

HIGH FIDELITY

Synästec Audio Volatus 200

SENSUAL ENHANCEMENT



At HIGH END 2010, a young German manufacturer presented its journeyman's piece: the mono power amplifier Volatus 200. With this uncompromising power station, Synästec Audio promises to tickle all senses.

Many novelties in hifi market are dominated by two premises: Devices should be as compact as possible – and, please, be omnipotent. Pretty designed all-rounders shall get even those on board whose interest in hifi is rather limited. A good portion of these interesting clients understand hifi components as decorative accessories, and prefer micro systems that – lovely arranged on a sideboard – either don't strike the eye, or can serve as an apart eye-catcher. In addition, loudspeakers are barely accepted – being as compact as possible. After all: If sound reproduction does not only serve for private amusement, you don't get around having this necessary evil. How positive hifi world's opening to other target groups might be, some quality enthusiasts are raising concerns that this zeitgeist could finally push aside superior, classical multi-unit hifi systems, owing to a lack of demand. It is true that "young hifi" also can smooth higher ambitions their way. In fact, it subsidises traditional product segments of not only one manufacturer and thus provides for a continuing existence of High-end audio. But there is a ray of hope: Newcomers on the stage of exclusive audio, making a stand against smaller and less specialised products.

FLAWLESS MUSIC

One of those true believers is Stefan Stotz, founder and CEO of Synästec Audiosysteme. The factory history sounds like the contrived cliché of an image campaign for a High-end cradle – but it is authentic: Motivated by mere compassion for music and its best reproduction, Stefan Stotz and two friends developed their own concept for ultimate amplifier electronics. The first product, mono power amplifier Volatus 200, is now on the market – after five years of intensive research, development, and reams of night time hours for listening sessions. During this long period, Stotz and his teammates spared literally every minute on their project. The realisation of components at this standard can only be realised with passion. After all, the trio did not only want to copy conventional connection designs. From the start, they had in mind their very own technical con-

ception. In the words of Stefan Stotz: "With our amplifiers, we don't want to blur perturbations, but eliminate them right at the source." What, even in sober words, sounds rather ambitious, proved to become the most difficult enterprise. Instead of displacing interferences to frequency ranges outside the musical signal, the whole spectrum of the modular Volatus 200 should be flawless. As even minimal resonances could affect signal quality, beside state-of-the-art parts and boards also elaborate mechanics comes into play. Therefore, the two generously dimensioned transformers of the Volatus 200 are uncoupled by a unique elastic polyurethane resin from the body, that is resting safely on its aluminium alloy feet.

STIMULATION WITHOUT ANY LIMIT

The body itself is milled in an extremely extensive production process from a single block of aluminium alloy, using the latest CNC machine. The compartments for the modules are also milled from the solid; in between are massive bars remaining to shield the single sections effectively against electromagnetic interspersion and Radio-frequency interferences. A dual stage heavy duty AC-line filter helps providing that no noise at all will find its way through the powerline into the electric circuitry of the Volatus 200. In addition, its output has the so-called 'post filter feedback architecture', a unique error correction loop that detects residue error at the speaker binding post and eliminates it. The appearance of this extraordinaire power amplifier itself reflects the high pretensions of its creators: Perfect surfaces in stainless steel finished look, absolute precisely milled edges, and precious engravings seduce eye and finger to discover every lovingly detail. The key to understand the vision of Stefan Stotz is reflected by the company's name: Synästec combines the terms synergy, aesthetics, and technique – the attributes the Volatus 200 represents.

In addition, the unheard sound quality of the Volatus 200 shall equally integrative help listeners indulge themselves comple-

tely into the music, virtually melting with the sound. After all, the origin of this neologism of Stefan Stotz is 'synaesthesia', the cross-sensory phenomenon of perception where different senses are stimulated by a single stimulus. And even to those music lovers who do NOT perceive bright notes as blue, the Volatus 200 does impart that the technical barrier between man and music can take a back seat. The Volatus 200 stands out with a striking clearness, doesn't bring any personal tonal characteristics into play, and thus grants for a completely unclouded, free view on all facets in music. In addition, this power station exercises absolute control over the loudspeakers and fascinates with an all natural, smooth evolvement of its power. In interaction with other adequate high-class components, the Volatus 200 is a guarantor for really unlimited musical enjoyment.

(Marius Donadello)

INFORMATIONS

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TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Model: Synästec Audio Volatus 200
Price / Pair: 17,850.00 EUR
Power output: 200 / 400 Watt RMS, 8 / 4 Ohm (THD <1%)
Frequency response: 10 Hz – 45 kHz (+0/-3 dB)
Intermodulation distortion: 0,0085 % / 0,0018 %
(2nd / 3rd order)
Noise ratio: > 115 dB (A)
Power consumption full load max.: 550 Watt
Power consumption standby: 8 Watt
Colours: Stainless steel optic, black, silver
Audio inputs: symmetrical XLR, RCA (Cinch)
Loudspeaker outputs: WBT screw clamps
Dimensions (W / H / D): 400 / 87 / 307 mm

PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

Aluminium body, milled from one block
Resonance optimized construction
Class D switching mode amplifier
200 Watt output power / channel at 8 Ohm

