

## Suite 29-131 Profundo

I have had the pleasure of knowing Bob Clarke of [Profundo](#) for some years now, and his room is *a/ways* one of the more enjoyable and musical stops during CES. This year was no different, as he was introducing the newest entry from the Austrian loudspeaker company [Trenner & Friedl](#), the RA-Box (\$25,000). Electronics were all from [Viva](#) of Italy, and included the Viva Audio Linea F preamp (\$24,000), the Viva Audio New Aurora monoblock amplifiers (\$42,000/pr).



*The uniquely styled Viva Aurora monoblocks and the new Trenner & Friedl Ra-Box loudspeakers*

The Heed Audio Obelisk DT transport (\$1600) and the Heed Audio Dactilus DAC (\$1600) did the honors for optical disc playback. Vinyl was replayed with the Basis Audio 2800 table (\$12,900) and Basis Vector 4 tonearm (\$3540), fitted with the Transfiguration Orpheus L phono cartridge (\$6000). Just as an aside, Bob and I have discussed a review of the Orpheus L, so stay tuned on that front. Finally, all cabling was Cardas Clear.

The Ra-Box is proportioned to the "golden ratio," and is finished superbly with a seven-layer lacquer finish. Internal box damping is achieved by using, no foolin', Austrian sheep's wool! While somewhat vague as to driver size and complement, it uses paper cones impregnated with six-layer Italian balsamic oil lacquer finish and the high frequency driver horn is machined with high precision. Crossover components employ Mundorf oil/silver caps and foil coils, and MOX resistors.

Internal wiring is by Cardas (who not so coincidentally ALSO employ the golden ratio in their construction technique), as are the terminals. One of the unique aspects of this design is that it can be placed as close as 4 inches (10 cm) from the wall behind it! With an efficiency of 94dB at 8  $\Omega$ , the claim is that will work superbly with as little as 8 watts.

While I cannot address the claims, I can tell you that the result in this room was big, bold, and beautiful music, both dynamic and delicate at the same time, vivid and lifelike. It was impossible to just sit and listen; my foot was involuntarily keeping time and my head was bobbing along to the music the whole time I was in the room... Well done, again!