London, April 22, 2010

Computers, NAS drives and your music system (Vol.1)

With the launch of Devialet D-Premier and Micromega Airstream, it is now possible to get very good sounds in your systems treating them as an extra source. I thought since Absolute Sounds has gained quite abit of experience with interfacing your computer and your NAS drive in music systems.
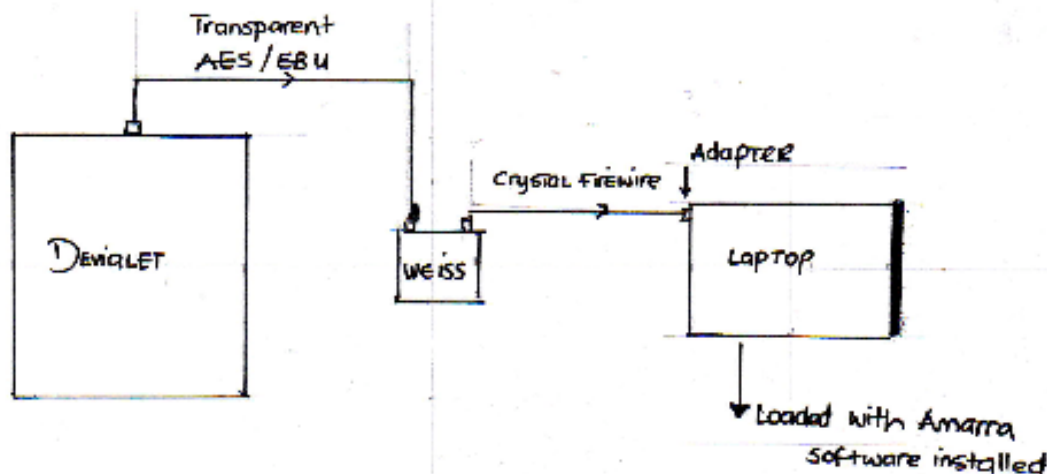
Over the years, Absolute Sounds has carried various experiments as to the best hard-wired way to playback computer audio, we will cover wireless music once we have got used to the input board of the Devialet not available yet and the new HiEnd wireless box from micromega not available yet. In order of preference our favorite hardwired connections are:
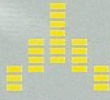- Firewire
- Coaxial S/PDIF

Our favorite means of storages are laptop computers with solidstate drives (SSD drive) rather than your normal 7200/5000rpm optical drives. A laptop offers the extra convenience of being transportable to the listening position and therefore allowing you to control your music from your seating area. One word of caution when storing music just use '.wav', '.aiff' files and if you want compression apple lossless or flac. Taking the Devialet D-Premier as a good one stop solution to playback hi-res or standard 44.1khz files through your system. I will below define some source systems in order of preferences:

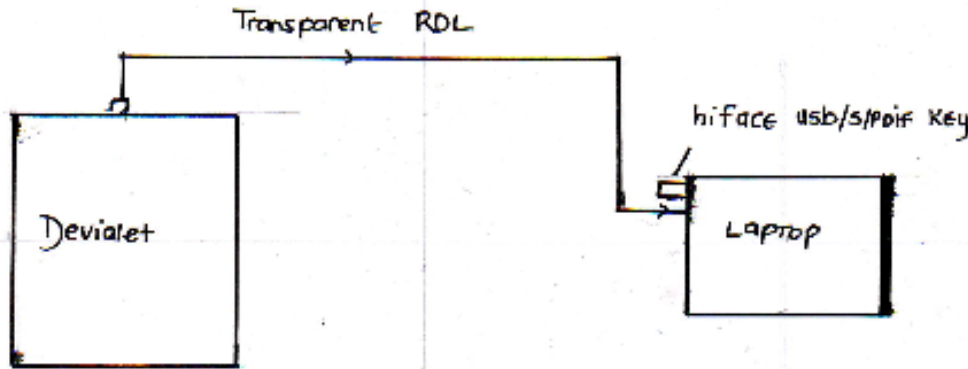### System 1.:   Devialet firewire interface
a). Source: Macbook pro 2.66Ghz with Intel Core i7, 512GB ssd drive here important to install Amarra which will allow you to playback hi-res files through itunes. You will also need for the firewire interface a Firewire 400 to 800 adapter
b). Cable from computer to firewire box needs to be a Crystal fire or Crystal fire dreamline. Click here for Crystal pricelist.
c). We now need to interface firewire from computer to Devialet and for that matter you get a fantastic little box called INT202 firewire interface.
d). We now need to interface INT202 to Devialet D-Premier and for that we recommend Transparent AES/EBU
e). Play music and enjoy the world of digital audio files.

System 2:   Devialet S/PDIF Interface

a). Source: Macbook pro 2.66Ghz with Intel Core i7, 512GB ssd drive here, it is not imperative to buy the same macbook pro since you're only looking for USB out but retain the SSD drive in the configuration of your laptop. It important to install Amarra which will allow you to playback hi-res files through itunes. You will also need for the Hi-End S/PDIF Output Interface the hiFace from M2TECH, (usb key with clocked S/PDIF out).

b). Recommended cable from computer with hiFace to Devialet D-Premier should be Transparent RDL.

c). Play music and enjoy the world of digital audio files.

The recommendations above are best achieved by Absolute Sounds at the moment; those recommendations can obviously change, as new hardware interface becomes available and also new cables. The diagrams above will obviously help you understand better what a tremendous future is ahead of us and units like the Devialet D-Premier and some Micromega products bring us this great music into our systems.

Please contact your nearest dealer or Absolute Sounds would you require further information. Please note that all components listed above can be obtained via Absolute Sounds ltd. on behalf of your nearest dealer apart from Apple products and Amarra which can be downloaded from the internet.