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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. Harbeth's exclusive RADIAL™ cone material is unbeatable for clarity and that 'being there' experience.



Harbeth's Munich Unveiling



IT IS fitting that at what's become Europe's most important audio event, the world's best-loved loudspeaker brand is waving the flag with pride.

While some manufacturers release new products on a whim when Harbeth launch something we can be sure that it will be pretty special.

"The wraps come off something very exciting in Munich", says Trevor Butler of Harbeth's marketing department. "We will be in Hall 3 on Stand J10 with our colleagues from Harbeth Deutschland. Come along and see what all the fuss is about. A warm welcome awaits."

Building on the BBC loudspeaker legacy over the past 35 years, Harbeth has added twenty-first century technology to the ageing BBC designs and brought them right up-to-date to ensure they are fit for a digital era.

"When our founder Dudley Harwood was heading-up the broadcaster's team of boffins, they worked in a totally analogue environment, and in mono", adds Trevor. "Things have moved on and, in today's digital era, those legacy products have been left behind. Harbeth's users have

the benefit of ultra high-quality digital sources at their fingertips and naturally need loudspeakers to match.

"Nostalgia has its place, but what today's audiophile and professional audio user requires is a modern-day speaker fit for modern-day use which extracts the last molecule of detail from the music", says Trevor.

Harbeth have been pushing the sound barriers for over 35 years with innovative technology. We'll see you in Munich – 15-18 May: Hall 3, Stand J10.



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 *Britain's Got Talent* and the *Elaine Paige Show* – see page 3.

New HQ for Harbeth in Canada

Planet of Sound Distribution, Harbeth's distributor in Canada, has moved to new, larger premises at 1020 Queen Street West, Toronto, ON, Canada M6J 1H6. Telephone and email remain unchanged.



Keeping the Dutch in the know...

An online forum, organised by Harbeth in The Netherlands, ensures all Dutch customers are kept fully informed of latest developments by the world's best-loved loudspeaker brand.

Harbeth Benelux posts regularly and encourages a two-way dialogue (in the Dutch language) with customers old and new. <http://harbeth-nederland.blogspot.co.uk/>



Show date....

Sunday 15 June sees Harbeth on display at the Cranage Hall Show in Cheshire. [See you there.](#)



Tip-top sounds created at top Canadian show!

Lovely views and a warm reception for Harbeth monitors

For those who find the trek to Vegas too far, the alternative North American audiophile event is a must.

The annual Montreal hi-fi show, *The Salon Son & Image*, saw the mighty Monitor 40.1 reference loudspeaker stealing the limelight in one of the two rooms organised by Harbeth Canada and their local dealer. They entertained audiophiles

while showcasing the range in a static display in a separate room.

"We generated strong 'traffic' compared to the rest of the show and were met with universal praise for the sound being produced", reports Michael Billington from Planet of Sound Distribution who handle Harbeth across Canada.

There was also a nice mention by *Stereophile* magazine about the room. In his report, Art Dudley wrote: "Bring me the head of anyone who says

the Harbeth Monitor 40.1 loudspeaker isn't a great rock'n'roll loudspeaker!

As Montreal Harbeth dealer Son Idéal proved (proved, I tell you) the biggest Harbeths are very satisfying on the classic album *Led Zeppelin III*."



Strong 'traffic' and universal praise for the sound - Montreal was a highly successful show.

Speakers beside the seaside

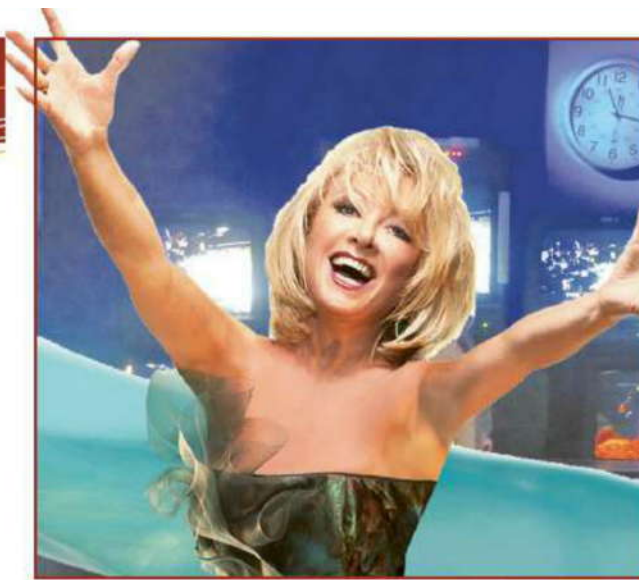
Two adjacent hotels were used to host simultaneous hi-fi shows at a popular seaside resort.

Harbeth monitors were, of course, being ably demonstrated at the premier event in the more prestigious venue – and, by all accounts, generated one of the best sounds at either of the two shows.



Harbeth's star turn with Elaine in new TV show

Monitor 40.1s, the improved BBC LS5/8 design, in action



Proving that the channel takes audio quality extremely seriously, Sky Arts' senior sound supervisor chose Harbeth's mighty Reference Monitors for a very special project.

Tony Revell ensured he had M40.1s on hand for the prestigious *Elaine Paige Show* which airs over six weeks in May.

"This is testimony to the unbeatable resolution and mid-band clarity which only the Harbeth RADIAL™ cone technology can provide", says Harbeth's Andy Sinden.

Hear the legend of musical theatre on Sky Arts from May.

"It's little wonder that for such a highly regarded professional, only the best monitoring solution would suffice for such a major project. This is just the latest in a long line of TV shows relying on Harbeth monitoring."

In the star-studded series, Elaine Paige takes a unique, inspirational glimpse into the fascinating world of musical theatre and combines a mix of songs, performances, and interviews, as she is joined by a variety of guests from stage and screen.

Guests include Scarlett Strallen, Christine Andreas, Michael Feinstein, John Owen Jones, Hannah

Waddingham, Clive Rowe and Leigh Zimmerman. Elaine will also interview key arts aficionados including Herbert Kretzmer and Trevor Nunn. She will delve into their epic careers in order to understand their success and reveal their secrets.



Iconic Riverside Studios in west London where the First Lady of Musical Theatre stars.



Staff on top-rated show rely on Harbeth monitors in key areas

As a new series of the highly popular British TV show *Britain's Got Talent* gets underway, those responsible for the sound quality demand the very best monitoring. No wonder, then, that they insist on Harbeth in all key areas.

In 1993 Fountain took the opportunity to acquire the once famous Rediffusion studios in Wembley, north London, which at the time were closed and badly run-down.

The process of improving the studios never stops and it now boasts full HD capability with 5.1 surround sound in an all-Harbeth monitoring set-up featuring the mighty M40.1 reference speakers.

Harbeth's MD, Alan Shaw, is pictured below with sound guru Robert Edwards who insists on Harbeth monitoring.



Reading welcome for top monitor brand

Audiophiles clamoured to hear Harbeth at a two-day event staged in a Reading hotel.

Guildford Audio's two-day show was well attended and much enjoyed. Such was the demand to know more about Harbeth that a dedicated event is being organised for June. More details soon!



Harbeth perfects BBC designs

We ask Harbeth MD, how did the Harbeth Monitor Series come about?

"We'd started a small museum of loudspeakers charting the BBC monitor concept and sometime in the mid 1990s I added a pair of decommissioned LS5/8s. Considering these had been the mainstay of the Corporation's monitoring since shortly after Dudley Harwood had left the BBC to set up Harbeth, I was expecting great things. Imagine my disappointment when I measured their response and it was a radical and inexplicable departure from the target flat-line response of the previous generation of BBC monitors. The fallback LS5/9 was equally recessed as HI-Fi News had commented in their 1986 review."

What did you think then?

"As Dudley Harwood could not explain why BBC Engineering had abandoned the 'flat-line principles' that were de rigueur from the 1920s until his retirement (in 1977), I felt I owed it to him and to the BBC monitor concept to rectify the matter. That's really what stimulated me into creating the size-for-size Monitor 40, 30, 20 as replacements for the deviant BBC models."

"I'm sure that if the 5/8 and 5/9 had been better executed, then primary licensee Rogers would have survived. After all, there was, and is, a respect for the BBC monitor sound, but it just wasn't fulfilled with those half-baked designs; the Harbeth Monitor 20, 30, and 40 took that crown as the serious listener's serious speaker."



Designing for the modern day, needs modern methods...

Sound reproduction has become far more sophisticated since the BBC's engineers terminated all involvement in loudspeaker R&D and demolished their acoustic laboratories.

In those golden days, the engineers' remit was to create mono speakers for analogue sources. If those early designers could have anticipated the high-resolution, digital world (which transformed sound-recording quality), the BBC would have progressed towards the performance set by Harbeth's RADIAL™ cone material technology. After all, it was Dudley Harwood (Harbeth's founder) who established Harbeth on the back of his polypropylene cone patent some ten years after pioneering the first-

generation plastic speaker diaphragms.

In the twenty-first century, there is simply no place for a 'guess and hope' mentality in quality loudspeaker design. Measure and modelling tools (computer-aided design) are readily available for the creative designer willing to use computing power to tease out the best solution from an infinite number of possibilities.

BBC replacements

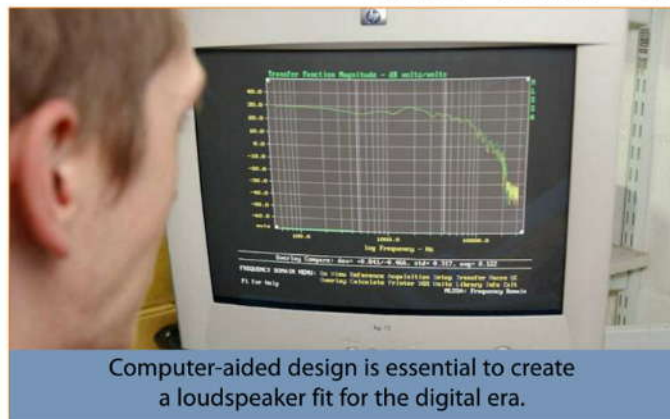
The Harbeth P3ESR and Monitor 30.1 are cases in point. Developed using the best CAD technology available, these multi-award-winning speakers offer 'best in class' performance and were created because the

BBC design effort had ended. Harbeth stepped in and solved the national broadcaster's crisis.

This relationship provided Harbeth with a unique insight into the realities of those worn-out BBC workhorses, and why the broadcaster had lost confidence in its own LS5/series designs.

Shampoo plastics

Were Dudley Harwood and his department to be re-tasked with designing a new generation of BBC monitors today, they certainly wouldn't be using 1970s' shampoo-bottle plastic for their speaker cones! Digital sources, and digital audiences, demand far higher resolution.



Computer-aided design is essential to create a loudspeaker fit for the digital era.



Modern-day audiences demand better-performing designs than the BBC left us in the 1980s.



Harbeth the world's best-loved loudspeakers

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