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Meet my new Reference. The SV Audio Grc Speakers.

By Jay | 1 Oct 2021 | Avandise, Amplifier, Analog, Art, Audio, Audiophile, Experience, GEAR, Hi-Fi, HIFI, IN, LP, Review, Review, Vinyl

Meet My New Reference. The SV Audio Grc Speakers.

By Sean Duff

Review Review

It has been a blast over the last several years getting to experience so much audio gear. The reviews, the purchases, the gear I wished I could have kept, and the gear I had to let go because it was just too much. I'm a big fan of the hobbyists who are passionate about their audio-based music and gear lovers. I have learned what I love, what I like, and what I dislike when it comes to audio and listening to a dedicated two-channel system. I have also learned the true differences between mid-fi, high-end gear, and much better gear and why it's not always best to spend more. In some cases though, it may be if you seek such things.

These days, so many have the chance to this crazy world just use Bluetooth earbuds with their phones. Or, they may have a Sonos system or Alexa or Google Home system. Music is a big and enjoy music as it enables over my mind, body, and soul. You, for me, this ritual can even be a spiritual experience at times. Welcome to the Church of Hifi Hall where must Bede the ear with piece, then, seemly and keeps time or drop.

Lol. But yes, music listening in a dedicated space does all of this and more for me. Always no grounded as well.

I still love the Fleetwood Smith for their unique vibe, build and sound.

Yes it is 100% true. I have had speakers in this room that I adored and were would be my last, but they never seem to make it to "forever"

Why is this?

Being a guy who gets stuff went to him all the time to check out, I always seem to find something that eventually comes through those doors over time that beats what I loved before. Oh, and it is almost always more expensive is anyone. It's a lot like the HIFI Hall of Fame. Some of the gear I have had in my system over the years, I miss it every week, we try to find our personal tastes but it seems tough sometimes to move on from.

What I have personally learned from hearing so many speakers is to never settle for any speaker if it does not fill the room or space perfectly. This is huge, as I have been guilty of having speakers that were a big mismatch into my rooms. Small room and big speakers can sound good but usually will never sound as all-out magical as they could sound if placed in a room that is more suited for them. This is a big thing. Speakers like to sound them to flow, to swell, to bring you the goods, to move you.

Big speakers in a small room are not the best way to get the ultimate sound. With this is just a rendering to show what it can look like the full image shown speakers that will sound better in this type of room. It's why we have small two ways, mid sized towers, large towers and also exotic behemoths. Larger rooms like larger boxes. Smaller like smaller.

Fifteen years ago, I placed a set of big expensive and heavy Sonus Faber Amati Futura speakers into a room that was 15 x 12, and they were not optimal at all in that room. At first, I was in love with the sold, pricy, warm, dit boxes, but then I was fatigued. I learned fatigue is not always caused by an exciting treble and low-fi mids. Sometimes it can be brought on by a speaker that just does not fill the room or space. The Futura's were big, had big mids and dimension of the beast. They can't seem to sound full, muddy or just lacking in excitement.

That small room worked best with a set of much less exotic but sexy Dynaudio speakers, and I remember them well, the Special 40. The way they filled that room was so nice, yet they did not sound big, bulky, or overbearing. I miss those speakers, and I miss those Futura speakers cost around $30k less than the big heavy Sonus Faber speakers for sale. They sounded much better, all due to the Amati just being too large for the room, hence too much cabinet and too much of the big mids. Sometimes, bigger is not always better. I would be a fool if I did not say that one and only speaker where it was perfect.

I pine more in 12 x 18 rooms, and while it is larger than my old only 11 x 12 space, it is not that much bigger and I'm on way to large space. It is big enough for large speakers but also works well with the smaller variety. I have been tying hard in 2020 to find the "new" speaker that melded with the room perfectly, and I got mighty close with a couple of small speakers I own. Closer than I have ever found for this room anyway.

The Aide TVA Tads R150 are formed "and gone" when it comes to my small sized mount speakers made in Germany for small to small mid rooms.

The TVA Tads R150 is one of these, and what a speaker it is. Small, well made in Germany, high end, well made, well finished, with big sound. I'm not sure what was, I'm not sure what I heard, but I was blown away with this speaker. I'm not sure why I have been enjoying these since 2020 and have not tired of them, but I do know these are not "perfect" for the room, as somehow, at times, there can still be some bass bloat in the room, and I have tried to fix that with a sub, but I have not found the sub that is what I want, which use a Sigur 12 inch woofer to bring the punch.

The Sonic Cls are speakers I love to death, but in all honesty, they are too large for me in bands two at this time. I am getting older and moving around 100+ lb speakers, not so hot for me anymore, especially with so much gear moving in and out for review. Nevertheless, I miss those speakers, and I miss the sound they made in my room and how much so those have been moved to first grade tracks a few months ago, which for me, have been making gorgeous music for most of March and April 2020 in a much larger space than this one.

The mighty Icon 12 can be as hard as Thors hammer and plus we gotta a even singing but today a dobby but here for larger rooms.

This is when I learned that the Icon 12s in my main reference room were really too large as well. Maybe a tad too warm, again, which I used to love. Growing up as a teen back in the 80's my system was always warm and fat and that's the sound I always enjoyed. Over the years, I have had to learn that I can't always have what I used to love, and that I have had to let it all go no here, just with less bass impact and overall scale of size than the Icon 12s.

The mighty Icon 12 can be as hard as Thors hammer and plus we gotta a even singing but today a dobby but here for larger rooms.

I will say the Icon 12s in my guest house sound even better, as the room they have been in there is 20 x 25, and yes, they fit better there for sure. So I learned that my main room needs a smaller speaker, and I was happy as I can be with the TVA, as the niggles were gone, and I felt I had found my speaker for this room, at least for a time. The TVA is a unique & rare, and I love this. They sound so good with vocals and acoustic music as well and the price is under $5k for a Lotus hand made speaker. They just do not deliver the sound bass as the others do, but they can with the Pentecost sub. I hope to review the sub soon.

A NEW KIND OF SPEAKER ARRIVES

Then something happened that I never expected to happen. I received an email from Peter Lund Olsen of Magic Sound, asking if I would like to review this new speaker that they really love, called the Grc. I am a fan of Peter Lund Hifi and I have visited their shop a few times and have enjoyed their speakers and their vibe. I have never heard their Grc speaker, but I highly recommend it and it's pic are nearly as the Icons also is a large speaker and enjoyed my 8 hour one way drive when I visited. I even did a scale deal with them back then and it were an smooth as silk. I also was able to check out all of the offerings from the company, another brand from Denmark.

Next Level Hifi also carries a new brand, SV Audio, where the SV stands for Sivogaard & Vestelsen, out of Denmark. This brand is only a couple of years old but making serious waves in the hifi world. I have seen a few of their speakers at Munich and Frankfurt Hifi shows and never made it but SV Audio, from Denmark seems to be hot with those in the high end audio hobby. The folks at Next Level were so impressed when they heard the SV Grc speakers they wanted to be the USA distributor and made an immediate deal with SV.

They offer up three models right now, from small to large and they recently launched this Grc model, which is a big, big speaker, but not as big as the Icons and Cls models. It is yet also quite compact, yet still a lower speaker and the subject of this review. There are not 100 lb monsters but around 80 lbs each, so they are easy to move which is a huge pro in my book but still they sound as good as the big guys? That was my curiosity.

So when I was asked if I would like to review these new, unique, high-end speakers called the Grc I knew what I had to do. I was chosen a picture of them, and as soon as I saw the image, I fell in love with the design and color scheme. I said, YES! 100% SERVE THEM HERE!!!

The pair I have here is Lyra the name, but they come in several gifts of gorgeous finish called "Density Bronze". This is a small phone limit for Hi-Fi Hall. The woman you see here is Lorrie Hoskins Paulsen, the daughter of CEO Casper Hoskins Paulsen. SV Audio is a small family run business not a mass market brand.

A week later, I saw a big truck driving down my driveway, and I knew was a huge wooden crate for the with the SV Audio Grcs speakers. This box was heavy and large, so I went to the garage and grabbed my powered screwdriver. I took the screws out from the top and was treated to a lovely packing job with foam and a very solid presentation.

When I saw the speaker exposed in the crate, I saw a deep, aces like piano job with some sparkle that was almost like looking into deep space on a clear night. Beautiful. Sparkly but not flashy. Then I saw the bronze aluminum faceplate, which is sort of the signature of SV Audio, and I knew I was in for a treat. I have seen many, many, many examples of sons, but this one was upgraded a bit in the appearance department.

SV Audio is a small family business, think of them as "small batch high end audio" and they do all of their design, in making the cabinet, the aluminum faceplate, crossover and even how an house point stop where they spray wax quality finishes onto their speakers. Cabinets are made of MDF and I have had cabs made of everything and anything from plastic, to glass, to metal to real wood to MDF. I have real wood but not many do that these days to HDF is the new best thing, some feel it is even better.

All I know is the cabinet is gorgeous in the finish and there is no vibrations or lack of all our bass. The bass is tight and controlled and I have not found any resonance issues in my room with the bass I have seen in this regard and I would say comparable to big names like Wilson and Magico in the build and details, just not as monstrous in size (and sound), quite different as well.

Are these truly stunners in looks or what? Nothing about the Grc is "cheap" and there seems to be no compromise in the quality of the materials used, materials and construction. Attention to detail is stunning.

These are indeed high-end speakers made for those looking to invest in something that will last a lifetime and beyond. Unlike many, I do not mind the appearance of how ten would let gold fingerprints all over the finish. Easy to move and place, which I loved. The base plate is all aluminum as well and matches the copper Tara. Once that is screwed in on the bottom, which takes 5 minutes per speaker, you are ready to rock.

These also ship with spikes and discs for when you find their final setup placement. I tested them with and without the spikes as well as with some speaker isolation devices.

SETUP

Clear the deck. I have thinned it various positions in the room. One and a half feet from the wall, two feet, and up to six feet. I settled on having these speakers about four feet from the front wall, though now to three feet sounded amazing as well, and about two feet from the side wall. My chair was placed about eight feet away from them, and I had them toed in to my ears directly in my seat or two. It was here that they did their all out best for me in this room.

Also you will see something on each speakers woofer driver. Carved into the aluminum trim you will see what looks like turn keys and the one with the top pointing to the right should be your right speaker. The left, the left.

The Grc's are very popular from existing loudspeaker. Each speaker uses one 15 inch Sigur woofer, one 6.5 inch midrange driver, and one tweeter. They are 88 dB sensitivity and 6 ohms, so while I would still recommend quality amplification, they are not hard to drive. SV Audio recommends 20 to 250 watts, yet even the 4 watts of tube power from the Gallon Stone Drive-Ones beautifully in my room at moderate volumes and a 7Wb level.

I use an Ofer Lidz EM motor which is made for studios. Accurate, nice and works every time.

One thing to note is that the Qio speaker is very much a Danish made creation from SF Audio. The company handles the cabinet work, finish, crossover design, system integration, machined aluminum parts, and overall build in house, with the drivers selected and matched for consistency. These are made with cones, purpose, and patents, and it shows.

The official dimensions are 21 x 105 x 35 cm, or about 8.3 x 41.3 x 13.7 inches, and each weighs 30 kg, or about 66 lbs. The cabinet is a sealed design, with a rear port for tuning. It's a square enclosure, in left square feet, which makes sense to me after hearing them in my 13 x 18 space which is about half of that, so you can go bigger room with these than I have for sure. They are compact in form but not small in how they energize the room.

The Price Seemed a bit much to Me. At first.

I am no stranger to expensive speakers, as I have owned many. My Sonus Faber Amati were around $45k. My Sonus Faber Guarneri Evo were around $20k. My SF Aulos Gran 1Ss have a retail around $20k, and there have been so many more. The Peerless3 Revolo QS were a cool $20k. I never went all in, or even the $10k mark, but in the spending $20k or so range is a hell of a lot of money. That may not be a big deal to you, but it is.

I have also owned more affordable speakers that I loved such as Klipsch Heritage LaScala, Klipsch Heritage Cornwall, and Klipsch Heritage Forte, and I have also been to the Klipsch Qio Speakers Heritage Special, the Forte Tada, and the Triangle Quatto. There have been many, many, but yes, I have heard many, even the top-tier Magico and Wilson. I have heard many, many, many, many speakers. This way, they way and beyond. So yes, I have heard a lot of speakers in my lifetime.

When I saw these Qio in my space, I had no idea yet what they cost as I did not even look until I was about to hit play. I guessed they would be "pricy" just due to the initial look at the design, materials, and style, which are all awesome and truly high end. These are very high-tech in design and construction, but in a low-key, design, and build. Yes, they look and feel like those big boxes, and I'm not a whole lot of a whole package.

Also, Tariffs are indeed making some audio gear more expensive

But they are compact Frontiersmen, not full-blown large speakers. They are under 50 lbs, not 100s. The Q Audio Gran 1Ss are 100+ lbs each and I had to have two to get a close up. Also, the Qio come from Denmark so are subject to Tariffs as well, which have boosted the price of Euro-imported gear over the last year or so.

EDIT/EDIT

When I saw the true retail USA price of my $30,000 for this speaker, I was a bit sad. Before even firing them up, I did not know if I would review them, as how could a smaller lower cost speaker ever be good enough? I'm not a rich guy, I'm a middle class guy who pays his bills, also from Denmark!! I can buy a ton of used high-end speakers for under $20k that some would say are vastly better because, well, they are bigger. **First things First**. I have learned another thing, bigger is not always better. It depends on the room, remember!

I mean, what constitutes "better" anyway?

In any case, I told myself, "Well, you have to listen to them. Since, then decide if you will send them back without a review." I was not paid for the review, so I do not charge for reviews. I do it for the enjoyment and sharing my opinion with others. I'm not a "pro" reviewer, I'm just spending weeks listening. All 60 hours working and then 10 hours or so to get a video up. All for the love of this hobby. YouTube pays peanuts in today's economy for channel like mine, which is fiction. Point being, this review is not motivated by money. Even so, I decided to go all in here and see how these would do even if they cost more than I hoped they would.

The best part about the review is that I'm keeping them!

My existing sub-$k Bocian Timelessa Vogue Mini Kraje (Mini) - $5,999

The bold and muscular USA made Wolfdright KWH 225 Integrated Amp - $9,800

The all-in-sweet affordable Italian Victoria Tube Amp - $1,200

Anneleise D1 DAC - $12k

Audio Mirror Black DAC - $22k

Matrix 501-T Streamer with D-1 Clock and D1 Pro Switch - $15k

Synergistic Research PowerCell 12 SX Power Conditioner - $8k

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AMMY WE GO

Before I let you, **I suspected** there would be a lot of listening and I'm, I assumed they would be tuned for all out detail, with bass so fast it would around a bit there, much the some others high end exotics I heard a couple of years back, that I decided NOT to review as they cost $25k and I didn't even like the sound. I had no idea what the Qio would be like, but I was hoping they would be good, as I like to review high-end gear, but not the low-ends, and I really planned a week within me, now growing strong with happy roots.

I will use a listening report I talked about in the D-1 DAC review when using the SF Qio, but I wanted to share a few sound images that are the goodies rather than the dirt.

I set one night to listen to an entire album by Les Deux Love Orchestra. This is not the kind of music I jam when I sit in my car or hanging outside doing yard work. But when I sit and listen with intent and focus around 1 AM, the album has really brought the feels in the past. It is well recorded, spatial at times, and has dynamics for days.

I had the Wolfdright KWH 225 integrated in with the D-1 DAC.

The album is called "King Kong," and when "I Can't Get Started" came on, it was, well... perfection in sound, if that is what you seek. There was also soul, emotion, and sweetness in the vocals. The bass was there, but not in a "I'm trying to impress you" manner, and it was in massive amounts. Lost and listened into the night of the way through.

There were just a priority to the sound that was tuned top to bottom that was very pleasant. As I hit the track "Lynn," the pizzy feel and sounds were wrapping me in a soundstage bubble of sorts, as this seems to be the magic trick of the SF Qio. There is immersion and an almost surrounding feel, with the music just floating through the space in the room, from left to rear, illusionary, sure, but very real indeed.

The sound was never bright, yet it was never warm, nor even close to pouring syrup or honey from the drivers. It was neutral, really, and this was the goal of SF Audio and the Danish Audio Society, I guess, as I'm not a Dane, but I'm a Danish audio fan, and I'm not ashamed in good. There was a wonderful feel that falls, rockies, taut and honestly the Qio were a slight nod to the profile side. This did not stop them from being dynamic and fast, but it did make them "easy" to listen to, and I could see these being the deliver a stout strong, heart-touching, emotional sound without bloat or thickness.

These do indeed sound like Danish speakers and have a similar feel to Dynaudio and Bowness, the best of those Danish brands in fact. I always have had a connection to speakers made in Denmark as they seem to always have a density, a drive, a neutrality and open to detail without stiffness or hardness or ever getting lean. Those Danes surely know how to make a speaker.

Going into "King Kong Music," I heard a smooth, big-scale sound, and I mean BIG. The kind of big where the music fills the room so well that it sounds as if the walls and ceiling have speakers built into them, and the kind of big that is natural and flowing.

By the end of the album, and after enjoying other tracks and an "Electrifyer" or two, I felt that the Danish Speakers had lived up to the Danish Audio Society's name. Actually, I was left seriously impressed. I mean, there was sound bigger than my twin 12s in here, and also sound more delicate than my TH Tafis. They can project like my Helios from Germany, and they can do it with a smoothness that is not bright or hard, and they hold hers in scale and density. Seriously, these could easily replace our speaker I own at the time, all seven sets. Why? Because they do all of what those seven sets do, but in one set of speakers.

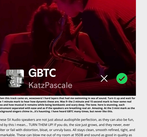
The Breakdown

Also, let's talk about the treble. It is smooth yet extended, and while this may sound like something I have spoken of before, this is "next level" for me, here, in refreshed and fresh ways. I'm not a fan of "bright" or "hot" treble, and I'm not a fan of "dull" or "muted" treble either. I prefer neutral and extended, and I'm not alone in that. Sometimes, I wish I could hear deeply in golden hues, but the details are all here, some in a 3D space with superb separation of all sounds within that upper level of sound. Gorgeous. Violins, cymbals, and all of it, and it is not bright or hot or muted or dull or anything else but a cymbals splash with serenity so the Neolacha style. I thought the treble would be the star of the Qio, but, ...

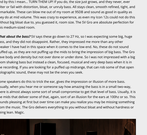
The voiceage is special. It has a beauty and fullness, yet remains clear and clean, with some massive soul also being thrown here into the soundstage. Amazing scale to size. Lifelike. The voiceage is where the beauty of the sound lies, for me, most of the magic. It is why I used to love Sonus Faber, as once upon a time, they were, for me, the most "musical" of all the speakers I heard. They have now been the gold standard ever since.

The voice with cello, piano, and violin is what I'm talking about here. It is full, the sound can be "up" off a bit, and yet, it is not bright, hot, or even "forward." It is just, well, neutral, transparent, and clean, yet voices are huge and bring a lifelike scale.

One listen to Mikhail Bennett's "Oh My Daughter" was all it took for me to hear how special the Qio was with the Lyra human voice.



I had never heard of this artist, but it popped up as recommended, and wow, the sound was huge and lifelike, with a mix of soul, blues guitar, and love. Maybe some weird recommendation from YouTube, but I'm glad it showed up, and I'm glad I purchased the CD first. Not my usual cup of tea, but I enjoyed the way the Qio was doing the individual and voice notes. *Unfortunately I found out this artist with 1.2 million monthly listeners is...* As a big Lyra fan, Music should be made by humans just as these words here are written by one. Even so, the sound was huge in sound with a vocal that came right out in to the space in full 3D realism.



These SF Audio speakers are not just about audiophile performers, as they can also be fun, and fly into I mean, "TURN THEM UP" if you do, the sound gear, and they move well, faster or fall with distortion, blose, or unruly bass. All stayed, sure, smooth refined, tight, and well-defined. The bass was there, but it was not the focus, and it was not bloated or fat or sloppy or slow and mushy. This was crisp by experience, as even my Qio 12s could not do this without big bloat due to, you guessed it, room size. The SF Qio are absolute perfection for this medium-sized room.

What about the bass! Qio says they go down to 27 Hz. I was expecting some big, huge bass, and they did not disappoint. Rather, they impressed me more than any other speaker I have had in this space when it comes to the low end. No, these do not sound like the Q Acoustics Gran 1Ss, or the Aulos Gran 1Ss, or even the Peerless3 Revolo QS, but they have body and density but not over done or under done. So I was not impressed with a big room shaking bass but instead a clean, focused, musical and very deep bass where it is in tune with the rest of the music. This is a big, big, big, but can be none of that super holographic sound. These may not be the ones you want.

Some speakers do this to trick the ear, give the impression or illusion of more bass. Usually, when you hear one or someone say how amazing the bass is in a small room, there is almost always some sort of small compromise to get that level of bass. Usually, it is the mids that deliver some of that, again, sort of an illusion for the ear at 100Hz or so. This sound pleasing at first but over time can make you realize you may be listening something that is not right. The Qio delivers everything to you without bloat and without hardness or being lean. Magic.

My T+A Tafis have a bit of a puffed up midrange in my space but it is slight, and it creates the illusion that "bass is there." Again, as the bass is actually, in a sense, lean, and the midrange fills "bass where there is none." The Qio are actually, in a sense, the opposite but with they sound magical and delicious. Indeed its not over the same level as that but as they are limited by physics after all. The Qio is the real deal and slight deep where called upon. While it digs it is clean, tight, big, bundled and just so visceral and fast. I guess this is why I'm so impressed with the Qio. They are the real deal and I'm not even sure if which is incredible with the Qio and excellent with the Tafis.

It is crazy, as the synergy here with the room is scary good. When deep bass does hit, and it does, it does so in a way that is not bloated or fat or sloppy or slow, and it does so in a way some pressure in the room and my hearing. For bass control, there are none the best speakers I have had in here and it is not even close. Wow, even after all this time I am still hearing things that shock me. These are the definition of fast, controlled, tight and BIG bass. IMO,? Winners no-no. These smaller drivers deliver a faster, tighter more tuneful bass than the 12s, for sure. Precision like I hear in the mega-speakers that can cost even more than the Qio.

As I look over my notes while listening to these speakers, I start to notice these are the speakers I have had here in all groups, from top to bottom. Now that $20k price tag doesn't seem to be off at all, is that, I said to myself? "I need a spare $20k now I would buy these" so yes, I'm keeping them. I'm not rich and I'm not a pro reviewer, so I don't think about how I will justify. Long life now, the only way to go. I just and said "I need."

To be fair, these are also the most expensive speakers I have ever had in this room here so there is that. They do not try to impress with short-term tricks, but bring a more holistic approach that you appreciate more and more over time. By my second week with these, I realized that I was not even listening to the speakers as I was just enjoying the music and notes. I started to listen more than I ever have, and even my wife Debby asked me what was going on back here in my room that was special. I brought her back, and we sat for a while and listened.

A basic non-audophile track came on at random from Rick Springfield with the tube like Burson amps in action. It is from a live CD and is quite old, but the song "My Father's Chair" came on, and by the end, I looked over and Debby was in tears, sniffling. The song reminded her of when her father passed, and the song has done the same for me in the past, but here it was hitting stronger. Just a basic song, not recorded in any fancy audophile way, yet it delivered that emotion with ease.

After a few more tracks, she left the room, and when we went to bed that night, she asked me if I was keeping the speakers. I told her, "*They cost way too much for us to afford at this time,*" and they do. These days, as I get older and more child, I make less money than I used to. *I have never been* one to hustle for money, wear myself down, or worship the almighty dollar. Instead, I focus on living happy, being healthy, and enjoying the smaller things in life, rather than chasing a dream that will satisfy only for the short term. This has served me well since 1992 when I quit my last real "job" working for someone else and it still baffles my mind that I have been able to do what I love since then, on my own, and still make it in the world.

I make enough money for us to live, to be comfy, and besides this audio gear, we live on the cheap. We now drive a simple Ford Maverick truck and stay home almost always. We try to keep bills low, keep some money in the bank, and be happy. For the last six years, this has worked well, and we love our simple kind of life though these days with the costs of everything going crazy, it is getting harder.

So no, buying a set of $32k speakers are not in my financial budget, no matter how good they are. So I told Debby "I wish we could own them" but I do not see how it can be done at this time.

She then said this…

"*I really like these as well, so let's find a way. We aren't getting younger, and you finally found 'The One' speaker you have been seeking since we moved here.*"

As our conversation went on, we ended up deciding we could not afford them in our world, at this time. Plus, we had planned to sell our property and move this year so whether or not we would be here next year remains a mystery.

The Days Go On

As each day passed, I started to **really bond** with the SV Gro, and I fully realized these are well worth it for the price they seek for the person who is searching for this kind of speaker, for a small to mid sized room, in the high end realm. If you can afford them and have a small to midsized space with top-tier front-end gear that can bring the most from the SV Gro, there is almost no chance you will not fall in love with these. I have never heard such beauty, glow, scale, speed and richness from a speaker here in this room. Not like this. Not without some kind of small compromise.

I will note the best I have heard the Gro here is with the Busan Voyager Timekeeper mono amps with the Fusion Core power supplies. They get run direct by the Innersia D-1 DAC, Matrix M7-1 streamer and SC-1 clock polished off with a full loom of Synergistic Research Foundation XL cables. Just all out the most beautiful sound I have heard to date in this space, besting all that have come before it. Very tube-like.

I now have to say the best I have heard the Gro in here is with the Modwright 225i as its big, bold, punchy, very holographic, live in feel and big in bass. Using it with the same gear brings magic to the Gro. Wait…I said both were the best I have heard so which is it? Both, as these speakers sound unreal good with either option. Seems easy to drive, no muss or fuss.

These Burson Voyager Timekeeper amps with the power supplies are so good. Class A up to 40 watts then 200 WPC into 4 ohms. Smooth, refined, some warmth…sounds like high end tubes with power.

One day, I decided to have the Gros and the Plans my T+A Talis R330 back in to see just how much better I liked the Gro, which cost a staggering $21k more retail than the German boxes. With the Talis, I was now back to my old sound, which is quite beautiful indeed.

I wanted to know what I would lose from the Gro speakers, and here is what I lost:

The SV Gro are more refined, so they sound even more "high end". I mean that they have a richness, a depth, and an all-out top-to-bottom sound that is also smooth, silky, and gorgeous in tonality yet detail does not lack. They sound much bigger than they are, these Gros. Much larger in scale than the big sounding T+A R330. The treble is more special with the Gro, and also more extended and 3D, any as a wispy cloud up in a clean blue sky, if that is a thing.

Midrange with the Gro was unmatched, and the Talis, as good as they are here, were just a bit smaller, darker, and more puffed up. As great and awesome as the Talis R330 are, there is a reason the Gro cost so much more. The dynamics are shockingly better, the low level detail is better, or should I go back to the word "different" as each sounds so good. It's just one hits my emotions and heart much harder, and that is the Gro.

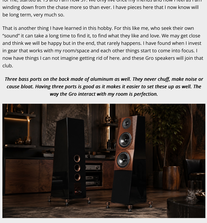
I then lugged over the Icon 12s, and as mighty and massive as they are, they are warmer, have boxier bass, and do not sound as detailed or deep in the smaller space as they do in the large. In the smaller room, the SV Gro edged out the 12 in the way the soundstage is presented as well as tightness and speed of the bass. The SV Gro have another skill, and that is how they project the soundstage, which is almost bubble-like with some music, as if I am sitting in a bubble of music. This is most prevalent with the Audio Mirror Wave DAC and D-1 DAC from Innersia, which is why I state you will need top-tier gear to go with the SV Gro. Sure they can sound amazing with a huge selection of gear that exists so feel free to experiment. A nice low noise high current amp will do just fine here.

Time to Send Them Back

I was nearing the end of my time with these beauties and was about to write Next Level HiFi to let them know that I needed to set up a pickup for the return of these memory making beautiful speakers. Before I did that, my wife texted me from our guest house and said, "*Hey, why don't you sell some of this gear you never use? It is all here in room taking up space.*" She was cleaning up the rooms to prep for possibly listing our house and saw the pile of gear.

I went over there and saw that I had much more gear than I remembered, just sitting in boxes. It was all gear I bought over the years, some of it discounted new and some used, some never even reviewed. Some of not buried under other boxes. I even had a *Haim all in one* in there, a Nova, as new! There were tube amps, all in one amps, cables, and a few speakers. I scratched my head and said, "This is it. *The way to the SV Gro.*" I sorted through what I would be willing to let go of and listed it all for sale. Within two days, all was sold, so now I asked Next Level about a purchase, a possible buy of these speakers.

The ModWright 225i is an all out top tier integrated amp, tubes and solid state.



Seeing that these were review units and used at the Axpona show (only as static display) and I was doing a review **and** wanted to own them, typically there is an industry discount from some dealers or manufacturers if a reviewer wants to buy. I wanted to find a way, so after some words, we settled on a price, and I said, "SOLD!"

After selling older gear I had stashed away, along with a discount for being in the industry, I was easily able to afford the SV Gro without inflicting any financial pain on myself in any way. I thank my wife, as she suggested this, and she was right. Why would I sit on old gear I was not even using and pass on speakers I feel are the best we have ever heard for our space, let alone some of the most beautiful looks as well. A win all the way around. These are now part of the reference setup for review purposes. Of course I could have sold the old gear and stashed the cash in the bank but what fun is that? Lol. This is a lifelong hobby for me, started at 15 and I am now 57. We only live once my friends and now I feel as I am winding down from the chase more so than ever. I have pieces here that I now know will be long term, very much so.

That is another thing I have learned in this hobby. For this like me, who seek their own "sound" it can take a long time to find it, to find what they like and love. We may get close and think we will be happy but in the end, that rarely happens. I have found when I invest in gear that works with my room/space and each other things start to come into focus. I now have things I can not imagine getting rid of here. and these Gro speakers will join that club.

Three bass ports on the back made of aluminum as well. They never chuff, make noise or cause bloat. Having three ports is good as it makes it easier to set these up as well. The way the Gro interact with my room is perfection.

It Didn't End There

After the purchase details were hammered out, I just kept listening. No matter the amp I used, these sounded magical. The Audio Mirror Wave DAC and the D-1 were making all-out magic in this space with the SV Gro, and here I was, 57 years old, and after 40 years in this hobby, I finally found my "Retirement System." Ha, really? I told Debby if I am ever old, feeble and sick, waiting to go…I want to listen to these with beautiful music on my way out, as I go. I can't imagine anything more peaceful than that.

I found audio heaven before, many times, but this time I found the ultimate for me, with the SV Gro being at the forefront of the system. *For the first time in two decades, I am not seeking anything new for myself personally but in reality I wasn't seeking the Gro either, they seemed to have found me first.* I no longer seek better in streaming, in a DAC or in cables. Speakers as well. I will always own 2-3 sets of speakers to change it up and for review comparisons but this system brings me supreme enjoyment anytime I sit down to listen.

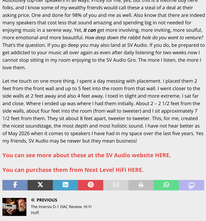
Again, synergy, room, and personal taste are what it is all about. I could go into massive debt and buy the $100k+ Borresen 2 way small stand mounts and maybe I would get 10% more of this or that but no way, not for me. I have fallen for the Gro…hard. They are just so freaking beautiful inside and out. *Some speakers are like that hot chick you talked to back when you were in your 20's. Nice to look at but shallow inside. The Gro bring beauty inside and out and for me that's a win.*

This now means my reference setup will no longer be changing every few months. I will always do new reviews, but nothing new will be added to the system anymore, even if it bests, in some way, somehow, what I have going on here. I am happy, content, thrilled, and excited all at the same time. All I have here is paid in full, so I do not have to stress about owing on credit or a loan. It's mine all mine and unless a financial hardship hits us, this is it. *It's like a dream system come to life for me and makes me not want to sell our property now as the room is perfect.*

And about that…we decided to stay here for at least one more year to see what happens with the real estate market, so after all of this we are staying for a while which means these will stay in this space where they sound so good.

Yea, I tend to get excited and type sometimes, but that is how I am wired. When I get truly excited, I want to spread the word in a way that relays my excitement. ***It is real, not manufactured. It is my passion.*** *I also do not do this as a "job" which also makes a difference.*

SV Audio have three models: one for smaller rooms, one for small to midsized rooms, and one for larger spaces. I feel the Gro is in the sweet spot of the trio that they have up for offer. The small Frido seen below is $22k, the Gro is $32k and the Forgo is $82k.



Low Volume?

Oh, these do very well indeed at low volume in my space here. I read another review that said these like to be turned up, and they do, as they can produce audio energy like few others I have experienced in my room. But they can also do low-level, soft, and intimate. It depends on the amp, really, but I often listen at low volume in the wee hours of the night or morning, and these are gorgeous, full-bodied yet clean, and so sweet at low volume with the Burson amps. That is another pro. They can do both ends of the volume extremes without effort but as you turn them up the Gro just say "*bring it on, man!*"

Absolutely top-tier speakers in all ways. Pricey for me, yes, but this is a lifetime buy here folks, and I know some of my wealthy friends would call these a steal of a deal at their asking price. One and done for 98% of you and me as well. Also know that there are indeed many speakers that cost less that sound amazing and spending big in not needed for enjoying music in a serene way. Yet, ***it can get*** more involving, more inviting, more soulful, more emotional and more beautiful. *How deep down the rabbit hole do you want to venture?* That's the question. If you go deep you may also land at SV Audio. If you do, be prepared to get addicted to your music all over again as even after daily listening for two weeks now I cannot stop sitting in my room enjoying to the SV Audio Gro. The more I listen, the more I love them.

Let me touch on one more thing. I spent a day messing with placement. I placed them 2 feet from the front wall and up to 5 feet into the room from that wall. I went closer to the side walls at 2 feet away and also 4 feet away. I tied in slight and more extreme. I sat far and close. Where I ended up was where I had them initially. About 2 – 2 1/2 feet from the side walls, about four feet into the room (from wall to tweeter) and I sit approximately 7 1/2 feet from them. They sit about 6 feet apart, tweeter to tweeter. This, for me, created the nicest soundstage, the most depth and most holistic sound. I have not hear better as of May 2026 when it comes to speakers I have had in my space over the last five years. Yes my friends, SV Audio may be newer but they mean business!

You can see more about these at the SV Audio website HERE.

You can purchase them from Next Level HiFi HERE.

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