

On the vinyl 8

Review of: Mikkel Fiddle [08/19/2015]

 Print test

The vinyl is alive and well, and that listening to this evolving, shows the two products in this test clearly. We are at the high end, but it also shows just that vinyl is so much in advance that you really dare to invest in it again

Having tried, tested and reviewed the products in all price ranges, it is nevertheless a certain amount of skepticism when I take very expensive appliances for testing. Often gain very small compared to the additional price. Still, I was surprised by the quality of the two products that I have taken into the test this time. Perreux with their brand new phono stages and Sound Smith with a pickup that costs more than most people give for an entire plant.



Perreux Audiant VP3

This phono stages is so new that the soldering almost still warm from the mount. And the first copies are only just beginning to arrive in Denmark. But ever since the first entry in the Perreux website that this phono stages were on the way, I have been waiting impatiently to get it through the "test set" here in the listening room. I was never in doubt that it had to be something special. And it was also emphasized with clarity, from the first stanza passed through VP3's circuit.

VP3 "replaces" the now discontinued Silhouette SXV2, but then goes straight to the next level with even more configuration options, plus two separate MM and MC Riaa'er in the same cabinet, each with their own set of inputs. So it is possible to have two turntables connected simultaneously! Switching between them is done via touch buttons on the front. Here you can also select mono, and turn on and off VP3.

In addition, the cabinet is very simple, and share with the rest of the design Audiant series. It also means that it "stands on its head". The aluminum profile on top is really the bottom where print and transformer are mounted. Topsøbet of steel plate has been so scratch that it all rests. At the rear you will find connectors of really good quality, and dip-switches to switch setting. There sits 4 x 7 for adjusting the resistance and capacity, as well as 2 x 4 to adjust the gain and phono stages curve.

Inside there is a large printer that includes both MM and MC-part, power supply. The latter consists of a toroid transformer 5 and less charging listener. The phono stages circuits is reversed in order to get the most noise-sensitive audio circuit as far apart as possible. Further, there is also added a balanced output. In principle, the signal of a pickup is already balanced, since each channel comprises a circuit which runs in the phase / anti-phase.



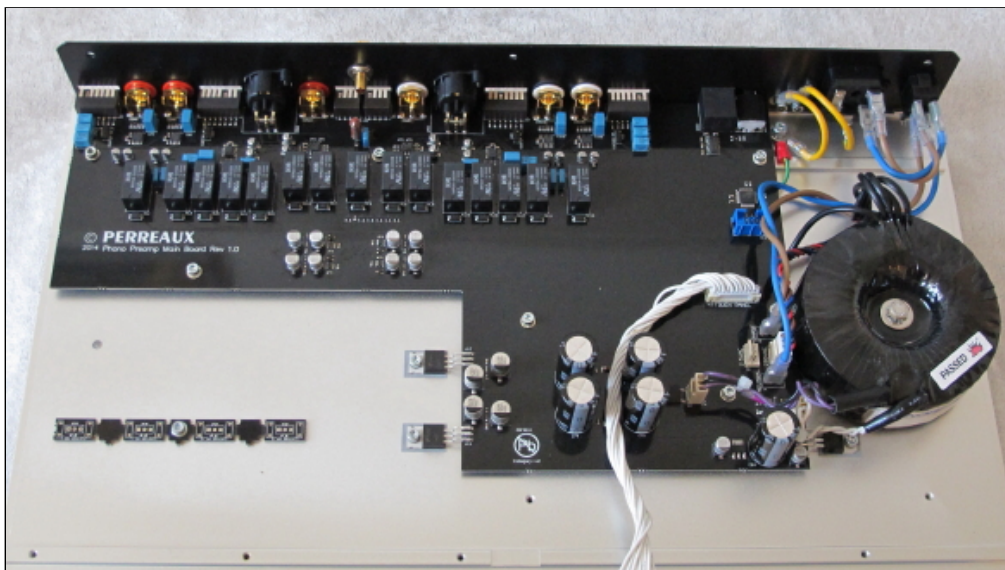
In terms of setting the MM can choose from 47k, 10k, 1k ohm resistor, and 22, 47, 100, 220 and 470 pF capacity as well as 36, 40, 44 and 48 dB gain. MC, the figures 47k, 10, 30, 100, 250, 500, 1k ohm resistor and 47 pF capacity as well as 56, 60, 64, 68 dB gain. Phono stages correction can be switched between ordinary RIAA and IEC, which attenuates the bass below 20 Hz.

So we have hold of a cornucopia in terms of options and the number of inputs, and it is usually only on more expensive Riaa'er that you see it. Although not absolutely VP3 is no budget product. It clearly seems that the folks at Perreux has been trying to create a seamless product.

The only appeal is to be on at the back of the switch setting, and that an old man like me to find both glasses and light up when the little rocker switches which are reversed for the two channels, sitting a little deep inside the enclosure. Sonically it is definitely the best option as the change happens right where the signal passes. But it had been a little delicious with a touch solution to the front, with the sound of small relays inside the cabinet, who made the change itself. And the manual is very detailed, so there is no mistaking. There is even an example of how to calculate the optimal capacity for MM pickups. VP3 is also a little hot when it plays, it must remain free air around him.

Finish wise, VP3 from Audiant series, and although it is delicious made, it can not run from that Audiant is Perreux's smallest model

number. Although the aluminum profile, and touch panel gives a very good impression with the delicious connector on the back. Had stålsvøbet also been made of aluminum, so it would have been quite at home.



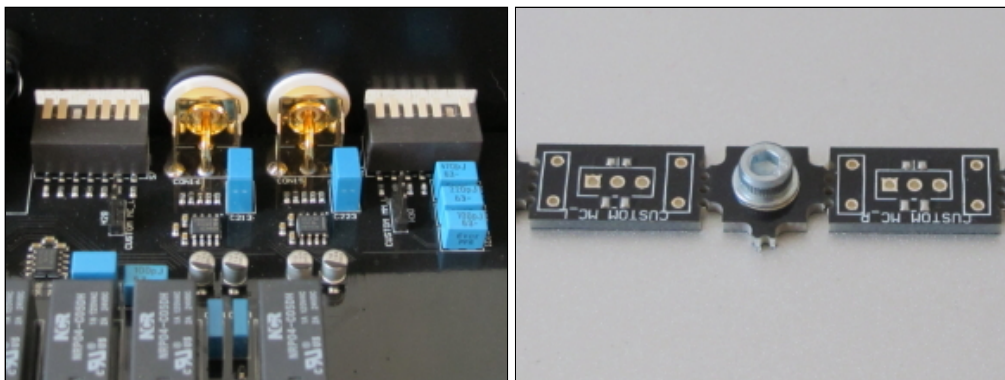
Listening Impressions

It is not because Audiant VP3 moves wildly compared to Vincent PHO-700, but there are just a few little things that make all the difference. And it gives the music and the experience a few additional facets. For the Vincent'en is quiet, then VP3 silent!

It provides more peace in the soundstage, so the smallest details become clearer, as well as a feeling even more profits where there is room for even more in the soundstage. Some call it a deep black background, but it's really just that the noise level is completely moved down there, where you do not hear it. But it does actually that rumble from record grooves as an additional thing dimmed quite extraordinary, so there certainly is no groove noise at all!

Sound wise, VP3 very similar Vincent'en, and yet ... for VP3 just a tad extra control on bass, and leans here up the sound from the excellent phono stages from North Star, which has previously been past the listening room. This means that the bass can be experienced slightly muffled, but actually it is just because that each tone stands out even more precisely with a nuance, which is absolutely fantastic. It is an ultra-controlled bass, we are talking about!

There is nothing but positive things to say about the midrange and treble, it just floats away, and there has never been the threat of having to write notes about this during listening. It's all done very natural and straightforward. And just to not have doubts, then the sound of the best class. But the muffled noise and thus clearer details also makes sound image appears even clearer, sharper markings of the executive, and the space they are in.



Small print to need special resistance of the pickup

During the test of VP3 I had the pleasure of being able to switch between multiple setups. First I put the Benz Ebony TR and Ortofon ST-80SE to the MM input of 47k ohms and 220 pF, and the above is a description of my experience of this. But when VP3 also has a separate MC part, by setting the resistance down to 10 ohms, which theoretically is the Ebony TR to be loaded with, then it should also be verified to link Ebony TR directly, bypassing the fixed setup-mate.

But it was not ... it was so noisy that the music was not the same. And calm and profits disappeared too. Luckily I had a few other pickups that test with, so it quickly turned out that the blame rests solely with Ebony TR ... it just need a transformer.

And the miracle turned out as Sound Smith Hyperion was set. It was a resistance of 500 ohms, which is the recommendation of Sound Smith. And the two song so beautiful and uncluttered together, a la MM part, that it was made absolutely clear that not only is Audiant VP3 an excellent MM phono stages ... it is an equally excellent MC boards.

As a last detail was VP3 connected via the balanced output, and strangely enough, the sound was no longer the same. The output was significantly lower, and the calm and profits from earlier was gone ?!But it does not change my view that Perreaux Audiant VP3 is one of the best and most versatile Riaa'er I ever laid ears ... and it is nothing less than **"Editors Choice"**!

Specifications:

- Principle: MM and MC boards
- Resistance MM: 47k, 10k, 1k ohm
- Capacity MM: 22, 47, 100, 220 and 470 pF
- Gain MM: 36, 40, 44 and 48 dB
- MC resistance: 47K, 10, 30, 100, 250, 500, 1k ohm
- Capacity MC: 47 pF
- Gain MC: 56, 60, 64, 68 dB
- Dimensions: 43 x 28 x 7 cm (W x H x D).
- Weight: 7.5 kg.

Price: Kr. 15.995, -.

Dealer:

Audiocompagniet

Web: www.audiocompagniet.dk

Mail: audiocompagniet@gmail.com

Tel .: 41 26 12 34