

# SIMPLY EXCELLENT

Do you have to make something outstanding even better? No, you don't. But it's gratifying when someone does as soon as the opportunity arises.









*Every year at the „Fine Arts“, Bernd and Junior Robin Vroemen present their exquisite loudspeaker systems in the unique ambiance of the „Kabinettkeller“ of Kloster Eberbach*



Do you think I m speaking in riddles? Let me explain, even if I have to elaborate a bit: It was almost 13 years ago that an esteemed colleague was allowed to test an unusual loudspeaker: It caused quite a stir in the publishing house since the cabinet was made of stone - by the way, this was not the only reason why, despite its dainty dimensions, the speaker always had to be dealt with by several strong men. We also liked to get together in small groups while listening because the sound performance of the La Perla Superiore was extraordinary.

But let s start from the beginning: Bernd Vroemen from Baesweiler has been involved in loudspeaker construction since the late 80s. Around the mid-90s, it became clear to him that there could only be one optimal material for building speaker cabinets: Stone. So he created the first self-built loudspeaker cabinet made of Bianco Carrara marble soon after. This, in turn, was so well received by the customers of a local hi-fi dealer that the newcomer Vroemen

*The technical innovation is not visible in the woofer, but here a graphene layer covers the magnesium cone – so there is even less distortion*

founded his stone loudspeaker company as early as 1995 and has remained faithful to his material to this day. Of course, there have always been and still are other manufacturers who use stone slabs for loudspeaker cabinet construction. Still, none have done so as versatily and consistently as Bernd Vroemen. There are solid reasons for this: Natural stone is not a natural material: Building with natural stone is not pure pleasure. The material is much too hard and brittle to be processed and worked with standard tools. So you must have the appropriate machines and experience handling them to create such a well-made end product as the Vroemen loudspeakers.

Add to that the challenge of sourcing: some of the genuinely stunning finishes I've seen at Vroemen in recent years are generally or at least temporarily unavailable nowadays. Other stone varieties have breathtaking prices due to their rarity and demanding mining conditions, as in the case of Labradorite Lemurian and Onyx: Several thousand EUR per square meter are possible here.

For each Vroemen model, the customer can choose from more than 20 types of slate, marble, and granite his desired material. In addition, after consultation, custom designs of other kinds of stone are also possible.

The La Perla Superiore tested here has the Italian marble Rosso Asiago as cabinet material. With its antique brushed surface, this reddish shimmering stone is one of the cheaper varieties for 5,200 per pair of speakers (from 5,000 EUR for other types of stone). This makes the La Perla Superiore very affordable - for comparison, the models tested over a decade ago cost EUR 5,600, albeit with a very exclusive slate, but much cheaper drivers.

And that brings us to the built-in technology, which is also exclusive. Bernd Vroemens standard models are equipped with high-quality drivers from the Norwegian driver specialists Seas. For the deluxe Superiore versions of his speakers, the developer uses high-end drivers from the top brand Seas-Excel. Two 12 cm bass-midrange dri-

vers with low-resonance magnesium cones play in a D Appolito arrangement in the petite La Perla Superiore, which weighs 40 kilograms. But that's not all: For the current Superiore generation, Bernd Vroemen uses the brand new Graphene drivers from Excel, which, so to speak, make possible the thinnest of all innovations in loudspeaker construction: an extremely thin cone coating with a thickness of only one molecule. The process is extraordinarily complex and exploits the unique properties of carbon to produce a pure and ultra-thin layer on the carrier material, right down to the atomic level. In fact, the graphene drivers are significantly better in terms of distortion and resonance behavior than the already excellent Excel drivers without the new coating.

## Playback system

### Turntable:

- **Feickert Analogue Volare mit Ortofon SPU Jubilee**

### Amplifiers:

- **Accuphase C-280**
- **AVM MA30.3**

*Only when looking very closely  
can you see the glued edges  
of the perfectly built cases*







What we played

**AC/DC**

Back in Black

**Johann Sebastian Bach**

Goldberg-Variationen

**Stevie Ray Vaughan**

Couldn't stand the Weather

**Ludwig van Beethoven**

Die späten Klaviersonaten,  
Christoph Eschenbach

**Peter Tschaikowsky**

Klavierkonzert Nr. 1 b-moll,  
Martha Argerich, Royal Philharmonic  
Orchestra, Charles Dutoit

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

Waisenhausmesse, Claudio Abbado

**Oscar Peterson Trio**

We get Requests

**Jazz at the Pawnshop**

*In the double assembly, the drivers  
with a diameter of only 12 centimeters  
provide a profound and dynamic bass*



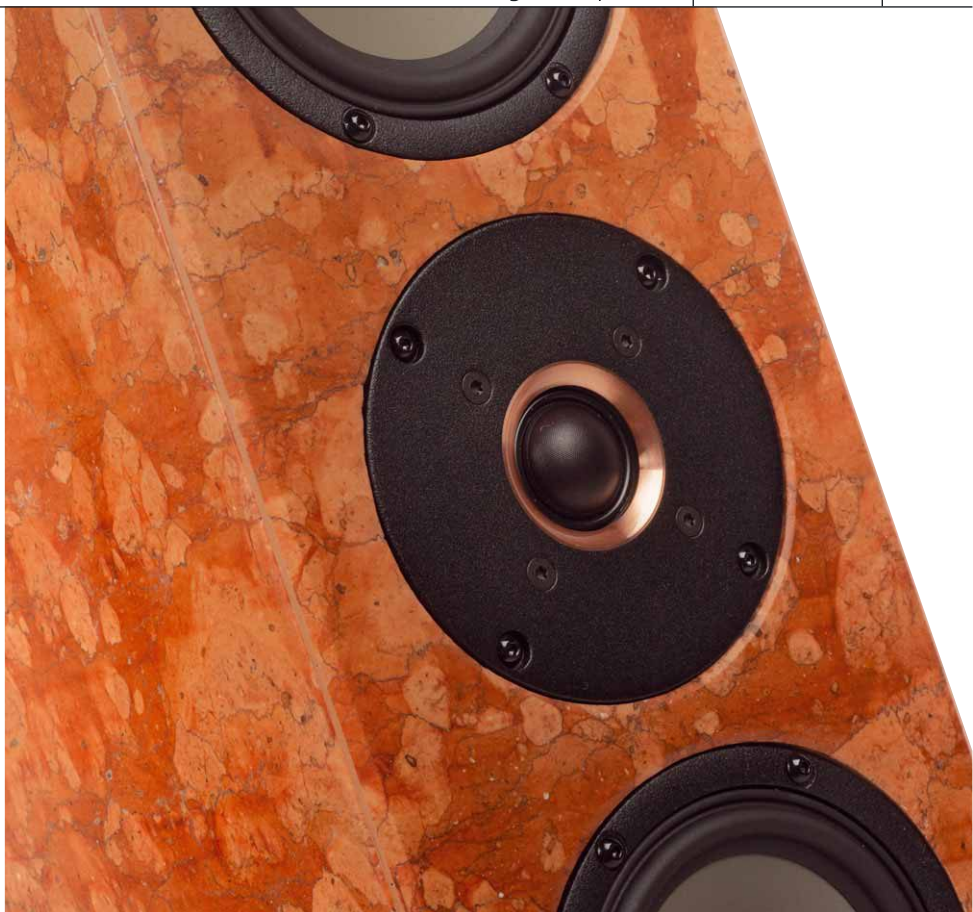
*Rosso Asiago is the name of the type of marble  
used, which provides a distinguished elegance*



We can not praise enough at this point that Bernd Vroemen builds these tidbits of chassis technology and passes them on to his customers in his noble stone housings close to the self-build price! Between these two gems, Bernd Vroemen places the famous Millennium dome from the same manufacturer. The outstanding fabric dome is still in a class of its own more than two decades after its introduction.

And this statement can be applied to the Stein loudspeakers. Short product cycles are not so much Vroemen's thing - once he has found something good, he remains true to himself and the product. Practical innovations - like the graphene drivers - yes, but not always changing something at any price. What's the point? In this way, customers can be sure that even an older model is up to date, and if in doubt, they can upgrade at any time.

Of course, high technical standards also contribute to the success, such as the filters of the speakers, which are exclusively equipped with noble Mundorf components, and the high-quality internal wiring.



*The Millennium dome from Seas Excel has been the benchmark for two decades*

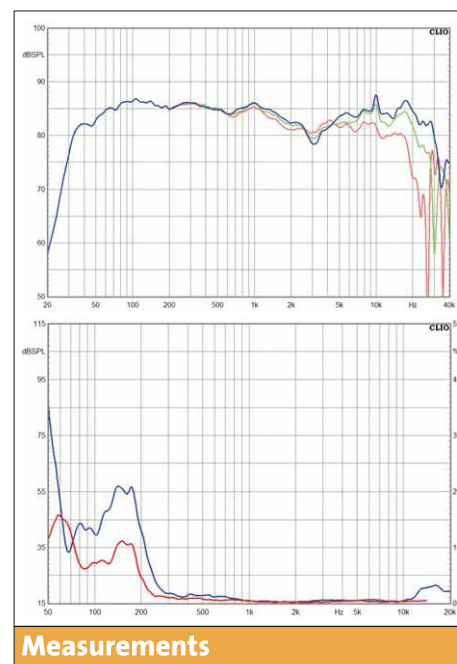
*At the 2022 Christmas Market at Gödens Castle, there was a HiFi-interested audience throughout, who were happy to be inspired by the sound quality of the Vroemen loudspeakers*







*The vent opens directly above the terminal – a pragmatic solution that also allows for maximum bass output*



### Measurements

#### Lab commentary

*A balanced frequency response with good efficiency, very deep bass response, and balanced omnidirectional sound distribution. The distortion characteristics are excellent, and the decay is fast at all frequencies. The impedance curve is constantly above 5 ohms, posing no problems for any amplifier.*

In the listening room, the construction material's high mass and low resonance result in a rock-solid, extremely quiet, and clean soundscape between the speakers, which is audibly tightened and purified by the non-resonating boxes. Regarding the slim enclosure, the bass range of the La Perla Superiore comes as a bit of a surprise: It goes down very low, yet the low tones remain extremely dry and allow for a dynamic range that we might otherwise only expect from much larger speakers.

The midrange of the two twelve speakers is just as precise and, above all, very neutral. The somewhat reduced presence range in the crossover tuning ensures a pleasant soundscape on the one hand and an incredibly stable spatial reproduction on

the other, which stretches the virtual stage far in front of and behind the level of the placed speakers. In addition, there is a precise localization of voices and instruments that remains steadfast even during vicious dynamic attacks. A prime example of this is still the old reference recording of Carl Orff's *Die Kluge* by the nationally owned Eterna Music Production.

The always precise yet always elegant tweeter adds the appropriate highlights to the thoroughly accomplished sound of the La Perla Superiore. One thing led to another - so the one planned listening evening with the excellent Vroemen box turned into several, and believe me they became long.

*Thomas Schmidt*

## Vroemen La Perla Superiore



- Price per pair
- Distributor
- Phone
- Internet
- Instagram
- Email
- Warranty

- W x H x D
- Weight

5,000 Euro  
Vroemen, Baesweiler  
+49 2401 6058458  
[www.vroemen.de](http://www.vroemen.de)  
[vroemen\\_highend](https://www.instagram.com/vroemen_highend)  
[mail@vroemen.de](mailto:mail@vroemen.de)  
5 years (electronics)  
10 years (Cabinet)  
160 x 1000 x 200 mm  
approx. 40 kg



Vroemen  
La Perla  
Superiore

International 1/23

» The "final" cabinet material, an excellent choice of drivers, and the successful tuning also make the model year 2022/23 La Perla Superiore an all-around great small floor-standing speaker.