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T O N E

no.95 April 2019

The Tokyo Record Bar.





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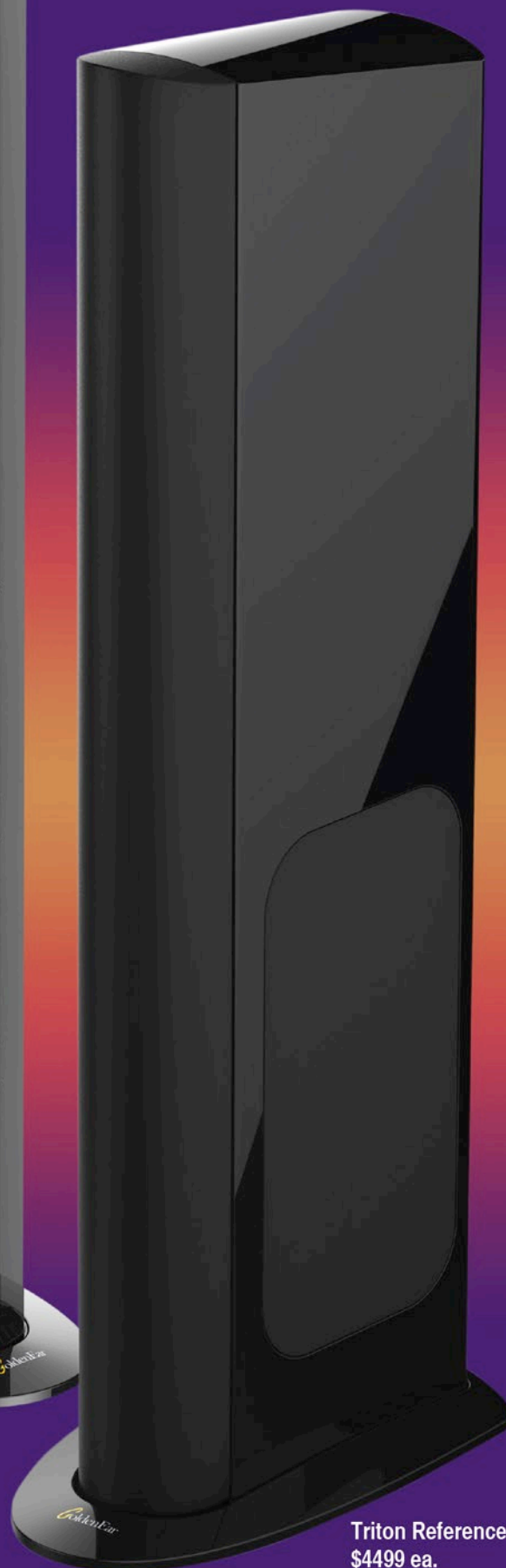
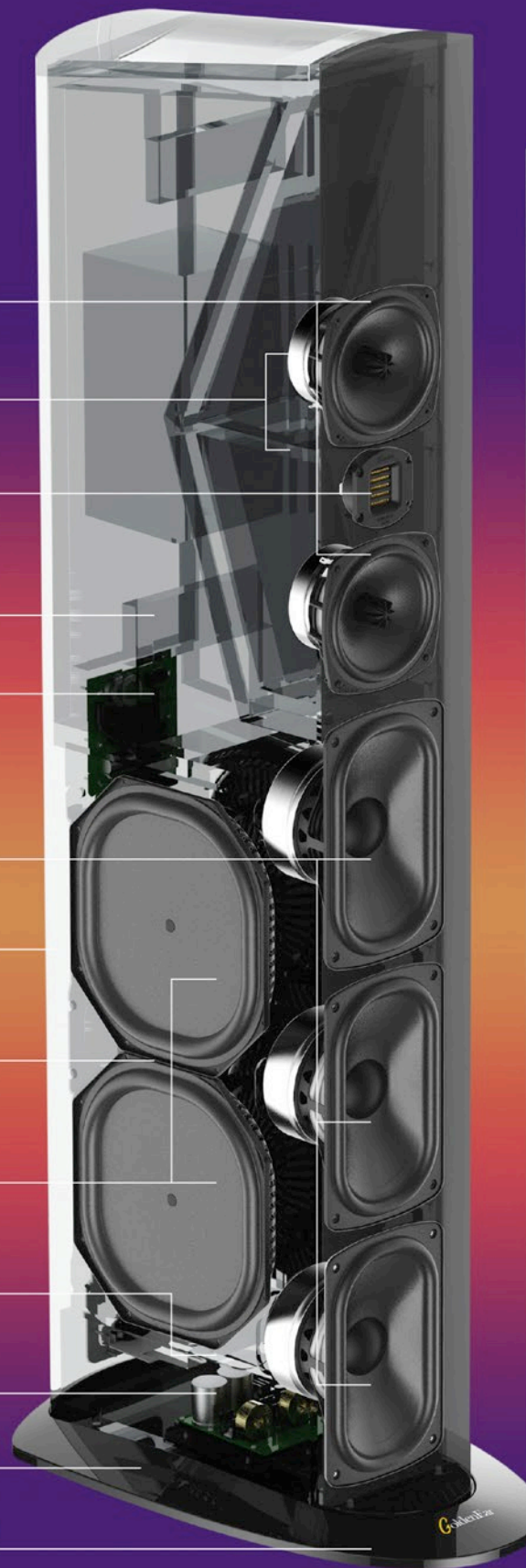
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– Jeff Dorgay, *Tone Audio*

"A remarkable amount of transparency, life and soundstage detail ... fully competitive with some substantially more expensive speakers"

– Anthony Cordesman, *The Absolute Sound*

GoldenEar's Triton One is one of the best selling high-end loudspeakers ever, consistently thrilling listeners and reviewers alike and winning an enviable and unmatched collection of the industry's most prestigious awards, including "Loudspeaker-of-the-Year" and "Product-of-the-Year" from key publications all around the world.

Clearly, we knew that the One would be a very hard act to follow. There was a spirited discussion within our product development group about an all-out assault on the ultimate, cost-no-object, state-of-the-art, to produce a six-figure loudspeaker to do battle with the most esoteric and expensive loudspeakers on the planet. However, after much soul-searching, rational minds won out, and the decision was made to create a new GoldenEar flagship, positioned above the Triton One (of course still current and available), that would joust with the best, but still stick to our trademarked slogan, "We Make High-End Affordable." We are pleased and proud to introduce the new Triton Reference. The Reference has begun gathering its own collection of honors, winning the prestigious and coveted CES Innovations Design and Engineering Award, Digital Trends Best Home Audio Tech at CES, HD GURU Best High Fidelity Loudspeaker at CES and What HiFi Stars of CES!

"Undeniably stellar ... Yes, it does deliver the sort of performance previously delivered only by cost-no-object speakers." – Dennis Burger, *Home Theater Review*

The Triton Reference is an evolution of everything that we have achieved with the Triton One, but taken to a stunning new level of sonic performance and sophisticated visual design. All the components in the T Ref: including larger, more powerful, active sub-bass drivers with huge "Focused Field" magnet structures, upper-bass/midrange drivers with "Focused Field" magnet structures, and High-Velocity Folded Ribbon tweeter with 50% more rare earth neodymium magnet material, are brand new, and have been specifically developed for use in the Reference. The powerful 1800 watt subwoofer amplifier, with level control to fine tune the bass to your room, and 56-bit DSP control unit are a significant evolution of those in the Triton One and our SuperSubs.

There are a myriad of other significant upgrades and refinements, including: new internal wiring with a specially developed twist, further development of our signature balanced crossover including

film capacitors bridged across the high-pass section on the upper-bass/midrange drivers, a unique proprietary mix of long-fiber lamb's wool and Dacron for more effective internal damping, intensive work with a high-resolution accelerometer to determine the most effective implementation of complex internal bracing, a 3/32"-thick steel plate built into the medite base to further stiffen it for increased stability, new stainless steel floor spikes and cups, all of which results in higher resolution of subtle details ... and the list goes on and on.

"The Triton Reference presents a serious challenge to speakers in the multi \$10K range"

– Robert Deutsch, *Stereophile*

Visually, the Reference offers a strikingly beautiful upgrade to the classic Triton styling, with a gorgeous hand-rubbed piano gloss-black lacquer finished one-piece monocoque cabinet. Sleek, statuesque and refined, the Reference is simply an elegantly gorgeous statement piece that will excite listeners with its dynamic visual presence, as well as its extraordinary sonic performance.

Sonically, the Reference has been engineered to perform with a dramatic and authoritative voice, comparable to speakers that sell for ten and more times its surprisingly affordable price. T Refs completely disappear, with superb three-dimensional imaging that will open up your room, stretching from wall to wall and beyond, and depth that makes the wall behind them seem to vanish. The astonishing bass is rock-solid, with low-frequency performance that is tight, quick, highly impactful and musical with extension flat to 20Hz and below. Another GoldenEar signature is a silky smooth high end that extends to 35 kHz with a lifelike sheen but no trace of fatiguing hardness, sibilance or stridency so common with lesser tweeters. Tremendous time and energy has been put into the voicing of the speaker and the seamless blending of the drivers, for unmatched musicality with all types of music, and home theater perfection. Rarely do speakers excel at both, but with their world-class neutrality, the Reference absolutely does. A special bonus is the Reference's extremely high 93.25 dB sensitivity, which gives them tremendous dynamic range and allows use with almost any high-quality amplifier. You must experience T Ref for yourself!

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In House

The soundtrack of assembling the issue...



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(Deluxe) - Frank Zappa

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TONE2.0

Audio

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new arrivals...

Roscoe Trey Nicholson is jumping on our boat to help with reviews and is now officially our "podcast editor," so he will also be helping to curate podcasts and link them to our Podcast sponsor, Qobuz. That way you can follow along at home, and that's always a good thing.

Hailing from the windy city, RTN has an incredibly eclectic musical taste, a keen wit, and a super cool dog.

He'll fit in just fine here!



No, our fascination with Legos will not go away. You know where to find it...

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Business as usual...

We're back to our usual eclectic mix of gear this issue, so we hope you enjoy it.

And with that we bring back a favorite:

VPI's new HW-40 marks their return to direct drive.

Don't let the understated look fool you, this table is a top performer.



Audio Solutions

"Excellent depth and rich tonal characterization of orchestral instruments"
Andrew Quint, The Absolute Sound RMAF 2018

"Unanticipated ability to reveal honest instrumental textures, realistic weight, significant impact, and accurate body."
Greg Weaver, EnjoyTheMusic.com RMAF 2018

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Darryl Wilkinson, *Sound & Vision*



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no.95

P u b l i s h e r s L e t t e r

Just a quick apology that this issue is a bit behind schedule, but as Bart Simpson likes to say, “it’s not my fault man.” Well, it kind of is, but I’m bringing it to you as a public service announcement. Take care of your back my friends and readers.

Somehow I keep forgetting that even though I haven’t sent that AARP membership application back yet, years of moving big things is starting to catch up with me. While the snowstorms I remember from my youth keep getting bigger in the rearview mirror, speakers and power amplifiers are getting bigger (and heavier) in the present. I just don’t remember amplifiers weighing nearly 200 pounds and speakers in the 300 – 600 pound range.

Good as I am with a hand truck and a piano dolly, I did the unthinkable the other day, I twisted. You could say it was a twist and shout moment. If you must lift heavy stuff, do not combine a twisting moment with lifting, no matter how strong you think your core section is.

Fortunately, nothing worse than a strain happened, but it was enough that my doctor grounded me from flying for a few weeks and highly suggested that I stop driving for a while too. It proved to be good fortune that only a week before this happened I had a new desk installed that can be used in the sitting and standing positions. I’m doing a lot more of the latter than the former these days.

Ok, done with parent mode, let’s go back to having fun. Where our last issue had a bit more of a theme, this is back to a little bit of this, a little bit of that. It’s a nice mix, starting with the \$999 Pro-Ject MaiA DS integrated amplifier, all the way up to the Sonus faber flagship speakers at \$250,000/pair. That’s not a typo.

And finally, on our cover, a shot from the Tokyo Record Bar, in NYC. We’ve got a brief interview with their owner, discussing why she loves the sound of vinyl enough to put it in her restaurant, and why she chose McIntosh to power it. Being right in the hood, Greg Petan dropped in to sample the food and the sound.

That’s all for now. Stay safe.



Playlist:

What Our Readers Are Into

Bjork - Frosti

Bjork - Aurora

Windy & Carl - The Frost in Winter

Codeine - Realize

Labraford - Disremembering

Pink Floyd - The Thin Ice

Cocteau Twins - Otterly

Sigur Ros - Untitled #1 (Vaka)

MONO - Ashes in the Snow



Reminiscing the recent winter cold, Playlist editor Roscoe Trey Nicholson gives us some “Atmosphere From the Frozen Tundra.”

Check out these tracks and you'll feel February all over again!

no. 1 Chicago

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Old School

Respecting HiFi's Past...

Words and Images by Juan Cavillo

Publishers note: My favorite part of this job is interacting with our readers, and finding out about their adventures. Late one evening, Juan Cavillo sent me a message on Facebook with a picture of a fairly trashed Pioneer turntable, the "before" in this article. I think you'll agree that he did a pretty amazing job bringing this vintage table back to life, and it was kind of him to contribute this issue's "Old School" column.

The Craigslist headline read "Outdated Audio Gear". A photo of a dusty turntable with a wood plinth piled on a table with assorted speakers and such didn't look promising. The next two photos had nothing interesting, but in the last was a baby Marantz receiver – a 2215. As this was at the top of my must have list, a quick phone conversation revealed a reasonable price and a not so quick wait for another five days to view it. But that turntable kept eating at me.



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10 products of the year and most wanted components
in just 2 years by preserving relative phase relationships in a signal



"If you're looking for a major jump in your system's performance, I'd suggest buying a pair of these instead of considering a hardware upgrade. Before you write this advice off to cable delusion, expectation bias, or the recent Mercury retrograde phase, please take note: I have never said this in TONE's 11-year history"

Jeff Dorgay, Tone Audio

"Well, I have just stumbled upon a speaker cable that I'm very tempted to put in a class of its own"

Mono & Stereo



"Tellurium Q have surpassed themselves here. It is often said that all cables colour the sound of a system to some extent, but the Silver Diamonds do it to a lesser extent than any other product I've heard so far."

John Myles, HiFi World

The effect of phase distortion can be likened to smearing a beautiful picture or looking at it through frosted glass. All signal cables do this to some degree and the better you tackle the engineering challenges to combat phase distortion the more natural the sound you get.



== TQ ==

Old School

Respecting HiFi's Past...

Words and images by Juan Cavillo



An inquiry on the Audio Karma forum, as to whether this mystery was worth anything didn't stay idle for long.

Someone from Vancouver B.C. identified it as a Pioneer PL-41. Others chiming in remarked it was a good table, and the top of Pioneer's lineup in the late 1960s.

I caved on game day, passing on the table, but driving home with the 2215 and a head full of second thoughts. Road trips can do that to you...

Old School

Respecting HiFi's Past...

Words and images by Juan Cavillo

Back home, I called the seller back, asking about the PL-41 again. One more journey and it was installed in my test system. You can see from the photo, it was a bit rough, but other than playing a bit slow, this relic from the 60s sounded much better than I expected.

Two quick tests revealed 32.9 and 33.1 r.p.m. respectively, and the arm dropped like a rock when set down on a record. Not good.

I had to lower it manually and very slowly to the down position so that the stylus would not bounce across the record. Obviously, a new belt and damping fluid were the first areas to address.

The workings of the PL-41 are easy to get at; you merely need to slide a few latches and pull the bottom cover open to access the mechanism.

Unscrewing a cap on the bottom of the spindle column revealed a fractured thrust plate. With the necessary parts ordered, further examination reveals the rest of the table to be in good order.

The fluid and thrust plate went in easily, but the platter was stubborn and actually required a rubber mallet blow to the spindle, while pulling up on the platter, to set it free. Not a grand-slam swing, mind you, but a bit more than a gentle tap. The capstan and the platter were cleaned again to make sure there was no crud between them and the belt. I crossed my fingers, installed the belt and powered it up. Two more tests indicated 33.31 and 33.33 – up to modern specs!

Now the table was moved off the bench and mated with the Marantz 2215B and a pair of Canton Karat 200s to create a proper vintage system. With the speed issues solved and better speakers, the little Pioneer really rocks.



The moral of the story?

Don't miss the forest for the trees. Sure, we all want to stumble onto that vintage pair of McIntosh MC30s or Marantz 2275 receiver at a garage sale for next to nothing. If you're vigilant, it just might happen.

But while you're waiting, don't overlook the interesting but unidentified piece. Sometimes that is just as satisfying. Even though this table started out looking like it had survived the big one, it didn't mean it couldn't still make music after a day at the spa.

If you are new to the vintage game, keep your eyes on the Audio Karma forum, it's a great resource for parts, repair information, and often some much needed motivation to finish your project!

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995

Great sound for less than a G!

By Jerold O'Brien

Pro-Ject MaiA DS2
\$999
project-audio.com

Pro-Ject Audio has a world-wide reputation for providing maximum value components that require a minimum of space. In the US, they tend to be better known for their turntables, but their modular set of DAC's, amplifiers, phono stages and such are almost like Legos. You can mix and match as the situation dictates, and they nearly always offer an upgraded, external power supply for more performance later. In this case, we are talking about the \$499 Power Box DS, which takes the DS2 to another level of performance entirely, and will power up to five more Pro-Ject components. We like this because it will eliminate all those unsightly bits hanging from your outlets. This also greatly diminishes the noise that said power supplies generate.

The MaiA DS2 is available in matte silver or black finish, and a variety of wood grained side panels, as illustrated below. This little power house only measures 9 1/2 inches square and is only a few inches tall. If you are space challenged, but don't want to sacrifice good sound, the DS2 is the perfect answer.

With 135 watts per channel on tap (via Class-D amplification) it can even drive a pair of Magnepan MMGs without trouble. For our listening tests, we used a pair of Paradigm Atom SEs, Bowers & Wilkins 607s and even a \$25k pair of Raidho D1.1s, along with a vintage pair of A/D/S 300is. All worked perfectly.

And if that's not enough, the DS2 is a great headphone amplifier. Nearly all the headphones we used were worth the cost of the DS2, but again, the performance was fantastic.

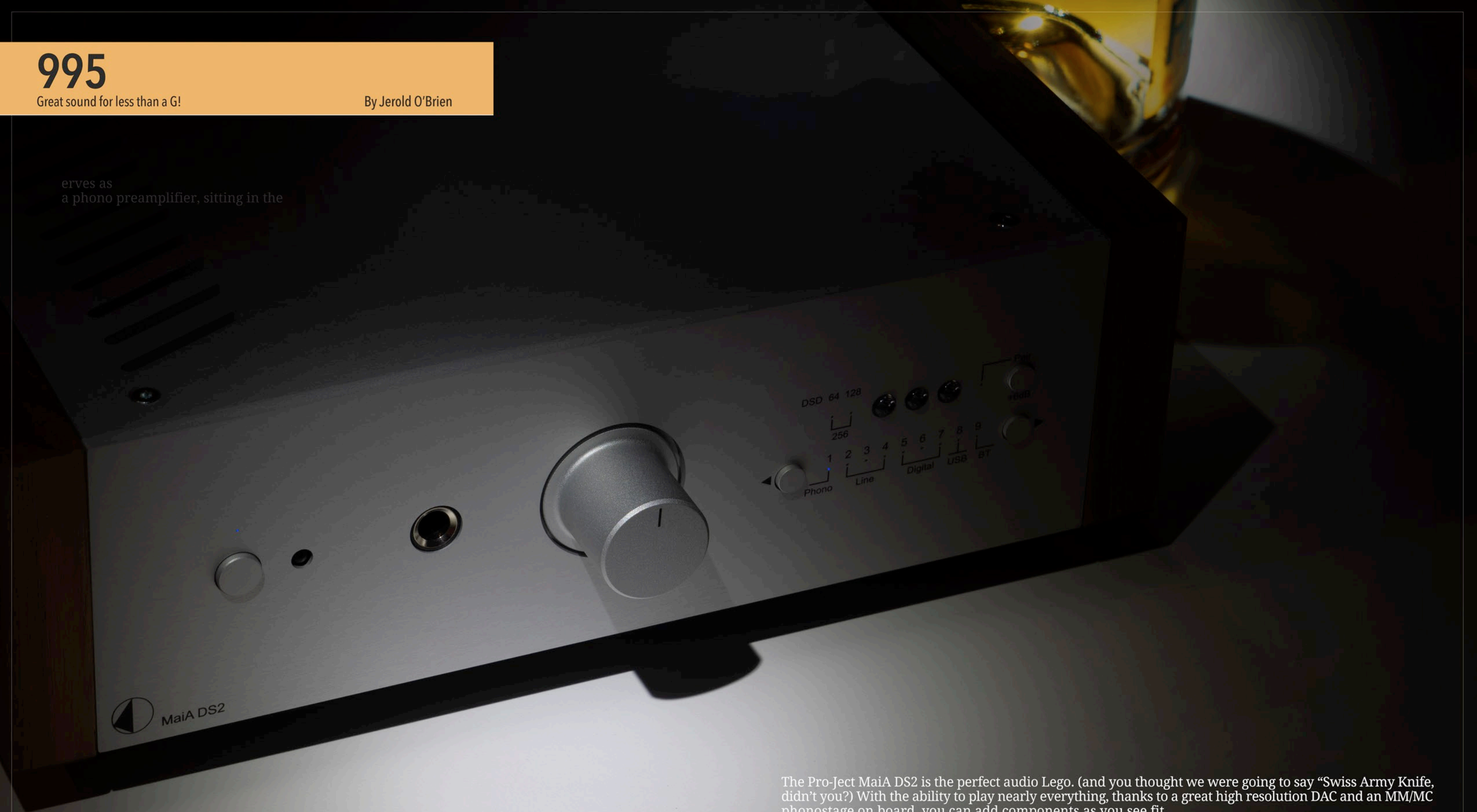


995

Great sound for less than a G!

By Jerold O'Brien

erves as
a phono preamplifier, sitting in the



MaiA DS2



Compact form factor
Great phono stage
Plenty of power



Not ROON ready

The Pro-Ject MaiA DS2 is the perfect audio Lego. (and you thought we were going to say “Swiss Army Knife, didn’t you?) With the ability to play nearly everything, thanks to a great high resolution DAC and an MM/MC phono stage on board, you can add components as you see fit.

Even if you *never* use it to drive a pair of speakers, at \$999 it makes a great headphone amplifier that has the ability to play everything. Yet, as your audio interest grows, you can easily add the larger power supply and a pair of great speakers.

995

Great sound for less than a G!

By Jerold O'Brien

As you can see, you can plug *everything* into the DS2. It even has an antenna for wireless streaming. Subwoofer and trigger capabilities are also a plus. We do suggest speaker cables terminated with banana plugs, as this is a densely packed rear panel.

The only thing lacking is the ability to decode MQA files and use the DS2 as a ROON endpoint.

But, you can't have everything for \$999, and now that Qobuz is here, the 24/192 DAC will definitely come in handy.

We made it a point to use a few modestly priced phono cartridges with excellent result, and the optical digital inputs are fantastic for breathing life into an aging CD player should you have one about.

Though the \$499 Power Box adds some bulk to the form factor, and prices the DS2 out of reach for our 995 column, it is a very worthwhile upgrade, especially if you end up adding a current hungry pair of speakers to your system.

For the price, the Pro-Ject MaiA DS2 is tough to beat, offering sound, style, and function way beyond its meager price tag.



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The Audiophile Apartment

Sound for Small Spaces

By Jeff Dorgay

Anniversary Party: The Harbeth P3ESR Anniversary Edition

The current “40th Anniversary” P3ESR is an interesting little speaker. First and foremost, because it sounds good. It’s not the “world’s best” or “world’s most loved” as the Harbeth website claims, because what is? It’s also intriguing, because I remember sitting in Harbeth’s Allen Shaw’s listening room, listening to him tell me that little things like capacitors and wire don’t matter and don’t sound different. Yet here we are with an anniversary edition speaker utilizing upgraded binding posts, special Harbeth upgraded wire and premium capacitors inside. Hmmm.

All thumping on Mr. Shaw aside, these are fantastic little speakers, and thanks to a few tweaks are even better than they have ever been before. And they are an incredible value at \$2,890/pair. Should you share Mr. Shaw’s view on premium components, save yourself a few bucks and buy a standard pair for about \$750 less.

Between you and me, get the 40th anniversary pair – they are far less boxy and cloudy sounding than the standard model.

A small speaker can only move so much air, and like every other small monitor, there’s not much useable information below 70hz here. However, careful nearfield placement in a small room will mitigate this considerably. True to their BBC heritage, the little Harbeths do an incredible job in the midband, reproducing voices and acoustic instruments in a lifelike manner. And for that matter, better than a lot of more expensive speakers.



The Audiophile Apartment

Sound for Small Spaces

By Jeff Dorgay

Initial swaps between vintage LS3/5a, the current Graham Audio LS3/5a and the P3ESRs had me feeling the Harbeths a bit rolled off, but further comparison reveals that the Harbeth tweeter has slightly less horizontal dispersion, so they will just need to be optimized a bit more carefully when setting up.

If you think the Harbeths are wooly, you've them set up incorrectly.

Play with the rake angle a bit. A few degrees of tilt will change the perspective dramatically. To the better.

Once properly set up, the small Harbeths offer a sonic presentation that rivals my Quads in terms of soundstage dimension and midrange neutrality, though the ESLs get the edge in ultimate transparency and low level resolution. (as they should at nearly five times the price) Grooving on Paul Weller's lead vocal in the Style Council's "You're The Best Thing" is warm, deep and enticing, keeping Weller's voice locked in place, separate from the backing vocals and the instrumental play. Ditto for Japan's "Nightporter," and Shriekback's "Underwater Boys."

Bouncing through a long, totally 80s playlist of music that has normally been considered compressed and one dimensional, is a revelation through the small Harbeths. Duran Duran's "Reflex" fills the room, with layer upon layer of information, as does the Pogue's rendition of "Dirty Old Town." These tiny speakers have a big fun factor. Set up in my main listening room in a small, nearfield configuration, music without a ton of low frequency content is stunning and spacious. The level of tonal correctness and sheer amount of musical information that they do reveal is exceptional for the price.

Enjoy the Experience



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The Audiophile Apartment

Sound for Small Spaces

By Jerold O'Brien

Harbeth speakers have always been amplifier friendly, and the current P3 is no exception. As long as you have about 30 watts per channel on tap, you should be good.

More quality power on tap will offer more dynamic clarity with these speakers.

Running through a gamut of tube and solid-state amplification, the sheer resolving power of these speakers easily reveal the character of the wide range of amplifiers at my disposal.

Interestingly enough, my favorite amplifier with these speakers is the single-ended, solid state Sugden A21SE. This single ended class A design is a heavenly match for these speakers.

PrimaLuna's HP Integrated comes in a close second, and neither of these amplifiers will break the bank, should you want to build an entire system around them.



Playlist: What Our Readers Are Into



Who better to give us some favorite tracks than Qobuz' one and only David Soloman? If you've attended any hifi shows at all, you know what a huge music geek David is.

(He actually gave us 50 tracks...)

no. 2 Roswell

TONE Playlists are sponsored by:



- Stravinsky - Introduction: The Firebird and her Dance
- London Grammar - Hey Now
- Etta James - At Last
- John Martyn - Glory Box
- Darkside - Paper Trails
- Malia - Celestial Echo
- Glass Animals - LDNT
- Fink - Trouble's What You're In
- Charlie Hunter - Hi Lo
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Renaissance ESL 15A is a revolutionary melding of form and function. This is exactly what we mean by *Truth in Sound*.

The reviews are in. This is our Masterpiece

martinlogan.com/truth

"Yes, I've drunk the Kool-Aid for years. But even though I'm pre-primed to like electrostatic-panel speakers, I'd never found a one-stop solution I could live with. Now that a MartinLogan active subwoofer endowed with ARC-2 has been successfully mated to an XStat panel, anyone serious about big, full, accurate sound reproduction can start here. Unconditionally recommended."

Renaissance ESL 15A
Jon Iverson, Stereophile

"...the best bass response I've ever heard in my room in the areas of overall smoothness of response and of clarity, definition, and pitch differentiation."

Impression ESL 11A
Paul Seydor, The Absolute Sound

"It's a powerful, dynamic, musical fun maker with the usual MartinLogan characteristics of good imagery and great detail... and terrific integration between cones and panel. Factor in the benefit of subtle DSP room compensation and this electrostatic hybrid design comes extremely highly recommended!"

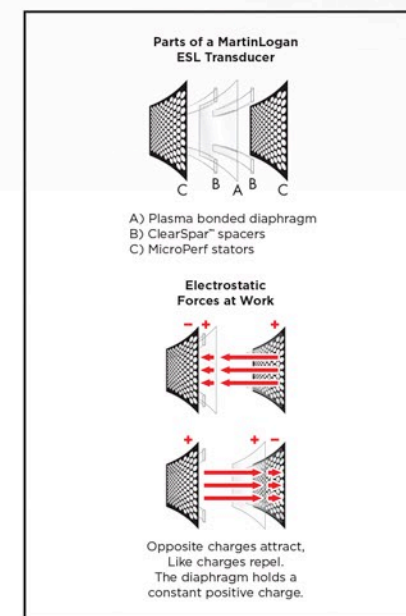
Impression ESL 11A
Alan Sircom, Hi-Fi+

"MartinLogan has hit a home run... This speaker improves upon the traditional MartinLogan strong points of transparency and detail and adds a much improved bass section to create a well-rounded, great-sounding speaker."

Expression ESL 13A
Brian Kahn, HomeTheaterReview.com

"...a world-class speaker. It is revealing, accurate and has the huge soundstage one expects of a dipole radiator."

Impression ESL 11A
Glenn Young, Secrets of Home Theater & High Fidelity



Renaissance
ESL 15A
by MARTINLOGAN

35
YEARS
1983 - 2018

Optimized or Compromised?



With the modular OCTAVE HP 700 preamplifier, there is no trade-off!

With the OCTAVE **HP 700** tube preamplifier there is no sacrifice of personal customization to enjoy perfect sound quality. Distinguished by its powerful and airy sound, the **HP 700** also boasts the incredible flexibility of eight optional high-end input modules, allowing perfect customization to any system without a hint of audible compromise.

OCTAVE

MODERN CLASSIC



Crafted from the highest grade components



Audiophile tone control option



Perfectly optimized optional input modules

The Audiophile Apartment

Sound for Small Spaces

By Jeff Dorgay

Serial number
40THX346L

Details of this loudspeaker
recorded in our Master Lab



Hand made in England
www.harbeth.co.uk

Conclusions

Harbeth purists might find the thought of adding a subwoofer heresy, but why not? Again, because these are such resolving speakers, a boomy, one-note, budget sub will not provide the desired effect. As we still had a pair of REL Carbon subs here, moving one into the big listening room, right in the center of the speakers works perfectly. REL suggests corner loading for maximum effect, but the slightly diminished effect of being directly in the room makes mating with the Harbeths sheer perfection.

Considering how well these little speakers disappear in the room to begin with, giving them some seamless, low range grunt makes for a \$6,500 full range system that's tough to beat. Only when playing the loudest heavy rock at unreasonable levels do they show their limitations.

So, if you're looking for a great small pair of speakers that will unobtrusively coexist in a modest living room, the Harbeths certainly get my vote.

The P3ESR Anniversary Edition
\$2,890/pair

www.harbeth.co.uk

The Journeyman Audiophile

Sound for a bit more than a G...

By Shanon Swetlishnoff

Exploring the Chord Qutest DAC

Perhaps it was fate that brought Rob Watts and John Franks together in 1994 at CES. Ironically, Rob Watts' parents had recently bought John Franks' childhood home and from this serendipitous conversation, a collaboration was born. Although John Franks originally started Chord Electronics in 1989, it has grown significantly since Rob Watts joined the team, becoming a well-respected audio company based in the UK. Chord's Qutest DAC is just one of the award winning and innovative products that has resulted.

The Qutest makes a statement before the box is even unpacked. The thoughtful and unique packaging with its slick sleeve and nifty slide out drawer gives the Qutest a grand entrance. A 1.5m 5V 2a micro switching micro USB power supply (wall wart), a 2m A to B USB cable, an overview owner's manual and soft silk bag are included. But don't be fooled by its unassuming size and pricetag that won't make you break into a cold sweat when you hand over the credit card. Measuring only 41mm H x 160mm W x 72mm D (1.6" x 6.7" x 2.8") and weighing in at 770g (27 oz), the Qutest holds the potential for great sounding digital music in a stylish and solidly built desktop design.

Qutest sports two spherical, polycarbonate buttons and a circular glass window in the top panel. This window into the heart of the DAC illuminates to indicate the sample rate of the incoming data: red for 44.1kHz, through orange, yellow, lime, green, teal, blue, and purple as the sample rate increases to 768kHz and white for DSD data up to DSD 256. The Qutest does not support MQA files. The left button selects the filter and the right button is used to select the source. The maximum output level is fixed, but if the filter and source buttons are pressed simultaneously when the DAC is powered up, the level can be set to 3V, 2V, or 1V.

The Journeyman Audiophile

Sound for a bit more than a G...

By Shanon Swetlishnoff



Four filter options are available: Incisive Neutral (button illuminates white), Incisive Neutral HF roll-off (green), Warm (orange), and Warm HF roll-off (red). These filters aren't necessarily reliant on a specific equalization curve but actively changes the way the FPGA (Field Programmable Gate Array) processes the data. On the rear panel are four digital inputs: two S/PDIF on BNC jacks (button illuminates yellow and red respectively), one S/PDIF optical on a TosLink jack (green) and a USB port (white).

Qutest also pairs well wirelessly with the excellent music management app Roon so that high resolution platforms such as Qobuz can be enjoyed with ease.

ABYSS[®]
Made in America



Diana[®]

The Journeyman Audiophile

Sound for a bit more than a G...

By Shanon Swetishnoff

The magic of the Qutest is all about what's inside. In a world where off the shelf DAC chips are readily available, Chord is in rare territory, going the FPGA route. The Qutest is built with Chord's most innovative technology to date, utilizing the Xilinx Artix 7 chip and the XC7A15T processor right out of the Hugo 2 portable headphone amp. This has allowed the Qutest to be 30% faster and 50% more efficient than its predecessor, the 2Qute. Huge, considering the 2Qute is an excellent DAC. The Watts Transient Aligned filters increased the tap length from 2Qute's 26,368 to a whopping 49,152 using a 10 element Pulse Array design. To put this in perspective, an 'off the shelf' standard chip may offer a couple hundred taps at best.

This truly customizable technology results in less electronic jitter or interference, satisfying Chord's premise that less jitter means a more natural analogue sound. The Qutest does not disappoint in this respect. Digital music can sound notoriously sterile and lack that warm analogue feel, however the Qutest handily eliminates that by softening the edge while keeping the sound crisp, clean and enjoyable.

Scrolling through the filters, the warm(orange) setting proves my favorite, but this will be a subject for experimentation with some listeners. Beware the urge to over process! Pink Floyd's "Us and Them" in DSD was the perfect way to begin listening in earnest, with major dynamics revealed.



I was surprised at the level of detail now in the mix with the guitar and sax now perkier than ever. There is no hint of a sharp digital edge or harshness. Buena Vista Social Club's "Chan Chan" in 96/24 FLAC convincingly reveals the sincerity in Ibrahim Ferrer's voice, with the detailed percussion and guitar sound is separated, forward and full of warm Cuban spice.

Equally enticing is a 24/96 version of Mark Knopfler's "Redbud Tree." The smooth, layered sound that Knopfler is famous for excites, with an abundance of tonal saturation throughout. Redbook files proved equally involving, so those of you that haven't yet embraced high resolution digital files will not be disappointed in the least. Regardless of files chosen, I find the Qutest on par with my vinyl front end; enough so I can easily relax and enjoy, without feeling that digital playback was taking a back seat.

The Qutest can be used with a computer, tablet, CD transport, network streamer, or wirelessly. And it is a ROON endpoint. This flexibility allows the listener to enjoy high resolution digital music from the most convenient source. One small drawback for consideration is the inability of the Qutest to render MQA files. For satisfying performance, versatility and great value in a relatively small DAC, the Qutest is hard to beat.

Truly, this is a piece of equipment that can be enjoyed for hours and hours of great digital music listening. At \$1,895, it gives a serious helping of big bucks digital at an approachable price.

The Chord Qutest DAC

\$1,895

chordelectronics.co.uk

Brinkmann Audio Edison Mk II

Ultimate Analog Performance



Photo © MichaelRasche.com 2018

During its eight-year production run, Edison has become the Phono Preamplifier of choice for connoisseurs who demand ultimate versatility as well as State-of-the-Art performance.

Edison Mk II is more than an enhancement of its legendary predecessor. The culmination of Helmut Brinkmann's four decades of audio design, it is our definitive statement of the analog art.

The Edison Mk II version is now available at selected Brinkmann dealers. Owners of the original Edison can upgrade their unit to the Mk II standard.

BRINKMANN

"The World's Finest Turntables ... and more!"

brinkmann-usa.com

MINE: it should be yours

Welcome to MINE:

We're not just crazy about music and hi-fi here at TONE. While we can put many labels on our ethos, claiming to be music lovers, audiophiles, or perhaps even qualityphiles, that doesn't even cover it. Having me so many of our readers from all over the globe, as we are well into our 13th year, I'd say our readers are playful and inquisitive to say the least.

You've told us you like automobiles, motorcycles, fine art, bicycles, toys, cameras... Well, you get the picture. Lumping this all under a banner labeled "Style" seems too limiting. Let's face it, we're all a little selfish when it comes to our stuff.

So, let's call it what it is - MINE! And we'll be sharing more of our favorite stuff as we go.

Waxed Canvas Gear Duffel

\$249 - \$305
krsaddleshop.com

King Ranch has been making fine canvas and leather goods since 1853, and their gear is built to take hard, daily use and still look great.

Offered in two sizes, you don't need to be a rodeo star to make use of one. These are a perfect size for whatever you need to tote around on a regular. Available in the green you see here, or a more traditional khaki color, and monogramming is available too.



Easy Peasy Lemon Squeezy



Control your entire audio environment with whatever's handy.

It all makes sense when you hear **Linn DSM**.

Find out more at www.linn.co.uk



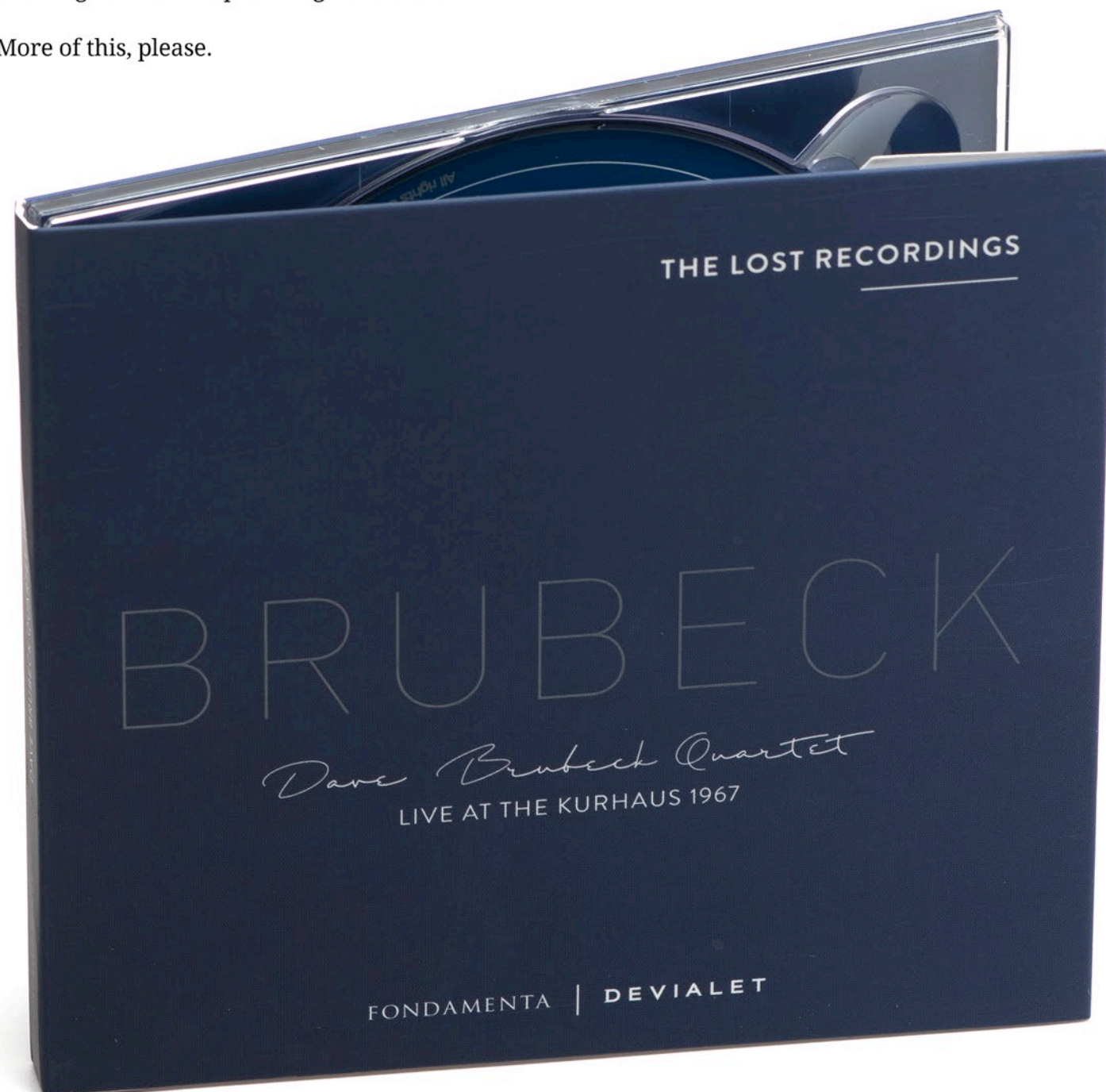
In House

The soundtrack of assembling the issue...

Live at the Kurhaus 1967 - Dave Brubeck Quartet

Beautiful music, beautifully recorded and exquisitely packaged. Congrats to Devialet and their team for showing so much respect for great music.

More of this, please.



EAT European Audio Team's C-Major

Exceptionally engaging, endearing sound.*

"It looks stunning...
Best of all it sounds fantastic."

Highly recommended.

Exceptional Value Award Winner

Jeff Dorgay
Tone Audio

"...screams sophistication, obviously a luxury product... a winner and a wonderful component. Combine such elegance with high-tech materials and exemplary finishing -- as EAT has in the C-Major -- and you've got a winner."

Highly recommended.

*Jason Thorpe
SoundStage Hi-Fi!

 VANA LTD

VANA is proud to represent EAT in the USA vanaltd.com

MINE: it should be yours

Yabba, Dabba, Doo!
The Lego Flintstones Set

\$TBD
lego.com

You know we are huge LEGO fans here at TONE, because, well, you can't just clean records or argue about cables and MQA all day long, can you?

If you're into them as much as we are, or your favorite kids love them, inject a bit of old school fun into their lives with the latest special project from Lego, to be out in stores by this summer.

There was a link to pre-order these on the LEGO site, but it is now down, so we are keeping our fingers crossed.



audio research
HIGH DEFINITION®

REFERENCE 160 M VACUUM TUBE POWER AMPLIFIER



SOUND HAS NEVER BEEN SO TRANSPARENT

After two years in development, the all new REF160M is now shipping. It features switchable Ultralinear/Triode operation, proprietary auto-bias, output tube monitoring and protection, an innovative transparent power meter, and legendary Audio Research sound.

Contact your local Audio Research Dealer for an audition.

audioresearch.com

MINE: it should be yours

EAT 300B tubes

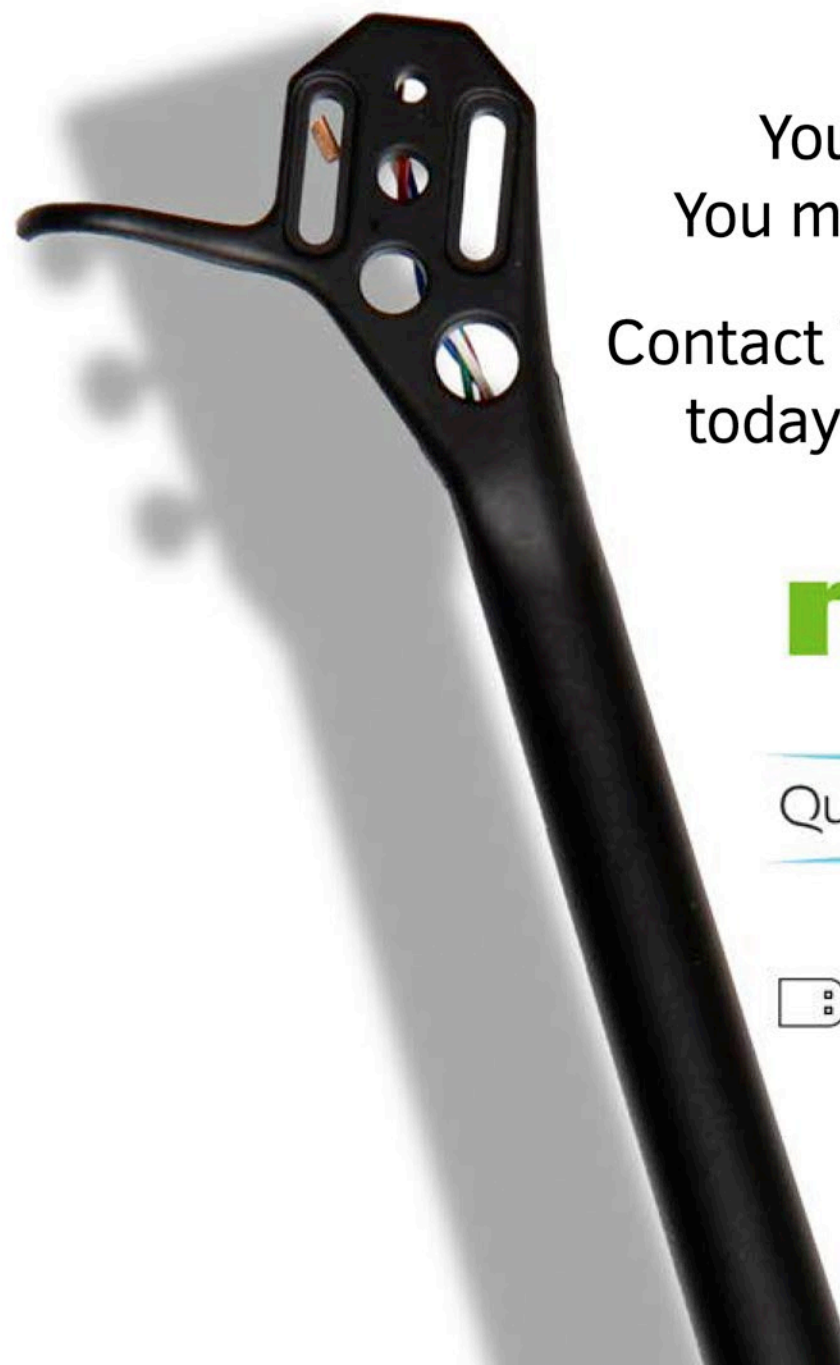
\$TBD

vanaltd.com

European Audio Team has made some great 12AX7, 12AU7 and 6922's, along with a limited number of KT88s too.

Now they are turning their attention to the 300B, and the results are spectacular.

Drop a line to the folks at VANA and get on the list for when they become available.



You already own the music.
You might as well hear all of it.

Contact The Sound Organisation
today for your closest retailer.

rega

ProAc
perfectly natural

Quadraspire

THE
CHORD
COMPANY

BRYSTON

kit
Face the Music

support@soundorg.com
(972) 234-0182
soundorg.com

The
s)und
Organisation

MINE: it should be yours

Mix tape pillows

\$39.95

[zazzle.com/cassette+pillows](https://www.zazzle.com/cassette+pillows)

Keeping with our cassette tape vibe, we couldn't resist one of these for the couch. It's definitely a conversation starter.

And... you can put whatever you want on the labels. Totally awesome.

Make out music

NR ON OFF

Bellissimo!



Strumento n° 4

AUDIA FLIGHT

Audiolux proudly represents Audia Flight in the U.S.A | audioluxllc.com

Boulder
The Foundation of Your System



— EXPERIENCE THE NEW —
1110 PREAMPLIFIER & 1160 STEREO AMPLIFIER

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303-449-8220 | sales@boulderamp.com | www.boulderamp.com

MINE: it should be yours



**Ikea Bekant
Computer Desk**

\$379
ikea.com

Doctors are saying that "sitting is the new smoking," so a desk that allows you to break up your day standing is a good thing. This understated beauty from IKEA is reasonably priced, offers different color and worksurface choices and goes from bean bag height to standing height in seconds.

We've certainly found this a real aid to productivity and lack of fatigue at the end of the day.

MINE: it should be yours



Fox C-60 Blank Cassettes
\$40/box of 10
recordingthemasters.com

If you're not cassette crazy like we are this will not be huge news. But for those of you that want to start making your own mix tapes again, this is pretty freakin' awesome.

Our first test tape came out great. For a type-1 tape, on a refurbished and aligned Nakamichi deck, the sound quality is stunning, nearly that of CrO2.

And a big thanks to our pal, Oswaldo Martinez, for hooking us up on these!

We take trade-ins!



PRIMALUNA
NEW! EVO 400 Tube Preamp
RCA & Balanced In/Out
\$4,899

53lbs of bad ass, dual-mono, tube-rectified bliss! Plus, transformer-coupled XLR. Look inside on our YouTube channel.



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Kensington GR Black Ash
Special Purchase
\$10,798 pair (regularly \$21,600!)

That's 56% off on one of the finest loudspeakers we sell. Learn why nothing compares on our YouTube channel.



VPI
Super Prime Scout w/ 10.5" JWM Arm & VTA On The Fly
\$2,899

Upscale Audio Exclusive with upgraded tonearm and base! Save more with cartridge bundles. #1 VPI dealer worldwide!



FOCAL
Stellia Headphones
Closed Back/Beryllium
\$2,999

Watch our in-depth video on what may become our best-selling headphones. Reference sound meets private listening.



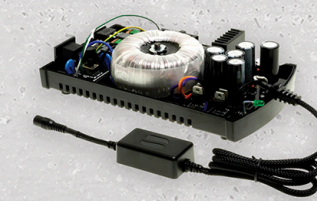
NAIM
NAC 152 XS + NAP 155 XS
Pre/Power Bundle
\$2,249 (was \$5990!)

62% off! We made your dream of owning Naim come true! Take a peek inside on our YouTube channel.



LUMIN
LUMIN T2
Network Music Player
\$4,500

Lumin's new streaming DAC has become an Upscale best-seller. Roon Ready, Qobuz, Tidal, MQA, DSD 512, and more.



SBOOSTER
BOTW Power & Precision MKII
Audiophile Power Supply
\$359-\$399

Vastly improve the sonic performance of any compatible device in your system. DAC, streamer, router, turntable, etc.



FELIKS AUDIO
Euforia
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\$2,599

Learn why Focal uses Feliks OTL headphone amps to demonstrate Utopia at our YouTube channel. Amps starting at just \$679.

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Restores THREE LPs
and ONE 45
Simultaneously



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VINYL RESTORATION TAKES TIME

The Upscale Audio Edition processes your LP collection 50% faster than the standard Kirmuss Record Cleaner.

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“Isn't it time you award yourself?”

Vitus Audio Signature Series SIA 25 mk II



Big Mouth Billy Bass (with Alexa support)

\$49.95
amazon.com

This just isn't any talking fish.

The latest redux of that famous fish from the 90s still sings and dances to the tune "Fishin Time," but he now dances to the music played through Amazon Music. He will lip sync to Alexa's responses, and wiggles when an Amazon timer, alarm, or other event is triggered. He does not, however lip sync and dance at the same time.

He will perk his head up when you say "Alexa," and best of all will unlock "additional features" when connected to an Amazon Echo device.

You know you want to know.



MINE: it should be yours

MINE: it should be yours



Quadraspire Q4 Evo Racks
Call your dealer for per shelf quote
soundorg.com

If you want a great rack, that improves the sound of your gear, won't break the bank, and is almost infinitely scalable, Quadraspire is the way to go. We love em!



www.gryphon-audio.com



MINE: it should be yours



Yes Way Rose

\$12
amazon.com

This is just pure silliness.

Our wine columnist, Ms. Meadows, and our analog expert Mr. Mak would be appalled, but for 12 bucks, with a few burgers on the barbie, it's not bad.

And we know Barbie would approve, it is pink after all.

Go on, we dare you...

AUDOLICI From Portugal



A25M Integrated Amplifier



I50 "Swing"
Integrated Amplifier



AVP-01 PreAmplifier



SOUND CONSULTANT

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www.soundconsultant.com



MEDITERRANEO

THE ITALIAN TURNTABLE

Our journey started 25 years ago by designing our very first turntable driven by our love for analogue music and a real passion for vinyl.

Such passion defines all our creations and particularly turntables, stimulating us to design with great care and attention every single detail in order to realise the most fascinating sources of music.

Mediterraneo is the pinnacle of Gold Note: a creation that redefines the traditional design of the turntable through innovative shapes, technical solutions and quality materials in order to merge tradition and technology and achieve the best musical experience.

Mediterraneo combines the greatest attention to technical perfection with pure beauty.

Manufactured by our local craftsmen, the Mediterraneo is fully hand-made: designed with a 60mm curved plinth made of aged Italian Walnut chosen for its exceptional elasticity, strength and high-density, then coupled with a 20mm board made of polished acrylic and finally reinforced with a 3mm stainless steel board for extra rigidity.

Every detail of Mediterraneo enhances its musicality: a refined technical innovation achieved through elegant and smooth lines.



www.goldnote.it

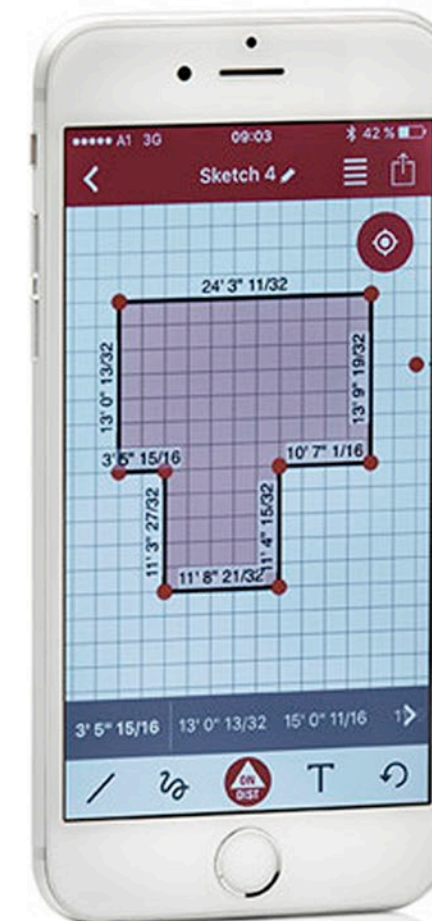
MINE: it should be yours

**Leica Disto D1
and Sketch app**
\$99
precision.leica-geosystems.com

Need to get that golden ratio just right? Now you can calculate room sizes a lot easier, with one of Leica's Disto laser measuring devices. While the 9 device range goes all the way up to \$1,495, the D1 you see here is the perfect tool to work around your environment.

Just enter the measurements into your tablet or smart phone and it quickly calculates room dimensions.

And it's just as handy elsewhere.



MINE: it should be yours

If you'd like an incredibly unique piece of industrial art for your wall, look no further than the Boeing store's Custom Hangar collection.

Sure, you could get a cool model kit, or a t-shirt, but why not hang a real airplane window on your wall?

These are all taken from decommissioned planes, cleaned and polished. The 747 is featured here, but they also have a number of other models.

And other parts...

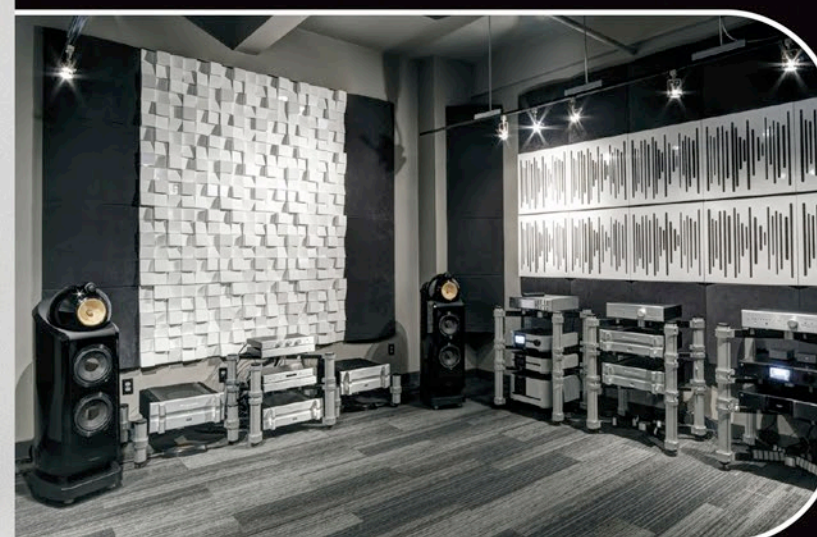
Fascinating, captain.

747 Window
\$599
boeingstore.com

50 BRANDS

8 DEMO ROOMS

1 LOCATION



MINE: it should be yours

Revolution Watch Co.
Diver

\$799
(shark bracelet, \$79 addl.)
revwatchco.com

It's always fun to see a project come together. We mentioned the Revolution Diver about six months ago, when they launched their crowdfunding campaign.

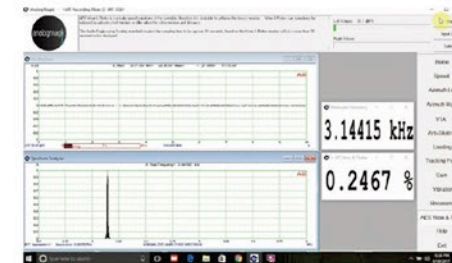
The final version you see here exceeds expectation. While it isn't a Rolex Submariner, the level of fit and finish is much more along the lines of what you'd expect from Switzerland, versus a similarly priced item from Detroit.

Highly recommended.

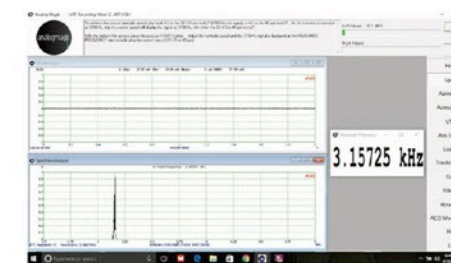
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All In One
Cartridge
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Test LPs

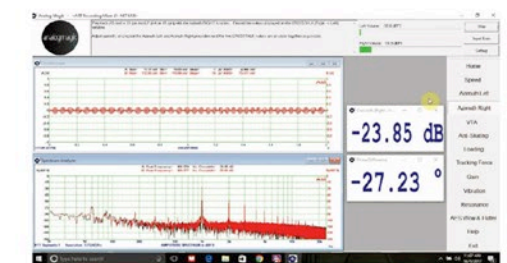
Anyone Can Be A Setup Guru



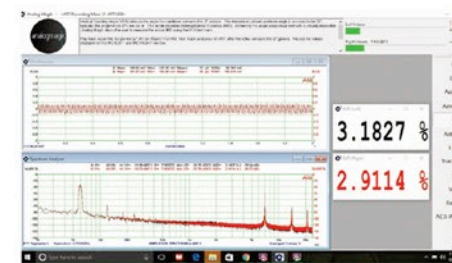
WOW & FLUTTER



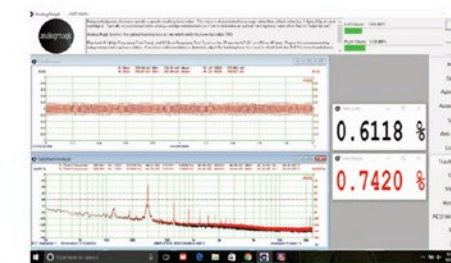
SPEED



AZIMUTH



VTA



VTF



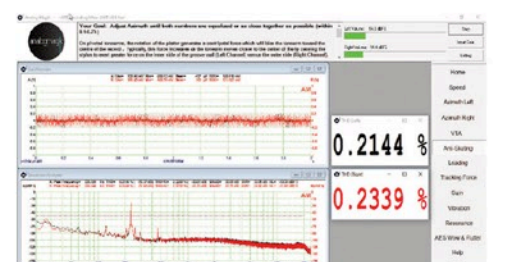
RESONANCE



LOADING & GAIN



VIBRATION



ANTI-SKATING



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No. 25

No. 25 commemorates a quarter century of our pursuit of perfect sound, while pointing to our next 25 years of building the finest sub bass systems available. No. 25 employs our most advanced design, engineering and craftsmanship, featuring our ultra-reliable 1,000watt amplifier, lightweight carbon fibre 15" driver and legendary filter sets, crossovers, and zero compression wireless connectivity.

Featured here is the No. 25 Line Array, three No. 25s arranged vertically, permitting bass to emerge more naturally as it propagates throughout the room, striking our sinuses, kicking at our chest cavities and rumbling along the floor with power and majesty. Welcome to the pinnacle of sound, 25 years in the making.

Join the Pursuit™ | rel.net



Porsche Coloring (vol. 1 and 2)

\$49.95

newburypress.com

Here's a great relaxation piece and conversation starter, whether you are a Porsche owner or not. But seriously, how about adding BMW and Mercedes to this series?



MINE: it should be yours

In House

The soundtrack of assembling the issue...



*They Only Come Out
at Night - Edgar Winter*

Do you still remember the first
record you ever bought?

You already own the music.
You might as well hear all of it.

Contact The Sound Organisation
today for your closest retailer.



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ProAc
perfectly natural

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CHORD
COMPANY

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The
sund
Organisation

MINE: it should be yours



After Dark
Flying Toaster

\$NFS

If you're old enough
to remember, you
should still have one.



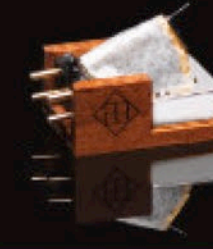
SCULPTURE A



A.4 Silver

A.3

A.4 Copper



made by Ana Mighty Sound

LE PHONO SE

Working strictly as a class A single ended device with no feedback, our phonostage uses only solid state components (no op-amps) with the shortest signal path circuit possible.



A.3 & A.4 SCULPTURE A PHONO CARTRIDGES

Already awarded by French press with a « Remarquable » award, the A.3 and A.4 phono cartridges display a minimum tracking of 90 micron @300Hz lateral that will allow you to get the full definition of your records. For this we have developed a specific damper and use only boron cantilevers with dedicated geometry diamond tips.

With outputs from 0.1mV to 0.3mV with either silver or copper coils and impedances between 3 to 40 ohms.

It is the perfect companion of our Le Phono Single Ended phonostage and others.

With a compliance of 12 @100hz and three bodies, mixing impregnated wood with pure brass, copper, silver or gold, we are able to fine tune the weight and fine tune the sound of your cartridge to match perfectly the mechanics of your tonearm.

The A.3 is a fixed characteristic design, the A.4 is a tailor made cartridge up to your requests.



retip

Our insights on cartridge "repairs"

What if each cartridge was restored as unique artefact ? We do not believe that glueing a cantilever and diamond tip is enough. Aging has an effect on your cartridge as well as usage wear, dust, hygrometry and UV.

Cartridge service : your cartridge does not sound as good as you remember ? The damper might have been tampered with, the azimuth of your diamond tip is starting to be off or maybe the piano wire is getting loose ?

We can check it out and get back the original parameters without altering the parts of your cartridge.

Fine-repair : we are able to completely rebuild Neumann DST (or Lumière), Clément cartridges and most MC cartridges available. Open coils ? Stiff damper ? Broken cantilever ? We know how to deal with these issues and will do our best to get your cartridge as close to its original status, even though we can certainly alter your cartridge up to your requests.

*info@
anamightysound.com*

Ana
MIGHTY SOUND



MINE: it should be yours

Caddis Miklos Reading Glasses

\$89
caddislife.com

You need a pair of these...

Whether you just need a small boost for reading, or a large one for fine-tuning your favorite cartridge, these stylish readers come in a wide range of colors and in magnifications from 1.0 to 3.5.

Perhaps the pink?



Pro-Ject
AUDIO SYSTEMS

The Classic SB

VINTAGE DESIGN MEETS MODERN TECHNOLOGY



We have turbocharged our EISA Award-winning "the Classic" to bring you this upgraded package - The Classic SB. It includes key new features:

- Electronic speedcontrol
- Sumiko Blue Point No.2 cartridge
- Top grade Clamp It
- Leather It mat

ELECTRONIC SPEEDCONTROL



SUMIKO BLUE POINT NO.2 CARTRIDGE



For more information, visit www.pro-jectusa.com

Tokyo Record Bar:

A Unique Partnership

COVER STORY

tokyorecordbar.com

Ariel Arce, proprietor of the Tokyo Record Bar loves music, and as she mentions on the home page of her website, her establishment is “an underground listening room dedicated to quality and obsession, through music, food, & booze.”

Sounds like fun to us.

David Mascioni, Senior Marketing Manager for The McIntosh Group is always on the lookout with his team at the Townhouse (located in the heart of NYC's Soho district) to find new ways to showcase their products.

He and Ariel were kind enough to give us a bit of insight into how this all came to be. This is about as far away as you can get from Best Buy!



Tokyo Record Bar:

COVER STORY

Who came up with the initial idea for the TRB concept? Were you already patrons, thinking “This would be a great place to showcase our products,” or did Ariel approach you?

The partnership we built with Ariel and her team at the Tokyo Record Bar was extremely organic, it may be one of the most organic marketing activations we’ve initiated. I was initially introduced to the Tokyo Record Bar by a friend before learning more on the dining-and-listening experience they offer. I enjoyed my experience so much that I pitched the project to the entire McIntosh Group Marketing Team before connecting directly with Ariel.

How do you work together to elevate not only the audio experience at TRB, but also to create the same experience at the McIntosh Townhouse?

Elevating Tokyo Record Bar’s audio experience was simple—we wanted to ensure Ariel and her team had the best audio products available for her clientele’s listening experience.

Recreating the experience at the World of McIntosh was to extend the experience and make it available to a larger audience that want to enjoy the unique offering of an ultimate audiophile den, as well as accommodate larger parties who would otherwise be restricted by the intimate space at the Tokyo Record Bar.

Can you discuss what this involves or must it be kept quiet?

Sure! Again, all very natural. We initially proposed empowering Tokyo Record Bar’s audio experience. Ariel’s team was already equipped with a pretty decent system but knew we could take this to the next level with the finest McIntosh products. This led us to create an audio system that we felt would be perfect for her space. We proposed this to Ariel and then worked together to move forward with the installation.

Separately, we also wanted to re-create a unique Tokyo Record Bar experience at the World of McIntosh Townhouse (our experience center). We knew this would be a unique concept, there’s nothing like the WOM Townhouse in New York, from an audio standpoint.

We also wanted people to have the opportunity to reserve the unique experience in an intimate, private and elevated setting. With the new partnership, guests can book the Tokyo Record Bar experience at the World of McIntosh for their family and friends for a privately curated dining and listening experience. The “on-demand” pop-up and extension of the experience makes for a truly unique evening—guests will have the full Tokyo Record Bar dining experience amplified within the World of McIntosh space.

I saw an MC275 and preamplifier, as well as a Project turntable, but what is the entire system?

The system consists of the following equipment:

- MC275 vacuum tube stereo amplifier
- C2600 tube pre amp
- MT5 precession turn table
- Sonus faber Sonetto V loud speakers
- Wired with McIntosh cables and interconnects

Is the Tokyo Record Bar all vinyl or are they doing some streaming too?

The Tokyo Record Bar is a vinyl-based experience, each patron selects one song from a vinyl menu that is integrated in the evening’s experience. With this in mind, the system we installed works to surround a McIntosh MT5 turntable, but no streaming in-wall.

Is this something more that we can expect to see in the future, more like an extension of movie/tv show placement kind of thing, where people that are enjoying life do so with McIntosh group components in the background. i.e. we associate McIntosh with more luxurious pursuits, “making hifi cool again”

Great question. There certainly is a trend of bars investing in audio equipment to enhance their listening and musical experience for patrons. These establishments often equip themselves with nice HiFi audio products to elevate experiences musically and also visually. There is something to be said about guests engaging with hypnotizing blue meters in line with the music behind the bar, sort of like putting on a show. Investing in products also shows an establishment takes music seriously and wants their customers to enjoy the best music pairing and products possible.

Tokyo Record Bar:

COVER STORY

This trend is certainly hot in places like Japan and LA-- I believe you still start to see more HiFi growing in the fine dining and drinking space.

What will make this enough of a success for you to do it elsewhere?

Continuous positive feedback from Tokyo Record Bar's patrons about the audio quality, and of course, a happy Tokyo Record Bar team in general. If their customers are thrilled and engaged with the audio system, it means that McIntosh products have perfected the TRB experience from a music standpoint. So everyone is happy.

I am sure the customers will leave the restaurant with some good memories about the music they listened to during their dinner – if they did not invest yet in legit HiFi in their homes, it might inspire them to do so, and this is the ultimate goal.

Do you have plans to do this in other areas, are there other projects in process like TRB? More luxury shops like Varvatos, or perhaps Hotels, even high end car dealers?

We aim to only partner with brands that are organic and make sense for us. The key in this particular partnership is the venue itself. The Tokyo Record Bar is ideal as, their fine dining experience is directly linked to music and the listening experience. I mean how many other restaurants exist where the people dining can personally curate the music playlist of their evening? Even more special, curate this playlist uniquely on vinyl?

If we encounter other concepts where music is cornerstone of the experience, we are open to exploring additional collaborations, opportunities to work together in highlighting luxury music experiences. We are all about special experiences and that's what McIntosh aims to deliver with all of our products.

What do you really hope to accomplish with this installation?

Ultimately, a great audio experience for Tokyo Record Bar patrons and connect audiences with HiFi. We know guests go there for a special evening, so we want to make sure it sounds special too. Maybe they'll feel inspired and will invest in a special HiFi system for their own home.

Regarding the World of McIntosh x Tokyo Record Bar experience, we want to make the ultimate dining and listening experience available to people at the best audio space in the world.

Have you had any initial feedback, from either the restaurant, or have you seen things popping up on social media, etc.?

We received a lot of positive feedback from the Tokyo Record Bar about the system we installed there and apparently the product update has resulted in a noticeable difference for the team and guests of the restaurant. We launched the partnership with an exclusive premiere of the dining experience at the WOM Townhouse which generated some buzz on social media. The Townhouse looked amazing, completely transformed into the Tokyo Record Bar.

Thank you for your time, we look forward to more great dining establishments featuring premium sound...

Always a pleasure.

tokyorecordbar.com

mcintoshlabs.com



McIntosh
C2600 TUBE PREAMPLIFIER



INPUT: MM PHONO
0%

INPUT
HEADPHONES

1 OUTPUT 2

TONE

MUTE

VOLUME

STANDBY FOR

McIntosh 255

The GamuT Zodiac

\$159,000/pair (finish dependent)

gamutaudio.com

Here we have another “world’s best” speaker, stunning in its recreation of music, yet offering a more understated enclosure than the Italian counterpart, elsewhere in this issue.

But don’t let that throw you off the track, the team at GamuT Audio takes a state of the art assault on sound no less seriously than anyone else on Earth.

And it only takes a few minutes to be captivated by their sense of openness, ease, and sonic neutrality to be easily swayed. Should you decide the Zodiac is the vehicle to take you to audio heaven, the only remaining questions to answer are do you want to write the check, where will you put them in your own audio den, and can you get some help unpacking them when they arrive?

In all fairness, these gorgeous speakers, weighing over 400 pounds each, are by far the biggest super speakers we’ve ever unpacked, just make sure your floor can withstand the weight of two Zodiacs and a rack full of gear to drive them!

Along with being easy to unpack, the Zodiac is also one of the easiest speakers we’ve had the pleasure to set up as well. In both our small and large listening rooms, we were rocking out in 30 minutes or less.

It probably doesn’t hurt that in addition to reviewing a number of GamuT speakers over the years, we did use the S9 (predecessor to the Zodiac) for some time. The Zodiac achieved greatness only inches away from where the S9’s used to stand.



mu-so



SOUND & VISION TOP PICK



"It's a relatively small speaker, about the size of a HomePod, but can deliver 300 watts of beautifully lucid sound"

GEAR PATROL

- UPnP™
- AirPlay
- Spotify Connect®
- Bluetooth®/aptX®
- Remote
- 3x Digital / Analogue Inputs
- USB
- App Control (iOS™ & Android™)
- iRadio™
- Multiroom Streaming



naimaudio.com

USA distribution by Focal Naim America | CANADA distribution by Focal Naim Canada



GamuT Zodiac

The Good:

Super Unique - only 12 sets per year built. You won't see them anywhere else.

Immersive, natural sound like precious few others

Easy to set up, very amplifier friendly

Not so much:

Heavy on the back, floor and wallet, but at what price greatness?

The Verdict:

The GamuT Zodiac is certainly one of our top personal favorites in the world, at any price.

They provide a musical rendition like nothing else, and they are speakers you will never tire of.

We invite you to click here and read the full, in-depth review.



The GamuT Zodiac embodies everything GamuT principal and head designer Benno Baun Meldegaard knows about building speakers.

Only a dozen pairs will be built per year, to coincide with the sign of the zodiac in which each speaker is born.

But that's where the metaphysics end. Each driver, every individual component in the crossover network is hand matched and optimized to achieve perfection.

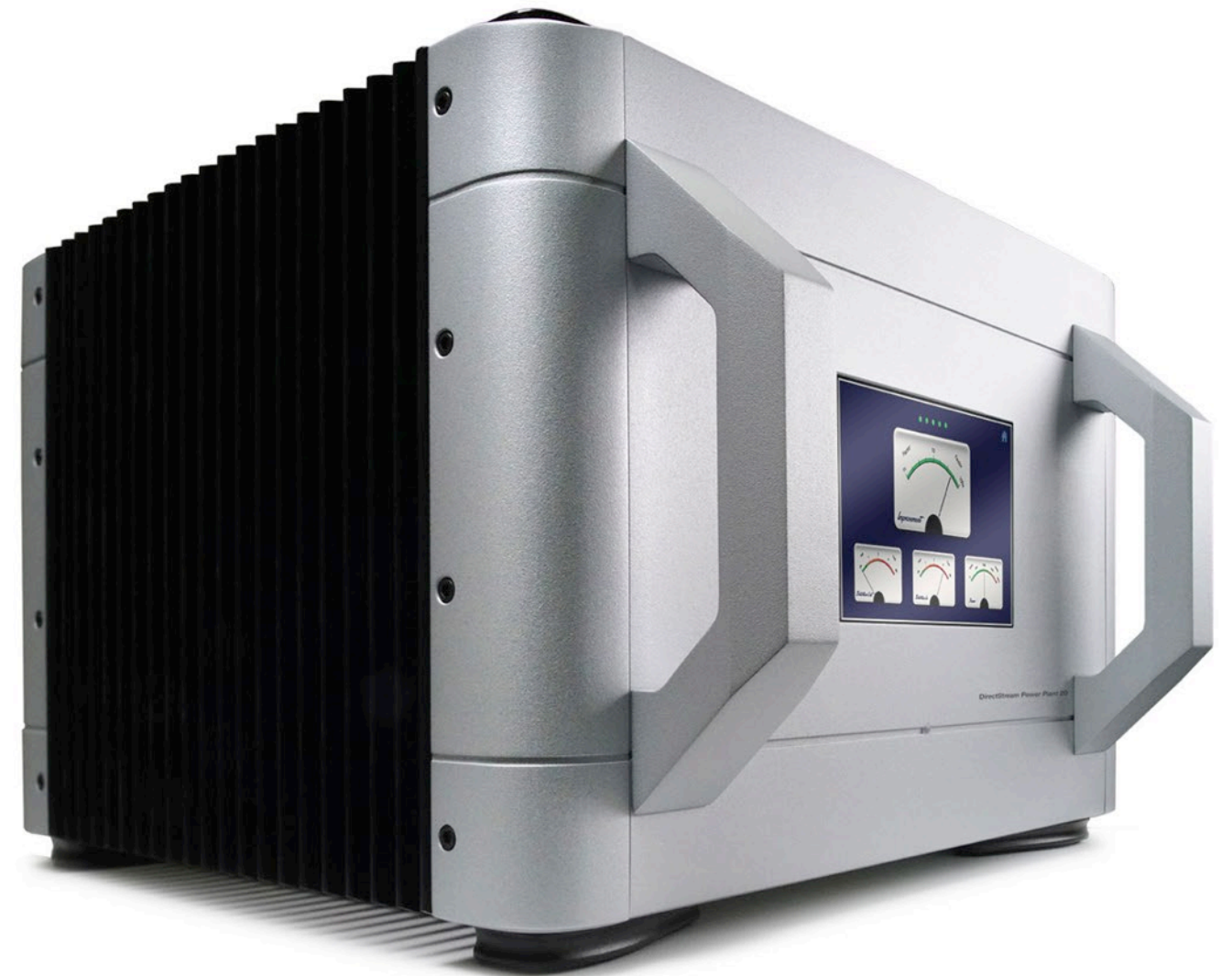
If that isn't enough, no matter where you might live in this world, you will receive a personal visit from Benno within a year of purchasing your speakers, to make sure that they are optimized to your room and audio system.

He's a pretty nice house guest, so be prepared.

And be prepared for a musical experience like none you've ever heard.

The PS Audio DirectStream Power Plant 20

It will take less time to hear the improvement it makes, than it will to read this headline.



"Nothing does a better job at supplying clean power to my reference gear than the P20."
-Jeff Dorgay, TONEAudio

 P S A U D I O

www.psaudio.com 720.406.8946 Boulder, Colorado



VPI's HW-40

\$15,000

vpiindustries.com

A few years ago, VPI brought a direct drive turntable to market, predicated by founder Harry Weisfeld's love for the direct drive system.

The table was an overwhelming success, yet a bit hard to produce in quantity, so it was back to the drawing board for father and son Weisfeld to bring the HW-40 you see here.

The new table is better in every way, features a new tonearm, and has a lower MSRP? Talk about American know how!

vpi
made in usa
40th Anniversary
Direct Drive



VPI HW-40

The Good:

They lowered the price \$10k

Built like a tank

Speed stability that only a Direct drive table can deliver

Not so much:

Could use a little more visual impact

The Verdict:

Though understated in appearance, the HW-40s performance is top shelf.

Could this be their best table yet?



It goes without saying that we love the VPI HW-40. They have done a fantastic job with it's implementation, and the new gimbaled FatBoy arm is a bit easier to use and set up for those uninitiated to the VPI arms of yore.

Those wanting the full, in-depth review, please click [here](#)

**If this isn't what your system sees,
You're doing it wrong...**

EXO GAL, LLC 4657 Aspen Ridge Circle, Eagan, MN 55122
651-964-0698 exogal.com info@exogal.com





KRELL
K-300i

Krell K-300i

\$7,500

krellonline.com

If you haven't taken a look at Krell lately, you should. Their latest edition of power amplifiers, are all sporting their latest XD technology - offering better sound than ever.

XD also helps these amplifiers deliver top sound, all the sonic advantages of Class-A operation, yet do not draw as much power from the AC line, as legacy designs did. And they look pretty attractive too.

Pure legacy.
Next-gen attitude.



We've taken care of the tech.
You take care of the music.



The new Dynaudio Xeo wireless stereo speakers: all the performance of high-end hi-fi with none of the hassle. Just plug them into the mains and plug in your sources – or stream with high-quality aptX Bluetooth. It's as simple as that.

DYNAUDIO
 Xeo 20 / 30

dynaudio.com



Krell K-300i

The Good:

Killer sound quality
 Compact form factor
 High value for dollar

Not so much:

Nothing that we can see or hear

The Verdict:

Krell is back, and better than ever

While Krell has always been known for huge, hulking power amplifiers, they have always catered to those wanting a smaller helping of the Krell sound.

Over 30 years ago, they introduced the original K-300i and it was a hit with music lovers and critics the world over.

Today, the current K-300i utilizes their latest XD amplifier technology, as well as offering the option of having a built-in streaming DAC.

All you need is a pair of speakers and you are ready to go.

Please click here to read Greg Petan's full review

Please click here to visit the Krell website.

The Devialet Expert Pro 140

\$6,490

devialet.com

If you've never experienced Devialet, be ready to forget everything you thought you knew about audio. They do everything differently than everyone else.

Yet the result works wonderfully, offering fantastic sound, a superlative user experience, ultimate flexibility and oh yes, it is the most beautiful piece of consumer electronics on Earth, maybe the universe.

Are you ready?





Start buying microfiber cleaning cloths.

In bulk.

As much as you want to touch it, you won't want it to be fingerprinted - ever.

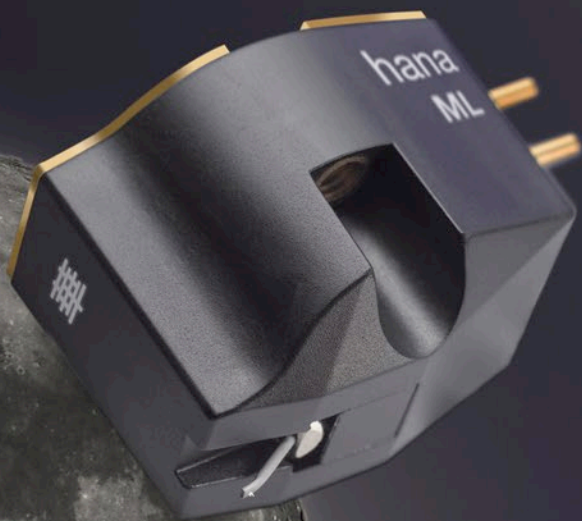
It's the price you pay for beauty.

R
Raidho
Acoustics



The remarkable performance of our Diamond drivers delivered in the remarkable elegant shape of the D-1.1

A NEW DAWN FOR **HANA** BRILLIANCE

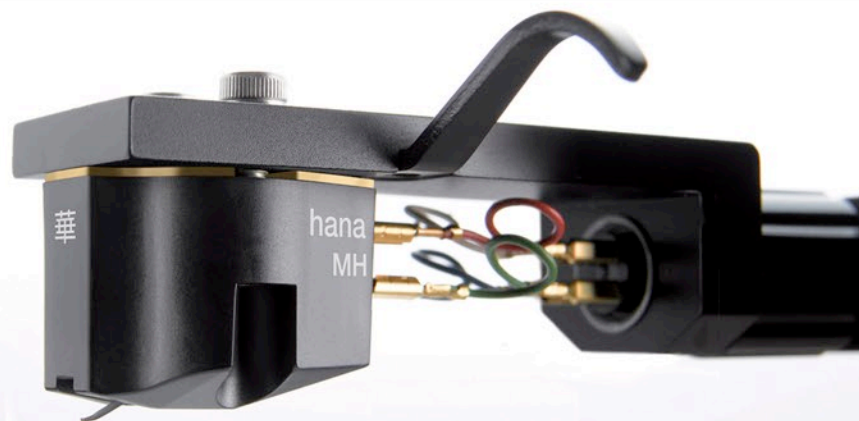


ML Low Output*
MH High Output
Nude Microline Stylus
POM (Delrin®) Body
Metal Threaded Fittings
Integral Brass Cap

HANA M SERIES MC CARTRIDGES

ASPIRING TOWARDS AFFORDABLE PERFECTION

High Purity Copper
Low Impedance Coil*
Alnico Magnet
Cryogenic Treatment



HANA **ML&MH**

 **HANA**
BY EXCEL SOUND
HANDMADE IN JAPAN

**MUSICAL
SURROUNDINGS** 
www.musicalsurrroundings.com | 510.547.5006

Devialet Expert Pro 140

The Good:

Easy to use, gorgeous to look at:
Sonic sculpture at its finest.

Not so much:

More polishing required than any
other component except Burmester

The Verdict:

The Devialet Expert Pro 140 (the
entire expert pro series, actually)
redefines the benchmark for a
perfect blend of form, function
and performance.

Please click here for the full review.



Playlist:

What Our Readers Are Into

DEEP PURPLE



MADE IN JAPAN

Deep Purple -
Smoke on the Water

BTO - Not Fragile

Lucifer's Friend - Ride the Sky

Blue Oyster Cult - Godzilla

Van Halen - Atomic Punk

Alice Cooper - Schools Out

Captain Beyond - Dancing Badly
Backwards

Cathedral - Hopkins (The Witchfinder
General)

Pink Fairies - Uncle Harry's Last
Freakout

Edgar Broughton Band - Out Demon Out

While we can argue about "what is Metal?" all day long, how about a short list of some heavy tracks? And thanks to staffer Tom Caselli for his input.

no. 3 Vancouver

TONE Playlists sponsored by...

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audio physic

No loss of fine detail



The NEW Audio Physic Step plus

"If you want a highly immersive, three-dimensional music experience in a small to modest room, these are the speakers that should be at the top of your list... There is amazing amount of technology incorporated into the speakers, something pretty much unheard of at this price point. ... a highly resolving look into the music presented without ever being harsh, strident or fatiguing and that is a tough balance to achieve."

These speakers sounded almost magical...It was quite uncanny. They are high-end speakers... that out perform many speakers in their size class."

Mel Martin
Secrets of Home Theater and High Fidelity

Jeff Dorgay Tone Audio

 VANA LTD
vanaltd.com



MOON By Simaudio 390

\$5,400 (Config. dependent)

simaudio.com

Integrated amplifiers have become incredibly popular in the last few years, but we appreciate that Simaudio has given the end user a choice when it comes to power amplifiers with the 390.

For good reason - it offers the maximum in system flexibility. With its fully balanced output, you could even have the 390 in a remote location, with amplifier out by your speakers. But that's only a small part of the story.



MOON

30.0

SPDIF
NO SIGNAL

No matter what the source, the MOON 390 does a fantastic job bringing it to life. And there's even a headphone amp capable of top shelf performance.



Essential Elements.

The Element range is the starting point in our product line-up. But we view it as essential to getting a great performance from your kit.

It seems the world's hifi press agree. We've won a lot of awards for Element, including What HiFi's 'Best Analogue Interconnect' for the last 3 years.

We apply as much innovation and effort to the Element Series as our top of the range Asimi.

The 'Integra' low mass RCA connector was originally developed for the Element cable and the principles applied throughout our range.

Our latest Element sc USB cable is based on research showing solid core cable delivers superior results to conventional multi-strand.

Element cables are available for hi-fi, personal audio, digital & video use.



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www.integrityhf.com
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404.334.3242

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the performance connection
atlascales.com



Enjoy the Experience



PASS

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13395 New Airport Rd. Ste G., Auburn, CA 95602
(530) 878-5350 - www.passlabs.com



MOON 390

network player/preamplifier

The Good:

Everything but the power amp under the hood.

Flagship sound quality, very reasonable price

Phono and Streaming DAC

Not so much:

None

The Verdict:

The MOON 390 is without peer for the price.



Simaudio expands on the concept of their original ACE all in one, now giving you the option to choose your own power amplifier.

It's got everything you need, with enough functionality to last a lifetime.

Please click here for Brian Gage's review.

Please click here for the Simaudio website.

The Sonus faber

\$250,000/pair

sonusfaber.com

There's something a little crazy about a pair of speakers with a quarter of a million dollar price tag, but in the case of "the sonus faber," it's crazy good.

Good as Sonus faber's previous flagship, the Aida (also updated) is, the delta between \$130k for a pair of Aidas and \$250k for a pair of the Sonus fabers is pretty wide.

So much for the law of diminishing returns, at least in an absolute sense. Taking full advantage of these speakers means the best electronics money can buy and most importantly careful attention to your listening room (think pretty big) and every aspect of system setup.

Nirvana awaits you...

Fantastico!

AUDIA FLIGHT
FL35

INPUT - INPUT +

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Sonus faber

The Sonus faber is one of the few products at the top of high end audio's offerings that delivers a magical experience, and will truly transport you to a head space that feels like you are really experiencing the real thing.

The level of tonal accuracy, and sheer dynamic force they can deliver is truly outstanding, yet when listening at conversational level, they still easily draw you in, making it hard to concentrate.

They truly need to be heard (and touched) to convince you, but once you do, there will be no turning back.

When you are ready, there is only one place to see them in the US.

Book an appointment with Mike Ware at LMC Home Entertainment in Scottsdale, Arizona.

And if you love em', he's got a couple of pairs in stock, ready to take home.

As it should be.

We invite you to read our full review here.



Quality Meets Quantity

“THE REL 212/SE DOES **DEEP** AND IT DOES **LOUD**. ODDLY, IT ALSO DOES **SUBTLE** AND IT DOES **BRASH**, TOO. AND SOMETIMES IT MANAGES TO DO BOTH AT ONCE. IF YOU TRULY “GET” DEEP BASS, IF YOU LIKE YOUR KIT TO BE ON SHOW RATHER THAN HIDDEN AWAY AND — ABOVE ALL — YOU FEEL THAT URGE FOR **TRULY ENERGETIC AUDIO**, THEN THE REL 212/SE IS ACTUALLY **GOOD VALUE**. ” | ADAM RAYNER, HOME CINEMA CHOICE

Join the Pursuit™

rel.net

Experience the 212SE's Twin long-stroke 12" Continuous Cast™ Alloy Bass Engines and dual 12" passives
Visit rel.net to learn more about REL and find an authorized dealer near you.



We've joined the ranks of so many other reviewers and consumers, making PS Audio's DirectStream Power Plant technology part of our reference systems.

Now, with enough sheer capacity to power an entire system, the P15 and the larger P20 can take care of business, no matter what your power requirements are.

[Click here to read our full review](#)

PS Audio DirectStream Power Plant 15

\$7,499

psaudio.com

Setlist

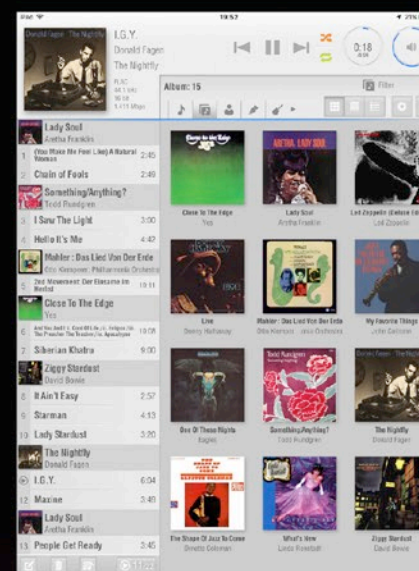
Photo by Roscoe Trey Nicholson



As part of Pitchfork's Midwinter series, our playlist editor caught a rare Tortoise show at Chicago's Art Institute, on February 16. Some rare tracks were enjoyed by all!

1. TNT
2. Swung From the Gutters
3. Ten-Day Interval
4. I set My Face to the Hillside
5. The Equator (first live performance since 2004)
6. A Simple Way to go Faster Than Light That Does not Work
7. The Suspension Bridge at Iguazu Falls
8. Four-Day Interval (first live performance since 1998)
9. In Sarah, Mencken, Christ, and Beethoven, There Were Women and Men
10. Almost Always is Nearly Enough (first live performance since 1998)
11. Jetty
12. Everglade (first live performance since 1998)


ESOTERIC



Esoteric SoundStream App

The Esoteric N-01 Network Audio Player, quite possibly the world's most versatile and best sounding Network Player / DAC. Featuring 35-bit processing, the ability to decode PCM, DSD, and even MQA files, the N-01 is driven by an easy to use interface that incorporates Tidal, Qobuz, Spotify and TuneIn as well as easy access to your NAS stored music. The N-01 is also fully Roon Ready.

No wonder TONE is recognizing the N-01 as the "TONE Product Of the Year" for Digital. We Thank the folks at TONE for this honor.

 Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/EsotericUSA

For more information on Esoteric products or to find your Esoteric dealer please visit:
<http://www.esoteric-usa.com>



The SKY Tower sets the standard for versatile, lower-cost towers that can be used with a wide variety of electronics. Delivering unobtrusive magic for the everyday music lover, the SKY Tower represents the evolution of 30 years of innovative design and manufacturing.
totemacoustic.com

TOTEM  30th
Discover yours

Future Tense

Reviews in our immediate future...



Focal Utopia Headphones

\$3,999
focal.com

Using the same beryllium technology that Focal uses in their best home speakers, the Utopias are a treat for the ears, albeit at a fairly high price.

Our investigation begins...

Future Tense

Reviews in our immediate future...



Gryphon Sonnett

\$8,000
gryphon-audio.dk

We've just begun our review on this beautiful phonostage from Gryphon Audio, and straight out of the box it is very impressive. A single input, single ended MM/MC design the Sonnett has more treasure to unlock as we investigate further.



"no matter what I listened to, I couldn't imagine the sound being much better"
Soundstage! June 2017

Technology

Bryston's new patented Salomie Circuit is a revolutionary new way to reduce distortion and noise unveiling never before heard details only hinted at by other equipment. The input stage operates at distortion of less than 0.001 percent!

Power

Cubed Series technology is available in 10 different amplifiers ranging from the B135³ integrated at 135 watts per channel, the venerable 4B³ at 300 watts by two channels, to the incredible 28B³ 1000 watt mono block.

Control

For the first time, Bryston brings Cubed Series to the front end. Our new BP-17³ Preamplifier features the Salomie Circuit from input to output reproducing higher resolution than ever before.

BRYSTON

677 Neal Drive, Peterborough, ON K9J 6X7 Canada
705-742-5325 | www.bryston.com



Future Tense

Reviews in our immediate future...



**Audiovector SR1
Avantgard Arrete**
\$5,199 - \$6,199/pair
audiovector.com

These small Danish monitors are some of the most exciting we've heard in a very long time. Audiovector says they are like "what M is to BMW." We agree.

LUXMAN since 1925

"The Ultimate"

Brings the Future to the Present
Preserves the Legendary Musical Pedigree



SUPER AUDIO CD PLAYER

D-08u

CONTROL AMPLIFIER

C-900u

STEREO POWER AMPLIFIER

M-900u

www.luxman.com

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Yokohama 222-0033, Japan
Tel: 045 470 6991 Fax: 045 470 6997

Future Tense

Reviews in our immediate future...



REL no.25 Subwoofer

\$7,500

rel.net

The no.25 is REL's flagship. They've put everything they've learned into it, with nearly unlimited power, an incredibly sophisticated crossover/filter network, and a 15" carbon coned driver that has the mass of a much smaller driver. We don't want to give the review away, but lets just say all six of them will be staying. (you read that right...)

Photo courtesy of REL



You already own the music.
You might as well hear all of it.

Contact The Sound Organisation
today for your closest retailer.

rega

ProAc
perfectly natural

Quadraspire

THE
CHORD[™]
COMPANY

BRYSTON

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(972) 234-0182
soundorg.com

The
s)und
Organisation

Future Tense

Reviews in our immediate future...



SVS PC-4000 Subwoofer

\$1,799

svsound.com

If you need major bass in a minor footprint, the SVS PC-4000 is quite amazing.

We're having too much fun watching scary movies to finish the review, but we promise to wind it up soon!

With 1,200 Watts RMS in a 16" footprint, this one's a keeper.

The sound and vision of Scandinavia

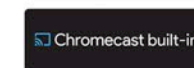


Prisma provides multi-room/multi-zone connectivity and control for playback of stored and streamed media, wired or wireless, all managed from a mobile device through a dedicated system control app.

In addition to Bluetooth®, AirPlay, and Spotify Connect, Prisma features Chromecast built-in, a unique streaming portal allowing effortless direct connection to hundreds of streaming applications, including Roon, TIDAL, Qobuz, Deezer, Google Play Music, and TuneIn radio, for the best possible performance and user experience.

Initially available in the new I15 Prisma integrated amplifier, I35 Prisma integrated amplifier, and CD35 Prisma CD player – with more to come.

► For more on all our new Primare models go to primare.net



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Future Tense

Reviews in our immediate future...

First Watt
SIT 3

First Watt SIT 3

\$4,000
firstwatt.com

Straight from the brain of Nelson Pass, the SIT 3 is a low power, SET solid-state power amplifier.

If you have high sensitivity speakers, you need one of these!

Welcome to The Iron Age.

Introducing Jern Speakers
jernspeakers.com

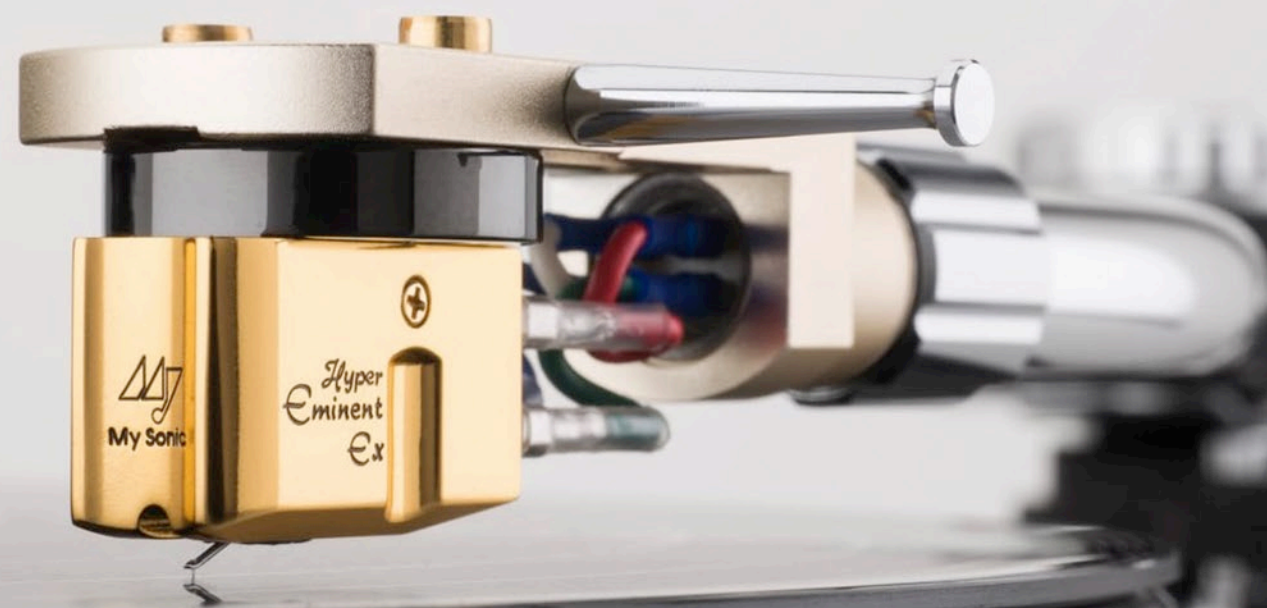




www.francoserblin.it

Future Tense

Reviews in our immediate future...



My Sonic Lab - Hyper Eminent Ex

\$5,495

mofidistribution.com

Building on the excitement that Richard Mak has for the top of the range MSL cartridge, We're very excited to have the Hyper Eminent Ex here for review as well.

And for those of you with cartridge upgrade lust in your hearts, MoFi's Norbert Schmied has let us know that they have all of these in stock, ready to come your way!

Future Tense

Reviews in our immediate future...



Sonner Legato Unum

\$5,000/pair
sonneraudio.com

Eric Neff is hard at work, finishing up the review on these understated monitors from Sonner Audio.

We'll report back very soon.

Formula xHD

- Proprietary Optologic DAC
- Pure FPGA-based R2R Ladder
- Fully-floating (isolating) D/A converter system
- Hybrid USB xCore 200 (dual core) in Bit Perfect up to 768 kHz PCM and DSD 256
- Filterless Non-oversampling digital architecture



Unconventional DNA



La Voce S3 dac



La Scala Optologic dac



Formula xHD dac



La Diva cd transport

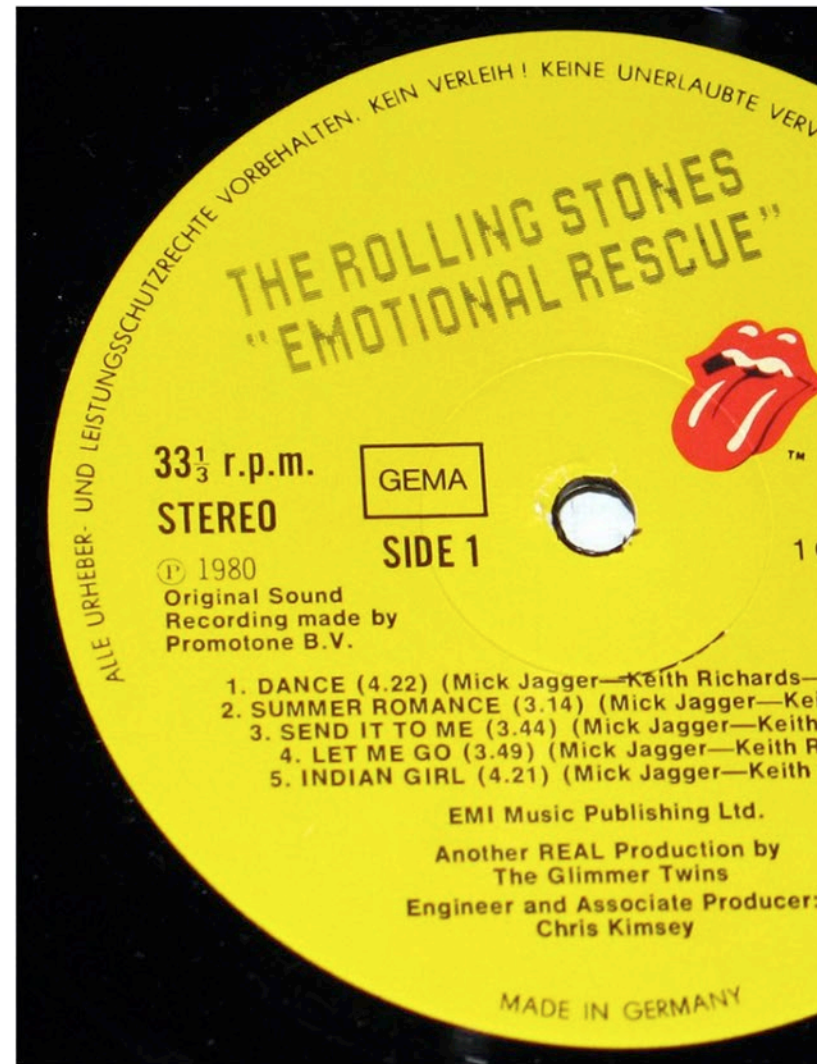
aquahifi.com

aqua
acoustic quality

Playlist:

What Our Readers Are Into

- Naomi Shelton - It's a Cold, Cold, World
- Frank Zappa - Don't Eat The Yellow Snow
- Frank Zappa - Nanook Rubs It
- Foreigner - Cold as Ice
- Vanilla Ice - Ice Ice Baby
- The Rolling Stones - She's So Cold
- Paula Abdul - Cold Hearted
- Hank Williams - Cold, Cold Heart
- AC/DC - Cold Hearted Man
- Frankie Knuckles - It's a Cold World
- Smog - Cold Blooded Old Times



One more tundra playlist from Roscoe. He was a good Smurf and did his homework on time, but this was too good of a list NOT to share with you all.

no. 4 Chicago

FOCAL
LISTEN BEYOND

SOPRA

DESIGN ENHANCES ACOUSTICS



Sopra N°1

Sopra N°2

Sopra N°3

“Listen to it and you quickly realise that this is one loudspeaker with nothing to prove and everything to say.”

hi-fi+

Future Tense

Reviews in our immediate future...



PrimaLuna EVO400 Power Amplifier

\$4,699ea./\$9,398/pr.
primaluna-usa.com

We've been using PrimaLuna gear for almost two decades now, and it never fails to satisfy. The latest EVO series is truly a step beyond anything else they've done. Watch for our review of the amplifiers and matching preamplifier very soon.

Where Have all the Good Stereos Gone?



We know. Sorting through the jungle that is pre-owned hi-fi gear can be tough. Myriad Internet forums and online shopping sites just don't offer the expertise required to make sound decisions.

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So, when you are looking for high-quality, lightly used hi-fi gear, look no further than Echo Audio. Be sure to check out our Web site for current products and new arrivals.

echo)))
audio

www.echohifi.com 888.248.echo

Dealers That Mean Business:

You've read all the reviews, you've argued with the internet pundits,

and you're ready to write a check. Now what? If you're a slightly used customer that likes to shop for the best bargain you can find on Audiogon, this article is not for you. And, controversial though it might sound, I'm not against Audiogon. If you want a gently pre-owned preamp, love music, and just don't want to buy new, I get that – as long as you know what you're getting into. Audiogon can be a great place to buy pre owned gear if you know exactly what you want - and don't expect ANY service. But someone has to buy it new, so you can buy it used – remember that!

If you are the customer that likes to buy new, loves the feel (and the smell) of taking it out of the box for the first time, knowing no one else has touched it, I get that too. Personally, I'm about 50/50 on this experience, as I am with cars. Ask anyone who's bought a preamp or a used car from me, it's usually pretty pampered.

However, if you are going to spring for new gear, you need a good dealer. Someone who understands you, your music and most of all your perspective. You need someone to help you find the right components that will work together as a system, help you set it up in some cases, and offer support when things don't work out as planned. There's no substitute for experience, and a great dealer knows their products, and knows what will work best for you.

Nearly every audio system that has failed to achieve the greatness expected of it can be traced back to poor component choice (system and/or room) synergy and poor component setup. I've been to hifi shows, homes, and dealers all over the world – hearing sound good, bad, and somewhere inbetween. It always boils down to these two factors if something isn't truly broken, and it rarely is.

The solution is easy. Find a great dealer. While there isn't a hifi shop on every corner like there was back in the 70s, there are still some truly great dealers out there that will help you put together a stunning music system, regardless of your budget. And I'm on a mission to find as many of them as I can for you.

I'm starting with the folks I know, in this new section of the magazine. Most of the establishments in this list are running full page ads in the magazine – and there is a caveat. I will not accept advertising in this magazine from a dealer unless I've been to their place, seen the shop and have talked to a cross section of their customers to know they provide superior service. In most cases, these are hifi shops that I, or someone on the staff has purchased gear from as well.

These are not just people wanting to buy space in TONEAudio. Every one of these dealers carry my personal endorsement, and I hope that will help you on your journey. As we go forward, look for the "TONEAudio Approved Dealer" sticker on your favorite establishment. Know a great dealer, that you've had superior service from? Let me know, I would like to pay them a visit and add them to the list.



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Canada dealers: Audio Eden, Toronto ON | Element Acoustics, Vancouver BC | Filtronique, Montreal QC

Dealers That Mean Business - Listings

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www.whetstoneaudio.com

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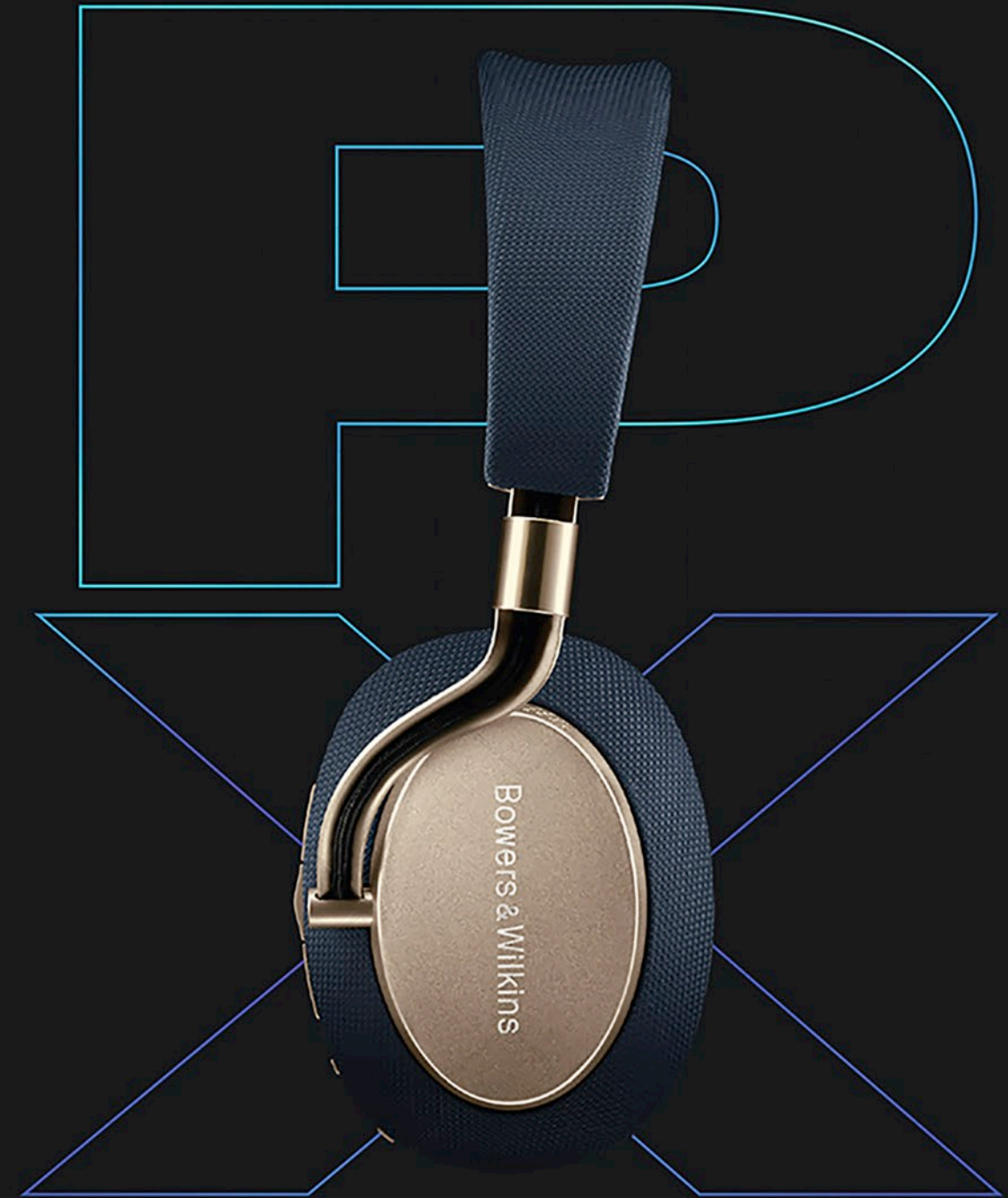
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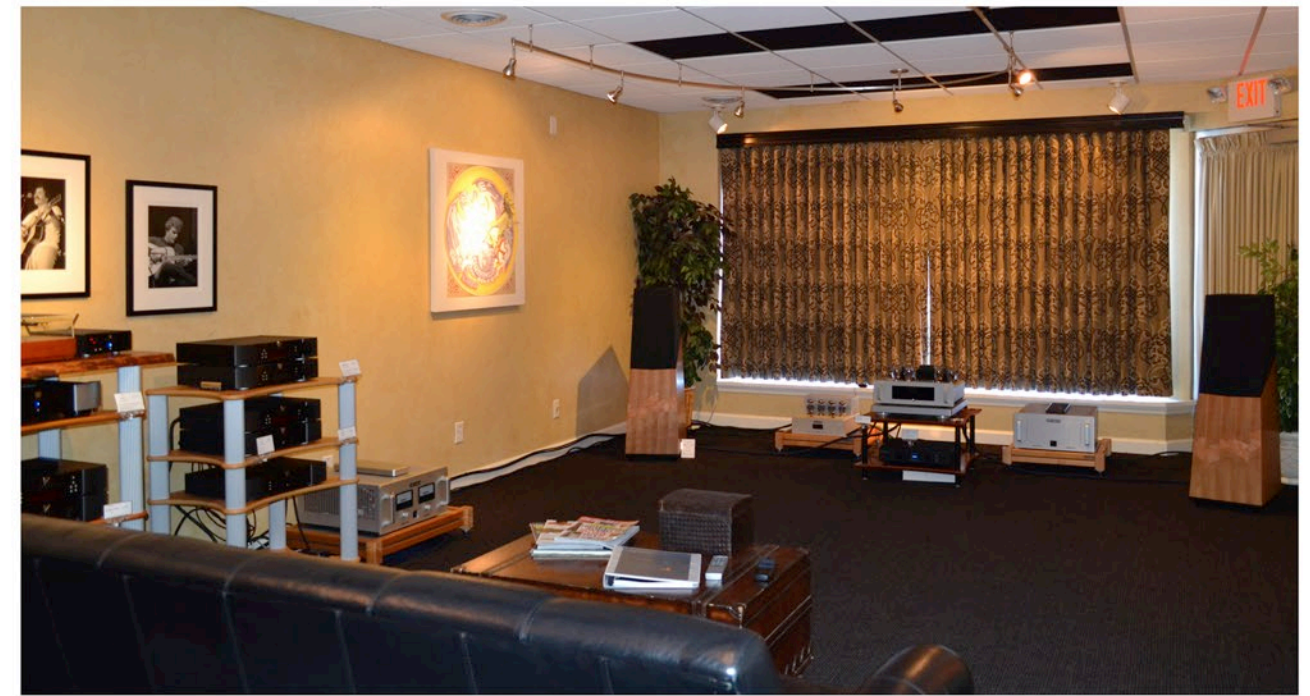
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www.ultrafidelis.com

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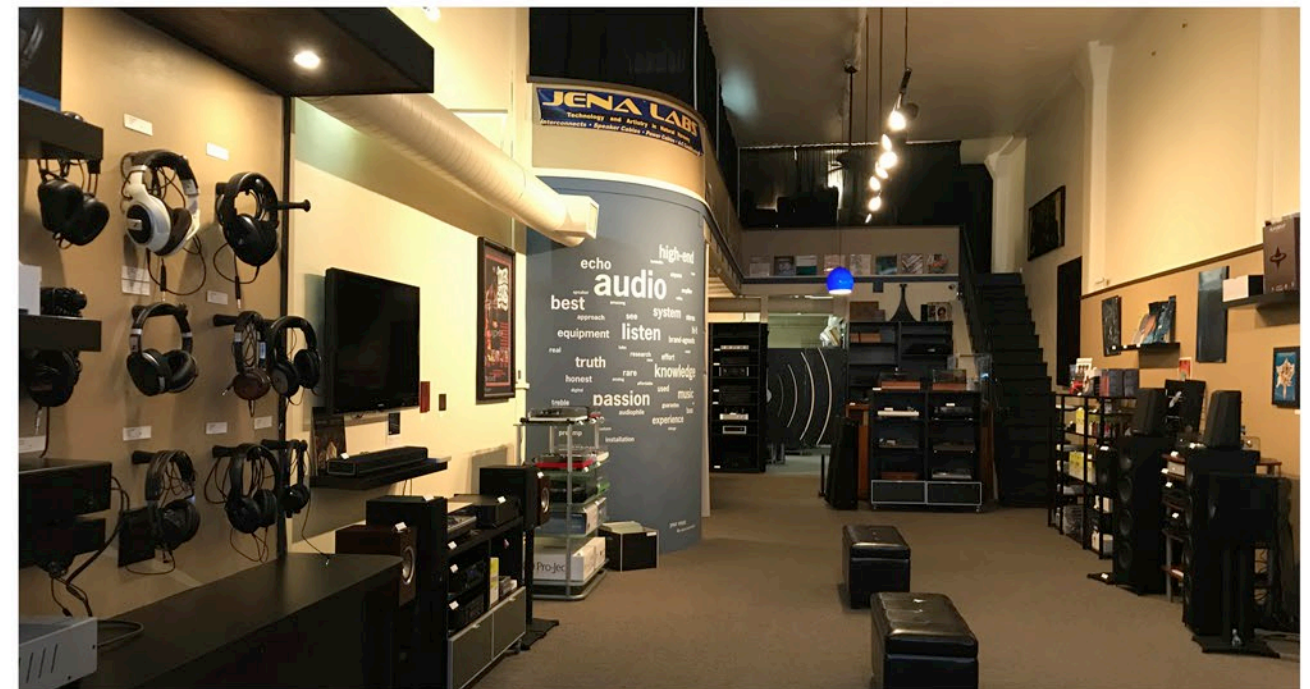
Portland, Oregon - Echo Audio

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Morton Grove, Illinois 60053

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The soundtrack of assembling the issue...

Coltrane '58 - John Coltrane

Starting out strong with box sets this issue. How can you not love a set of rare John Coltrane tracks (a list from the craft recordings store [here](#)) from his stint at Prestige?

Cut from 24/192 transfers of the Rudy Van Gelder originals, the analog purists might be offended, but the sound quality is superb.

You can read all about it at our new site, Cartridge Dude [here](#). Just click the link.



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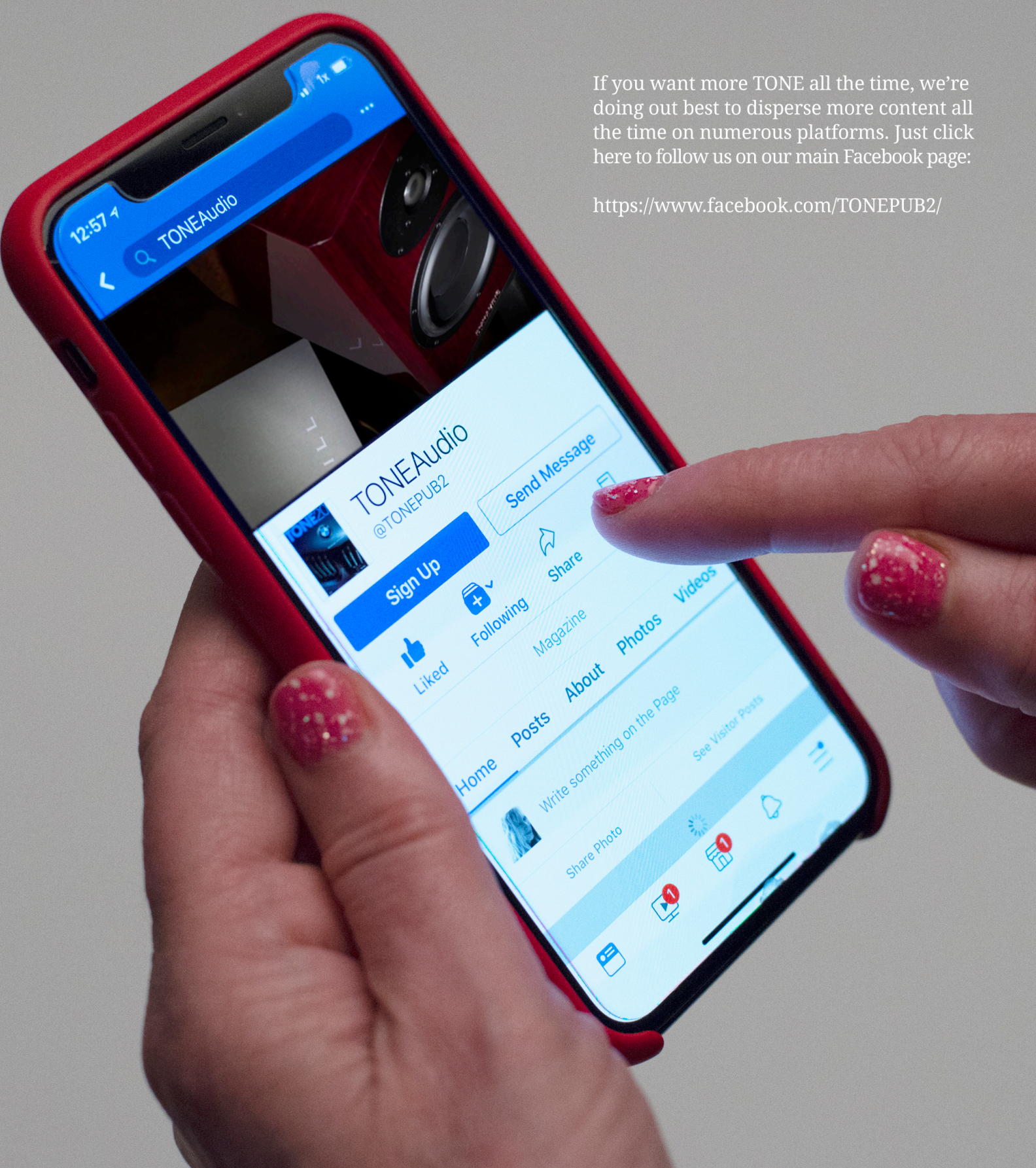
Bowers & Wilkins

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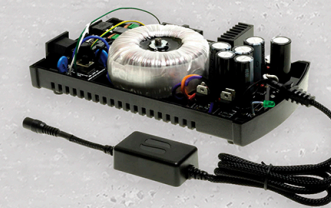
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TONE

Playlist:

What Our Readers Are Into

Matthew Sweet - You Don't Love Me

The Yahoos - Baby I Love You
(But Leave me the Fuck Alone)

Edgar Winter -
Autumn

The Bee Gees - How Can You
Mend a Broken Heart

Aimee Mann - How Am I
Different

Elvis Costello - Long Honeymoon

Joni Mitchell - Harry's House:
Centerpiece

Todd Rundgren - Can We Still
Be Friends

Afghan Whigs - Gentlemen

Prince - I hate U



Not to be a downer, but how about
a list of breakup songs?

no. 5 Washington

TONE Playlists are sponsored by...

qobuz

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ELEGANCE & PERFORMANCE
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Forbes



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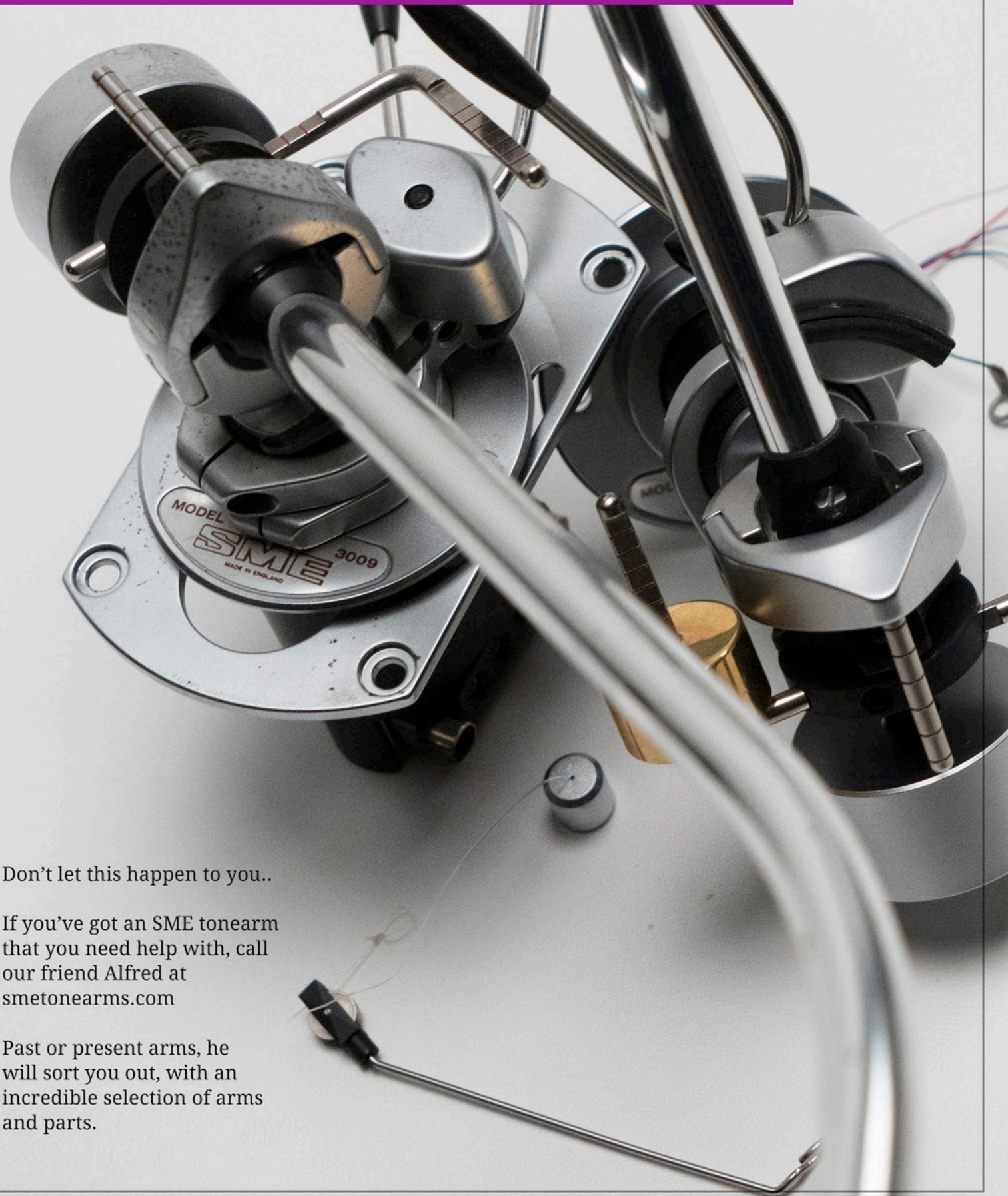
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THEVERGE

Last Word

Our parting thought to ponder.



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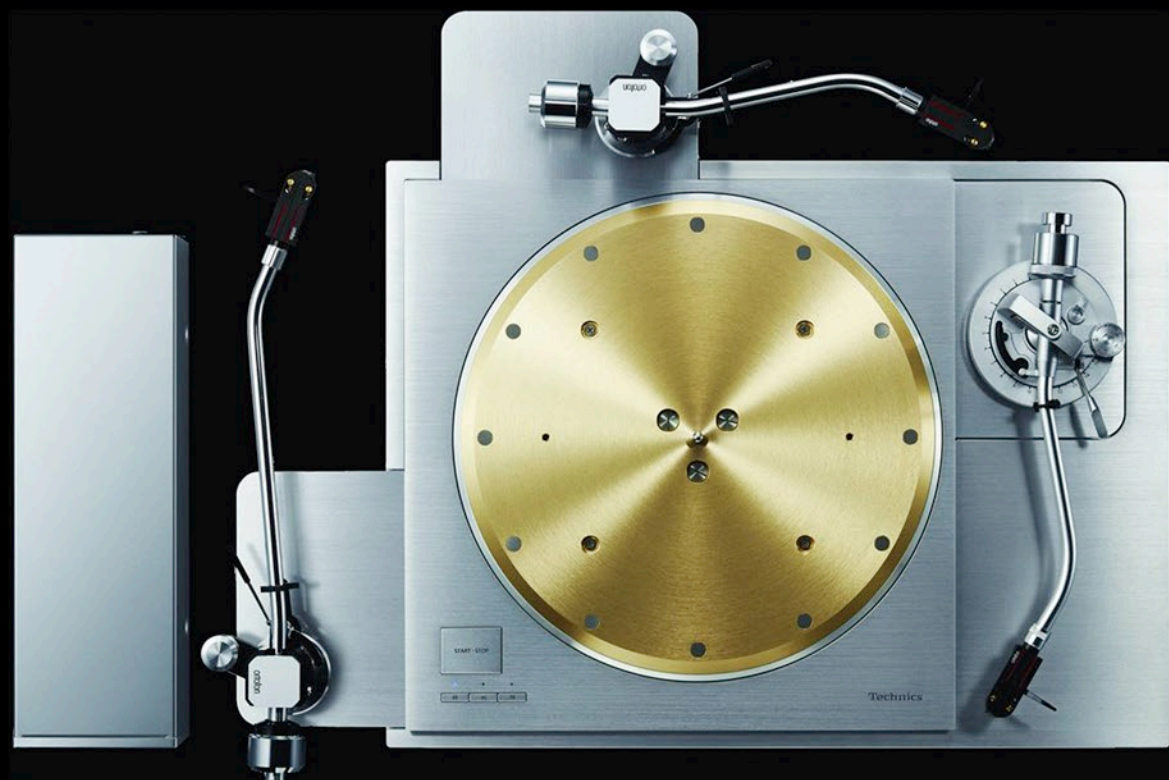
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Get The Gear: Where to find what you've seen in this issue.

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