



**CONTACT**

www.perreaux.com

**SPECIFICATIONS**

**THD:** 20Hz to 20kHz - Less than 0.001%  
**FREQUENCY RESPONSE:** 20Hz to 20kHz  
**SIGNAL TO NOISE RATIO:** 105dB  
**DYNAMIC RANGE:** 96dB  
 Digital Sampling Frequency - 44.1kHz  
**RESOLUTION:** 16-bit  
**ANALOGUE OUTPUT VOLTAGE:** 1.1V rms  
**CONNECTIONS:**  
**Outputs:** Analogue Line Level (RCA), Digital SPDIF (BNC)  
**Others:** 50-way ribbon connector (transport to electronics), pLink, RC-5 IEC mains power  
**DIMENSIONS (EACH):** 216 x 167 x 58mm (W/D/H)

**PROS**

- + Detailed dynamic performance
- + Great value

**CONS**

- \* Some may look for more features

**VERDICT**

Another top ranking Kiwi-made hi-fi product from Perreux

Aesthetics	91%
Performance	94%
Features	89%
Functionality	91%
Price Value	94%
Overall	



# Minimalicious

## PERREAUX SILHOUETTE SXCD TWO BOX COMPACT DISC PLAYER

Last October I reviewed the Perreux Silhouette SXP2 pre-amp and SX60M monoblock amplifiers. They left a lasting impression that reinforced Perreux's reputation as a cutting-edge hi-fi manufacturer that is constantly redefining traditional hi-fi values.

The Silhouette SXCD CD player is a two-box affair. This is where the sections of the player that handle the disc-spinning (transport) duties and electronics sections, including the digital processing and conversion to analogue signals (DAC), have been separated. This physical separation isolates the electronics and DAC from unwanted interference generated by the laser mechanism.

With satin chrome electroplate front panel, both the transport and electronics share the excellent build quality, small form factor and minimalist design seen across the entire Silhouette range. My first impression was that Perreux had gone too far with the minimalist approach. With no remote control and no front panel information display, the user interface requires more effort than normal to select and play your favourite tracks.

To reduce digital jitter to an absolute minimum, Perreux employs a computer optical drive with an IDE interface as the CD transport. Unusually, the CD tray loads from the side of the enclosure and the transport is connected to the DAC using a 50-way ribbon cable.

Making all the necessary connections was straightforward but as the bulk of the ribbon connector was disproportionate to the bulk of the transport, I had some difficulty making the setup look neat. That aside, the small profile of both components looks fantastic, whether placed side-by-side or stacked on top of each other.

The DAC, which uses a Burr Brown chipset from Texas Instruments, is an absolute beauty. The music flows with a smooth, detailed delivery that can rival CD players costing twice the price of the SXCD, my own Musical Fidelity (MF) included.

Directly comparing the Perreux to my Musical Fidelity, I noticed a significantly lower volume level when using the Perreux. The analogue output voltage of the SXCD is quoted at 1.1 volts rms (most CD players are between two and three volts). I soon learned how to adjust the volume appropriately when switching between the two players. I was flabbergasted at just how good the SXCD was, and at one point I lost track of which player I was listening to.

Let's stop for a moment to consider what Perreux has done. There's no display, but in practice how often do you refer to your CD player's display to tell you what's going on? Only if there is no sound, it has stopped, paused or the CD is still in the jewel case. There's no remote, but how many remotes do you have on your table already? Too many I bet. There is an RC-5 remote input jack on the rear panel, to which an aftermarket remote's control signal can be connected. I have invested in a fantastic Nevo programmable remote and have six other remotes that are now redundant, despite having no choice in whether to buy them or not.

If all hi-fi manufacturers were as clever and considered as Perreux I'm sure we would be better off. As an added bonus the price is attractive enough to allow you to put money into buying a decent remote, so that more of the family can share your favourite toys. Yeah, right! ■ STEVE SMITH.

