



No loss of fine detail

Audio Physic's VCF II Magnetic M8 Feet

Starting Off On The "Right Foot"

Sometimes, good things happen for the wrong reasons....

A few months ago, I treated myself to a pair of Audio Physic Tempo Plus for my living room system. Soon thereafter, I saw a picture of the same pair of speakers, shod with AP's optional VCF (Vibration Control Feet) Magnetic Feet and I had to have them. In truth, however, my lust for this \$900 set of black anodized aluminum pucks had nothing to do with audio performance: I just thought the speakers looked so much better sitting on these things!



Arriving in their nice little plastic tool chest, the first thing you'll notice when you try to remove the VCFs from their box is that the feet violently repel each other due to the magnetic field each foot creates. Unlike spiked feet, which rigidly couple the speaker to the floor, VCFs "Float" the speaker on a "String Suspension" made of tightly woven, proprietary mesh.



According to Audio Physic, what makes their string suspension unique is that any energy traveling through a string is transformed into tension because a string does not allow any other kind of energy transfer: no bending, pressure, torsion, etc. A pair of opposing neodymium type magnets is used to "Float" the speaker so that its weight is only partially supported by the mesh and partially by a cushion of magnetic energy.

Swapping out the spikes supplied with the Tempos, I threaded the VCFs in place and plunked the speakers down in the same position in which they had previously resided. Hot! It is hard to believe how these simple-looking feet totally transformed the looks of the speakers: as if a beautiful woman traded-in her Flip-Flops for Stiletto Heels! There was a look of solidity and strength which the Tempos didn't have before, combined with perfect visual symmetry. Sitting on my couch and staring at the Tempos, I was completely satisfied with my purchase. And then, I stopped looking and started listening....



I've been an audiophile for more than 40 years, an industry professional for more than 30 and just when I thought I'd heard it all, the VCFs proved that I haven't.

What I found most impressive wasn't that the VCF made a difference; rather, it was the magnitude of that difference that knocked me out, especially considering how good the Tempos were to begin with.

Although VCFs enhanced performance in virtually every parameter, the greatest benefits occurred in the bass, which dramatically improved in both quantity and quality. There seemed to be greater depth and extension but at the same time, there was increased speed and pitch definition. As I use my living room system for video as well as audio, I can tell you that the VCFs' bass augmentation wrought an even more profound improvement upon movie soundtracks. Imagine adding a state-of-the-art subwoofer to your system but with no compromises in terms of cohesion or articulation: this analogy gives you some idea of the enhancements provided—at a fraction of the price—by the VCFs.

In other areas, the VCFs paid subtle but nonetheless substantial musical dividends. Dynamics were conveyed with an increase in snap, swagger and sock, creating the perception of increased volume and dramatic impact. Trebles were augmented in terms of air, speed and bloom; however, the most obvious improvement at the highest frequencies was a finer resolution of space. Compared to the standard spikes, the VCFs generated a bigger and more ethereal soundstage populated by stunningly focused and well-defined images. Just as important as what the VCFs did is what they didn't do; namely, they didn't compromise sound quality in any way. Rare indeed is the audio product whose influence upon sound is universally positive.

And so, I paid for good looks and wound up with transformational sound quality. Although I would've considered it money well spent had the VCFs done nothing but enhance the Tempo's sex appeal, it was their ability to enhance the speakers' sound appeal that was the real eye- and ear-opener here. My desire to improve the Tempos' looks was certainly rewarded but, as a bonus, I also wound up achieving a much higher level of sound quality. More, in fact, than I imagined any \$900 upgrade could deliver. For anyone with a pair of high quality towers—and not just Audio Physic—the VCF Magnetic Feet are an ideal way to upgrade existing speakers rather than trading-in your existing ones. Skeptical? Audio Physic makes VCFs for components as well as speakers, which not only makes A/B comparisons easier, it just might make them impossible to resist! - *Anthony Chiarella - December 2017*



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