

Sonic Differences Between Vandersteen Model 2 Generations

★ **1. Original Model 2 / 2A / 2B (1G77-1G80)**

General character

- Warm, full midrange
- Laid-back treble
- Bass is generous but a bit “loose” by modern standards
- Imaging is good but not razor-sharp

What you hear

- Very forgiving speaker.
 - Excellent for vocals and acoustic music.
 - Not as resolving or extended as later versions.
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★ **2. Model 2C (1G80-1G8G)**

Improvements

- Much better coherence between drivers
- Tighter woofer and cleaner midrange
- Smoother tweeter integration
- First version that really put the Model 2 “on the map”

What you hear

- More precise imaging
 - Bass noticeably better controlled
 - Cleaner, more neutral overall
 - Still slightly rolled off on top
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★ 3. Model 2Ci (1G8G-1GG1)

Improvements

- Major update to the midrange driver
- Better cabinet bracing inside
- More transparent crossover parts

What you hear

- Big jump in clarity and transient speed
- Midrange becomes more open and articulate
- Vocals become more lifelike
- Highs get a touch more sparkle

This is where the line begins sounding genuinely **modern**.

★ 4. Model 2Ce (1GG1-2001)

Improvements

- New tweeter with wider bandwidth
- Updated woofer for better linearity
- More sophisticated crossover

What you hear

- Airier top end
- More extended bass with significantly better timing
- Midrange is cleaner and less “chesty”
- Better dynamics at higher volumes

The 2Ce is a noticeable upgrade over the Ci — cleaner, more refined.

★ 5. Model 2Ce Signature (2001-2007)

Major improvements

- Premium tweeter (derived from the 3A)
- High-grade internal components

What you hear

- Much more high-frequency detail without harshness
- Imaging becomes *sharper and deeper*
- Huge reduction in grain — everything becomes more “liquid”
- Bass pitches are better defined

For many listeners, this was the sweet spot of the line.

★ 6. Model 2Ce Signature II (Anniversary Edition, 2007-2020)

Improvements

- Updated crossover slopes
- Lower distortion drivers
- Better time alignment implementation
- Cleaner internal wiring path

What you hear

- More transparency across the midband
- Instruments have better separation
- Treble is smoother and more refined
- Bass is tighter and more tuneful

This version sounds more like a miniature Model 3A than previous 2-series versions.

★ 7. Model 2Ce Signature III (2020-present)

Major improvements

- Simplified signal path (removal of user-adjustable trim controls)
- Revised circuit board layout
- New tweeter and midrange parts
- anical noise

What you hear

- Most **transparent and resolving** Model 2 ever made
- Noticeably **cleaner and faster midrange**
- Imaging becomes extremely precise
- Treble is sweet but more detailed — no edge, more “air”
- Bass integrates more seamlessly with the midrange

This is the most neutral, modern, and “invisible” sounding version of the Model 2.

👂 How They Compare in One Sentence Each

- **Original–2B:** warm, soft, musical, not very detailed.
 - **2C:** more coherent and balanced.
 - **2Ci:** clearer and more open — first big jump in resolution.
 - **2Ce:** deeper bass, smoother highs, cleaner mids.
 - **2Ce Signature:** high-end sparkle, better imaging, more finesse.
 - **2Ce Signature II:** more transparent and controlled, lower distortion.
 - **2Ce Signature III:** most refined, most accurate, highest-resolution Model 2 ever.
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🏆 What’s the biggest audible leap?

If you're wondering which version sounds **most different** from the previous:

2Ci → 2Ce and **Signature II → Signature III**

are the two largest sonic upgrades in the entire history of the Model 2 line.