


DRUID 4/08

Steve Guttenberg names the Druid the



“Speaker
of the Year!”

The Audiophile
A high-end audio blog
from Steve Guttenberg

SUMMARY [v1]



2008 - 2012

Druid 4/08 [Mark IV/08] is launched. Changes are plentiful, with the focus being on a much improved super tweeter. Market and reviewers find Druid and gush. Druid 4/08 included a proper owners manual. If you are looking for specifications, setup and care information please download the owners manual.

Druid Mark Four Basic Specs

101dB-SPL, 1W @ 1m
45 Hz - 25k Hz average in-room bandwidth
50" [127 cm] tall
12" [30.5 cm] square footprint

Brief Overview of Druid Versions

2001 - Original Druid launched. Featured machined from billet aluminum everything including base. Zu260FR driver with accordion surround and max shove motor, complimented by a 3/4" French made Audax high output dome tweeter. Speakon 8-pole connector facilitating B3 interface for loudspeaker cable input along with Cardas Patented Binding Post for traditional spade inputs.

2002 - Druid 2 [Mark II] introduced with revised super-tweeter filter and improved cabinet construction.

2003 - Druid 3 [Mark III] Audax informs Zu that they can no longer produce the tweeter we are using as they are closing their French production of hi-fi drivers. Zu scrambles to finish the driver lens and network. Druid-3 features this new machined from billet lens, driven by the composite dome Eminence super tweeter. Zu260FR/G2 was also introduced and featured a double-roll surround and revised motor for improved bass response. B3 interface is dropped as a feature to help keep price down. Billet aluminum base was replaced by a silver painted wood core plinth also to keep costs down.

2004 - Druid 4 [Mark IV] is launched with slightly improved cabinet due to adhesive changes, improved fabrication technique and precision. Improved harness assembly with the reduction of joints and solder. Revised super-tweeter network. Addition of iridescent and matte finishes. Matte finish is a true matte, but is rough like sandstone.

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2012 - Druid 5 launches. See its summary for details.

2013 - Druid 4/13 Upgrade kit for Druid 4 owners to upgrade their older Druid to come close to Druid 5.
2017, Druid 6 launches. Everything changes.



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DRUID



www.ZuAudio.com



Druid Mk. IV/08 is a high efficiency, high output, direct radiating floor standing loudspeaker designed for high fidelity home audio and theater use. It is a crossoverless, full-range single driver loudspeaker, complimented by a high output super-tweeter, matched to a cabinet utilizing the ZuRG (Ron Griewe) technology.

There are many definable aspects of what makes for good playback fidelity but none more important than dynamic realism. In order for music and other sonic events to sound real through recording and playback, the electronics, recording medium, environment and loudspeaker must be capable of recreating the natural dynamic range and contrast of the event. Druid loudspeakers will give you dynamic realism, something only a handful of loudspeakers can, and of those, only the Druid recreates timing, tone, texture and natural stereophonic recreation with the same level of believability.

The Druid Mk4/08 builds on the mark-four platform, significantly raising its ability to recreate recorded or engineered acoustic space; yeah, all the previous generations that have come before did a good job at imaging, but the mark-four '08 takes it to a whole new level. In addition, we also found a few ways to improve overall resolution, bass extension, and lower noise. In musical terms; better articulation, and improved depth of space and texture, more instrument color comes through, as does presence; when dialed in the sound they give is about as good as it gets. We are confident in our products and offer a full 60-day money back guarantee. What other speaker company gives you that promise? Try a pair in your home, with your gear, and know what all the buzz is about.

The original Druid loudspeaker was launched in 2001 and has since received world-wide critical acclaim, as well making boatloads of users very happy. Druid has received great press from audio magazine from all over the world; Hong Kong, UK, USA, Germany, Hungary, New Zealand, China, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Brazil, Japan, Vietnam, Singapore, Norway.... Of note are a few of the following awards:

- Audiotechnique loudspeaker of the Decade
- 6moons.com Lunar Eclipse Award!
- Positive Feedback Online Writers' Choice Award
- HiFi Would Five Stars
- Audiophile / c|net Loudspeaker of the Year

Because of the high efficiency of the Druid, and the very friendly 12 Ohm load it presents to the amplifier, users are able to explore a whole new world of amplifier possibilities—from the 1 Watt to huge, and cheap to hand built exotica. inexpensive solid-state receivers will sound much better than expected on a pair of Druids thanks to the easy 12 Ohm load; low powered amplifiers will have no problem mating with and driving the Druids to very respectable levels with the Druid's high efficiency transduction of power; and since Druid also has high power capacity, those who really want to kick out the jams have all the big amps shouting to be matched up.



Changes and Features

Super-tweeter changes:

- Complete remanufacture of driver with the removal of all shims, gaskets and screws.
- Ferro-fluid is removed from gap.
- Polyurethane bonding and the removal of all voids and shims on tweeter top-plate waveguide / voicecoil frame.
- Complete bonding of composite phenolic dome diaphragm suspension to driver top-plate.
- Repositioned / enhanced voicecoil / gap alignment.
- Dynamic alignment process of voicecoil and gap to ensure correct tone and shove (pre PU adhesive set).
- Reflow voicecoil lead-in pots with high quality lead-free silver bearing solder (RoHS).
- 0.5% or better matching for quality of tone and efficiency.
- 160 hours minimum factory burn-in post network termination.

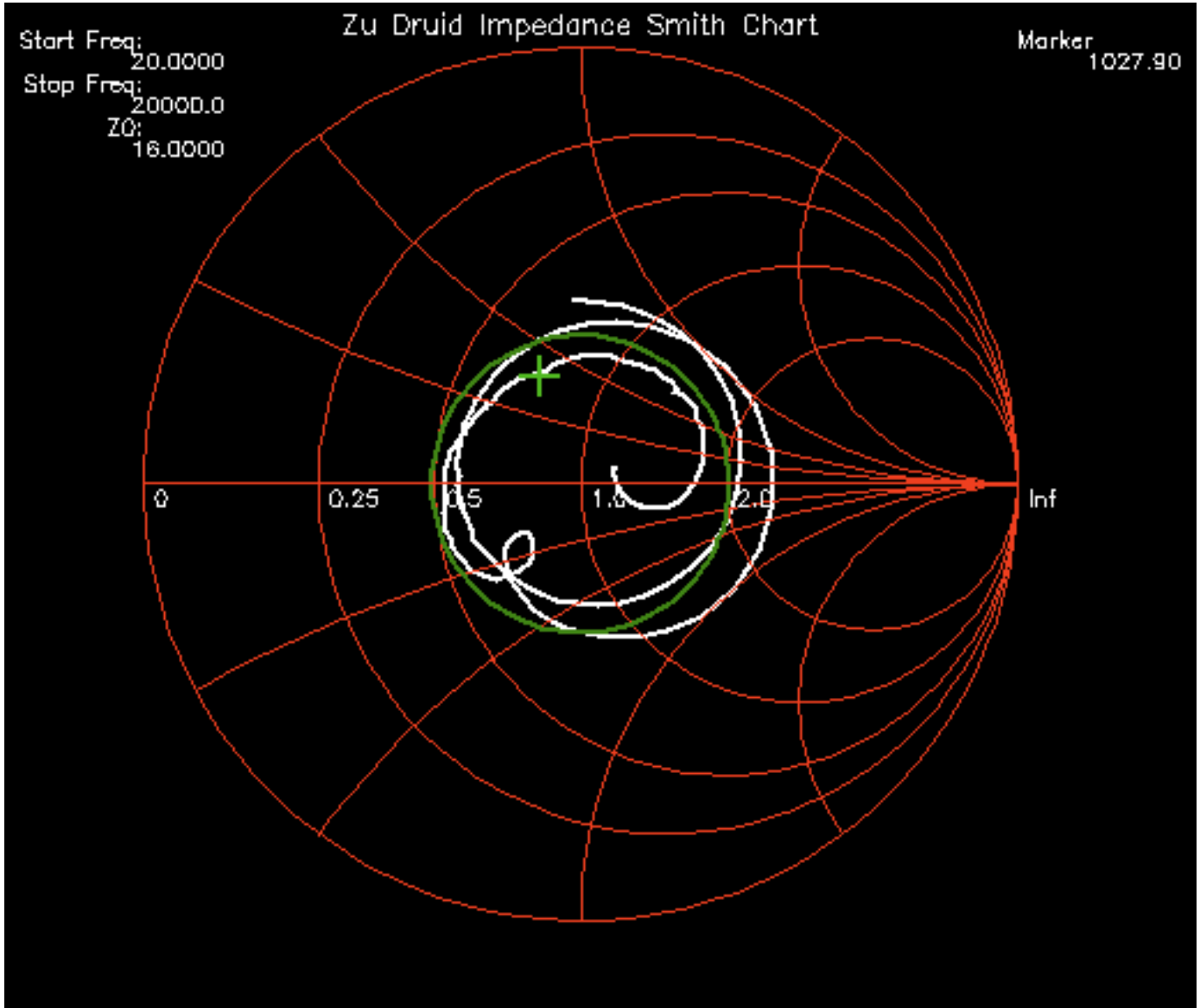
Super-tweeter high-pass network changes:

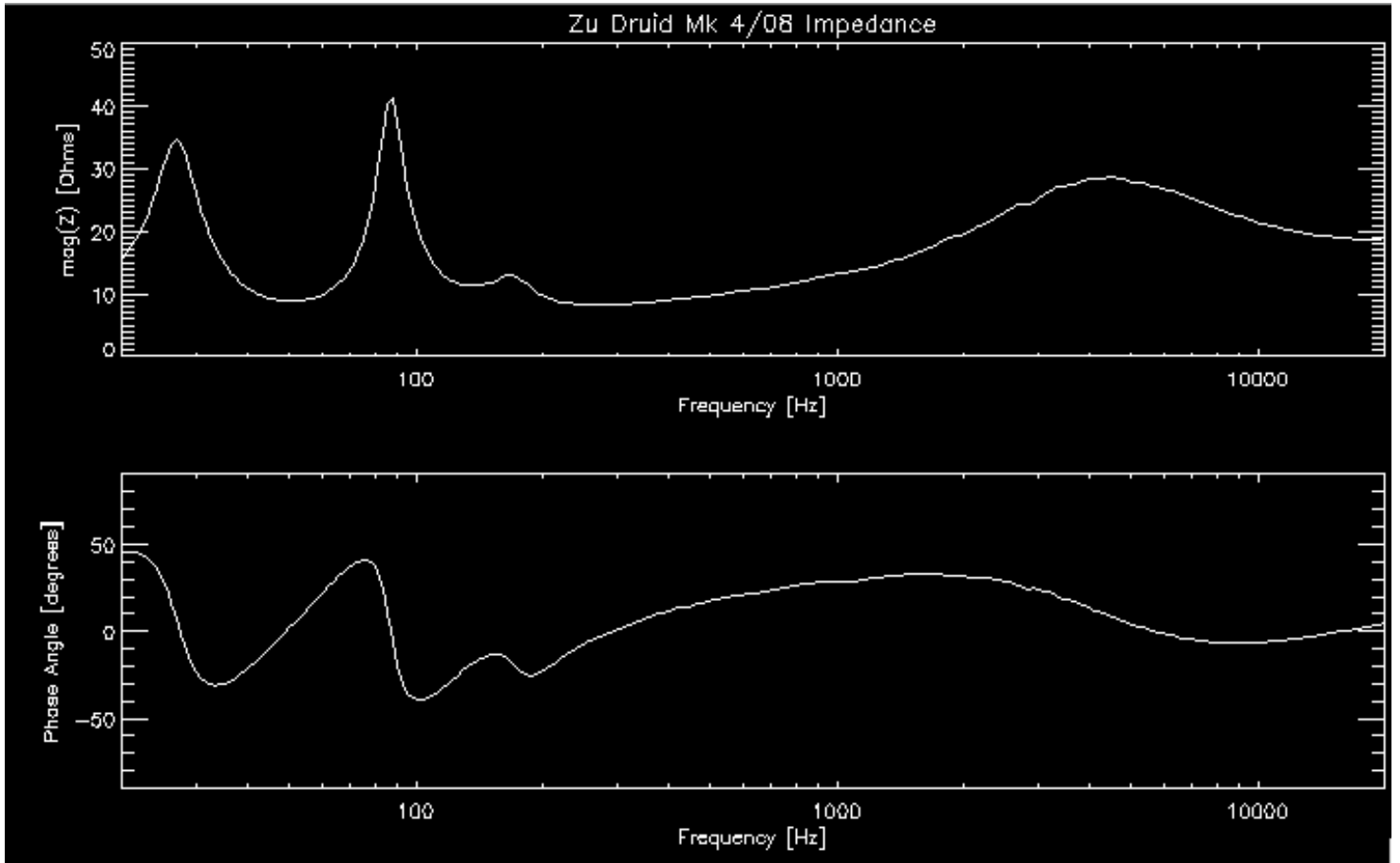
- Simple two component (Cs + Rs) network.
- Kimber Kap 1.0 uF now featured in place of the Solen based network.
- New top performing Mills resistor with revised values.
- Reduction of termination joints by two-thirds.
- Direct connection of capacitor, resistor, FastOn, via cold-forged and sealed termination.
- FastOn terminals are now terminated using the solderless Amp crimping process.
- Dramatic reduction of solder joints. In fact, the voicecoil lead-in pots are all that remain.
- 0.1% matching.

Full-range driver changes:

- Improvement in cone and cone binders.
- Improved assembly tolerance.
- 0.5% or better matched pairs.
- 160 hours minimum factory burn-in, as we've been doing, but this time we kit and batch them to burn-in with the matched super-tweeter assembly. Also using some new music James selected for good, well rounded, musical appreciation.









REVIEW

cult status

Based in Ogden, Utah in the US, Zu make some intriguingly designed and specified loudspeakers, of which the Druid floorstander is definitely one, says Channa Vithana...

Supplied by Brighton-based distributor Musicology, the Zu Druid mk4 is an attractively proportioned floorstanding speaker with a slim-line depth elaborating its elegant stance. It is described as a 'one and a half way' type and uses a crossover-free full-range drive unit along with a super tweeter. The claimed specifications are 8ohms minimum impedance (12ohm nominal) and a very high sensitivity of 101dB. It also has an impressive claimed 35Hz-25kHz bandwidth and 300W power handling [see MEASURED PERFORMANCE]. So it should in theory be very amplifier friendly, to even low-powered valve models.

The bespoke Zu260FR-G2 full-range crossover-free driver measures 260mm in diameter and Zu says it has a very linear motor with 25g moving mass, natural fibre cone assembly and cast frame, precision machined motor and pole assembly.

Zu praise their single, full-range driver, saying that standard hi-fi drivers are not capable of playing much over three octaves without having problems in dispersion, imaging, timbre and timing.













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The Speaker of the Year!

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