



Full Metal Jacket

Piega's favorite material aluminum has both acoustical and optical advantages.

The craftsmanship and sound quality of the Swiss loudspeakers from Piega are absolutely legendary. Now the manufacturer presents active speakers, which can be controlled wirelessly using an optional hub – of course in the characteristic aluminum dress: the Premium Wireless 501. All sources are connected to the hub in analog or digital form, and then sent on wirelessly. Both the hub and the loudspeakers, which are available in silver, black and white aluminum, can use their USB socket to install firmware or make individual adjustments. Three different groups and three Wi-Fi frequencies allow multiroom configuration. Bluetooth is the signal with priority. So if the owner comes home with his smartphone and the system notices the music, he can immediately take over the controls – wired sources are automatically disengaged. There is, further, an automatic loudness as well as protection against extreme volumes.

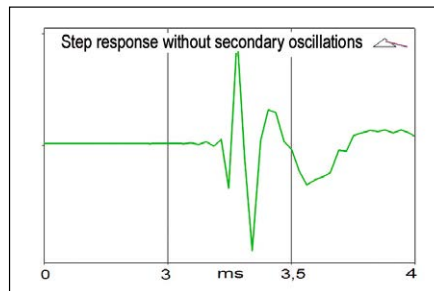
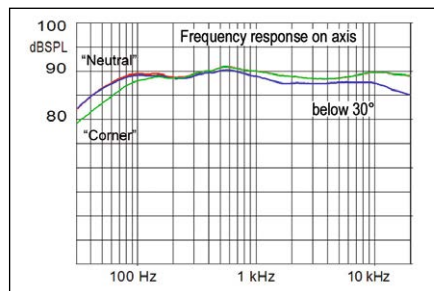
Puzzling to us was the volume control directly on the hub itself. Via Bluetooth (aptX) the level is, of course, controlled via the source device. Apparently the Piega

Piega 501 (Premium Wireless)

Price: around 4500 €
 (Surcharge Connect-Hub 500 Euro)
Dimensions: 24 x104 x24 cm (WxHxD)
Warranty: 6 years
Contact: Piega SA
 Phone: +41 44 725 90 42
 www.piega.ch

Piega's 501 is the marginally smaller of two new, smart active floorstanding speakers. As usual for the Swiss it sounds excellent and is dressed in aluminum. In combination with the „Connect“ hub it also offers wireless Wi-Fi operation.

Measurement results



Lower cut-off frequency (-3dB SPL) 41 Hz
Distortions at 63/3k/10k Hz 0,8/0,3/0,1 %

Lab Comment

Mains phase at tested device Very balanced frequency response, also not on axis; good bass qualities. Medium step response, very low distortion.

Features

Analog input, wall-/corner/freestanding adjustment, USB socket for software updates; optional hub (Connect) with analog/digital inputs, subwoofer output, Bluetooth (aptX), Wi-Fi, volume control on the hub, no remote control/app, no included network options (streaming only via connected devices).

STEREO-TEST	
SOUND QUALITY	81%
PRICE/PERFORMANCE	
★★★★☆	
EXCELLENT	



Using the „Hub“, the Piega can be controlled either analog or digital via cable as well as „wirelessly“. It can also be combined with a subwoofer.

Connect wants to be fed only by devices with level control. We would still have appreciated a remote.

Great, on the other hand, is the simple assignment of the speaker as mono, right or left channel as well as the adaptation to corner, wall or free placement via toggle levers. When a signal arrives, an automatism awakens the entire wireless system and equally sends it back into standby mode after ten minutes of inactivity; there is therefore no on/off switch. A comfortable idea, as we think.

Audiophile experience

The Premium Wireless 501 is extremely balanced in sound, charismatic in its vocal range and with very fine resolution and plasticity, not least due to the proven ribbon tweeter. However, the two 120 bass mid-range drivers in congenial coordination with the amplifier electronics also make a great impression in the bass range. The Swiss is further a strong competitor for the beauty award. Fantastic! ■



PLACEMENT OPTIONS

The presets for “free-standing”, “wall” and “corner” placement are very useful. The USB socket allows software options.

The Swiss gem sounds great – and looks stunning in its aluminum dress!