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מגזין טכנולוגיה של כיף

REVIEW

THE NEW STANDARD?

PERLISTEN
PERCEPTUAL LISTENING EXPERIENCE



PERLISTEN S7T PUT TO THE TEST

It's a floorstander, exploded with technology and promises. Namer Levi took it home and checked.

Does it stand up to expectations? Or is it all just exaggeration? There are really only a very few products that make me want to review them. I can definitely say that after hearing, testing and writing about so many products, I am basically apathetic about new products.

"Bring it on, I will hear it, I will write about it." Is usually the general approach. But in this case, there was something different – "Bring it to me! I want to hear it, I want to write about it!" The speaker which I am going to write about comes from a very interesting brand, one that made some bold claims – and when one makes promises, one needs to deliver!

According to their claims, there are so many unique attributes, involving a lot of new technologies – that triggered my curiosity and that could be fun to write about.

For those of you who don't want to wade through the technical stuff (sorry, that's out of my control) – there is a clear guide at the end of the article.

Let's Start with the Company's Claims

"We did it", "It's not the same", "This speaker is built differently, and it can do some crazy things." Of course, I am

oversimplifying here, but this is essentially the general direction.

I have heard so many claims like this and generally, after the listening tests, they do succeed in convincing me, but the hard fact is that till this day – I have never encountered a speaker that knocked me off my feet, except my own speakers (I am biased, yes?).

For me, the most important factors in sound reproduction are resolution and dynamics. If one of them is missing, this speaker will not find its way to my system.

There are some people who prioritize other things, such as, "warmth" or "romance". As for me, I get my "romance" from a product that is true to the source, it must be as close as possible to live instruments, as I know them to be in reality.

If they are harsh or even unpleasant at some times, I demand of a product that it does not interfere – "It must bring it as it is", raw, natural and without any spices.

And this specific character (or should I say- absence of character) is what excites me. This is what triggers my emotions. These speakers are declared to be in that category and now I will put them to the test.

So what's the story?

Actually very simple, "We wanted to make the best speaker ever."

Surprising, isn't it? after all, nobody will write that he is amused by this idea. Nevertheless, as an audio reporter, I must start to get serious.

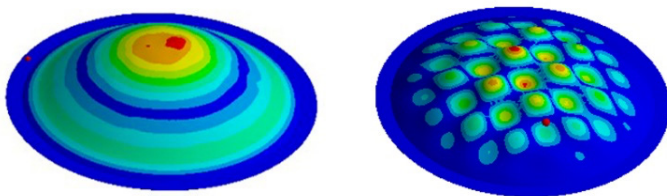
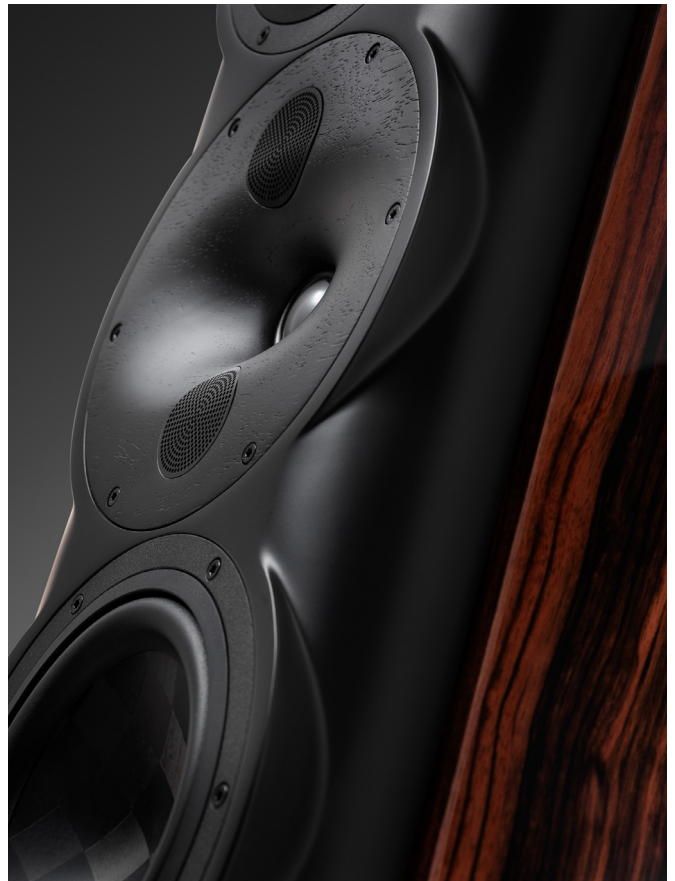
The year was 2016, a handful of discerning audiophiles who share the same passion, decide to establish Perlisten Audio, in order to make the best speaker that they can possibly make.

From that point on, extensive R&D began.

The 7" drivers were co-developed with Swedish-based Oxeon, the cone material goes by the name Thin Ply Carbon, also known as TPCD and Textreme.

We are talking about a thickness of 50 microns – in other words, extremely thin, but the patent here is that the membrane is not of equal thickness throughout and that is not by accident.

By applying layer upon layer, one can change the cone's thickness in some sections, in terms of symmetry and that has a positive mechanical advantage – cone break-up and ringing are reduced and spread much more smoothly with fewer anomalies.



The drivers have an extreme Linear X-max of 1.6 cm and that is quite an achievement for a drivers of this size and explains why the speaker, which employs four of these

units, can have an in-room response extending below 20 Hz.



The S7T's Employ Three More Drivers

2 x TPCD 1.1" mid-domes – woven in a different manner optimized for its targeted bandwidth.



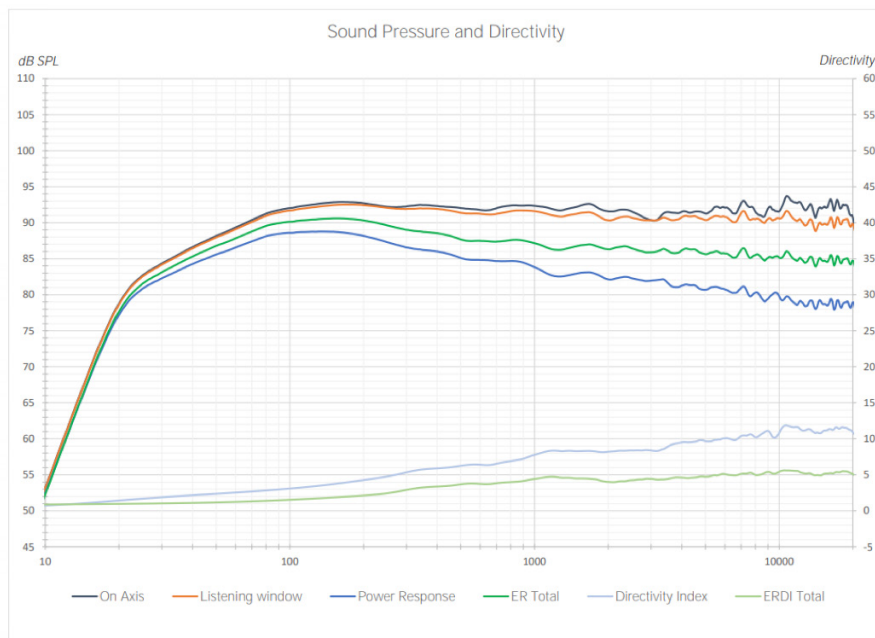
1 x 1.1" Beryllium tweeter mounted in an acoustical lens.

The technology utilized here has many similarities with Line Array applications.

Beam-forming array

The design principles employed here result in a speaker that has wide, even horizontal sound projection, combined with a narrow vertical directivity pattern, to minimize one of the biggest acoustical problems in room sound reproduction – strong reflections from floor and ceiling.

CTA - 2034 measurements



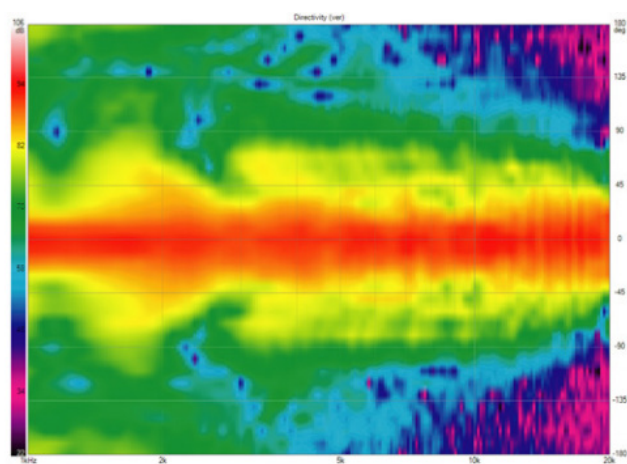
Black

On axis amplitude response

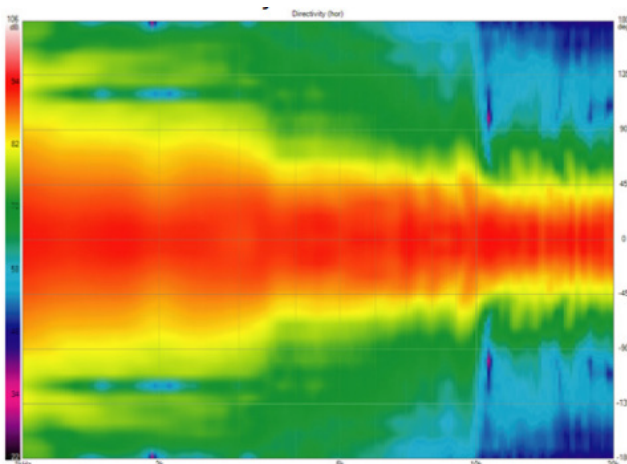
Orange

A listening window that represent a real in room response and average 9 measurement locations that were taken in a range of 20 degrees (vertically) and 60 degrees (horizontally).

Vertical



Horizontal



Red

Represent max amplitude

Crossover

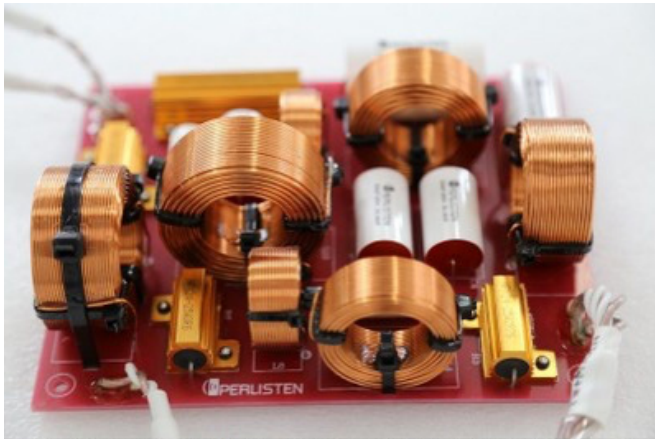
It's a four-way speaker, but far removed from what we are familiar with – there are many overlapping "zones" between the drivers.

Upper and lower 7" drivers : 22 Hz - 550 Hz

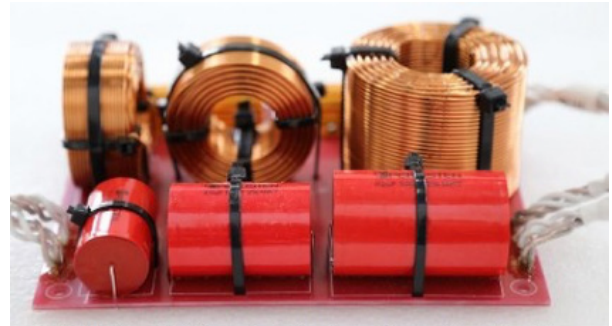
Mid section 7" drivers : 22 Hz - 1350 Hz

Two dome TPCD mids : 1 KHz - 4 KHz

One Beryllium tweeter : 1 KHz - 30 KHz and above



Perlisten S7t midrange/tweeter crossover circuit



Perlisten S7t bass driver crossover circuit

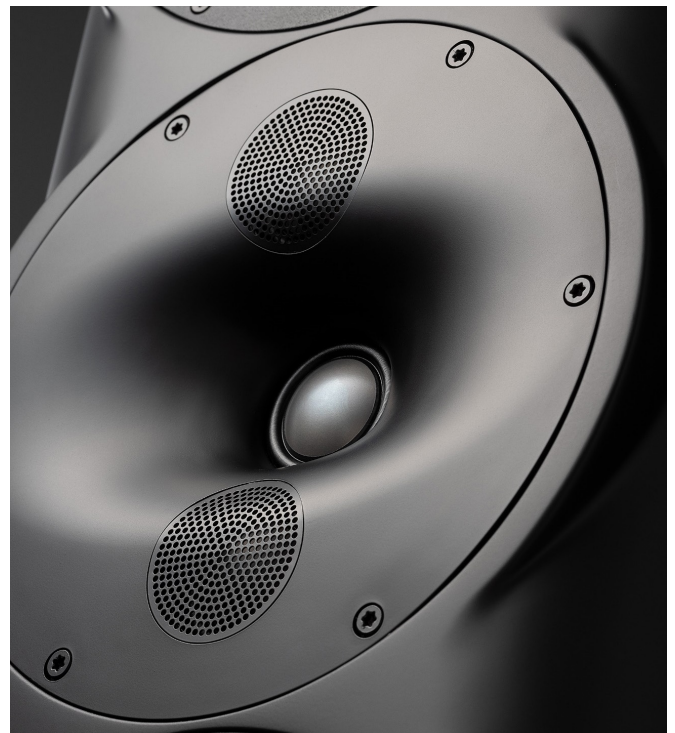
DPC - Directivity Pattern Control

Perlisten's goals were to create something different, there was a clear tech spec and feature set that the product must possess.

Combining advanced simulation programs and thousands of back and forth real world measurements using Klippel NFS, through a long and challenging period of trial and error, hundreds of prototypes were created, until the right one emerged.

Different distances between the drivers and a proprietary acoustical lens – were a critical part of the final product. The lens and all the DPC array are made from solid wood, CNC cut to perfection.

The front baffle is made of 80 mm HDF, which is far denser and more rigid than the usual MDF, and is the result of countless simulations and repeated measurements. It has a unique pattern to control diffractions and the drivers form an integral part of it.



The cabinet

Walls made of super-rigid HDF plus 80 mm front baffle, as mentioned above. There are five horizontal bracings and one that is vertically aligned. Bitumen damping layers are also applied. Two very low tuned, downward-firing ports plus three grills eliminate port chuffing. According to Perlisten's claims, that can help in less than optimal

speaker placement. Heavy-duty steel base, high quality rubber feet' and optional spikes for various surfaces.

Anyway, enough filling your head with tech stuff, let's see what these speakers can actually do and with all these tons of technique and technologies, they had better to "WOW" me.

LISTENING



Mahler - Symphony no. 2 London Symphony Orchestra, dir. Georg Solti

I start with classical music, filled with anxiety, that if from the first note, I will not be amazed, then why the heck did I break my fingers typing a very long, technical introduction. And then, then it arrived, big time. It's got it ! This speaker has the presence that people talk about.

The opening makes it immediately clear that we are talking about a speaker that can present real sound- real presence!

The bass was superb, the resolution is amazing, the dynamics – Wow! This is very impressive folks, this is high end in all its glory.

String instruments sound real, through the S7t, with all the nuance one could wish for. The difference between the various string instruments in terms of size and location in space is easily revealed.

The speakers give me the exact same feeling with brass instruments and, of course, with percussion.

Transients of percussion instruments are just amazing. Fast, accurate, dynamic, detailed and perfectly balanced. these speakers do not have separate drivers, there is only one unit and that unit is whole all speaker, without any failure in the delicate crossover region. I emphasize that section, because it's a rare thing for a speaker to have so many drivers, yet act as one.



Ben Webster - Stormy Weather

So if it excels at classical music, then it must also be phenomenal with something that is more minimalistic, with different requirements. So here we go to the Jazz club and through this speaker you can easily meet the players in reality. Yes, even if they are no longer among the living (spooky, huh?).

I want to start, deliberately, with the background whispers, the micro-dynamics, the ability of a speaker to expose what is going on in the background is the true greatness of a real high-end speaker. It is supposed to open a window to the atmosphere, to the specific place, to tell you where the record took place and who was there. It can easily reveal the audience, the event at the pub, that the music is the center, with small nuance with enormous meaning.

Piano sound is superb, the weight spot on, the dynamics excellent, with proper timbre and balance between the instrument and the space. The bass is spectacular! I really don't have other words to describe it. They sound so right with the correct proportions and since we have already talked about the speaker's dynamic abilities, let's talk about the ability to be natural and soft, when needed. Here, the saxophone has exactly the required attributes and the outcome, as in classical music – is perfection.

LISTENING



Manowar - Warriors of the world

Switching to rock, with the confidence of an Olympic boxer, who joins a karate class at an elementary school.

Why? Because I already know how its going to sound (and probably you do, too).but you know,it's a review – I need to write a few more words. So here we go and that's starting to be boring.

They have tremendous SPL capabilities – we learned that at the symphonic orchestra part, they are accurate and extremely balanced -as we learned at the Jazz stage. The resolution is great – we know that from both types of recording, so what do think will happen here?

Exactly – a walk in the park!

Even if you turn the knob to levels that will trigger your neighbors to text on the What's up group – “Who is the crazy who listens at such levels” – it will still remain composed ! it will not change balance – and that is their true greatness.

So I won't tell you how the guitar sounds in terms of balance with the bass and if the drums were dynamic enough and what have happen when vocalists join the party.

These speakers are a rock festival, should you choose to challenge it with this genre. Take my word for it



Giuseppe Verdi “Il Trovatore” Pavarotti, Sutherland, Wixell, Horne, Ghiaurov, Bonyng 1976

They continue to surprise with vocals, natural, right, proportional, the correct weight and many more positive descriptions.

But, their true greatness, what really stands out above all else is the fact that the room is hardly involved.

It may be the directivity pattern, it may be the drivers, it may be the cabinet. Who cares?

It presents music in space, emerging from the front, with a huge three-dimensional soundstage, liberated from the room it, making the presentation more accurate and presenting nuances that one can only hear in speakers that cost twice the price and more.



AMPLIFIERS MATCHING

On paper, the S7t's sensitivity is high, but, don't be fooled into thinking that they will deliver their full potential with a few watts of tube amp power.

They demand energy, reserves of it and will reward you when you deliver. Furthermore, they are very revealing speakers that will expose any weakness in the system and recordings, so an ideal amp will be very natural, balanced and not on the cheap side of things.



ROOM PLACEMENT

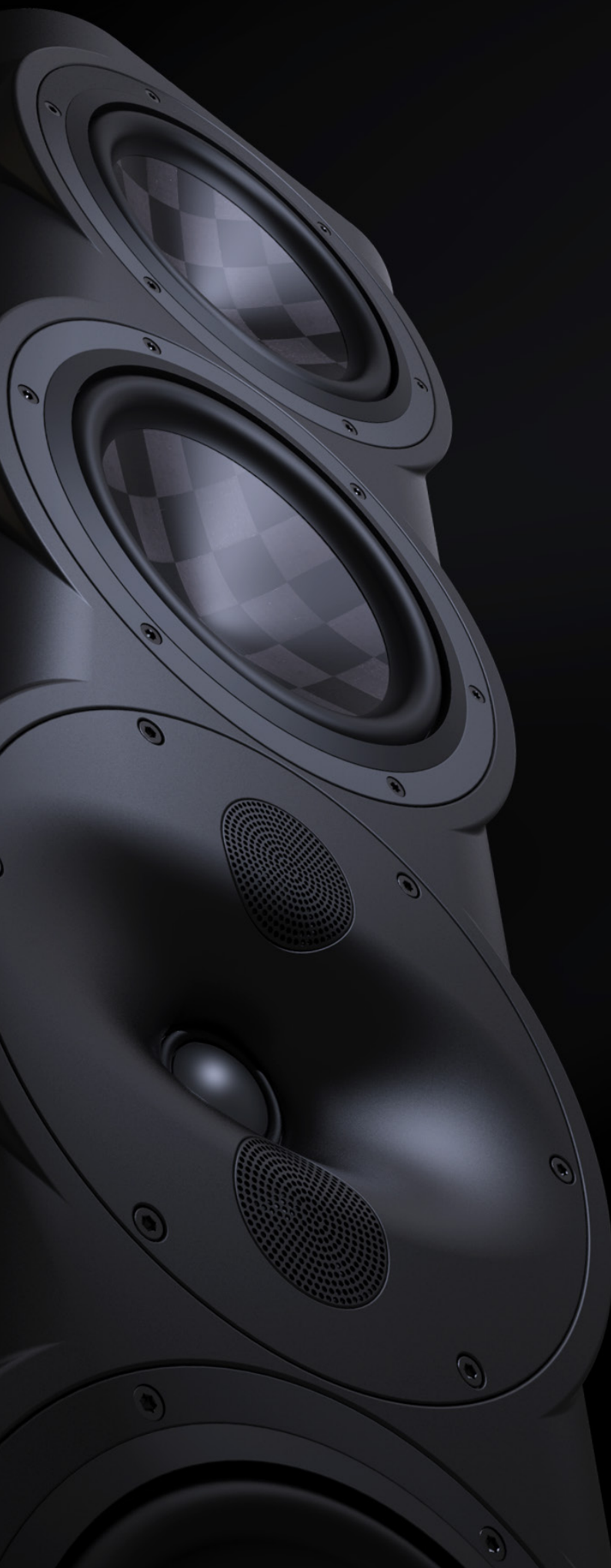
While it's true that they are not overly affected by the floor and ceiling, don't be confused. That does not mean "unaffected", rather that it is much less affected than any other speaker. Given that fact, it will play much better than most larger rivals in a bad room scenario.

Still, distance from front wall is a must and will affect the potential soundstage width and depth. However, it will manage very well in small 4 x 4 meters rooms, because of their design. This is a rare thing in the big tower speakers segment.

A PERSONAL NOTE

It is so much fun to write about a speaker like this. It is so much fun to write about a near-perfect speaker, with zero ifs, ands or buts.

These speakers have accompanied for several very enjoyable weeks. To my mind, these speakers are the reference at their price point. They taught me that's its possible, at a sane price, to achieve phenomenal results because of progress, access to new materials that were hard to obtain before and generally speaking, a new generation of drivers that bring to the table incredible standards and that make me very happy.



And that's exactly the point, these are speakers that prove they know how to do it. More precisely, the engineers behind them know.

The build quality of these speakers is among the best there is. Well finished, with attention to small details and weighing a ton (somewhat less than that, but you got the picture). It's a speaker bursting with innovation. Whether it's the technique or the actual execution, they play everything, devour every room, chew up every violent electric guitar, as if it were tofu.

They manage to present everything I ask to be presented. All there is, is what you will hear without fuss. It will reveal steamy recordings and make you give up listening, it will reveal great and excellent recordings and make you hover in the air.

CONCLUSION

At the asking price, from what I have heard up until this day, there aren't many competitors out there.

The Publisher - Dtown: Recognized as Israel's most luxurious high end stereo and general audio-video review site. Dtown also circulate relevant industry information's, hosting online forums, including open debates, tips and guidance from commodity products to the most exotic solutions available. "It's the place where passion for audio and technology meets"

The author - Mr. Namer Levi: Namer Levi is a highly regarded audiophile who also has a professional engagement within the music industry. He is a skilled and trained listener, with more than 20 years of experience, reviewing some of the most advanced products within the high end residential and commercial market.

Associated equipment :

- DaVinciAudio Labs Grand Reference Gabriel v3 turntable
- GRAHAM ENGINEERING PHANTOM ELITE TONEARM
- Nagra Vps phone stage
- Constellation Audio Inspiration Preamp 1.0
- Constellation audio centaur power amp
- Stealth audio cables Dream royal speaker cable