

## SECRETS OF RADIAL CONE TECHNOLOGY REVEALED

After decades of secrecy Harbeth has released details of its unique cone material – the first purpose-designed for loudspeakers.

RADIAL™ has proved to be a world-beating solution to the problems inherent with cones which rely on paper, shampoo-bottle polypropylene or woven material.

Now Alan Shaw has spilled the beans on his secret formula. It's all about ensuring the polymers in the cone material are kept separate so that sounds are not lost as heat from friction between the molecules.

"Turning sound into heat is the worst scenario for a hi-fi listener", admits Alan. "Because you can never change the heat back into sound – it is lost forever."

RADIAL™ is a complex blend with a special ingredient to prevent the plastic becoming waxy with a 'rubbery' feel.

You can see the effect by squeezing any empty polypropylene container found around the home. The highly stiff RADIAL™ cone produces a long, clean decay time – just as in the concert hall. Conventional cone materials, on the other hand,

make the walls sound cotton-wool covered – "an acoustic fog", says Alan.

Take a single piano note as an example. With a Harbeth RADIAL™ cone the note will sound realistic, as if in the concert hall with the actual piano being played.

However, when played through a speaker with conventional cones, the note dries out prematurely as the decay is shortened. With a woven cone there is another problem from unwanted ringing as the note dies away. ◀

## CONCERN OVER HEALTH OF AUDIO PROFESSIONALS

TV and radio engineers know that harsh treble sounds or aggressive middle frequencies lead to headaches, nausea, and tiredness.

In today's cost-cutting climate and the clamour for style, studio acoustics and the careful selection of monitor speakers are perceived as an unnecessary expense. Modern studios have glass walls and speakers which aggravate the lively-sounding acoustic environment. Previously they would have had panels in, or fixed to, the walls to absorb sounds.

Harbeth is part of a British audio industry which created a class of loudspeaker still famous for its easy-on-the-ear sound which ensures it is fatigue-free. This principle was adopted by broadcasters.

On a recent tour of studios Harbeth's MD Alan Shaw couldn't believe his ears. "How staff can be subjected to such awful acoustics beats me," he says. "We seem to have un-learned all that we once knew – that hard-sounding speakers, in hard rooms are hard work on the ears."

He adds "there really is no excuse for exposing sound staff to a living hell from harsh, aggressive loudspeakers. I could not work there for five



## HARBETH AT SCHOOL

Harbeth loudspeakers have been chosen by a school equipping its new media studies suite. The ecstatic head of department opted for professional studio speakers to obtain



the best possible sound. This makes the set-up as realistic as possible for the students who may use Harbeths in a commercial environment. "We are delighted to have been able to help the school out", says Trevor Butler. "This is another audience appreciating the ultra-pure sound of Harbeth speakers. ◀



## Video streams on HUG

The on-line Harbeth User Group is the place to find a new series of exclusive interviews with Harbeth's Alan Shaw. The first film takes a look at the Harbeth R&D centre, located deep in the Sussex countryside.

Marketing man Trevor Butler quizzes Alan on a range of loudspeaker design issues and the Harbeth philosophy. See it on-line at the Designer's Notebook section of the Harbeth website...

[www.harbeth.co.uk](http://www.harbeth.co.uk)



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## MAGAZINE UNANIMOUS IN PRAISE OF HARBETH M40.1

INDIVIDUAL reviewers are often ecstatic about the fabulously clean and smooth Harbeth sound, but rarely has a whole magazine's staff endorsed a product. But that's what has happened now with the new flagship M40.1.

"Everybody in Hong Kong has been waiting for these new Monitor 40.1s and the factory kept its promise of

clearing the back orders – some customers have been waiting over a year", says Peter Chan from Harbeth in Hong Kong. "Now we have stock it's time to introduce the speaker to the reviewing community. And who better than our friends at *Audio Technique*.

"The original Monitor 40 has a legendary following in the Far East and I know that Alan felt a duty to his customers that this long awaited new-generation M40.1 lived up to everyone's expectations.

"In the magazine's 30-year history literally thousands of loudspeakers have been reviewed, but this is the



first time anyone can remember that *all* the staff have been united in their praise for one product – the new Harbeth Monitor 40.1.

Senior magazine staff Lincoln and Rebecca tested the speakers in their new listening room and are pictured (above) with Henry and Peter Chan from Harbeth Audio in Hong Kong.

The magazine's reviewer Simon Ho has long been a fan of the Harbeth sound. A user of both the HL5 and Compact 7, he says they gave him 'a feverish experience for a long time'. Now

he's praised the M40.1s for their handling of vocals, strings and orchestral works. "The tonal characteristic is so incredible", he says, "that I can't imagine where to find anything to compete with them. The sound is incredibly open and airy - transparent as glass." For him, the new model mixes classical Harbeth with new technology to create an 'excellent and perfect speaker system'.

The speakers will be at the Hong Kong High End Audio Visual Show and are bound to be star of this important international event. ◀



## NOW IN PERU, TOO

Harbeth is delighted to announce the appointment of a new South American dealer. **Audio Studio America** will be distributing across Peru. Owner Amir Ramirez operates the largest high-end audio store in the country and is perfectly placed to handle the prestigious British speaker brand. "I've always loved the sound of Harbeths", says Amir, "and feel there's a big role for them in Peru." Among his customers are the National Radio Company, Parliament House and the Philharmonia Orchestra. "We have a dedicated demo room for all our products", he adds. "And are delighted to add Harbeth." [www.audiostudioamerica.com](http://www.audiostudioamerica.com) ◀

News arrives from Harbeth USA that the first shipment of M40.1s was sold in its entirety inside a week. The new model is clearly a winner in the States and new stocks have had to be shipped.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS - The Harbeth factory will be closed between 1st and 5th September, 2008. Re-opening 8th Sept.

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