



Hand-made in England

www.harbeth.co.uk

## VEGAS 40.1 STORM!

LAS VEGAS saw the best turnout ever of Harbeth international distributors at a hi-fi event. Seven key Harbeth partners from around the world made the trip despite travel chaos and snow storms in North America.

Everyone wanted to hear and see the new M40.1 – and they weren't disappointed. "I left with a fist full of orders to keep the factory busy for months to come", says MD and designer Alan Shaw, mindful of the need to increase production capacity.

"It's a world-beater" - that's the conclusion of those who heard the long-awaited M40.1.

### Easily driven

Everyone agreed that even when coupled with a low-power



Alan with Korean distributor Mr Park

amplifier (the 23+23W DNM), the new M40.1 filled the room with sweet, natural sound.

"This only goes to show that the new model is much easier to drive", adds Alan. The original M40 was designed as part of the Harbeth monitoring



TALKING POINT - M40.1s raring to go in Las Vegas

series, a drop-in for BBC's LS5/8 loudspeaker – and therefore inherited all of its characteristics. "For the new model I have revisited the whole design."

### New key parts

The M40.1 has an all-new 12inch bass unit, made in house. Its higher impedance makes it more amplifier-friendly. A new generation RADIAL-2 midrange driver, also with increased impedance, allows a simplified crossover network.

The drier bass is also more suited to domestic rooms, rather than heavily-damped studios as favoured by the old M40.

"This is why the new model is the M40 – point one", says Alan. "It builds on the legacy of the professional Monitor 40 and has a great deal in common, in terms of sound balance and tonality."

Hotel bedrooms are notoriously difficult acoustic environments,

yet the M40.1 became the talking point of the Show, and the room was constantly packed. "I knew we were on to a winner", says Alan, "when I heard the M40.1 being talked about in corridors and competitors' rooms as a 'must hear' speaker!"

 *CES interview with Alan Shaw about the M40.1 on YouTube at: [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)*

### Critical acclaim

*"Made my mouth water", was the reaction from critic Jason Victor Serinus who commented on the M40.1's "immensely detailed, beautifully layered, extremely controlled midrange", and its harmonic richness being "hard to resist".*

*One Editor could not believe his ears. He didn't think a box speaker could produce such a 'box-less' sound. It was, he said, so natural and lifelike it blew away his preconceptions of what could be achieved from a traditional cabinet in the hands of the right designer.*

UK debut of M40.1 at Heathrow High Fidelity Show, Park Inn – 29-30 March 2008. See you there! [www.chestergroup.org](http://www.chestergroup.org)

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## WEBSITE REVAMP ALLOWS FOR ON-LINE REGISTRATION

WORK has been under way to create a new, clean and fresh-look to the website which is viewed around the world by thousands of people every day and, for many, is their first experience of Harbeth.

Designer Ivan Haentjens has created a more modern feel – incorporating stunning visual headers and easier navigation.



Alan features in the new-look website

One new feature is the ability for end-users to register their product on-line. “Customers will be able to help us map our speakers all over the world”, says Ivan, “and by registering they can extend the factory Warranty.”

Specially commissioned photography includes images of the factory because many customers want to know more about the way their Harbeth speakers are made and tested.

“We’ve simplified the structure to aid navigation”, adds Ivan. For example, it’s now easier to choose between the domestic and professional products.

Ivan insisted that Alan features as a personality. “Look at the User Group”, he says. “Alan has built-up a close dialogue with many Harbeth users – now the website has the same personal feel.”

This is not just an upgrade, though. Many hours of research have resulted in whole new sections, such as a detailed history of the company and its foundations in BBC engineering.

“It doesn’t stop here”, says Ivan. “The site is dynamic and will continue to develop. I am always interested to hear from users with suggestions on making it even more accessible.”

## KEEP IN TOUCH THROUGH THE HARBETH USER GROUP

DO NOT forget – the Harbeth User Group is the first place to look for the very latest news about the company and its product. It is also a mine of information about installation techniques, choice of accompanying equipment, design notes as well as the brand’s history, users’ experiences, and access to the designer. The on-line forum is accessible 24-hours a day and is enjoyed by a

growing number of Harbeth owners as well as distributors and dealers who use the area to share information and learn from each other about these great British loudspeakers. Follow the link from [www.harbeth.co.uk](http://www.harbeth.co.uk)



From the User Group

## SMILE, YOU’RE ON CAMERA



A VIDEO recording unit (pictured in use by Trevor Butler) now allows Harbeth to record the dissection of any drive units returned under Warranty and, if necessary, make the findings available.

“Our spares procedure is straightforward”, says Trevor, “and we ensure our distributors follow it at all times because of our commitment under ISO quality assurance.”

Harbeth speakers typically last well over 20 years, and the high build quality means there are very few returns to deal with anyway. More on this next time.

**LISTENERS** know that one key reason Harbeth speakers sound so natural is that they are designed for use at a moderate listening level. This stems from their BBC-design roots where control room monitoring has to be at a sensible level, and must not affect a recording taking place in the next studio. Other manufacturers churn out snap-together boxes optimised for head-banging levels, but they just cannot sound warm and natural at domestic listening levels. A Harbeth, by contrast, always sounds hugely realistic and involving, even at neighbour-friendly levels.