

# AUDIO UNLIMITED

## News and Announcements

October 2006



It has been a very busy month at Audio Unlimited with the CEDIA show in Denver, a visit from the legendary Jacques Mahul (Founder of Focal/JM Lab) and our preparations for the Rocky Mountain Audio Fest.



Above: Mr. Mahul's DB4 (can you say "James Bond?") and C-Type Jaguar.  
Upper Right: Mr. Mahul (far left) visits our showroom.

The CEDIA show, which traditionally focuses on home theater and custom installation, had a remarkable presence from what many would think of as our premier 2-channel lines. Present were BAT, Boulder, Focal, Levinson, Tannoy, Wilson, and more with a full array of gear and lavish displays. Speaking of displays, I think it is safe to say that the golden age of video is finally upon us with more remarkable video images than I could count.

We were honored to be visited by the renowned Jacques Mahul, founder of Focal/JM Lab. Jacques is an amazingly pleasant and friendly gentleman with a passion for both audio and cars. He has recently completed the loving 3-year restoration of an Aston Martin DB4, which he did himself-this is our kind of guy! Did I mention that he actually drives these vintage motoring icons?! Getting back to audio, we learned a great deal from Jacques and received some warm compliments regarding our facility and dedication to good sound.

Now we are turning our attention to the Rocky Mountain Audio Fest. We are planning yet another over the top series of displays. We will be the largest exhibitor at the show for the 3rd year running with 5 rooms containing 8 systems. The jewels of the show will be Wilson matched with Boulder and Focal matched with BAT. We will also be featuring the launch of several new products and plenty of products that have never been seen in this area before.

## 2006 AUDIO FEST SHOW GUIDE

Download and print a full page pdf of this show guide on our website [www.audiounlimiteddenver.com](http://www.audiounlimiteddenver.com)

### Equipment Raffle

Register to win Tara Labs, JM Labs/Focal and ClearAudio gear!

### ★ Blanca Peak Mezzanine Level

- 1 Focal/JM Labs Nova Utopia Be Loudspeakers  
BAT VK-600M SE Mono Amplifiers  
BAT VK-51SE Preamp  
BAT VK-D5SE/Superpak CD Player  
BAT VK-P10SE Phono Preamp  
Clearaudio Maximum Solution Turntable  
Clearaudio TQ-1 Tonearm  
Clearaudio Goldfinger Cartridge  
Finite-Elemente Racks  
Running Springs Jaco Conditioner  
Running Springs Duke2 Conditioner (New)  
Tara Labs 0.8 Cables
- 2 Focal/JM Labs L&R Utopia Loudspeakers  
BAT VK-250 Amplifier  
BAT VK-31 Preamp  
BAT VK-D5SE CD Player  
Running Springs Jaco Conditioner  
Tara Labs Vector Cables

### ★ Maroon Peak Mezzanine Level

- 1 Wilson Audio Maxx 2 Loudspeakers  
Boulder 2060 Amplifier  
Boulder 2010 Preamp  
Boulder 2020 DAC  
Boulder 2008 Phono Preamp  
Accuphase DP-78 CD/SACD Player  
Clearaudio Master Solution Turntable  
Graham Phantom Tonearm  
Koetsu Onyx Cartridge  
Finite-Elemente Racks  
Running Springs Dmitri (NEW)(Premier)  
Tara Labs 0.5 Cables (New)(Premier)
- 2 Wilson Audio WATT/Puppy 8 Loudspeakers (NEW)  
Boulder 1060 Amplifier  
Boulder 1012 DAC/Preamp  
Accuphase DP-57 CD Player  
Running Springs Duke2 Power Conditioner (NEW)  
Tara Labs Air 1 Cables

### ★ Tower Room #7209

- Wilson Audio Sophia 2  
Aesthetix Atlas Amplifier (NEW)(Premier)  
Aesthetix Calypso Preamp  
Aesthetix Rhea Phono Preamp  
Pathos Endorphin CD Player (NEW)(Premier)  
Pathos TT Anniversary Integrated Amplifier (NEW)  
Clearaudio Champion Magnum Turntable  
Running Springs Jaco Conditioner (NEW)  
Tara Labs Air 2 Cables

### ★ Tower Room #7212

- 1 Focal/JM Lab Chorus 800V Series Loudspeakers (NEW)(Premier)  
Arcam FMJ P7 Amplifier  
Arcam FMJ AV9 Surround Processor  
Arcam DV-137 DVD Player (NEW)(Premier)  
Dwin HD Plasma TV  
Richard Gray Power Conditioner  
Tara Labs Spectrum Cables
- 2 Tannoy Prestige "Mini-Autograph" Loudspeakers (NEW)  
Arcam Solo Mini System/iPod Link

### ★ Tower Room #7213

- Focal/JM Lab Alto Utopia Be Loudspeakers  
Mark Levinson No 436 Mono Amplifiers  
Mark Levinson No 326S Preamp  
Mark Levinson No 390S CD Player  
Mark Levinson No 51 Ltd Edition Reference Media Player (NEW)  
Kuzma Stabi Reference Turntable  
Airtight PC1 Cartridge (NEW)  
Running Springs Jaco Conditioner  
Running Springs Duke2 Conditioner (NEW)  
Tara Labs The Two Cables

### North American Premiers

- Aesthetix Atlas Amplifier  
Focal 800V Series Speakers  
Pathos Endorphin CD Player  
Running Springs Dmitri Conditioner  
Tara Labs 0.5 Cables  
Arcam DV-137 DVD Player

★ ask about deals on show demos

# PRODUCT NEWS

## ACCUPHASE

[www.accuphase.com](http://www.accuphase.com)

The DP-57, which was recently the subject of a fabulous review and got the cover shot in the December '05 *The Absolute Sound*, has just received their coveted "Digital Product of the Year" award. This CD player represents quite the deal at \$4,900. As good as the DP-57 is, the DP-78 is even better and what we are happy to call the best single box CD player available today. This \$10,000 CD/SACD player is a replacement for the flagship DP-85 (\$16K) and is an advancement of the DP-77 design.

The T-1000 tuner at \$4,500 is our new reference and the standard for all other tuners to aspire to beat. The T-1000 is a technological tour-de-force featuring a proprietary tuning circuit that combines analog and digital in a way simply never thought of before.

## AESTHETIX

[www.musicalsurroundings.com/aesthetix.html](http://www.musicalsurroundings.com/aesthetix.html)

New from Aesthetix is the Atlas hybrid amplifier which will see its debut at the '06 Audio Fest in our Aesthetix room. This 200wpc beauty is capable of driving most any speaker load and features zero global feedback in a fully differential design with 6SL7 tubes in the gain stage. Sharing the same chassis design and quality of construction as the Rhea and Calypso, recipients of the "2004 Product of the Year" award from *The Absolute Sound*, this amp is a bargain at \$7995 and a perfect mate for this duo or any other system. It is very exciting to think that it is now possible to build a full Aesthetix system from phonostage to amplifier.

## ARCAM

[www.aslgroup.com](http://www.aslgroup.com)

Arcam has just released two exciting new additions to their DiVA range. The all new DV137 (\$1995) is the company's latest DVD player and incorporates not only SACD and DVD Audio playback, but also picture and sound quality that will delight even the most critical enthusiast. Using the very latest Zoran Vaddis 888s, the picture from the DV137 is quite simply stunning. The Zoran's motion adaptive de-interlacing techniques mean pictures are pure, clean and startlingly detailed. For dual layer discs, extended buffer memory means no pause during the layer change of DVD's, one of the most annoying byproducts of DVD playback. On the audio side, precision clocking, Wolfson 8740 DAC's and low noise power supplies ensure CD playback is of the highest standard for a DVD player in this price range. The AVR350 (\$2,499) receiver is the best sounding receiver yet from Arcam, delivering real audiophile sound quality for movies and music. It features two-way HDMI switching plus HDTV compatible component/RGB switching, 7 x 100 watts per channel power output (all channels driven simultaneously) real world power, rare in a receiver, and a second room/zone output with audio and video plus RS232 for system control. The AVR350 will set a new standard for receivers.

## BALANCED AUDIO TECHNOLOGY

[www.balanced.com](http://www.balanced.com)

The BAT VK-42SE balanced preamp, introduced at the '05 CES, is a really stunner. The VK-42SE is a solid-state unit with a design derived from that of the flagship VK-51SE, featuring Vishay resistors, oil-filled capacitors, SUPER-PAK and a fully balanced MOSFET gain stage and more, it is a bargain at \$6,495 with the remote option. Either of these preamps paired with the VK-250 BAT-PAK at \$6,500 or the VK-600SE w/Super-Pak at \$12,000, makes for a world-class system at a very reasonable price. Check out the April/May '05 issue of *TAS* and the November '05 issue of *Stereophile* for rave reviews of the fabulous VK-55 amplifier (\$3,995) and VK-3iX preamplifier (\$2,495). This is a truly affordable tube system that can challenge far more expensive opponents.

## BOULDER AMPLIFIERS

[www.boulderamp.com](http://www.boulderamp.com)

Our room at the '05 Audio Fest served as the official introduction of the 850 mono amps paired with the 1012 DAC/Preamp. For the '06 Audio Fest, the 850s will be joined by the new 810 lineage.

The 810 lineage is a scaled down version of the acclaimed 1010 (\$12,500) and features a similar circuit topology in a dual mono configuration. This gem features 4 line level inputs, dual main outputs, Boulder Link, full-function remote control, state-of-the-art construction, and most importantly, the Boulder sound. Best of all, the price has come in over \$1000 lower than expected at \$6900 making for an even more amazing value.



The 850 mono amps borrow much of the circuit topology of their big brothers at a cost of only \$5000 per chassis, amazing when you consider that the next mono up is \$18,500 per chassis! They feature the classic Boulder design and pack serious punch with 200 watts per chassis and the current to drive tough loads. Cosmetics and build quality are 100% Boulder, meaning no corners will be cut. They feature a unique compact footprint but unlike the majority of today's "affordable" offerings, are analogue designs, not class D switching amplifiers.

Of course, the 2000 Series electronics are still the best at any price and a perfect match for any loudspeaker. If you are looking for the best attainable performance, the 2000 Series is your answer. For something a bit more economical but still leaving most everything else in the dust, the 1000 Series is the way to go. And for giant killing performance coupled with truly affordable price points, the 800 Series is beyond compare. Look for a new 800 Series product every 3-4 months and remember, there is nothing built like a Boulder!

## CLEARAUDIO

[www.clearaudio.de](http://www.clearaudio.de)

Lots of great new products have debuted from Clearaudio this year. The flagship Statement table featuring a fluid damped gyroscopic level system, magnet isolated drive system, computer-controlled motor that samples 7,000 times per minute and an arm that is simply off the charts. This masterpiece of German engineering is the ultimate in analog reproduction and worth every cent of the lofty \$100K that it commands. Another statement product is the new \$8,000 Goldfinger cartridge, the holder of multiple patents, that is capable of an unheard of 100db dynamic range (that is digital territory!) and has an effortless, sweet sound to it. The ultimate record cleaner award goes to the Double Matrix, this amazing machine is fully automated and cleans both sides of the record at the same time! On the more affordable end of the spectrum, the Champion Magnum table features a 70mm platter with double plinths sandwiching a piece of aluminum and a special carbon fiber Satisfy tonearm. A bargain at \$3500 with the arm and offers serious bang for the buck. The revolutionary Ambient table, which combines the multi-layer wood plinth with aluminum skins first used in the Anniversary table, features a 40mm bearing, outboard motor with integrated Smart speed controller that features a digital readout, and the Satisfy carbon fiber arm at \$4500. The new entry level Smart Matrix record cleaner is easily the best under \$1000, featuring top quality parts and German engineering.

## FOCAL/JM-LAB

[www.focal-fr.com](http://www.focal-fr.com)

We will host the US premier of the new Chorus 800 V series at the '06 Audio Fest. This line ranges from the 806 V at \$800 to the floor standing 836 V at \$2800 with an equally affordable matching center channel and subwoofer for those interested in multi-channel. The 800 V represents a new way of thinking about affordable speaker design. It first starts with technology from the new TNC aluminum-magnesium tweeter based on the famous Be tweeter, to the heavily braced cabinet and extensive crossover. It ends with design, famous Parisian design house Pineau & Le Porcher were contracted to conceive a design that anyone would be proud to put in their home. The end result is an affordable range of speakers that look as good as they sound, not those cheap boxes full of even cheaper drivers that are so common in today's market.

There have been two new additions to the Profile range. The 928 at \$5500 is a scaled up version of the 918 featuring larger bass drivers and crossover upgrades. The IW908 at \$1995 per pair is an exciting in-wall version of the 908 monitors and one of the best in-wall speaker systems currently available. There is also a new finish option for the Profile line called Diamond Black, a high-tech organic glass finish that redefines the standard of quality in gloss black finishes and took 6 months of engineering development to apply to the complex Profile cabinet. Meanwhile, the Utopia sales remain very strong, especially the unique L&R and the Nova (the recipient of the coveted *Stereophile* "Speaker of the Year" award). For those wanting near Utopia performance on a tighter budget, the 1007 Be monitor at \$4000 and the 1027 Be at \$7500 offer Utopia driver materials coupled to less elaborate motor assemblies in a more conventional cabinet, yet maintain near Utopia levels of finish. The Electra 1000 Series really is the next best thing to a Utopia, eclipsing many speakers at double the price.

## KUZMA

[www.kuzma.si](http://www.kuzma.si)

Founded in 1982 by mechanical engineer Franc Kuzma, KUZMA Ltd is committed to a no compromise design philosophy and the finest in analog sound reproduction. Easy to set up and use, the Stabi S, Stabi Reference, Stabi XL and Stogi series of tonearms range from a very affordable \$1,750 to \$19,500. The Stabi Reference table fitted with the Stogi Airline tangential arm enjoys a *Stereophile* Class A rating.

## MARK LEVINSON

[www.marklevinson.com](http://www.marklevinson.com)

Audio Unlimited is excited to announce our partnership with this icon of American high-end audio. Since 1972, Mark Levinson has been designing and building the some of the best electronic components in the world. In fact, many of their components defined the audio industry as we know it now. Over 30 years later, they are still going strong and continue to define the future of high-end with such innovations as the No. 40 Media Console and the No. 51 Limited Edition Media Player. The No. 51 DVD/CD Player (\$18,500) was designed for reference quality playback of DVDs and CDs. It is not a universal player and therefore does not compromise on the playback of DVDs or CDs. The construction is similar to that of the other reference level products in the line and is simply the best product available of its type.

Please visit the Levinson website for more information on these fine products and check out these recent The Absolute Sound articles: December/January '04 review of the No. 436 by Anthony Cordesman, "the kind of amp you can buy and forget for years. You can trust it to disappear in your system". January '06 review of the 326S by John Atkinson, "the No. 326S offers all I want from a preamplifier. Recommended.". April/May '06 review of the 326S and 432 by Robert Harley, "The No. 432 is fully competitive with the best amplifiers Mark Levinson has produced." & "The No. 326S preamplifier rendered me slack-jawed."

## PATHOS

[www.pathosacoustics.com](http://www.pathosacoustics.com)

Based on the 35wpc TT Integrated, the recipient of a Stereophile "A" rating and the subject of many rave reviews the world over, the \$6700 TT Anniversary is now available. The Anniversary features the addition of a balanced input, special volume control circuit and a full function remote control. This already awesome package has been taken to the next level and don't let the low power output fool you, this amp will drive all but the most inefficient of speakers. On the other end of the price/performance spectrum is the INPOL2 reference integrated amplifier that could easily be called the World's best integrated without stretching the truth. This amp was the proud recipient of the 2005 CES Design and Engineering Award and features an advanced progression of the unique INPOL circuit outputting 50wpc. It is not inexpensive at \$9900 but when you consider that it takes on \$20K separates with ease, it is certainly a deal. In their June 2006 issue, What Hi-Fi? writes: "It takes an awesome amplifier to make a \$9900 price tag look reasonable, this is one of them". Keep in mind that Pathos performance starts at only \$2750 with the ClassicOne Mk III.

To be found in our RMAF room 7209 is the premier of the new Endorphin CD player, retailing at \$8000 and joining the elite ranks of the industry's finest CD Players. The Endorphin is 100% Pathos in both the sound and build quality. This means that it looks gorgeous and sounds as good as it looks! This innovative top-loader features upsampling, 120db dynamic range, dual mono power supplies, exotic materials, and the hybrid gain stage that is responsible for the amazing sound that Pathos has become famous for. Check out the rave review in the August 2006 Hi-Fi News.

## RUNNING SPRINGS

[www.runningspringsaudio.com](http://www.runningspringsaudio.com)

We are excited to announce the premier of the new Dmitri in our RMAF Maroon Peak room. This line conditioner represents the ultimate expression of the Running Springs design combined with a cost-no-object approach. It is destined to be the ultimate conditioner. Additionally, RSA conditioners have been chosen by Steve Hoffman for his mastering studio, "In my mastering studio the Running Springs Danielle liberates the music, it's GREAT." This masters latest work was "Morph the Cat" by Donald Fagen.

## TANNOY

[www.tannoy.com](http://www.tannoy.com)

Two new Prestige range speakers have been released by Tannoy. The first is the Glenair, which utilizes a newly introduced 15" Dual Concentric drive unit that is wrapped in a gorgeous American Cherry cabinet. This speaker is a perfect match for tubes thanks to a high sensitivity yet will also work well with high-powered solid-state. The second model is the GRF Mini, this is an \$1800 monitor that stands 14" tall and features a 4 1/2" Dual Concentric drive unit with an Alnico magnet structure and paper cone. Also found in this little gem is a top of the line crossover, 99.99% silver wiring and world-class cabinet craftsmanship with veneer inlays. The GRF Mini is a tribute to Tannoy's founder, Guy R Fountain and his original GRF Autograph of over 50 years ago. This monitor has an amazingly solid bottom end and a massive soundstage in a compact package. Also new from Tannoy are various Dual Concentric in-wall and in-ceiling speakers to bring the Tannoy sound to every room in your house.

## TARA LABS

[www.taralabs.com](http://www.taralabs.com)

The 0.5 is here! This hot new cable will be debuted in our RMAF Maroon Peak room. The 0.5 will retail at \$6600 with the latest HFX ground station and offer much of the flagship Zero's performance in a cable costing only half as much. While the Zero at \$12,800 still remains the cable by which all others are judged, the other ISM line (starting at \$1200) offerings are equally untouchable at their price points. The review of the RSC Air 1 in the September issue of TAS has been just one of many great reviews that Tara has recently received, the glowing recommendation by HP is just icing on the cake.

## WILSON AUDIO

[www.wilsonaudio.com](http://www.wilsonaudio.com)

We are very excited to have Wilson Audio as our newest line. Wilson's commitment to sonic perfection with their latest line of loudspeakers is the perfect fit with our ideals at Audio Unlimited. Our feature event at the Audi Fest this year will be our show debut of Wilson Audio in the Maroon Peak room with the Maxx 2 and the WATT/Puppy 8, both on Boulder systems with Tara cables. Additionally, the Sophia 2 will be featured in room 7209 with a full Aesthetix system.

The Alexandria X2 is the fruition of a blank-slate approach to creating a new flagship loudspeaker with a cost no object approach. It represents the best that Wilson is able to produce utilizing only the finest hand selected parts. It is a true statement product that will not be outdone for many years to come and is fully upgradeable as are all Wilson products.

The MAXX Series 2 benefits from the insights gained through the creation of the Alexandria, including an all-new cabinet, drivers and crossover. While it remains faithful to the original in concept, every area of performance has been improved.

The WATT/Puppy System 8 is the newest creation from Wilson. This latest incarnation of the best selling over \$10,000 loudspeaker in history has been taken to a significantly higher level of performance. It is best to think of this speaker as a mini-MAXX as it has more design elements in common with the MAXX Series 2 than the System 7 that it replaces.

The Sophia Series 2 represents the ultimate value in the Wilson line. When Sophia was introduced in 2001, it quickly knocked the audio world on its ear, collected rave reviews in all sectors of the audio press, and achieved a cult status. Through significant effort, the Sophia has been taken to the next level and continues to stun the audiophile community, just as the original did. As with the rest of Wilson's newest offerings, every aspect of performance has been significantly enhanced.

Wilson also offers a full suite of special application products ranging from the Watch series of theater speakers to the Duette, which is a reference monitor designed for difficult applications. The Duette makes it possible to place a reference level speaker on a bookshelf and against a wall. This is the perfect office or bedroom speaker. In addition to new product development, Wilson is committed to keeping their existing products current. There are upgrades to bring almost all existing Wilson Audio models up to current specifications.

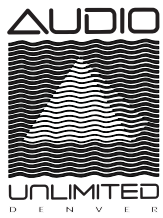
Please call to learn more about these wonderful products or to make an appointment for an audition in our showroom. Audio Unlimited is the authorized Wilson Audio dealer within the Denver Region. For enquiries outside of this area, please contact your local Wilson Audio dealer.



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**WILSON**  
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**PATHOS**



TARALABS

## Audio Unlimited Authorized Line List

Accuphase, Acoustic Energy Reference, Aesthetix, Air Tight, Arcam, ASC, Balanced Audio Technology, Basis, Benz Micro, Boulder Amplifiers, Cambridge Audio, Chang Lightspeed, Clearaudio, Dream Vision, Dwin, Dynavector, EAR, Esoteric Audio, Finite Elemente, Grado Labs, Graham, JM Lab/Focal, Koetsu, Kuzma, Magnum Dynalab, Mark Levinson, Matrix Audio, Nagra, Pathos Acoustics, PS Audio, Running Springs Audio, Shelter, Spondor, Tannoy, Tara Labs, Totem Acoustic, Transrotor, Wilson Audio, YBA *and more.*