



TECH TALK

Peak Consult's Wilfried Ehrenholz

We caught up with Wilfried Ehrenholz, the German engineer, co-founder and later sole owner of Dynaudio. After selling Dynaudio, Wilfried stepped back from the industry before returning in 2021 as the owner of Peak Consult, overseeing product development and contributing to strategy and marketing.

Wilfried, you sold Dynaudio a few years ago - what was it about Peak Loudspeakers which persuaded you to become involved in loudspeaker manufacturing again?

Peak embodies the principles that define true high-end loudspeaker design. When you start with a cabinet engineered to an uncompromising standard, everything that follows

can reach a far higher level. Peak's small team of specialists shares this philosophy and has the capability to execute it. That combination of vision, expertise, and authenticity made returning to loudspeaker manufacturing logical and inspiring.

What are your main objectives when you approach the design of a new loudspeaker?

My goal is always the same: remove every barrier between the listener and the musical truth. The loudspeaker should disappear, leaving only transparency, dynamic freedom, and a coherent, lifelike soundstage. If the listener feels a deeper emotional connection to the music, then the design has succeeded. Peak is driven

by passion, not commercial strategies, shareholder expectations, or investor defined budgets. Every decision begins with one question: *What will deliver the most truthful, emotionally compelling musical experience?*

What does the design from initial concept to production-ready require?

The journey from concept to working prototype represents roughly 20% of the total development effort. The remaining 80% is fine tuning: the long, meticulous process of shaping the performance until it meets our exact standards.

With the concept defined, we select and optimise the drivers for linearity, distortion behaviour, dynamic capability, and material synergy.

Multiple cabinet prototypes are built to refine construction methods and design details.

Drivers are measured in an anechoic chamber inside the real cabinet, capturing true acoustic behaviour, not relying on theoretical or free-air data. These form the foundation for the crossover design.

Different crossover topologies are evaluated through advanced simulation. We identify the solution that best preserves coherence, dynamics, and tonal integrity. A prototype crossover is built, allowing assembly of the first fully functional loudspeaker.

The prototype undergoes extensive listening sessions, refining tonal balance, spatial presentation, and dynamic behaviour. Each adjustment is verified through simulation.

Critical components are evaluated to ensure the final crossover uses parts that deliver measurable precision and audible refinement.



Wilfried Ehrenholz from
Peak Consult.



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» Once the loudspeaker reaches its intended performance level, it enters a long-term listening phase where subtle behaviours emerge: how the speaker performs over extended sessions, responds to different electronics, and how it maintains consistency across varied musical material. The loudspeaker is only approved for production after passing this final stage.

Who is involved in this design process; what role will they play?

Per Kristoffersen transforms the concept into physical reality, shaping the cabinet architecture and ensuring the mechanical foundation is worthy of the acoustic ambition.

Karl-Heinz Fink provides comprehensive measurement and analysis, giving us the data and insight to validate ideas and refine performance.

I oversee the entire project, guiding the design philosophy and personally voicing each model to ensure it reflects the musical character I envision. Once the final prototype is complete, the Peak team collectively signs off, but ultimate approval rests with me — the loudspeaker must meet my standard and embody the vision I set.

What sort of issues do you expect to have to overcome?

After fifty years in loudspeaker engineering, we know exactly where to look for meaningful improvements. Experience teaches that true progress rarely comes from quick fixes or cosmetic updates.

The main challenges we expect are the ones that emerge only when theory meets reality. Even with extensive modelling, cabinet behaviour can reveal micro resonances that force us to rethink internal geometry. Driver integration is another area where real

world testing teaches us more than simulations ever can; drivers behave differently once they're part of a complete system.

Of course we evaluate alternative materials, new technologies, but meaningful change is never simple. A loudspeaker driver is a tightly interdependent system; altering one element means redefining the entire parameter set and all must be engineered from the ground up to work together.

A crossover network may measure perfectly, yet still not deliver the musicality we're aiming for. Balancing measurement with emotional realism is always an iterative process. And because we work with natural materials and hand built components, production repeatability is a constant focus—every prototype teaches us something about tolerances, stability, and long term behaviour.

All of these experiences feed into our future designs. Each project becomes part of a continuous loop of learning, and those lessons are exactly what push the next generation of Peak loudspeakers forward.

Once you have a final design, what is involved in getting this into production?

We convert the reference build into manufacturing documentation, tolerances, and assembly sequences. Materials and drivers are validated to meet the exact specifications required.

We run test batches to confirm structural behaviour and finishing stability.

Production crossovers are measured and fine tuned to match the acoustic signature of the prototype.

We refine every step of the build so each unit performs identically.

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You recently launched SunFyre, a model which sits just below your top Dragon Legacy. What's next? Do you see a gap in your range which you want to address?

SunFyre's debut in Vienna was important for us because it signalled something very intentional: Peak is not expanding for the sake of filling price points — we are expanding only where we can meaningfully advance performance.

SunFyre sits just below Dragon Legacy, but is not a "scaled down" version. It represents a different design philosophy, focused on delivering the full Peak experience in rooms and systems where Dragon's scale is not ideal.

Our focus is on refining our product line, exploring how much of our flagship engineering can be delivered in more compact forms.

Listeners want the emotional scale and dynamic authority of Dragon Legacy, but in a form factor that suits real world living spaces. SunFyre is the answer.

It's not about filling a catalogue, it's about deepening the experience for customers who already understand what Peak stands for, creating products that deliver flagship level immersion in even more environments. Our next steps follow that path.

Wilfried, thank you for your time and insights. +

By Steve Dickinson

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