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Special
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headroom™

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LONDON
METROPOLIS STUDIOS

headroom 2106

Headroom 2016 sees the London-based head-fi show in its second year. After attending its debut last year it was good to see even more exhibitors packed in to the legendary Metropolis Studios in leafy Chiswick, West London.

Headroom runs over two days, Friday and Saturday, with the latter more convenient for consumers. Well, that was my feeling anyhow as it was absolutely rammed when I attended on that day last year. As I wanted to get access to more products this time around I landed shortly after opening time on the Friday, 29th January. It was still bustling with people who were obviously enthusiastic about the variety of personal audio products on offer.

The stalls seemed to be manned by people who are genuinely passionate about music as well as their products. That was certainly what I felt after chatting with many of the people there.

Headroom gives attendees a great chance to get hands and ears-on with products recently outed at CES as well as those that have chosen this very show as their launch platform.

Jay Garrett





Following its exciting debut in 2015, the headroom experience, which offers consumers the largest range of demonstrable headphones in the UK, returned to London for a second year in January. To the delight of both the audio industry and consumers alike, the show was once again held at the most prestigious venue in the UK's, if not the world's, audio show calendar: Metropolis Studios - the most successful independent recording, mastering, creative and production facility in Europe.

This incredible venue, which is not usually open to the public, has, over the years, been the recording home to artists including: Michael Jackson; Lady Gaga; the Rolling Stones; Amy Winehouse; U2; will.i.am; The Stone Roses; Rihanna; The Verve; Mark Ronson; One Direction; Adele; The Clash; Maroon 5; The Cure; Madonna; Justin Bieber and Lana Del Rey. Metropolis makes headroom quite unlike any other audio show and is an experience in itself. The studios give headroom's roster of big-name audio brands a unique, exclusive and private location, in which to demonstrate their products and one that is usefully hushed, calm and inviting. It's not every day you can walk into a recording complex and experience the same studios that shaped some of the world's best-loved music. The chances are, you probably own something produced there – or someone in your household does: approximately 50% of the UK Top 40 charts is either recorded, mixed, mastered, or creatively treated within Metropolis' stunning Grade II 'Power House' complex.

The Power House, which is tucked away just off the High Street in leafy Chiswick, London, was packed out this year, with the 2016 event expanding into new areas of the building such was the demand for exhibition space. The venue is approaching capacity, but there is potential for expansion into some of

Metropolis' nooks and crannies, plus use of the adjacent Metropolis-owned music academy.

Ian Brenchley, Metropolis Studios' CEO said: "It was fantastic to see the studio alive with audiophiles, buzzing with excitement about all the very latest tech. Hosting headroom is a great opportunity for music tech enthusiasts to have access to this place

[which is] usually closed to the public. Some of our most valued supplier partners, including PMC, were exhibitors, and we know that they get a huge amount out of having that direct-to-consumer platform, too. Now that we've hosted two successful headroom events, we're very much looking forward to the next one; it is getting bigger and better every year, so bring on headroom 2017!"

THE BIG IDEA

Headphones, portable audio and desktop audio is booming. Along with 'lifestyle' audio products, such as Bluetooth speakers and systems, the 'head-fi' sector represents one of the only growing niches within high-performance audio. Miniaturised components and high-quality headphones have switched a new generation on to high fidelity, something that has been largely ignored within youth culture since Apple *et al* convinced consumers that sacrificing quality for convenience with mp3 and iPods was *de rigueur*.

Add property prices around the world at largely unachievable levels for millennials and many people are either forced to stay at home for longer, share apartments and houses, or generally accept smaller living spaces. For these aspirational consumers, a full-size hi-fi system with stand-mount or floor-standing speakers is simply unrealistic in these space-pressured times and this is where compact but high-quality head-fi comes in.

The headroom 'experience' was conceived by a passionate group of music enthusiasts behind

London's leading audio and home cinema store, Unilet Sound and Vision (established 1969) and its sister company, Custom Cable, who are based within the same premises in New Malden, a mere 22 minutes from Waterloo rail station. Unilet Sound and Vision owner Amit Patel and his enthusiast team are provide the widest range of headphones in the south of England as well as all the leading audio and video brands in its expansive High Street store, but they wanted to transfer their expertise, passion and experience to a show-type event and open it to the public. Making it happen in London was the icing on the cake.

Unilet and Custom Cable's unique position as the leading London store, enabled them to win the support of the biggest names in high-performance audio including Sennheiser, Arcam, SHURE, Chord Electronics and The Chord Company, who jumped at the chance of a professionally run event in the capital in a standout venue.

Chord Electronics' Sales Manager Colin Pratt said: "Metropolis is such a great venue: the history, the heritage... The show was even busier than last year — we hardly had time to stop as our reference DAC/preamp/headphone amp, DAVE, was pulling in the enthusiast crowd along with our new Mojo DAC; everyone who tried it smiled. headroom is unrivalled now as the premier UK headphone show."

Chord Electronics is no stranger to Metropolis, of course, mastering engineer Stuart Hawkes (Amy Winehouse, Rudimental, Example, Disclosure, Jessie Ware, and Katy B) uses a Chord Hugo DAC to

In a very short space of time, it has established itself as *the* portable audio show for the UK and with the extraordinary support of Metropolis Studios and the biggest brands in audio, headroom is certain to go from strength to strength in the coming years and will be one to watch for new launches, new trends and the very latest in portable audio technology.

assess all of his masters and another British manufacturer intrinsically linked to Metropolis is PMC. It's Creative Director, Keith Tonge said: "headroom has certainly gathered momentum since last year's inaugural event. Held at held at Metropolis Studios, PMC's longest-standing client, it's home to more PMC loudspeakers and Bryston electronics than any other major studio complex."

Quite how the Unilet team managed to secure a facility of Metropolis' magnitude remains a mystery, but the association didn't just stop with just the exhibition space itself. Unilet's sprightly Vernon Hamblin, a Unilet veteran since 1991, created a free seminar programme for the two-day event which brought talks from industry veterans such as Chord Electronics' MD John Franks and Chord's digital designer Rob Watts, mastering engineer Spencer Chrislu (REM and The Doors) and Grammy award-winning engineer/producer Gary Langan (Trevor Horn; Queen; Jeff Wayne; Spandau Ballet; Billy Idol; Art of Noise; Seal; YES and Bowie).

The talks ranged from cutting-edge DAC technology, to the development of MQA, but the real crowd-puller was Gary Langan, who captivated his audience with tales of music-recording history and sound engineering followed by an enthusiastic Q&A; "I built this place", enthused a clearly at-home Langan.

EVERYTHING UP TO 11

headroom went all the way up to 11 in 2016. Everything was up markedly on the previous year's event and it was palpable. Ticket sales, product sales (visitors could try and buy at headroom) and

manufacturer stand numbers were all up significantly on 2015 as Jack Fox, Grado's Brand Manager noted: "The show was clearly even bigger and better than last year and our thanks and congratulations go to the organisers. In particular, it was good to see so many families at the show, all enjoying a great day out. We demonstrated the iconic Grado models and really enjoyed 'talking headphones' with so many genuinely enthusiastic music lovers."

Unilet Sound and Vision and Custom Cable owner, Amit Patel, the man bankrolling the event confirmed: "The 2016 headroom show was a fantastic success and my thanks go to our valued industry friends and exhibition partners who all did a fantastic job in making the show so appealing to an enthusiastic audience. This year's event performance went beyond our expectations, too: ticket sales were up an incredible 40 per cent year-on-year and so were product sales at the event, thanks to a number of promotions and exclusive show offers. "We had 54 high-quality exhibitors this year who all pulled together and helped us stage the UK's biggest and best portable audio event. In fact, exhibitor numbers were up year-on-year by about 40 per cent, too and by typical measures, that's a fantastic result.

I'd like to congratulate all of our show partners and exhibitors, Metropolis and the Unilet, Custom Cable and Home Media team on a job well done."

With the trade-only consumer technology behemoth CES 2016 (Las Vegas) out of the way in early January, headroom gave manufacturers from all over the world the chance to show both new and newly launched products to the general public for the first time. Giants of the audio world, including Sennheiser, Quad and SHURE, plus big-name newcomers such as Astell & Kern, launched brand new products at headroom, giving both enthusiasts and visiting media first-time hands-on experience with new 2016 kit.

Stephan Orphanides, Product Manager for Astell&Kern and Audeze at Computers Unlimited said: "headroom gave us great exposure for our brands, with huge interest in every Astell&Kern player – from the AK Jr up to the new flagship AK380 copper – plus each pair of Audeze headphones. We had visitors queuing to hear the pairing of the new reference Audeze LCD-4 headphones with the King amp, which many



described as the best sound of the show. In summary: superb venue, organisation and audience.”

Headphones were, of course, an obvious focus, but the show was dedicated to all things head-fi, including digital audio players, headphone amps, cables and accessories. Buy vinyl? Some show-goers did a double-take at the sight of two Michells, the Orbe and Gyro SE, on demonstration in Studio 2. But both were routed through a Trichord Dino phonostage, Trichord headphone amp and HiFi Man headphones. Michell’s Steve Rowland commented:

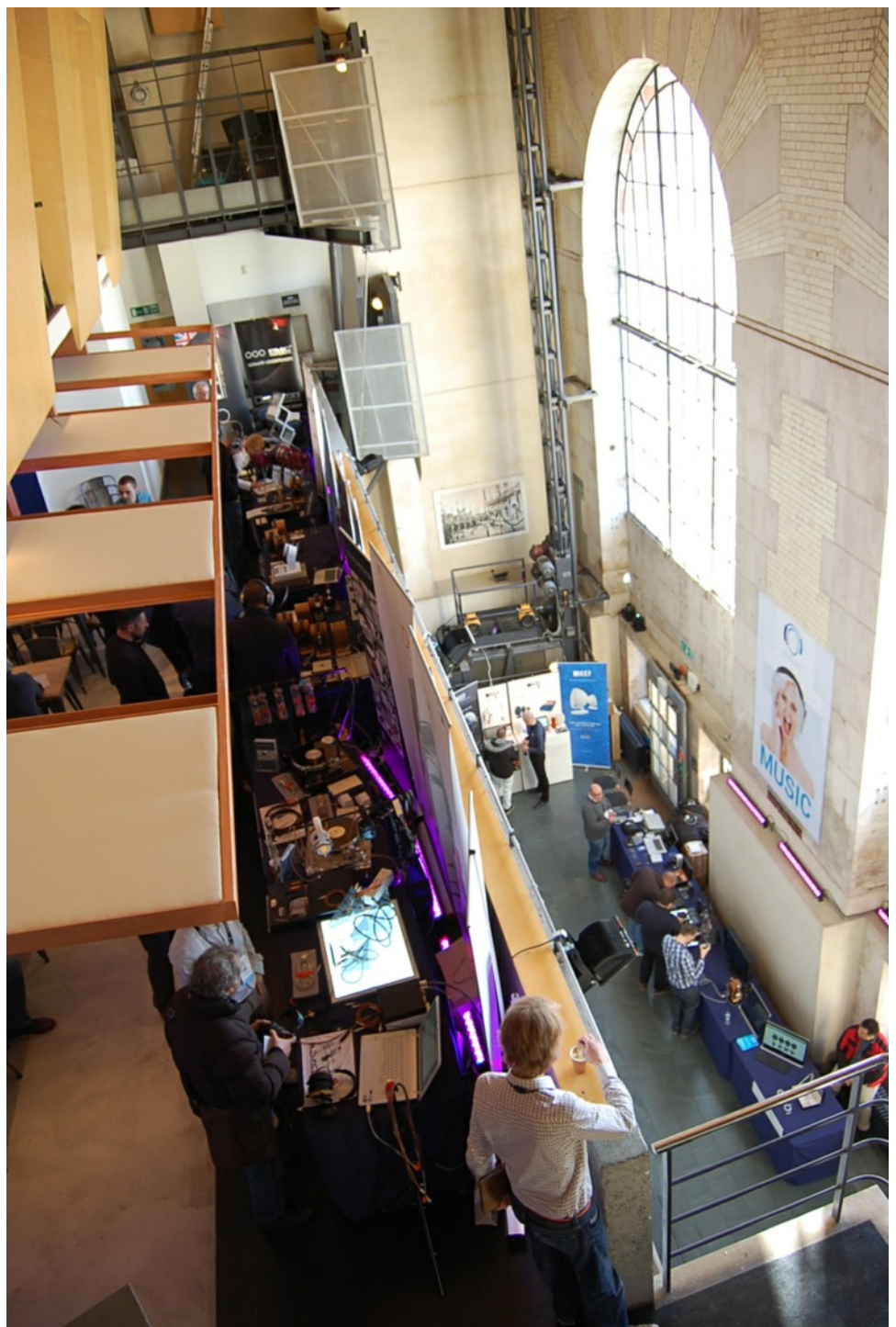
“After agreeing to be part of headroom (and then viewing the other brands) I thought that I had possibly made a mistake. How wrong was I!? As the only turntable manufacturer actually offering demos, the show was a complete success: great venue, great layout fantastic atmosphere from both visitors and other exhibitors and we were told on numerous occasions that we had the best sound in the show!”

One of the key new launches at headroom was from Sennheiser, who also happened to bring its original flagship headphone system, Orpheus, along to the show. The German specialist introduced an improved version of its legendary reference headphone, the HD 800, which originally launched back in 2009. The new HD 800 S, which is the company’s new reference-level product, remains a key product for the headphone giant in a crowded market and show-goers got to hear it first at headroom.

Further new products shown included the new new T5p from Beyerdynamic. Sales Manager Oscar Stewart said: “The show was a great success for us, we got to show off the new T5p 2nd Generation for the first time

in the UK and they were very well received, along with the DT1770 and T1 2nd Generation being favourites, too. All the exhibitors were very friendly and the show is well worth doing for any brand wanting to show off new products. It was very well organised and marketed and the location was held was fantastic.”

Aftermarket headphone accessories were also gaining interest at the show and in the same way that high-quality audio components can benefit from high-quality cables, replacement headphone cables



were being demonstrated A/B-style from leading cable manufacturer The Chord Company, who were showing prototype proprietary Tuned ARAY technology headphone cable upgrades.

Matt Peddle, The Chord Company's Sales Manager commented: "We took the opportunity to take a couple of prototype headphone leads to the show to gauge interest and feedback – they went down a storm! The feedback from customers, manufactures and the headroom staff will be valuable for completion of the final product" There was a great atmosphere at the show and certainly talking with a number of other manufacturers,

There was a great atmosphere at the show and certainly talking with a number of other manufacturers, everyone felt it was a great success and we are looking forward to next year!

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It seems the headroom show (literally) delivered on a number of levels in 2016. In a very short space of time, it has established itself as *the* portable audio show for the UK and with the extraordinary support of Metropolis Studios

and the biggest brands in audio, headroom is certain to go from strength to strength in the coming years and will be one to watch for new launches, new trends and the very latest in portable audio technology.



highlights

Jay Garrett picks out the highlights from

Lotoo PAW and Final Headphones

One of the first stands I visited had the latest range of portable digital audio players from Lotoo.

Lotoo might not be the first brand to spring to mind but these lightweight players have lots of promise. Their weight, or rather lack thereof, is down to them being constructed from aircraft grade duralumin. I am also digging the click-wheel navigation which seems to fly in the face of the current crop of touchscreen devices. Think iPod Classic.

The Lotoo range is loaded with their own user interface which means there's no extraneous clutter on the hard drive. The PAW Gold can accept up to 2TB SD cards. The largest size of SD Card available at the moment is 512GB, so that's some future-proofing in action right there. The volume control is accessible but nicely protected at the same time.

Final showed the Sonorous II and III headphones that bring the entry price down for this Japanese brand. They apparently have a more bass-heavy

sound, presumably in an attempt to compete with the notoriously phat bass produced by Dre's headphone brand. Prices are £249 and £319 respectively.

These more affordable versions looked very similar to the Sonorous VII and X models that cost significantly more – the latter coming in at £3,499!



Lotoo PAW Gold



Final Sonorous X



Schiit Amps and DACs

Electromod was planning on showcasing the latest load of new Schiit DACs and amplifiers from the American brand but they didn't reach the show on time. Thankfully, Mark did have the maker's high-performance, low cost line, including the £150 Vali 2 tube amplifier with matching £140 Modi 2 Uber DAC. They certainly did look the Schiit.

It was also interesting to notice that Mark was using an Olive ONE desktop DAP as reviewed on GadgetyNews.com recently for some of his demos.

Mark then introduced me to Nigel on the Stax stand. Stax has announced a new earspeaker and a whole new combination earspeaker/energiser system.



Schitt Yggdrasil and Ragnarok



Great value headphone amps and DACs from Schiit



An alternative view of the Schitt Yggdrasil and Ragnarok, each costing £1550

Stax Earspeakers and Energisers

On the Stax stand was the £1,395 SRS-5100 system which replaces the SRS-3170 with refinements to the diaphragm and a new energiser design incorporating a FET front end. You get the SR-L500 earspeaker and SRM-353X energiser. The new SRM-353X (available separately for £895) introduces a new entry-point for the Stax top line of electrostatic amplifiers.

The SR-L700 earspeaker (£995) features a new enclosure in the Lambda design, with technology first seen in the SR-007 and SR-009. Most noticeable are the thinner bars on the cups for an even more open enclosure as well as goatskin leather on the pads.



Up close with the Stax SR-L 700 earspeakers



The main Stax display showing their well know earspeakers and energizers.

ETHER

Features

- Driver: 2.75"x1.75" MrSpeakers' designed single-ended planar magnetic (with V-Planar™ surface processing)
- Precision machined aluminum baffle, pivots, and gimbals
- Nitinol "Memory Metal" headband
- Italian leather headband
- Lamb leather ear pads
- Detachable dual-entry cable
- 2 year warranty

Specifications

- Weight: 375g (13.2oz)
- Efficiency: 96dB/mW
- Nominal impedance: 23 ohms



Features

- Driver: 2.75"x1.75" MrSpeakers' designed single-ended planar magnetic (with V-Planar™ surface processing)
- Carbon fiber cups for low weight and excellent acoustics
- Precision machined aluminum baffle, pivots, and gimbals
- Nitinol "Memory Metal" headband
- Italian leather headband
- Lamb leather ear pads
- Detachable dual-entry cable
- 2 year warranty

Specifications

- Weight: 390g (13.7oz)
- Efficiency: 92dB/mW
- Nominal impedance: 23 ohms

MrSpeakers



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www.electromod.co.uk

Luxman

Luxman had two models at the show - the £4,500, all-analogue P-700U twin headphone amplifier, and the new DA-250. Expected in May, this £2,000 headphone amplifier/DAC supports a wide range of analogue and digital sources right the way up to DSD, in addition to featuring the company's ultra-high performance attenuator in the signal path. Unfortunately it was only the DA-06 and D-08u that was captured on camera.



T+A and Melco

There were some excellent looking T+A products sat alongside some special offerings from Melco.

T+A exudes everything that you'd expect from a German high-end brand. Clean lines, simplicity of design, all matched with faultless performance. I became quite enamoured of the R-series multisource player (£4,204) which features a neat spy window in the top of the unit. I have no doubt that the MP 2000 R multisource player and the PA 2000 R integrated amp (£4,204) would sound amazing - but I would be more than happy to give shelf-room to the smaller DAC 8 (£2,2327) and AMP 8 (£1,587) units too. By-the-way, there's also a rather nice looking turntable in the R-Series which starts at £3,432 with a Rega tonearm and Ortofon 2M Bronze cartridge.

Meanwhile, Melco was showing off its £7,000 40th anniversary version of the N1Z. Just 40 models will be made, sporting many improvements over the basic model, including twice the internal storage and new feet.





MQA At Meridian

At this point I was whisked away upstairs to experience the new audio file format MQA at the Meridian stand upstairs – which just so happened to be rather close to the bar.

Listening to a range of music being played on a MacBook through a Meridian Explorer 2 portable DAC and some Ultrasone headphones was impressive. I have hoped that MQA would not be a huge let down and, thankfully, it wasn't. When compared with FLAC files in this environment there seemed to be more height as well as depth.

Obviously the headphones and DAC may have been adding to this so I would prefer not to say much more about this until I have tested it on my home system. As I don't currently own anything by Meridian it looks like I will have to wait until MQA

Artist	Album	Composer	Sample Rate	BitDepth	Bit Rate
Various Artists	MQA	Djalma Ferreira	48kHz	24	1,572 kbps
Various Artists	MQA	Djalma Ferreira	48kHz	24	1,572 kbps
Various Artists	MQA	McKinley Morg...	48kHz	24	1,551 kbps
Various Artists	MQA	McKinley Morg...	48kHz	24	1,551 kbps
Various Artists	MQA	Maurice Ravel	48kHz	24	1,422 kbps
Various Artists	MQA	Maurice Ravel	48kHz	24	1,422 kbps
Various Artists	MQA	Rickie Lee Jones	48kHz	24	1,465 kbps
Various Artists	MQA	Rickie Lee Jones	48kHz	24	1,465 kbps
Various Artists	MQA		48kHz	24	1,745 kbps
Various Artists	MQA		48kHz	24	1,745 kbps
Various Artists	MQA		48kHz	24	1,658 kbps
Various Artists	MQA		48kHz	24	1,658 kbps
Various Artists	MQA	Paul Desmond	44.1kHz	24	1,501 kbps
Various Artists	MQA	Paul Desmond	44.1kHz	24	1,501 kbps
Various Artists	MQA		44.1kHz	16	1,022 kbps
Various Artists	MQA		44.1kHz	16	1,022 kbps
Various Artists	MQA		48kHz	24	1,667 kbps
Various Artists	MQA		48kHz	24	1,667 kbps
Various Artists	MQA		48kHz	24	1,370 kbps
Various Artists	MQA		48kHz	24	1,370 kbps
Various Artists	MQA	Van Morrison	48kHz	24	1,693 kbps
Various Artists	MQA	Van Morrison	48kHz	24	1,693 kbps
Various Artists	MQA	Ralph Vaughan...	44.1kHz	24	1,261 kbps
Various Artists	MQA	Ralph Vaughan...	44.1kHz	24	1,261 kbps
Various Artists	MQA		44.1kHz	24	1,430 kbps
Various Artists	MQA		44.1kHz	24	1,430 kbps
Various Artists	MQA	Jeff Tweedy	48kHz	24	1,542 kbps
Various Artists	MQA	Jeff Tweedy	48kHz	24	1,542 kbps
Various Artists	MQA		48kHz	24	1,298 kbps
Various Artists	MQA		48kHz	24	1,298 kbps
Various Artists	MQA		48kHz	24	1,754 kbps
Various Artists	MQA		48kHz	24	1,754 kbps
192 File	192 File		192kHz	24	4,732 kbps
Adele	19	Adele Adkins	44.1kHz	16	762 kbps
Adele	19	Francis "Eg" W...	44.1kHz	16	936 kbps
Adele	19	Adele Adkins/S...	44.1kHz	16	995 kbps
Adele	19	Adele Adkins	44.1kHz	16	690 kbps
Adele	19	Adele Adkins	44.1kHz	16	732 kbps
Adele	19	Adele Adkins	44.1kHz	16	727 kbps
Adele	19	Adele Adkins	44.1kHz	16	771 kbps
Adele	19	Bob Dylan	44.1kHz	16	709 kbps



Experiencing MQA files through Meridian's Explorer 2 DAC and Ultrasone cans



NIGHTHAWK

AROUND-THE-EAR SEMI-OPEN HEADPHONES



audioquest®

Vertere Turntables And D-fi Cables

A swift Asahi and it was back downstairs to check out a stand that had a couple of interesting looking turntables on it. Not exactly what I'd expect to see at a predominately portable Hi-Fi expo. These were from Vertere's Groove series which are now available in a fantastically shiny black acrylic as well as the clear plexi version.

Vertere had also made up some prototype cables using its new Double D-fi cable with distinctive orange casing connected to the Audeze XC. The Pulse range was also on display.



QUAD

I have to admit to being a latecomer to this brand but, judging by its enthusiastic followers, I thought I'd better check them out and I am glad I did as Quad was showing its VA-One. This is an integrated amplifier with a 15 Watt output, 24/192 DAC with USB and Bluetooth and, naturally for this show, a headphone jack - all yours for £1,300.



The £1300 VA_One from Quad making its debut at headroom

Astell&Kern

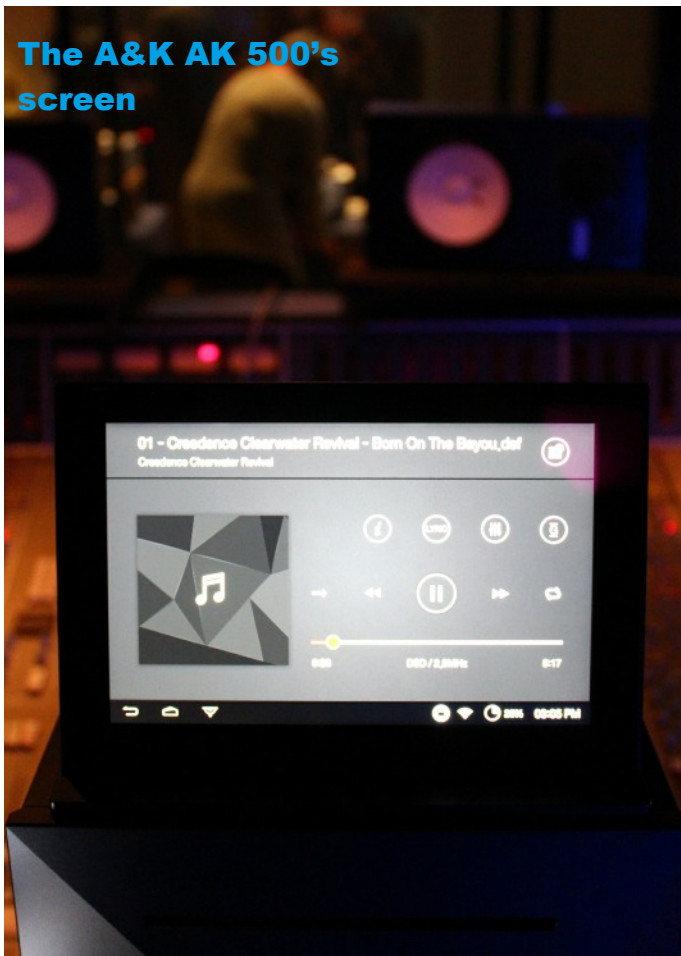
Astell&Kern had something extremely unportable in their area but I did fall in love with it instantly. The AK500N looks like it has been left behind by an advanced race of audio-loving aliens and it sounds as great as it looks. The unit actually comes in three stages with prices starting at £6999 including 1TB of internal SSD storage, and goes up to £8999 with 4TB onboard, while the AK500AP – the power amp and power supply, complete with AK LED stand, sells for £5999. This means if you own the AK500N you can upgrade to the full stack system. Why not just buy the complete package with prices starting from £12,998 with the 1TB AK500N, and rising to £14,998 with the 4TB player/server. The AK500N has an in-built screen in the top and almost every connectivity option you could possibly want – and want it, I do.

Naturally, there was the range of A&K portable players and IEMs on show but I couldn't help myself from looking back at the angles of the AK500N being accentuated by its stand's built in light.



Astell&Kern's AK 500 from the side

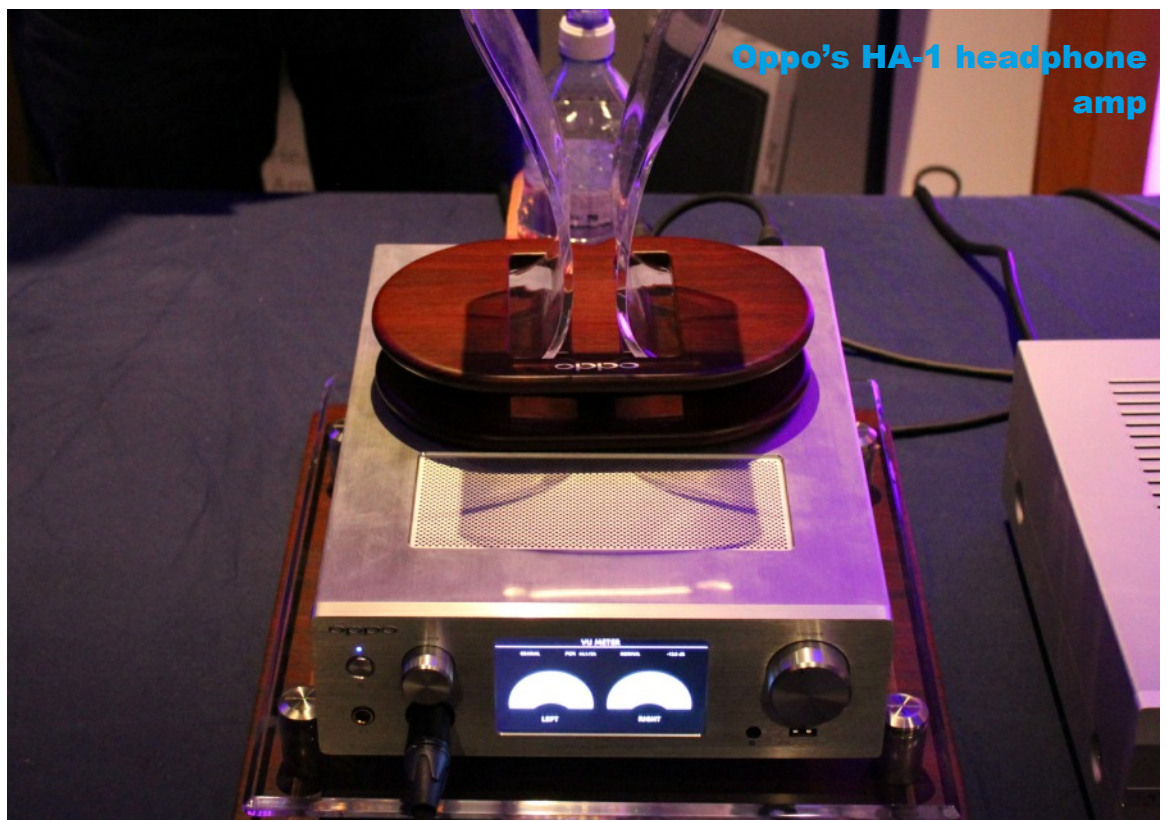
The A&K AK 500's screen



Astell&Kern's portable player in bronze and in-ears

Oppo

I simply bobbed my head around Oppo's stand. I couldn't really spot anything new there. I still want to get one of their HA-1 headphone amps at home to use with my PM-1 headphones though. As well as that there was the portable HA-2 amp/DAC and the really nice PM-1 and PM-3 cans.



Oppo's HA-1 headphone amp

ADL

The ADL Stratos DAC/ADC recorder/headphone amp/preamp was there and, apparently, it has had quite the journey since it was first mentioned back in 2013. The £995 Stratos seems to cover almost everything and sports a phono input and up to QuadDSD replay performance.



ADL's Stratos



The whole load of stuff on display on the ADL stand

Sennheiser

Of course, the new HD800S and the new Orpheus were one of the must see items at Headroom. Sennheiser had the original version there for people to hear.

As well as that they were showing the HD 630VB. Coming in at £400, the closed back addition to Sennheiser's HD range is allegedly "all about that bass" and comes with a variable control on the left ear-cup to adjust bass boost or cut. Sorry, but things like that tend to leave me a little cold.



Sennheiser's Orpheus headphone system, hard to find a more expensive headphone system



ACS

ACS says that it is bringing its custom IEM know-how and performance to the off-the-shelf world with a new range of two and three armature IEMs. The company also has joined forces with George Martin and Asprey to release a limited edition Signature Series £2,250 CIEM package. Profits from this special range go to Deafness Research UK, which is truly a great cause.



Master & Dynamic



Master & Dynamic headphones had their Wired MH40 and wireless MW60 on show. I was quite impressed by their sound and build quality, they don't look half bad either.

Mitchell & Johnson

Mitchell & Johnson's range of hybrid headphones are certainly an interesting proposition. The Kickstarter-born hybrid electrostatic / dynamic headphones managed to make a surprise appearance after grabbing a space at the last minute. I liked the sound almost as much as their interesting approach to driver design





CustomCable
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Fostex

The Fostex HP-V8 headphone amp is a beast. For £7,000 you get an all valve design with both single-ended and balanced headphone outputs, along with a rotary selector for low- and high-gain. Also in attendance were the TH500RP planar magnetic headphones which didn't sound bad either.



Kennerton

A relatively new name on the headphone scene, the Kennerton brand from Russia makes a range of earphones, headphones, amps, and DACs. There wasn't anyone around for me to ask for any further information unfortunately but judging by the literature on the stand they seem to cover a range of performance and price.



Technics

It might be the re-release of the Technics SL-1200 turntable that's grabbing most of the headlines but it was good to catch up with the £799 T-700 headphones which I first met these at IfA. These closed-back cans have a twin driver design which is comprised of a full-range driver coupled with a supertweeter in each cup. The drive units are spaced and angled to give a more 'unconstrained' presentation than most headphones.

Snugs

Upstairs is where Snugs laid out its stall.

This company makes custom tips for most models of IEMs and achieve a 'snug' fit by laser scanning your ear prior to creating the tips with a 3D printer. Their precision fit is claimed to deliver high comfort with minimal noise. They come in full shell and half shell variants and prices start at £159 including fitting.

Ultrasone

Headroom was the first UK outing for the Ultrasone Edition M, the entry level Edition model. This £699 on-ear design has offset drivers and uses the company's proprietary S-Logic tech wrapped up in a smaller more sensitive package making it ideal for portable listening.

Along with the Edition 5 there was the Edition 10, Edition 12, Edition 8 Romeo, Julia and Carbon, plus the Signature DJ and Ultrasone's new performance range too.



**Ultrasone's lovely looking
Edition headphones.**

AudioQuest

AudioQuest had a very nice set up at headroom, in fact they had two set ups comprising:

Set Up One

- MacBook Pro running Roon Music Player
- Chord Hugo TT
- AudioQuest JitterBug – USB Power and Data Line conditioner
- AudioQuest Diamond USB cable
- AudioQuest NightHawk Headphones

Set Up Two

- MacBook Pro running Roon Music Player
- AudioQuest DragonFly V1.2 – Portable USB DAC
- AudioQuest JitterBug – USB Power and Data Line conditioner
- Angel 3.5mm to RCA – Analogue Interconnect

- AudioQuest NightHawk Headphones
- Trilogy 931 Headphone Amplifier (being fed by the DragonFly)



HiFiMAN

HiFiMAN's HEF100 valve headphone amplifier was getting plenty of love. This Class AB headphone amplifier can even drive loudspeakers thanks to its Class T power amplifier. With 2W headphone output, it can probably drive anything.



In Conclusion

There was much more to see such as offerings from The Chord Company, Bryston and PCM, Atlas, B&W, and Chord Electronics. Michelle had a Gyro SE hooked up to a Trichord amp and NCPSU, with Cyrus and Shure sharing that same area. RHA audio had brought a huge range of IEMs, and I could go on and on.

Headroom has again proved its worth. Not only were there familiar brands launching new products but names very new to me.



Headroom is a very friendly show and I would not hesitate to recommend it to anyone with an interest in headphones and portable audio.

The Metropolis venue is a real stunner and the organisers of the show have ensured headroom is well signposted and well organised.

As with all shows there really is just so much to see that it's impossible to

mention every single exhibitor and so over the next few pages we've compiled all the photographs we took on the day. Enjoy!

Jay Garrett

Paint It Black

"I felt I was listening to a more lifelike rendition of the music...good vocal projection combined with tight timing and a natural tonality make this cable extra special"

Tony Bolton



"OUTSTANDING"

Chord Signature Tuned ARAY
HI-FI WORLD November 2014

Demonstration cables available
from all good Chord retailers.
Find your nearest at
www.chord.co.uk

Hand built in England by music
lovers. Enjoyed by music lovers
all over the world. Now listen...



THE
CHORDTM
COMPANY







QUAD and Audiolab were both well represented and launched new products at headfi





Cyrus electronics along with Audioquest Nighthawk headphones



Denon's cans on cool heads

Qnother shot of the A&K portable unit in copper



More stands this time on the bar level

The Benchmark DAC 2 DX



Comply replacement tips







Linum replacement cables for IEMS

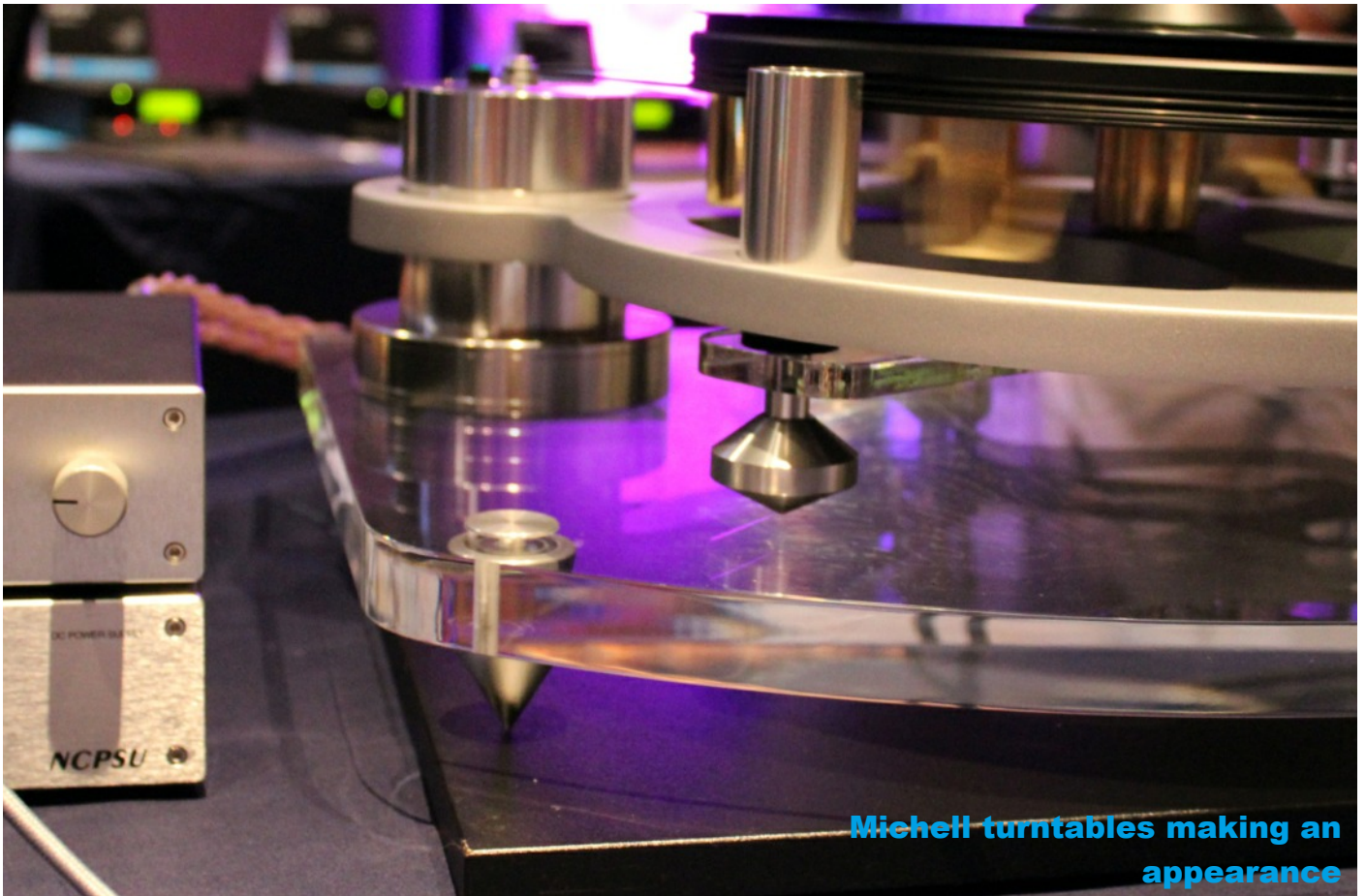




Meridian Explorer 2



Lotoo PAW range of players



Michell turntables making an appearance



Nordost Heimdall 2 USB cable



Pulse cables and decks



Questyle had a great display with lots to see

