

the absolute sound

By Jonathan Valin

Auspicious Debuts



Crystal Cable Arabesque Minissimo Diamond and CCDB subwoofer

This terrific two-way mini-monitor with the witty, comma-like shape has impressed me since its introduction last year. Now equipped with a silken-sounding SEAS diamond tweeter, this €18k mini could easily have been (and probably should have been) one of my Five Most Significant Exhibits. But since it was coupled with **Crystal Cable's** striking new €10k **CCDB** (Crystal Cable Deep Bass) subwoofer, introduced at this year's show, I saved it for auspicious debuts. No one in this industry has a more playfully elegant sense of style than Crystal's Gabi Rijnveld, while her celebrated husband, Edwin, ranks among the world's finest audio engineers. Together this couple has created many beautiful sounding and beautifully designed components—none better, IMO, than this sat/sub combo, powered by Crystal's equally fashionable **Cube** integrated amp. One of my colleagues thought the sound of this combo

rivalled that of the Magico Q7 Mk II in the midband—and it was indeed stunningly open, boxless, detailed, and realistic on vocals, though (naturally) a bit reduced in image size, as all two-ways are! Blessed with that extraordinarily lifelike and densely colored mid, among the sweetest treble I've heard from a diamond tweeter, and quite staggeringly good, powerful and deep-reaching bass, the Minissimo Diamond/CCDB sub is a satellite/system of extremely high style and superb sonics. A great debut for Crystal Cable.

By Julie Mullins

In other categories (outside my electronics bailiwick for this show report), **Crystal Cable** debuted its **Arabesque Minissimo Diamond** monitor that now features a diamond tweeter and its brand-new **Crystal Cable Deep Bass subwoofer**, the latest additions to its charmingly yet functionally designed suite of diminutive components conceived by the inimitable Gabi Rijnveld and her other half Edwin. Their room was a true multi-sensory delight, from its all-around outstanding sound (among the best at the show)—enhanced by the upgraded speaker's sweet-sounding treble and the sub's deeper, fuller bass—to the living-room-styled backdrop and finally, the duo's virtual-reality tour experience of the company's home base. I didn't want to leave.