

Elac presents the Debut Reference series, which wants to add a shuffle to the previous line. The bookshelf speaker DBR62 is emblematic of sound and design at a fair price. Lavishly equipped, the two-way box does not have to hide itself optically. In my test, it showed itself in every respect from its chocolate side.



*The Elac DBR62 is available in two different color combinations. We had them in oak / white in the listening room.*

In front of me is the DBR62 in oak veneer with a white front that was worked very neatly. The pretty sight and the robust exterior are striking. The most obvious feature of this is the massive honeycomb steel grille over the tweeter chassis. This is slightly curved inwards, but at the same time extremely stable. Like the tweeter, the bass chassis is flush with the front plane. The only minor flaw: the screws of the bass drivers are visible. Otherwise, the face of the DBR62 is flawless. This also applies to the bass reflex port that gently leads to the inside. The housing corners of the baffle are also rounded. An edge only remains at the front and back. The black Elac trapeze is worked into the front panel directly below. Visually, it can hardly be solved more beautifully. On the back, the observer can still expect the plaque with the product name and the core data of the loudspeaker. Below is the massive single-wire connection terminal with its gold-plated screw terminals.



*Elac is particularly proud of the tweeter and the cover grille, which together with the construction behind it serves as sound guide.*



## **Two ways, many options**

The Elac DBR62 is a two-way system with said bass reflex port in the front. This structure is particularly positive for a bookshelf loudspeaker, as these types of loudspeakers are usually placed close to the wall. With a depth of 275 millimeters, the DBR62 should have enough space on almost every shelf or TV cabinet. The case also makes a pleasantly slim foot at just 208 millimeters. My test guest measures 359 millimeters in height. The bass reflex slot in the front looks really chic. The 165-millimeter woofer with aramid fiber-reinforced membrane is enthroned above it. With this oscillation system, the small Elac speaker should play down to 44 Hertz. At a frequency of 2,200 Hertz, the tweeter with its 25 millimeter fabric dome then takes over.

## **Clever design**

The body, available in oak or walnut veneer, as well as the corresponding front panel of the DBR62, available in matt white or black, are made of MDF. If the technology disappears from view or if there is a need for protection for the chassis, the fabric covers included in the scope of delivery can help. Fortunately, it adheres magnetically. This is not common for speakers in this price range. Speaking of price: this speaker is already available for less than 500 euros - for the couple, mind you! The connection terminal with its gold-plated screw terminals is located on the back. This securely accepts banana plugs, cable lugs or twisted speaker wires with up to eight square millimeters. There is also a dedicated internal reinforcement, which then becomes noticeable in weight. A single DBR62 weighs a whopping 8.2 kilograms.



*The design is modern, the workmanship is impeccable.*

## **The preparation**

When it comes to positioning, the Elacs are pleasantly flexible, even if I liked the sound best at a listening distance of around 2.50 meters. In terms of wall clearance, they are correspondingly versatile thanks to the forward-facing bass reflex opening. The manufacturer recommends a side distance from the wall of 30 to 60 centimeters. You should stick to this to get a contoured bass and a jagged basic tone. On the shelf, the

DBR62 should ideally be placed on damping feet so that the entire board does not vibrate. Even if you don't see them at first block: The DBR62 are able to produce a neat and very solid bass carpet. More on that later.



*The magnetically adhesive grilles are included in the scope of delivery.*

## **Precision work**

In parts of my test it was on the reference X stands operated by Liedtke Metalldesign. Solid tripods like this give the speaker a solid footing and enable vibration-free operation. Not only does the name "reference" fit here, the head plate can also be supplied in the right format for almost any speaker. And the stand, like the front of the Elacs, is available in black or white. But whether on the lowboard, on the shelf or on speaker stands, the DBR62 should always be turned slightly to the listening position. My test guests then connect to the Hegel H360 editorial amplifier. Even if it seems a bit oversized with its two 250 watts, it should - thanks to its balanced, neutral style of play - tickle all the subtleties out of the boxes.

## **Small bookshelf speakers with real momentum**

In order to sound out the bass foundation directly, I start my hearing test with "Ufo" by Ellen Alien. It starts with a rich bass beat, which extends very deep into the frequency cellar and sets the drivers in motion properly. Since I am already quite warm in the

listening room after unpacking and setting up, I am sitting here in a T-shirt and I am amazed. "Ufo" not only elicits the DBR62 from a solid bass carpet with clear accents. At a distance of 2.5 meters, the small transducers also ignite a noticeable draft thanks to their bass reflex port on the front. The tonal performance is also impressive. Instruments are distributed neatly and clearly in the room - even beyond the range. The waveguide does an obviously excellent job of distributing the tweeter base.



*Thanks to the bass reflex opening on the front, the Elacs can also be placed near the wall.*

### **Solid base with punch**

But that doesn't just apply to this one song. In the subsequent "Friction" by Imagine Dragons, Dan Reynolds' voice also knows how to please. The presence is well formed and all details are beautifully worked out by the two-way setup. The voice appears plump and full with a slight tendency to warmth. This is by no means to be criticized. On the contrary, it also benefits the bass. The Elac also performs just as well here. It is pleasantly crisp, punchy and shows itself in its element with fine dynamics, but never looks overly fat. I get a similar impression in "30,000 Days" by Yello. Here, too, the voice is staged precisely, while all instruments are staggered in the upstairs. Add to that the bass.



*With about 2.5 meters to each other, I got the best sound in my test (at about the same distance).*

### **Shiny harmonizing hardware**

If you choose Yello, of course "Kiss The Cloud" with Fify Rong should not be missing. I quickly notice the broad basis that the DBR62 stages here. With its crystal-clear presentation, Fify Rong also benefits from the very well-chosen crossover transition. I particularly like the midrange. The strength and comparatively low mass of the low / mid-range diaphragm quickly become noticeable here. This positive impression continues in the "Asphalt Canyon Blues" by Kenny Burrell and Grover Washington. The played double bass proves lightning-fast response and sounds sharply drawn. The saxophone is pleasantly superficial and accentuated across the spectrum. In the subsequently played "No Sanctuary Here" by Chris Jones, the Elac box shines with a pleasantly deep bass. Especially in the midrange, the DBR62 now offers me a multifaceted sound and cleanly traces Chris Jones' voice.



*With its 165 millimeter diameter, the woofer pushes a lot of bass into the listening room.*

### **More space with the DBR62**

Then it goes on with "Mindmachine" from your lackeys. I also like the rather warm tuning of the speaker here. Alexander Veljanov's vocal volume is set in a very atmospheric setting, which again goes back for the very good spatial representation of the DBR62. Shortly thereafter, Angela Puxi's "Anima" is much more experimental. But that is not because of the loudspeaker, but because of the musical orientation. For the Elacs, however, this means no difficulty. On the contrary, the distribution of the various noises in the room is more than impressive. Treble comes tight, the synthesizer plays pleasantly in the foreground. This in turn lets the many small details in the existing structures come into play,

### **Roll up your sleeves**

In the somewhat rockier corner it is then followed by an audio slave and "Show Me How To Live". It not only gets harder and rockier, but also significantly louder after turning the volume wheel clockwise. This is not a problem for the DBR62 either. The crisp bass drum snare combo played in the intro is immediately fun and knows how to impress with these rather compact speakers. They also provide the necessary punch here. The hi-hat has enough bite to offer the contra. Of course, the small shelving units cannot use large

transducers such as the Elac Vela BS 403 that I also tested keep up. For such a compact two-way speaker, the 62s are down to earth. This is also noticeable in the reproduction of the guitars. You get the necessary drive and sound really brute - without appearing too fat.



*The connection panel is equipped with two solid screw terminals, which also accommodate cables with larger cross-sections.*

## **Conclusion**

The DBR62 are loudspeakers that can be really fun. This applies to the optics, the sound and also for the wallet. In terms of installation technology, however, a bit of tact is required. A bit away from the wall, I personally liked the rendering best. At a distance of about 40 centimeters, the DBR62 plays tight and delivers an impressive, deep bass. Slightly screwed into the listening position, it also offers a very realistic and credible spatial representation. In addition, there is a very good material quality and impeccable workmanship. And the Elacs don't have to hide in terms of design and equipment either. All of this is already available for around 500 euros - for the couple, of course. In terms of price, this speaker is a real hit in my opinion!

Test & Text: Dieter Pfeil

Photos: Philipp Thielen



## **RATING**

**Overall rating: 78/80**

**class: middle class**

**price / performance: very good**

sound	<div style="width: 78%;"><div style="width: 78%;"></div></div>	78
practice	<div style="width: 79%;"><div style="width: 79%;"></div></div>	79
Furnishing	<div style="width: 78%;"><div style="width: 78%;"></div></div>	78



## **Technical specifications**

<b>Model:</b>	<b>Elac Debut Reference DBR62</b>
Product category:	Bookshelf speakers
Price:	498.00 euros / pair
Warranty:	- 5 years
Versions:	- oak / white - walnut / black
Distribution:	Elac, Kiel 0431/647740 www.elac.de
Dimensions (HBT):	275 x 208 x 359 mm
Weight:	8.2 kg / each
Tweeter:	25 mm

<b>Model:</b>	<b>Elac Debut Reference DBR62</b>
Bass-midrange:	165 mm
Frequency range:	44 Hz - 25 kHz (manufacturer information)
Crossover frequency:	2,200 hertz
Scope of delivery:	- DBR62 - fabric cover - operating instructions (multilingual)
Pros and cons:	+ modern design + magnetically adhesive covers + very good workmanship + realistic spatial representation + agile basic tone + very good bass tuning  - no bi-wire
<b>Grading:</b>	
Sound (60%):	78/80
Practice (20%):	79/80
Features (20%):	78/80
<b>Overall grade:</b>	<b>78/80</b>
Class:	Middle class
Price-performance	very good