

PASSION

An exclusive accordion by Klaus Paier



Klaus Paier, Austrian accordionist, bandoneonist and composer with international stage experience, has designed a new accordion to reflect his own unique ideas. The objective was to create a light and compact piano accordion with an additional free-bass enhancement for the left hand. In order to accommodate all the requirements in the cabinet and the mechanics, Klaus Paier created comprehensive, detailed drawings so that these aspects could be implemented in cooperation with a special Austrian company.

One of the greatest challenges in the overall construction was the mechanics for the additional freebass feature for the left hand. The existing mechanics with a system using fifths were redesigned by Klaus Paier, thereby reducing the weight of the bass section to a minimum. New dimensional requirements also necessitated new fabrication of nearly all of the components typically needed in accordion making. This represents an enormous amount of work for the construction, which precludes any conventional industrial manufacturing. To ensure coordination, meticulous care and quality in the final analysis, everything was made by a single source. After a two-year preparation and design phase, the result is now an exceptionally light and compact piano accordion with outstanding tonal characteristics.

What especially is new in the “Passion”?

Paier: *“What is new is first and foremost the minimalistic and compact design with the lowest weight possible. Of course, the weight depends on the size, multiple reeds and the components that are incorporated. Passion is an accordion with 41 keys, 4-reed with cassotto, 96 basses, and 3 freebass octaves. The weight amounts to 9.8 kg.”*

What makes such a low weight even with the freebass possible and what materials were used?

Paier: *“The cabinet parts needed to be as light as possible but still provide the best in stability. A good, anatomical construction with a perfect harmony of lines and form contribute not only to lower weight, but ultimately also to a comfortable feeling between the body and the instrument.*

In addition to the traditional poplar plywood, beech, maple, walnut and a special spruce tonewood from Mittenwald in Bavaria have been used in the construction. These woods not only have low weight, they also possess the best tonal qualities. The treble keyboard and bass mechanics were also designed with a unique lightweight construction and produced specially.”

Why the freebass enhancement designed with a system using fifths?

Paier: *“As compared to the chromatic converter, the choice of the system using fifths was an advantage for me because it entails virtually no extra weight in the bass section. The prerequisite for this, however, is that the tonal range be 3 octaves with one chorus and a switch with a register. Moreover, with the system using fifths, the standard bass sound remains identical to that of an accordion with “only” a standard bass. Playing requires no larger up and down movements of the left hand. Larger intervals are positioned closer together meaning that the left hand has more stability, strength and freedom for coordinating the bellows. This is a special advantage for carrying out the typical bellows phrasing and bellows articulation. Ultimately, the system using fifths makes it easier to play while standing.”*

Were some of the individual components also made by other companies?

Paier: *“The bellows, the fantastic reeds and various different small parts were made in Castelfidardo, Italy.”*

And, finally, what is it like to play the accordion you have built yourself?

Paier: *“The result is totally satisfying. This instrument fulfills a desire I have had for a very long time and it came about almost by necessity because it was to be light, easy to manage and provide me with more freedom while playing. I am delighted and also find myself unbelievably inspired being able to play an accordion that is so ideally suited to my music.”*



Specification

Right Hand				Left Hand					Reeds	Size (cm)	Weight (kg)
Keys	Chorus	Cassotto	Registers	Bass	Chorus	Registers	Freebass (Quintsystem)				
							Notes	Chorus			
41 (f-a3)	4	2 (16 + 8)	11	96	4	4	36 (A-g#1)	1 (low 2)	A Mano	47x20	9,8

Constructor

Anton Graßler (Fellner, Austria)
www.hansfellner.at

Infos

Anita Pechmann
 mail: info-passion@gmx.at
 phone: +43 650 35 75 322



www.klauspaier.com/accordion