

A WARM WELCOME FOR NEXT MINI MONITOR FROM THE BRAND BUILT ON BBC LOUDSPEAKER HERITAGE

Still in the design stage, but an evolution of the P3 monitor will see a Radial™ cone used in the P3ESR when it enters production later this year

news
www.harbeth.co.uk

Mini Monitor prototype revealed at CES

ALAN SHAW WITH PROTOTYPE P3ESR AT CES IN LAS VEGAS AND (BELOW) THE DEMO ROOM

VISITORS to January's CES in Las Vegas were treated to the first glimpse of a successor to the diminutive Harbeth HL-P3, itself a consumer version of Harbeth's M20 professional broadcast monitor.

Although conceived for studio use, Harbeth's smallest speaker rapidly became popular with audiophiles with smaller rooms and who valued midrange purity and superbly stable, well-defined stereo imaging. The bass extension and ultimate loudness has always been exceptional for the shoebox size cabinet.

While still at an early stage, the P3ESR is set to enter production later in the year. Its main drive unit will use Harbeth's proprietary Radial-2™ polymer cone material.

Harbeth owner Alan Shaw (pictured holding his new baby), says that a design goal was to match the low-frequency response and tuning of the earlier version.

The new speaker will be easier to drive. "It is very much an evolution",

adds Alan. "Things move on and it is time to incorporate the Radial-2™ bass-midrange unit into our ever popular mini monitor which is loved the world over."

Initially the new model will be sold in cherry and rosewood veneers, and Harbeth is reconsidering a black finish which is popular with audiophiles in several markets.

Those who heard the per-production sample in Vegas commented on the beautiful woodwork which drew considerable attention in the Santos rosewood finish pictured here. Visitors commented on the astonishing bass and the remarkably clean upper-midrange and treble. "It sounds like a Harbeth Monitor 40.1 only in miniature – a speaker you'll never tire of listening to", said Harbeth USA's Walter Swanbon. "Audiophiles everywhere will love it."

Harbeth say the first shipment is expected by the summer and its order book is already filling up!



HARBETH REGAINS TOP SPOT IN JAPAN

THE LISTENING panel at *Stereo Sound*, the prestigious Japanese audio magazine, has voted the Harbeth Compact 7ES3 top place in the medium-price speaker category in its latest edition (Dec '08). Harbeth's Alan Shaw comments, "It's incredible to think that 20 years after the original Compact was voted Number One in *Stereo Sound*, its grandson, the Compact 7ES3, is back again in pole position. Thank you very much to all our friends in Japan for their continuing support. Once again British craftsmanship and traditional values win the day – literally."



Just what makes the perfect BBC mini monitor?

Broadcasters need top-quality monitors even when space is tight, but how to avoid the compromises which come with size...

muster with the reference sample M20 in the BBC's anechoic chamber. (A video of this will soon be available to watch online.)

"Mini Monitors capture the imagination", Alan feels.

"It is no coincidence that vocals take on a vivid presentation with a mini monitor which is the size of a human's head."

Alan was determined that his new design would be a clear improvement on the original BBC units.

"I have great respect

for the fact that the BBC actually invented the mini monitor, but technology has moved on", adds Alan.

"The result is the P3ESR which sounds like its bigger, Radial-2™ brothers, but in miniature."

While the BBC worked with off-the-shelf drive units Harbeth has re-designed the mini monitor's core using its unique Radial-2™ technology. "Just imagine if Radial-2™ had been available to Harbeth's founder, Dudley Harwood, when he created the LS3/5A during his BBC days!"

“ There is a certain magic about a speaker which is the size of a human's head... ”

ALANA SHAW

WRITERS WRITE...

Harbeth reviewed

"Long live the king..." is the headline in *The Absolute Sound* (USA) magazine (Feb 09). In the article, legendary reviewer Robert E. Greene raves about Harbeth's Monitor 40.1. He comments on the new speaker's ability to create a sound which has 'no box character at all' and he is in awe to 'observe images that are suspended with utter independence of speaker location'. In his glowing praise, golden-ears Green goes on to remark on how, tonally, the M40.1 'shares the fatigue-free, very smooth and carefully contoured response of the Harbeth Monitor 40', the model's predecessor – a worldwide audio legend. The reviewer is in no doubt that the M40.1 'sets a new world standard'. As he puts it, "many are called, but few are chosen".

TECH TALK

The *Designer's Notebook* section of the Harbeth website now contains a collection of unique video clips.

These give an insight into the company and the work which goes into making its stunning products. Under the heading '*Formative years*',

Alan Shaw talks about the DIY speakers he was making during the early 1970s, all totally influenced by BBC monitors.

'*Adjusting the crossover*' gives, for the first time, a fly-on-wall expose of a speaker designer at his dedicated and time consuming work.

Further videos will be added, so keep looking at the website www.harbeth.co.uk

LAS VEGAS SHOW – REPORT 01/09

HARBETH was well represented at CES in Las Vegas. USA distributor Fidelis was demonstrating at the Alexis Park, home of The High End event, while across town at The Venetian Harbeth was part of the *Acoustic Sounds* demonstration.

With a pair of M40.1s, driven by an Accuphase integrated amplifier, taking centre stage the result was described as a "full, warm and inviting sound". With the combination of Harbeths powered by Luxman Synergistic, one commentator had to say "wow".

"This room had it all – great sound that just made you relax and smile", was the view of visitors. Bloggers commented that the sound was "very musical, relaxing and holographic". As far as they were concerned there was only one thing to do "... relax and enjoy the music".

Rick Becker of *Enjoy the Music.com* website was also impressed by the prototype P3ESR, calling it "an eminently listenable loudspeaker; the kind of speaker you want to listen to all day long, day in and day out".

Harbeth are acknowledged experts at refining traditional methods and sticking to their BBC design roots. "They have kept on target for people who value listening to music more than the equipment on which it is played", blogs Rick.

The event was an undoubted success according to the Harbeth crew. As this is such a key event in the industry's calendar we can expect an even higher Harbeth profile at CES next year.

Visitors saw stand solutions from the well respected *Skylan* and (pictured below) the stunningly beautiful, hand-crafted real wood stands from the New Hampshire *Resonant Wood* workshop.

MONITOR 40.1, IN THE VEGAS DEM ROOM, ATOP A CRAFTED STAND FROM RESONANTWOODS.COM

