# Hiff Pig Magazine

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North West Audio Show Special Promotion





Join us for the 2016 edition of the North West Audio Show on Sunday 26th June, at Cranage Hall, Cheshire

Click through to our website for regular updates on the 2016 event





## The Best In The

## West?

The North **West Audio Show at Cranage Hall is** only in its second year but it is gaining a reputation as being one of the very best hifi shows in the UK at the moment!



hat an absolutely brilliant day the North West Audio Show turned out to be. The setting of Cranage Hall is of course absolutely gorgeous, but what I found I enjoyed about the show was the care and attention the exhibitors had put into their rooms and the wide mix of people who took the trouble to come out for a great day of wonderful audio kit and fabulous music.

#### It's Grim Up North

Prior to last years North West Audio Show I read one well known hifi journo making comments along the lines of "If it's not within the confines of the M25 then it's not worthwhile." However, these comments may well come back to bite this guy on the backside



















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as this is a show that is a little different from the rest and all the better for it! The venue is relatively centrally located in the UK and in a really stunning part of the world. We travelled from the North West (of France) and managed the whole journey within half a day. Crewe is nearby so rail links are plentiful, the road network is great and if you want to make a

weekend of it you are in spitting distance of some beautiful countryside. So, far from it being grim p North I'd suggest it's actually pretty great up North

#### **A Family Affair**

What was also really good to see was people coming to the show as families or couples, proof I think that music in the home is still

massively important to a large number of people and not just the classic stereotypical audiophile or music buff. This can only be a good thing for the industry as a whole and whilst there are of course people who love to talk the sector down at every opportunity, it is clear that there is still plenty of positivity and people who care about quality audio playback in the home.

The North West Audio Show is only in its infancy, but from its birth in 2014 it has managed to make its mark as one of, if not THE audio show to attend in the UK - indeed a good number of people we spoke to said they wouldn't be bothering with some of the other shows this year as this one seems to have it all.

Hifi Pig is immensely proud to be associated with the show as exclusive media partner and we hope to grow this partnership in the coming years, but the vast proportion of the credit must go to Kris who organises the event and makes it what it is. Kris has managed to create an open and warm atmosphere where everyone feels comfortable to get what they want to get from the show, be that looking at the very high-end kit, planning their first real system or simply having a great day out with family and friends. This vibe fits beautifully with the Hifi Pig ethos and whilst The North West Show is never going to be Munich, it certainly feels intimate, welcoming and yet with something for everyone.

#### Live Music

I thought the inclusion of a live artist at the show was a stroke of genius and offered a great opportunity for folk to sit and enjoy a breather whilst listening to the rather excellent Oliver Manning. Neil Young is one of my most favourite artists and whilst rushing

Kris has managed to create an open and warm atmosphere where everyone feels comfortable to get what they want to get from the show

through the area Oliver was playing it was one of Mr Young's tunes he was belting out... I couldn't help but turn back, sit down and enjoy the whole of the song...a real highlight for me and I for one sincerely hope Oliver does really well!! You can download the digital download or CD version of his ManBoy LP at this link.

#### Hifi Pig Loves.....

There really was a whole bunch of rooms that were really stunning and it almost seems churlish to pick one out as our favourite, but we have decided to do this for all the shows we visit. However, unlike all the other media that award gongs at shows, we decided to be a little different. Yes the room must sound great, but there must also be a warm and friendly welcome and a good deal of attention paid to making visitors feel at home. To be fair this warm welcome and great sound was in abundance at North West Audio Show, but Linette and I both thought that the standout was the BD Audio room hosted by Jack.

Jack had gone to a good deal of effort to make sure his room was well set up to get the most from the kit on display, it was uncluttered, friendly and just like walking into someone's (rather splendid) front room. He played a wide variety of tunes and was happy to take requests...and when we went to present the award he was playing what is one of our favourite records ever - Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong's Great Summit album which was rather apt.

**Stu Smith**Bird's Eye View: The North West Audio Show 2015 at Cranage Hall, UK





# Bird's Eye View

t really does not seem like a year since we went to the very first North West Audio Show at Cranage Hall, Cheshire, UK. Very successful in its first year, we knew that the hard work put into this year's show would make it even bigger and better.....and we were not wrong!

So here is the Bird"s Eye View of the show, just my thoughts on the place and what stood out, but by no way a comprehensive report....I enjoyed every room I visited and it was perfect that the show was large enough to be interesting but small enough to cover at a leisurely pace.

So what makes this show different to some of the bigger shows that we have been to? For a start, it is much more people orientated than being an industry event. Of course it was fantastic to meet up with all the guys in the trade that we know but also we met many new people who love to read Hifi Pig and wanted to say hello. Many Hifi Shows take place in large exhibition centres, like High End Munich, or in hotels that don't necessarily have the room for people to get round the show easily.

Cranage is different because the hotel itself is stunning, a proper country house that has been renovated to a high standard, with newer parts added to the building. This means that the conference facilities

and hotel blend together, giving a seamless visitor experience, plenty of room for visitors and exhibitors and a generally airy, relaxed, luxe feel to the place. It is very beautiful, lots of mirrors and chandeliers, tastefully decorated and not too over the top. Having the show here immediately makes it much more of a couples and family event than just something that



blokes will go to on their own. Aside from getting to listen to some great sounding systems, flick through the vinyl and reel to reel tapes or pick up some bits and pieces for your Hifi, you could even indulge in a massage or a dip in the pool! Having live music in the lounge was wonderful too, Oliver Manning



added a laid back vibe and it was the perfect place to have a sit down and listen to this talented guy.

The dining facilities are also excellent at Cranage, with the choice of the main restaurant or the bar there was plenty of options. I was also incredibly impressed by how efficiently the place was run. On the Saturday, which was set up day, there was also a wedding taking place and the restaurant was packed, but the staff were still attentive and friendly and our meal delicious.

After last year's epic (and rather stressful) roadtrip from France we had decided to take the train and Eurostar. This went swimmingly and really brought home how accessible the location is for people all over. We were able to get trains practically to the door (just a short taxi ride from the station). We know people who flew into Manchester and others that drove and with both entry to the show and parking being free, there wasn't anything to not like about it!

It was also
refreshing that the
music being played
was much more
what you would want
to listen to on a
Sunday rather than
traditional
'audiophile' fare.

There were again some exceptionally good sounding rooms, people had put in a lot of work the day before. It was also refreshing that the music being played was much more what you would want to listen to on a Sunday rather than traditional 'audiophile' fare.

The addition this year of a Head Fi room was a great idea, with lots of toys from the likes of Schiit, Ifi, Audeze, Astell & Kern, AKG and many others. People were obviously enjoying the chance to play with the new EL-8 and AudioQuest Nighthawk headphones which we tried at Munich. The Horch House stand attracted a lot of attention with their reel to reel setup and a gaggle of Sennheiser HD800s with many people stopping for a listen.

Another newcomer to the show (but not the industry) was the Vinyl Passion and Missing Link team.

Despite a somewhat bouncy sprung floor the team had it looking and sounding amazing in there, the

choice of Quad electrostatic speakers turning quite a few heads.

The guys from Flamingo Audio seemed to have brought every bit of kit they had, every time I passed their room there were more boxes arriving...there was some hard work and dedication to transform the room into an excellent looking and sounding one.

The MCRU room always seemed to be packed with

both the components and the Vinyl Adventure selection getting a lot of attention, all topped off with also being able to hear a system including the Clearaudio Master Innovation turntable.

NuNu had the good idea of booking 4 rooms to show off their range of systems, they were cool and airy with the air con cranked up making them a great place to appreciate the beautiful looks and sound, something for everyone from Brodmann to TAD and Quadral and a wide range of electronics.

LW Audio had a really nice set up again and was a room that I kept popping back into, the Audio Music amps were stunning and got many an admiring look and listen.

BD Audio did really impress us. I have always liked the big Tune Audio Animas but the smaller Marvels worked so well at the show. I loved the modern design set against the classic wood panelled room and with comfy seating it really was an incredibly popular room, Jack was worried that he was tucked out of the way but plenty of people beat a path there and enjoyed chilling out and listening to the great selection of music he was playing.

Like I said earlier, I enjoyed every room. The exhibitors were friendly and welcoming, the venue was superb and there were some sublime sounds. If you didn't come this year then make it a must see for next year!

Lin

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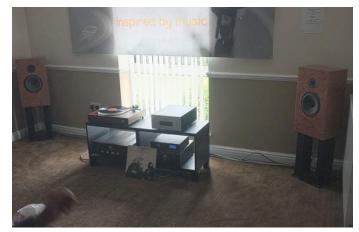
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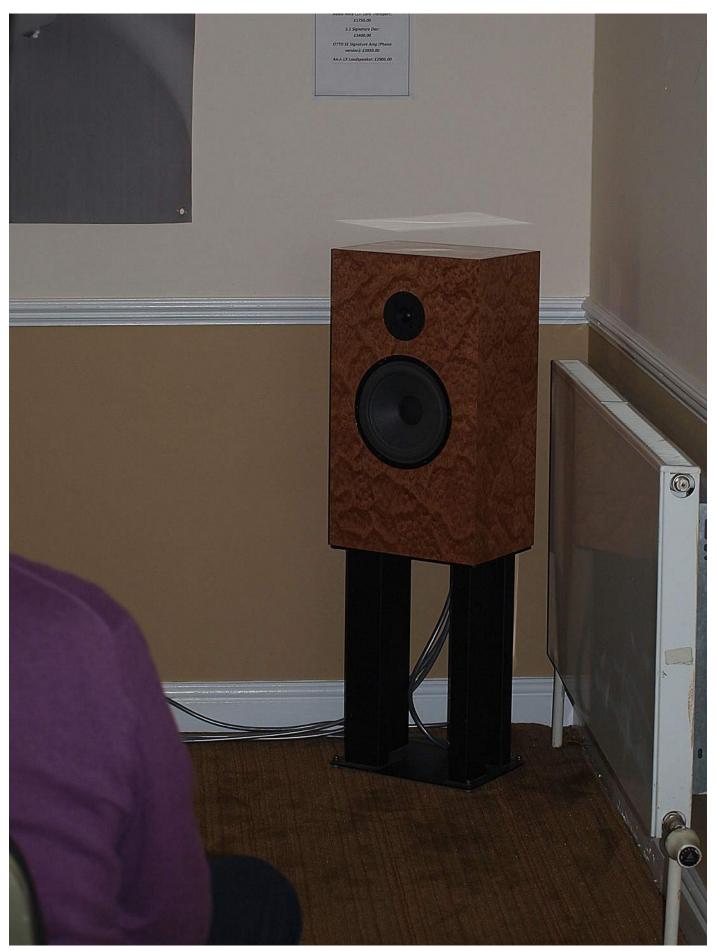
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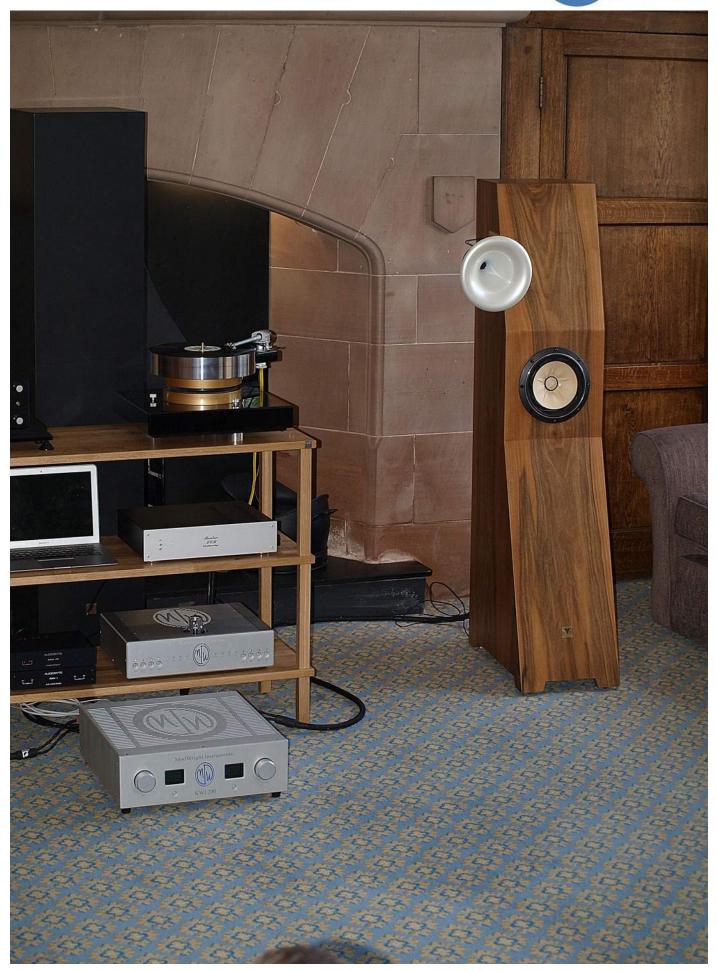
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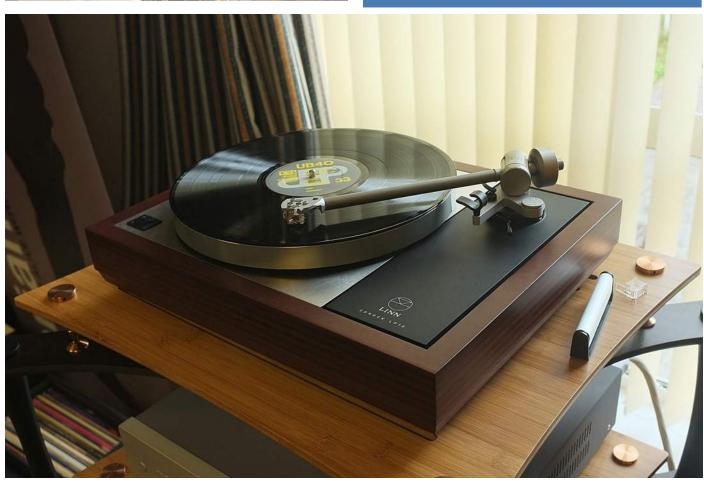
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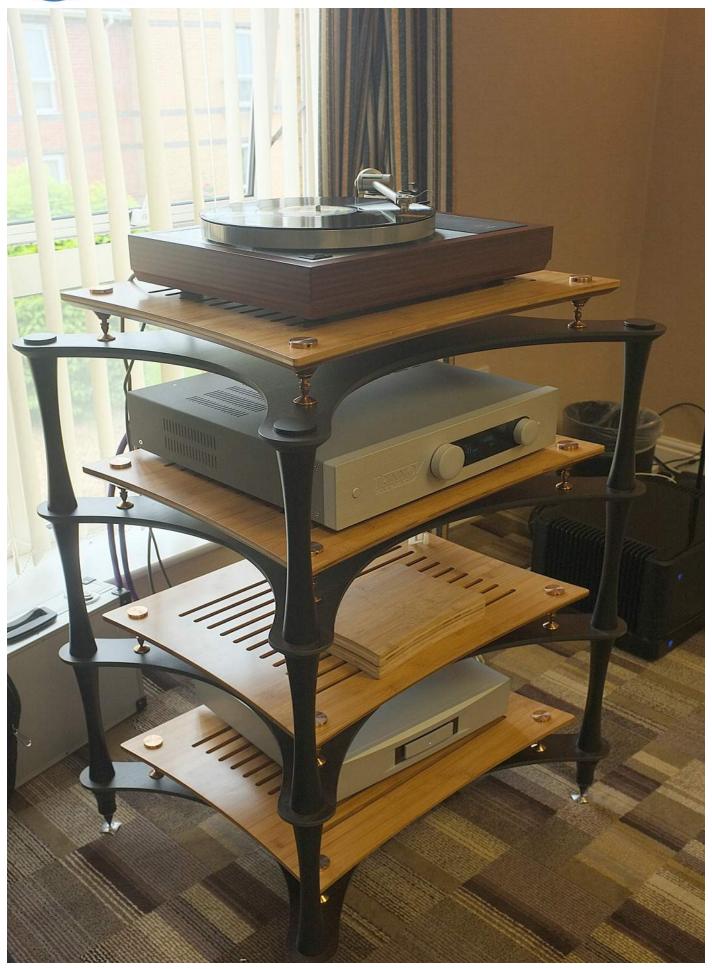
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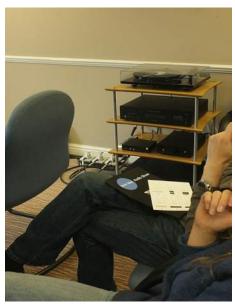
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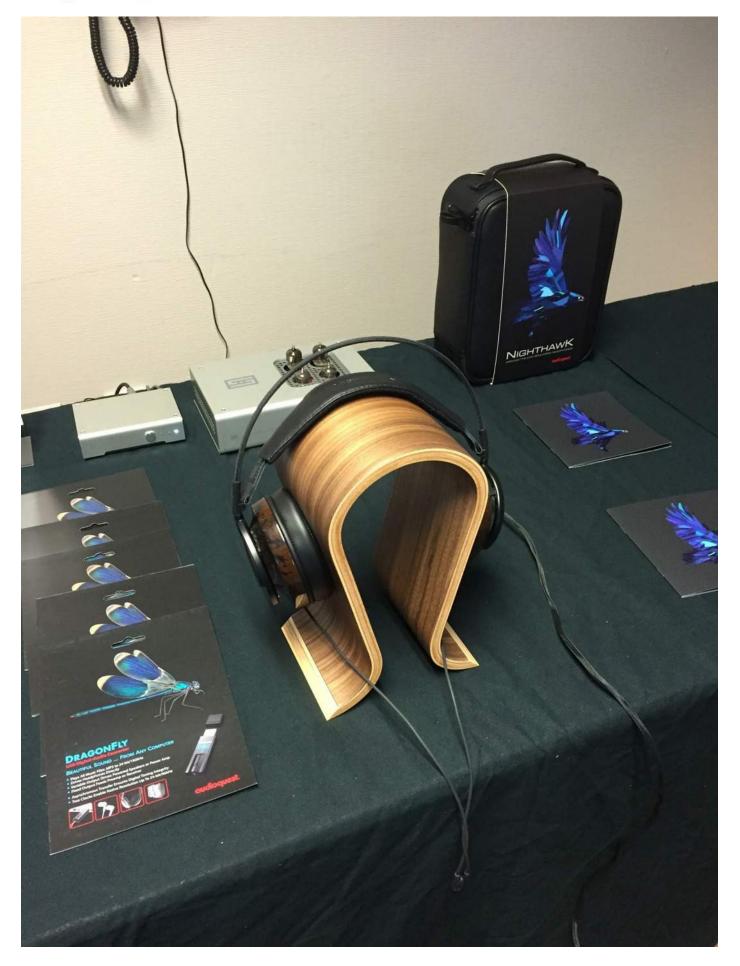
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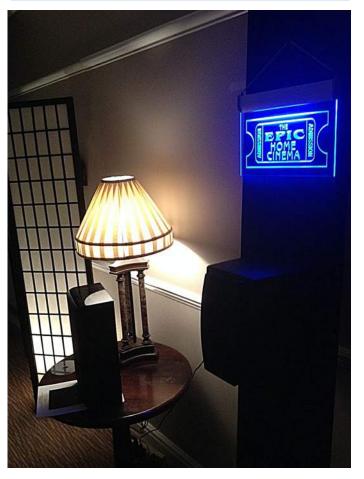
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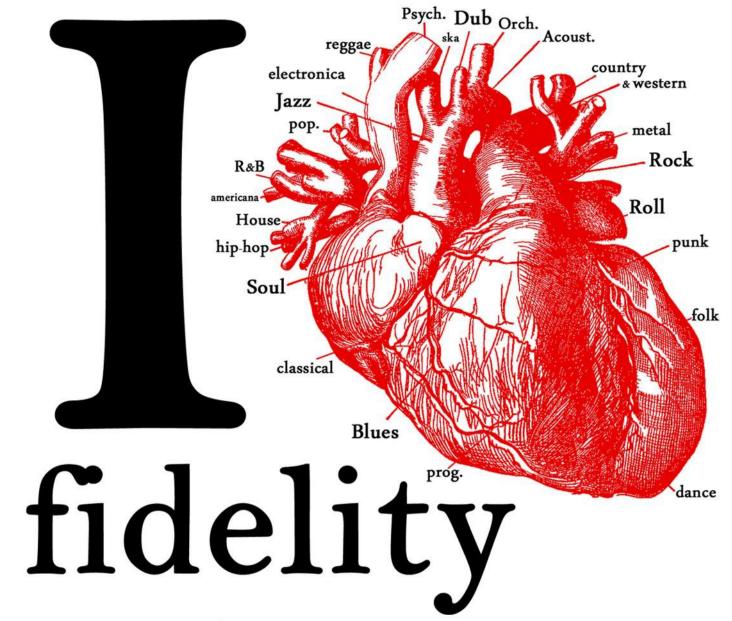
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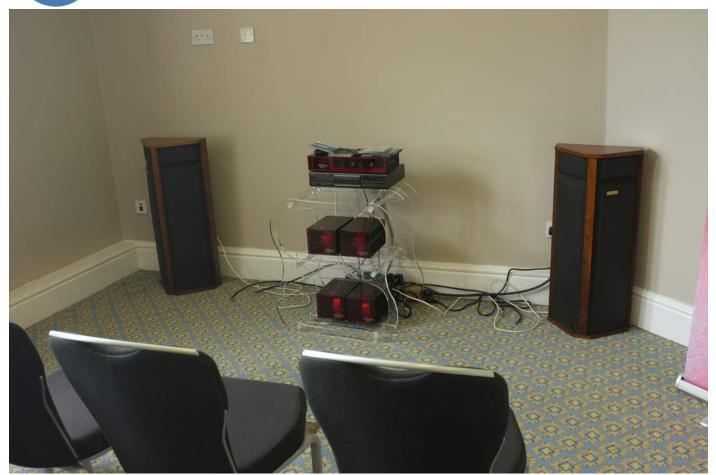


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Visit our website for more information. www.hifi-intouch.co.uk 07795 605 596



### A huge thank you to those who visited us at Cranage Hall 2015!

A great enjoyable show and we would like to say a big thank you to all who visited us in the Brunel suite. Our website and particularly our high end solid oak power distribution blocks were extremely well received and we look forward to exhibiting at future HiFi shows. For those who didn't manage to see us, please find what we offer below.

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- For dealers wanting greater exposure and functionality we offer registered dealer accounts at very competitive rates. This includes a large rotating banner, an editable dealer page, inclusion in our advanced audio directory and much more.
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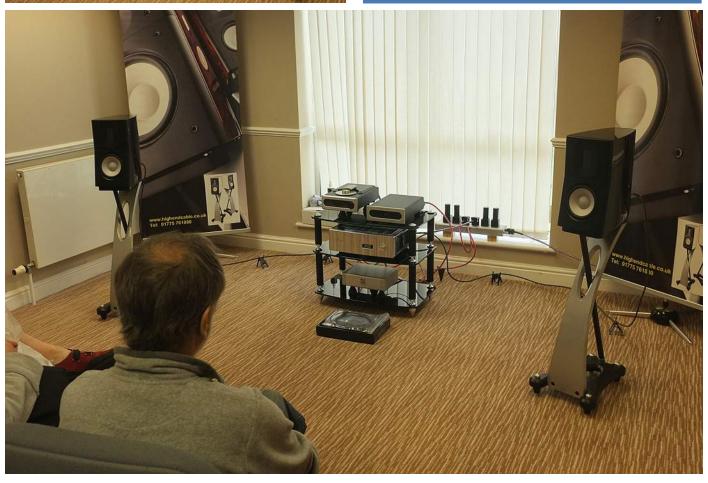
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Room Tuning Resonators





Joe Reynolds, President of Nordost, announces, "We are very excited about the launch of Odin 2, which is a major improvement over our flagship Odin cables. The introduction of our patented HOLO:PLUG® technology lifts this cable to a new pinnacle of performance. We have applied all of the knowledge we have acquired over many years of research and development to offer the most state-of-the-art cable solution possible. The response from our beta testers has been overwhelmingly positive, and we can't wait to finally introduce Odin 2 into the market."



High End Cable are proud to sell Nordost's ODIN 2 as well their full range of Cables. We are happy to take in your older Nordost Cables or other Reference cables makes as trade in to help you achieve the level ODIN 2 and others in the Nordost range can offer. Please call Dave to discuss on 01775 761880.



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USB Wafer Sticks
native from analogue
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### Horch House

www.horchhouse.eu



J.S.Bach/Friedrich Gulda -The Well-Tempered Clavier



Ludwig van Beethoven -Missa Solemnis op. 123



Gusatv Mahler -Symphony No. 1 D-dur.



Amadeus Mozart -Arias with Hermann Prey



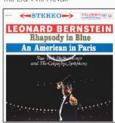
Hans Theessink/Terry Evans



George Duke -The Era Will Prevail



Oscar Peterson -Exclusively For My Friends



Gershwin/Bernstein – Rhapsody In Blue - An American In Paris



Ella Fitzgerald -Sunshine Of Your Love



Inga Rumpf - White Horses



Hans Theessink -Baby Wants To Boogie



loe Pass - Intercontinental



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We are happy to be able to present something very special to you – 1:1 copies of analogue master tapes and audiophile records.

Many talks and even more persuasiveness were necessary to convince music publishers to let us handle their tapes. These efforts have resulted in our offer of analogue master tape copies that were made 1:1 in highest-quality work.

You can now enjoy music that only the sound master and the artist himself were allowed to perceive before.

Isn't this what we as demanding listeners and connoisseurs have always wanted? – Experiencing the original as closely as possible?

Without any conversion into other formats, we offer the direct sound experience to you.

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Depending on your personal preferences and requirements, you can choose from 96KHz/24 bit to 192KHz/24 bit each in WAV format, as well as DSD in DFF format three high-bit resolutions.

truth in sound



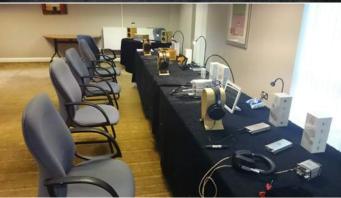
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http://www.selectaudio.co.uk/









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iFi iDSD Micro
iFi iDAC 2
iFi iCan Micro
iFi iUSB
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iFi iCan Nano

ENIGMAcoustics Dharma headphones

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**Audeze headphones** 

**Lumin A1 server** 

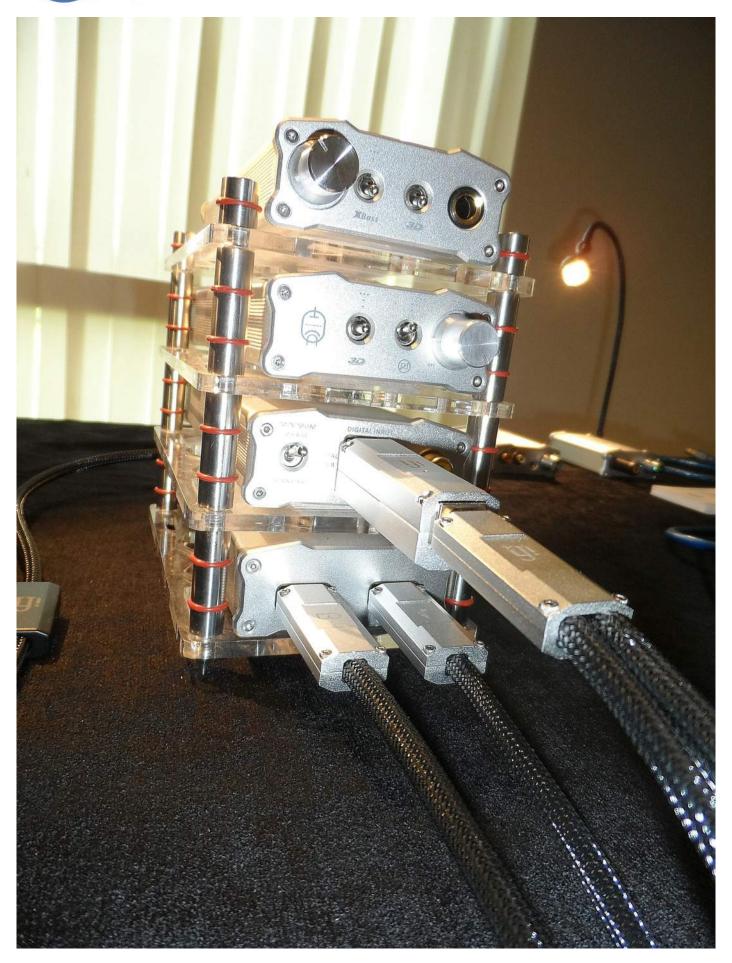
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iPhone Sony Z3



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ultimate loudspeakers.
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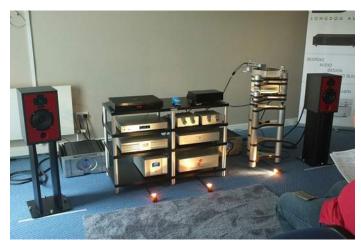
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**Lumin D1 Music Server** 

Melco N1A HDD Music Storage
System

IsoTek EVO3 Mosaic Genesis
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IsoTek EVO3 Aqaurius Mains

Conditioner

Russell K RED100 Loudspeakers with custom stands

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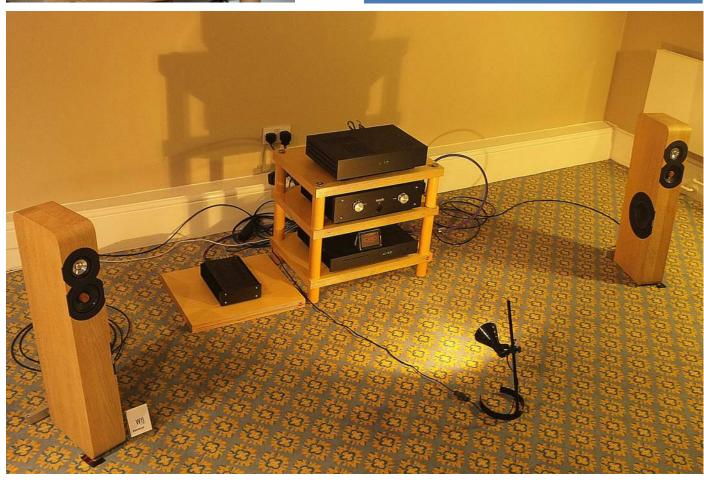
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http://www.mfaudio.co.uk/



Audio Note (UK) TT1 turntable.
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**Loudspeakers: Quad 2085** 

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Chorus
Power Amplifier: Class A

Vincent SP-331-MK Power

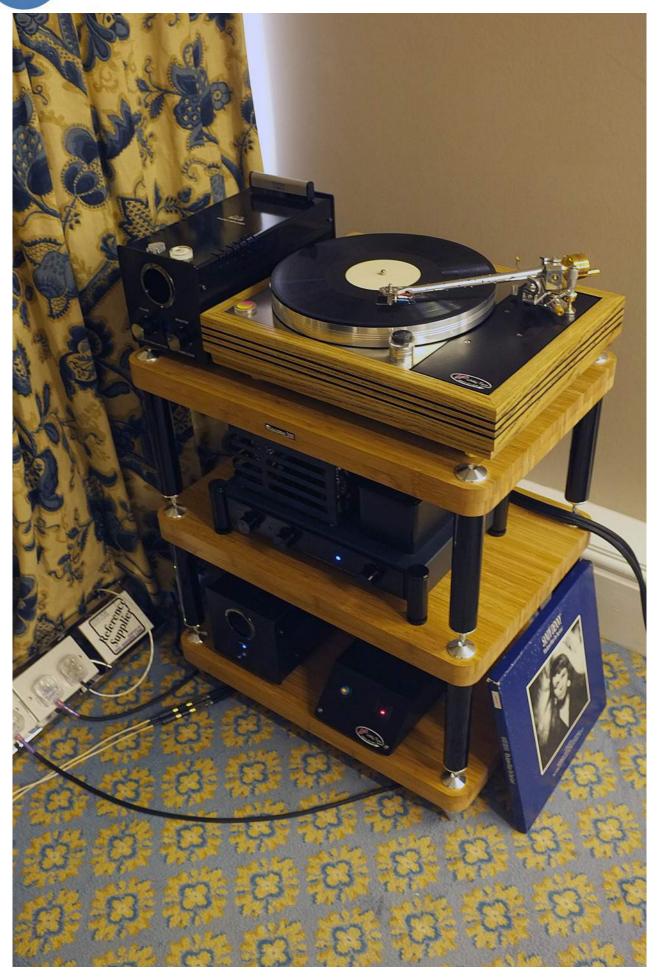
Amplifier

**Atacama Evoque Eco Rack** 

Integrated Amplifier: Vincent SV-700 Integrated Valve Line Amplifier

Phono-Stage: Vincent PH-700
Phono stage





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## THANK YOU!

We would just like to say THANK YOU to all those that helped us this weekend at the North West Audio Show held at Cranage Hall.

Especially to Peter (Head Porter) and his Team; Kris (Fidelity Art) and his Team for their help in making things run smoothly. See you again next year!

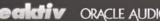
#### ADDITIONAL THANKS TO

Jon and Peter – Doug Brady's; Peter – 15 Audio; Obi and Adam – Winters Audio; Remo - Sonneteer; Mike - Track Audio

#### **BRANDS ON SHOW BY NUNU DISTRIBUTION WERE**





















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**TAD Room:-**

D1000 sacd/cd player

DA1000 dac/pre/head/phone amp

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**E-1 floorstanding speakers.** 

**Coherent Systems BD cabling** 

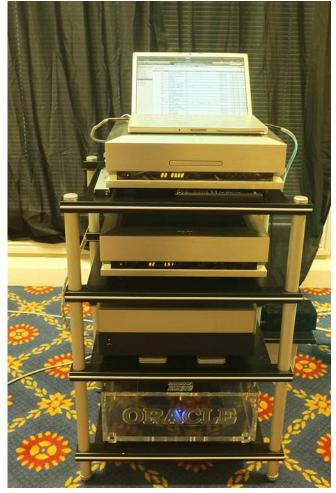
Creaktiv Audio-1 support system











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power supply

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Oracle Paris PH200 phono stage

**RT-01 cd transport** 

RD-01 digital to analogue converter

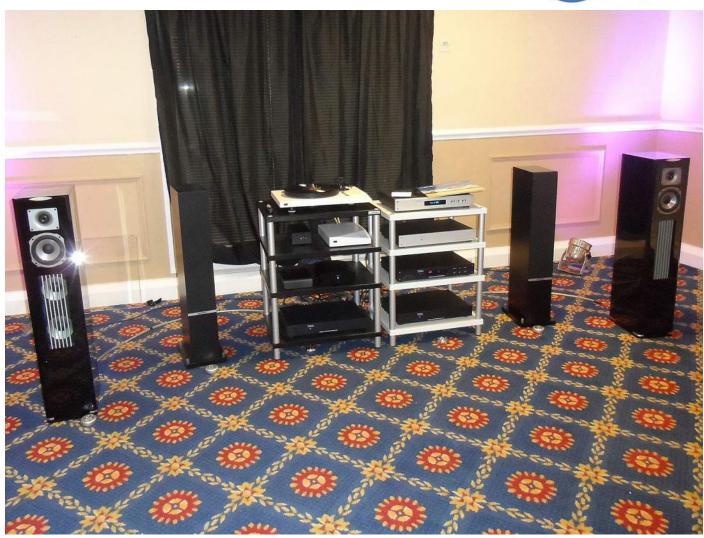
RAP-02 Mk II remote controlled pre amplifier

RA-02 monoblock power amplifiers

Creaktiv Trend 1 in standard black and Trend 1 in high gloss white

**Coherent Systems 6D cabling** 









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power amplifier

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Nytech CA252 Amplifier (1986)
Nytech CP112 Preamplifier
(1981)
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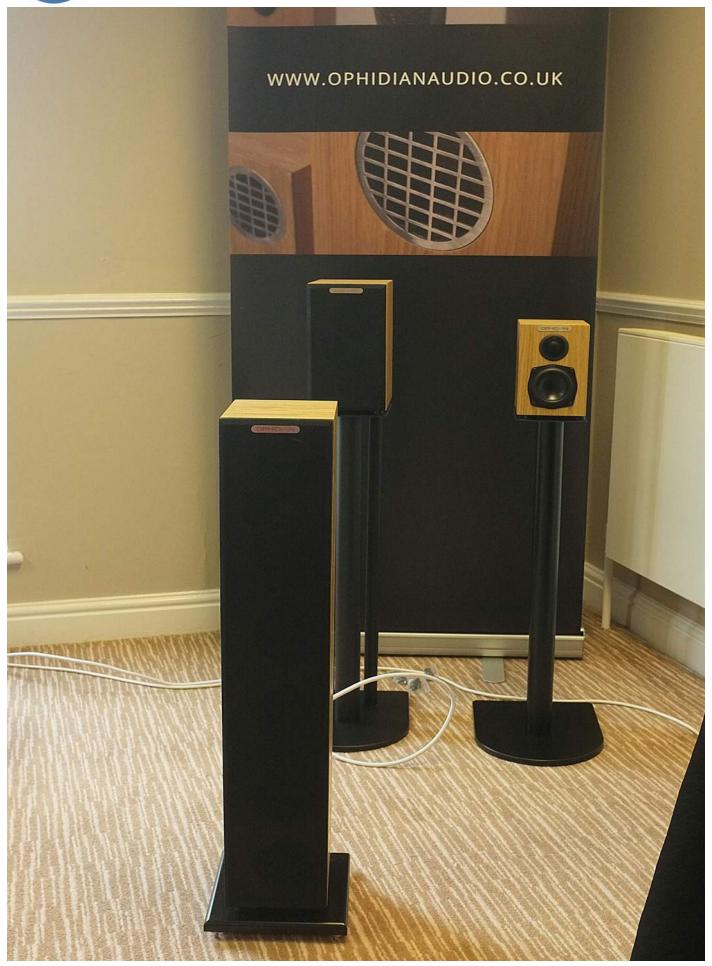


Chord USB cable to an
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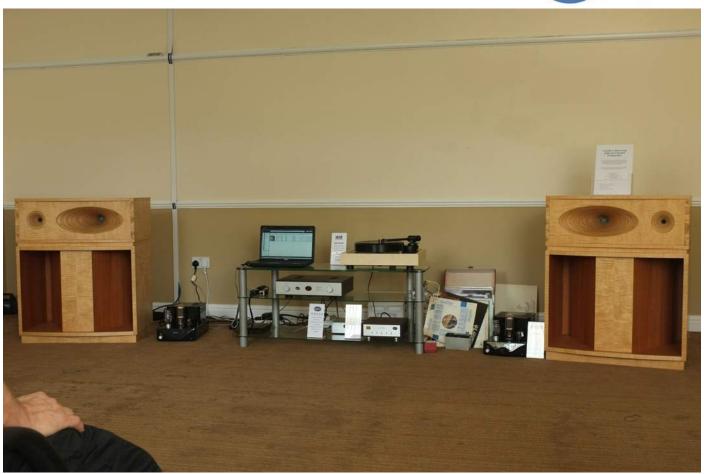


STST Motus 2 turntable with
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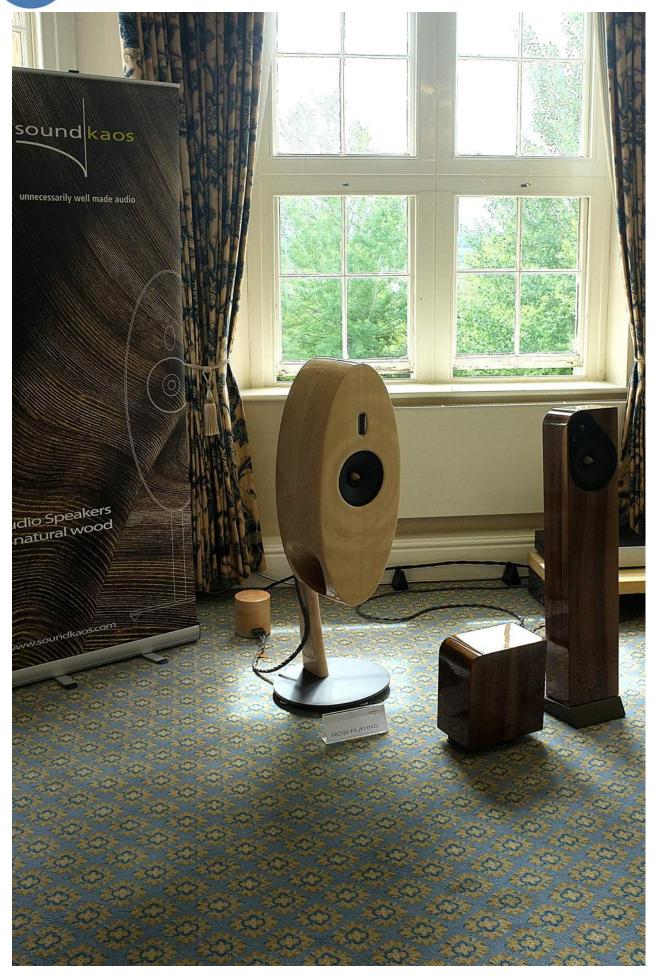


Mac/Pure Music into
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AMP-51, 50W AB-design
based on the SATRI
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Demonstration:
Two PMC fact.12 speaker, one
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