

# Perreaux, Magnepan, Thiel a tale of two audio systems

Some of our top of the range power amplifiers have recently been purchased by two NZ based audiophiles. Self confessed audiophile Ricky Dasler has recently purchased a Perreaux 350 Prisma to drive a pair of top the line Magnepan MG20.1 loudspeakers. Fellow audio enthusiast Kyle Anderson has taken a slightly different path and opted for a pair of Perreaux 750 Prisma mono block power amplifiers to drive a pair of top of the line Thiel CS7.2 loudspeakers.

Read their stories below to find out how Perreaux amplifiers work alongside two of the worlds most respected loudspeaker brands.

Nelson based, *Ricky Dasler* writes:



My first experience with Perreaux & Magnepan goes back to the early 80's. In the case of the Maggie's, I vividly recall the retailer who sold me my first 'real' stereo had just bought himself a pair. My wife and I were invited to his home for a meal one evening and we were greatly impressed at the holographic nature of the sound they produced. Since then, I've always been interested in the brand, finally obtaining my first pair of Maggie 3.3R's several years ago.

My experience with Perreaux was not a dissimilar one. During the 80's I worked in a Hi-Fi store that was a stockist of the brand. They were always popular with clients who admired their unique blend of massive power reserve, rugged construction coupled with highly detailed, tight sound quality. At that time, British & American amps were always scarce, horrendously expensive and no better.

My business partner Peter Sharland and I own a retail store at the top of the South Island in New Zealand called 'Living Sound Audio' and we are exclusive Perreaux and Magnepan dealers for the region. Over the years we've listened to many very highly respected brands and are happy to say that in our opinion Perreaux amplifiers & Magnepan loudspeakers are a match made in musical heaven. Each brand seems by some divine sonic coincidence to have a model that matches the other so that we can satisfy the needs of customers who can only accommodate the smaller panels right up to those who have room for Magnepan's top models.

For example the Perreaux E160i integrated is the perfect partner for the Maggie MG12Q/R's. The Reference series 200i Perreaux is ideal for either the 12's or Magnepan's most popular and slightly bigger speaker the MG1.6QR's. For those who want the best of both, then the sophisticated Perreaux Radiance R200i is only too happy at home with the 1.6's or the bigger still MG3.6R's. The 4-ohm load of the

Maggie's seems to bring out the best in the Perreaux they very fast and tight, across the entire musical spectrum and have power to burn. But above all else they seem to be able to open Maggie's up to create a hugely involving and thrilling listening experience.

Recently I've acquired in my own system two components that in my view are at the top end of what's available to play music through. The system comprises the Perreaux 350 Prisma power amp and a pair of the top of the range Magnepan MG20.1 loud speakers. It is difficult to express how these two products sound together without resorting to cliché's. If I were to sum it up in only one word then it would be 'humbling'. As the attached photos show, the 20.1's are a very large speaker (I'm 6'1" tall) and they present an amplifier with a fairly difficult load. On top of that, they reach down to 25hz, which on a panel is very impressive.

The Perreaux 350 just takes it all in its' stride without getting any warmer than in idle. It's real strength however is in the total control it exerts over these large panels no matter what the volume or complexity of the music, everything remains intact and beautifully layered with great rhythm and timing. The real test for a big amp to me is how it copes at lower volumes. I'm pleased to say the Perreaux just invites you in, to hear 'into' the music and of course the Maggie's are only too willing to oblige with either macro or micro dynamics with equal ease.

I'm thrilled with both these new additions into my home system. They are two products from two long established companies that use tried and tested methods to design, develop and build their components. Both brands have products that have been in use by music lovers throughout the world for over 20 years and it is this steady understated way of going about their business that has built both Perreaux and Magnepan such a loyal following. If you would like to know more, please feel free to send me an email on [planetwaves@paradise.net.nz](mailto:planetwaves@paradise.net.nz) and I would be happy to discuss.



Auckland based, *Kyle Anderson* writes:



Owning a high-end audio system has long been one of life's 'necessities' for me. My business week is often stressful and kicking back at home listening to music helps me unwind. I've owned many brands over the years. Amplifiers by VTL, AR, Plinius & Linn. Loud speakers by Proac, Shahinian (most models) and Martin Logan and now Thiel. I've just taken delivery of a pair of Perreaux 750W Prisma finish mono



block power amplifiers. After repeated requests, I even managed to persuade Perreaux to finish the 750 Prisma fronts off in black chrome electroplate and they even agreed to replace the customary red coloured LED on the front with blue. As the photos show, the finished result is simply stunning. My partner even likes them!

My current set-up has slowly evolved over the years, and I enjoy the result more today than at any time previously. I'm

running an AR CD3 CD player with an AR LS25 preamp into a pair of Perreaux 750 Prisma mono block power amps and then out to a pair of Thiel CS7.2 loudspeakers. The system is completely wired with top of the line 'Kimber' Select silver speaker and interconnect cables. The Perreaux 750's have just replaced a VT100 power amp and what a difference!

The added weight, headroom and separation of soundstage is just mind-blowing! The sonic impact is better than I have heard anywhere. Installing the 750's into my system has made me curious about the Perreaux SM6 fully balanced preamplifier. I'm looking forward to auditioning it shortly. I'm very satisfied with the improvement in my system.

