

# FIDELITY

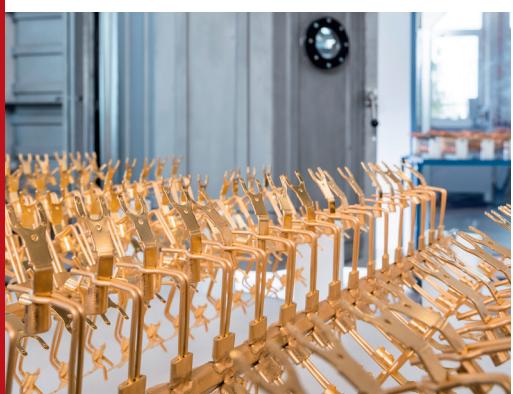
## VIRTUAL HIGH END

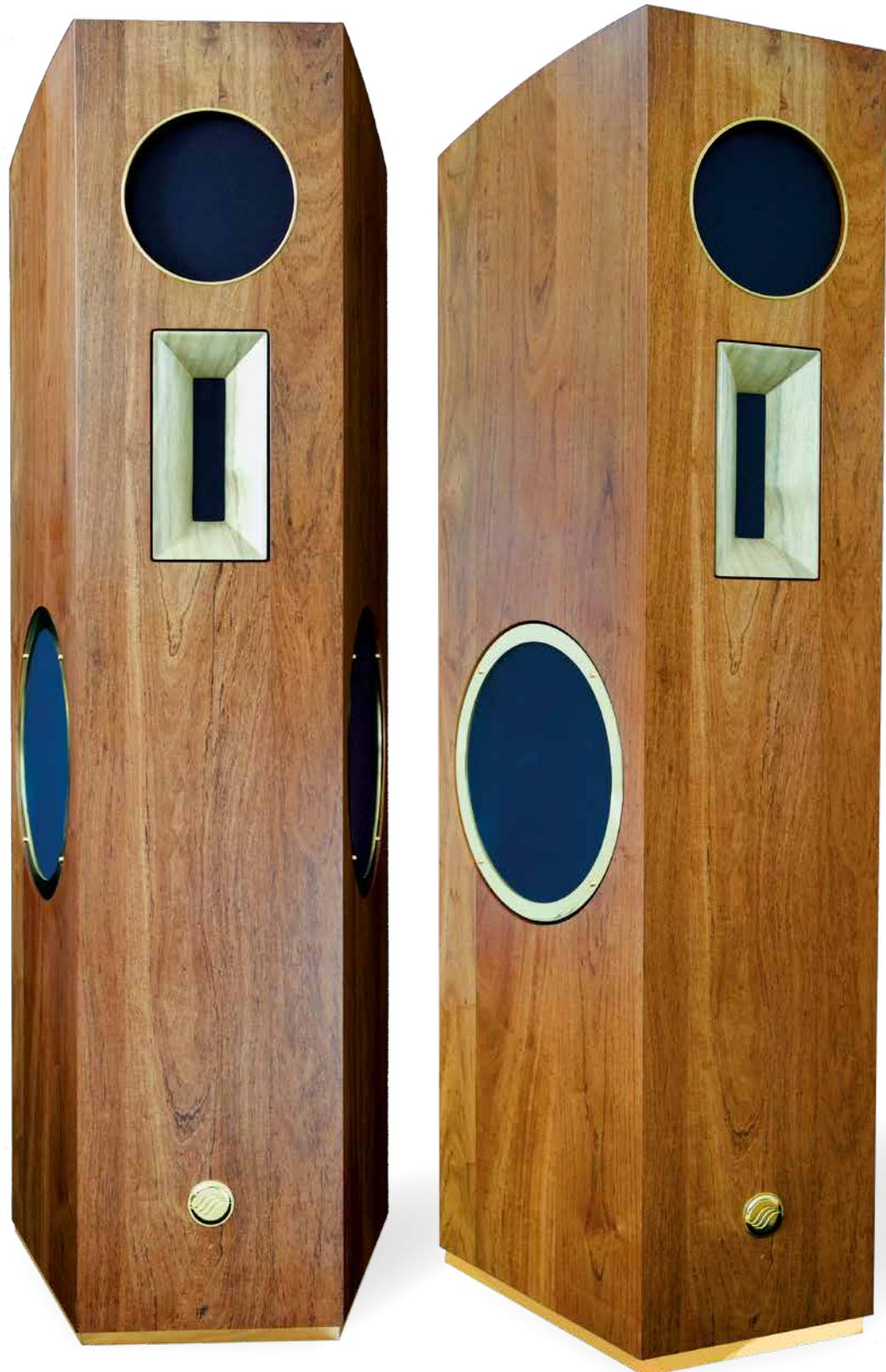


# 2020



Virtual High End 2020





SoundSpaceSystems was founded by physicist Dr. Michael Plessmann, who has had a passion for music and audio systems for almost 50 years. The intention behind the loudspeakers designed by this Berlin-based think tank is to combine music, hi-fi playback systems, and technical perfection to provide the listener with an experience every bit as good as the real-life performance.

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SoundSpaceSystems Pirol

# ACTIVE ALL-ROUNDER

If the requisite features for a super loudspeaker encompass 120 kilograms per speaker owing to a ceramic core, partially active principle with robust power amplifiers for the bass, and room correction by means of a DSP (digital signal processor), then the SoundSpaceSystems Pirol has it all. This is a speaker that boasts all the advantages of the horn principle without any of the disadvantages, thanks to the partially active control.

Generally speaking, enthusiastic fans of classical music should be just as happy with this slim floor-standing speaker—available in a selection of colors ranging from a piano finish through to bright blue—as jazz, pop, and rock fans. The Pirol's sensitivity of 97 decibels makes it the ideal partner in crime for tube amplifiers: They can manage to coax vibrant tones and subtle musical details out of this loudspeaker.

The manufacturer promises a truly deep bass that reaches down to as low as 20 hertz generated from a three-way system whose two 30-centimeter bass drivers fire to the sides in push-push operation (impulse compensation). Agility and an impressive dynamic range are the name of the game here: Designed in Berlin, the Pirol is, in the literal sense, a “fast” speaker yet one that doesn't lack in subtlety—a speaker truly made for the playback of hi-res media.

The tractrix horn assigned to the ribbon tweeter–mid-range works with perfect timing, creates exceptionally stable spaces, and achieves very clean placement of individual sound events. The horn driver also draws on the open baffle principle, which helps minimize distortion. The real crowning glory is the air motion transformer (AMT) ribbon tweeter, which enjoys legendary status in high-end circles: It ensures an extremely delicate and always sophisticated treble while also reproducing the presence range with pinpoint accuracy using the paper cone mid-range (with prechamber). A rear-firing ribbon supports the AMT tweeter at the highest echelons of the frequency range. Transparency, meticulous reproduction of details, and a total absence of any compression effects were the main development goals; an extremely minimalist crossover design is the unique selling point.

Measuring 1.24 meters tall, 44 centimeters wide, and 48 centimeters deep, the SoundSpaceSystems Pirol is still a suitable option for living rooms. You don't need a lounge the size of an industrial production hall. And you won't find any sharp straight edges here—standing waves don't stand a chance. What's more, the developers have drawn on ancient Greek music theory and the principles of feng shui. A solid foundation for creating a commanding all-rounder. ▀