



# AUDIO UNLIMITED

## News and Announcements

January 2007

### JAPAN TOUR

#### COURTESY OF AIRTIGHT ELECTRONICS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

by John Barnes

On October 8th of 2006 my wife Pam and I were guests of Airtight Electronics for an 8 day tour of Japan. Audio Unlimited has proudly represented Airtight for 18 years longer than any other US dealer and were honored that Muira-San of Airtight and Arturo Manzano of Axis Distribution acted as our guide and hosts.

We toured Oksaka, Kyoto, Shirahana and Tokyo. Although the cities are crowded, the cleanliness and efficiency is truly amazing. The countryside is very beautiful with sparkling rivers, rice paddies and orchards overlooked by incredible forests of bamboo, pine and other beautiful flora. In Kyoto we walked thru palatial gardens around the famed Golden Temple amid tourists as well as Japanese maidens in traditional kimono attire. Most impressive was the Sanjusangen-Do Temple that houses 1,001 life size gold statues of the Buddhist goddess of mercy, the 1,000 armed kannon. This 800 year old temple is a world heritage site and is held in reverence by all who quietly walk thru its incredible length and surrounding gardens.

Muira-San entertained us at several banquets encompassing sushi, Kyoto and Kobe beef as well as tempura and every type of seafood known and unknown. My only difficulty was developing a taste for cold shredded octopus with okra and mint leaves! Our mantra became, "too much sake".

Shirahama is Kansai's leading beach resort and Muira-San escorted us there to his private spa hotel overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The national hot springs baths are perfect before and after meals! Japanese service, food and the transportation system that makes it all work are a real wonder to Western eyes.

**Our sincere thanks to Muira-San and Art Manzano for the gift of a lifetime.**



## OPEN HOUSE EVENT - BOULDER AMP AND WILSON AUDIO

Saturday, January 27th 11AM-5PM

Look for a map and directions on our website



Wilson Alexandria X2

**System 1:** The Wilson Maxx 2 will be paired with a full Boulder 2000 Series system wired with Tara 0.5 and Omega cables.

**System 2:** The new Wilson WATT/Puppy System 8 will be paired with a Boulder 1000 Series system and wired with Tara ISM Series cables.

**System 3:** The Wilson Sophia 2 will be paired with a Boulder 800 Series system wired with Tara Air Series cables.

**Theater:** The new Arcam AVR350 receiver and DV137 DVD player playing through the new Focal Chorus 800V speakers and Dwin TV4 projector.

**Special products** on display will include the new Pathos Endorphin CD Player and TT Anniversary amplifier first displayed at the '06 RMAF show and the upcoming Boulder 865 Integrated Amplifier.

**Special guests** will be present from Wilson Audio, Boulder Amplifiers and Arcam.



Boulder Amplifier 2060

## AESTHETIX

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

The new Atlas amplifier is now available in two versions, a standard version and one featuring a configurable hi-pass crossover. This makes it the perfect specialty amplifier for bi-amping or other unique applications. The Atlas hybrid amplifier is a 200wpc beauty that 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, recipient of the "2004 Product of the Year" award from *The Absolute Sound*, this amp is a bargain at \$7,995 and a perfect mate for this duo or any other system. It is very exciting 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 DVD players. The new Diva DV137 (\$1,995) 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 and can be scaled all the way to 1080p. 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 DACs and low noise power supplies ensure CD playback is of the highest standard for a DVD player in this price range. The FMJ DV139 (\$2,995) takes the already stunning DV137 and adds a full suite of upgrades. Added are a massive power supply with Toroidal transformers, a triple laminated steel chassis (SDS), "Mask of Silence" electro magnetic damping added to key components, flagship Wolfson VM8740 DACs, CD Direct mode to disable all video circuitry during CD or SACD playback, ABT1010 advanced video scaler, ABT102 broadcast quality video deinterlacer, and more. With all this processing power combined with outstanding build quality, we have what is most likely the very best under \$5,000 DVD player on the market and a very competent CD player on top of it.

The new 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.

The Solo Movie tops off the list of new products. This powerhouse takes the acclaimed Solo all-in-one music system and adds 5.1 capabilities and a scaled down version of the DV137 DVD player to the mix. The Movie has amazing flexibility with full iPod control and communication, 2 HDMI inputs, SACD playback, assignable amplifiers to allow use of the rear channel amps (when only set up as a 2.1 or 3.1 system) to run a second zone or bi-amp the main speakers, and video scaling to 1080i. This \$3,500 powerhouse is expensive but offers an almost unparalleled value and, without question, is the best one box video system on the market.

## ACCUPHASE

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

Several exciting new products from Accuphase will be available in the 1st quarter of '07. The DP-500 CD Player will feature an in-house manufactured drive unit coupled to an upsampling DAC and exquisite analog output stage. As expected, the power supply and chassis will be of no compromise design and contribute to the performance of the player. The retail is expected to be \$7,500-\$8,000 and will fill the void between the award winning DP-57 at \$5,000 and the untouchable DP-78 at \$10,000. Topping off the digital line at around \$30,000 will be the DP-800 CD/SACD transport and DC-801 DAC. This digital duo represents over two decades worth of expertise and is without question the finest SACD capable playback device available. The A-45 amplifier rounds out the Class-A amplifier offerings fitting between the A-30 at \$6,900 and the mighty A-60 at \$17,500. Like it's siblings, it will be capable of massive current delivery and able to drive any load imaginable.

## BAT

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

The first of several new preamps from BAT is the VK-32/VK-32SE duo featuring the XPAK system, which allows the user to tailor the sound to their

individual taste or system requirements. BAT has chosen the Russian 6C19, a miniature version of the now famous 6C33, used as output triodes for all BAT tube power amps. If, however, one wishes to tailor the sound differently, the new 32 Series allows for a change in current sources. BAT will offer an optional "bundle" that will include an XPAK module and three different tube types: 6H30 Super Tubes, 6H6P, and 5881. This will allow the user to experiment freely. The VK-32 retails at \$5,500, the VK-32SE at \$7,500, and the optional XPAK at \$500. The next new offering is the VK52SE at \$9,000, which is basically a 51SE that is fully upgradeable to the new flagship REX for an additional \$9,000 at a later date.



The BAT REX

The star new offering and most significant BAT product in the history of the company is the new REX preamplifier. The REX is an \$18,000 dual chassis unit that takes everything that BAT has learned to the limit and combines this expertise with the best parts obtainable. Of the many features that this preamp packs, the most notable are the XPAK mentioned above and configurable tube based AC shunt voltage regulators in the power supply that can be switched by the user from a 6C45 to a 6H30. All of this makes the REX the most significant and tweakable of all currently available tube preamplifiers. BAT has created a new reference standard.

## BOULDER

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

The world's premier manufacturer of solid-state electronics has introduced two new 800 Series models that will be shipping very soon. The first is the 860 stereo amplifier which is based on the circuit topology of the \$12,000 850 mono amps and packs 150WPC into an elegant package. The second is the 865 integrated amplifier which combines the new 860 stereo amp and the \$6,900 810 preamp gain modules into a high-value package with plenty of flexibility and 4 balanced inputs. The 860 should retail under \$8,000 with the 865 under \$10,000. As usual, 1000 and 2000 Series remains state-of-the-art and in extremely high-demand. Boulder's unwavering commitment to sonic performance and sheer perfection combined with our commitment to customer service and unparalleled knowledge, has allowed Audio Unlimited to remain the #1 Boulder dealer in North America for 3 years running.

## CLEARAUDIO

[www.musicalsurrroundings.com/clearaud.html](http://www.musicalsurrroundings.com/clearaud.html)

The most exciting news from Clearaudio is their new Ceramic Magnetic bearing assembly. This revolutionary new bearing will be standard on all tables with 70mm platters and available as an upgrade for all Clearaudio tables with 70mm and 35mm platters.

The Performance is an exciting new table that has just been released at a very affordable \$2,500 and packs some almost unimaginable features at this price point. The Performance features the new Ceramic Magnetic bearing coupled to the new mid-sized 40mm platter, a plinth constructed of a new synthetic stone hybrid and a Satisfy Carbon tonearm.

## FOCAL/JM LAB

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

Lots of exciting things from Focal starting with the Electra 1037 Be loudspeakers at \$10,995. The 1037 is a full-size version of the already outstanding 1027 floor stander that features 3 7" W cone woofers providing rock solid bass extension and amazing dynamics coupled to the amazing Beryllium tweeter and 93dB efficiency. This is a speaker that will rock yet is wonderfully airy and can be driven with most anything, including low output tubes. This is a very affordable alternative to the Utopia line and will take on many far more expensive speakers. New for the Profile series is the stunning "High-gloss Diamond Black" finish which is a \$200-300 upgrade depending on the model. Lastly, there is the new Chorus 800 V series. This line ranges from the 806 V at \$800 to the floor standing 836 V at \$2,800 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.



Focal Chorus 836V

## MARK LEVINSON

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

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 now know it. 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. Visit the Levinson website for information on the full line 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." Hot off the press is the No. 433 winning the *Electronic House* Product of the Year award, and the No. 326S receiving the "preamplifier of the year" award from *The Absolute Sound*.

## MUSICAL SURROUNDINGS

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

The long awaited SuperNova phono preamp designed by the acclaimed Michael Yee is here and shipping. The SuperNova features 3 inputs, up to 60 dB gain, adjustable loading from 30 Ohms to 100 kOhms, fully dual mono design, fixed and variable outputs for direct driving amps, fully discrete audio circuitry using Large Area Monolithic Super Matched Pairs for best sound and lowest noise, no "signal path" switches except for Variable Output (if used), dual chassis and even a dual mono battery power supply. Priced at \$2,800 and clearly offering almost everything one could wish for in any phono stage, the SuperNova represents a serious value in the under \$4,000 market segment.

The NovaPhonomena at \$995 is another new product ready to ship. This scaled down version of the SuperNova is another amazing value, it incorporates a battery power supply and the basic circuit topology of its bigger brother but in a simplified and very affordable package.

## PATHOS

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

Complimenting the amazing top-loading Endorphin CD Player that was introduced at the 2006 CES, is the Digit. The Digit is a 6922 based tube CD Player incorporating upsampling, a similar design topology to the Endorphin and a compact chassis. This front-loading CD player features balanced and single ended outputs, multiple power supplies, an elaborated Phillips transport, the gorgeous cosmetics that Pathos has become famous for, and like all Pathos products, it sounds as stunning as it looks. While the Endorphin at \$8,000 is still one of the best single box players out there, the Digit with an expected \$4,500 retail will provide an amazing package at an affordable price.

Another new product from Pathos is the statement level Adrenalin mono amplifier. The Adrenalin features the unique Pathos Inpol2 circuit topology and massive current capabilities so while only 100WPC, it can drive most any loudspeaker. The retail is expected to be in the mid-\$20K range.

## TARA LABS

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

The Zero interconnect which features a vacuum dielectric and the companion Omega speaker cable cables are continuing to cause quite the buzz. In the December '06 issue of *Stereophile*, Michael Fremer writes: "They produced a new sensation unique in my listen experience...It's just fundamentally, musically right". In the December '05 issue of *The Absolute Sound*, Jonathan Valin writes: "...the TARA Labs [Zero and Omega] recover(s) the echo of...voices from way back at the rear of the stage...far better than the Nordost. Better in fact than anything else I've yet heard". At \$14,900 and \$11,995, they are not inexpensive, yet a true value when compared to the other flagship cable products out there that are significantly more expensive and lacking the technology and mesmerizing performance of Tara cables.

The new 0.5 interconnect, which retails at \$6,600 with the latest HFX ground station offers a true taste 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 \$1,200) offerings are equally untouchable at their price points.

Two new flagship power cords have been released above the still current The One AC (\$1,495). The first is The One XL (\$2,195), featuring advanced shielding and geometry terminated with the renowned Oyaide connectors, the best in the industry. The second is The One XL Cobalt (\$2,995) which adds the same Ceralex used in the HFX Ground Stations for the Zero and 0.5 cables to dissipate damaging RF and EM noise.

## 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. The Wilson line ranges from the mighty Alexandria to a full suite of theater products.

The Alexandria X2 is the fruition of a blank-slate approach to creating a new flagship loudspeaker with a "cost is 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.

# AUDIO UNLIMITED

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## 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.*