

DRUID 3



SUMMERY [v1]



2003 - Druid 3 [Mark III] Was short lived as Zu regretted moving away from the ZuB3 connection. This was done to attempt to remove some complexity—Druid already had a lot different going on and Zu was not doing a good job explaining the need for this connection design. Mark-3 features an all new machined from billet lens, driven by the composite dome Eminence super tweeter . This change was the result of Audax folding it's French manufacturing. A new 10" full range driver [Zu260FR/G2] was also introduced and featured a double-roll surround and revised motor for improved bass response. As mentioned B3 connection 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. Mounting of the driver was with visible through-trim-ring screws.

Druid Mark Three 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.

2008 - Druid 4/08 [Mark IV/08] is launched. Changes are plentiful, with the focus being on a much improved super tweeter. See Druid 4/08 Overview for complete details.

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.



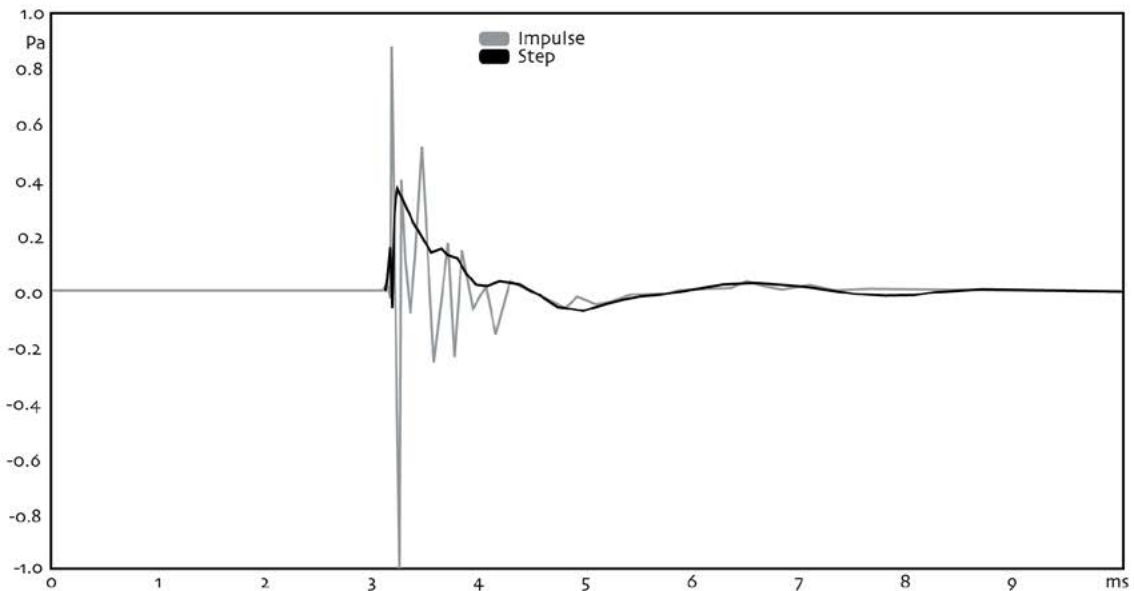
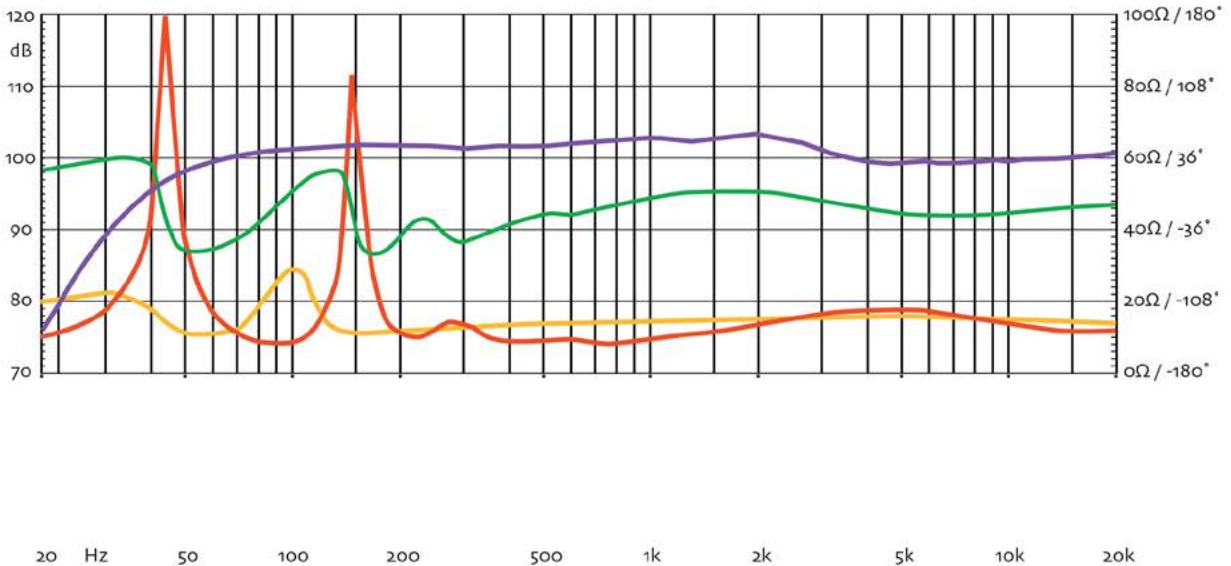
DRUID (Mk-3)

Tests & Measures

nominal 4π sensitivity (200 - 25 kHz): 101 dB @ 1.0m @ 1 Watt ($V^2 \cos\theta / Z$)
 dynamic range (2π): 130 dB peak 200 - 25 kHz
 nominal impedance: 12 Ω (7.5 Ω min.)
 averaged in-room bandwidth (-3 dB): 40 Hz - 25 kHz
 bandwidth (-6 dB): 35 Hz - 30 kHz
 high pass network: split, 12 kHz 15 kHz
 other networks: none
 amplifier recommendation: 10 - 500 Watt / channel (8 Ω load)
 power handling RMS: 300 Watt

1 Watt input power
 1.0m mic distance
 DRUID-3 vertical acoustic center height is 1.0m
 March 2003

■ avg. amplitude response ($\pm 15^\circ$ in-room, avg.)
■ phase (electrical)
■ reactance (electrical)
■ impedance (electrical)

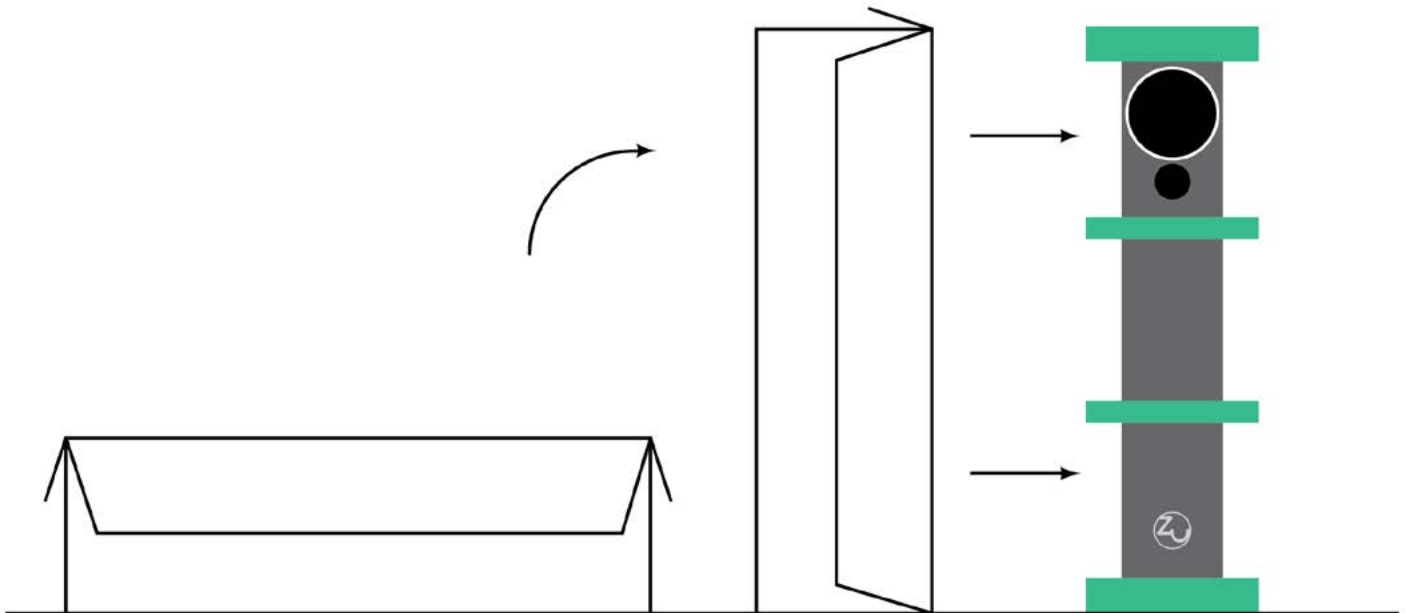




Unpackaging

- Lifting with your legs and not your back and with the assistance of a friend and try and work in an open area.
- Lay box horizontal and cut banding wrap and tape securing the horizontal top flap.
- Rotate the top of the box so it stands upright.
- Slide loudspeaker out from the box.
- Remove the closed cell foam from top, middle then bottom.
- Remove plastic wrap once you have moved the Druid Dark loudspeakers into the room they will be calling home.

Note: the loudspeaker carpet spikes are pre installed and fitted into the base of the loudspeakers.





[Marketing Notes Published 2001 @ Zu Audio]

High sensitivity, easy load for amplifier, ultra wide dynamic range and high power handling—natural dynamic reproduction is the foundation on which the Druid is engineered. Matching the natural dynamic range of an event with that of playback results in a dramatic increase in playback realism. In addition Druid tackles bandwidth, amplitude and group delay issues without breaking a sweat. Druid performance is largely due to our newly developed full-range driver. It features very high efficiency, ultra wide bandwidth, minimum group delay, linear dynamic contrast and uniform spectral amplitude—attributes that allow the elimination of crossover and other network components. The amazing dynamic range of the Druid is the result of a very powerful motor and unique acoustic coupling of the cone. The balance of cone weight, material, shape and mechanical suspension also enabled the Zu-260FR driver to reach new benchmarks in bandwidth, dispersion and amplitude uniformity. (Standard hi-fi drivers are not capable of playing much over three octaves without having problems in dispersion, imaging, timbre, timing.)

Complimenting our new driver is our original Grieve driver/box loading model. Why a new box? Because all popular models have some major problem—transmission lines and ported designs of all types control cone motion but at the expense of group delay and other forms of distortion; sealed enclosures perform with much less group delay distortions but cause cone motion to be excessive; horns damp cone motion well but distort amplitude and phase. Druid driver loading and low frequency goals are met through our proprietary Grieve* enclosure. This is the first loudspeaker to implement Ron Grieve's* ideas.

Esthetic Design - Small footprint, confident, exceptional fit and finish, timeless lines and materials. With one glance the observer will know the Druid loudspeaker is capable, well engineered and solidly constructed. The Druid's purpose and attention to detail command respect. Did we mention they leap tall buildings in a single bound?

Connection - Druid loudspeakers feature our new proprietary B3 connection using a Neutrik® Speakon® 8-pole interface. A secondary Cardas binding post input also accommodates spades (standard and oversized), bananas, pins or bare wire.

Amplification - Bipolar or F.E.T., class A or switching, O.T.L. or transformer isolated, one bottle single ended triodes or 500 Watt "who needs central heating" pentodes; Druid loudspeakers will work well with all audio amplification designs.

Multi-Channel - There is nothing that will match the level of fidelity that a set of five Druid's will give in a large multi-channel playback system. Sure you will have to have a perf screen and projector for your center front...

(For better or worse, recording and mixing techniques are now and will continue to be focused on the multi-channel reproduction. Druid loudspeaker are designed to integrate with such systems. We believe this direction affords creators, producers, engineers and listeners an increased level of creativity and fidelity.)

Stereo - This past year Zu intimately sampled many of the best loudspeakers in the world. To be competitive you must know your competition. The only comparative shortcoming the Druid has in stereo playback is in the lowest octave. Fidelity in the extreme low frequency is excellent but lacks in amplitude. While a sub may be welcomed, it is not a requirement.



Photo from the 2003 CES Zu Room

Druid loudspeakers with Zu's prototype passive Undertone subs. Yes, these were big, too big for most. Zu was using Wavac 300B amp to run the Druids and Theta Dreadnought to power the subs. Filters for the subs were via DBX DSP. Music was served via computer and files with CD as an option for visitors.





Photo from the 2003 CES Zu Room

Closeup of electronics





Photo from the 2003 CES Zu Room

Cuyler Stocker, show attendee, Adam Decaria, Sean Casey, Druid (left to right)







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Ogden, Utah, USA

DESIGNED AND MADE BY US