

Shape and Substance

Here comes The Vario's offering us a collection of unconventional loudspeakers never seen before. Will "our heroes" be able to put together eyes and ears, beauty and sound?



Tito is an external tweeter mounted on Senior tweeter and Master system. Loud-speaker and case (of multilayer wood) are track positioned allowing for better in-depth placement optimizing alignment respect to woofer.

Junior, the entry level system of the The Vario's range, because of its compact size can be placed on any desk. The loudspeaker in use is a small 3 inch, full range.

Beautiful or good? Beautiful or intelligent? Beautiful or functional? In general, the concept of what is beautiful is often set against something which is "substantial", as if one excludes the other. If this is generally true, then it is also equally applicable in our sector, be it loudspeakers or hi-fi. In recent years we have seen, listened to and judged so many products of different shape or design, from those highly inadmissible to those incredibly aligned with the mainstream of the moment. Let's focus our attention on loudspeakers subject of this article, perhaps the sector which above all has introduced (and continues to do so) the most variegated and wildest solutions. This could be due to the fact that this equipment is, to a certain extent, "necessarily" the one most in view and quite often the most cumbersome. The loudspeaker sector is, at the same time, the one which in recent years has undergone greater aesthetical and structural development. New machines can process different types of materials with results of the highest quality. We can think of Sonus Faber, who have reached extremely high levels of wood processing techniques but also, and above all, companies such as B & W, Morel and KEF having introduced innovations based on materials such as Kevlar and Carbon for some creations, Magico with the introduction of aluminium, Fischer & Fischer with slate, and the list could go on and on... There is a new trademark which would like to have its own say, a name which not only is Italian but also comes from a small province,

normally not part of the "usual circle" and because of this, as this story seems to us a nice one, we would like to narrate it. The tradename in question is The Vario's and 3 friends who come from the province of Isernia are behind it. Their technical experience was acquired in the fashion industry and out of this sector they have begun something "different", a background which inevitably exerts strong influence on the choice of their new adventure. The Vario's is the outcome of personal projects by Camillo Di Rocco, Massimiliano Bifulci and Vittorio Monaco. They have come up with a range of loudspeakers of extremely personal choice which either one likes or dislikes at first sight, perhaps without second thoughts. The Vario's has focused their initial production on shapes which are very close to those cartoon features. Their loudspeakers are designed with nose, eyes and mouth including accessories which cannot but remind us of a cartoon character or those scribbled drawings made by us all as a child. Even the case itself is vaguely humanoid, this too cartoon style. Loudspeakers which "make us laugh" or just designed products nice to have at home? Honestly, at first glance, this is what one thinks however, when getting closer to observe certain elements, certain features, an amused smile gives way to the attention paid by an "expert" in the field of audio components. Workmanship carried out under numeric control and an understanding of minimum tolerance are typical aspects of one who knows what to do with the machine he has purchased. Birch wood



From this perspective, we can see the track on which the tweeter slides. We can also identify the wooden case structure. Here too multilayer birch wood is used.



The "mouth" designed on all systems is nothing more than the reflex conduit. From this perspective, in fact, we can observe the slot which cuts across the loudspeaker's front section. This too, as per other production, was carried out with machines under numeric control.



An expanded view of the tweeter. Thanks to its solid and compact wooden structure, the loudspeaker can function in an ambient isolated from external vibrations. The fact that it is almost totally independent of the woofer case is another positive factor.



The workmanship quality of these loudspeakers can be appreciated by simply having a look at the back panel. A careful eye can see the very low workmanship tolerance which the different elements have thus wood and plastic are perfectly matched. Also of good quality are the connectors.

is used applying the multilayer technique with overlapping and glued layers in consistent number. For example, a thickness of 28 cm is attained in the larger model by putting together several layers of 1.5 mm. Layers perfectly cut to size and glued together, treated with an external mordant, give the natural wood structure a pleasant appearance perfectly glossy. Another version slightly burnished which can be chosen for interiors and furniture of darker colour is also available. The structure thus appears to be something bulky set up high and the feeling one gets is that of a sturdy case without any intentions of giving off reverberating sounds. This is true for both smaller and larger models. For products manufactured by The Vario's, the loudspeakers are chosen from Vifa, Morel and Tangband catalogues based on specific model requirements. Wiring is set up with a Tasker OFC cable. Tasker likewise supplies cables for some models which see woofer case connected externally to the tweeter one. The tweeter case is fixed to a track which allows the component to be



To connect tweeter to woofer case and from this point on to crossover an unusual solution was chosen, meaning an external OFC copper cable plus gilt connector. This solution is in line with a style typically unconventional for loud-speakers.

shifted perpendicularly to the woofer case permitting temporal mechanical alignment. Other components in use are also of good quality, from full metal connectors by CMC to in-house filter printed circuits hand-made. The catalogue offers 3 devices, rather 3 names: Lola, Vincent and Tito. The first two names refer to single loudspeakers which make up the twin set while Tito refers to the tweeter, an additional element for other solutions. The Junior and Senior system are default dependent on loudspeakers Lola and Vincent; we are talking about a one-way path which uses full range. Master and Senior systems plus tweeter are two-way paths which require a stand; a Lola and a Vincent plus, for each one, the external tweeter named Tito. To the list we must add the passive subwoofer named Roy and a central channel yet to be defined.



The "funny" design most surely leaves behind the fact that the product is well-made. Each component has been realized with care and quality materials, crossover to begin with.



The co-founders of The Vario's: from the left Camillo Di Rocco (project designer and production manager), Massimiliano Bifulci (in charge of administration, design and graphics) and Vittorio Monaco (company director).