



Handmade in England for over 35 years

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



August 2014
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Broadcast audio neglected?

Sound quality has been pushed down the list of priorities by television producers judging by the rising number of public complaints.

This thorny subject has its roots in cost minimisation and has been taken up by many influential magazines and national newspapers. Some broadcasters are trying to blame the in-built loudspeakers in today's flat TVs; but many of us know that if high quality isn't produced in the studio, and maintained through the transmission chain, then it can't be received at home – no matter how good the user's audio equipment is.

The subject was brought to the fore with a flurry of complaints about the BBC's drama series *Jamaica Inn*. Over a million viewers switched off in disgust, complaining about 'muffled voices'.

Why this wasn't noticed and corrected before transmission, is again related to cost-cutting in the studio. Audio monitoring used to take place during the recording and in postproduction; however, even when there are 'monitor speakers' installed, they're often of such poor quality they are unable to

reveal sonic defects in the programme. Too often, proper, high-quality Grade One broadcast monitors (such as the M40.1) are considered an expensive and unjustifiable luxury.

"It's little wonder, then," says Trevor Butler from Harbeth's marketing team, "that we often get mediocre TV sound at home."

Thankfully, there are still a handful of dedicated audio professionals who have the time, budget, and management support to craft top-quality sound to accompany the pictures. And, there, we can find the sound directors who rely on Harbeths for their monitoring. Interestingly, these programmes (some of them mass-market light entertainment shows one wouldn't normally associate with premium sound) are never criticised for poor sound quality.

It's time for the accountants who run production and broadcast organisations to revert to investing in studio monitoring which underpinned the BBC's desire to design the world's best loudspeakers. Designs perfected today by Harbeth.



New generation of BBC-style monitors

For over 35 years, Harbeth has been refining its BBC loudspeaker legacy. Adding twenty-first century technology to the core ethos has created unrivalled sonic superiority that's in demand at home as well as in the studio. No wonder then that Harbeth is the first choice for so many professional audio engineers.

USA Premier for sound-only 'movie'



Harbeth's friends at Ear Films, who create amazing audio-only 'films' for the ear and the imagination, are touring America. They will be performing the US premiere of their award-winning production *To Sleep To Dream* in Birmingham Alabama, before travelling to Gainesville, Florida, from the 19th August to the end of the month.

The team developed their cutting-edge surround-sound 'audioscape' using an array of 18 Harbeth P3ESR mini monitors – see *SoundSpeak 40*. We wish them well as they tour.



BBC Proms in marketing drive

A highly colourful image from the *Last Night of the Proms* features in Harbeth's latest brochure.

The striking photo was so well received as the backdrop to Harbeth's stand in Munich that it simply had to appear on the cover.



On song at Malaysia's top AV show

The open Harbeth sound received with open arms

Malaysia's audiophiles lapped up the Harbeth sound during the recent Kuala Lumpur International AV show (known as KLIIV).

The full range was on show with the Compact 7ES-3 stealing the limelight.

"The sound we managed to create in the hotel bedroom was incredibly good and so was the

response from the many visitors we saw in the Harbeth rooms", said Sam Chan from Harbeth Malaysia (Tropical Audio)

Among the highly appreciative visitors was Arthur Ching (aka Tak KL) who contacted Harbeth HQ to say: "Thank you to Harbeth and to Sam for bringing this wonderful

pair of Harbeth Compact 7ES-3 speakers to our shores."

His praise for not only the stunning sound quality but also the attentive customer service continued: "I must reiterate how Sam (Tropical

Audio) does Harbeth proud, as does your Compact 7 speaker. Not only did the C7 sound musically natural and also very inviting with the songs being played during the show, compared to many other participants, but it created one of the best sounds on demonstration and was a very inviting soundstage."



Pictured, left: the Harbeth line-up with (above) the Harbeth logo proudly projected.

Harbeth central to the video stars

Harbeth's P3ESR mini monitors perform a key role in the creation of Risk Bites corporate videos.

A top-notch audio monitoring system was needed by Andrew Maynard who makes videos for the Risk Science Centre (2020science.org), and the little P3ESRs provided the high quality he insisted on.



Reviewer prefers Harbeth monitor

Competitor's designs just can't compete with Harbeth

A review of compact British monitor loudspeakers saw Harbeth come out on top with high praise for the Compact 7ES-3.

When *Tone Audio's* Mark Marcantonio switched on his beloved Harbeths, the music began to flow and the difference was, as he said, palpable.



Mark Marcantonio, *Tone Audio*: "Alan Shaw, the BBC monitor crown belongs to you."

"The Harbeths bring more bass grunt and detail. Listening to music with any sort of low-end through the Compact 7s is a wholly different experience.

"The upper frequencies of the Harbeths offer a wider-imaging sweet spot, while the signal coming forth just has more of everything: detail, depth, spaciousness, etc.

"Through the Harbeths, the xylophone near the beginning of Steely Dan's 'Aja' rings from the deepest regions of the speaker cabinet. And Trixie Whitely's vocals take on a sense of aged rich-

ness, much like a fine wine."

In conclusion, he comments on "... the broad, rich, sonic experience that the Harbeth Compact 7ES-3 provides.

"Alan Shaw (Harbeth owner and speaker designer), the BBC monitor crown belongs to you", he proclaims.



Northern exposure

Our friends from Doug Brady Hi-fi (Warrington) received a warm reception at the Cranage Hall Audio Show where they had the New Harbeth Super HL5plus on display.

The Sunday event, coinciding with Father's Day, attracted a wide cross-section of visitors, including young couples and whole families. As the online magazine *Hi-Fi Pig* reported, the fact that it was free-entry made it much more inclusive, "bringing in people from near and far just to see and hear what it was all about."

Stephen Oakes, from Doug Brady Hi-Fi, was impressed. "The show went very well indeed: well attended and well organised and there was a nice, relaxed atmosphere. I think next year will be a bit bigger and even better."



Top-notch: Harbeth's C7ES3

Stately photo session

A historic home near the Harbeth factory provided the ideal backdrop for photography.

Star attractions of the afternoon photo session was the new Super HL5plus along with the rest of the Harbeth line-up. Watch out for the images in forthcoming reviews and Harbeth adverts.



Stands and deliver!



A high-end German dealership have created their own set of specially-designed Harbeth speaker stands.

Located near Kempten in Bavaria, Hifi-Bauernhof (www.hifi.bauernhof.de) are one of the most successful Harbeth dealers in Germany. They saw a need for a rather special stand and spoke to a Harbeth customer who makes furniture; the result is the hifi-bauernhof Reference Stand. "We've never heard the Harbeths sounding so good", says the store's Michael Wick.

Rather unusually, the designs are completely ecological (even down to the 'green' bank financing them); bio-power is used to make them; all the timber is FSC-certified from German trees; all glues and paints are eco-friendly.

Hand-made in Germany, the all-wood stands are light but strong, and claim to produce up to 20 per cent more spl! "Playback is really magic", adds Michael. Retail prices are €800 (€1000 for M40.1) plus shipping.



Harbeth USA's Walter Swanbon with Red Wine Audio's team

A 'made-in-paradise' combination is how one journalist described Harbeth's room at Washington's *Capital Audio Fest*.

In the words of *Stereophile's* Herb Reichert, Room 715 at the Sheraton was 'the place to be'. In his online review of the event, Herb said as the Harbeth/Red Wine Audio room was across the hall from his bedroom, he just couldn't keep away. "Because the people were so nice and the sound was so 'just right,' I kept running in, listening, and taking pictures. However, for these same reasons, the room was always crowded.

"The set-up of Red Wine battery-powered amplifier and the brand-new Harbeth



Room 715 was constantly crowded

Super HL5*plus* (making its USA debut) wowed all who heard it ... it will be no surprise that I was smiling like a kid on his first date, listening to the Sig 57 drive the Harbeth Super HL5*plus* loudspeakers. This was a made-in-paradise combination. Imagine what I heard: extremely smooth yet extremely textured; extremely subtle yet extremely dynamic."

The online forum Audiophilia.com reported: "Harbeth loudspeakers contin-

ue to produce very musical products. No matter what's thrown at Harbeths, they throw music right back. Each octave is in tune with the other, no frequency shifts, nothing jumping out at you. Both rooms were set up carefully, to show

off speakers and electronics at their very best."

Audioasylum.com's reviewer said, "In their room, exhibitor Deja Vu was demonstrating Harbeth's smaller monitors driven by a giant integrated tube amp. This was my first time hearing Harbeth speakers and all the models

Making heavenly sounds in USA's capital city



"New Vintage Audio" revealed to eager audience



Washington dealer Deja Vu Audio ran M30.1s

demonstrated that they carry on the BBC tradition very, very well.

"The Monitor 30.1's are an update of the BBC LS5/9, and sounded very neutral and self-effacing. These are speakers that have been designed to disappear behind music. They do so very well. I would call the Harbeths 'new' vintage audio."



Harbeth the world's best-loved loudspeakers

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