

# STEREO

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## Personal Services

STEREO reader Henning Wallefeld was having problems with a lack of bass foundation with his Point Source Aria 5. We couldn't believe this so we arranged to meet for a personal appraisal.

By Udo Pipper

The bass tuning seems to remain the crux of our readers' problems. Whereas some people want to build their own bass absorbers to keep the rich bass energy of their pedestal loudspeakers under control, the others demand more bass and warmth, according to the motto "no bass, no fun". The complaints you hear are of "not enough energy in the room" or "a dead soundstage, with too much sterility". The solution mostly involves a complex rebuilding of the listening room or a replacing the whole hi-fi system. But often all it takes are relatively minor changes to achieve the required result from the system. Henning Wallefeld had, in common with most of our readers, invested a great deal over the years and had finally managed to get all his dream components together. His system included a Micromega Duo BS CD player, very noble and delicate pre- and power amps by Brinkmann, a Roksan Xerxes turntable and a mains power unit from Audio Agile, all neatly positioned on made-to-measure slate slabs by Fischer & Fischer.

At our first listening test we did however register a very fatigued and dull soundstage. A timing problem particularly in the bass range made the system sound listless and lacking in dynamics. Not a trace of room-filling sound or bass contouring. Somehow there appeared to be a lack of power even at high volumes. So what was responsible for it? The system? The room? The wiring? We could reassure Mr. Wallefeld that neither the one nor the other was causing the problem. We suspected that the problem lay, as is often the case, in the mains cabling and in the system arrangement. First of all we reduced the angling of the loudspeakers so that the soundstage could open up a bit more. Then we removed the heavy slate slabs from under the Micromega player and replaced these with brand-new finite elemente "Ceraball" equipment feet (set of 4 for around 90 Euro).

The result was immediately simply amazing. The bass seemed to come back, vocals became more sonorous and smoother, and the dynamics were a touch more explosive. Normally slate slabs can be a real help in calming nervous soundstages. But in this particular case they were even at the root of the trouble and were drawing off the energy from the player. The Ceraball was then used to help on all levels, the D/A converter, the analogue turntable and even under the pre-amp. Mr. Wallefeld was, naturally enough, delighted with the clearly audible improvement.

**And we also took the opportunity to enjoy a couple of dynamic jazz CDs.**



**The new "Miracle Feet" by finite elemente are called "Ceraballs". Here they were used to calm the unit, but without taking away any musical energy.**

