

... nothing can replace it ...

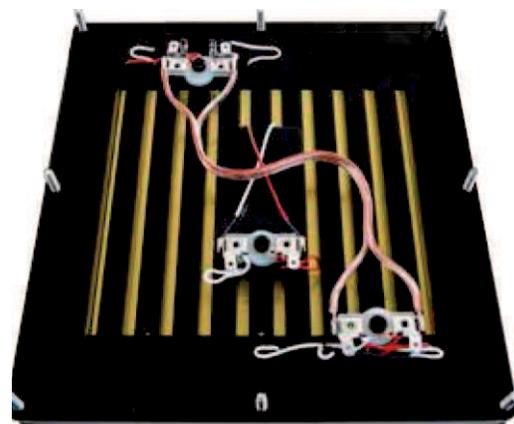
Piega Classic 80.2 is doubtless amongst the large volume calibres of the loud speaker market



By far, the most expensive and most enormous model in terms of dimension, we have come across on the topic of "ribbon loudspeakers", even in the listening room there's no getting around it. Piega's partial return to its roots – which were planted around 30 years ago with models such as the "Arlecchino" or the "Elektra" –, namely wooden casing instead of the more compact, but also more expensive aluminium casing, doubtlessly looks very impressive: the Swiss company resented always being known as the ones with the small but expensive loudspeakers. So, chief developer Kurt Scheuch decided for once not to invest a great deal of effort in developing the most compact casing, but to use the advantages of large volume for his newest creations: therefore, in contrast to their aluminium siblings, there are no MOM bass drivers optimised for smaller volumes, rather two 26-cm long-stroke basses, which are supported by a bass reflex opening.

Coaxial ribbon unchanged

Due to the large membrane area and the powerful volume of the 80.2, the loudspeakers should be able to achieve significantly higher level reserves than their aluminium reinforced colleagues. The Swiss company, which has also been much praised for their stylish design, decided on a C shaped body, which looks elegant due to its sloping cover plate and the nappa leather cover, and makes life difficult for standing waves inside the loudspeaker. The Lake Zurich based manufacturer wants to ensure their loudspeakers are resonance free with elaborate inner struts and wall thicknesses up to 25 millimetres.



This is what the large coaxial ribbon looks like from behind.
The tweeter is sealed in a separate chamber



The crossover has proper, but no exotic components

Any residual vibrations are absorbed by Idikell damping film, which is produced from bitumen. In the more than 70-kilo casing, the actual cherry on the cake of the loudspeaker is right at the top: the worldwide unique coaxially structured ribbon speaker with the tweeter, which is surrounded by midrange speaker foil, at its centre. Yet, it is not only the perfect time accuracy on all axes which makes the quality of this hand-made chassis stand out, but also the final touches in the drive, field geometry, etching, film material, membrane geometry and the special membrane and cavity damping. As a result, the driver can be used across a very broad range, and yet has a level of efficacy which – according to the manufacturer – is six to ten decibels higher than its competitors.

This results in further plus points such as the lowest distortion and the absence of thermal compression effects. Incidentally, these are all characteristics which were already proven in earlier STEREO tests (8/09 and 1/12).

Above open, below juicy

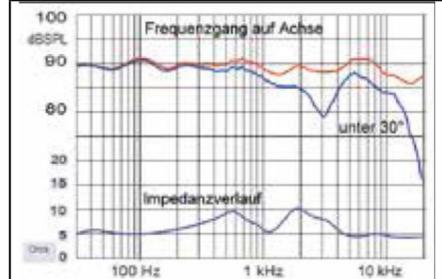
Angled towards the listening position, electronics from Accoustic Arts and T+A including cable from Audioquest, Cardas and Inak connected, and already we were having a good time in the listening room. It was immediately fascinating to discover the impressive lightness with which the 80.2 managed the balancing act between directional definition (Presley's voice in "Fever") and the reverberations to be discovered there. It was clear straight away that an exceptional chain was playing here. Even big orchestras and operas rose to blissful enjoyment. We were in high spirits on Jennifer Warnes' "Lights of Louisianne", retrieved again after a long time – accordion intro and her characteristic voice proved the tonally clean coordination. And did we mention dynamic? Fine (Heifetz and Friedman on the violin) and coarse (Deep Purple, Highway Star) – the Piega showed exceptional qualities, which you will not find just anywhere, even in this slightly higher price category. The combination of the finest resolution and the juicy, yet always clean bass, is astonishing. A great experience!

PIEGA CLASSIC 80.2

Pair from €13,000
 Dimensions: 39 x 42 x 51 cm (WxHxD)
 Transferable guarantee: 6 years
 Contact: in-akustik
 Tel.: 07634/56100
www.in-akustik.com

The Swiss company realised audiophile qualities with a rich bass foundation. If you don't like the look of the classic Piega's in their aluminium casing, or they have too little coarse dynamic reserves, you will surely hit the jackpot with these.

MEASUREMENT RESULTS



Nominal impedance	4 Ω
Minimum impedance	3.5 at 14,000 hertz
Maximum impedance	10 at 1,900 hertz
Sound pressure (2.83 V/1 m)	89.8 dB SPL
Power for 94 dB (1 m)	6.3 W
Lower limit frequency (-3 dB)	31 hertz
Distortion factor at 63 / 3k / 10k Hz	0.3 / 0.1 / 0.1 %

LABORATORY COMMENT

Three-way bass reflex speaker, minimally distorted frequency response, we recommend angling the loudspeaker to the listening position and a room of at least 30 square metres with space on all sides. Extremely low distortions. The impedance response is uncritical, the level of efficacy is relatively high in spite of the deep reaching bass. Very high level reserves. Designs: high-shine black and white, for an additional charge: Macassar high-shine. Accessories: manual, spikes.

STEREO-TEST

KLANG-NIVEAU **95%**

PREIS/LEISTUNG



EXZELLENT

*Additional measurement values and diagrams for STEREO club subscribers at www.stereo.de