



Handmade in England for over 35 years

Harbeth was founded in 1977 by the BBC's chief loudspeaker engineer. True to that origin, it has remained at the forefront of innovation and technology. Its exclusive RADIAL™ cone material is unbeatable for clarity and that 'being there' experience.



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A booming Bristol success



THE busiest *Sound and Vision* hi-fi and home theatre show for over a decade saw crowds of audiophiles flock to Bristol to lap up the sounds.

Harbeth were delighted to team up with REL Acoustics, makers of world-renowned sub-woofers. The combination of Harbeth's unbeatable clarity and resolution proved a superb match for the bass enhancers.

With many of the hotel rooms at the venue serving up the usual range of loud-and-proud sounds, perhaps it wasn't surprising that visitor after visitor remarked that the Harbeth/REL combination was the 'sound of the show'.

An impressively huge flat-screen TV provided the centrepiece for an array of awe-inspiring demonstrations of blockbuster movies. Either side of the giant screen were the legendary Harbeth SHL5 monitors. They did not disappoint.

Harbeth's Compact 7ES-3s were used for the centre and rear channels in an impressive five-point-one surround sound set up.

"From early on Friday, when the event opened, until after it should have closed on the Sunday, the Harbeth/REL room was packed with eager high-

end enthusiasts", says Trevor Butler of Harbeth's marketing department. "They travelled to hear the remarkable combination: the very best in faithful reproduction and exquisite mid-range clarity, combined with a toe-vibrating bass which completed the whole audio-visual experience. It was like being in the best seats at an upmarket cinema."

Many loyal Harbeth customers made the journey to be at the three-day show. "It was lovely to meet end-users, our UK dealers and even overseas distributors", says Harbeth MD Alan Shaw. "The show was busy and hopefully reflects the continuing interest in Harbeth's philosophy of natural sound."



The Harbeth sound *is* RADIAL™

First choice for Professionals

When professional audio engineers need the very best, they know they can rely on Harbeth. It's why Harbeth studio monitors are used to craft thousands of hours of radio and TV every year, including the Christmas-special edition of *Top of the Pops* (pictured above).

New HQ for Harbeth in Romania

Harbeth Romania have relocated to larger premises. Contact DVDPLANET at Sf. Elefterie 3A, Bucharest 050523. Telephone remains: 074917 3333; email: office@dvdplanet.ro and web: www.DVDPLANET.ro



Product of the Year award

Harbeth's Compact 7ES-3 has been awarded 'Best Speaker of the Year' by *Hi-Fi Voice* magazine.

"This is wonderful news", says Tomáš Kalina from KAS Audio who represent Harbeth in the Czech Republic, as he received the certificate, signed by the publication's Editor-in-Chief, Daniel Brezina, "and testimony to Alan's skill in creating a natural, clear sound from a medium-sized cabinet. It is great on so many kinds of music and a real winner here."



Top sounds created at top German show

Lovely views and a warm reception for Harbeth monitor

Audio connoisseurs gathered for a hugely popular show in Hamburg. Called *Norddeutsche HiFi Tage - Hörtest*, it's organised by the HiFi Studio Bramfeld every February and has become the most popular high-end event in north Germany as well as one of



the best-visited in Europe.

More than 3,500 visitors turned up this year to hear what the 150 exhibitors had to demonstrate at the Holiday Inn hotel by the river Elbe, close to the Elb-Brücken.

Harbeth Germany had its room on the 16th floor, assuring remarkable views over the harbour to the new Elb-Philharmonie concert hall which is under construction.

"We played two systems with a focus on the Harbeth Compact 7ES-3 35th Anniversary edition", explained Harbeth's Bernd Hömke; "the Palmer turntable as one analogue source, and the new Creek Evolution 50 CD-player

as a digital source for the other. Both systems played very well – the analogue side allowed (with fantastic resolution) a deep sight into the music, yet also the much cheaper Creek system surprised with a very fine, dynamic and realistic sound."



Good feedback after the show with orders placed because the system sounded so convincing.

Welcome to your new home, Harbeth USA!

More space and better facilities greet customers of Harbeth USA who have moved to new, improved premises.

Expansion of the Harbeth brand across the States necessitated the need for more storage. A 6,000 square-foot building has been acquired in Nashua, NH.



Created in England, with great care

Across-the-globe recognition of hand-crafted beauty

Gabriel, one of our recent ecstatic Harbeth customers in Australia, marvels at his new acquisition which arrived safe and sound direct from the factory....

"My Rosewood pair is immaculately finished; far superior in quality to my previous speakers at double the price: satin sheen, beautiful veneer-matching and a top notch, flawless job. Well done, cabinet department! I rate the finish as the best I've seen in a speaker manufacturer, or any other furniture-grade

A speaker able to reproduce the mid-band...

finisher, for that matter.

"After an initial four-hour listening session, I find that I am the proud owner of a truly lovely pair of stereo speakers that reproduce the part of the sound where every other speaker I have heard in my listening life largely has been unable to do. Who knew what luxuries lurked in the middle bands of the frequency range, waiting to be heard all those years!? And who knew this was the part of the sound I'd been 'feeling' was missing from my music? And yet, the information for making the sound was there all along. I just never thought of it as being hidden in the mid-band.

"I have never had the

chance before to hear a speaker that was able to reproduce the mid-band adequately, and I realise now that no amount of extra amplifier power, increased (high frequency) resolution, or ever-greater frequency range was going to succeed."



Best finish from any speaker manufacturer – any furniture producer, come to that!



Neil Diamond's studio now boasts Harbeth monitors

Renowned audio engineer Bernie Becker has snapped up a pair of Harbeth 30.1 monitors to use wherever he's working. "Mostly I'm at a studio called Arch Angel, owned by Neil Diamond, and I have a mastering room in Pasadena CA. (www.berniebecker.com)", he explains. Within just a few hours of using his new speakers, he says "I'm absolutely loving these: I needed truth, no hype, just pure sound – and that's what I am getting. Listening to digitized electrons flying through the air, reproduced by over-analyzed and processed signals, gets wearing: it's not fun – and music coming through speakers should be fun!" Peter at Venice Audio introduced the sound legend to Harbeth: a partnership set to carry on. "I am hoping to continue in the Harbeth direction everywhere I work. That's my goal", Bernie concludes.



Reading bound for monitors

Harbeth monitors will be heard in all their glory at the Reading Hi-Fi Show on 15/16 March.

The Best Western Moat House, Reading (in Sindlesham, Nr. Wokingham), will be transformed by Guildford Audio for the weekend's high-end event. Entry is free. Details: www.guilfordaudio.co.uk



Sound solutions at home...

“As we say in the **User Guide** enclosed with every pair of Harbeth speakers, hard surfaces encourage unwanted reflections but are architecturally popular.

The challenge is to find a way of introducing sufficient sonic ‘damping’ into the listening room without clutter or disturbing the domestic harmony!

Suggestions include, bass traps in the corners, ceiling treatments, absorptive wall tiles, heavy curtains, soft furnishing and thick carpets.

If none of these are domestically desirable, what then?

Remembering that the first and loudest sound to arrive at the ear is the direct sound from the loudspeaker, if the listener positions himself closer to the loudspeakers the extra loudness of the direct sound will tend to swamp the quieter reflections.

One outstanding and unique characteristic of Harbeth speakers – as some Far Eastern users in small apartments have noted – is that they can be used almost like headphones, that is within touching distance.

Most loudspeakers rely on the listener sitting in the far-field, some metres away; but close-up and personal, they sound horrendously coloured – not so with any Harbeth.

The BBC heritage which inspired the Harbeth family is one of high-quality monitoring in studios which, serendipitously, are about the size of a typical home listening room – so the sound remains sweet and natural.”



“When strolling along the hillside near Harbeth recently, at a height of around 700-feet asl (50.8850°N 0.2050°W), I was amazed that I could so readily hear tractor engines and car horns in the valley below me. It reminded me of a stay in a Hong Kong hotel (on the twenty-seventh floor) when, with an ear on the double-glazed window, I could clearly distinguish conversation at street level far below”, says Alan Shaw.

Soundwaves not only carry very considerable energy, but they like to leach along solid surfaces; add to that their propensity to bounce around in a room, and their persistence, and no wonder it’s difficult to re-create the exact concert-hall experience at home.

Stereophony is a grand illusion, replicating musicians stretched out before the hi-fi listener, and is about deceiving the ear and the brain. The direct sounds take the shortest path from the loudspeakers to the ear, and those are processed effortlessly, but once the music plays every surface and object within the room is stroked by a passing soundwave, or several; depending on the angle of incidence, and the absorptive nature of the surface, there will be a consequent sonic reflection.

The listener’s experience is initially of the direct-sound succeeded by a rat-a-tat series of sound bullets arriving at the ear. The brain then sets to work making sense of the cacophony



“Soundwaves: tenacious little devils, aren’t they!”

and retrieving recognisable music from this sonic soup.

If the reflections are strong, and/or have a particular sonic characteristic (such as a pronounced echo), then the brain has to work overtime. This ongoing struggle detracts from listening satisfaction and the whole experience becomes tiring – the very definition of listening fatigue.

‘Trendy’ loudspeakers exasperate listening fatigue because their inherently brighter balance sprays even more high frequency into the room, creating an evermore chaotic listening environment. What’s the solution? If you are using Harbeth speakers you are well on the way to achieving natural sound at home.



www.therecordingrevolution.com

We can learn from recording studios that take great care over acoustics to improve their monitoring.



At home, we can employ techniques to improve room acoustics and improve the listening experience.



Harbeth the world’s best-loved loudspeakers

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