

Stereo Times

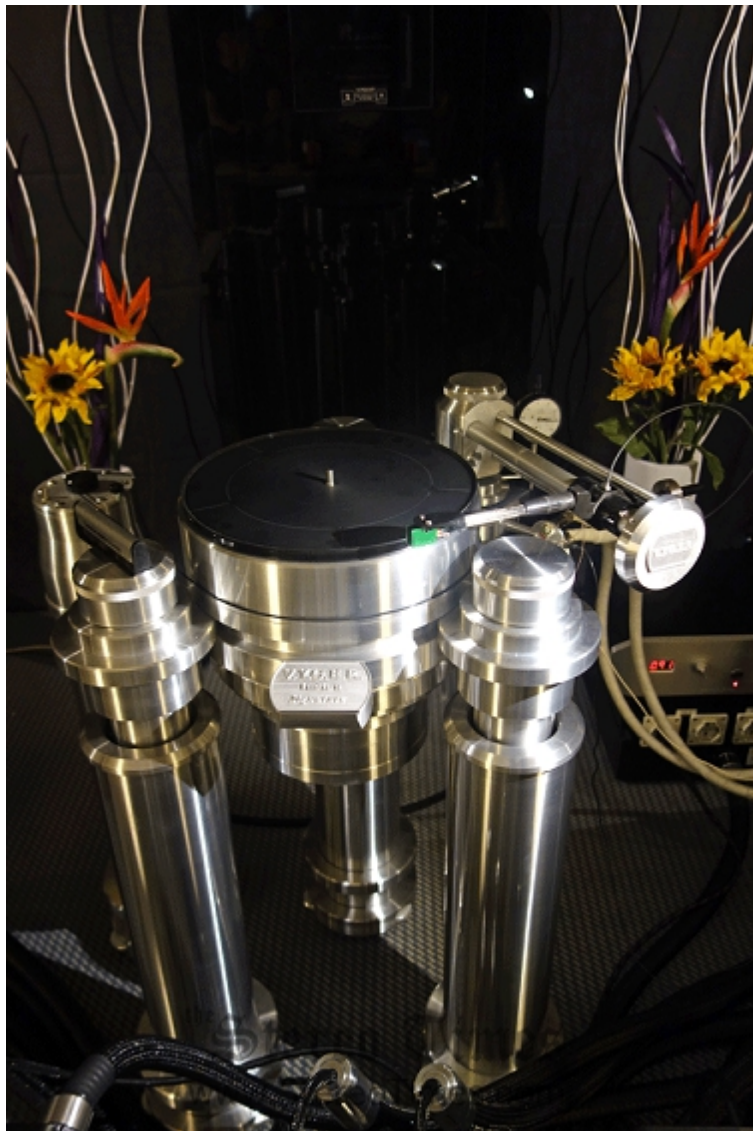
The Complete Audiophile Magazine



Team Leonardo which featured Playback Design digital, Extreme Audio, Grandinote electronics and V.Y.G.E.R analogue, all hail from Italy (except for Playback Design), really put on a great sounding demo room. I spent a good amount of time in this room and would qualify the sound as easy, holographic and harmonically spot on. Most importantly, the sound kept me coming back day after day. Far more sophisticated than my first chance encounter last year. Grazie!



One of my favorite habits is to listen in a dim candle lit room. So you can imagine how much the Leonardo setup reminded me of home sweet home.



The V.Y.G.E.R Indian Signature turntable got its second wind after disappearing for nearly a decade. What a nice surprise to see it perform flawlessly in all its aluminum splendor. When I visited the Leonardo guys in Italy some months back, I saw the Indian Signature there and knew they were preparing for a major comeback. I had no idea it would have been here at the High End. Equipped with a new Torlai Graphite cartridge the sound was easy to slip into and get lost - despite all the activity that was going on in this room.





Heard the Grandinote for the first time on the Leonardo loudspeakers at last year's High End Show. I reported this as among the most surprising systems I ever heard and easily the biggest surprise of the whole show. One year later, I still find these loudspeakers to be the charm for what one can come to expect from a planar transducer. They still reproduce bass at an astounding level considering their pedigree. Now available in the USA, and retailing for \$65k, though very expensive, I think they're among few great loudspeakers available today. Duly noted, I do not think I would be able to state these claims if it were not for the 60-watt Grandinote Demone (pure Class A) mono amplifiers. I still am awaiting the opportunity to review these in my own system. And until that opportunity arrives, let it be known that in the past 12 months, I've heard the Leonardos on a number of amplifiers - yes, even in the Leonardo factory which is only a stones throw from Venice. I always find the Leonardos, to my ears, to sound their very best when played through Grandinote electronics.

Clement Perry