



HISTORY

Redefining BBC designs

Hand-made in England for over 35 years, Harbeth has remained at the forefront of innovation and technology.



RADIAL™

Sonic purity

Only with a Harbeth loudspeaker will you experience the unbeatable clarity which comes from a RADIAL™ drive unit. The exclusive cone material creates that 'being there' experience not possible with cheap, polypropylene cones.



HOME & STUDIO

Broadcast legacy

No wonder that Harbeth is the first-choice loudspeaker for discerning audiophiles and professional sound directors working on hit TV shows, film soundtracks and CD mastering.

DANCING THE HARBETH TUNE IN DENVER



Pic: Stereophile

The eleventh Rocky Mountain Audio Fest welcomed Harbeth's latest model. The Super HL5 *plus* went down a storm at the largest consumer audio and home entertainment show in the United States. The room was constantly packed as eager audiophiles lapped up the musical offering. See page 2.

BRITISH TO THE CORE

MULTI-NATIONAL TAKEOVER HAS CLAIMED ANOTHER FAMOUS NAME

As news emerges that a major European loudspeaker brand is swallowed up by a Chinese conglomerate, it's good to know that Harbeth is British through and through and remains true to those pioneering roots which create its world-class loudspeakers

With most of the original British speaker names now in overseas ownership, Harbeth stands out as the one which is resolutely and steadfastly remaining true to its roots.

"When you're merely part of a huge conglomerate, just a small cog in a

massive wheel, it's hard, if not impossible, to maintain the maverick thinking that created the technological triumphs which became the BBC monitor", says Harbeth's MD Alan Shaw.

Such thinking and design needs the oxygen of creativity which does not

conform to the rigid cost-driven necessity of a soulless corporation.

"Loudspeaker design (and composing music) above all need uninterrupted concentration – both involve many refinements and neither are a linear path: they go in

lurches; none of that lies comfortably with seasonal production runs and needless rehashing. Harbeth is completely master of its own destiny: we know what our customers want, we are good at making it for them and we're here for the very long-term," he adds.



CONTACT

Harbeth Audio is proudly an independent British company, wholly owned by the designer. This gives us complete control over our destiny and allows us to create products that are truly sought after around the world.

Send your stories for inclusion in our regular newsletters to the editor, ideally with high resolution photographs.

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TECH TALK



Cheap, polypropylene cones collapse under the strain of pretending to be piston powerhouses...

VIDEO REVEALS INADEQUACIES OF INDUSTRY-STANDARD SPEAKER CONES

STRENGTH OVER COST

It is little wonder that loudspeakers with mere polypropylene cones can't match the open and dynamic sound of a Harbeth RADIAL™ drive unit. As a new video on the Harbeth User Group clearly shows, shampoo-bottle plastics just don't have enough rigidity.

Stiffness is a key attribute for a loudspeaker cone if it is to produce a good sound, yet as the new video demonstrates, most cones are pretty feeble.

While even the smallest (110mm) RADIAL™ cone will easily withstand the weight

of a house brick (see above), a similar size polypropylene cone simply buckles and is squashed to destruction (see inset).

"The Harbeth cone even withstood the weight of a hefty 4.9kg steel billet", explains Harbeth's MD and de-

signer Alan Shaw.

"It's no accident that the super-clear Harbeth sound is the product of our wonderfully rigid cones. You can think of Harbeth RADIAL™ technology as a reinforced plastic which solves numerous engineering challenges. Unless

cones behave in a piston way across the entire audio range, as RADIAL™ ones do, it's impossible to achieve a really natural sound."

A ten minute audition at your local dealer will reveal all the strengths of the Harbeth drive-unit technology!

PROFESSIONAL AUDIO UPDATE

Mountain show rocks its socks

Audiophiles and the audio press alike reported favourably on Harbeth's exhibit at the Colorado show.

In his report, *Stereophile's* Herb Reichert reported, "Loudspeaker distributor Walter Swanbon and Dwight DiMartino

of Fidelis Distribution are two of audio's super nice-guys and, you know what? Everywhere I see Walter, the room is always filled with beautiful enjoyable music.

"The sound in the Fidelis room continued this tradition. The Harbeth Super HL5plus

speakers were singing happily..."

Harbeth USA agree with this conclusion. "It was a really great show", said Dwight. "Customers just loved the sound the Harbeths were producing and kept coming back for more."

www.fidelisav.com





TV audio guru adores new Harbeths

Internationally-acclaimed Sound Director Robert Edwards (far right with Trevor Butler from Harbeth's marketing team) discovers the definitive hi-fi speakers for the twenty-first century. The award-winning audio guru gives top marks to Harbeth's new model.

"Harbeth's Super HL5plus are simply stunning. There is a real sense of musicality in the delivery", he says. "Here is a sonic Tardis that fills the room space completely, from its modest-sized and lovingly-created enclosures.

"Harbeth should be really proud of its achievement in taking what was already a fabulous-sounding speaker (the SHL5) and further fine-tuning the ingredients: the Super HL5plus is a triumph of Alan's special skills and dedication

in bringing music alive in the room. "This is the definitive hi-fi speaker for the twenty-first century. It really is a classic design brought bang up-to-date. If you were a Michelin chef, you would be given five stars and a rosette!"



WUNDER BONN DEBUT

GERMANY'S AUDIO PRESS WELCOME THE MUSIC FROM HARBETH'S LATEST

Journalists, reviewers and columnists visiting the Harbeth room at the *Westdeutsche HiFi Tage*, staged in Bonn, just couldn't get enough of the Harbeth sound. This hugely popular and highly successful dealer-organised show demonstrated the Germans' level of interest in two-channel home audio and Harbeth's popularity there.

With a mix of open stands, conference suites and hotel rooms taken over for the weekend, enthusiasts flocked to the down-town venue which had attracted a wide range of esoteric brands alongside the more popular high-end marques.

Harbeth Germany's Bernd Hömke was kept busy demonstrating the new Super HLplus to audiophiles and members of the audio press alike. He was joined by Trevor Butler from Harbeth UK's marketing team who met many loyal customers.

"The press really loved the sound of the new model as did our customers", explains Bernd. "The room was crowded from opening time to closing time. We even managed to dem the 'mighty-sounding' P3ESR mini monitor on another system across the room when requested."

High-end dealers HiFi Linzbach in Bonn certainly

know how to attract manufacturers, distributors and end-users. With admission free, the event was packed on both days, despite the distraction of glorious autumn sunshine outside.

"It was wonderful to see so much interest in stereo hi-fi", says Trevor. "Good, honest enthusiasts flocking to the hotel - just like UK events from decades ago. There was interest in everything from the latest digital technology, as well as a clamouring for vinyl and tube amplification plus a resurgence in reel-to-reel tape recorders as a source.

"Visitors took time to listen to the Harbeth-based system, enjoy Bernd's choice of music and then ask about the new SHL5plus which had been unveiled at Munich High End but not heard before at a show in Germany. It received a tremendously enthusiastic welcome."



German audiophiles enjoy the new model (top) as well as the P3ESR mini monitor (centre), while the Harbeth team (Trevor Butler and Bernd Hömke) pose for a photo at the end of a busy and successful weekend in Bonn.

HARBETH FINDS NEW FRIENDS IN NORWAY



The recent audio event in Horton saw Norweigen flock to hear the Harbeth sound.

"Our room was crowded with people all the time, many saying it was among the very few best-sounding rooms; some certain that it *was* the best", said a delighted Torry Haegeland of Harbeth Norway.

During the event he was interviewed by Moiz Audio (one of the country's biggest dealers) who awarded Harbeth 'Best Room at the Show'.

Just a week on from the event and "all over they are talking about the good sound on our stand," adds Torry, "better than those exhibitors with rigs costing many, many times more than ours who visited Harbeth to hear what they were missing!"



One Norweigen customer's Harbeth-based system

SHOW NEWS

2014
国际视听器材展
International Sound & Sight Exhibition

Don't miss Harbeth at the Sight & Sound Exhibition in Singapore. Jimmy Goh of Harbeth Singapore looks forward to welcoming customers old and new to Room 732 at Parkroyal on Kitchener Road between 28-30 November at the event organised by *Sight & Sound Journal*.

SOUND & VISION
THE BRISTOL SHOW

Still several months away, the Bristol Show is a vital date in the UK hi-fi calendar and Harbeth will be out in force.

Come and meet us in Room 326 between 20-22 February 2015 and enjoy the natural sound that Harbeth is renowned for.

"We will shortly be working on our playlists for the show", says Harbeth's Andy Sinden. "Let us know the kind of music you'd like to hear and we will do our best to have it available at the event."

www.bristolshow.co.uk

NEXT TIME...

Next time we will have show reports from Toronto, Moscow High End, the German Analog Forum and Singapore, plus all the Harbeth news from around the globe.

You can read every newsletter ever produced online at www.harbeth.co.uk

TO RUSSIA WITH LOVE

Showtime in Moscow finds a warm welcome for the clean, fresh sound of Harbeth's latest model

What *Hi-Fi's* show in Moscow at the Iris Congress Hotel saw Harbeth's Super HL5*plus* headlining, with the mighty Monitor 40.1 reference playing on demand.

"The reception was ecstatic," proclaims Alex Entin from Harbeth Russia, "we were kept so busy all the weekend."

The team then prepared to head across town to the Moscow

High End Show at the Holiday Inn, Simonovsky for the first dedicated top-end audiophile event in the country.

Harbeth's exhibition room is shown below with the famous dog 'Nipper' (right), who has taken a fancy to Harbeth. The dog-and-gramophone logo was used by several audio recording brands.



NEXT TIME...

FRENCH LOVE AFFAIR WITH ALL-ROUND MONITOR

After living with the Harbeth Monitor 30.1s for six weeks, French online magazine *Ecoutez-Voir* (in English, Listen and See), found a "new masterpiece of balance and skill" and remarked how "they demonstrate an impressive ability to give way to the soundstage".

Reviewer Antoine Gresland found the design captivating, saying "they preserve the warm fluidity that makes them so endearing both with blues, rock, jazz and classical; with the feeling of being in front of a soundstage that is completely free of boxes."

Listening to one of his favourite tracks, 'Life is worth nothing' from the album *I Want Live* by Alain Souchon, he said "the 30.1s play

their monitor role perfectly, without sacrificing the consistency and quality that allow contact with the emotion of the moment. The soundstage is well drawn in space, voice perfectly focused in front; we hear every nuance, and are involved intimately with the feeling of being in front of live music."

Marc Chassonnery, from Harbeth France, said "it is good when a magazine lives with a product for so long rather than making a snap review from a quick, simple listening."



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