

MEETING OF AUDIO MINDS AT CES IN LAS VEGAS

An annual chance to catch-up with customers and end-users finds Harbeth making all the right noises....

Harbeth on song at Nevada show

news
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THE WORLD'S TOP BRANDS COME TOGETHER IN LAS VEGAS EACH YEAR AND HARBETH WAVES THE FLAG



had worked hard with distributor Walter Swanbon, from Harbeth USA, to create a sound which was widely commented on.

"The flagship Monitor 40.1s (pictured), sounded sweet and enticed audiophiles into the room", adds Alan. "There was also the chance to hear the new P3ESRs launched at last year's show, and now available in beautiful rosewood."

"With the P3 as *Absolute Sound* magazine's 'Product of the Year' and *Tone Audio* declaring the M40.1 its 'Speaker Product of the Year', it is little wonder that the Harbeth brand was on so many people's 'must-see/hear' list."

High end brands, including Harbeth, took over the Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas for the quality audio part of the international Consumer Electronics Show. Next door, in the convention centre, new technologies, such as 3D television were unveiled to a worldwide audience and the mass media.

"There was a real buzz of excitement

about the whole place", according to Harbeth boss Alan Shaw. "Technologies such as 3D TV, which strive for higher resolution, play right into our hands as they demand the best possible loudspeakers and that's what we do", he says. "It was also great to see so many of our customers who made the trip."

Clark Williams from Acoustic Sounds

AUDIOPHILES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE FLOCKED TO HEAR THE HARBETH SOUND



HARBETH'S SHOW SOUND PRAISED ON-LINE

ONLINE commentators were quick to describe their euphoria about the Harbeth sound at the CES in Vegas. Blogging for *The Absolute Sound*, Alan Sircom remarked on how Harbeth was "turning in a consistently natural sound" from its flagship M40.1 loudspeakers. "These proved harder to drag myself away from than some speakers costing ten times as much", he told his audience.

"MSB electronics [amps] and Harbeth created another very good combo..." in their room, recognised a reporter on avforum.com. And audiophile engineer Steve Hoffman remarked how the Harbeth 40.1s sounded "great" with his new Nat King Cole vinyl test pressings, available through Clark Williams of Acoustic Sounds (pictured left).





Challenges facing traditional hi-fi

“AUDIO dealers at CES were focussed on the issue of survival, writes Alan Shaw. How, where, and what customers buy, moulds and defines the future of the hi-fi industry. Today’s audio consumers have tremendous economic

power. But used carelessly it shifts the focus away from traditional, real value-for-money products like ours, to gadgets and gizmos. This diverts the industry from real engineering to glitz and glamour. Who really benefits? The core problem is of

insufficient numbers of young people interested in, and willing to pay for, high-end audio.

More worrying, perhaps, is the forecast from leading financial analysts Plimsoll, that one-in-four companies in the UK hi-fi industry could change ownership as a result of the current economic climate.

These are uncertain times for the audio industry. However, Harbeth will continue to promote true value, pioneering technology and real long term satisfaction for the consumer.

The lesson from CES we must all heed is: support your local dealer, buy honest-to-goodness products and allow him to make a reasonable living so that he can be there when you need him most. Otherwise there won’t be a specialist audio industry to pass to our children for their listening pleasure.”

TELL US YOUR NEWS

Please let us have news of what you are doing. In 2010 we want to hear from you with stories and items for the international Harbeth Newsletter.

Wherever in the world you are, whatever Harbeth-related activity you are involved with, please let us know.

Send us a few words and electronic pictures – we like to know what you are up to, and want to share your news with the worldwide Harbeth community.
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YOUNGEST EVER FAN!

NICE things come in small packages, so they say. And one year-old Lucas certainly agrees. His father, Peter Selesnick of Venice Audio in Los Angeles, took this endearing photo with Lucas atop Harbeth cartons. Any other young Harbeth fans out there?



YANKEE JUNKIES GATHER FOR HARBETH EVENING!

Enthusiasts in the USA enjoyed a special evening at their local dealers and got the chance to audition every Harbeth model in the range for a thorough listening test.



and today the group remains a gathering of like-minded music and audio junkies.

There was more than one on the evening who opted for the Harbeth Super HL5, commenting how they “brought the room to life from top to bottom, even if you weren’t in the sweet spot”. High praise indeed.

“It’s great to hear that our fans get together face-to-face to share the joy of music played through quality systems”, says marketing man Trevor Butler “And we’d like to hear about similar groups.”

AT a recent monthly gathering, members of the Southeast Michigan Audio Club (SMAC) were invited by David Michael Audio, of Royal Oak in Michigan, to put the entire Harbeth loudspeaker range through their paces.

They first met in September 2004 as a few audio fanatics began to share their enthusiasm for audio gear and music. From the start, SMAC was deliberately kept informal

