



Last meeting

By John Stone

Why does PNWAS need three Amps? by John Stone

Are Genesis I-60 amps unreliable?
Do the Genesis G7 speakers need to be tri-amped to sound good?
Is the Club into wretched excess?

The answers are no, no, and ...maybe. Last month's meeting took advantage of the availability of multiple I-60s, each with a different tube compliment, to facilitate a uniquely convenient means of auditioning the results of tube rolling, without the usual nuisances of pulling tubes and re-biasing, not to men-

tion the possibility of getting a defective tube from the supplier. And, as the average aural memory is only accurate for around 90 seconds, having all of these tubes immediately available makes for much more objective comparisons.

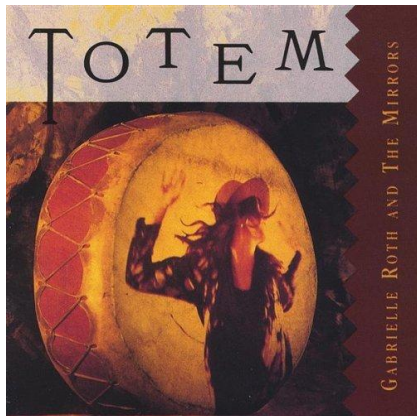
Each amp was auditioned using the tracks listed below. The amps represented three levels of not only tube rolling, but also of modification beyond the different tubes. Joe's I-60 is a "stock" amp; the club's amp represents a mildly modified amp with commercially available alternate tubes, while Jerry's amp show-

cases more significant and expensive cap mods and rare tubes.

Was there a winner? Maybe. Was there a loser? Not even close. All three amps sounded intensely musical. With track selections being "served" up from a Rip-NAS server (www.kosmic.us/ripnas-servers.html) hardwired to a Logitech Transporter serving as the DAC, most attendees thought the club's and Jerry's amp sounded better than the Joe's stock amp. However, there was no consensus about which amp

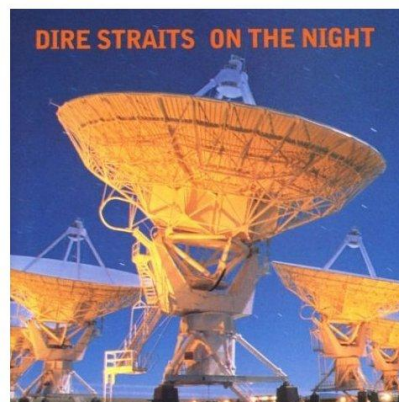
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Last meeting cont.



Track Listing:

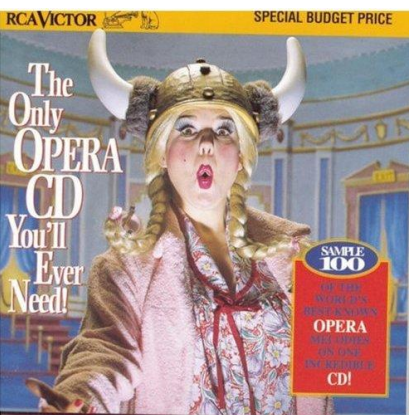
1. Cut Me to the Bone – Robin Ford
2. La Cancion De Manuel - Gabrielle Roth
3. You and Your Friend - Dire Straits.



was best. The “best” seemed to vary from track to track. Both modified amps represent the musical taste and priorities of their owners, while the stock amp represents the manufacturer’s desire to produce a reliable product that will perform well in a wide variety of systems.

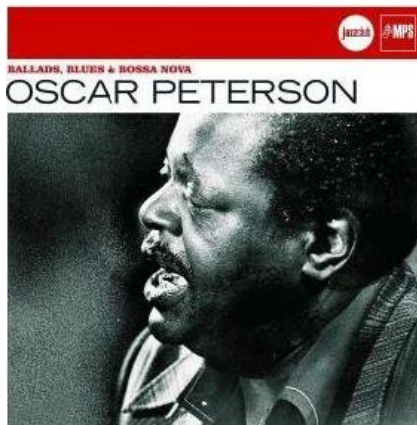
After the break, the program shifted to listening to the club’s Rega P5 turntable. With the equipment troubles experienced at the May meeting now fixed, all were anxious to hear the club’s turntable with all systems nominal. While producing enjoyable music, several members expressed a feeling that there is still untapped potential from the P5. Further experimentation, including the upcoming meeting featuring various system tweaks, will hopefully provide some answers.

4. I Only Want to be with You – Shelby Lynn



Tracks below utilized the P5 as source:

5. Quiet night of Quiet Stars – The Oscar Peterson Trio (Verve)



6. The Days of Wine and Roses - The Oscar Peterson Trio (Verve)

7. Salaambo's Aria, from Citizen Kane – Kiri Te Kanawa (RCA)

8. Going Round in Circles – Christy Baron (Chesky)



NEC Ultra Widescreen CRV43: The Company bucked the trend offering a curved widescreen monitor. If you ever worked in a studio with a time line, particularly with video you get tired of expanding your timeline enough to work and then shrinking it to see where you are. The LCD screen dimensions are 15" tall by 41" wide, that is an aspect ratio of 3.2:1 with a resolution of 2880X900. The monitor designed for pro use will hit the streets July of this year, MSRP \$8K.

Harman Kardon will introduce its first U.S. Blu-Ray player in late June the BDP-1.

Blu-Ray Servers may be close. Advanced Access Content System (AACS) has finalized the "Managed Copy"(MC) for Blu-Ray. MC is the biggest reasons I felt BD would prevail in retail and eventually would lead to the demise of HD-DVD. MC allows the end users to legally make copies of their BD movies onto disc or PC for personal use, file must be Window Media DRM compatible. Some new hardware is required to make the copy, the system must be hooked to the Internet to get authorization from AACS. Over the last three years content providers and disc manufactures have been operating under an interim agreement with AACS licensing and will need to sign the new agreement by Dec 4th this year.

YooStar wants you to picture yourself in film. In August the company will begin marketing what may be the next evolution in video games. The system uses movie clips, with the aid of a Green Screen, high-resolution web cam, microphones and software you will be able to insert yourself in movie clips like Terminator and Beverly Hills Cop II. By the time the kit goes on sale (\$170) the company hopes to have at least 200 movie clips. Paramount, Univer-

sal, MGM, Warner and LionsGate have all partnered with YooStar providing clips.

Upcoming Events

Sept 13th, Record, CD, Memorabilia meet, sponsored by Neptune Records, the event is at Croatian Cultural Center, 3250 Commercial Dr, Vancouver B.C. For more info call 604-324-1229

October 18th, Northwest Record & CD swap meet. The event will be in the Shaw/Fidalgo Room at the Seattle Center. 10AM till 4PM, \$3 admission fee. For more info or a table 206-878-2868

October 2nd thru Sunday the 4th Rocky Mountain Audio Fest in Denver will be held. Register online now at: http://www.audiofest.net/2009/register_new.php

Jan 7th thru Sunday the 10th CES 2010 will be in Las Vegas. To learn more about it, just go to:

Upcoming Meetings

July 9th (Date in the last newsletter was wrong) We will talk about building a music server. If there is interest and members are willing to pay for their own servers, we may take this subject to the Genesis workbench on a Saturday and build several at one time.

August 13th Turntables: We will have a spattering of phono stages from affordable to the stratosphere. We will also have a few different tables for your listening pleasure.

September 10th we will examine tweaks; this always generates some interesting discussions.

October 8th we have tentatively scheduled a famous audio personality to speak at this meeting.

November 12th is the always-enjoyed video evening. It has taken 3 years but there is finally a good selection of music available on Blu-Ray in resolutions up to 24/192 come and see what is new in at home concerts, don't miss this.

December 10th Annual raffle.

This was the 17th year the company hosted the state of the art home theater demonstration. Definitive invites manufactures to bring in the best of their products for display at this two-day showcase. The event has been such a success manufactures utilize it to debut new products.

Product debuts this year included the Classe CT amplifier. These are specifically designed for installation where heat dissipation would normally be a problem. The first public demo from Wilson Audio of the Watt-Puppy replacement the Sasha. The new speaker is similar in size and over-all shape to its predecessor.

Like years past, I spent both days going thru all the rooms and talking to people in the lobby. I forgot to check out the parking lot this year, although I did see the prancing horse on the back of a classic Ferrari thru the glass entry doors on Wednesday evening. With the tightening of money over the last year I was curious to see what new products would show up and who would have the most impressive product. Entering the parking lot, the D-Box trailer was nowhere in sight, nor was the adjacent building space used that was the Meridian theater last year. Tuff times would result in fewer exhibitors. D-box didn't have any representatives at the event, however the system was used in room 2 featuring B&W CT700 speakers, Rotel 15 series electronics, Stewart film screen and Salamander chairs and a Runco RS900 projector. This is one of the lesser expensive systems in the show and there were

no glaring problems. Good job Rotel on your electronics!

Behind the double glass doors of room three were B&W HT602 speakers, Classe' electronics,



including the new CT amplifier and a Runco 3 chip DLP VX-22i with a CineWide anamorphic lens system. I have always liked B&W speakers. The HT series is a great value, de



signed to perform and not be seen in a theater application. Classe' demonstrated the new Custom Theater (CT) series amplifiers that are designed for low cooling applications such as racks where equipment may be

stacked. The sound of the Uri Honing Trio CD was very satisfying. This room always sounds really good. It was sufficiently damped to make a good theater. The constant height display 16:9 compared to 2.35 using the auto masking Stewart film-screen and Runco CineWide lens is very cool. It is every videophile's dream that the image get bigger and the amount of light on screen increase.

Around the corner in what is normally the high-end 2-channel display of the store, room 4 contained Meridian electronics, Runco display and a Pioneer BD player. The folding chairs just didn't cut it after leaving a room with Cinematech leather seats. I am happy to see Runco take rear projection serious with the video wall. They were using a 100" diagonal 16:9 RP system, A 92" 2.35 version is also available. The video wall has a closed back so the mirror and internal works are less susceptible to dust than large in-wall system RP systems of the past. The Meridian digital audio system sounded really good. Meridian is offering a trade-up program for their equipment. It is pretty much processor for a new processor, DVD/CD player for a current model DVD/CD player etc. Meridian was also demonstrating the HD-621 HDMI audio processor. The 6 HDMI input switcher separates the audio from the video then sends the audio to your Meridian processor and has a HDMI video out for sending to the display.

Continued on page 5

Continuing in my clockwise tour of the rooms I experienced the Sim2 D60 single chip DLP projector, Integra electronics and Paradigm speakers. If you ever get a chance to see the Integra DHC 9.9 processor with it's top off, it is impressive! The processor has separate transformers for audio and video. It is ISF and THX certified and allows basic color/image adjustment on each input allowing color matching per source. All this in a \$2K processor. This was the first time I saw an Integra DBS-6.9 Blu-ray player. I could see compression artifacts in black and low level imaging, but don't know what was causing this. The \$5K projector made a good image except for low-level detail. Again, there was no way for me to tell if this flaw was projector, source, repeater in the processor, cable or power.

The NAD room featured the Modular Design Construction T785 receiver. This is a card based unit allowing software and hardware updates. The new HDMI 1.4 standard was published in the last month. The company rep did all but promise they will offer hardware upgrade to the new standard. This modular design is also incorporated in 4 other products.

The Room behind the counter is often overlooked having more budget oriented products. This year the room displayed Kaleidescape, ERA speakers with a Peachtree Audio Nova integrated amplifier with onboard DAC. I have heard the Nova several times before and it always amazes me how good it sounds. The DAC in it is phenomenal. I have heard it on ERA and Magnepan speakers. This little \$1200 tube based unit is wonderful. If not the first, it was certainly one of the early-integrated amplifiers with onboard DAC designed for use with computers at a high quality. It is always surprising to hear allot of sound and see little speakers. The ERA speakers are very, very good. If

they have any weakness, it is of detail omission. If you are sourcing from an iPod, this may not be such a bad thing. This was a very satisfying system. Without the source, the speakers and amp cost only \$2K.



After 15,000 pairs of Watt Puppies since 1987, the replacement is here. Wilson's new Sasha sports an entirely new cabinet and seems to have a more integrated sound than its predecessor.

The Traci Chapman track sounded great. I am not a big Chapman fan but I was tapping my foot and getting into the music. To say the least, the system was involving. The electronics were Classe' separates. I was in the room twice, both times enjoying the Cinematech seats. I had to go back and see the video clip from Wall'E. Since there is no film in these animated features, the transferred image into Blu-Ray can be staggering, which it was. The depth and contrast in the images reminded me of some H.D. photos I have from NASA. When there is no dust or atmosphere to cloud the image, things are incredibly sharp, with edges that just jump out from the background. I was very impressed

with the video quality the Sim2 Lumis 3 chip DLP delivered. The projector is very bright and has a contrast of 35,000:1. When this power gets put on a screen about 8 feet wide, it truly takes your breath away. In today's economy, \$40K for a projector is not cheap. But compared to others, this is a staggering image for the money. I have a CRT Runco 980 Ultra setting in the box that cost about \$35K. The 980 Ultra isn't as bright and doesn't come close in detail, but is one of the best ceiling heaters I have ever found. If I could afford a Lumis, I would have bought one.

The room that often gets overlooked and is usually one of the last rooms I visit, is the Pioneer room located on the left side as you enter the main door of the store. Pioneer has been raising the bar for video since the late 70s with laser-disc and their state of the art RPTV. The Kuro display is the current state of the art. Although most images at the show were larger than the 60" plasma, I don't think there were any that looked as close to a window as the Kuro plasma. At the end of this year, Pioneer will be out of the TV business. When these are gone, it will probably be years before we see anything close to this. Rumor has it, Panasonic has bought some of the technology used in these sets. Pioneer has some great product and their demo, including ceiling speakers, were one of the really impressive demos at the show.

Wrapping up the event I should mention there were many JL Audio subwoofer systems in different rooms. These high output devices are designed to change the pressure in the room.

You can feel your pants move on your legs. Transparent cables were used in all the rooms.

The catered finger food was great. If I wouldn't have spent so much time grazing in the lobby, I could have

Continued on page 6

Cont. from page 5

made it thru all the displays in one possible. I decided rather than in-evening. I forgot my camera, so I clude the demo material used in each new I was returning on the second room, I put it into one list.



day anyway. I went in and listened to the Peachtree Audio system twice because I liked it so much.

The Event is still one of the high points of the year for me. It is fun to see different manufactures put their stuff together into working systems. The Elton John BD clip was shown in several different rooms so you could experience the difference in the systems. This is a very unique event. I don't know of any other retailer that puts on an event like this or Music Matters for 2-channel. Thanks again to all the manufactures and folks at Definitive that make this



Demo material

CD FIM Chinese drums

CD Uri Honing Trio (disc unknown)

CD Melody Gardot (disc unknown)

CD Ladysmith Black Mambazo,
Rain Rain

CD Livingston Taylor, Ink, Isn't She
Lovely

BD Elton John 60th birthday concert

BD Valkrie, Tom Cruise WWII

BD Batman Dark Night

BD Jeff Beck Performing This
Week, A day in the Life

BD Wall'E

DB Ratatouille

BD i.Robot

BD Chris Botti in Boston

CD Tracks from James Taylor and
Tracy Chapman I failed to get the
song titles

Classified Ads

Ads are free to members and will run for three consecutive issues unless renewed. Please limit ads to make, model, short description, condition, MSRP, asking price, contact information.

Lynx Studio Two-B PCI Soundcard, 2 in—6 out, Great for HTPC or Music server. Pulled from working PC from our studio. AD/DA up to 200kHz! Includes box and cables. Read more about it here: http://www.lynxstudio.com/product_detail.asp?i=12#

Asking \$450

Pass Labs XA-160 monoblocs

Used in my mastering room for the past 2 years. Local pick-up preferred. Can be seen on Audiogon. Price: \$8000

Please contact Bruce @425-369-1392

Club discounts

Northwest Sinfonietta

The Northwest Sinfonietta (a classical chamber orchestra) provides discounts to members of our club for performances of the 2007-2008 season. The regular single ticket price of \$38 will be only \$20 per person per performance at the door (or by phone or mail). Just tell them or note on your order that you are a member of the PNWAS. Information and order forms are also available at their website: www.nwsinfonietta.org.

Kosmic

www.kosmic.us
Contact Joe Pittman
206-878-3833

Pro Sound and Vision

Contact George H. Pro
425-889-9499, 425-445-3308 (cell)

Revolution Power

[Www.revolutionpower.com](http://www.revolutionpower.com)
Contact: Ken Garza

Visitors Welcome!

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at 4545 Island Crest Way, Mercer Island, WA 98040.

PNWAS Mission Statement

- ◆ To bring together people with a common interest in music reproduced at its best, for their mutual edification and pleasure.
- ◆ To facilitate the exchange and dissemination of accurate data concerning audio equipment and musical recordings.
- ◆ To promote, sponsor, and cultivate the highest quality reproduction of music in the home.
- ◆ To encourage maintenance of high standards in the performance, recording and transmission of music.

PNWAS Objectives

1. Provide a forum for meeting other audiophiles and exchanging information on musical recordings and audio equipment.
2. Demonstrate and compare equipment and recordings.
3. Give members opportunities to become familiar with the techniques of audio manufacturing,

testing, repair, recording, broadcasting, etc.

4. Explore related avenues as the membership deems appropriate.

Club website

www.audiosociety.org

E-mail

info@audiosociety.org

U.S. Mail

Pacific Northwest Audio Society, P.O. Box 435, Mercer Island, WA 98040

Annual dues

\$60 due each January. New members pay a prorated \$5 per month for remainder of year.

Executive Committee

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Editor: Bruce Brown
BruceB@audiosociety.org

Action Committee Chairs:

Equipment: Vacant—Volunteers?

Refreshment: Vacant—Volunteers?

Editorial

Editorial submissions are welcome.

Content must be audio-related or of general interest to the club in plain text or Word document format without automation (macros or scripts). We reserve the right to edit for style, content, and length.

Editorial deadline: two weeks before meeting date.

Publishing any editorial material is contingent upon the approval of the Executive Committee.

Disclaimer

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