



HIFIDIGITAL

STREAMING • NETZWERK • IPOD

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Up against the wall!

Apple's iPod is often seen as being more of a lifestyle accessory than a hifi component. Audio furniture specialist **Finite Elemente** has successfully combined these two aspects with its fine soundboard docking station

There were a number of other companies making simple iPod docking stations was what Finite Elemente, the audio rack specialists from Germany, thought. And a purely electronic component just didn't seem to fit into the company portfolio. But there was still interest in the topic

as such, and finally a solution was found that harmonises perfectly with the core business – and this solution follows a truly unique approach:

The Hohorizontal 51 is an iPod docking station in addition to being a digital stereo amplifier with analogue inputs that can be fitted to the wall like a sideboard. In addition to the Apple player there is space for a flower vase or a couple of books. The wall shelf comes with its own loudspeakers, split into the tweeters at the front corners and two bass/midrange units mounted on the underside. There are also bass-reflex openings out of sight on the rear of the board. A DSP ensures that the sound is adapted to best suit the close proximity to the wall. However there aren't really any possibilities to influence the sound settings. You won't find any equalizer functions or special effect programs on the supplied credit-card-sized remote control.

So that the Hohorizontal can look good in just about every environment, it comes in a range of elaborate six-coat lacquers in high-gloss as well as in a very attractive matt walnut veneer (around 650 euros).



Included are a mini remote control (right) and the standard set of different iPod adapters.



The small tweeters on the front are backed up by two bass/midrange drivers on the underside of the board (above).



Analogue signals can also be input to the docking station via the cinch sockets. It can also function as a sound interface thanks to the USB socket.

FINITE ELEMENTE HOHRORIZONTAL 51

Price: around 500 euros
Warranty: 2 years
Dimensions: 100 x 5 x 30 (WxHxD)
Available from: Finite Elemente
Phone: +49-2961-966110
Internet: www.finite-elemente.de

Test result: Located somewhere between an iPod docking station and a piece of furniture the Hohorizontal 51 from Finite Elemente has an appealing sound and offers a surprising number of functions. The finishing is simply superb.

FEATURES

Connection sockets, etc.: iPod docking station, analogue cinch input, USB socket (can be used as sound interface), video output
Accessories: Instruction manual, mains cable, various iPod docking adapters, wall bracket, remote control

The finishing quality of all variants is excellent. From a sound quality aspect the Hohorizontal 51 is a match for other compact and complete stereo systems. The music is full-bodied and mellow, offers finely accentuated trebles and an almost discolouration-free mid-range.

You should keep the volume level to living-room volume or slightly higher for best performance and bass response. The unit performs best when all of the iPod's equalizer settings and „sound improvements“ are deactivated. **cb**

CHECKLIST

This is what you need to use this component:

- Screws and wall anchors to suit your wall type
- Possibly a cable channel to conceal the mains cable