

# Hifi Pig Magazine

WWW.HIFIPIG.COM

February 27th 2015  
Special Publication

## SOUND AND VISION - THE BRISTOL SHOW REPORT

In association with

**clarity**

a sound vision for the UK's AV industry



**Including  
the Clarity  
Awards**

In association with

**clarity**

a sound vision for the UK's AV industry

**Hifi Pig**  
Magazine

[www.hifipig.com](http://www.hifipig.com)

[www.hifipig.com](http://www.hifipig.com)

Telephone: +33 (0)2 97 23 70 78

E mail: [Stuart@hifipig.com](mailto:Stuart@hifipig.com)



BIG PIG MEDIA LLP

Partnership No OC397825

# CONTENTS

**3. Dominic Marsh**

**6. Birds Eye View with  
Linette Smith**

**8. Clarity Alliance  
Interview**

**11. Clarity Alliance Awards**

**22-59 Photographs From  
The Show**

**Sunday  
28th June  
2015**

**Second Annual**

# North West Audio Show

**Cranage Hall, Cheshire**

**FREE  
ENTRY  
FREE  
PARKING**

**Register at [www.audioshow.co.uk](http://www.audioshow.co.uk)  
or telephone 07561803670**

**Hifi Pig**  
[www.hifipig.com](http://www.hifipig.com)



# Hifi Pig Reviewer Dominic Marsh Gives His Personal View On The Show

I haven't attended the Bristol Sound and Vision show for some years to be truthful, due to a lack of available time and other commitments, so I really did look forward to attending the show this year with my Hifi Pig hat on, which was a refreshing change from being just an audiophile ogling the latest hi-fi toys and jewellery as it has been during previous visits. Even so, I was able to make it for the one day only (Friday 20<sup>th</sup>) and that simply wasn't enough time to put too many ticks against my wish list of all the exhibitors I wanted to visit, which wasn't that extensive to begin with, given those time limitations. Not an easy task by any means. This year there was no trade and press only day which was sorely missed by me. It wasn't very efficient or productive to be waiting in turn behind the public to talk business with the exhibitors and I achieved much less than I had even hoped for.

Again, within my Hifi Pig reviewer's role I had several objectives to meet that were far removed from being simply the curious enthusiast, I had to formulate a perception of where the industry currently is and perhaps identify new trends and directions for the future, offset against what the audiophile is actively seeking out for their pleasures for today and beyond.

To really make my day, I packed up what I thought I would need to take with me to the show and forgot the most essential item of all – the camera. Doh! Apologies then for any lack of photos from me in this report but I grabbed a couple with the phone

**The last thing I anticipated in any event was to go “WOW!” at any of the demonstrations because hotel rooms full of warm bodies and out of the ordinary seating arrangements are fighting a losing battle from the outset...**

which seems to be somewhat reluctant to part with them. My excuse is I did get up very early and as I am not a morning person with a long journey to face ahead of me, so I wasn't all that bright eyed and bushy tailed to begin with, so no surprises there. I was to be given a Hifi Pig shoulder bag at the show so my baggage when I left home consisted of a tatty old plastic carrier bag in anticipation of receiving the Pig bag on arrival so I could transfer the contents into the Hifi Pig shoulder bag on arrival. It was perversely fortuitous that I left the camera at home as the carrier bag was already creating some nasty

weals on my fingers from carrying it around and I didn't get the shoulder bag until late in the day. The tatty carrier bag gave up mid-afternoon and my thanks to the Chord Company people for allowing me to pilfer one of their carrier bags.

I have not the slightest doubt that the internet will be buzzing soon over what sounds were heard at the show so I don't intend to add any more to that mountain of opinions by doing a room-by-room analysis myself. The last thing I anticipated in any event was to go "WOW!" at any of the demonstrations because hotel rooms full of warm bodies and out of the ordinary seating arrangements are fighting a losing battle from the outset, unless of course you will have upwards of 20 people sat in your own listening room on metal chairs yapping away during your own music listening sessions. To me the show wasn't about what sounds were being produced, it was at a much deeper level than that.

As I recall, my last visit all those years ago wasn't all that pleasurable or enervating, as I have recollections of music blaring out of bedroom doorways at deafening levels into corridors, endless rivers of people bumping into each other trying to navigate their way along the aforesaid corridors and staircases, each carrying a carrier bag laden with reams of catalogues and literature they had accumulated from exhibitors, which also did a supreme job of bashing your shins constantly with plenty of "Sorry!" comments all round. Now this is very interesting indeed, as one of my very first impressions on entering the show was the LACK of heavy carrier bags bursting with literature being lugged around by the attendees. Hmmmmmm. Either the catalogues weren't being doled out by the ton from the exhibitors, or the attendees were not tempted by what was on offer, or was there maybe another reason? I was soon to find out.

Another poignant memory from the last visit was the attitudes of those manning the demonstrations. You could enter a demonstration room to find no attendee's bottoms on seats, some indifferent plinky plonk muzak being played on whatever system of

variable quality and the staff huddled in a corner chatting amongst themselves paying no attention to you at all. You could have caught fire and they wouldn't have piddled on you to extinguish the flames. Dare you ask a simple question and there was a good chance you would get a "Dunno mate, the bloke who knows aint here" kind of reply. Contrast that scenario with the attitudes I found at this visit. Gone was that awful indifference and the exhibitors were more than keen to engage you in polite and more importantly, knowledgeable conversation if you approached them. Aha, you might say, wearing a press badge might have made some sort of difference, but no, I tucked the badge into my shirt breast pocket a few times so the exhibitors were totally unaware of who I was and why I was there. Top marks to all you guys and gals, you did the industry proud.

This might also account for the absence of bulging carrier bags too, because I found no shortage at all of catalogues and literature available in all the demonstration rooms.

The one thing I did remember to pack was some CDs which I was hoping to be played, so I was at least hearing a familiar recording during the demonstrations. Given that most systems were being fed with streamed digital music, that was yet another item I could have comfortably left out of that blasted carrier bag I was lugging around all day and hurting my fingers. I did manage to get one of the CDs played which somehow lured plenty of new visitors in to a room that was otherwise empty immediately beforehand. Which leads me on to my next comment about the show – the demo music choices.

On the one hand it was great not to be assaulted by Joan Armourplating's "Me myself I" emanating from every room doorway at 90db+ levels as I used to find in hi-fi show days of yore, it irked me somewhat that I didn't hear any memorable music at this year's show either. Not quite plinky plonk or lift muzak, but not a zillion miles away from it either, although I did hear a brief but not unexpected excerpt of Hugh Masakela's Hope at one point. I did get really



engaged by a drum solo in the Paradigm room which I could easily have used in my review evaluations because it had some superbly recorded transients, so I discreetly got the mobile phone out to see if Shazam could identify it for me. No chance, might as well have held up and waved around a wet lettuce leaf for all the good Shazam was to me. The guys were too busy with queries from other attendees to ask, so still none the wiser what that track or album was called. I even returned later in the day to ask but the room was as full as before and they were playing Stairway to Heaven by Led Zeppelin this time around.

What perceptions have I brought away from this year's Bristol Show?

Firstly, judging by the amount of streaming devices on show, this is without doubt what will dominate the hi-fi industry for the foreseeable future. Is it "Hi Fi" though? Yes it has instant accessibility to a massive range of music and for convenience, no other medium comes close. It also allows for ultimate mobility too as nobody is being stuck in the lounge parked in front of speakers or lassoed by headphones at the end of a cable. Factor in what the cost would be to purchase that same amount of music on CD or vinyl and it really is a no brainer to see why it dominates. But for me, it isn't "Hi Fi" in the true sense of the word, because that to me is only available by being stuck in the lounge parked in front of good speakers fed by the complete picture through full range media like CD and vinyl. Call me old fashioned if you like. Dominic, you are old fashioned.

Secondly and not entirely unconnected with digital streaming, we have miniaturization moving forward at an alarming pace. Witness the Pro-Ject MaiA integrated amplifier that I have reviewed recently for Hifi Pig that has within a tiny box, a high quality 30 watts per channel amplifier, a headphone output, a motorized volume control, a DAC, USB and Bluetooth connections and 3 digital inputs in the shape of 2x TOSLINK and 1x RCA SPDIF input, making nine inputs in total. It won't just be confined

## **Finally, what has pleased me the most is the huge change in attitude from the exhibitors.**

to living next door to a desktop computer either because it's size will fit in with a lot of modern lifestyle locations. The seventeen inch wide stack system of components in individual boxes are heading for extinction it seems, although history says one day we may revisit that genre again. You have doubts? We have brand new turntables and valves available right now, so never say never.

Thirdly, casework design has come a long way in the intervening years too, so now we have some gorgeous laser cut faceplates and tasteful bright trims to behold instead of plain rectangular boxes. Having said that, it fair took me aback to see that Technics have launched a large power amp with big and bold VU meters dominating almost the entire front panel. All digital circuitry inside mind.

Finally, what has pleased me the most is the huge change in attitude from the exhibitors. Perhaps the recession has enabled the dealers and distributors to realize that the money in our pockets is only accessible through better interaction with their audience on a personal level. My advice to you guys is to forget the word "business" and embrace the notion that it is one to one personal transactions that defines whether someone buys an item from you or not. The four key words here are "How would I feel?" if I walked into a demo room and was ignored, how would I feel if someone spoke to me like that, or how would I feel if someone said they would call me back but didn't? The answers are all there because EVERYONE is a consumer, so their experiences are easily applied into a vendor situation if you think about it. Sermon over.

Dominic Marsh

# Bristol Sound and Vision 2015 – Birds Eye View

**Linette Smith**

To say the show was rammed would be an understatement....when we got there before it opened on Friday morning, there were people queuing round the block to get in.

There was a real buzz of excitement over the two days that we were there with people keen to see and hear as much as possible. All the demos were packed and I must admit to doing a bit of queue jumping with my press pass in order to get to everything I wanted!

The venue is a good one, yes some of the rooms are a bit small but it is a hotel. Facilities at the Marriott are excellent with plenty of staff to cater for hungry and thirsty audiophiles.....and believe me, it was thirsty work!

Bristol seems to me to be a show for real people, it's not just crazy high end (Naim Statement anybody?), there's something for the more modest budget too ....the Q Acoustics room was the perfect example of this, where they were demoing their new little speakers that retail at less than £200, making great sounding music accessible to everyone.

KEF always have one of my favourite rooms at shows, and they did not disappoint this time. I must admit to my most blatant bit of queue jumping here..... very sorry to the two guys I had to skip in front of, hope you got in in the end! I got to hear the new R series AV system in a Dolby Atmos dem that was very impressive...Im not usually blown away by AV systems but KEF have something special here ...that's probably the reason that Dolby themselves are using the new KEF speakers at their HQ.



The 'Baby' blades (Blade 2) were also on show and were demoed by the ever bouncy Johann, again an excellent sound, I'm beginning to think I could happily live with some big KEF speakers! Another thing I noticed was that KEF had their speakers in many of the other rooms...which is always a good sign for a brand, including Yamaha who won the best AV room award at the show.

The Astel & Kern and Audeze stand was absolutely mobbed for the whole show (or when ever I passed anyway) and I was itching to get my ears around the new EL 8 headphones. I managed a sneaky listen before opening on Saturday and liked what I heard....a lighter (in weight and price) addition to the Audeze family yet they still have that quality feel and amazing sound.....I just want a pair to play with properly now.

Dynaudio had one of the nicest and most refreshing rooms .....a light and airy oasis that had a

tremendous sound with their new Focus XD loudspeakers...I went in a few times for a listen.

Another brand that seemed to have their products in a lot of rooms was the Chord Company ....it seemed like everyone was using their cables.

If you are (and I was for a long time) a cable sceptic, you should go to one of their demos.

We were given a demo of streaming cables ....a subject that is bound to start a fight on any audiophile forum, power cables and interconnects. I wasn't expecting to be able to detect much of a difference with the streaming cables but there was a definite improvement as we moved up the range.

The most eye (or ear) opening demo was of the interconnects and we were treated to a listen of The Chord Company's new product line 'Music'. If just shy of £4000 for a pair of interconnects that contain a secret new insulation sounds bonkers to you (and lets face it, it does to most people) then you definitely need to take a listen....there were more than a few raised eyebrows and murmurs of amazement when we were in the room.

A room we found ourselves very happy to be in was the Music First and Longdog Audio room. Probably up there for one of the best sounding rooms in my opinion, they were playing Kraftwerk and I wished I could have stayed there longer.

Another vinyl room that I liked a lot was Clearaudio and Gamut, stunning sounding and beautiful looking turntables and the Gamut amps and speakers were pretty breathtaking too.

Mr Hifi Pig did point out the irony of me rating vinyl rooms but I've never said I don't think vinyl can sound amazing....just that in the home situation it can be a pain to use. Perhaps seeing as the Clearaudio TTs are so high end they might send a turntable minion with them when you buy one, to make your life easier?

Spendor had three rooms all featuring their Speakers and Devialet kit. Very stylishly done rooms that sounded great....I was particularly impressed with the Spendor Classic speakers and their 70s styling ...Mr Hifi Pig came out of the room saying that he wanted a pair.

Henley Designs were another distributor with three rooms. The new Roksan K3 system was kicking

**I wasn't expecting to be able to detect much of a difference with the streaming cables but there was a definite improvement as we moved up the range.**

some serious ass in one of them...nice to hear this kit at a show after seeing them being made back when we visited Roksan HQ.

After hearing the Tsakirdis valve amps from Greece at last years Cranage show, we were pleased to find them at Bristol. The Flamingo room that they were in had a lovely sound and I think anyone would be surprised to hear that the amp they were using when we were in there was sub £2000....affordable valves indeed.

More valves from Ming Da UK who were drawing people into their room and keeping them there.....a feast for both eyes and ears. Definitely a room for lovers of big valve amps.

The last room on our tour was Wilson Benesch who were pumping out rock music nice and loud on their new stunningly 'Alien' looking loudspeakers....we could have spent a lot longer in here.

There were plenty of other rooms that I really liked such as Brodmann, Focal, Eclipse, Chord Electronics, Exposure, Heed Audio ...too many to list but there are plenty of brands that I will be seeking out to listen to some more at the next show.

I really, really enjoyed this show. My only regret was that we didn't have a bit more time to just go back into some rooms and sit and listen for longer. As a Hifi show it also is a very social event and it was great fun to catch up with so many people that we knew and make some new acquaintances.

Next stop for us Munich, then Cranage Hall.....see you there!



# Clarity at Sound & Vision, The Bristol Show

**We caught up with Phil Hansen, operations director for The Clarity Alliance at the Bristol Show and asked him about the Alliance's involvement with the show.**



**HFP** How did your involvement with the Bristol Show come about?

**PH** Around three years ago we approached the show organisers and proposed that Clarity, as the hi-fi industry's trade association, could organise an awards event to recognise the hard work that the exhibitors put into their rooms at the show.

**HFP** And what was the reaction from Audio-T to this suggestion?

**PH** The idea was welcomed as it would give some independent recognition to the huge amount of effort

that is taken by the hi-fi industry to make Bristol one of the best shows in the country. The organisers quite rightly felt they couldn't run any sort of awards as it wouldn't be independent, but by agreeing to Clarity organising it there would be a totally apolitical approach to the awards.

**HFP** So how many years have you been running the awards and what has the reaction been from the exhibitors?

**PH** 2015 marks the third year we have run the awards and each year it gets better and gains more

recognition. The first year it was a bit of a surprise for people but it has gained a following each time we have run it. Having said that, the winners in 2013 were delighted to receive their accolades, as were the winners in 2014 and now this year. It's great to see the winners' certificates proudly displayed in their rooms and on their stands on the Saturday morning. The comments from each of the 15 winners we have had to date have been nothing short of fantastic.

**HFP** Tell us how the judging process works and what makes it independent?

**PH** We start by splitting the show into five or six areas, based largely around a floor of the hotel or a couple of floors or a split area in the case of the busy ground floor and lower ground floor. Each of our five or six judges is then given an area to visit and they are asked to mark the room or stand from their area that they think deserves to be the winner in each of the awards categories. This all happens on the Friday morning and then in the afternoon the judges get together and hand in their nomination forms. From these a shortlist in each of the five awards categories is created and one judge visits each of the five rooms to choose the overall winner. At all times we are conscious of any conflicts of interest and make sure the judges are not asked to visit rooms that they may have an interest in (e.g. work for or sell the products in question).

**HFP** OK, so the judges are not allowed to vote on rooms they are interested in, that does make it truly independent, but who are the judges?

**PH** We keep the judges anonymous so as to remove any possibility of arm twisting or favouritism. This year, for instance, we had a number of journalists, a couple of manufacturers and two retailers. And to further mix it up and keep it fair, the mix of people judging the first round was different from those who visited the shortlisted rooms to make the final decisions.

**HFP** That sounds like a lot of effort for a hi-fi show awards event?

**PH** It may be a lot of effort, but as the trade association for the industry we have to be totally impartial and so it is worth the time it takes to

**The idea was to bring together anyone and everyone operating in the hi-fi industry to work towards a common goal of promoting better quality home entertainment to consumers.**

organise in order that we can be confident in the results.

**HFP** What exactly is The Clarity Alliance?

**PH** Clarity, for short, was formed in 2012 by a group of likeminded manufacturers, distributors, retailers, the media and independent PR consultants. The idea was to bring together anyone and everyone operating in the hi-fi industry to work towards a common goal of promoting better quality home entertainment to consumers.

**HFP** That's quite an ambitious objective. How did you achieve it?

**PH** For the past 25 years or so the industry has had two trade associations: BADA, the British Audio

Dealers Association, and the BFA, British Federation of Audio – a manufacturers association. During 2011 the BFA began winding up its operations and at around the same time BADA's board of directors had begun thinking about a repositioning of the association as more of an industry body rather than being purely retail focused. An 18-month consultation process with the whole of the UK's hi-fi industry resulted in the formation of The Clarity Alliance.

**HFP** What does Clarity offer for the hi-fi buying public?

**PH** Clarity is a trade association, which means its focus is on its members and the help it can give them in the running of their businesses. Like most trade associations that includes the provision of standard but essential services such as insurance deals, credit card rates and legal helplines. For consumers, Clarity has two purposes, both of which are hugely important:

Firstly our primary objective is to promote hi-fi to the public. Particularly the public who don't normally buy 'proper' hi-fi. We want people to

become aware of better quality home entertainment and to know they need to visit a specialist shop to get the best advice and products.

Secondly, we run a suite of training courses specially designed for people working in hi-fi shops. So end users can rest assured that when they shop at a specialist independent store they are being served by people who are knowledgeable, experienced in and passionate about the products they are selling. For the very best in service and to get a solution that is right for each person's requirements, shopping at a Clarity member's shop is the best option.

**HFP** How can people find their nearest Clarity member shop?

**PH** Our website, [www.clarityalliance.co.uk](http://www.clarityalliance.co.uk), lists all the manufacturer and retailer members of the Alliance, so finding your nearest shop is just a few clicks away. We are also active on facebook and are always posting articles of interest to people who are into hi-fi and better quality home entertainment. Please 'like' us at [facebook.com/Clarity Alliance](https://facebook.com/ClarityAlliance)



**Phil Hansen (left) and Laurence Armstrong (Clarity's Chairman) announce the Clarity Award winners.**



# The Clarity Awards



**I**t was a crowded room on the Friday evening for the Clarity Award ceremony at this year's Sound & Vision, The Bristol Show and given the effort most exhibitors had put into their rooms and stands, I can imagine the judging was an agonizing process. The clear joy expressed by exhibitors at just being shortlisted for the awards shows these are obviously very relevant and significant honours to the companies involved.

There was an impassioned introduction by Robert Follis which set the tone nicely for the ceremony itself.

The overall winners were clearly delighted to be presented with their awards by Laurence Armstrong, the Chairman of Clarity and proudly exhibited their trophies throughout the remainder of the show. The highlight of the ceremony for me was the awarding of a Lifetime award for one of the music journalists I've followed since my teens, Paul Messenger.

## The Categories and Shortlisted Companies

### **Best Hi-fi Room**

Henley Designs  
Neat  
Arcam  
Brodmann  
Dynaudio  
Spendor/Devialet

### **Best Cinema Room**

Canton  
Yamaha  
REL  
Pioneer

### **Most Innovative Room**

Entotem  
Elac  
Air

Technics  
KEF  
Wilson Benesch

### **Best Presented Room**

Fostex  
Wilson Benesch  
AudioQuest  
Dynaudio  
Quad/IAG  
Sony

### **Best Stand in an Open Area**

Naim  
Hi-Fi Racks

### **Overall Winners**

#### **Best Hi-Fi Room**

Henley Designs

#### **Best Cinema Room**

Yamaha

### **Most Innovative Room**

Entotem

### **Best Presented Room**

Dynaudio

### **Best Stand in an Open Area**

Hi-Fi Racks







**Just part of one of Henley Designs' rooms showing Pro-Ject and Unison Research kit**



**Spendor and Devialet make the shortlist**





**Neat Acoustics and Arcam both shortlisted**



**The Dynaudio Lounge appealed to at least one of the judges in the Best Hi-Fi Room Category**



**I always enjoy the Brodmanns whenever I hear them as they seem just so unforced and non-hifi and so I'm not surprised to them shortlisted. However, they are a swine to photograph given their finish and so here's the rest of the room with the speakers inset.**



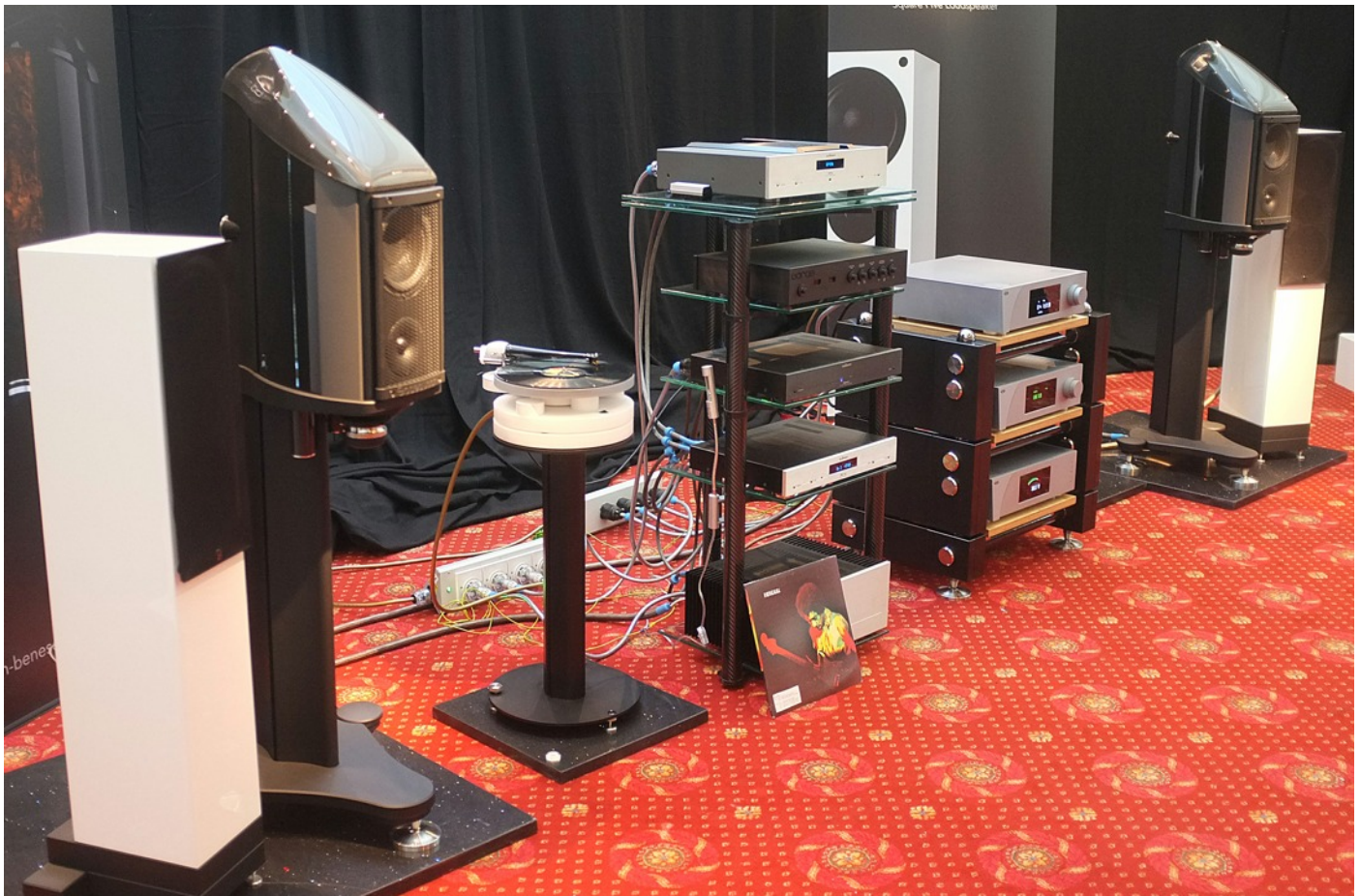
**Entotem won the award for the most innovative room amongst some stiff competition with their Plato system and app**







**Elac and Wilson Benesch were both nominated in the most innovative category**





**Air Audio were shortlisted in the innovation category and here you can see their room with Trichord kit and one of their MB Power blocks**



**Another shortlisted company in the innovation category ,this time from a bit of a blast from the past Technics**





**KEF are a well known brand that seem to have been around for ever and so it's nice to see them recognised for innovation. Always a very entertaining room at any show, with really enthusiastic presenters**







**Top, Yamaha's winning Cinema Room. Left, Canton. Bottom Left, Rel. Below, Pioneer**







**Audioquest, Wilson Benesch and Quad/AIG were all shortlisted in the best presented room category.**



**Also shortlisted were Sony and previously pictured Dynaudio who won the category and SCV Distribution on the next page**

In association with

# clarity

a sound vision for the UK's AV industry



**SCV Distribution with  
Benchmark, Fostex, CEntrance,  
Briscati and Isoacoustics were  
shortlisted in the best presented  
room category**



**Hi-Fi Racks were winners in the Best Stand in an Open Area category and quite rightly so. The effort the team had put into their display was clear. Also nice to see all the family being involved!**





**The Naim stand also got a good deal of interest from the judges and public alike.**



# clarity

a sound vision for the UK's AV industry

THE BEST OF  
**SOUND & VISION**  
THE BRISTOL SHOW

## WINNER 2015

Congratulations to all the winners of the Clarity "Best of Show"  
Awards at Sound & Vision, The Bristol Show

### Dynaudio

(best presented room)

### Entotem

(most innovative room)

### Henley Designs

(best hi-fi room)

### Hi-Fi Racks

(best stand in an open area)

### Yamaha

(best home cinema room)

as voted for by **The Clarity Alliance**  
the UK hi-fi and home cinema industry's trade association

[www.clarityalliance.co.uk](http://www.clarityalliance.co.uk)





# IT'S ALL ABOUT THE PEOPLE

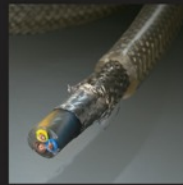
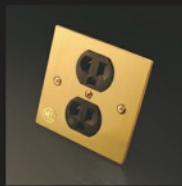




# MS HD POWER

SINCE 1967

Audiophile Quality  
Plugs, Cables and Mains  
Distribution Products  
*for over 30 years.*



#### Brands we Distribute

Air Audio Service  
Chisto  
MS HD Power  
STS Digital  
Xhadow

Distributors of exceptional audio products

## ((AIRaudio))

DEALER ENQUIRIES VERY WELCOME

[www.airaudio.co.uk](http://www.airaudio.co.uk) | [info@airaudio.co.uk](mailto:info@airaudio.co.uk) | 01491 629 629







**IT'S ALL ABOUT THE PEOPLE**



# Loving music

## Concept MM



Now £995



The Clearaudio catalogue of high quality pressings inc. Deutsche Grammophon re-issues available now



For orders and information contact;

0118 9814238 [info@soundfoundations.co.uk](mailto:info@soundfoundations.co.uk)

sound foundations  
[www.soundfoundations.co.uk](http://www.soundfoundations.co.uk)





# Hifi Pig

*Benchmark*  
...the measure of excellence!™



*The complete Benchmark System.*

Working in perfect harmony, or as individual high performance components, designed to Benchmark's exacting standards.

The DAC2 digital converter  
The AHB2 power amplifier  
The SMS1 speakers.



SCV Distribution, Unit C1, Belcon Industrial Estate, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, EN11 0NT  
Tel: 03301 222500 | Web: [www.scvdistribution.co.uk](http://www.scvdistribution.co.uk) | email: [scvorders@scvdistribution.co.uk](mailto:scvorders@scvdistribution.co.uk)





Ruark, Ruark, CAD, CAD, Harbeth, Norma

**IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIT**

**SLiC**  
innovations  
Super Low Interference Cable

# ECLIPSE C INTERCONNECT CABLE



EXCLUSIVE  
AT **mcrw**

FROM MAINS TO MUSIC

“

TONALLY IT IS SUPERB,  
SOUND-STAGING EXCELLENT

DAVID PRICE | HI-FI CHOICE

A CABLE THAT CAN TRULY  
PRODUCE NO FRILLS MUSIC

DAN WORTH | HIFI PIG

THE ECLIPSE C IS A SUPERIOR  
INTERCONNECT

PAUL MESSENGER | HI-FI CRITIC

UNBELIEVABLY GOOD AND  
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

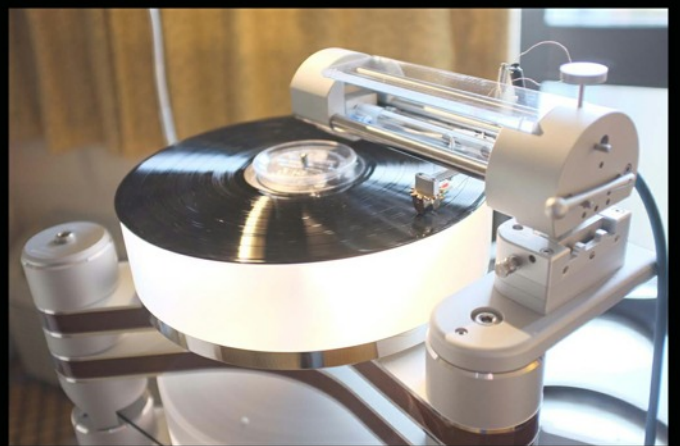
ALAN SIRCOM | HI-FI +

”

**07908 056978**  
**WWW.MCRU.CO.UK**

 / mcrultd  
 @ mcrultd






Elac, Creek, Rega, ClearAudio, Quadral, ProAc

# IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIT





Revolution XT

## Revolution in design. Revolution in sound.

Revolution XT lives up to its name, marking a major leap forward in loudspeaker design and the realisation of some of Tannoy's most radical and forward thinking technologies.

Retaining the classic trapezoid shape from its multi award-winning predecessor, the new Revolution XT cabinets now feature a radical reflex-coupled dual-cavity design. This optimises performance of the all-new Omnimagnet™ Dual Concentric™ driver across extremely low to mid-bass frequencies. The complex internal design is further perfected with an integrated plinth that provides a uniform and predictable low frequency interface to the listening environment, delivering the deepest bass notes with ease.

Dynamic, engaging and articulate, yet incredibly easy to set-up and place in any room, Tannoy's Revolution XT is a true revolution in sound.

**TANNOY**®

[tannoy.com](http://tannoy.com)





ADL, GamuT and ClearAudio, GamuT, Quadral and TAD, AVM, AVM

**IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIT**



You say  
**"Control Freak"**  
 like it's a bad thing.

**GIK ACOUSTICS MAKES YOUR ROOM SOUND BETTER.**

GIK Acoustics treatments absorb more sound than any product on the market. We provide customers cost effective solutions to make every space sound its best. Acoustic panels, bass traps and diffusors direct to customers worldwide. Visit our website for more information and for free acoustic advice.



**Acoustics**

Solutions. Innovations. Quality.

**gikacoustics.co.uk**

**+44 (0) 20 7558 8976**



**Clarity Alliance**

**"Best Sounding Hi-fi Room"**

2013 Bristol  
 Sound & Vision Show

**"Could put the cat among  
 the digital audio pigeons"**

Hi-Fi Choice

**"Blowing everything else  
 out of the water"**

The Ear

**"One of, if not, the best  
 DAC's in the world"**

theproaudiowebblog.com

**DIGITAL > Redefined**

If you think that you've heard audiophile digital,  
 we think you should think again.

**CAD**

COMPUTER AUDIO DESIGN



# Audio Cable Award Grand Slam

## Products of the Year 2014:

Black Diamond Speaker Cable

Black Diamond USB

Blue USB

Black Power Cable

Black Diamond RCA

Black Diamond XLR



"But perhaps their reticence is understandable when the product sounds as good as this – after all, why let others in on the secret? Used in a variety of systems the Black Diamonds consistently revealed a wider perceived bandwidth, bigger soundstage and the ability to present transient details in an effortless fashion"

HiFi World, Awards Edition Jan 2015

**HI-FI WORLD**  
VERDICT ●●●●●

Find out why Tellurium Q® cables are achieving an audio cable grand slam from the publications below. Why not contact Tellurium Q® or one of our many dealers, now.



Technics, Clint and NovaFidelity, MS HD Power, Quadral and TAD, Chord Electronics, Tsakiridis

# IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIT





Pro-Ject and Roksan, AstinTrew, Musical Fidelity, Wilson Benesch, Ming Da, Eclipse

# IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIT



THEY DON'T FEEL  
WHAT YOU FEEL  
*THEY DON'T SEE  
WHAT YOU SEE*  
THEY DON'T HEAR  
WHAT YOU HEAR  
THEY DON'T HAVE  
**LEEMA**  
ACOUSTICS



NEW WEBSITE:-[WWW.LEEMA-ACOUSTICS.COM](http://WWW.LEEMA-ACOUSTICS.COM)  
AND NOW, YOU CAN FIND US ON FACEBOOK 





Spendor, Focal, Aria, Wilson Benesch, Pro-Ject, Leema

# IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIT



## Pre amplifiers Moving Coil Step-Up Transformers and now MM phono amplifiers

*"...so good I swear  
it is surrounded  
by magic"*

Noel Keywood - Hi-FiWorld

**stereophile**  
**RECOMMENDED  
COMPONENT**







Roksan, Music First Audio, Music First Audio, Pristine Vinyl, Tellurium Q, Cyrus

# IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIT



# Turn your living room into a concert hall



Dynamic - energetic - alive



## Editor's Choice Award - 2014

*"The RS3's innate clarity through the frequency range revealed the natural timbre of the piano most vividly. The speaker proved so wonderfully descriptive of the textures and timbres of acoustic and electronic sounds that it was never anything other than wholly captivating."*

John Bamford, HiFi news, 2014

Gamut is Danish Design in shape, sound and finish. Manufacturing a complete range of amps, players, speakers and cables.

[www.gamutaudio.com](http://www.gamutaudio.com)





**The 23rd Shanghai International High-End Hi-Fi Show  
The 8th Shanghai International Home Theater Show  
Personal Mobile AV Entertainment Equipments Exhibition**

**April 24-26, 2015**  
**Shanghai International Convention Center**

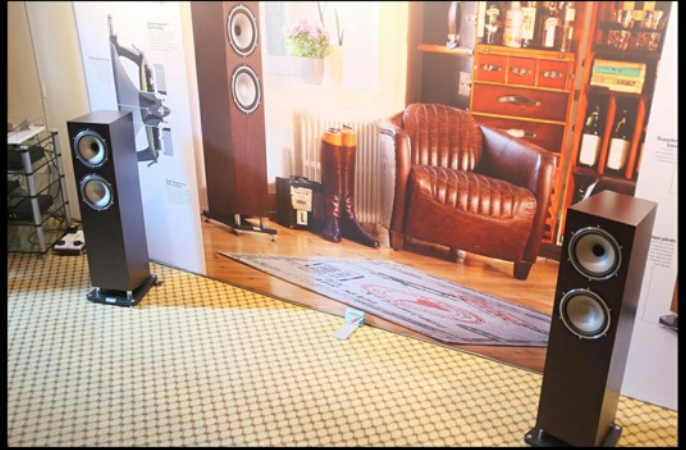


***April 24th, Trade Only!***

Overseas Contact: Lisa LEE  
Tel: +852 53179028 (HK)

Email: [lisa@siav.com.cn](mailto:lisa@siav.com.cn)  
+86 15018979028 (China)





Chord Electronics, SLIC, MBA, Tannoy, Kudos, Time Step

# IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIT



# "Game-changer"

Hugo redefines the DAC genre

"Superb"

★★★★★

*What Hi-Fi Sound and Vision,  
group test winner*

"A landmark digital product"

★★★★★

*Editor's Choice, Hi-Fi Choice*

"Chord's best-ever DAC"

*Hi-Fi +*

"Spectacular"

*Ken Kessler, The Telegraph*

"Breaks all records"

★★★★★

*Hi-Fi World*

"A game-changer"

*Hi-Fi Critic*

"My reference DAC"

*head-fi.org*

"Incredible"

*avforums.com*

"Remarkable"

*theear.net*



**WHAT HI-FI?**  
**AWARDS 2014**  
**DACs**  
Best DAC £1000+  
**Chord Hugo**

## Hugo THE WORLD'S FIRST REFERENCE-CLASS MOBILE DAC/HEADPHONE AMPLIFIER

- Home and mobile use (10hr+ battery)
- Unique custom-made Chord FPGA
- Five digital inputs (inc. Bluetooth)
- Playback up to DSD 128 and 384kHz PCM
- Use as a digital preamp
- Built to last

CHORD

Chord Electronics Limited



@ChordAudio



facebook.com/chordelectronics

sales@chordelectronics.co.uk www.chordelectronics.co.uk



Acoustic research, Audio Note, Michell, AVM, Exposure, Stack Audio

# IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIT



# A.U.D.I.O

## S.U.S.P.E.N.S.I.O.N



Audio Suspension is a British manufacturer that creates beautifully engineered turntable stands, hi-fi racks and loudspeaker stands that are not only works of art in their own right, but also allow your equipment to perform at its optimum.

Clearly Superior

For more information visit our website  
[www.audiosuspension.com](http://www.audiosuspension.com)





Eclipse, Kate Koeppel, NuNu, Aria, Pro-Ject, ProAc

# IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIT



# Ikon Audio Consultants

*Affordable audio excellence*



+ 44 (0) 7956 476299

[www.IkonAudioConsultants.com](http://www.IkonAudioConsultants.com)

[info@IkonAudioConsultants.com](mailto:info@IkonAudioConsultants.com)

First and foremost we are music enthusiasts. We are passionate about music and to experience it at its best we supply affordable 'high end' audio excellence - at 'real world prices'. Our carefully selected award winning brands include: Audiomat, Audioplan, ISEM & Symphonic Line – each with around 30 years of excellence behind them. Come and hear for yourself.

## **Audiomat**

CD Transport

DACs

Amplifiers

Phono

preamplifiers

## **Audioplan**

Power Cables

Mains Filters &

Distribution

Units

Interconnects

Loudspeaker cables

Loudspeakers

## ***Audiomat***

*A passion for music reproduction*



## ***audioplan***

*Experience music*



## **ISEM**

CD Players

DACs

Headphone

Amplifier

Amplifiers

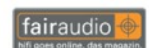
## **Symphonic Line**

Amplifiers

CD Players

## **ISEM Audio**

*Closer to a natural sound*



## ***Symphonic Line***

*The continuous pursuit of audio excellence*



Exclusive distribution in the United Kingdom for [Audiomat.fr](http://Audiomat.fr) | [Audioplan.eu](http://Audioplan.eu) | [Isem-audio.com](http://Isem-audio.com) | [Symphonic-Line.com](http://Symphonic-Line.com)



Ikon Audio Consultants, Ipswich, Suffolk, United Kingdom, Tel: +44(0)7956 476299

[www.IkonAudioConsultants.com](http://www.IkonAudioConsultants.com) | [info@IkonAudioConsultants.com](mailto:info@IkonAudioConsultants.com)



Audio Note, exposure, Dali, Dali, Paradigm, Oppo

**IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIT**





## MUSIC'S FINEST CONDUCTOR?

AUDIO NOTE SPECIALISTS | [WWW.AUDIONOTELOUNGE.COM](http://WWW.AUDIONOTELOUNGE.COM) | TEL. 01273 590 716



Monitor Audio, Tannoy, MS HD Power, NovaFidelity, Leema, Wharfedale

# IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIT





Townshend, Harbeth, ClearAudio, Exposure, Audio Note, Unison Research

# IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIT





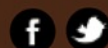
# PRESTIGE™ SERIES

Respect for the original source.



The new Prestige Series builds on Paradigm's 30-year history of innovation and technology in loudspeaker manufacturing by combining new technologies with smart engineering that provides astonishing performance at incredible value.

For more information, visit [www.anthemavs.co.uk](http://www.anthemavs.co.uk)



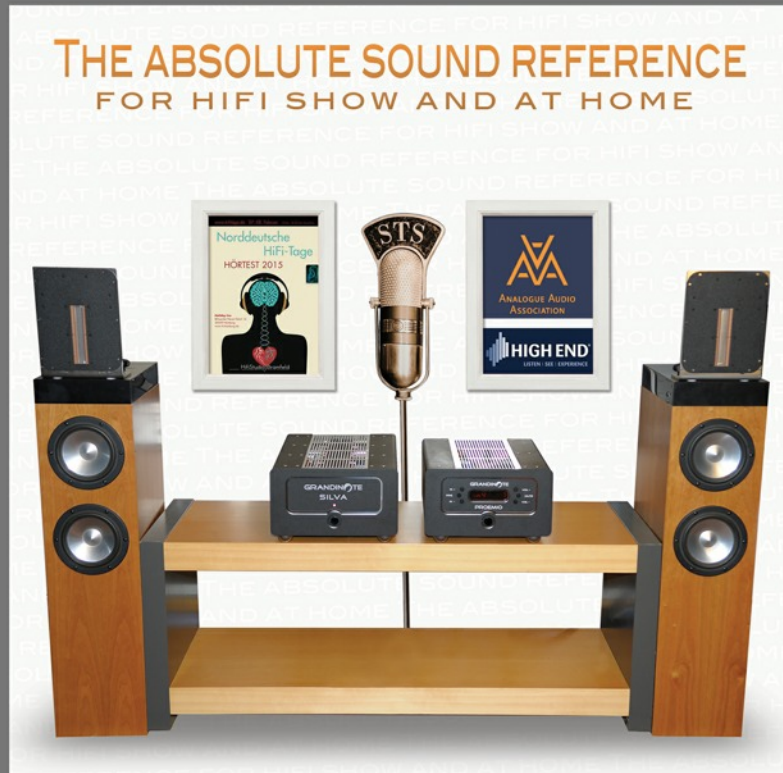




Senheiser, Audeze, HifiMan, Atlas, Grado, iFi

# IT'S ALL ABOUT THE HEADFI

# **SPECIAL BRISTOL SHOW OFFER FOR HIFI PIG READERS. The Absolute Sound Reference CD**



STS Digital is one of Europe's most prestigious (and maybe the smallest) recording, producing and manufacturing labels of 'audiophile' quality CD's and LP's. Based in the Netherlands, STS is owned and run by Fritz de With, music balance Engineer and Director. The Company history is the history of Fritz's passion for quality music reproduction over commercial and competitive ambition. Fritz has been recording live music since he was 15 and aged just 17, had his own recording studio. Indeed, he was so successful that in 1978 he sold his catalogue of over 460 LP length recordings to Philips (under the Studio Tape Sound brand). For the next 10 years, he worked in both the Hi-Fi world and Television production, honing his audio engineering skills and appreciation of quality audio reproduction. Philips/Marantz then approached Fritz to produce there now sought after (out of print) audiophile quality music samplers that for the next 15 years could be heard at Hi-Fi Shows and in Hi-Fi shops around the world. After 15 years and 15 Marantz sampler CD's, Fritz started making his own CD's and LP's under the STS Digital label and continues to focus on production for high end audiophile music lovers. Fritz has fans all over the world, Ken Kesler is a big fan, commenting ... "If Fritz continues making CD's sound like good LP's the life expectancy of the CD could be much longer then a lot of people think". All the STS Digital CD's are produced at minus 2 db. max. headroom to reduce processing distortion in your CD player. STS Digital have also developed the 'MW Coding Process' a process where CD's indeed do sound more like good LP's or real analogue sound, sound engineered from the original master tapes. The STS Digital special offer CD is a selection of tracks both recorded and engineered by STS Digital. It offers you a real taste of high end CD reproduction at one quarter the full retail price of other STS Digital CD's sold in many Hi-Fi Shops.

**This disc can only be bought from Air Audio at the promotion price of £4.90p each (any number can be bought), including UK VAT and delivery. Overseas buyers must first email [m.osborn@airaudio.co.uk](mailto:m.osborn@airaudio.co.uk) for the additional postage price.**

**Payment can be either by electronic banking to - Account name: Air Audio Ltd. Sort code: 40 38 04 Account No: 12652404 or by PayPal to [them.osborn@airaudio.co.uk](mailto:m.osborn@airaudio.co.uk) account.**

**You MUST add your Initial.Surname as a payment reference - and also email your full name and address to [m.osborn@airaudio.co.uk](mailto:m.osborn@airaudio.co.uk) so the disc can be sent out to you.**

## **ONLY £4.90inc VAT and UK Delivery**





# TEAM HIFI PIG (Hifi Reviews)