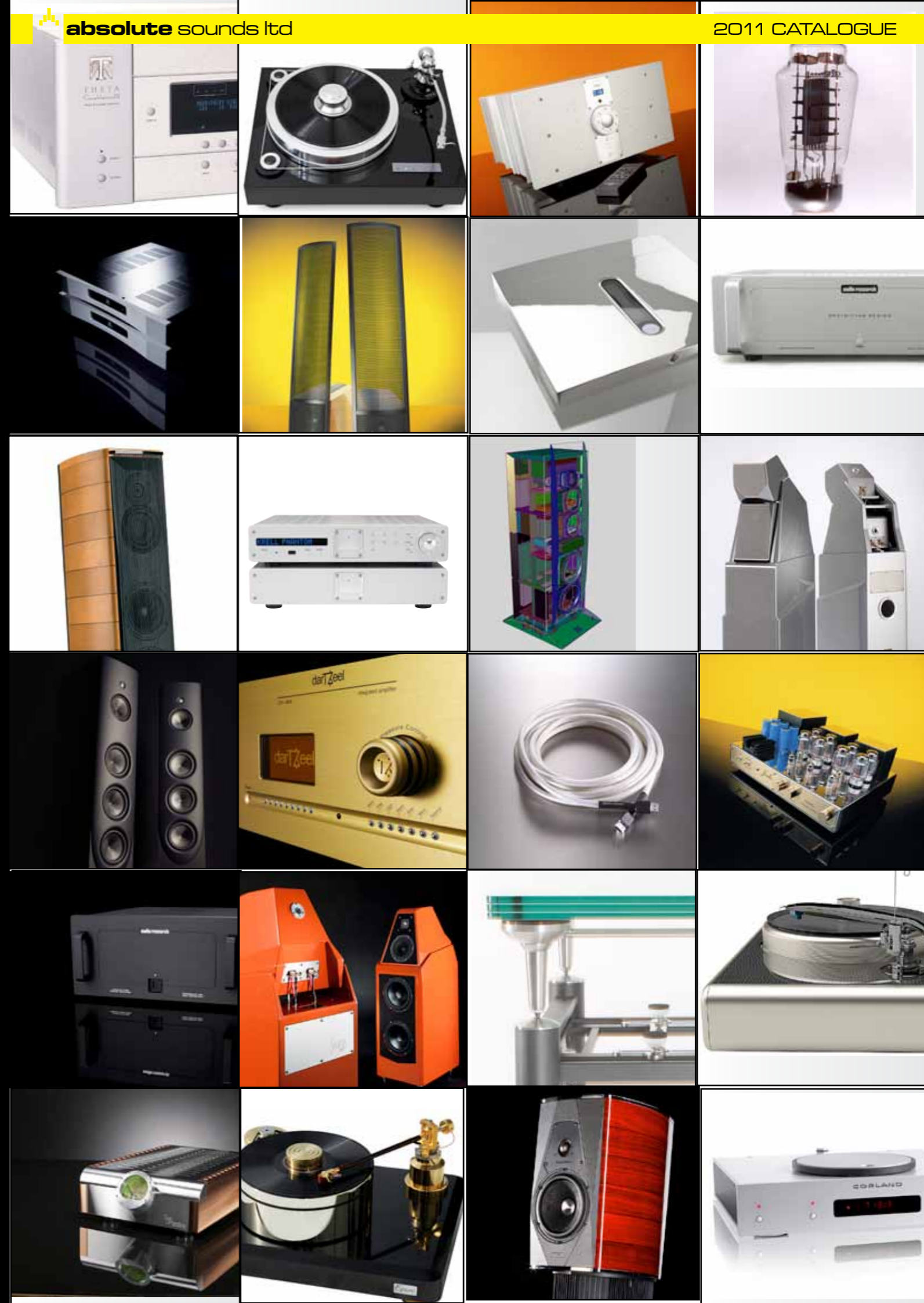
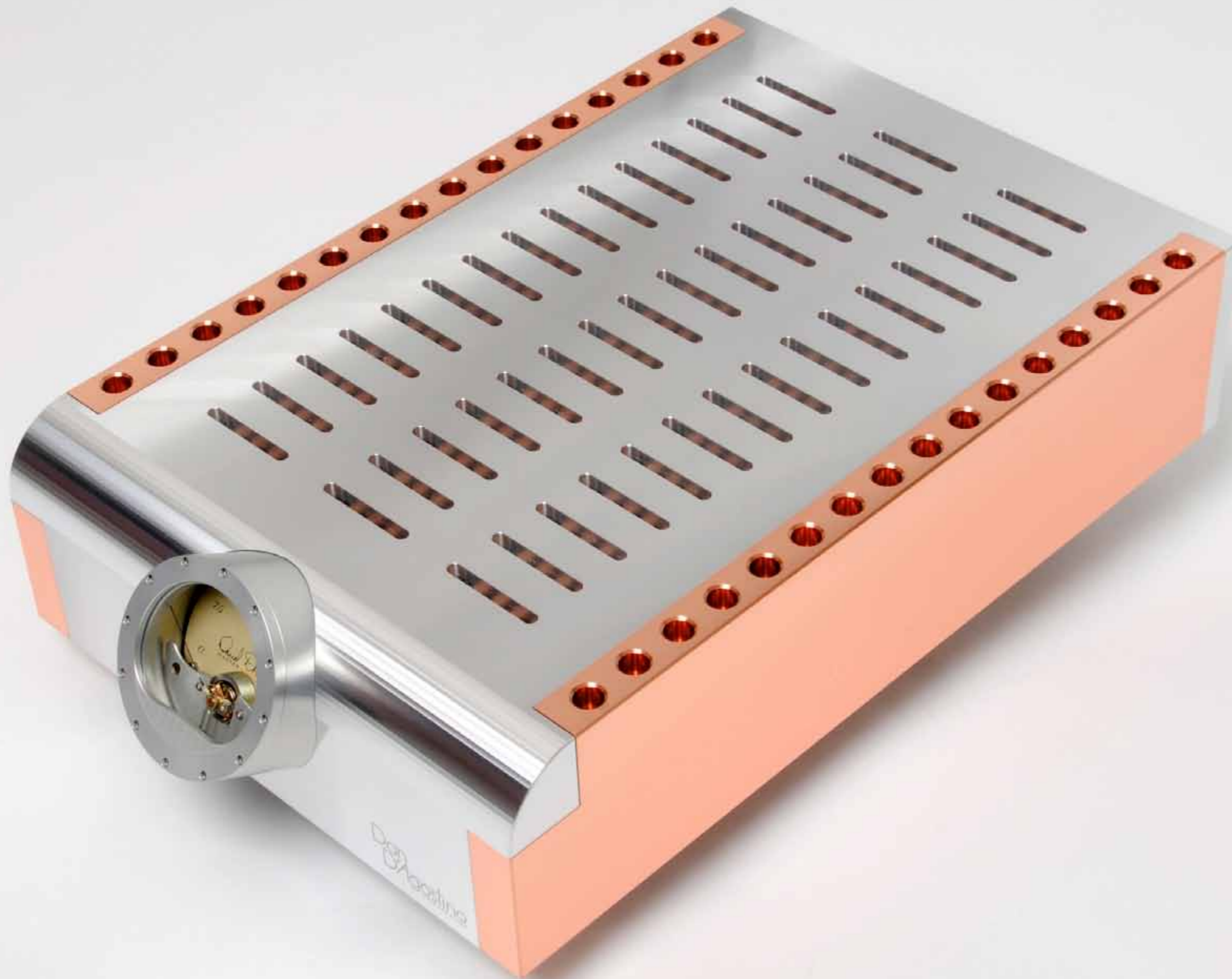


This catalogue was designed in house so that we could ensure that the spirit of high end audio was preserved. Many people have contributed to this huge challenge, we want to extend our gratitude to: Bill McKiegan of Krell Industries, Karen Sumner of Transparent Audio, John Giolas of Wilson Audio, Patrick Calmett of Jadis Electronics, Devin Zell of Martin Logan, Cyril Monestier of Metronome Technologie, Tim Bower of Andy Giles Associates, Brian Rivas of Pinewood Music Company and Emanuele Fronteddu from Audio Natali.

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- Audio Research
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- Transparent Audio
- Theta Digital
- Yter
- Wilson audio



Audio Research Reference 150

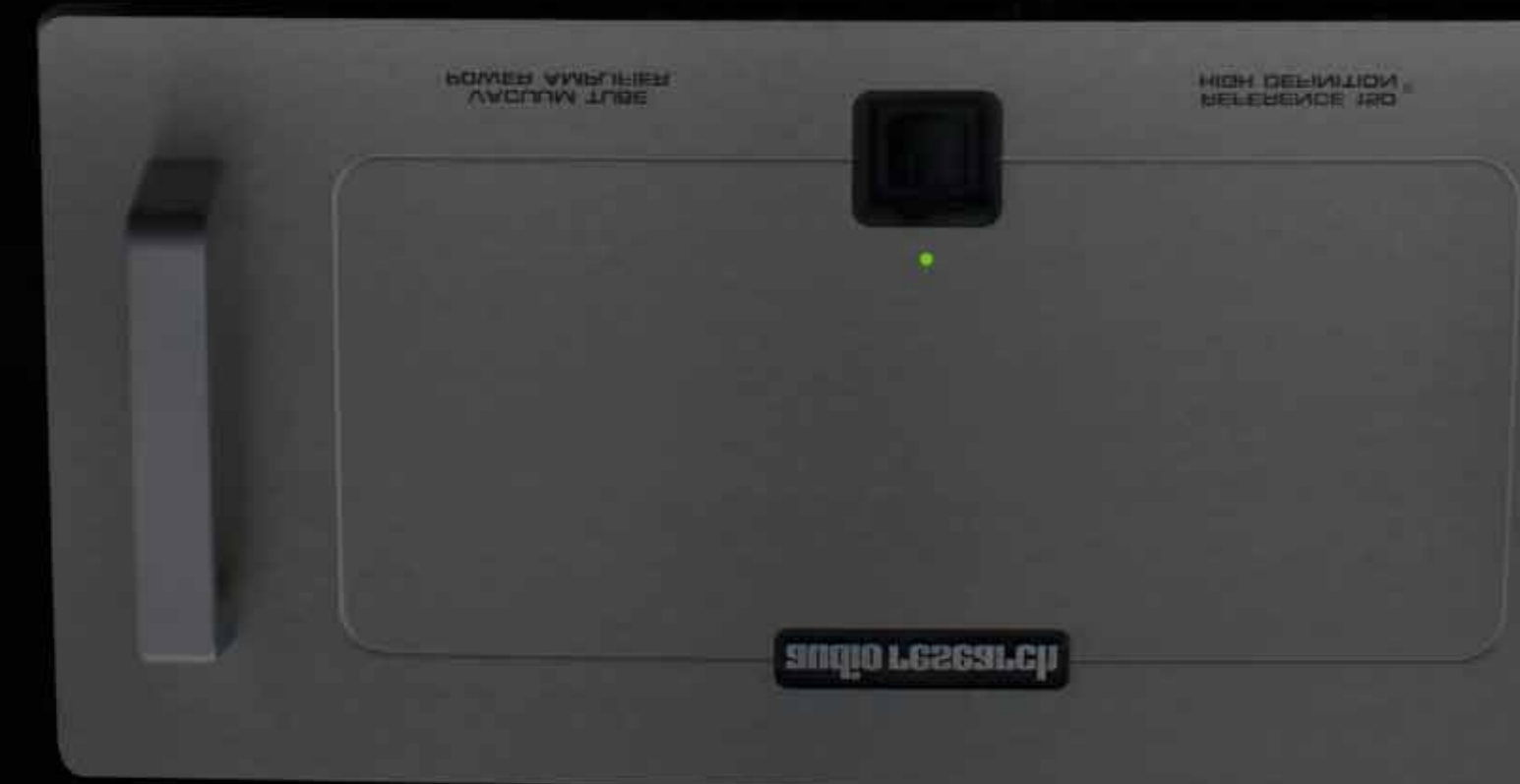
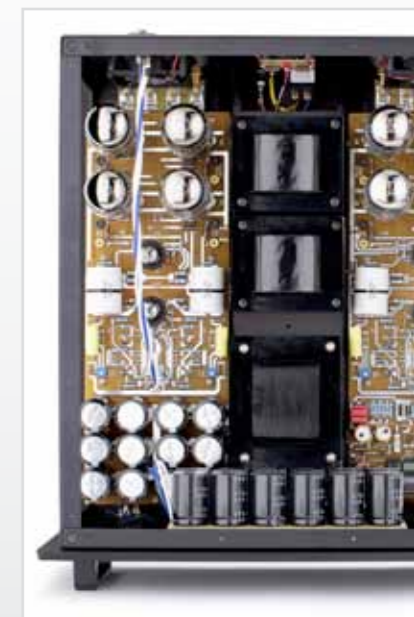
Stereo valve amplifier with KT120

For most brands, “entry level” means the humblest product it can produce. Not so for Audio Research, the doyen of valve amplifier manufacturers. With this company, the entry level model in the Reference range is a component most manufacturers can only dream of equalling. The stereo REF150 embodies all of the virtues of the models up to the mighty REF 610 monoblocks, but in a single, compact chassis. Replacing the magnificent REF110 presented Audio Research with a daunting challenge: how to improve on a product that was already supreme in its class. For the REF150, Audio Research upped the power to deliver greater dynamics, more vivid presentation, and finer resolution, with subtler finesse and quieter operation.

It maintains identical dimensions to its predecessor, but with refined front-panel cosmetics to match the current-generation models. For “Legacy” system matching, despite their modernity, the silver or black lids and handles can be mixed to match the black/silver contrasts of older models. A fully-balanced design, its inputs are XLR only, while its robust nature demands a 20-amp IEC power connector. 4-8-16 ohm output taps and 12V triggers grace the rear panel. Under the lid, a number of circuit enhancements provide radically improved performance. Inherited from the Anniversary Edition preamplifier are all-new interstage coupling capacitors to link input stage to output stage, the latter powered by matched sets of Russian KT120 output valves, driven by 6H30 twin triodes. Multistage solid-state regulation and a combination of “ultralinear” and Audio Research’s patented “partially cathode-coupled” output stages provide superior performance to conventional pentode or triode operation. Power is now rated at 150W/ch. Each channel is fan-cooled by new low-turbulence intakes, with selectable fan speeds to ensure quietness. A small LCD display indicates valve hours.

We expect even seasoned Audio Research clients to be dazzled by the improvements made to what was regarded as a modern classic. We do not exaggerate when we compare the gains to those first experienced by the earth-shattering performance of the Anniversary Reference pre-amplifier.

Listeners speak of greater speed and lightning-fast transient attack. The power and control can only be likened to the larger Reference power amplifiers. Bass extension is cavernous, with speaker control threatening even the best solid-state alternatives. The REF150, compact and affordable in relative terms, ranks as one of the finest Audio Research has ever produced.





Audio Research Reference 250

Mono valve amplifier with KT120

Among the greatest amplifiers of all time were the Audio Research D79 and D150, distinguished by their large power meters. With the simple nod to the past, that of an electro-mechanical meter instead of a digital display, Audio Research has forged a spiritual link between those milestones of yore and the new REF250 monoblock.

Replacing the magnificent REF210 – the perfect choice for those who didn't "need" REF610s – the REF250, like the REF150, enjoys improvements both inside and out. The illuminated meter shows power output, line voltage and output valve bias settings, while a small LCD display showing accumulated tube hours is positioned near the front of the circuit board inside, visible with the top cover in place.

Other enhancements include deft restyling to match the current Reference line-up, with small aluminium power buttons, while the handles, top covers and front panels are either all-silver or all-black. Quiet running is ensured by fans located on the rear of each chassis, with low-turbulence intake grids and two selectable speeds for ultra quiet and effective cooling. As befits an amplifier of this power, the detachable power cord is the 20-amp IEC type as used on the REF210. System compatibility is assured through two 12V triggers on the back panel, along with 4-, 8- and 16-ohm speaker taps. But it's the sound that benefits the most from the makeover.

Just as the REF150 supersedes the previous model with gains in every area of performance, so does the REF250 raise the bar above its predecessor. Thanks to a new power transformer and the fabulous KT120 output valves providing the drive, the REF250 exhibits profound impact, improved bass speed, tighter control and finer detail retrieval. New Teflon capacitors have enhanced the unit's focus, there's a lower noise floor, wider dynamics, greater low-level resolution and superior matching with even the most difficult loudspeakers, and you have another power amplifier worthy of the name "Reference".

Despite its price, the REF250 has garnered acclaim resulting in unexpected demand. The amplifier is back-ordered even before a single review has appeared. This is unprecedented. It explains why Audio Research was compelled to state: "We feel that this is the finest amplifier we have ever produced."





Audio Research DS450M

Mono amplifier Solid State

For installations where massive valve amplifiers might not prove suitable, Audio Research has long offered solid-state units with an impeccable pedigree. The Definition Series answers the need for home cinema multi-channel amplification, custom installation or – simply – cooler-running hardware.

Adding a new level of performance to the Definition Series is the DS450M monoblock, an imposing powerhouse in a compact chassis. Smaller than its stereo counterpart, the DS450M delivers a phenomenal 450W, ideal for large-scale home cinemas demanding maximum impact. The cool running – this unit draws only 55W at idle – ensures its suitability in multi-room installations, where the system may be housed in a “hidden” rack.

Why one would choose the DS450M over a stereo amp is performance: a monaural amp produces a bigger, more spacious soundstage and better dynamics, thanks to a much larger power supply. In addition to its reduced height, the DS450M is 4.15 inches (10.5 cm) shallower than the DS450, allowing it to fit in a much tighter cabinet space.

Housed in the same sized chassis as the DSi200 and DS225, the DS450M shares with other Definition Series amplifiers the company’s proprietary “hybrid Class D” all-discrete analogue switching-MOSFET output technology, combined with an enormous linear analogue power supply. This ensures the delivery of tremendous speed and power. One enhancement that allows a pair of DS450Ms to offer higher performance than a DS450 is an increase in the energy storage of 62% over the stereo version. The immense power supply will treat with aplomb even the most inefficient speakers, rising to the occasion when the music demands it.

In keeping with Audio Research’s attention to system compatibility, the DS450M is a fully-balanced design with both balanced and single-ended inputs. The rear panel features Cardas’ patented speaker binding posts and two 12V triggers. A 12-gauge detachable power cord with a 20A IEC connector is included. In addition to the standard all-silver version, the DS450M is also available in all-black form.





Audio Research PH8

Tube Phono Preamplifier

Filling a gap in the Audio Research catalogue, between the world-class Reference Phono 2 at the top and the sublime PH6 with its more affordable price, is the PH8 phono preamplifier. It benefits from improvements derived from the REF Phono 2, delivering much of its award-winning performance at a greatly reduced price.

Instead of using the four 6922s of its predecessor, the PH7, the new PH8 employs two 6H30 valves and low-noise FETs. Its valve regulation stage incorporates a 6550 and a 6H30, as in both the REF Phono 2 and REF5 preamplifier. Capacitors are the same types as those used in the REF Phono 2.

Boasting extraordinary bandwidth, its -3dB points occur below 0.3dB and above 400kHz. With vanishingly low distortion and noise, and a healthy and useful 58dB of gain, the PH8 can be used even with relatively low-output moving coil cartridges into an appropriate line stage.

Its cosmetic changes match other current Audio Research products, with beautifully integrated silver handles and small aluminium buttons below the display; an all-black version is also available. On the rear panel are sets of single-ended inputs and outputs, an earthing post and a removable 15A AC cable.

Where the PH8 will win a legion of fans is in its sheer usability. The PH8 retains the flexibility and ease of operation of its predecessor, with Power, Loading of 47K, 1K, 500, 200 and 100 ohms to accommodate a wide array of cartridges, and Mute and Stereo/Mono buttons below the vacuum-fluorescent display, the latter featuring eight selectable brightness levels. The display can also be turned off, with nine small pixels remaining dimly lit to remind one that the PH8 is still powered-up. These controls, plus a valve hour meter, are accessible via the supplied remote control, so changes can be made from the listening seat.

For music lovers who covet the performance of the REF Phono 2 but simply cannot afford the outlay, the PH8 is a solution, not a compromise. Both deliver startling performance in every meaningful musical parameter. Like the line preamplifiers that they partner, the REF Phono 2 and, now, the PH8 present a cartridge's signal with remarkable air, transparency, speed, focus, low level detail and inimitable tonal purity. Musically, this translates into an organic rightness that is incredibly involving, allowing the intent and art of the performance and performers to shine through.



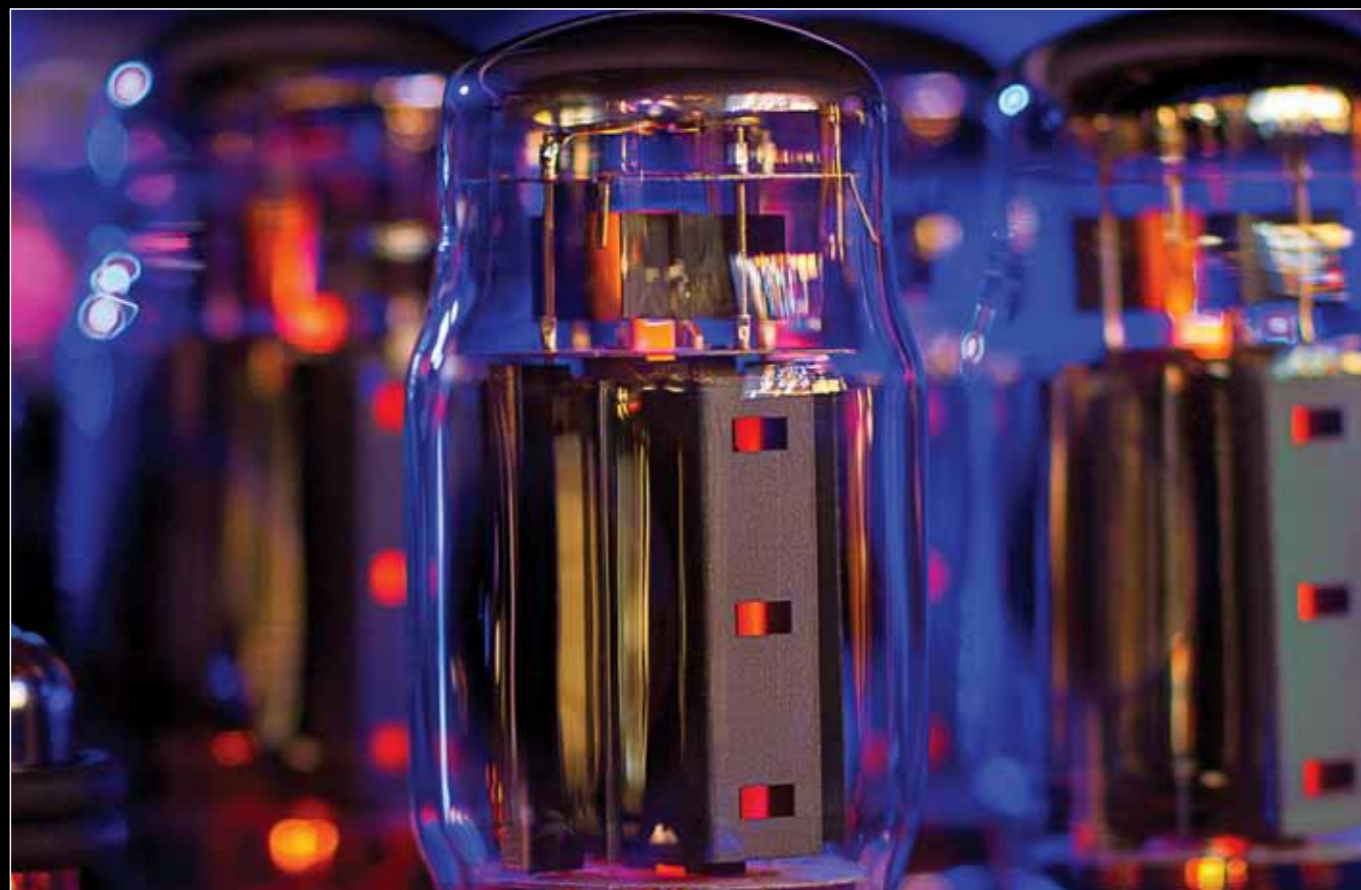


Audio Research DS-Pre

Preamplifier with built in 192Khz Dac

There can be no better, more elegant way to integrate the finest of modern digital sources with a high-end system than through Audio Research's long-awaited DS-Pre. This marvellous device combines a superior line-level preamplifier with a 24/192 DAC in a single, unified chassis. As a preamplifier, it accepts two balanced sources via XLRs and three single-ended sources through RCA phono sockets, with balanced and single-ended line outputs. Add to this five digital inputs based on the DAC technology, a comprehensive menu system and digital conversion up to 24-bit/192kHz resolution, and no digital source can fail to benefit. Your computer will thank you.

- Preamplifier Inputs: 2 XLR, 3 RCA
- Preamplifier Output: XLR, RCA, Tape
- Balanced Output Gain: 18dB; Single ended Output Gain: 12dB
- 5 digital input, as per DAC8
- Front panel menu : Power, Sample, Menu, Enter, Mono, Invert, Mute
- Triggers 2-12V (input and output)
- RS232 port



Audio Research KT120 Valves

Not just big, but positively HUGE news for devotees of Audio Research power amplification is a new valve destined to become the industry standard. Audio Research has announced the adoption of the KT120 as its output valve of choice.

Manufactured in Russia, the KT120 is designed specifically for use in both guitar and audio power amplifiers. With a dissipation rating of 60W, the KT120 is capable of higher power output than the much-loved 6550 or KT88. Output power increases as follows, with 6550s replaced by KT120s: REF610T increases from 610W to 840W; REF210 from 210W/ch to 250W/ch; REF110 from 115W/ch to 129W/ch; VSi60 from 45W/ch to 52W/ch.

The KT120 has the same pin configuration and bias and is a direct replacement for the 6550 in current models. However, because the KT120 is slightly taller than the 6550, it may not physically fit all older models, and it will not fit under the cage of the current VS60 and VSi60. Please check with our service department for advice on older models. The 6550 continues as the power-supply regulator tube in the REF CD8, REF Phono 2, PH7, REF5, REF Anniversary, REF210 and REF610T.



Continuum Audio Labs The Caliburn system

Reference turntable system including purpose built stand

'If it ain't broke, don't fix it.' That's the train of thought at Continuum, the company not feeling any burning need to release products just for effect. After all, the company manufactures the most highly regarded turntables on the planet, and we're happy for them to carry on as usual. With two models in the range, the appeal has doubled, enabling more music lovers to experience vinyl's full effect.

Their attitude is justified: There has never been a turntable-tonearm combination like it. Continuum Audio's Caliburn and Cobra elevated the playback of the vinyl LP to previously unimagined heights. It is a marriage of pure science and audiophile passion, resulting in a "front end" without peer.

The award-winning Cobra Tonearm was designed using advanced FEA software and shape optimisation to derive its revolutionary profile. The Cobra's revolutionary design removes distortion and coloration and delivers a pure rendition of the original source like no other tonearm currently available. With vacuum hold-down, isolation of the respective stages, construction to NASA standards, the Caliburn is the ultimate disc-spinner.

Completing the Caliburn-Cobra analogue playback system, the Castellon stand was built to defend the Caliburn from external vibrations. Continuum Audio Labs developed a scientifically-designed floating platform which uses a combination of magnetic and pneumatic isolation technologies. Two heavy, opposing magnetic plates, isolate the Caliburn from vibrations. Precision-machined in aircraft-grade aluminium, the ultra-rigid Castellon is cross-braced and tensioned with nautical turnbuckles for added strength, and is available in a number of metal and wood finishes.

Although the price of the complete system precludes ownership by all but a fortunate few, the company has a less-costly alternative in the slightly simpler Criterion-Copperhead system. At a much reduced price, the pairing provides not merely a taste of Caliburn-Cobra magic, but nearly all of the thrills. More compact, less complex, it is no less compelling, having been designed and realised by the same high paradigm. As one noted critic admitted, it revealed details on familiar LPs that he hadn't heard before.



Copland CTA 506

Stereo Valve amplifier with KT120

Copland may seem familiar, with its Scandinavian cool, exceptional value for money and enticing sound, but the company is still able to surprise even long-serving supporters like us at Absolute Sounds. The photos grabbed us, but the description sealed the deal: the CTA506 power plant is going to be a knock-out because it has been designed specifically for the KT120 power valve, a new variant of the legendary 6550/KT88 power tubes. The KT120 is the most powerful iteration yet, able to deliver nearly 30% more power: a pair of KT120 tubes in push-pull configuration can deliver nearly 200W of audio power!

In the CTA506, Copland extracts a conservative 90W/ch. The CTA506 push-pull output stages uses of a pair of matched KT120 in fixed ultra-linear configuration, giving the low distortion of triodes combined with the power of tetrode valves, with active tube regulation courtesy of two 6550s. A dedicated power supply for the input stages of the amplifier allows the massive central reservoir capacitors of more than 3000-microfarad to independently serve the output valves.

The CTA506 is terrific-looking, too, its handsome chassis fitted with a grooved front panel. The KT120s are impressive beasts: Copland decided to make them clearly visible by situating the valves behind the lateral perforations on the front panel, thus creating a stunning design to match the sonic virtues of this amplifier.





Crystal cable

Arabesque Mini

Aluminium 2 way Loudspeaker system
stand mount

At 32.6cm (12¾in) tall, Crystal Cable's Arabesque Mini lives up to its name: it's positive teensy. But that says nothing about its deceptive grandeur. The Mini is fashioned from solid aluminium, quite a challenge in a cabinet so complex yet so compact. The Arabesque Mini features the company's unique Illuminator bass-midrange driver, combined with a super-fast, pure beryllium-dome tweeter, which provides a surprisingly full and powerful sound from such a small cabinet. The drivers and saturation-free crossover are connected with advanced, mono-crystal wire from Crystal Cable. The Arabesque Mini builds on the results achieved by the original all-Glass Arabesque. The unique Comsol-optimised low-resonance structure allows for the absence of damping or filler material. Technical innovation, musicality, and a beautifully precise design make the Arabesque Mini truly unique and exceptional.



Crystal cable

Arabesque III

Aluminium 3 way Loudspeaker system
free standing.

Inspired by the all-glass Arabesque, the Arabesque III is a floor-standing speaker with a compact, room-friendly footprint. The cabinet is made of solid aluminium, offered in black and silver. Four unique, proprietary Illuminator bass-mid drivers ensure low distortion and enough level to please large audiences. The low-mass midrange demonstrates a unique sense of realism, making all types of music appealing and involving.

Both low mass, high speed drivers are beautifully engineered, with powerful Airflow Neodymium magnet systems. A beryllium tweeter completes the six-driver design. The drivers are connected by a crossover network of equally high quality, featuring large, silver-oil capacitors and huge air-coiled inductors. Rhodium-plated WBT Nextgen connectors and Crystal Cable terminals allow for bi-wiring or bi-amping, and all drivers are connected using highly-advanced mono-crystal wire.



Dan D'agostino

Momentum

300W mono amplifier

Dan D'Agostino has achieved what was once thought impossible: extracting incredible power and incomparable finesse from a compact chassis. Creating an amplifier that could meet the demands of today's audiophiles required two things: a clean slate and the skills of one of the world's most talented, experienced and respected designers.

Momentum is the first amplifier offered by Dan D'Agostino to bear his own name. Co-founder and former Chief Engineer of Krell Industries, Dan earned a reputation for building the world's best high-end amplifiers. With the Momentum, he begins anew, using the experience he gained in 40 years of designing amplifiers but starting with an entirely fresh approach, with no need to adhere to stale concepts.

Dan intended from the outset that the Momentum would neither look nor behave like any other amplifier. He developed a revolutionary cooling technique, the Momentum is the first production amplifier to use solid copper for its heat sinks. The thermal conductivity of copper is 91 per cent greater than that of aluminium, allowing the Momentum to use a much smaller heat sink.

To enhance cooling capacity, the heat sink uses venturis instead of fins. The mouths of the venturis measure 0.75in (1.9cm) and narrow to 0.5in (1.2cm) in the middle. As the air in the top of the venturis heats and expands, the shape of the venturis forces it upward and draws in more air from the bottom. The venturi-equipped copper heat sinks made possible the Momentum's compact, 4in-high chassis.

Most high-end audio amplifiers consume hundreds of watts of power the moment you push the "On" button – even when idling and reproducing nothing but silence. With the Momentum, Dan D'Agostino has achieved a new standard in energy efficiency for the high-end audio industry. Despite its impressive output of 300W into 8 ohms, the Momentum monoblock draws less than 1W of power at idle – or about one-fifth of what a typical cell phone charger might require.

The 28 output transistors used on the Momentum are among the fastest high-output transistors available. They run at a blistering 69MHz, permitting the Momentum to achieve incredible bandwidth. Each transistor mounts with two stainless steel fasteners – a rarity among flat-package transistors – for maximum thermal transfer to the copper heat sinks. A capacitor/resistor network connected to the base of each transistor ensures stability at high frequencies and with low-impedance speakers.

Momentum's chassis is machined from a solid aluminium billet, not stamped from sheet metal. It is non-resonant and provides superior shielding from radio-frequency and electromagnetic interference. The circuit board is assembled using through-hole construction, which resists heat far better and lasts longer than the surface-mount boards. All resistors are 1% metal-film types. Using through-hole construction also allows the use of higher-quality capacitors in the circuit, with none in the signal path – the amplifier is DC-coupled from input to output. The result is nothing short of spectacular and as T3 said recently: "300 watts of sweet, pumping, sexually invigorating audio".





darTZeel NHB-18NS

Preamplifier with built in Phono stage



As iconoclastic as is the darTZeel NHB-108 Model One power amplifier, it could only be partnered by a pre-amplifier sharing the same philosophy that motivates this Swiss firm. The NHB-18NS is the logical (how truly Swiss is that?) control unit for the Model One.

Like its sibling, there is no application of overall negative feedback. The delicate audio signals pass through only eight silicon junctions between input and output, including the 13dB fully discrete gain stage. For the phono stage, darTZeel used only three junctions, for a maximum additional boost of 60dB, or 73dB in total. No operational amplifier is used in the entire signal path. As in the NHB-108, all of the components used in the NHB-18NS pre-amplifier are the finest that can be sourced from the world's leading suppliers.

Because no contacts, switches or relays of any kind interfere with the selection of the sources, the NHB-18NS exhibits a new level of transparency. Instead of routing the signal through a selector box, each input has its own dedicated gain stage, which is enabled or disabled according to the user's choice. The signal is then directly routed to the volume control module.

A new volume control module, which avoids completely the use of any stepped attenuator, potentiometer or analogue switch array in the signal path means that the signal is attenuated in a fully passive manner, within a continuous range of close to 90dB in full analogue mode, without the use of any active component. These breakthroughs constitute a big step in the right direction: no harm to the signal.

The darTZeel NHB-18NS is a true dual mono preamplifier, from input to output, with separate earthing for left and right channels. Each channel is battery-powered by its own battery bank, offering 10 to 12 hours of listening pleasure before a charge is needed. A "smart" automatic function is provided as standard, allowing full battery operation when listening, with the charging mode activated when the unit is switched off. Hum is gone forever, and there is no need to wonder if the batteries need to be charged or not. So clever. So Swiss.





darTZeel NHB-108 model one Dual Mono amplifier

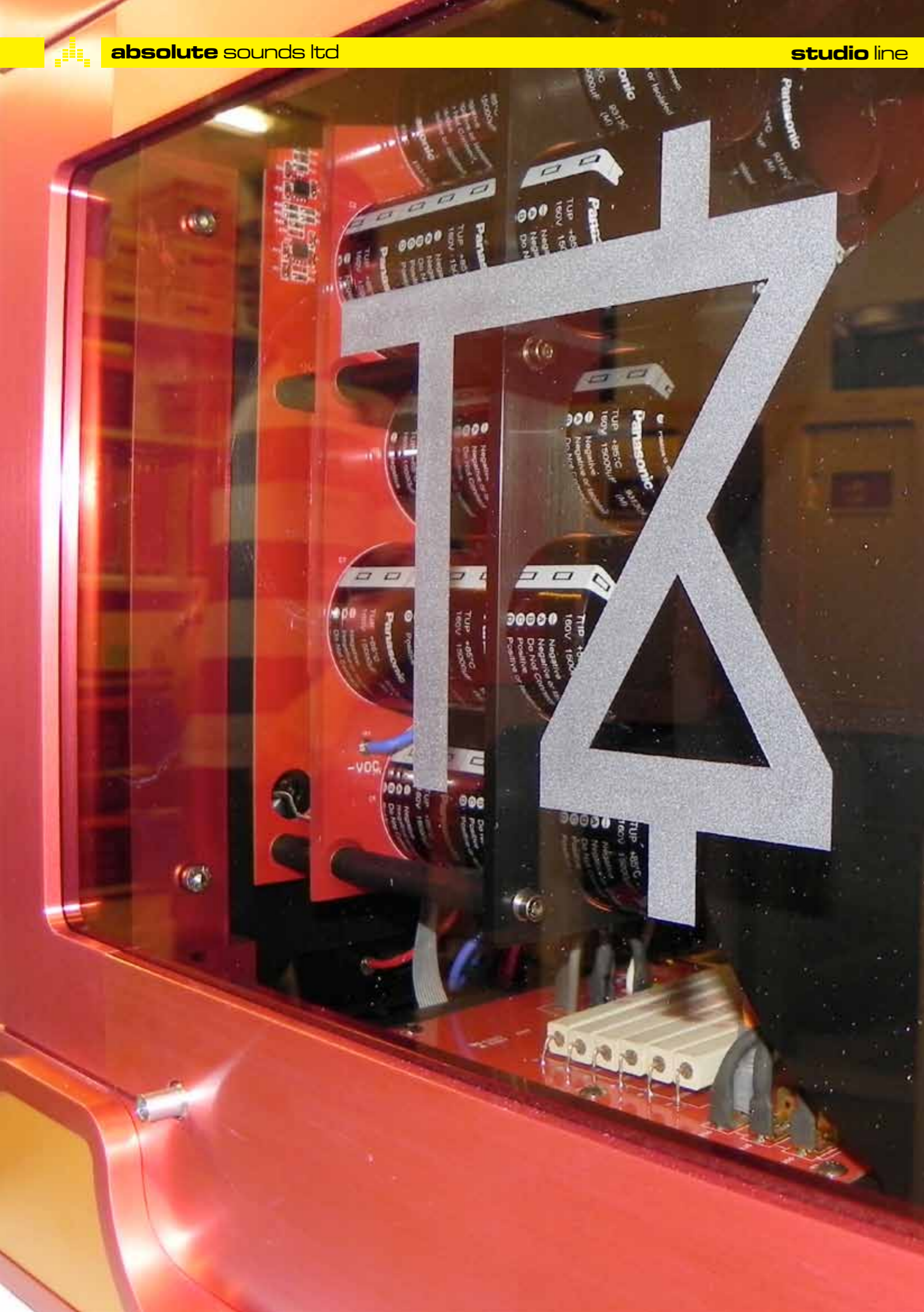
It looks like no other. The colour scheme makes you smile, take notice, scratch your head. The legends – “Left Eye”, “Right Eye” – tell you that the manufacturer is a lateral thinker. But the ergonomics, internal construction and – above all – sound alert you to something that transcends circumstantial evidence. Absolute Sounds’ faith in and respect for the darTZeel NHB-108 Model One stereo amplifier have been rewarded with the sort of customer loyalty normally associates with Apple or Rolex.

darTZeel spent 16 years researching and developing every aspect of audio circuitry, embodied in a completely new amplifier. Amplifier circuits have, in the past, been treated as relatively simple because the design language is long-established. But darTZeel was not investing 16 years of research and development just to create impressive measurements. Instead, they created an amplifier with dignity: sonic excellence, supreme power delivery, pride of ownership. And a sense of humour.

Their products, above all, are designed and realised from a purely “humanistic” point of view. For darTZeel, music is not only a means for communicating and listening: it is a vehicle for expressing the soul of the music’s creators – benefitting the spiritual development of the listener. Music generates emotions that must be taken into account in the design process. Technology should only be applied to enhance the emotions, even transcend them, without altering them. Once that goal is reached, then and only then will darTZeel concentrate on the “electrical performance”. Their slogan is “Listen first, measure later. Never the other way around.”

The darTZeel NHB-108 Model One was their first product. The rest is history.





darTZeel NHB-458 400w High Speed Mono Amplifier

DarTZeel's NHB-458 sets a new standard: after nine years of constant research and continuous development, this monoblock amplifier has embraced all of the qualities of the acclaimed NHB-108 and increased or improved every parameter. It offers copious amounts of power for situations that require more than the NHB-108 can deliver: 450W RMS into 8 ohms, 800W into 4 ohms and 1000W to 2 ohms, with the peace of mind offered by proprietary security software, and dynamic reproduction of music signals enhanced to their limits.

Like the NHB-108, no switches or relays interrupt signal path, save for an inert gas relay of the highest quality for the XLR input. There is no negative feedback. The signal path has been simplified to now contain only three discrete components instead of the six in the NHB-108, for the benefit of speed, transparency and dynamics, with the same vanishingly low distortion.

The NHB-458 benefits from the technical achievements of the CTH-8550 integrated amplifier, its display enabling the user to set important parameters including the type of input (XLR, RCA, BNC), nominal gain of 26db or 32dB gain, activation of the rear USB port and other options.

Thanks to the constant control and monitoring of every parameter, the internal software of the NHB-458 is able to prevent unwanted incidents, simply by interrupting the main power before the speaker coils grow dangerously warm. And yet, no limitations compromise the audio circuits, all control functions being managed externally, so that the maximum allowed peak current is simply enormous.

Given its high level of performance, sophistication in signal processing and listening pleasure, the darTZeel NHB-458 merits a spectacular housing. The front panel is 30mm thick, while the rear section, which incorporates the heat sink, is 85mm. The large support feet, made of aluminium, weigh more than 1 kg each. The glass side walls provide the owner with the pleasure afforded by looking inside – exactly like a Swiss watch with a sapphire back.

The NHB-458 is, in every detail, a product of superior engineering. The lucky owners of this remarkable device can experience, understand and, above all, savour the emotion of music, without constraint.





Devialet®

D-Premier

Integrated amplifier with DAC and phono stage 192 KHz resolution

“Revolutionary” is not a word to employ carelessly, especially in an industry that prides itself in cutting-edge technology. But the Devialet® D-Premier integrated amplifier and D/A converter is a palpable taste of the future, and its accomplishments have left its rivals wanting.

The product of four years of uncompromised research and development, the Devialet® D-Premier is the first device equipped with the ADH® core (Analog Digital Hybrid), a breakthrough innovation, patented by Devialet®, working in tandem with two Pure Class A analogue amplifiers, supported by eight digital power amplifiers. This combination has enabled the D-Premier to set new standards in all measurable areas.

Designed for the digital era, the D-Premier expresses Devialet®'s desire to surpass existing concepts through innovative technology. Including the best Digital-to-Analog Converter on the market, the D-Premier will bring out the best from all your digital sources, including computers, music servers or AirPort® bases.

It looks as amazing as it sounds, the D-Premier presented in a luxurious, carved-from-solid and polished aluminium block, only 32 mm high. It can be placed horizontally, or mounted vertically on a wall, all the better to blend into existing décor. A removable cover hides all the inputs, allowing for discreet installation. The control buttons are removed from the amplifier and placed on a dedicated radio-linked remote device, so you can enjoy and control your music from the comfort of your listening position.

Containing a 240W/ch stereo amplifier, the D-Premier enjoys great compatibility with a wide range of loudspeakers. Power consumption is highly reduced compared with traditional amplifiers: efficiency exceeds 85%, since most of the power is provided by the digital amplifiers inside the ADH® core. It serves as the heart of your system, its preamplifier suited to each input, analogue or digital, thanks to the presence of the finest D/A converter on the market – designed by Devialet®, and located in the core of the amplifier. Because of the shortening of the signal processing chain, the music avoids losses due to connections. Just plug your CD player or driver into a digital input, your computer or Airport® base, and enjoy your Devialet® D-Premier without unnecessary complication.

Elegance defines the D-Premier. Only the power button remains on the appliance, all the other controls are placed on the handy remote device, highly sensitive and simple to operate. All the information is displayed on a high definition control screen, which adapts itself to the brightness of the room and to the position of the amplifier, whether vertical or horizontal.

Obsolescence will never affect the D-Premier. When you wish to do so, you can easily configure and update the inputs setup and remote control buttons through a web interface, downloaded via SD Card. And even that is provided.



Dreamvision Serie INTI FullHD 3D Projector



Leading projector manufacturer, Dreamvision, based in the shadow of the famous Montmartre Hill in Paris, have developed cutting edge designs since 1996, and now enter the world of 3D movies with their stylish INTI Series. The company is renowned for its unique blend of the latest technology with the highest quality materials, its stringent attention to detail and striking designs with a finish that would do justice to the finest automobiles.

The INTI chassis was created by the famed French designer Antoine Beon, known to Dreamvision owners for his work on the DreamBee and DreamWeaver series. Looking like a contemporary work of art, the INTI comes in standard finishes of black or white - but custom high gloss colours are also available to match any fine interior.

The most advanced manufacturing processes are used on the INTI, with materials specially chosen for their extreme rigidity and performance in heat, and the operating noise level is below 19dB. Nothing is left to chance: Dreamvision's video engineer, with his 20 years of experience, double checks and calibrates each unit before it leaves the factory.

The INTI is an outstanding projector for conventional 2D movies with its class-leading specifications, including a dramatically high contrast ratio, but it is its 3D capability that will get everyone excited. Each unit is provided with special active shutter spectacles with fast-acting liquid crystal lenses that will create the finest image quality without ghosting wherever the viewer sits - and they weigh a mere two ounces.

The three-chip system on the INTI Series features a trio of 1080p full HD panels, and a new light engine is responsible for the extraordinary contrast ratios of 50,000 : 1 for the INTi 1, 70,000 : 1 for the INTi 2, and a staggering 100,000 : 1 for the top-of-the-range INTi 3. This provides jaw-dropping picture quality and detail, while a billion colour graduations take things to the absolute limit of realism.

A complex and daunting machine, yes, but simple to install and operate, with easily accessible connections at the rear and a fully motorised professional lens.

There is no question about it: the Dreamvision INTI Series sets the standard for home cinema.





EAT

E-Flat & Yosegi

Turntable with carbon fibre arm and moving coil cartridge

European Audio Team's E-Flat is a new, forward-thinking turntable supplied with an innovative flat tonearm that provides this elegant deck with its name. Although flat arms have been seen in the past, none were able to offer the rigidity necessary to deliver the stable performance. Thanks to the continued evolution of carbon fibre, Forte has been able to create an arm with the practical and aesthetic benefits of a flat form, but without the weaknesses.

Ultra-flat, ultra-light and ultra-rigid, the E-Flat tonearm measures 10in long. A unipivot bearing supports the E-Flat, its fully (and easily) adjustable counterweight decoupled by energy- and vibration-absorbing Sorbothane. The E-Flat's unipivot system is extremely precise and accurately balanced, thanks to components endowed with especially hard metal surfaces, the high mass of unipivot housing and the added security of two metal guides.

A further benefit is that the arm "tube" can be changed by the user to suit specific cartridges, with either lighter or heavier arms establishing different arm/cartridge resonant frequencies. Adjustable anti-skating and damped cueing are also fitted.

A flat arm tube encourages the design of a flatter platter with easier, visible arm levelling – there is no taper to accommodate. With perfect integration to the unipivot design pillar, no hollow tube to suffer the inevitable echo effects or ringing, greater stiffness, a new and superior hanging counterweight design with very high damping properties, the E-Flat tonearm's performance is truly quiet and incredibly "fast."

This distinctive arm is fitted to a turntable that adheres to the basic principles established by the existing Forte models. Belt-driven, it features two motors like its "bigger sisters". The motors do not run in parallel, but act like a virtual 24-pole motor. The belt encircles an inner sub-platter, which is fitted with inside bearing made out of bronze bushings. The main platter rests on an inverted bearing and a ceramic ball, with a Teflon lining on the underside of the main platter.

As with the larger Fortes, the platter is oversized compared to those on most competitors' turntables. 33cm was chosen because the moving mass is twice that of a standard 30cm platter. Forte fits a vinyl mat made of recycled LP records to create a surface with properties sympathetic to the LPs it supports. The platter is filled underneath with Sorbothane to stop resonance, while Sorbothane is also used to damp the bearing housing, tonearm base and magnetic feet. In addition to the isolation provided by the magnetic feet, the bearing assembly and platter aperture are suspended. Also in common with the dearer Forte turntables, the Forte E-Flat exhibits an ideal balance between mass-loading and thoughtful subchassis design.



Jadis I-35

Integrated Valve amplifier KT120 valves

The I 35 is the brand new integrated valve amplifier specially dedicated to audiophiles who find themselves in the new musical sensibility of the KT120 valve. In the true Jadis manufacturing tradition, you will find that all the internal wiring is done using hard wiring technology, with noble materials such as surgical grade stainless steel, 24 carat gold plating and silver wire, along with the hand-wound output transformers, which made the reputation of the brand, and whose trade secret is jealously guarded.

These 2 x 40 Watts with KT120 give an impression of power that goes far beyond its technical characteristics.

The harmony of this integrated amplifier is in line with its sound performance. Every component has been assembled to enable audiophiles to reach their ultimate goal: an emotion, which becomes a sudden fall of one's consciousness into the realm of magic.





Jadis JA-120

Mono Valve amplifier with KT 120 valves

Jadis amplification, is, like a Cleverley shoe or a Goyard suitcase, the province of the true connoisseur. It demands of the listener the sophistication to revel in finesse rather than bombast. The company is to valve amplification what Vacheron Constantin is to watches: unashamedly without compromise, respectful of tradition, savoured mainly by those with an appreciation for such discreet excellence.

These virtues come to life in the 100W JA120 monoblock power amps, the slightly more extreme SE845NEC powered by two sublime 845 tubes and delivering 40W and the Orphee MK2 valve CD player, with USB and the ability to bridge the chasm between the high-end and the new digital formats.

All Jadis products embody the sound that has, for a quarter-century, held in thrall a coterie of music lovers who would consider nothing else. If you're a devoted Jadis user, one who is seduced by their caress, then allow us to regale you with the latest mastering of the JA120 technology: Jadis has adopted the KT120 valve, which will increase the power, reliability, the dynamic range and every other parameter of this milestone amplifier.

Like the other valve amplifier families we support, Jadis has recognised that the brand-new KT120 expands on all of the virtues of the much loved KT88/6550 workhorses that have powered so many top-flight amplifiers. With their acceptance by Jadis, the doyen of French high-end amplifier manufacturers, the KT120 has found a home that is the audio equivalent of a well-appointed chateau: stylish, timeless, immune to fashion, elegant, regal. In this context, mated to a circuit that has charmed the toughest critics in all of audio, the KT120 will sing.

Still rated conservatively at 100W, this classic monoblock uses six KT120s per unit, driven by two ECC82s and an ECC83, monitored by automatic biasing, and bearing some of the finest transformers in use today. It boasts a frequency range of 15-38kHz, and weighs a substantial 45kg. Like every Jadis before it, the JA120 is a commanding presence both physically and sonically. The sound is warm, rich, utterly valve-like, yet possessing the control, coherence and bass extension some would associate with the most respected of solid-state designs.





Jadis SE845-NEC

Double single triode Valve amplifier

We always enjoy talking to valves aficionados and more specifically those who follow the application of the single ended triode designs. The SE 845 Nec is a brand new addition to the Jadis Family of products. The SE845NEC boasts phenomenal power with its 40 watts per channel in Pure class "A" with a tube complement of 2 of ECC83, 2 of ECC82, 2 of EL34 and 2 of Single ended 845NEC per channel, When we last visited France we heard those mono amps, which sounded so good that we are certain they represent without a doubt the very top of this application; Nat King Cole and many others at the top of their reality playback performance.





Koetsu Blue Onyx

Hand made moving coil cartridge

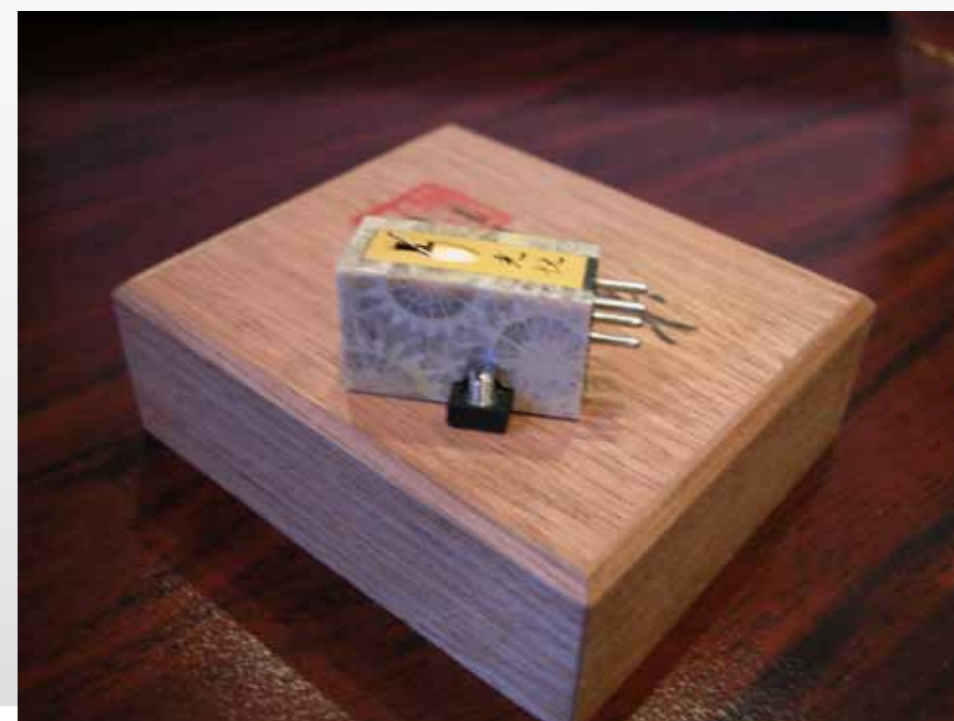
Koetsu, beyond doubt the most revered name in moving-coil cartridges, has always valued the innate characteristics of the materials used in the bodies and cantilevers of its designs. The designers realised that the materials can tune the sound of the cartridge with an ineffable quality that cannot simply be dialled in electronically.

Whether a type of wood or mineral or metal, every material used by Koetsu must go through the most rigorous testing procedures for purity and musical quality. The company's legendary hand-wound coils and meticulously carved stone and wood bodies transcend the boundaries of art and science.

The latest to join the family is the Blue Lace, exhibiting blue, grey and white layers of fused quartz. Its beauty is unique due to the scarceness of blue stones in nature. But aside from its obvious aesthetic appeal, the Blue Lace batch was also specially selected because it is the hardest and most rigid among the onyx family, making it an exceptional cartridge housing thanks to its outstanding sonic qualities. Because of the limited supply of Blue Lace stock, they will only issue two Blue Laces a year.

Every music lover knows of the legendary sound of Koetsu cartridges from decades past. Those who have experienced Sugano's Koetsus retain memories of a peerless musical experience. Few were privileged to own and enjoy a Koetsu. Many devotees search out second and third Koetsus, assuring a long, cherished relationship.

Now, in analogue's renaissance and through the efforts of Sugano's sons, Koetsu phono cartridges are again available. Limited in quantity due to their personal, hand-built nature, the range includes the Rosewoods, the Urushi, and the ultimate Koetsu, the Onyx Platinum. Sugano's sons have revived his art and continue to create musical masterpieces. For every music lover, the journey to musical nirvana is incomplete without a Koetsu phono cartridge in your system.



Krell Industries. Phantom

Preamplifier with separate power supply

In ensuring that the Phantom preamplifier is optimised for any system that it may address, Krell has made it the first preamplifier to include an optional crossover. The crossover functionality offers the ability to use a subwoofer/satellite speaker arrangement and still maintain the highest quality sonic performance. Previously, this system configuration would require signals to pass through a subwoofer's lower quality crossover circuitry. The Phantom preamplifier is the centrepiece of a world class audio system where space is at a premium.

Thanks to Krell's work in the Modulari Duo Reference loudspeaker, the unique crossover feature is a highly desirable option. When the optional board is present, additional crossover menu items become available. Definable parameters include independently assignable crossover frequencies and filter types for the high and low pass sections. Choices include a selection of crossover points with 12dB, 24dB, and 48dB Butterworth or 24dB Linkwitz-Riley style filters.

The Phantom preamplifier is a dual monaural circuit design with the left and right channels afforded their own power supply regulation and individual circuit boards. Zero feedback, balanced, Krell Current Mode design terminating in Krell CAST ensures that a complete Krell system (source, preamp, and amplifier) system, connected using CAST interconnects, will benefit from a reduction in the number of voltage gain stages to the minimum, one. The resulting noise floor approaches the theoretical limit of technology.

With the Krell Phantom preamplifier, musicians appear silhouetted by the air that surrounds them, filling the room with a mesmerising depiction of the recording. Music emanates from an expanse that outlines the recording venue, transporting the listener to the moment the work was captured. Advanced technologies and inspired design elevate the Phantom preamplifier's performance to an art form.



Krell Industries Phantom II

Preamplifier with built in power supply

Krell's Phantom II incorporates the advanced technologies and brilliant design of the Phantom preamplifier, but in a single chassis format. Often overlooked, the preamplifier is a critical component in the signal chain. A small signal must be amplified without damaging the delicate staging and dimensional components of the music. When heard through the Phantom II, music fills a room with palpable imaging, tonal integrity and staggering dynamics.

A perfect companion for the Evolution 302e power amplifier and Cipher SACD/CD player, the Phantom II shares the same audio circuitry as its bigger brother. It is a dual mono design with the left and right channels afforded their own power supply regulation and individual full-chassis-sized boards. When used in an all-Krell system, and connected with CAST interconnects, the Phantom II enjoys a reduced number of voltage gain stages and a lower noise floor. The volume control is realised with a balanced resistor ladder, so that bandwidth and transient response are virtually unaffected by the volume setting.



Krell Industries Evolution 2250e & 3250e

Amplifier with 2 and 3 channels



Refined reproduction and overwhelming power define the Evolution 2250e. Boasting technology sourced from its award-winning larger siblings, the Evolution 2250e provides the immense drive and unmatched sound quality that are the hallmarks of all Krell amplifiers. Sharing the same advanced high-speed output devices, massive power supplies and unique Krell Current Mode circuitry, the Evolution 2250e delivers performance that was previously reserved for far costlier products.

The Evolution 2250e is ideal for use in stereo music systems, but when coupled to the three-channel Evolution 3250e, this duo makes ideal amplification for home theatre applications, thanks to the prodigious power output of 250W/ch into 8 ohms and 500W/ch into 4 ohms.

Housed in elegant silver or black brushed anodised aluminium, the Evolution 2250e is the smallest amplifier in the Evolution e Series. The stylish faceplate features the blue power ring when in operating mode and green in low draw standby mode that is shared by all e Series amplifiers.



Krell Industries

S 1200 3D

Preamplifier audio/video with 3D option



As in the Evolution 707, the heart of the S-1200 is a classic Krell preamplifier. All eight S-1200 analog output stages are built to the same exacting standard and feature balanced and single-ended cable connections. Every channel utilizes discrete current based Class A, direct coupled circuitry for the greatest signal purity and highest bandwidth. Performance robbing op amps or integrated circuits are not used anywhere in the audio path. Preamp mode bypasses all digital circuitry and routes analog stereo inputs directly to a balanced resistor ladder volume control for ultimate music reproduction.

A core element of Krell product development is the trickling down of technology from flagship products. In the case of the S-1200, it is the Evolution 707 that has shared its digital and video circuitry. The S-1200 incorporates the same dual core 32 bit Crystal CS497004 DSP's operating in 64 bit dual precision mode. Decoding for Dolby TrueHD, DTS HD Master Audio, all the standard Dolby and DTS modes as well as nine proprietary Krell Music Surround modes are supported.

Video circuitry is also sourced from the Evolution 707 and utilizes all-discrete video circuitry. Video transcoding permits composite, S-Video, and component signals to be routed to the component and HDMI™ outputs. In the S-1200u model, this signal is upconverted to a maximum of 1080p resolution. Furthermore, the Evolution 707 is a true “one connection solution” with on-screen display, configuration menus, and status messages available from all active video outputs. 3D support has been added to the S-1200 in the S-1200 3D and S-1200u 3D models.

Video 3D compatibility

At home Krell Evolution 707 and S-1200/S-1200u processors continue to be appreciated for sound quality and versatility. The 707 was recently honored by the magazine HomeTheaterReview.com as “Product of the Year”, while the S-1200 has received the Editor’s Choice by Harry Pearson Absolute Sound magazine. Compatibility with the 3-D is now offered by the new Evolution 3D 707, 3D S-1200 and S-1200u 3D. Krell also offers the opportunity to “upgrade” your previous models.



Krell Industries Evolution 707 3D

Preamplifier audio/video with 3D option



Sound, specifically music, contains the emotional content in movies. Whether action, comedy, or thriller, it is the music that drives the action that is on screen. This reality spawned the Evolution 707 development. The Evolution 707 is an all out assault on the preamplifier/processor category. Analogue circuitry technology from their Evolution Two preamplifier, state of the art digital processing, and the latest in surround formats including 3D compatibility, results in an uncompromising centerpiece for a reference music and home theatre system. Housed in a chassis normally reserved for Krell amplifiers, each critical sub circuit is given unrestricted space for maximum circuit sophistication. Designed to take full advantage of the lossless Dolby True-HD and DTS Master Audio soundtracks found on Blu-ray discs, the Evolution boasts the most advanced circuitry ever employed in a surround sound preamplifier/ processor.

The Evolution 707 includes twelve output stages with two centre channel and four subwoofer outputs, in an 8.4 channel configuration. All channels feature Krell Evolution CAST™ circuitry for the most stunning reproduction of today's high-resolution movie soundtracks. Preamp mode bypasses all digital circuitry and routes the analog input, stereo or 7.1 multi-channel, directly to the 16-bit balanced resistor ladder volume control for the purest signal path possible.

At the heart of the Evolution 707 digital signal processing is a pair of dual core 32 bit Crystal CS497004 DSP's performing 1.8 giga operations per second. Video signals are treated with equal care and are afforded isolated circuitry for broadcast quality transmission of signals up to 1080p/60Hz. Maximum color depth has been increased from 24 bits to 48 bits and bandwidth from 165MHz to 340 MHz. Full video transcoding permits any composite, S-Video, or component signal to be routed to the component and HDMI™ outputs and includes upconversion to a maximum of 1080p resolution.

Included with the Evolution 707 is a sensitive calibration microphone that gathers information from the listening environment. ARES or Automatic Room Equalization System, is a powerful internal Krell software program that analyzes the microphone data and suggests a set of calibrations for optimal performance. For the future, the Evolution 707 software based core is readily updateable via a standard RS-232 computer connection if operating or performance improvements become available.

The Evolution 707 aesthetic extends Krell industrial design and takes surround preamplifier/processor construction to an unprecedented level. Housed in the same chassis as the Krell Evolution 402e stereo power amplifier, the Evolution 707 stands nearly 10" tall and weighs in at over 50lbs. The custom machined aluminum chassis includes diamond cut detailing that not only looks incredible but also fronts the resonance free environment that contains the sensitive electronics within its core.





Magico Q3

3.5 way floor standing aluminium
loudspeaker system

When the extraordinary Q5 loudspeaker burst onto the scene in 2010, it confirmed Magico's rapid rise since the company's formation to high-end audio's top table. Its design remains unique, born from meticulous research and an unerringly scientific approach to audio engineering, culminating in unequivocal mastery across the audio spectrum.

New for 2011, the Q3 takes the multi-award-winning Q5 blueprint and adapts it to enable a more compact floorstanding enclosure, and a speaker that is a little easier to drive, thus ensuring compatibility with a wider range of amplifiers. But to assume that this is a 'Q5 lite' would be to miss the point; the Q3 has been designed from the ground up to ensure its performance is every bit as spellbinding as its larger sibling.

Like the Q5, the Q3's main enclosure is fashioned from aluminium and brass and is exceptionally rigid, with a meticulously designed internal structure and immaculate fit and finish throughout. It incorporates the same tweeter, Magico's remarkable Beryllium-domed MBe-1, alongside three newly developed seven-inch bass drivers and a six-inch midrange unit.

Unlike most loudspeaker manufacturers, Magico develops all its drivers in house; the mid and bass units feature unique Nano-Tec cones, formed from a sandwich of woven carbon fibre nanotubes with a Rohacell foam core. The result is a cone that displays bending strength, self-damping and attenuation of ringing that are all an order of magnitude higher than that of conventionally manufactured cones.

The Q3's uncompromising design delivers equally unconstrained sound; a majestic performance that brings music to life with effortless, unbound realism. Only when you hear a Magico do you understand how much distortion ordinary speakers introduce to the sound. With the Q3, what you hear is the music – pure, unadulterated and utterly gripping, from the first note to the last. As Paul Miller put it when he reviewed the Q3 in Hi-Fi News: 'The Q3 has the capacity to render traditional wooden boxes obsolete. Once heard, the Q3 experience is not easily forgotten'.





Magico

Q1

2 Way stand-mount aluminium loudspeaker

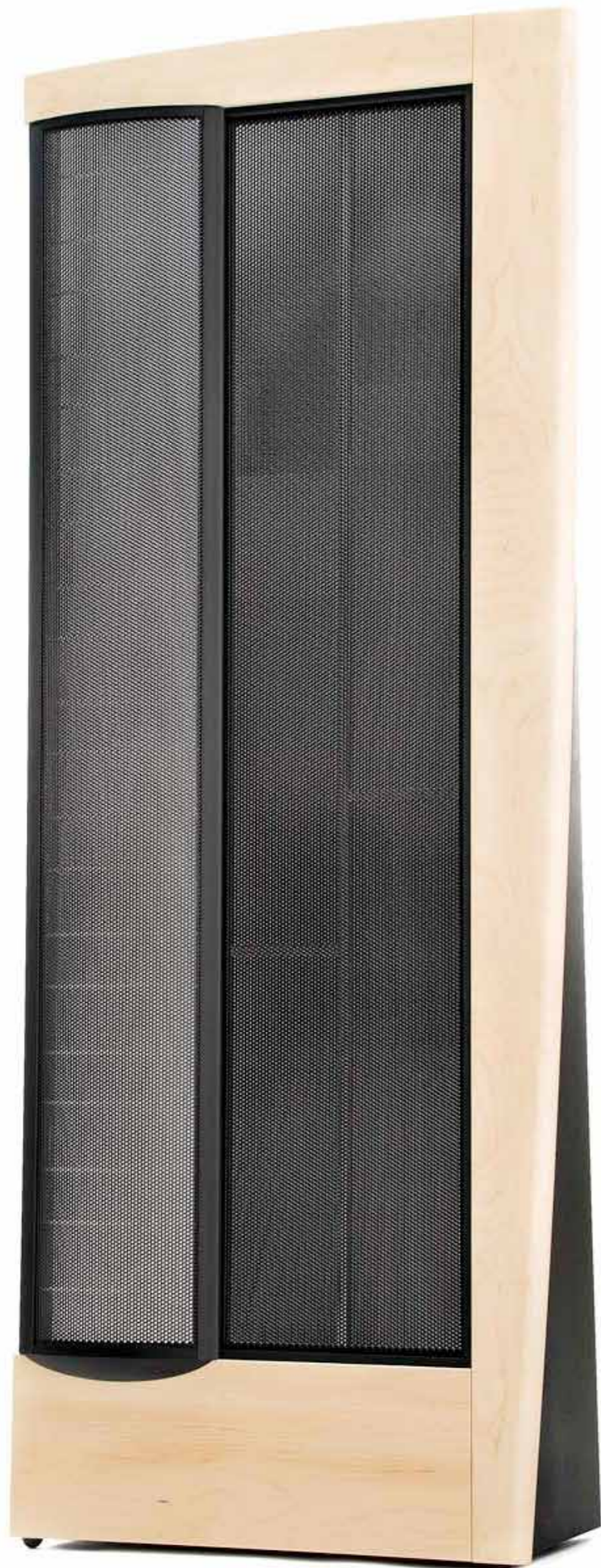
For many speaker connoisseurs, Magico's now legendary Mini II was perhaps the finest standmount loudspeaker ever made. So, when it came to designing a replacement, the company's engineers knew they had to deliver something truly special. Without question, they have succeeded: ladies and gentlemen, we bring you the magnificent Magico Q1.

It was clear from the outset that Magico would base its new standmount design on its unique Q platform, the result of meticulous research that had already yielded the peerless Q5 and Q3 floortсандers. Just like its larger siblings, the Q1 incorporates Magico's brilliant MBe-1 tweeter with its Beryllium dome, plus the company's proprietary seven-inch Nano-Tech mid/bass driver, sporting a cone made from layers of carbon fibre composite with a Rohacell foam core. This ensures exceptional system efficiency and power handling, allowing the Q1 to be driven by high-quality amplifiers delivering as few as 50 watts per channel.

The drivers are housed within a fully braced, fully damped, hard-anodised aluminium and copper enclosure, exhibiting Magico's immaculate fit and finish throughout. Continued research into the Q platform's damping mechanism has enabled Magico to address the problem of resonance that is common in standmount designs; instead of attempting to add mass to the stand and decoupling the speaker, the Q1 is directly coupled and the stand itself is a damping mechanism.

Thanks to Magico's uniquely scientific approach to loudspeaker engineering, the outcome is a standmount speaker with an explosive, full-range performance. It is a two-way monitor the like of which has never before been heard, exhibiting a true absence of compromise that brings music to life in thrilling fashion. For such a diminutive speaker, its bass extension is extraordinary, its resolution exemplary and its dynamic range simply breathtaking. Compact yet unconstrained – the Q1 is utterly unique.





Martin Logan CLX Arte

Full range electrostatic loudspeaker

CLX represents the culmination of everything learned about electrostatic technology since MartinLogan brought their first product to market in 1983. Purity of sound permeates your entire room and satisfies even the most critical ear. The industry benchmark for resolving detail, CLX utilizes dual electrostatic transducers to render the most complex musical passages as faithfully as a crystal prism disperses the full color spectrum. This is the limitless spectrum of the CLX - the absolute truth in musical reproduction. MartinLogan's award winning Curvilinear Line Source (CLS) XStat electrostatic (ESL) technology allows smooth unencumbered dispersion of sound throughout the listening area. The result? Perfectly etched imaging and focus achieved through minimal room interaction; optimum natural reproduction of sound with full level response from ultra-linear transducers; reliable operation in open air; compatibility with all electronics; and seamless dispersion of precise sound throughout your listening environment.

CLX's unique DualForce double diaphragm, triple stator dipole low-frequency electrostatic transducer delivers deep, dynamic bass with twice as much force as a standard ESL. Additionally, CLX's low-frequency dipole stabilization technology reduces low frequency rear wave cancellation inherent to dipole transducers.

Featuring an advanced proprietary Vojtko filter topology, MartinLogan electronic specialists hand-build each CLX filter utilizing only the finest of components and construction techniques to assure the cleanest, most precise signal path possible. The resulting precision filter flawlessly preserves even the smallest subtleties in sound while effortlessly handling the broadest range of dynamics contained within even the most demanding sonic source, whether used in a 2-channel audio system or dedicated home theatre.

Within the interface module, a regulated power supply creates stable bias voltages even under the most extreme conditions. Dual transformer design utilizes a toroidal audio transformer for detailed mid- and high-frequencies, and a high-quality, high-voltage E.I. transformer for dynamic, linear bass. All high-voltage leads are made of the purest copper and coated with silicone. Only superlative materials, including thick film on alumina substrate resistors and polypropylene capacitors, are used throughout.

CLX ART comes standard with a gently curved Art Frame and is available in 4 standard hand-rubbed, real-wood finishes; black ash, dark cherry, natural cherry, and maple. Of course, CLX may be customized with any exotic wood finish you desire, as well as a myriad of aniline dye colors, linear frame and premium high-gloss options.





Martin Logan Montis

Electrostatic loudspeaker with self powered dynamic bass

Montis represents the latest evolution in the MartinLogan Reserve ESL Series. Following in the footsteps of our award-winning flagship hybrid ESL speaker, the Summit™ X, Montis blends legendary sound with sophisticated styling. Years in the making, the Montis builds on a number of unique MartinLogan manufacturing techniques and materials; XStat and AirFrame™ technologies, vacuum bonding, MicroPerf stators, a CLS™ (Curvilinear Line Source) electrostatic transducer, dipole sound radiation, a low-distortion aluminum-cone woofer, advanced Vojtko™ filtering, a 24-bit Vojtko DSP engine, and 100-Hz level control.

The electrostatic transducer deployed in the Montis represents the largest panel available in a hybrid electrostatic loudspeaker. This large panel size allowed engineers to lower the speaker's single crossover point to 340Hz, bringing more of the electrostatic clarity into the critical midrange frequencies. The XStat transducer features advanced MicroPerf stator technology giving the latest-generation Curvilinear Line Source electrostatic transducer almost twice as much exposed diaphragm surface as a traditional electrostat of the same size. This dramatic increase in effective radiating area translates to the highest levels of efficiency and an effortless, unlimited dynamic presentation.

MartinLogan's dedicated in-house design and engineering team created an extremely precise 24-bit Vojtko DSP engine in conjunction with a powerful 200-watt class-D amplifier to deliver a stunningly detailed low-frequency performance reaching down to 29Hz—uncommon in cabinets this compact. DSP technology allows complete control and performance optimization over the low pass filters, woofer equalization, and limiting functions, all of which are mapped mathematically in the digital domain. Additionally, integrated low-frequency equalization below 100Hz further enhances bass performance by allowing precise tailoring to adjust for individual room acoustics.

Proprietary Vojtko filtering technology is utilized for Montis' electrostatic transducer. This audiophile quality network, derived from the CLX, is carefully hand-built using polypropylene capacitors, massive air-core coils, and a custom wound toroidal audio transformer—flawlessly preserving micro-acoustic subtleties while effortlessly handling the broadest range of dynamics contained within even the most demanding sonic source.

Montis is available in 3 hand-rubbed, real-wood finishes; black ash, dark cherry, and new for 2011, black cherrywood. The new luxurious high-gloss black cherrywood finish has deep cherry undertones and appears almost black in low light, giving Montis a unique and understated elegance.



Martin Logan Theos

Electrostatic loudspeaker with passive dynamic bass

Sharing with its PoweredForce™ counterpart Ethos, Theos' unique XStat™ transducer was developed to exclusively address specific mechanical requirements. Vertically identical in size and dispersion to the flagship Summit™ X, Theos' 9.2-inch (23cm) horizontal panel dimension required a tighter curve to achieve MartinLogan's distinct 30-degree dispersion pattern. To accomplish this MartinLogan engineers reduced the gauge thickness of the steel stators. The reduced gauge does not alter the superlative performance characteristics of Theos' electrostatic panel. However, as a natural byproduct of tighter build tolerances, visual transparency of the panel is increased significantly. Theos' new XStat panel is so visually transparent that it nearly vanishes when you're sitting and listening.

Embodying the sophisticated engineering and design of MartinLogan's critically acclaimed flagship CLX™ loudspeaker, the Theos features advanced XStat™ electrostatic technology and a proprietary Vojtko™ crossover topology delivering the highest sonic standards of efficiency and precision. A passive 8-inch high-excursion ultra-rigid aluminum cone woofer and ultra low turbulence down-firing bass port generate unyielding, detailed bass down to 43Hz. Custom coupling spikes and tool-less bi-wire binding posts provide the final touch—providing the ultimate level of flexibility for connection and setup.

MartinLogan's proprietary tool-less binding posts simplify cable connection and management while allowing the ultimate level of amplification connectivity. Two sets of custom binding posts are supplied—one connected to the electrostatic panel and the other feeding the woofer. Listeners can choose to vertically/horizontally bi-amp the Theos, or use jumpers between the binding post sets for a single wire-connection. To further simplify setup and cable management, the Theos features a low-voltage DC power supply.



Martin Logan Dynamo 300

Active subwoofer



T rue high-end performance. Home-friendly aesthetics. And power, lots of power!

Every element of MartinLogan's Dynamo series subwoofers, from driver to amplifier to crossover to cabinet, is meticulously designed and manufactured to the highest standards. The result is staggering low-frequency performance. Perfect for either home theatre or stereo applications, the Dynamo 300 is built with high-density materials to minimize cabinet resonance and provide a solid foundation for the high-output 8-inch woofer and high-current 75-watt, 150-watt peak amplifier. Whether you are looking for high performance bass to enhance your music experience or take your home theater system to the next level, a new Dynamo family subwoofer should be at the top of your list.

Building on the success of the original Dynamo, the designers went on to create the compact, powerful Dynamo 700W and 1000W subwoofers. Featuring high-current amplifiers with as much as 500-watts of power (1000-watt peak) in the Dynamo 1000W and powerful cone woofers, the Dynamo 700W and 1000W deliver deep, tight, effortless bass for home theatre or stereo music. Their standard down-firing configuration quickly (and easily!) converts into a front-firing setup for those who prefer a "hidden" installation. The finishing touch? The powerful Dynamo 700W and 1000W subwoofers feature wireless connectivity for bass aficionados who prefer a clean, minimalist look in the room, no cables in sight.





ElectroMotion FX-2



ElectroMotion C2

Martin Logan ElectroMotion FX2 & C2 Centre and surround sound ElectroMotion loudspeaker

The all new ElectroMotion® Series features both electrostatic and compact Folded Motion™ XT thin film transducer technologies. This bold loudspeaker series establishes a new benchmark for price versus performance. Pushing thin film transducer technology to its limit, the ElectroMotion Series floor standing loudspeaker, the ElectroMotion ESL, features the most affordable full-size XStat™ electrostatic transducer ever designed. Voice-matched centre and surround speakers feature the next evolution of Folded Motion technology—MartinLogan's new larger, lower distortion Folded Motion™ XT tweeter.

The powerful Folded Motion XT tweeter boasts a radiating surface 40% larger than those found in the award-winning Motion® Series products. This substantial leap in size increases the bandwidth and efficiency of the high-performance tweeter for effortless performance.

The ElectroMotion C2 is sized perfectly to fit inside of any standard audio-video cabinet, but no matter where you place it, you'll get sound directed up toward your ears, thanks to a dense wedge-shaped enclosure. Mount it high and flip the cabinet upside down to aim sound down into the room.

When mounted on a flat wall, the ElectroMotion FX2 protrudes only 17.3 centimeters, making it the perfect surround channel speaker for large rooms, without adding unnecessary bulk or visual distraction. The ElectroMotion FX2's unique cabinet styling also allows it to easily mount in a corner while still achieving a wide 160 degree dispersion pattern thanks to its unique dual FoldedMotion XT tweeter topology





Metronome Technologie T3A

CD transport top-loading

Metronome technologie is a French company founded in 1987 by Dominique Giner. Over the years they developed a wide range of high end products commanding respect at the highest levels of the high end audio world.

All products are designed by a team led by Giner: CD players, CD transports, Digital to Analog Converters. The main objective for Metronome technologie is to access the best sound that digital and analog components can provide, applying the most advanced technology available and the second is to reconcile aesthetic and technology.

The T3A Signature CD transport is therefore the result of many months of technical research and countless hours of listening. Top loaded CD transport one box design, based on the Philips CDM12 pro 2 V6.8 mounted on a stainless-steel shaft for better CD stability and low jitter. The transport comes with a Delrin CD clamp.

The power supply contains 3 toroidal transformers to supply each specific part: laser, servo and control functions. Proprietary modifications are made to the Philips mechanism to suit the Metronome specifications



Metronome Technologie

Kalista Ultimate SE

CD transport top-loading

There are CD transports. There are exotic CD transports. And then there is The Ultimate: the Metronome Technologie Kalista Ultimate SE, to be exact. This brain-warping piece of French engineering takes the art of spinning the silver disc to the absolute limits of excellence - and then maybe a little bit further.

The Kalista Ultimate SE is the latest in a series of money-no-object range of CD transport. It is based on the reference standard Philips CDM12 Pro V6.8 mechanism partnered with a CD clamp combining Delrin and stainless steel, further improving stability during rotation of the CD and thus extracting digital data more accurately. The recurrent problem of static electricity accumulating on the surface of a CD during its rotation is now eliminated thanks to the stainless steel spindle purposely designed to minimize static charges. The transport boasts a dynamic range of 175db with distortion running below -140db with a resolution of 24bit. Digital output comprises of AT&T, S/PDIF and AES/EBU to deliver the digital data to the recommended Metronome C2a DAC.

The upsampler

This circuit receives the digital data at 24Bit/44.1KHz and upsamples the signal into 24bit/96kHz format. This repackaging is done in 32 bits portraying beautiful dynamics whilst increasing resolution and offsetting high frequency digital noise generated by the digital processing. This process allows the use of a low-pass filter with a soft slope ensuring an improved pulse behaviour. The listener can also enjoy the CD in its native format of 24Bit/44.1Hz. In this mode the Upsampler is disabled via a switch on the back of the Kalista Ultimate SE. To ensure the best possible performance, these circuits have independent power supplies.

The power supply

The Kalista Ultimate SE is delivered with the 'almighty' Elektra power supply. Fitted with three powerful high quality toroidal transformers with five independent stages of regulation and with a storage capacity of more than 1.2 Farads, it delivers a perfectly clean power to each of the individual functions of the CD transport with an operating margin much above the specified requirements. The technology incorporated in the Elektra power supply surpasses any battery mode power supply.

The base

The Kalista Ultimate SE silent base has a thickness of 60mm, and is decoupled from the transport by aluminium bearings, which absorb micro vibrations. This new aluminium bearing support system significantly expands the soundstage while providing normally unheard dynamic contrast. It also enables a considerable depth between the musical notes.

The stand

The three 540mm high feet made of solid aluminum are firmly secured at the top by a star shaped Perspex with a 40mm thickness, which provides a very rigid support whilst ensuring effective decoupling of vibrations transmitted from the ground.

The sum of these components makes this a true reference CD transport to cherish and expand your CD music collection. The final result is a Formula 1 CD transport!

Micromega IA-400

Integrated amplifier



Neat, functional, great sound and superb value for money. That sums up Micromega, who continue to delight us with their latest offerings.

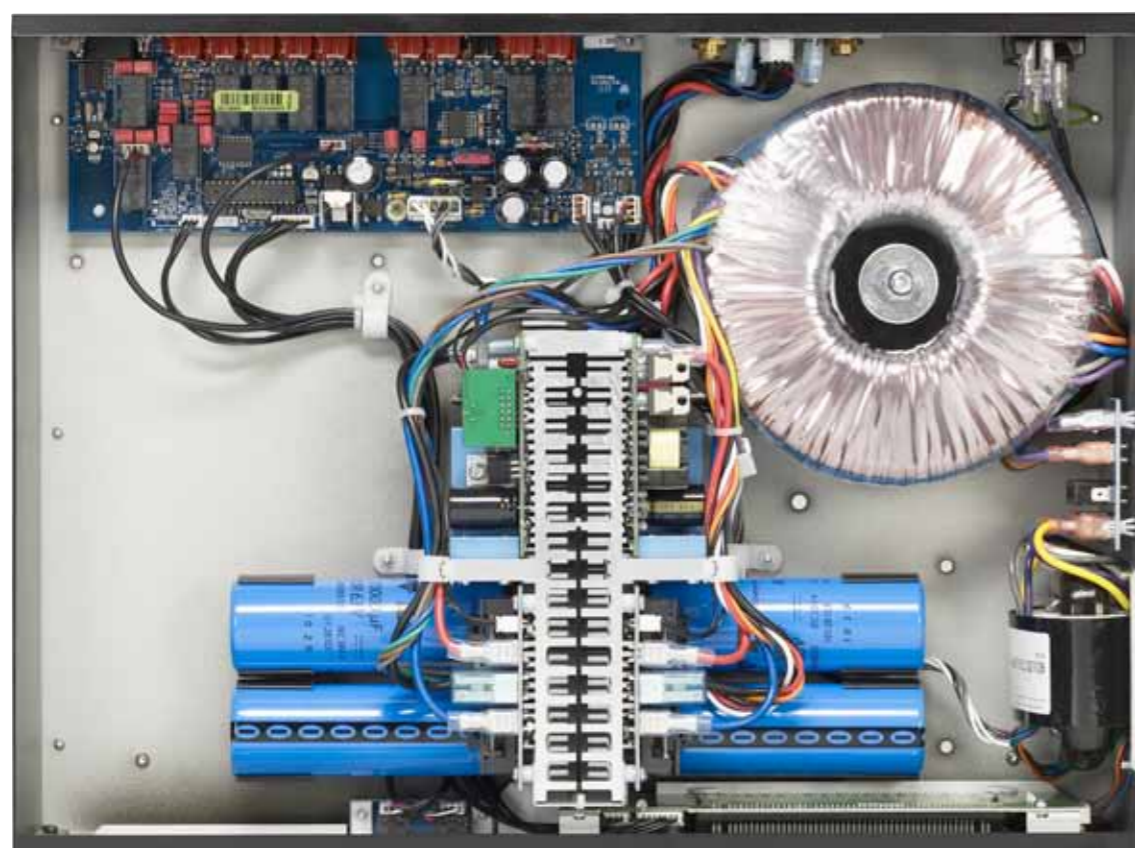
With 20 years of experience behind it, this French company is never one to stand still, and it has just announced a powerful new integrated amplifier, the IA-400, which is capable up driving even the most difficult of loudspeakers.

Although all the circuitry is in one enclosure, the IA-400 can be considered as two different units: the preamp section and the power amp. With a transformer specifically dedicated to low-level signals, any coupling between the two sections is kept to an absolute minimum, and ultra low noise regulators allow high resolution of fine detail.

The power amp section delivers a hefty 400 Watts into 4 Ohms via Class D modules in dual-mono configuration. The choice of Class D gives very high efficiency with low operating temperatures, while a special circuit to detect current protects the speakers in the event of a serious malfunction of the output devices.

The IA-400 also includes a dedicated headphone amplifier and a bypass for an external processor.

Available in Micromega's classic sandblasted finish of silver or black, the IA-400 will provide a neat and cost-effective solution for those on a budget, and is ideal for audiophiles looking for simplicity and ease of use.



Micromega AS-400

Integrated amplifier with AirStream



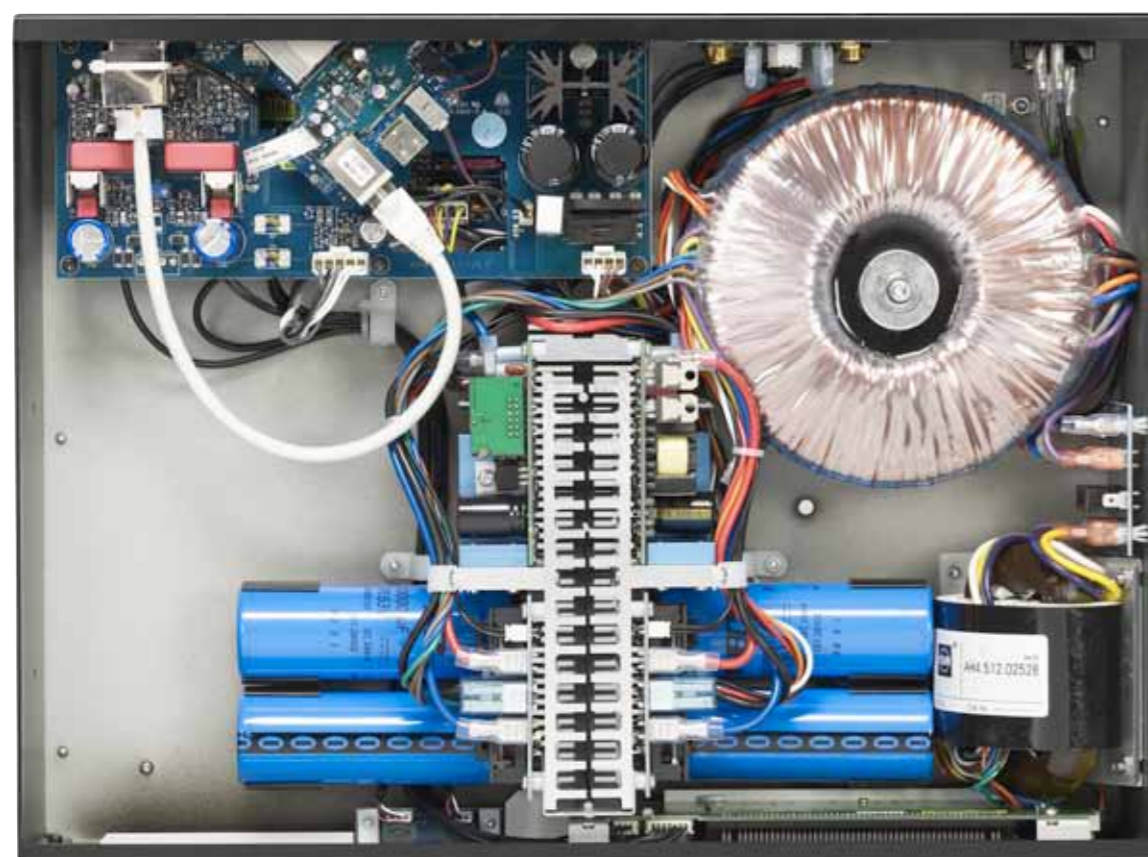
You're looking for a top-rate integrated amplifier, one that's discreet and won't take over the listening room. But you're also interested in playing music files wirelessly from your computer - and you're on a budget. That means another box to put in the rack, doesn't it? Not any more, it doesn't. Micromega, that innovative French company, have now combined all these requirements into one compact unit called the AS-400 Air Dream.

With a healthy 400 Watts per channel into 4 Ohms, the AS-400 will tackle just about any loudspeaker and you have the benefit of a phono stage as well as a headphone output at the front.

This device has all the features of the IA-400 integrated and incorporates the airstream module from the Aria Air Dream. Great attention has been paid to isolating the various circuits to give the lowest noise floor. The 25 Mhz master clock features jitter <math><-100\text{dB}</math> at 10Hz deviation from the main band, which is exceptional and guarantees a perfect digital audio stream.

The DAC is completely new, featuring the CS4351 chip from Cirrus, and this is followed by discrete pure Class A Jfet buffers, which present a very light load for the output section of the DAC IC.

Weighing in at 13 kg, this machine is no lightweight and is packed with the most up to date technology to give outstanding performance and superb value for money.





Micromega ARIA AirDream Audiophile Wi Fi DAC RCA/XLR



Micromega are top of the game when it comes to high quality high value wi-fi music transmission, and they maintain that position with their new Aria Air Dream, recognising the increasing use of computers as part of audiophile systems.

This project is based around Apple's Airport Express, but its four main sections have been totally reworked, with the master clock, DAC and analogue output sections being designed from scratch. Even the elegant aluminium chassis has received attention in the form of shielding against magnetic fields.

The power supply is housed in two sections, with digital and analogue circuitry separated for maximum noise reduction. Both power units are mechanically decoupled from the frame with rubber isolators to prevent modulation in the circuits from frequency vibrations generated in the processors.

The master clock is made specially for Micromega by a leading manufacturer, and ensures very low jitter. Also new is the DAC, which uses the Cirrus CS4351 chip.

The front panel is backlit with white LEDs for best visibility, with the brightness adjustable to three different levels. The Air Dream has balanced and single-ended outputs, an AES/EBU digital output, and an RJ45 socket for configuration of the airport module.

This is the ideal device for those wanting a neat and effective way to give their music files authentic expression.





Primaluna Prologue Classic

Integrated valve amplifier KT88/EL34

Prima Luna have brought the magic of valve amplification to a wide and appreciative audience over the years, with budget prices allied to impeccable build, finish, and performance. The Prologue Classic is a natural evolution from the much-acclaimed Prologue One and Two, and has some desirable new features.

Depending on personal preference, it is now possible to alternate between EL34 or KT88 power valves by means of a simple switch without having to perform time-consuming and fiddly bias adjustments - just the thing for those who like to listen to different tube characteristics.

By using a special autobiasing circuit the Classic's performance remains constant throughout the life of the valves, with no risk of imbalance between the output stages. The amplifier is also very well protected with PTP (power transformer protection) and OTP (output power protection). These circuits ensure that the transformers come to no harm in the event of not being properly loaded, such as a speaker being disconnected while the amp is powered up. Another user-friendly feature is a frontplate LED which lights up when there is a possible valve failure.



The Classic is an amplifier that will give years of pleasure and great performance to valve aficionados on a tight budget

Primaluna Prologue Premium

Integrated valve amplifier KT88/EL34

Another Prima Luna favourite, the Premium, has also come in for some evolutionary upgrades and features. As with the Classic, the amplifier can be calibrated for EL34 or KT88 valves at the flick of a switch, thanks to the new adaptive autobias circuitry - and every Premium can be ordered with either set of valves installed.

New output and power transformers have been fitted, along with new front end circuitry, while home theatre buffs will appreciate the pass-through option, which gives less noise and colouration at unity gain. A full-function remote is included, which controls volume, mute and source selection, as well as functions for the ProLogue Premium CD player.

Although Prima Lunas are powerful amplifiers, the valves run well below the maximum rating, and the Premium incorporates the same protection circuitry of the Classic, including the 'bad tube indicator' light on the front panel.

Hand-built with the finest point-to-point wiring, all Prima Lunas are built using premium components and are renowned for their beautiful finish.



Q Sonix

Q205

Touch screen music server

You want an attractive, simple way to organise your music. You don't want your room cluttered with hundreds of CD jewel cases. What's the answer? One very neat answer is a top-rate server, one with an easy-to-use intuitive touchscreen. Look no further than the Qsonix Q205, a device designed to give high quality music replay, as well as doing all the hard work for you.

The Q205 will store hundreds of CDs and play them back at very high quality - even better if you have a high end separate digital to analogue converter and use one of the five digital outputs. The drag and drop interface makes selection and play an enjoyable experience, one that any member of the family can learn within moments.

You probably have a fair bit of music on your computer, so what do you do with that? Simple: transfer it to the Qsonix and it can join everything else you've put in its library. Depending on how you feel when you want to listen, the Qsonix Tapestry and Play Similar features will choose the kind of music to suit your mood or taste - and up to 24bit/192Khz.

The Qsonix engineers have thought of everything to make your music experience as enjoyable and hassle-free as possible. It's the way of the future.





Sonus Faber Elipsa Red

3 way loudspeaker system

Sharing the strikingly unusual form of its big brother, the Stradivari, the Sonus Faber Cremona Elipsa inevitably became known as the baby Strad. Although its smaller dimensions were an obvious solution for surroundings that were perhaps not large enough for the Stradivari, it quickly became established as a transducer in its own right, with its own distinctive sonic signature.

But although it looks superb in the standard Cremona finishes of maple or graphite, it could never quite match the ravishing beauty of the Stradivari. It can now. Sonus faber have elevated the Elipsa to the height of luxury with the option of the same high gloss red violin piano finish and gloss black side panels of their flagship designs, thus giving this well-established favourite an even wider appeal. Using many of the design elements of the Stradivari, in particular the infinite baffle format, the Elipsa Red employs selected wood layers and solid maple for a very stiff sandwich construction. Sub-structural stiffening spars break up any remaining harmful resonance nodes - and being much wider than it is deep, the speaker's elliptical shape allows it to couple easily with difficult room acoustics.

The 150mm midrange driver is a special Sonus faber exclusive using a selected black wood fibre cone treated for break-up control, while the tweeter is a 25mm ring radiator design. Bass is handled by a 260mm lightweight aluminium/magnesium alloy cone driver designed to remove cavity resonances and distortions. With a high sensitivity of 91db, the Elipsa Red can perform happily with as little as 50 Watts. In spite of Sonus faber's tradition of keeping moving mass to a minimum and stiffening the cone drivers, the Elipsa retains the balance and harmonic richness for which these Italian speakers are renowned - something that lesser manufacturers might find difficult to achieve with lightening and stiffening.

As for the sound, John Atkinson, Editor of Stereophile, described the Elipsa's performance as 'powerful yet refined, dynamic and spacious'. In its impeccable finish, the Elipsa Red is certain to find itself in some very tasteful listening rooms where appearance is as important as the performance.



Sonus Faber Guarneri Evolution Standmount 3 way loudspeaker

It was 18 years ago that Sonus Faber revolutionised the concept of standmount loudspeakers when they launched the Guarneri Homage. With its lute-shaped design and a performance that hard-wired into the emotions, it remains a classic to this day. But neither time nor development stand still, and over the years the Guarneri has undergone some changes, firstly in the form of the Memento, in which the original walnut finish gave way to the high gloss violin red or graphite of the Stradivari - and now, in its ultimate statement, as the Guarneri Evolution.

The original Guarneri was conceived as a tribute to the master violin maker Giuseppe Guarneri del Gesu, but as new developments in driver design and the suppression of resonance became available, the Evolution incarnation has a considerably enhanced performance while retaining the sensual and evocative spirit of the original, as well as the beautiful lute-shaped body, which now has exquisitely machined top and bottom metal plates.

Using technology employed in the Amati Futura and flagship giant The Sonus Faber, the Guarneri Evolution uses a seven-inch mid-bass unit with eddy current-free voice coil. This is a big step for a speaker that has always used a five-inch driver, and results in not only a more extended bass, but better performance all round. The tweeter, too, is different being a 29mm design from Ragnar Lian, co-founder of Scan-Speak.

The performance increase is immediately evident: in his colourful assessment in Hi-Fi News, Ken Kessler described them as 'miracle workers' and says that while the original Homage and the later Memento were 'hardly wimps, this one kicks sand in their faces. And it all starts with the bass'. He goes on to say that the 'Evolution breaks free from any shackles one might assume would be imposed by its driver or cabinet size. It acts like a much bigger speaker.'

Sonus faber have not only reworked this extraordinary transducer, but they have made considerable improvements to the optional dedicated pedestal, with the company's Low Vibration Transmission system of mechanical decoupling and their 'anima legata' system of two CNC machined surface bound to stainless steel bar. The combination of these innovations helps to eliminate spurious resonances.

With a lustrous appearance that will grace any living room, and a performance to match, what more could one ask?



Sonus Faber Amati Futura Floorstanding 3.5 way loudspeaker

Glorious. Exquisite. Sumptuous. The superlatives trip off the tongue before the first note has been played. Just to behold this most beautiful of loudspeakers is to experience something akin to lust. Many would desire the Amati Futura on looks alone, admiring the contrast between the polished metal top plate and the lustrous high gloss violin red piano finish.

But appearance is not enough: can the performance match the finish? It can and it does, for this design, which owes much of its technology to the company's mighty flagship The Sonus Faber, has been heralded as one of the finest speakers you can hear. Jason Kennedy waxes lyrical in his review in Hi-Fi Choice's The Collection: 'The most musical and effortless loudspeaker we've heard in years', he raves. 'The transparency is staggering, giving the performers a reach out and touch feel'.

How has this been achieved? Sonus faber have paid great attention to the elimination of spurious resonances, and those who have seen The Sonus Faber will recognise a feature from this giant in the double-layer steel plinth separated by compliant spacers. This is the Low Vibration Transmission system, which reduces the amount of energy transmitted to the floor. The Amati Futura also employs a new type of reflex port, known as the Stealth Reflex System, which is much quieter than conventional rear-firing ports.

Sonus faber have always been mindful of the fact that loudspeakers are always going to be much more welcome in the home if they resemble the finest furniture. The traditional sharp-edged black box has been the cause of many a domestic dispute since the dawn of hi-fi, whereas Sonus fabers - right from the Electa of many years ago - find a much warmer welcome. As the company put it: 'An acoustic instrument that lives in the environment and becomes part of it, carrying out the functions of both musical source and a beautiful piece of furnishing'.

Featuring Sonus faber's traditional lute-shaped enclosure formed from carefully selected maple wood, the drivers consist of a 29mm tweeter designed by Ragnar Lian, a 179mm midrange with a cellulose fibre cone and a pair of 220mm woofers with aluminium/magnesium cones - and these have a particularly long excursion. Mundorf capacitors and Jantzen inductors are used in the crossover.

There is no doubt about it: the Amati Futura is the living proof that hi-fi can enhance even the most beautifully furnished room, both with its looks and with its extraordinary performance.



Theta Digital Casablanca III HD

Preamplifier sound procesor

The Casablanca III HD in one of its standard twelve channels specification, with fully balanced DACs, with 24 bit - 384 kHz resolution is the finest sounding, most flexible preamplifier / processor available today, with proven performance and upgradeability since its original debut 13 years ago and continuing development for future enhancements and options currently capable to handle all HT digital formats. Only Theta Digital has offered such quality and long-term value in this ever-changing product category as the only product ever to fulfill the promise of upgradeability from its conception.

Among other things, the Casablanca III HD has the most extensive speaker configuration capability of any preamplifier / processor made, and can be configured with up to 12 channels of speaker output, for jaw-dropping sound quality in virtually any speaker system in any home allowing customers to configure the unit from 3 different levels of DACs given ultimate level of flexibility in cost and performance.

Each of the 12 input selections provides for individual tailoring of all output parameters such as volume level, delay, crossover and slope. Once a given input has been fully configured, those settings can be applied to the remaining inputs, for simplicity of setup.

A Theta Digital exclusive, Centre Spread technology re-allocates the centre channel signal to the front left and right channels incrementally, thereby expanding the 'collapsed' image present in some source material. The left and right speakers, often the best in the system, then share the burden of the center channel. The resulting sound is smoother and more articulate - even at low volume, and with less glare on louder passages.

With today's myriad of video and audio formats, there can be a delay in the output of the video signal from some sources such as satellite tuners and cable boxes, causing the audio and video to be out of sync. The Casablanca III HD addresses this annoying issue by allowing the user to set an overall, or master, audio delay in order to re-sync the audio and the video signals, bringing clarity to the media experience.

Such flexibility and minute control allows each source to be fine-tuned for the given listening environment and owner's taste, for exacting precision and satisfaction and with the added bonus of a powerful RS232 control the Casablanca HD is easily integrated with home automation systems such as Creston and AMX.

Simply the most powerful, flexible and upgradeable product available in the market with the highest level of audiophile and videophile performance in the home theatre market.



Theta Digital Compli Blu

Blu-ray, CD, SACD & DVD-Audio Disc Player

The Compli Blu, like all the other transports before it, is based on a manufacturing kit obtained from a third party, then optimized by Theta Digital's experts to bring it up to their high standards. In the past, they have partnered with Sony, Phillips and Pioneer. This time, they partnered with Oppo, whose recent transports have garnered quite a following. Both Oppo and Theta Digital are delighted to bring this top performing product to you, and to build upon the already desirable performance of the BPD-83 and establish yet another benchmark of performance by Theta Digital in the transport product category. As it becomes available during its product life-cycle, updated firmware for the Compli Blu will be posted in the Downloads area of Theta Digital's website. Here is the core of what Theta Digital has done this time around to 'turbocharge' an existing transport:

- Heavy 16 gauge steel chassis for rigidity.
- Outputs XLR, RCA, Tape
- Positions of transport mechanism and display have been swapped. Lowering the mechanism allows for elimination of an intermediary mounting bracket and long standoffs, resulting in greater rigidity.
- Completely rigid mounted mechanism replaces the original spring mounted system.
- Special 3M adhesive damping material used on drawer assembly, further reducing vibration energy.
- RS-232 control is included as a standard.
- LAN, USB, HDMI are included as standards

Theta believes this component to be primarily a great sounding CD, SACD player with the added bonus of being also a top end multiplayer supporting every disc format available, in other words a true bargain considering its price tag. In his review in Hi Fi Choice Alvin Gold commented: 'Using versatility and performance as yardsticks, this new model from Theta Digital potentially, at least, comes near the top of the list and, perhaps, at the absolute pinnacle'.





Transparent Cable Reference & Opus series

Absolute reference audio cables

Transparent Reference and OPUS Series cables are the consummate expression of Transparent's audio cable design process. They have the most demanding specifications and require the most skill and expertise to produce.

Repeated measurements before, during, and after assembly are key to the performance of Transparent's Reference and OPUS Series Cables. Transparent's design model dictates the ideal and precise inductance, capacitance, and resistance measurements for each cable. Transparent's technicians achieve the ideal electrical characteristics for each Reference or OPUS Series Cable they craft by making small adjustments to the cable's network and by employing special trimming and positioning techniques at the cable's terminations. The many measurements and consequent network and cable adjustments that take place during the construction process take everything into consideration: the cable's intended length, its intended termination requirements, and the electrical characteristics of the cable's associated components.

Even the precise mechanical fit of the cable with each component it links is important to performance because the fit affects the series inductance of the finished cable.

Taking the electrical characteristics of the cable's associated components into consideration is one of the most critical criteria to Reference and OPUS Series performance because the filter characteristics of each cable behaves differently with different components. The highly specialized networks on Reference and OPUS Cables optimize the cable's ability to interface ideally with specific components. With the help of Transparent's design model, Transparent's technicians can calibrate the most ideal filter network characteristics for a specific type and length of cable for the specific linking components in a customer's system.

The Transparent design model incorporates the impedance characteristics of a wide range of associated components. If a Reference or OPUS Series customer has a component that has unknown characteristics, for example, Transparent will find out the required information before building that customer's cable. The design model consists of an intricate interpolation of data that correlates Transparent's listening criteria with the measured electrical characteristics of cables with properly designed networks in different impedance applications. The model has evolved considerably over the past 15 years as a result of compiling tens of thousands of cable measurements and correlating the measurements with thousands of hours of listening tests.

Incorporating all of these parameters into the manufacturing process means that each Reference or OPUS Series Cable is unique to its application and built one at a time by hand. Reference Series and OPUS cables take longer to build than most other components in your system. Whether you are new to Transparent, or you own an older version or a lower performance level of Transparent, we invite you to experience your music system cabled with Transparent's best. Transparent Reference, Reference XL, Reference MM, or OPUS will free your system to reveal more of the music on your favorite music sources than you have ever experienced before.



Transparent Cable Premium HDMI

HDMI Cables Premium HDMI • High Performance HDMI • Performance HDMI

All three performance levels and all lengths of Transparent HDMI Cables are Certified High Speed HDMI compliant and support uncompressed 1080p 60 Hz video, 3D Video, 4K x 2K resolution, and Deep Color. In addition, all Transparent HDMI Cables transfer data at speeds up to 10.2Gbit/second to support future formats. All also support HD Audio lossless formats. With each performance level, Transparent HDMI Cables progressively provide better audio and video performance.

Transparent HDMI Cables are unique in their ability to pass accurate digital audio and video signals over long lengths of cable. Most HDMI Cables do not perform well at lengths greater than 3 metres and some will not pass a signal at all at longer lengths. At lengths less than 7 metres, Transparent's HDMI conductor, shielding, and construction technologies alone insure accurate digital audio and video transmission. At lengths greater than 7 metres, Transparent Active HDMI Network Technology compensates for the specific cable length, maintains high speed performance, and corrects attenuation and skew. Active HDMI Network Technology is available in High Performance and Performance HDMI Cables.

Premium HDMI Cable has been designed to extract the most accurate and satisfying performance possible from all high definition audio and video sources. Transparent Premium HDMI has high silver content conductors to transfer a clean, bright picture with vibrant, lifelike colours and to reveal the full richness and dynamic power of uncompressed high resolution music and movie soundtracks. Maximum length for Premium HDMI is 7 metres. Even if your system requires an HDMI cable longer than 7 metres between the processor and video transducer, using Premium HDMI between the video source and processor will provide a significant upgrade in audio and video performance. For lengths longer than 7 metres, pair Premium HDMI at the source with Transparent High Performance Active HDMI.

Designed for better video playback systems, Transparent High Performance HDMI Video Cables provides a cleaner, brighter picture with more vibrant, lifelike colors and rich, dynamic sound even when you require long cable runs. For lengths between 7 and 20 metres, use Transparent High Performance Active HDMI Cables.

Transparent Performance HDMI Video Cables in your video system will provide a cleaner, brighter picture with more vibrant, lifelike colors and richer, more satisfying sound compared to typical HDMI cables. The smaller size and greater flexibility of Performance HDMI make it an excellent solution for systems set up in smaller cabinets or tight quarters. For lengths between 7 and 15 metres, use Transparent Performance Active HDMI Cables.

Transparent goes to great lengths to give you the best possible video and audio playback for all your high definition audio and video sources regardless of your system needs from 1 to 20 metres at a level of performance unheard of and never seen with typical HDMI cables.



Wilson Audio

Watch Centre 3

Centre channel loudspeaker



What makes watching movies at home a compelling strategy? For most people, the intuitive starting point would be picture size and quality. The rapidly evolving technologies of home video reproduction offer today's home theatre owner a degree of visual realism unattainable even a few years ago.

Unfortunately, the human penchant for the visual (when was the last time anyone asked you: 'Heard any good movies lately?') perpetuates system choices that are biased toward video. It's all too common for the audio portion of the typical home theatre to come up short.

Some interesting trials validate a counter-intuitive thesis: when viewers were asked to rate the impact of two different home theatre systems—one with a larger, better quality screen, but with a middling sound system, and the second with a smaller screen but a state-of-the-art audio system—they invariably chose the latter system as the more emotionally involving.

The result would hardly surprise people who make movies. Since the advent of the talkies, filmmakers have realized that music and sound effects carry a disproportionate weight of the emotion in a motion picture (as an experiment, try to imagine the chill quotient in your favorite scary movie with the sound turned off.)

The WATCH® system [Wilson Audio Theatre Comes Home] was born out of this recognition. Bringing home the emotional impact of live music through two-channel reproduction has been the organizing passion of Wilson Audio since its inception nearly four decades ago. Applying the same focus and expertise to multi-channel theatre systems was simply the natural extension of that passion.





Wilson Audio

Sophia 3

3 way loudspeaker system

Dave Wilson recently observed that when the original Sophia was launched in 2001, it was inevitably described in the audio press as Wilson Audio's entry-level floor-standing loudspeaker. While Sophia remains Wilson's most affordable floorstander, focusing on price obscures an important fact—price was incidental to Sophia's actual design objective. What Dave and the Wilson design team set out to create was a loudspeaker that—unlike its siblings at the time, X-1 Grand SLAMM and WATT/ Puppy—was less demanding of rooms and electronics. Sophia was designed to be a product easy to drive, easy to own, and one which invited its owner to just relax into the enjoyment of music.

To emphasize that point, Dave Wilson played a friendly joke on the journalists gathered to hear Sophia at the 2002 CES. The visual evidence in the room led listeners to believe they were hearing the loudspeaker powered by an expensive high-end amplifier. Once the reviewers had ample opportunity to revel in the impressive sound, Dave pulled back the curtain to reveal that the speakers were in fact being driven by a modestly priced amplifier.

Sophia's true magic is that a speaker designed to sound so good with modest electronics can still reveal the nuance and detail of state-of-the-art gear. Sophia's update to Series 2 in 2005 incorporated many of Wilson's advances in cabinet materials, anti-jitter crossover technology, and driver design—advances designed to raise the bar on high-end performance in the realms of dynamic contrast, low noise and coloration, and transparency—all the while maintaining the charm and ease of the original.

Impressive sales aside, it is Sophia's cult status among audiophiles that speaks to the success of the original vision. It is not uncommon for Wilson customers who could easily afford the company's more expensive loudspeakers to choose Sophia—just because they love the sound.





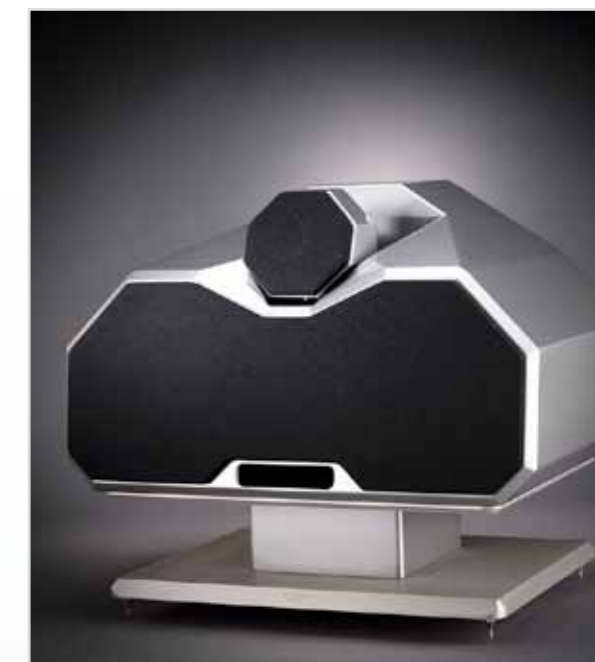
Wilson Audio Mezzo

Centre channel loudspeaker

Mezzo is only the latest product from the Wilson Special Applications Engineering Team™. This group of products recognizes there are situations where the typical floorstanding loudspeaker fails adequately to meet needs that fall outside the typical listening room/home theatre environments.

Wilson has a long and storied history of developing products for specific applications. The first product to fit that definition was the Wilson Audio Tiny Tot, or WATT®. Long before it became the mid and upper range part of the venerable WATT/Puppy® combo (the best selling over £10k loudspeaker in audio history), it was originally designed as a portable location monitor. The WATT played a significant role in the series of audiophile-quality records Dave engineered in the 1980's. The WATT's original heritage was thereafter evident by the machined aluminum handle that traversed the rear blades, a safe and convenient way for Dave to carry the monitor to and from recording locales.

The Mezzo™ was also formulated and engineered with a specific function in mind: a loudspeaker endowed with a nearly identical sonic signature to Wilson's Sasha W/P®, but in a low-profile package. When used as a centre channel, Mezzo seamlessly matches the acoustic signature of Wilson's remarkable Sasha. Indeed, the Mezzo features a driver complement nearly identical to the Sasha, the exception being the midrange driver, which is borrowed from the legendary Alexandria X-2®. The Mezzo also provides an unprecedented level of musical accuracy in music systems and home theatres where its low-profile form solves architectural challenges, such as in those installations where a tall loudspeaker would block wall-to-wall cinema screens, the view afforded by large windows, or would obstruct wall-hanging artwork. Whether it is used as a centre channel in conjunction with Sasha, MAXX, or Alexandria, or as a main loudspeaker, Mezzo matches the tonal beauty, dynamic speed, tonal sophistication, resolution, and sense of 'thereness' that are hallmarks of Sasha W/P.



Wilson Audio

Sasha

3 way reference loudspeaker system

For the past 23 years, no product represented the soul and history of Wilson Audio more than the WATT/Puppy. With well over 15,000 units sold since its inception, its place in the pantheon of great audio products is assured. Martin Colloms described the WATT in his landmark book, *High performance loudspeakers*, as the perfect enclosure. Its distinctive pyramidal shape has inspired numerous imitators.

The WATT was conceived of necessity. At the time (the early eighties), Dave Wilson was engineering a series of audiophile recordings and he needed an accurate location monitor. Nothing commercially available met his standards, so he decided to design and build his own. The WATT was in instant demand among Dave's professional peers. Once it was combined with a dedicated woofer cabinet (the Puppy), its long reign as audio's most successful over-£10,000 loudspeaker began.

From 1986, when the WATT was introduced at that year's Consumer Electronics Show, to 2009, the WATT/Puppy system evolved through seven revisions. New cabinet architecture, new enclosure materials, new drivers, the introduction (with System 6) of Aspherical Group Delay—all of these changes came as Wilson's loudspeaker technology progressed and found expression throughout the family of Wilson products—from Alexandria to Duette. The WATT/Puppy, as the paterfamilias, was never allowed to languish far behind Wilson's state-of-the-art.

So why not a System 9? Why a new loudspeaker that embodies the spirit of WATT/Puppy, evokes a similar form factor, but which can no longer simply be called a WATT/Puppy? Why was it time for Sasha?

Throughout its evolution, the WATT was always a self-contained, two-way loudspeaker. It had its own crossover; the WATT always had the capability of being removed from the Puppy and operated on its own. MAXX and Alexandria, meanwhile, were multi-cabinet loudspeakers that integrated drivers through crossover modules mounted in the bass cabinet, a design strategy that has many proven sonic benefits. The WATT/Puppy platform itself became the obstacle to fully leveraging the latest advances in cabinet materials, crossover design, and proprietary driver design. Sasha makes all of those things possible, while maintaining the central position in the Wilson product line held by its illustrious predecessor.

