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## High Rollers: MB QUART Q 216 Signature under test

**MB QUART**  
German Engineering

...This is no different with MB QUART's Q 216 Signature, although it is based on the QSD 216 ( EUR 1,000), which since the test in the High-End special issue of autohifi 2001 has been the 36-point reference in our listening room – to the regret by the way of many competitors, who have already found it too tough a nut to crack.

But let there be no misunderstandings: The Q 216 Signature is not the successor to the QSD 216, but a hand-selected variant, refined in many details, on the basis of several QSD components. The two units therefore enjoy a peaceful coexistence in the product portfolio.

The now champagne-coloured, but otherwise unchanged cast housing of the Signature now has an additional cover with three transverse millings on its rear pole plate. These millings designed to dissipate excess heat from the internal neodymium magnets, and thus assist the cooling ribs of the housing, since neodymium is actually very sensitive to heat, and the parameters must remain stable even at higher load.

The practical double connection terminals have however remained unchanged – here the MB Quart engineers quite rightly saw no need for action. Instead, they have given the membrane, constructed basically of polypropylene, a complete coating with a powder containing titanium. MB Quart calls this process wet powder coating (WPC). The voice coil is sensibly dimensioned at 37 mm; in comparison to the other system in the test, the Q-woofer looks rather unspectacular.

MB Quart on the other hand places great value on the practical installation capability by means of the Euro-DIN basket, the compact drive and the relatively low weight. On these points, it is superior to the other system in the test.

For the tweeter too, MB Quart has dispensed with a coupling volume, in order to keep the installation depth within the required limits. An installation depth of only 19 mm is encouragingly little, and makes life easier for the installer.

The heat generated during long listening sessions is dissipated by a likewise champagne-coloured aluminium housing with an increased edge surface, similar to cooling ribs. The titanium dome has been given a new coating, which now makes it appear somewhat darker than that of its QSD counterpart. The five-legged plastic diffuser is a fixed attachment. Three plastic installation aids and an optional grill are enclosed, making additional equipment points.

The generous Q 216 Signature crossover has also been firmly optimised. Below the inner aluminium plate lie seven resistors located in metal cooling sinks, which are connected on the underside to the cast aluminium base by means of heat-conducting paste, thereby ensuring balanced temperature conditions.

The coils are concealed below the round plastic covers on the circuit board, while three condensers and a resistor lie beneath a rectangular plastic box. The MB QUART crossover therefore looks very neat and compact.

The crossover is even capable of bi-wiring, having separate inputs for the tweeter and woofer, which in normal operation are connected by external golden bridges. The tweeter level is adjustable in five steps by means of a further external jumper.

The people at MB QUART assemble the complete system meticulously by hand. Every individual chassis is then measured and sorted into groups. Only chassis which match each other within a very close tolerance range are paired together as a set.

The complete set is then measured once again and subjected to a listening test (!). The original measurement record of the system is enclosed with the product. So much effort naturally has its price, particularly in the case of German manufacture.

...When it then came to the turn of the Q 216 Signature, the testers could hardly believe their ears. Voices of every timbre sounded significantly clearer and more natural, while at the high frequencies it was astounding for the much better definition and details, although without becoming too sharp. The polyphonic ensemble of the Global Kryner sounded even crisper and richer.

In the lower frequencies, it could not quite match the other system in the test, but overtook it smoothly thanks to the more impulsive bass. Fantastic!

Even in comparison to the almost twice as expensive Rainbow Platinum with 43 sound points, it still cut an outstanding figure. The Rainbow reproduced voices in a somewhat more plastic way, while the MB QUART struck back with clear details. With this stalemate, the second sensation was perfect. Also with an overall points total of 83, the MB QUART tied with the other system in the test, both therefore sharing the title "Best value in the reference class".

**Summary: Anyone who wants superb sound can't pass by the MB QUART!**

**MB QUART**

**Q 216 Signature 1300 Euro**

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**Top & Flop**

- + natürlicher, plastischer Klang
- + handselektierte Chassis
- + einbaufreundliche Maße

**Ausstattung**

**Tieftöner:** Alu-Gusskorb mit Kühlrippen, geschützter Neodym-Antrieb, beschichtete Polypropylen-Membran, Gummisicke, doppelte flexible Terminals, paarweise handselektiert.  
**Hochtöner:** 25-mm-Titanhochtoner, Alu-Gehäuse mit Kühlrippen, Diffusor, kompakte Abmessungen, drei Einbaualter beiliegend.  
**Frequenzweiche:** Aluguss-Gehäuse mit Kühlrippen, Rollenkerneisen, Folienkondensator, Lampe, Kühlkörper-Widerstände, Bi-Wiring-fähig, 5 Hochtonepegel, Schraubterminals.

**autohifi-Messergebnisse**

Nennimpedanz	4 Ω
Resonanzfrequenz	55 Hz
Minimale Impedanz	3,8 Ω bei 155 Hz
Wirkungsgrad gesamt (2 V, 1 m)	83,3 dB
Schalldruckpegel 90 Hz (2 V, 1 m)	87,5 dB
Schalldruckpegel 50 Hz (2 V, 1 m)	82 dB
Max. Schalldruck 90 Hz	99 dB
Max. Schalldruck 50 Hz	93 dB
Empf. Verstärkerleistung	50-100 Watt

**Frequenzgang autohifi-Testlabor**

Noch recht ausgewogener Verlauf mit kräftigem Bass und leichten Senken um 1 kHz und 5 kHz. Unter Winkel leichter Pegelabfall im Hochton, aber immer noch weitreichend.

**Wasserfall-Diagramm autohifi-Testlabor**

Recht schnelles, im Mittelton zögerliches Ausschwingverhalten. Keine ausgeprägten Resonanzen erkennbar.

**autohifi-Bewertung (max. 100 Punkte)**

Klang (50)	Punkte
Maximaler Schalldruck (20)	43
Ausstattung (20)	11
Verarbeitung (10)	19
	10

**autohifi TESTURTEIL**

**Referenzklasse 83 Punkte**

**Preis/Leistung ★★★★★**