



# DRUID C R E D E N Z A DRUID

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## Mk2

guidebook

Druid Credenza Mk2 loudspeakers shipped beginning July 1, 2008 have the new '08 full-range driver, super-tweeter, high-pass network, 0.1% tolerance matched components and 0.5% matched drivers.

Guidebook last updated July 2, 2008



Thank you for your purchase of the Druid Credenza Mk2 loudspeaker. Every element is designed for a lifetime of trouble free high performance playback. It is our desire to exceed your expectations in product performance, quality, durability and service. If we have simply met your expectations or have fallen short, we would sincerely appreciate knowing how we may improve. Likewise, if we have exceeded your expectations we hope to hear from you too.

Impressions of new realities struggle and flow—eventual transition.... Awareness of surroundings, songs of tranquility and warning—history and intuition instruct that patterns of sound have been a fundamental constant. Observance of nature, both physical and spiritual, teach us of the endless interplay of vibrational forces.

While traveling the line of time we can see many periods of increased awakening and technological advancement but none so powerful and rapid as that of the Scientific Revolution, Enlightenment and the birth of modern physics. The dramatic increase of understanding regarding possibility, vibration and energy coincide with our collective ability to listen and express patterns of life. David Toop in his book *Ocean Of Sound* paints a powerful image of our modern musical creativity: "...Starting with Debussy in 1889, is an erosion of categories, a peeling open of systems to make space for stimuli, new ideas, new now, this environment included sounds of the world—previously unheard musics and ambient sounds of all kinds, urban noise and bioacoustics... unfamiliar tuning system and structuring principles, improvisation and chance."

### *Welcome to Zu,*

Sean Casey, Adam Decaria, Chris Thiel, Marty Petersen, James Read, Randy Sandman, and the rest of the Zu team.

**WARNING**, electrocution through loudspeaker cable is possible, though very unlikely. To avoid electrocution make sure your amplifying gear is powered down prior to connecting or disconnecting loudspeaker cables. This will also reduce the possibility for accidental damage to your audio amplifier. **WARNING**, the Druid Credenza Mk2 loudspeaker drivers create stray magnetic fields that extend far beyond the boundaries of the cabinet. We recommend you keep magnetically sensitive electronics and media at least 2.5 feet (76cm) from the loudspeaker. **WARNING**, Druid Credenza Mk2 loudspeakers are capable of extreme sound levels, play responsibly.

### **Included with each pair of Druid Credenza Mk2 loudspeakers**

Installed user serviceable hardware:  
None.

Additional items included in package:  
(1) connector polishing kit for copper lugs.  
(1) loudspeaker finish care kit.  
(1) Guidebook.

### **Unpacking**

- Cut banding wrap. Cut tape, open flaps.
- Roll the box so the exposed pair of Druid Credenza are now facing the floor, keeping flaps on the outside of box.
- Lift box off the Druid Credenza pair.
- Remove top and bottom closed-cell foam plates.

### **Connecting and placement**

*All connections should be made with the equipment switched off.*

(+) mark on Druid Credenza input connectors correlates to positive (outward) driver diaphragm motion.

Druid Credenza loudspeakers must be placed on hard surfaces or the low frequency will be limited. A small gap between tabletop and loudspeaker base is necessary for proper function. Gap between tabletop and base on Druid Credenza loudspeaker is set by the urethane feet, just set 'em down and plug 'em in. Druid Credenza is designed to be used on top of tables and desks, and are designed to work best when placed up against a wall.

All connections should be made with the equipment powered down. Make sure you connected the "+" output of the amplifier to the "+" (red) input of the loudspeaker and the "-" to the "-". The Druid Credenza features Cardas® pure copper unplated binding posts and are internally terminated using a high pressure crimp system in place of solder. They accept standard and oversized spade lugs, bare wire and banana plug. While they accommodate a wide array of terminals we recommend spade lugs with strong recommendation on the use of our unplated pure copper spades. In the European countries, 4mm banana plugs are considered a safety hazard as banana plugs can be inserted in to many European home power outlets. The binding posts featured on the Druid Credenza comply with CE standards regarding loudspeaker binding post inputs and safety.



## Placement fine tuning

When placed on top a Credenza or other similarly used table, we recommend that each channel be located on the far ends of the table. And unless the table is unusually long, or the listener is very close, we recommend that the Druid Credenza aim perpendicular to the wall without toe-in. Users are welcome to experiment with the facing direction of the speakers.

## Additional thoughts about playback, room, and tonality

The attack, more than any other aspect of a waveform, gives the listener the clues to process source, direction, amplitude, character, intelligence, and so on. Close in importance are the dynamics within that immediately follow the attack. A simple example: When a piano key is struck, three main components are set in motion. These make up the attack of a note; the mechanical noises including that of the impinging hammer, initial string motion, which has many extra components and initial coupling of piano body and sound board. The first few milliseconds are very dynamic and have many features. To get the attack correct is solely a function of the playback system and has very little to do with the room. Aside from placement, if you have changed your system to combat your room, attack and dynamics can never be correct. Most people can only pinpoint tonal problems with steady-state or semi steady-state music or signal, this is a big problem because room influence on steady-state sounds are huge, usually the single largest influence. Not realizing this, people usually tweak things to get the steady-state and decay tonally correct which inadvertently kills the life in the attack. This is a reason why cables as tone control, digital room correction, parametric equalizers and the like can never fix fundamental problems, unless of course the time axis is also programmed and correlated to harmonic structure and then set to react to any dynamic anomalies within the signal—we're a few decades out on that I think.

## Break-in

All Zu loudspeakers shipped after September 31, 2006 are manufactured and processed under the Zu burn-in system. This new aging process cannot be duplicated and ensures your Zu loudspeakers will sound their very best. All Zu loudspeakers now come with at least 160 hours of real music conditioning. This puts the loudspeakers in a position to really sound good within a few days, great in a week or two and awesome in the end. We do not recommend recordings specifically designed for loudspeaker, system or cable burn-in. The quickest and most enjoyable way to finish the conditioning of your Druid Credenza loudspeaker is to play music and movie scores that are fun, dynamic and harmonically dense. No longer do you need to worry about cranking them up either. Let your neighbors know where they can send tips, that's Zu in Ogden, Utah....

Break-in Phenomenon: A running-in of driver suspension components is the prime influencing factor in loudspeaker burn-in. Cone and cabinet changes also happen with play. Another is cable burn-in. Druid Credenza loudspeakers all leave the shop with factory burn-in. Druid Credenza loudspeakers generally go through two types of burn-in sound transformations. The first is mechanical effecting bass and intimacy. We now take care of this at the factory. The second is electrical and primarily effects stereophonics and resolution. We start this process at the factory, burning in the drivers with the cable assembly at the same time. Even so, Druid Credenza loudspeakers will need a bit of play once in your system due a lack of play and temperature changes during shipping.

The following table is an approximation of Zu Druid Credenza loudspeaker in-home final burn-in playing at typical levels. Double the hours for each if played at very low levels.

Out of the box, sound is good, a bit constricted and reserved; much worse if shipped in winter months due to temperature changes. After first 50 hours of play, the first week, sound should be much more present and extended in bass and treble. Most notice this after just a few hours of rock or big music. After 100 hours of play things should be very open and alive with compelling transient accuracy. You know if you are liking them or not by this time. After 200 hours of play, they should be nearly transparent, music should sound very relaxed yet be full of resolution and recorded detail.. We are pretty excited about the system and process and we hope you are too.

## Old, user burn-in recommendations

The old recommendation for burn-in on Zu loudspeakers: Zu does not recommend recordings specifically designed for loudspeaker, system or cable burn-in. The quickest and most enjoyable way to break-in your Druid loudspeaker is to play music and movie scores that are fun, dynamic and harmonically dense. The louder you play the quicker they break-in. (This assumed that users would really poor it on, finally having a hi-fi loudspeaker that could handle real levels of playback for rock and big orchestral stuff. We assumed incorrectly and found that only one in a hundred would ever play our loudspeakers loud enough to properly run them in.)

Burn-in Phenomenon: A running-in of driver suspension components is the prime influencing factor in loudspeaker break-in. Cable burn-in is also a factor but secondary. Druid loudspeakers will go through two break-in sound transformations. The first is mechanical effecting bass and intimacy. The second is electrical and primarily effects soundstage and resolution.

The following table is an approximation of Zu Druid loudspeaker break-in. Double the hours for each if played at low power levels. (SET amp users may want to find a solid-state amp to run them in with.)

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| * 50 hours of play   | 50% of break-in  |
| * 100 hours of play  | 80% of break-in  |
| * 250 hours of play  | 95% of break-in  |
| * 1000 hours of play | 100% of break-in |

## **Amplification**

Bipolar or F.E.T., class A or switching, O.T.L. or transformer isolated, one bottle single ended triodes or 200 Watt pentodes; Druid Credenza loudspeakers will work well with most all audio amplification designs. Sure some will prefer one over another, for assistance on which might fit your idea of playback fidelity please give us a call, we're hear to help.

## **Loudspeaker cable**

The most common abuse in hi-fi is to use cable as a form of tone control. Doing so usually leads to frustration and further loss of fidelity. When cable affects timbre it affects timing, phase, frequency response, and so on. Timbre problems are usually solved with loudspeaker break-in and correct loudspeaker placement. One last note on tonality and cable, if the cable has good properties relative to phase, gain, group delay, impedance, and bandwidth, it will likely convey with fidelity the transmitted emotion and color.

While insulation, jacket materials, pigments, conductor shape, metallurgy and structure are important, all pale compared to the influence of field, virtual ground plane and conductor relational geometry. This final cable geometry largely determines measured attributes. Druid Credenza features a specifically engineered B3 silver alloy cable for internal hook-up. We strongly recommend the use of our Ibis, Libtec or Wax loudspeaker cable terminated with our pure copper spade lugs.

Improvements that will be noticed from well engineered cables should include bass depth and resolution, system noise floor, harmonic structure and timbre, attack, soundstage size and accuracy, easy of listening—simply a lot closer to the recorded event.

## **Maintenance and cleaning of finish**

For cleaning and dusting of your Druid Credenza loudspeaker simply use a clean damp cotton towel. Dusting of the 10" drivers should only be done with hand-held compressed air as used in photograph and sensitive electronics dusting.

## **Maintenance and cleaning of binding post terminals**

The unplated pure copper binding post terminals should also be cleaned once or twice a year using the supplied polishing compound. Once you have cleaned and polished the binding posts and spade lugs (if you are also using our unplated pure copper spade lugs) avoid touching the spades or the binding posts. Keeping the contacts free of the halides and oils of your skin help ensure a long term and trouble free connection.

## **Instructions for cleaning and polishing the Druid Credenza binding posts**

1. Wash your hands with soap and water prior to cleaning the terminals.
2. Completely remove the machined aluminum binding post nut and black plastic terminal block.  
This will make for easy access of the pure copper lugs.
3. Using the supplied polish cloth (jar labeled "polish"), rub the exposed copper lug until it is clean, usually about 15 - 30 seconds is all that is needed.
4. Wipe the polish off the copper lugs with the supplied white buffing cloth. (DO NOT WASH THE POLISH OFF, POLISH MUST BE REMOVED BY BUFFING ONLY.)
5. Refit the black plastic terminal block and machined aluminum binding post nut.
6. Again wash your hands with soap and water. The polishing does contain a small amount of petroleum distillate.

If you are also using our loudspeaker cable fitted with our pure copper spade lugs, we recommend that you clean your spades the same time that you clean your Druid Credenza binding posts. Polish each spade for 15 to 30 seconds then buff with the white buffing cloth.



## Warranty information

Zu products are designed and manufactured to the highest quality. However, if something does go wrong Zu will fix or replace the product free of charge.

Zu loudspeakers have a five year limited warranty from date of purchase to original owner. If under normal home use you have any problems with drivers, cable, parts, cabinet, we are going to fix or replace the product. Loudspeaker warranty and service can usually be performed by the user, also known as DIY Service, in such cases Zu will provide full technical support, instructions usually including a DVD video, and any special tools. This provides faster repair of product reducing down time, minimizes handling hassle and damage potential to both Zu and you, and reduces shipping costs.

Zu loudspeaker finish warranty covers color fade, finish checking, and oxidizing. While every effort is made to ensure a perfect finish that will last a lifetime, this warranty does not cover damage from impact and abrasion; or seam / core construction visibilities in extreme high temperature / high humidity environments.

Zu phonograph cartridges have a limited two year materials and workmanship warranty. This warranty does not cover misuse or accident. It does not cover premature stylus wear from playing dirty records.

Zu products are designed to be used in temperature and humidity controlled environments, namely your home or office unless otherwise stated. Storage of Zu Audio products, particularly loudspeakers, in uncontrolled environment may cause damage to the product and will void the warranty.

If in the highly unlikely event that a Zu product arrives to you Dead On Arrival (D.O.A.), and after discussing it with a Zu tech, we will ship another of the same product at our expense and arrange for the D.O.A. product to be collected. If after inspection however we find that you have misrepresented a returned product's condition, and that it was improperly handled or used, Zu will charge you for all damaged parts, labor, shipping and handling of the product.

Warranty does not apply to damage caused by operating the product outside the intended use, accident, another product, misuse, abuse, flood, fire, earthquake or any other external causes. Warranty does not cover damage caused by modification or service performed by anyone other than a Zu representative. Cosmetic damage is also excluded from warranty, as is all product that has any part of the Zu serial number removed.

When a product or part is exchanged the replacement becomes your property and the suspect or damaged part becomes Zu's property. Parts provided by Zu must be used in products for which the warranty service is claimed.

## What you can expect if warranty service is needed

If warranty becomes necessary, you must call or email for a Return Material Authorization (R.M.A.) number, or to arrange for user serviceable parts. This provides opportunity to assist in diagnosing the problem and helps us to schedule for rapid turnaround in the event that parts, service or repair is needed. Upon factory inspection of parts or product, warranty eligibility will be determined.

While service options, parts availability and response times will vary, we do our best to keep you happy and strive for same day turnaround on cable problems, and one to three day turnarounds on phonograph and loudspeaker problems. Depending on the situation you may be responsible for shipping and other charges. International customers should know that Zu will comply with all applicable export / import laws and regulations, you may be responsible for custom duties, taxes, broker fees, freight, and other charges.

When shipping of product or part is required, repackage the complete product, or part, in its original packaging. If you have any questions about packaging please call or email. Product damage caused from incorrect repackaging is not eligible for refund or warranty and the freight company may also reject your insurance claim. Until we have the product back in the shop and sign off that it is eligible, the product is still your property, we recommend you insure or declare the full value when shipping. We also recommend that you only ship with a freight company that has a good reputation and offers tracking and insurance for the full amount.

Within the package you need to also include your contact information.

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