



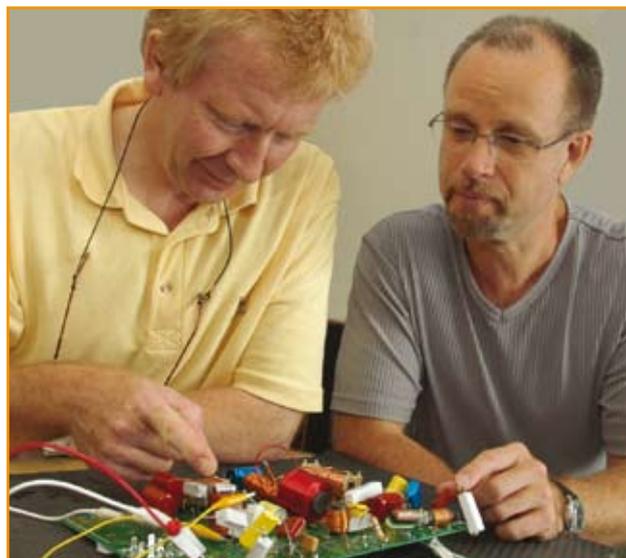
Hand-made in England

www.harbeth.co.uk

US APPROVAL FOR M40.1

HARBETH'S American distributor, Walter Swanbon, came to the UK to listen to the new Monitor 40.1. During his week's visit to the factory he worked alongside Harbeth's Alan Shaw to verify that the new version monitor was completely acceptable to the discerning North

American customers. Walter says "the Harbeth Monitor 40 has become a legend in The States, and unquestionably the M40.1 will do great things - it's a winner and I just hope Alan will keep pace with the orders." The M40.1 is the culmination of a twelve-month research programme. ◀



Alan Shaw and Walter Swanbon work on the M40.1 crossover

HARBETHS CHOSEN TO ARCHIVE THE NATION



A PRESTIGIOUS new studio complex has chosen Harbeth monitors as part of its installation which is central to the archiving of the nation's sound collections.

The British Library moved its Sound Archive Technical Services into spanking new premises earlier this year, behind the British Library's flagship building near London's St Pancras station.

The custom-designed studios and recording channels are a core feature of the new building,

which opened in March 2007.

The full range of Harbeth's handmade professional series of loudspeakers has been deployed, from the diminutive Monitor 20s, the near-field Monitor 30s, and the top-of-the-range Monitor 40s – a three-way reference speaker. They sit proudly in the eleven acoustically-treated rooms which vary from small edit suites to talks'-sized recording studios and training suites.

"We chose Harbeth", explains operations manager Nigel Bewley (pictured above), "because we deliberately didn't want speakers which would 'flatter' the sound. It is vital, in the work we do, to hear the clicks, crackles and other artefacts of a recording."

The range of Harbeth models also provides for a continuity

of sound throughout the entire audio area where thousands of hours of recordings are monitored. "That continuity was very important, too", adds Nigel.

The Sound Archive staff are concerned with access, preservation, restoration and digitisation projects – the mass-dubbing and transfer from older formats into 96kHz, 24bit wav files which are stored on massive capacity hard-disk servers, mirrored at several sites around the UK. Thousands of hours of material need to be dealt with, so it's a long-term project. ◀



Monitor 30 in dubbing channel

See the power of the Harbeth User Group overleaf - members determine new grille type. www.harbeth.co.uk/usergroup

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WORLD'S FIRST MINI MONITOR - AND ALL AN ACCIDENT!

WHILE visiting the BBC's research centre Alan Shaw stumbled across the ancestor of the LS35/A, the famous BBC mini-monitor which evolved into Harbeth's P3 and M20. "The LS3/5A became an audio legend, but it had very humble beginnings within the BBC", says Alan.

Alan spotted the unusual looking speaker in the audio archive. The BBC conceived this scale-model speaker in 1972



Alan with prototype BBC LS3/5

when the only way to predict studio and concert hall acoustics was to build model-size speakers and studios at 1/8th-scale, and multiply the audio frequencies by 8-times.

The array of ultra-sonic transducers on the football-like dome are microphone capsules, used in reverse. Their low mass allowed them to produce frequencies of over 100kHz.

By coincidence, at about this time, the BBC had a pressing need for a shoebox-size speaker for use in small spaces but with the performance of a much larger Grade 1 monitor. With no suitable commercial product available, BBC research engineers were asked to help. One of them jumped on the idea of using that



scale-model speaker (circled above) to play music at normal frequencies to see how it fared. He was astonished at the quality and realised the potential to turn this into a usable studio mini-monitor. In under a week, the first prototype LS3/5 was being evaluated by sound engineers and this was fine tuned into the LS35/A as we know it today. The rest, as they say, is history.

In recent years the Harbeth M20 has become the natural replacement for the little speaker that almost never was. ◀

STAND CLEAR - 3,000 VOLTS COMING YOUR WAY

EVERY Harbeth speaker has 3,000 volts zapped thorough it - thanks to a new computer-controlled magnetiser installed at the factory. Production manager

Andy says: "With a full order book we simply couldn't take the risk that our original magnetiser would keep up with increasing demand for our RADIAL

drive units."

The British-made magnetiser charges the isotropic strontium-barium ferrites with enough energy to last a working life - typically

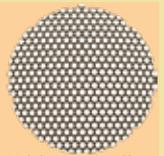
25 years with a Harbeth speaker. ◀



HARBETH LANDMARKS

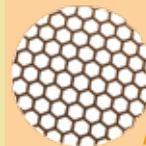
- 1977 - Harbeth founded and launch of HL Monitor speaker
- 1985 - HL Mk 4 announced, using Audax TPX cone
- 1986 - Alan Shaw purchases Harbeth
- 1987 - HL Compact launched
- 1988 - Launch supplier for the revised 11-ohm BBC LS3/5A
- 1988 - HL5 replaces HL4
- 1990 - HL-P3 replaces BBC LS3/5A
- 1990 - 3-year search for the perfect cone material
- 1994 - BBC LS5/12 (the last BBC in-house designed monitor)
- 1995 - HL-P3 becomes 'ES'
- 1995 - HL5ES appears
- 1996 - HL-K6 model launched (hybrid of P3ES & Compact 7)
- 1996 - Xtender, sub-in-stand for HL-P3ES and LS3/5A
- 1997 - Xpression range launched
- 1998 - Pro Monitor 20 and Monitor 40 launched
- 1998 - Professional Monitor 30 launched
- 2000 - P3 in ES-2 form
- 2001 - Super HL5 with Radial drive unit
- 2002 - 25th anniversary celebrations
- 2004 - Teak veneer takes off in Japan again
- 2007 - HL- Compact 7ES-3 launched
- 2007 - Harbeth's 30th anniversary
- 2007 - Signature series with OFC wiring to mark 30th year

Members of the Harbeth on-line user group suggested using the hex-pattern grille from the Compact 7ES-3 on the new M40.1.



Old M40 grille

"It's a very good idea", says Alan Shaw, "and simultaneously solves the issues of maximum acoustic transparency and protection from 'little fingers'. Thank you for an elegantly simple and eminently practicable solution."



M40.1 grille

The new grille is shown (left) with the original (top right).