

Precious Gems

Audio Pro Blue Diamond speakers

\$5199 a pair



Tone
MAGAZINE
**GOLD
AWARD**



The new version of Audio Pro's Blue Diamond stands a little higher and is thinner, than its predecessor. It's a two-way bass reflex speaker with a built-in 175W ace-bass active (that means you have to plug it into a power socket!) subwoofer.

Apart from the dimensions, the Blue Diamond differs in

ABOVE The Blue Diamond's built-in active subwoofer features both down-firing and rear-firing bass reflex ports

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two main respects. Audio Pro has introduced a new double chamber silk tweeter mounted in a die-cast aluminium face-plate to lower distortion and achieve a flat frequency response. The new 6.5-inch woofer boasts a new driver for the same reasons and to enable improved power handling.

The new Blue Diamond has a 10-inch side-firing woofer and both rear and down-firing bass reflex ports. A new bass equalizer design reduces turbulence with the hyperbolic shaped cone guiding the sound waves through 360 degrees out into the listening room.

Solid cabinets finished in high gloss piano lacquer command immediate attention and respect. Rubber feet are mounted on the stand and metal spikes are also provided. So much for the hype, but what do they sound like?

I auditioned the speakers through a pair of locally made Sachem mono-blocks, a Sentec Preamp and DAC, and used a cheap \$199 Panasonic five-disc carousel as transport.

The results were superb. First up was a Patricia Barber track that consisted of only bass, finger clicks and vocals. The Blue Diamonds portrayed these clicks with detail and pinpoint accuracy, while the bass was clear and fast.

Audio Pro has specialised in active subwoofers throughout



+ Superb bass

= Require a good quality, powerful amplifier.

≡ A pair of very desirable Swedish Diamonds

Key features

- 1-inch soft dome shielded tweeter
- 6.5-inch shielded midrange driver
- 10-inch long-throw active subwoofer
- Frequency response 22Hz -25kHz
- Impedance 4 ohm

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the Swedish company's 25-year history. Their goal back in 1978 was to produce a sub-woofer that produced excellent bass that wasn't the size of a telephone box or weighed a tonne because of damping.

The result was then patented as ACE-BASS, or Amplifier Controlled Euphonic Bass. Ever since then a peculiarly Swedish philosophy of 'sound as science' has informed the design and manufacture of all Audio Pro speakers (and I can testify that the Diamonds under audition measured a flat frequency response across the range).

Nils Lofgren's old staple *Keith Don't Go* (a song written in the '70s for Keith 'could die at any minute' Richards) was next up and although I have heard the track at any number of audio demos, it sounded best here - Lofgren's guitar creating a sound-scape all of its own. The Diamonds reproduced all harmonics superbly and beautifully captured the sense of a live performance.

I spent a lovely afternoon spinning everything from Verdi and You Am I to Geri Allen, thinking that if we could all afford Swedish models like these in our living rooms, the world would be a far better place!

By Greg Fleming