

OMEN CENTER

OWNER'S MANUAL

1 | 2012

THANK YOU

Thank you for your purchase of the Zu Audio Omen Center loudspeaker system. Every element is designed for a lifetime of hassle-free high-performance playback. It's our intent that this loudspeaker exceed every reasonable expectation in product performance, quality, durability and customer service, for as long as you own it.

ZU VISION FUTURE & PAST

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 observe 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



OMEN CENTER (((WARNINGS)))

WARNINGS

Never leave children unattended in your playback room. Care should be taken to prevent accidents.

(Besides, you already know if you let them in your room uneducated and unattended they are going to bust your needle, play catch with your discs, bend your tube pins, and write their name on your new leather chair—good secondary reasons for spending time with ‘em. So hang with your kids, grand kids, and neighbor kids, listen to some great music together, teach ‘em about playback and great music. Introduce them to Lucinda Williams, The Clash, Miles, Hendrix, Beethoven, Zeppelin, Sinatra, Rush, Silver Jews, Debussy, Woody Guthrie, Deep Purple, Wagner, Black Keys, Marty Robbins, Kyuss, Spoon, Steve Earle, Sabbath, Velvet Underground, Eels, CVB, Joanna Newsome, Ry Cooder, Cash, Ryan Adams, Zappa, John Prine, The Who, Ian McKay, Zakk Wylde, Sex Pistols, Julian Cope, Alice In Chains, Legendary Pink Dots... the Stones, Charlie Parker, Hank Williams, Elvis, Beatles and Mozart.)

The Omen Center loudspeaker system is not intended for outdoor use, do not expose to rain or moisture.

Also, we recommend unplugging your loudspeakers, main amplifier(s) and electronics during lightning storms or when the playback system will not be used for an extended period of time.

WARNING: Electrocutation through loudspeaker cable is possible, though very unlikely. Still, to avoid electrocutation make sure your amplifying gear is switched off prior to connecting or disconnecting. This will also reduce the possibility for accidental damage to your audio amplifier.

WARNING: Omen Center loudspeaker is a moderately heavy center-channel loudspeaker, consider asking a buddy to assist you.

WARNING: Omen Center loudspeaker drive units create stray magnetic fields that extend far beyond the boundaries of the cabinet. We recommend you keep magnetically sensitive electronics and media at least two feet [.7m] from the loudspeaker.

WARNING: Omen Center loudspeaker is capable of extreme sound levels, play responsibly. If caution is not exercised your hearing will be damaged. And your neighbors will either hate you or want to party with you.

OMEN CENTER UNPACKING

UNPACKING

Omen Center features our new FlexPak foam-encapsulating shipping container—which is extremely protective, lightweight, simple, and reusable.

CAUTION, watch out for snaps, rivets, jewelry, and belt buckle scratching the cabinets when positioning the loudspeakers.

1. Lay a moving blanket, or similar, down on your floor.
2. Cut the banding with a knife, cut the tape securing the tabs on either end of the box. You do not need to cut the box off the speaker, be nice to your box and save the packaging.
3. Press the foam encapsulated loudspeaker out the other end of the box.
4. Remove one of the foam halves. Now remove the loudspeaker, and while resting it on the blanket, carefully remove the plastic wrap.
5. Now place the loudspeaker on the shelf, stand or table, connect the cables, and remove the plastic protective disc covering the full-range driver.

OMEN CENTER PLACEMENT

QUICK TIPS ON GETTING GREAT SOUND FROM OMEN

Omen Center loudspeaker systems now get 200 hours or more of factory burn-in, it will sound good right out of the box but will not give you its best for a few weeks, depending on how much play, and how cold it got in shipping, as well as what kind of music it sees. If shipped in the winter months you can expect it to need the first week to warm up and start sounding good, not sure why, it just is.

Remove the protective plastic shipping disc covering the full-range driver. (Yes, there have been a few times “speakers didn’t sound right” just to find out the full-range shipping disc was still in place.)

BASIC PLACEMENT

Omen Center is designed specifically for center-channel applications, with vocal resolution and natural presentation being the primary design goal.

- Turn your electronics off before disconnecting and connecting your loudspeakers.
- Connect loudspeaker and amplifier RED to RED | BLACK to BLACK.
- Position it as close as you can to the acoustic horizontal center-line of your main left / right front loudspeakers for the most seamless integration.
- Point Omen Center loudspeaker directly at the central listening seat.
- Subtle changes to cabinet tilt (canting) will change the sound.
- Also experiment with the front to back location of the Omen Center to get best sound.

OMEN CENTER CABLE

WIRE AND 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. Avoid using cables as tone controls.

Timbre problems are usually solved with loudspeaker break-in and correct loudspeaker placement. 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. As an aside, avoid taking other people's opinions on cable as gospel—just because a reviewer makes blanket statements about cable “sound” means little relative to your rig and your ears. So trust your own ears, they're yours for a reason. Also, bear in mind that just because you had a good sound with cable A on loudspeaker X does not mean that cable A will be a good system match for Omen Center.

For best multi-channel stereophonic imaging you should run the same cable and amplification on your left / center / right front loudspeakers. And critical in that is running matched pairs of left / right cable of the same length.

While insulation, jacket materials, pigments, conductor shape, metallurgy and structure are important (yep, they really are), all pale into insignificance compared to the influence of electrostatic / electromagnetic forces, virtual ground plane, and conductor relational geometry. It is the E&M model, or cable geometry, that largely determines a cable's measured attributes.

Improvements that will be noticed from well engineered cables such as ours should include: enhanced bass depth and resolution, lower system noise floor, richer harmonic structure and timbre, faster attack, greater stereophonic accuracy and an overall ease of listening—simply a lot closer to real and satisfying and a lot further from typical hi-fi animation. But this assumes you are striving for the natural. Preferences in playback are just that, and individual enjoyment really is the goal, and not some ideal of what playback should be. Yes you can strongly feel our hepcat bias, but that's just us—do what makes you happy, and hopefully it includes some Zu.

OMEN CENTER MAINTENANCE

MAINTENANCE & CLEANING OF THE LOUDSPEAKER

Zu finishes of all types are engineered for a lifetime of trouble free good looks. Just wipe it down whenever you feel the need. A lightly damp microfiber cloth or chamois is recommended. Wood finishes are impregnated with a sealer and state-of-the-art conversion varnish top coats and are highly water resistant but are not waterproof. You can use any household wood finish cleaner / wax / polish you like, as well as the mentioned damp chamois or microfiber cloth.

High gloss finishes do not need any additional UV or other protection and we do not recommend wax or UV protective sprays. For serious cleaning and polishing on the gloss finishes, we recommend 3M® Perfect-It™ 3000 Glaze Polish or equivalent. All our painted finishes are top shelf, super durable, waterproof, and will remain so for decades, even in direct sunlight.

Dusting of the 10" full-range drivers should only be done with hand-held compressed air as used in photograph and sensitive electronics dusting. Or, if you are careful, you can use a very soft brush or even your bare hand to dust the full-range driver—but I would stick to the compressed air. And as for the tweeter, not much you can bungle there.

OMEN CENTER ECOLOGY

MATERIALS, ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS & DISPOSAL

All parts used within Omen Center are 100% recyclable. They do not contain any toxic material. Any Zu product or part may be sent back to Zu, free of charge, for proper re-use or disposal. Zu Omen Center loudspeaker is RoHS compliant (European Union's Directive 2002/95/EC, Restrictions of Hazardous Substances), and therefore do not contain any of the following substances: mercury (Hg), cadmium (Cd), hexavalent chromium (Cr6+), polybrominated biphenyls (PBB), or polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE). Additionally, Zu Omen loudspeakers do not contain beryllium (Be). They are classified as a lifetime life-cycle product and will most likely be in service for well over 50 years.

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT / HONEST ECOLOGY

We at Zu take pride in hard work, innovation, engineering and manufacturing know-how, and at the end of it, an honest, well built, kick-ass product. We also love to get out and enjoy life and embrace all that the world has to offer.

Zu is sincere in its search for real environmental, human and ecology-friendly manufacturing; no fluffy feel-good bullshit, just the real deal; and not because of some great googly moogly "climate change" geopolitical power play nonsense. It's simple isn't it? People like being healthy and enjoying blue skies, green hills and wildlife. We keep our impact to a minimum because we get out and enjoy nature and don't want to muck it up.

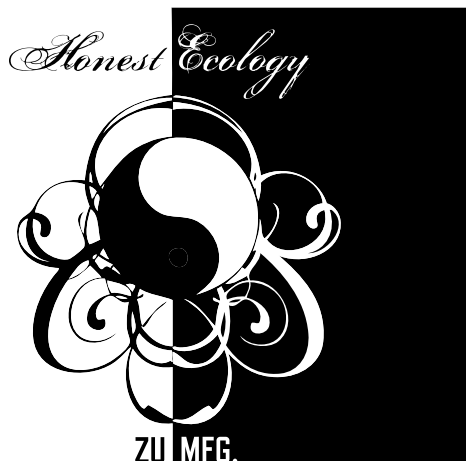
Zu makes good stuff, products that last, things you can pass down to your kids and their kids, stuff that isn't going to end up in landfills. Want to make a difference? Do a little research on your own before you fall for hype, support a cause, discriminate, or purchase a product. The people driving and building Zu believe that manufacturers and users have equal responsibility and an obligation to their respective communities. Users and producers must search for real solutions and maximize their positive impact on family, community, nature, and technology.

REUSE

RoHS



CE





OMEN CENTER SPECIFICATIONS

ZU AUDIO OMEN CENTER Mk.I [REV-A] LOUDSPEAKER SYSTEM SPECIFICATIONS + INFORMATION

Description	High efficiency, high output, direct radiating center-channel loudspeaker. Omen Center features Zu's full-range driver (Zu260FRD/G4), no crossover or filters on full-range driver, complimented by twin composite dome time-aligned machined from billet tweeters to provide solid horizontal upper treble distribution and resolution (12kHz and up).
Architecture	Zu / orthogonal Scandinavian
Production	October 2010 –
Dimensions H W D	11 x 19-1/2 x 8" [28 x 50 x 20.4cm]
Weight	31 pounds [14kg]
Packaged	one loudspeaker per shipping box, 36 pounds [16.5kg]
Bandwidth	50~25kHz
Efficiency	98dB SPL @ 1W, 1m
Impedance	12Ω, nominal full bandwidth
Horizontal Listening Window	50°
Vertical Listening Window	35°
Recommend Listening Distance	3 feet [1m] or more
Accepted Connectors	via standard 5-way binding posts: 1/4" spade [6.3mm], oversized 5/16" [8mm] spade, bare wire, banana plugs
Internal Cabling	ZuMission hookup wire
Power Recommendations	4~12 watt (average room, moderate volume) 12~36 watt (large room, loud listening) 36~200 watt (large room, concert levels) 200 watt (maximum input power)
Amplification Considerations	anything that sounds good (floating load, any amp type or circuit is fine)
Component Tolerance	better than 1% driver pair matching, 0.1% on all other electrical components
Tweeter Detail	2x Zu APT-L2 tweeter assembly // bandwidth: 12k~25kHz
High-Pass Filter Detail	first order bessell @ 18kHz (12kHz acoustical) PulseX 1uF + loading R
Full-range Driver Detail	1x Zu260FRD/G4, 10-1/3" full-range driver // bandwidth: 50~12kHz (direct and unfiltered)
Cabinet	North American MDF skinned with real wood veneer
Spike / Feet Insert Thread	none
Included With Loudspeaker	1x hard press-on full-range driver covers, installed 1x owner's manual
Life Expectancy	100 years; cabinet, and drivers, including the Zu 10.3" [260mm] drivers; even in direct sunlight
Manufacturers Country Of Origin	U.S.A. all parts and labor excluding just a few small parts
Compliances	RoHS WEEE
Warranty & Service	5 years limited on cabinet and drivers—warranty does not cover misuse, abuse, components upstream from the loudspeaker system, modifications or non-factory service.



ZU AUDIO

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OGDEN, UTAH — U.S.A.

[DESIGNED AND MADE BY US]

WWW.ZUAUDIO.COM