

Product of the Year Awards

High-End Loudspeaker of the Year

Piega Coax Gen2 611 Loudspeaker

\$19,995

Piega's Coax Gen2 611 is a true high-end contender of exceptional design and build-quality. What makes this sveltely attractive, Swiss-made, three-way floorstanding loudspeaker something special is Piega's brilliantly designed coax driver, an 8" x 6.5" transducer, in which the 1" x 2" ribbon tweeter is housed in the center of the ribbon midrange. Spanning a remarkable 450Hz to 50kHz, this unique driver is largely why the 611 is so exceptionally coherent from bottom-to-top as well as utterly captivating in soundstaging and imaging. The remaining frequencies are covered by a pair of 6.29" woofers as well as three 6.29" passive radiators, which in the Gen2 series have been given additional space within the enclosures, enhancing power, clarity, and texture of the low frequencies. Piega made aluminum cabinetry a key part of its technology some 28 years ago, and the 611 employs Piega's internal bracing modules to enhance the design's inherent rigidity. The 611s are not only highly detailed and seamless but also throw the kind of large, three-dimensional soundstage associated with dipolar designs, with a beautiful rendering of air, tonal naturalness, and notable bottom end depth, power, and wallop. Given that they're also easy to set up, can be driven by a wide range of amplifiers, are beautiful to behold, and are relatively moderately priced for their quality level, Piega's Coax Gen2 611s are highly attractive and exciting contenders in this range. (353)



Ultra-High-End Loudspeaker of the Year

Magico S3 2024

\$45,500

Magico makes large claims for its new, demure (less than four-feet high and only a foot wide), three-way, four-driver, aluminum-enclosed S3, the first of its speakers to make use of the technology and test regimen the company developed for its statement M9: "Its technical superiority...results in a sonic masterpiece that will reveal more listening pleasure than thought possible at this price point." Happily, these claims are true. The S3's aural "center of gravity" is situated squarely in the bass and lower midrange, with very slightly declining energy in the upper mids and treble. Though this gives the S3 a somewhat darker, more "bottom-up" tonal balance than previous Magicos, it also gives it a smoothness and timbral beauty—a rich sameness of sound character—from top to bottom (and that bottom goes down linearly into the 20Hz octave). JV has not listened to a Magico (and he's listened to most of them) in which the diamond-coated beryllium tweeter melds more seamlessly and harmoniously with the graphene midrange and woofer. In the conclusion of his review, JV wrote: "Never have I heard a full-range loudspeaker in my home that does as much as this one does for the money that Magico is asking. If that doesn't make it a classic of some kind, I don't know what will." Perhaps TAS's 2025 Ultra-High-End Loudspeaker of the Year Award will help convince you. (348)