Placement and room-interaction

The **RL 944K-1** seems to be the most forgiving speaker to place in the test. The interaction in different rooms, with loudspeakers on their side, close to or far away from walls etc. had far less impact compared to most of the other designs. I did test the Geithains in a very small studio right up to the wall and they still sounded to my satisfaction. I would imagine this to be an indispensable quality for people who need to bring their monitors to different places.

Noise

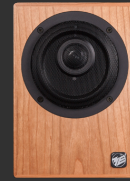
The "white" noise (self-noise) from the amplifiers is extremely quiet and I had to put my ear right up against them to hear it at all.

It is important to emphasize that all of this reflects my personal experience. I cannot guarantee whether or not my opinion transfers to anyone else but hope, nevertheless, some might benefit from my line of thought.

David Zells

And - from Steve Chahley in Toronto, Canada:- "I finally took delivery of my Geithain RL944Ks yesterday. After living with a set of RL940s for just over a year (which I loved), I really have to say I'm completely blown away and shocked at how the RL944Ks sound. These things are everything I could ever want in a monitor, and more!! I was expecting that they would be noticeably better than the RL940s, but I wasn't expecting it to be like this! Incredibly revealing, deep subs and smooth rich sounding highs - and the amazing Geithain 3D soundstage. If anyone reading this has ever contemplated getting your hands on a set of these, I whole-heartedly encourage you to do it - you won't be disappointed!!! I honestly can't put into words how incredible these things sound. Immediately I can hear where mixes I've been working on can be improved. I'm also shocked at how low they go, it sounds like there's a separate sub in the room! They're smooth and non-fatiguing even at higher volumes, and they seem to handle everything with ease. Now I just need to go back and remix everything I've ever done.....LOL"

"To me the Geithains manage to give you a much bigger choice in mixing decisions without sounding flattering at all. They are detailed and flat yet very musical and non-restricted at the same time. I think that is quite an achievement in a loudspeaker."



RL 906

2-way co-axial
fully active
Bass Reflex

"I fell in love with the Geithain speakers for their incredible imaging and natural response. When measuring them, the phase-response is better than any loudspeaker I have tested and I give much of the credit for the imaging-qualities to that. Accurate imaging and phase-response definitely go hand in hand. Using the phrase 'pin point imaging' got a whole new meaning after hearing the RL944K."

"When I describe listening to other main speakers is like 'looking through a window', some windows are more blurred than others; this loudspeaker is like cutting down the wall and standing in the open air."

"Right out of the box without calibration or position try-outs, this is the best speaker I have ever heard in my entire life."

(referring to the RL 801K)



RL 801K

3-way co-axial
fully active
K-series Cardioid



ME-Geithain loudspeakers are distributed in the UK by Sound-Link ProAudio Ltd.

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With the exception of the last quote from Steve Chahley, all the text is from David Zells of Lydspesialisten in Norway. The main text is from a detailed post on the Gearslutz Internet forum, setting out why he bought the ME-Geithain monitors after thoroughly testing virtually all the top monitor loudspeakers on the market. The quotes in boxes are taken from other posts he made while testing the loudspeakers.

Published here with the kind permission of David Zells and Steve Chahley

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