



# New Theater Reference Ny bioreferens

Svenska Procella är en stigande stjärna på hemmabio-himlen, och efter ett hett möte med deras P6 och P15 måste vi hålla med om att allt beröm är välförtjänt!

**Swedish Procella is a rising star in home theater heaven, and after a hot encounter with their P6 and P15, we must agree that all the praise is well deserved!**

If you do not know the brand Procella you need not be ashamed, as it has not been so long since we first heard of this Swedish speaker manufacturer. But the fact is that they have received much attention at home cinema exhibitions all over the world, where they have won several awards for best sound. And that is perhaps not surprising given that the Procella team comes from the cinema industry. We wanted to find out exactly how these speakers sound, and not long after they took our eager phone call a pallet appeared outside our door.

In relation to the five stylish speaker systems that we also test in this issue, Procella's design is more functional than the others, with less regard to the aesthetic. These speakers are designed to be heard, not seen - but they are also one of the most fiercely powerful home cinema systems we have ever heard.

#### **P6 and P15**

The speakers in the Procella system are built to the same principles as the reference movie theater at DTS London (see box). To achieve a holistic nature of sound reproduced in the front, center and rear, the system uses completely identical speakers. Both satellites and the subwoofer have sealed box (closed) cabinets for transient response that is as optimal as possible. Drivers are of incredibly high quality and the high frequencies use a waveguide that provides an even distribution, high efficiency and especially an unusually high sound pressure to come from such a small speaker.

The P6 meets THX requirements for small cinemas, yet it is only 4.9 inches deep and easy to hang on the wall (bracket included). Procella recommends that the front channels be mounted in a so-

called baffle wall behind an acoustically transparent film screen. The P15 subwoofer is icing on the cake. Thanks to the dual 15-inch drivers, the subwoofer is capable of moving enormous amounts of air. It is intended for THX-certified cinemas of up to 100 cubic meters. For larger rooms, two subwoofers is recommended, or the dual 18-inch P18 model.

#### **Sound Quality**

The system we tested consists of five pieces of the Procella P6 as front, center and rear speakers and one P15 subwoofer. Listening impressions are based on a provisional assembly in our own listening room. But even with a setup that is not one hundred percent optimum, one can hear the speakers have great potential, better than most other things we have heard from custom cinema speakers. The first thing you



### Procella P6

Tvåvägs högtalare  
Hördiskant  
6,5-tums bas/mellanregister  
Känslighet 90 dB  
Impedans: 8 ohm  
Frekvensomfång: 70–20 000 Hz  
14 000 kr/styck

### Procella P15

Aktiv subbas, 2 x 350 watt  
2 x 15-tums baselement  
Frekvensomfång: 22–100 Hz  
Max ljudtryck: 127 dB (50 Hz)  
Pris: 55 000 kr

Totalpris, 5.1-system: 125 000 kr

notice is how effortless everything sounds. The resolution, clarity and dynamics are in a class by themselves. Put on a chaotic film scene, such as the attack on Helm's Deep in "The Lord of The Rings – Two Towers" and you will be amazed at how relaxed and well-balanced it sounds. This is a scene I've seen countless times before, but never heard such a stoic calm and such good control. Even when ten thousand howling orcs storm on the screen, I can hear the raindrops and film score in the background. The sound is crystal clear in all channels and even exceeds that of even many more expensive hi-fi speakers.

The key is the compression driver tweeter, which ensures that there is a significant "headroom" over conventional speakers. Dome tweeters do not perform very well at sound pressures over 100 decibels, and therefore many THX-certified speakers use multiple (either two or three) dome tweeters.

Most talk is about subwoofers in home theater but it is in the center channel where everything happens. Too many home cinemas are stuck with an undersized center speaker, but this is not Procella. Instead of a thin and strained dialogue you get strong and clear vocals that hit you right in the stomach. The voices have tremendous clarity without being too colored, so they sound seductively genuine.

Cohesion of the sound is probably the best aspect of the Procella system. Completely identical speakers on all sides have absolute advantages on this level of quality. The dynamics are equally well reproduced from all directions and the levels are perfectly matched. You hear it especially well with soundtrack music, which is fluid through the front channels, with a real depth and perspective that is well separated from the rest of the sound.

The bass of the P15 subwoofer does not leave much to chance. Determined and brutal is only its first name. Compared with other macho-subs like the SVS and Velodyne, the P15 does have not the same powerful rumble in the deepest bass, but it has a tremendous impact between 40-50 Hz and above. In addition, it is very fast, precise and linear, allowing it to work equally well for music – whether on Blu-ray or on other music recordings. But even if a single P15 is able to produce enough clean sound pressure levels, we could imagine the improvement of an additional subwoofer to balance the bass response of the room, something Procella also recommended.

Although it is all about custom cinema speakers, they work surprisingly well with music. Thanks to its precise, but warm and pleasant tone, it sounds great with everything from hip hop to classical, although live recordings on Blu-ray are outstanding. Michael Jackson's "This Is

It" at full speed makes you think about replacing expensive two channel stereo gear in favor of a thoroughbred system from Procella. A system with this kind of sound pressure, dynamics and realism is hard to find!

### Requires installation

In another article in this issue, we test speaker systems that are designed to obtain the cinema feeling in the living room in an elegant and painless way. Procella is a completely different caliber in terms of sound quality and price - and requirements for installation. The price of a complete 5.1 system is well over one hundred thousand Krona, and it is not enough to set up them here and there and hook up an inexpensive home

theater receiver. These speakers suit those who want to build a real cinema room from scratch, with all that that entails.

### Conclusion

We could have written much more about these speakers; but this is hardly the last thing you will hear about Procella. Image & Sound Home has just bought a set of P6 and P15 as fixed reference speakers for our cinema room. Procella speakers are the best cinema speakers we have heard so far, and therefore the worthy successor to our Miller & Kreisel 150 THX system. The next step will be to install speakers correctly in our test room, which we hope to tell more about in an upcoming issue.

### PROCELLA

Historien om Procella börjar med svensken Anders Uggeberg och holländaren Gerben Van Duyl, som båda har en bakgrund från DTS (Digital Theater Systems). Anders är THX-certifierad biografdesigner och har ritat fler än 100 THX-godkända biografteater och ljudstudior. När han blev ombedd att konstruera ett nytt lyssningsrum för DTS europeiska huvudkvarter i London började han med att leta efter högtalare som levde upp till hans och DTS krav. Bion skulle inte ha fler än 32 sittplatser men ljudet skulle vara av referensskvalitet, kapabelt att återge befintliga och kommande högupplösta ljudformat. Ett av kraven – och en av de största utmaningarna med THX-godkända biografteater – var enhetligt ljud på varje sittplats.

Anders hittade inga högtalarsystem på marknaden som kunde leva upp till dessa krav i en liten salong, och utvecklade därför själv ett högtalarsystem från grunden, där han kombinerade designelement från både professionella biohögtalare och såväl studiomonitorer som High End-hemmabiohögtalare.

Systemet var färdigt 2005 och blev en braksuccé. Artister, ljudingenjörer och producenter lovordade ljudet i DTS-rummet. Det kom flera förfrågningar om huruvida det gick att bygga fler sådana rum. Intresset gav de två utvecklarna blodad tand och en kort tid senare lämnade de DTS och skapade högtalarmärket Procella.

### PROCELLA

The story of Procella begins with Swede Anders Uggeberg and Dutchman Gerben Van Duyl, both with a background from DTS (Digital Theater Systems). Anders is a THX-certified cinema designer and has designed more than 100 THX-certified cinemas and sound studios. When he was asked to design a new listening room for the DTS European headquarters in London he had to look for speakers who lived up to his and DTS standards. The theater would not have more than 32 seats but the sound would have to be of reference quality, capable of reproduce existing and future high-resolution audio formats. One of the requirements - and one of the biggest challenges with THX-certified cinemas - was unified sound for each seat.

Anders did not find any speaker system on the market that could meet these requirements for a small cinema, and developed therefore a speaker from scratch; where he combined design elements from professional cinema speakers, studio monitors and high-end home theater speakers. The system was completed in 2005 and became a huge success. Artists, sound engineers and producers paid tribute to the sound of the DTS room. There were inquiries from visitors as to whether was possible to build such rooms for them, and as a result of this Interest, the two developers, a short time later, left DTS and created the speaker brand Procella.

**Ljudkvalitet**  
★★★★★

**Funktionalitet**  
★★★★★

**Användning**  
★★★★★

**Kvalitetsintryck**  
★★★★★

**Pris: 125 000 kr**  
nshometheater.se

**+** Enorm klarhet och dynamik. Kraftfull och exakt djupbas.

**-** "Funktionellt" utseende. Högt pris.

### Sound Quality

★★★★★

### Functionality

★★★★★

### Usage

★★★★★

### Quality Impressions

★★★★★



Awesome clarity and dynamics. powerful and precise deep bass.



"Functional" look. High price.