



# High End 2012







You only get one chance to make a first impression. The German-made Göbel Epoque Reference Bending-Wave loudspeaker proved to be a show stopper in its debut at this year's show. I've heard the term "bending-wave" but it was a very long time ago. I do recall Paul Paddock's Airfoil 5.2 Bending Wave loudspeakers back in the late '90s. But this German company says it has a new patent on this flat-panel type transducer.

What stood out beyond the shadow of doubt was the organic and natural reproduction of instruments. This, mind you from a PS Audio Perfect Wave transport/DAC combo - not necessarily state-of-the-art in digital playback - but this was as good as I have heard from this combo (also in attendance was the PS Audio Perfect Wave P10 Power Plant AC conditioner). Audia Flight amplification via Göbel's own Lacorde series of cables were used throughout.

I returned to this setup over and over again surprised each time by the overall ease and coherency of the Göbel Epoque, which amazingly employs 12 6.5" mid/bass drivers (six rear firing). Rumor has it this loudspeaker will retail for about \$120k here in states. Based solely on what I heard under these show conditions, I would qualify the Göbel Epoque Reference as a unique concept that sounds very good. Certainly a loudspeaker to keep under your radar. *(Clement Perry)*

