

FINAL Model 35 Demo Event

Review by David Das

I had the pleasure of attending the FINAL Model 35 Demo Event at the Faith Lutheran Church, Parish Hall on Saturday, July 18, 2026. This event was hosted by **Ravi Velnati**, US Distributer of FINAL speakers. He presented the flagship [Model M35](#) in red along with the [Model M15](#) in blue.



The Model M35 was released on the 35th anniversary of FINAL. It stands 83 inches tall and weighs only 66 lbs making it the lightest full-range planar speaker in the world, extending down to 29Hz. The smaller Model M15, a step below the flagship, stands 80 inches tall and weighs only 40 lbs with a bass extension down to 40Hz.

These full range electrostatics provide the ultimate coherence using a single-panel diaphragm with no crossovers resulting in no slipping, loss of traction or loss of fidelity throughout the frequency spectrum. In contrast, conventional Dynamic or Planar Magnetic Ribbon speakers, which use crossovers, reproduce the music signal with different drivers for each frequency range, made from dissimilar materials with varying masses and thicknesses.

Electrostatic speakers are much more complex to design and build than any other speaker technology, as much an art as science; ensuring even distribution of the bias charge on the diaphragm, precisely maintaining the spacing of the stators to provide maximal and evenly distributed electrical forces on the diaphragm, and insulating the diaphragm and stators to prevent “arcing” or other high-voltage breakdowns are solved through patented innovations.

The Final Model M35 panels look majestic in red.



This is the rear view of the Model M35.



This is the side view of the Model M35. Notice the Model M15 in blue against the wall.



Here is the Model M15 in blue standing next to the M35.



Digital Front-End

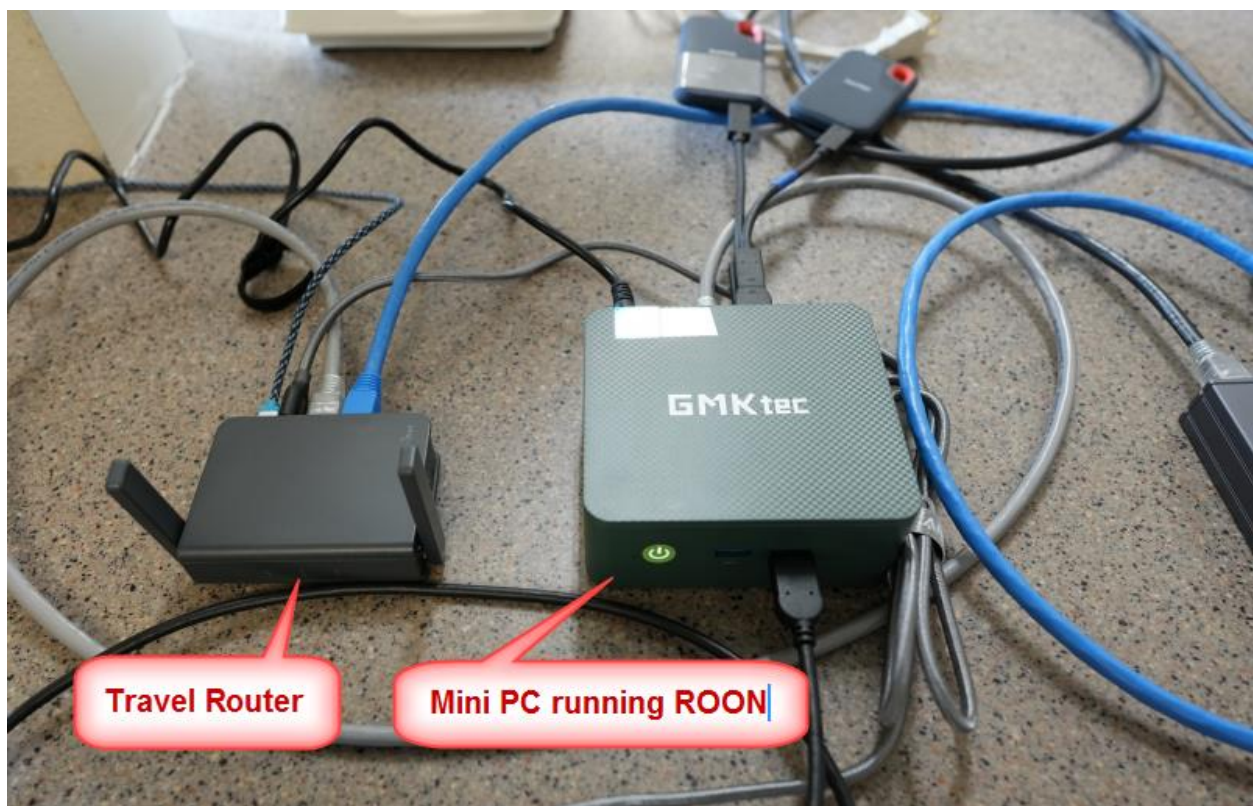
Club Secretary **David Snyder** came in early and set up his Diretta Network Audio Transport protocol operating its latest software iteration routing bit-perfect data directly into an Oppo 205 DAC acting as the system endpoint.

Traditional Network Audio protocols drop bursty, erratic processing loads onto your endpoint, creating systemic noise and timing jitter that mask subtle details. You aren't hearing the full resolving power of your DAC – you're hearing the noise of the network transport.

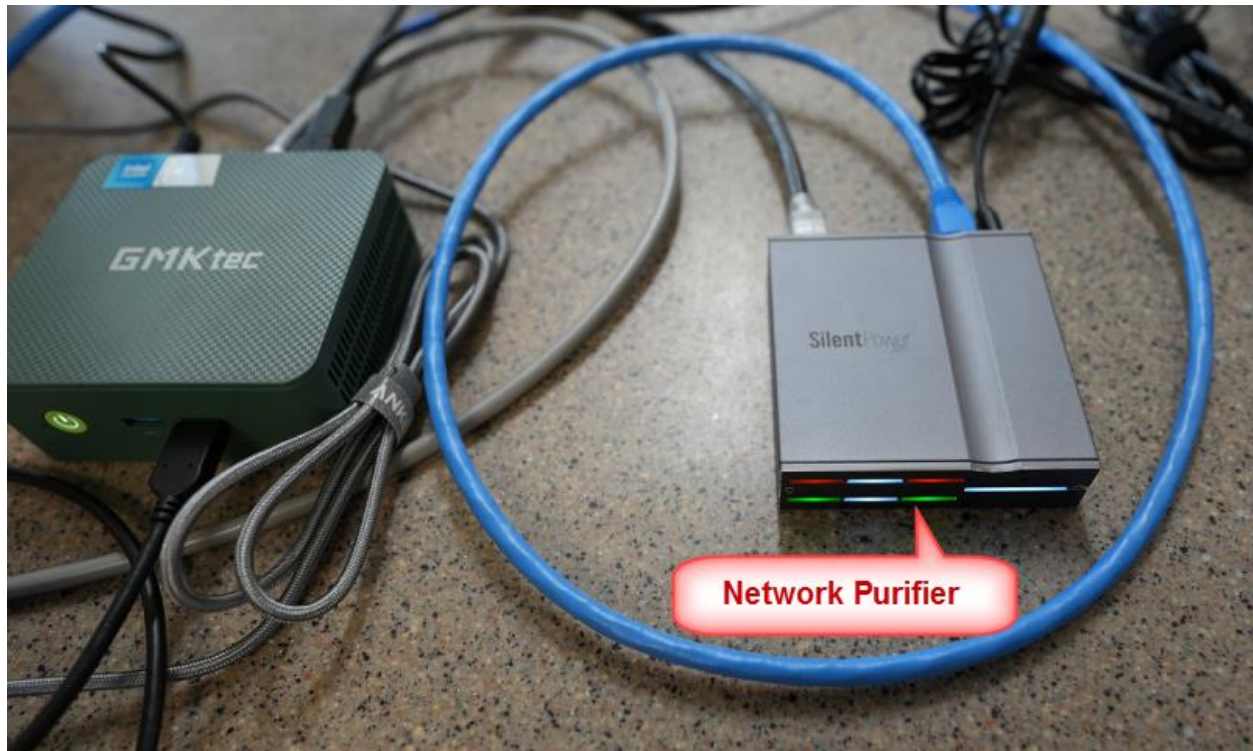
By leveraging the Diretta protocol, David's DIY network audio bridge shifts the heavy computational processing away from the audio endpoint. It transmits data in a predictable, continuous stream, radically minimizing power fluctuations and electromagnetic interference at the DAC.

The end result is a blacker background, holographic instrument separation and a calm effortless ease that allows the Final electrostatic panels to perform at their absolute limits.

Here you see the [GL.iNet Slate Travel Router](#) and the [GMKtec Mini PC](#) running the ROON Server.



This is the [Silent Power LAN iPurifier Pro](#) Ethernet filter with optical isolation.



This is the Dell XPS 15 Laptop that was used to configure and test the Network.



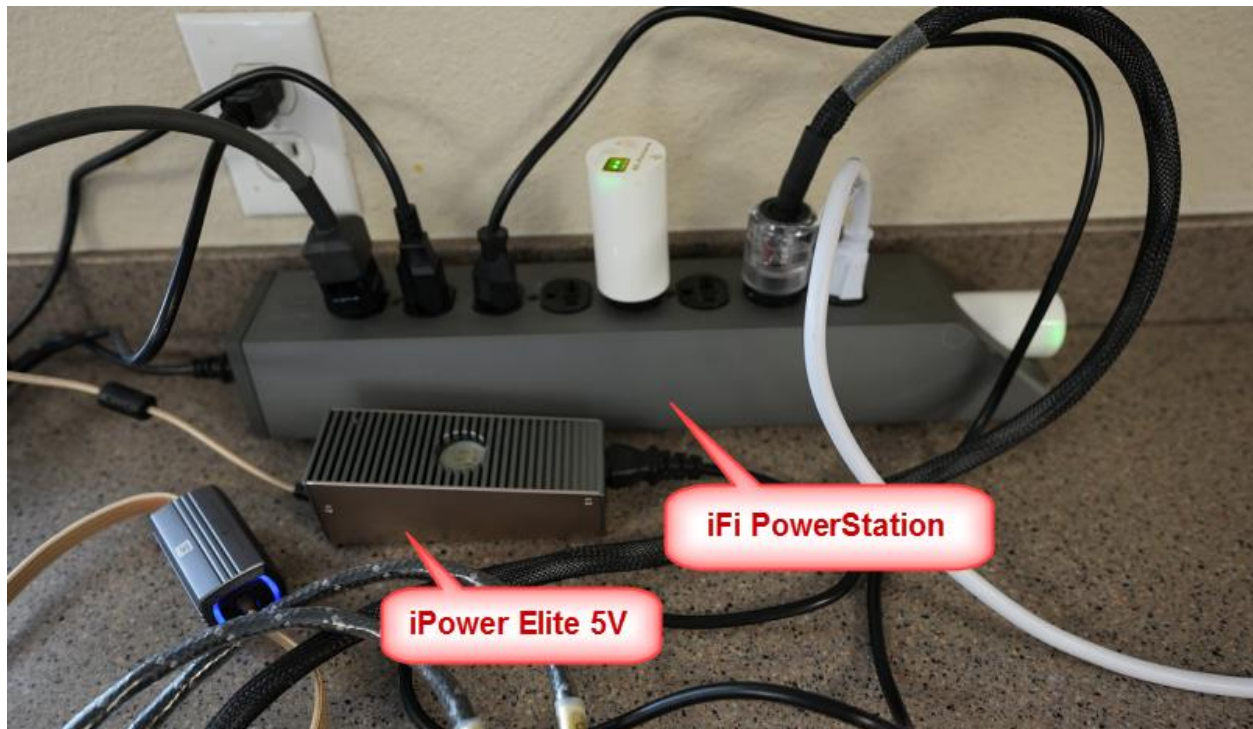
This is the [Diretta Host](#) Raspberry Pi computer.



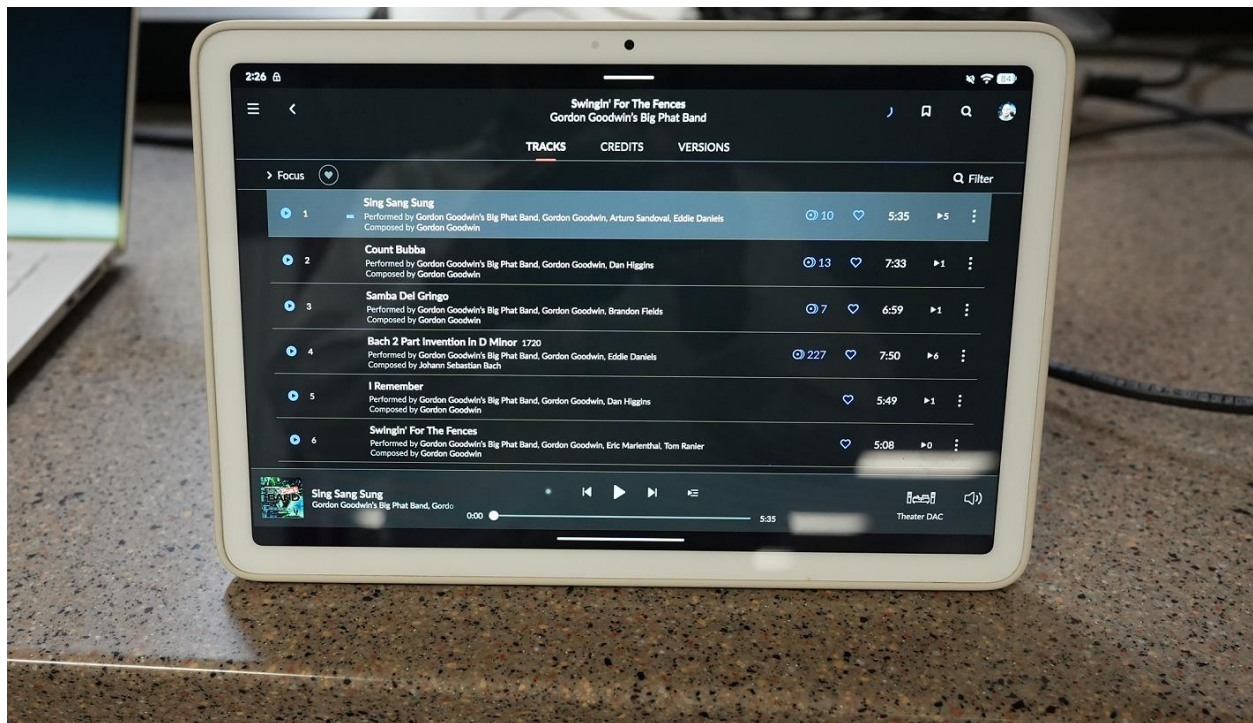
This is the [Diretta Target](#) Raspberry Pi computer.



Here you see the [iFi SilentPower PowerStation](#). Each Raspberry Pi computer is powered by its own [iFi Elite 5V/5A](#) power supply.



This is the [Google Pixel Tablet](#) running the ROON Remote App.



This is the [Oppo UDP-205](#) DAC featuring the ESS 9038 PRO chip. The stereo-dedicated ES9038PRO runs all 8 of its internal channels in a parallel or bridged mono configuration (4 channels per left/right output). This stack-like implementation lowers the noise floor, reduces distortion, and maximizes dynamic range to 140 dB, acting as the system endpoint.



Ravi brought his [McIntosh MX160](#) A/V Processor with the intent to add room correction. There was not enough time to run the measurements. This unit ended up not being used.



Amplification

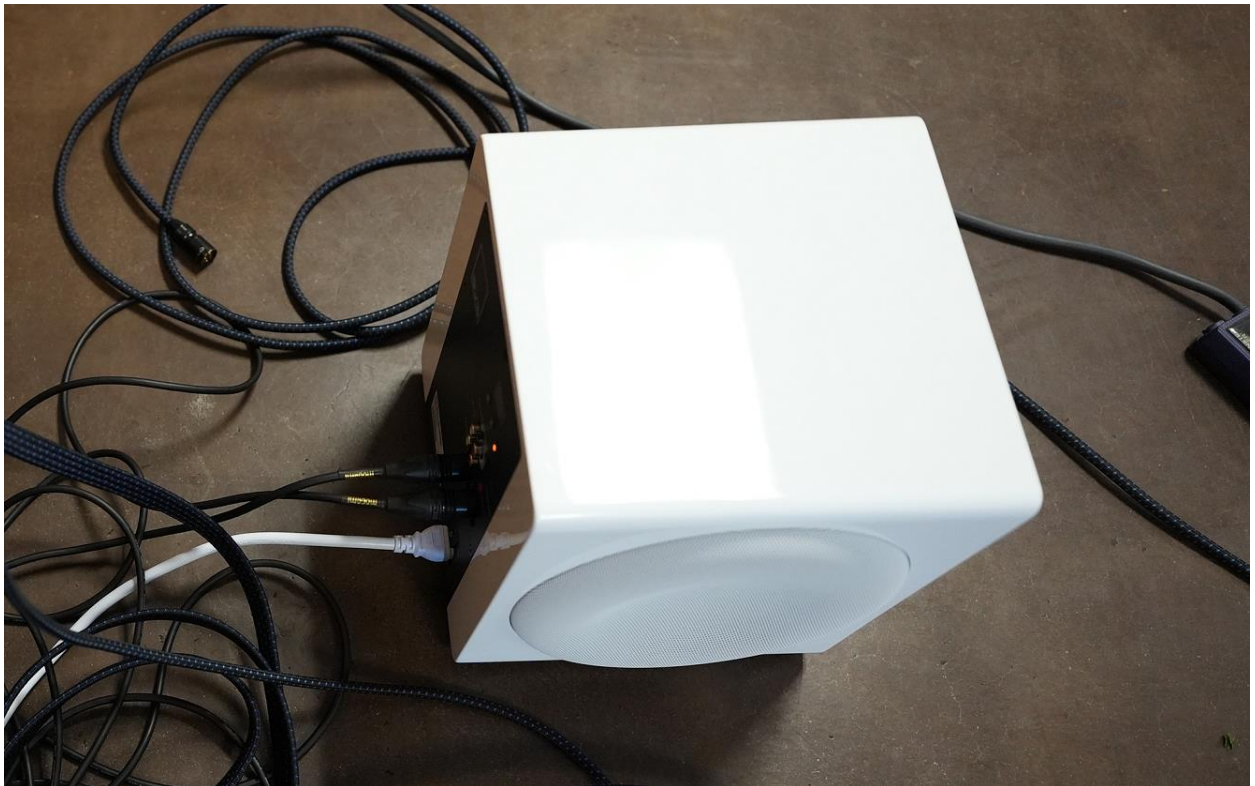
The speakers were driven by a flagship [Coda 16.0](#) 100W/channel Class A stereo power amp. They are optimized for driving Electrostatics to their fullest potential. They are stable down to 0.3 ohms and can handle the impedance dip exhibited by Electrostatics at higher frequencies.



A [Parasound Halo P6](#) was used as a preamp.



David Snyder brought his [SVS 3000 Micro R|Evolution](#) subwoofer to boost the bass response.



The Venue

Faith Lutheran Church is located at 801E Camelback Road, Phoenix AZ 85014.

There is a manicured court yard with a water fountain as you enter the doors to the Parish Hall.





There is ample free parking on the south of Parish Hall.



Parish Hall is a massive space measuring 25' wide x 76' long with a 9' high ceiling making it the ideal venue for evaluating electrostatic speakers free from room modes and boundary effects.



Parish Hall has a well equipped kitchen.



Club Treasurer **Paul Johnson** was kind enough to bring all the refreshments, water bottles, napkins and plastic utensils in clearly labeled packages the night before.





The Demo

After a brief introduction by Club President **John Harvell**, Ravi Velnati started off the official demo.

Ravi has been an audiophile all his life for 30 years. He moved to Arizona from Michigan a couple of years back. He worked for General Motors as an Automotive Engineer for 25 years. He has a passion for high performance cars. He visited the race tracks in Germany for calibration rides. It was a lot of fun for Ravi. He stated, "High performance cars and High-End Audio go together." They are both fast and expensive!

Electrostatic speakers are very fast. Their diaphragm is the lightest in the industry. It is 6 microns thick and so light that if you spread it in the air and let it fall it would float.

Here is a link for further reading and reference on the technologies and innovations:

[KNOWLEDGE | FINAL AUDIO](#)

Electrostatic speakers have a front stator that is positively charged and a back stator that is negatively charged. In between you have the diaphragm with a conductive coating. As the music plays this diaphragm gets attracted and repelled between the positively and negatively charged stator operating at 3000 volts. This is a simultaneous push-pull operation across the complete frequency spectrum unlike ribbon speakers like Magnepans and Planar Magnetics that are one sided on some and push-pull on others!

The diaphragm is held under constant tension only begin allowed to move 1 to 2mm laterally. This is the why you need large panels to move enough air for reproducing all the frequencies. The lateral movement is intentionally limited to minimize all distortions which are the lowest of all speaker technologies.

Electrostatic speakers have limitations in dynamics and loudness, thanks to the limited and controlled excursion of the diaphragm, which is a limitation as well as its strength, offers the lowest distortion of any driver technology!

However, they can be compensated by the use of a subwoofer. This gives you the best of both worlds. You get to enjoy the ultimate resolution in the high and mid frequencies while your subwoofer handles the bottom end.

If you have a ribbon tweeter or an AMT tweeter that covers a certain frequency range, you still need to use cone drivers to handle the rest of the frequencies. In contrast the massive diaphragm of the Model M35 handles all the highs and mid frequencies all the way down to 29Hz. Adding a subwoofer transforms this into a truly full-range system with all the depth, dynamics and punch for your ultimate listening enjoyment.

For safety, the outside of the diaphragm is completely insulated just like the stators. Accidental contact will not cause any arcing. However, the panels are not immune to poking with sharp objects. The panels have a protective circuitry that shuts down the power in case of accidental spillage of liquids. The power gets restored once the panels have dried.

The panels have overload protection that shuts down the power temporarily if the volume is too high. So long these panels are not over driven, they can last 20 to 30 years without requiring any service. The panels are 88db efficient, 2db more than Magnepan.

The amplifier power goes to the stators. The diaphragm is powered by the transformer that holds it at a constant voltage of 3000 volts.

Electrostatic speakers do not need a lot of watts. However, they do need a strong power supply that can remain stable at low impedances. The Coda Model 16.0 delivers just 100W Class A under an 8 ohm load but it can keep doubling its output all the way down to 1 ohm. The Coda Model 16.0 amp can handle impedance as low as 0.3 ohm. This metric is especially important for electrostatic speakers where the impedance can drop below 1 ohm for the high frequencies. The highs on electrostatic panels truly open up when you pair it with such an amp. The Coda Model 16.0 has a 3KW transformer. The version without the meters retails for \$17,500. It competes with the [Pass Labs XA100.8](#) 100 W Class A Mono power amplifier.

Final Electrostatic speakers can be purchased for the lowest price in the US compared to the global market since Ravi sells them direct to his customers. Ravi wants to build the brand recognition before offering the product line to the dealers. For comparison, the Model M35 retails for 32,000 Euros in Europe, whereas you can buy the same model for \$23,000 directly from Ravi in the US. Ravi wanted to keep the pricing below the [Magnepan 20.7](#), its target competitor.

Ravi sells the smaller Model M15 for \$12,000 a pair. They compete with the [Magnepan 3.7i](#). The [Model 12](#) which is 10 inches shorter competes with the [Magnepan 2.7i](#).

Ravi demoed a full blown Dolby ATMOS setup at the [California Audio Show 2026](#) utilizing 16 Final Electrostatics Panels powered by 16 amps and a [Trinnov Altitude 32](#) surround sound processor. Since these panels are so light, they can be easily mounted on the walls or the ceiling.

The frame as well as the panel can be ordered in any color to match your room décor.

Just before the start of the demo Ravi found out that the tweeter fuses on the M35s were blown. It is likely they were played too loud on the last day of the California Audio Fest during the home theater demo.

It only took a few minutes to switch over to the relatively smaller Final M15 electrostatic speakers which are 80 inches tall, 3 inch shorter than the M35.

Everyone unanimously agreed how well these smaller speakers energized this massive hall projecting refined, well defined, coherent high-resolution music. We spent the next 3 hours listening to glorious music coming from these slender blue panels.

David Snyder was kind enough to provide a listing of all the songs that were played.

Album Artist	Album	Title
Aaron Neville	Warm Your Heart	Everybody Plays the Fool
Alyn Cosker	Twitter and Bisted	Straight Through Boogaloo from Lyn's Une
Patricia Barber	Verse	Regular Pleasures
Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band	Swingin' For The Fences	Sing Sang Sung
Various Artists	The Audiophile's Guide - Reference Music	Left channel identification
Natalie Merchant	Leave Your Sleep	The Peppery Man
Atlanta Symphony Chorus / Atlanta Symphony Orchestra / Robert Shaw	Stravinsky: The Firebird Suite; Borodin: Overture and Polovetsian Dances from Prince Igor	The Firebird: Infernal Dance of King Kastchei
Malia & Boris Blank	Convergence	Celestial Echo
Nils Lofgren	Acoustic Live	Keith Don't Go (Live)
Muddy Waters	Folk Singer	My Home Is in the Delta
Pink Floyd	The Final Cut	Paranoid Eyes
Eva Cassidy	Time After Time	Ain't No Sunshine (Time After Time) (Album Version)
Yello	Touch Yello (Deluxe)	Kiss In Blue
Various Artists	Tutti!: Orchestral Sampler	The Snow Maiden: Dance of the Tumblers
Marian Hill	Unusual	Differently
The HU	The Gereg (Deluxe Edition)	Wolf Totem
Aynsley Lister	Everything I Need	Need Her so Bad
Stevie Ray Vaughan & Double Trouble	Couldn't Stand the Weather	Tin Pan Alley (aka Roughest Place in Town)
Steely Dan	Pretzel Logic	Rikki Don't Lose That Number
Bob Dylan	Oh Mercy	Man in the Long Black Coat (Album Version)
Zhao Cong	Sound of China	Moon Light On Spring River
O-Zone Percussion Group	O-Zone Percussion Group: Bamba (La)	Jazz Variants
Dead Can Dance	Spiritchaser (Remastered)	Song of the Stars (Remastered)
Art of Noise	The Best Of The Art Of Noise	Opus 4
Stan Getz / João Gilberto featuring Antônio Carlos	Getz/Gilberto (Expanded Edition)	The Girl From Ipanema

Jobim		
Stan Getz / João Gilberto featuring Antônio Carlos Jobim	Getz/Gilberto (Expanded Edition)	Doralice (Stereo Version)
The Beach Boys	Pet Sounds	God Only Knows
Janis Ian	Breaking Silence	Breaking Silence
Boris Blank	Resonance	Elements of Life
Roxy Music	Avalon	India
Roxy Music	Avalon	Avalon
Roxy Music	Avalon	Avalon
Jennifer Warnes	The Hunter	Way Down Deep
Lusine	Retrace	Not Alone (ft. Jenn Champion)
Mannheim Steamroller	The Music of the Spheres	Escape from the Atmosphere (With STS-121 Launch and STS- 115 Landing)

David made Tidal and Qobuz playlists of these Songs that you can import into Roon.

TIDAL: <https://tidal.com/playlist/81ff9202-7446-40c2-92a3-c32d22b335f3>

Qobuz: <https://open.qobuz.com/playlist/67335840>

Demo of the Final Model M35 at Ravi's Home

Since we could not hear the Flagship Final Model M35s, Ravi was kind enough to invite me to his home on Thursday, August 13th for an extended listening session.

Well, I was in for a surprise!

Ravi's home is packed with every model of FINAL speakers in production.

Here you see the smallest model M1 on the right that retails for \$2,000 a pair followed by the Model M3 in the center (\$3,000) and the Model M5 on the left (\$5,000).



These sleek panels are easy to lift and reposition. The light weight M1 panels can be mounted on the wall or desktop or bookshelf and can serve as Dolby ATMOS Surround or Height speakers.

Here you see the tall and slender M7 panel with the majestic M35 flagship model towering right behind it.

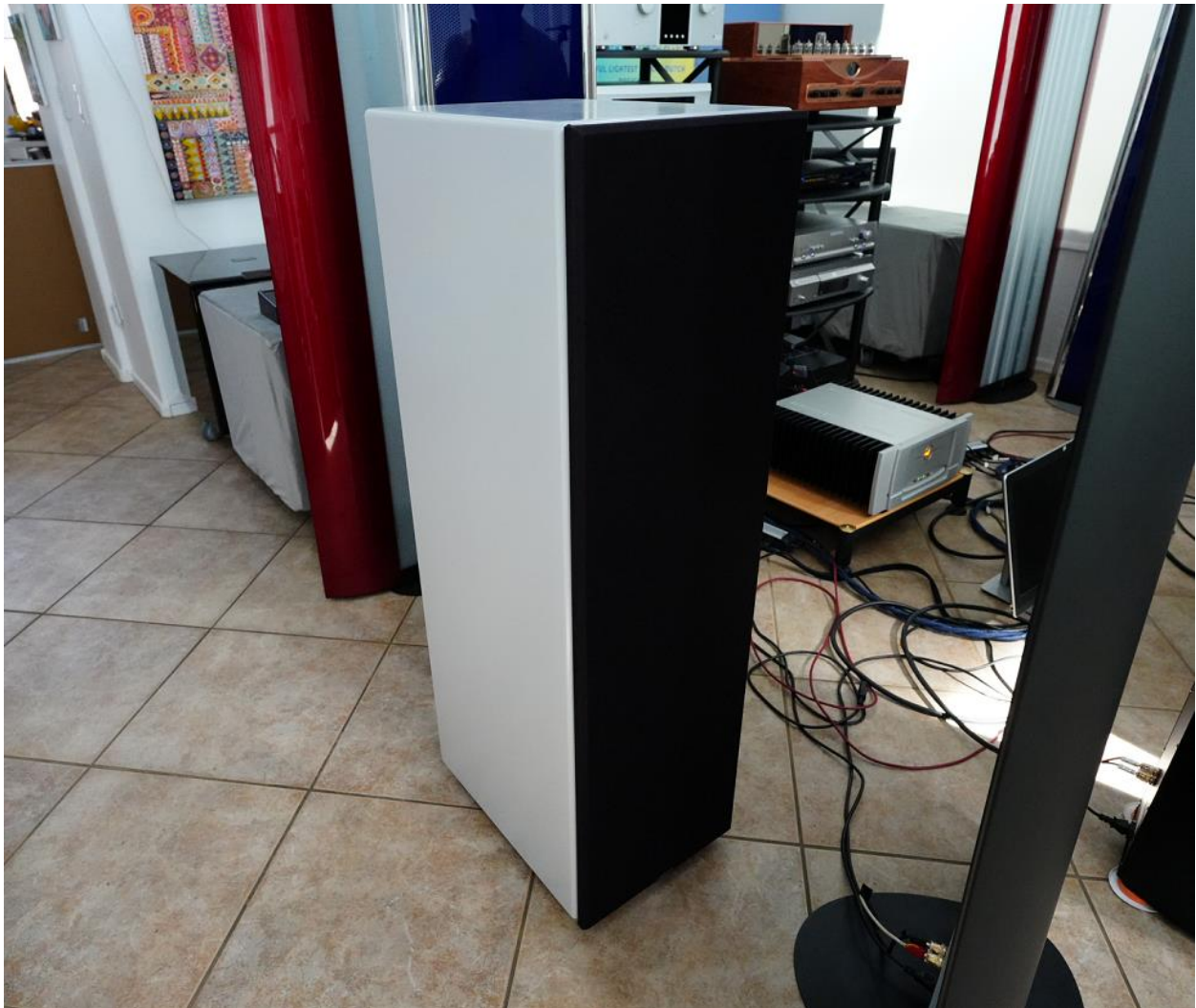


The M7 panels stand 5' tall, about 2' shorter than the Model M35.

All FINAL models starting from the smallest M1 to the M3, M5, M7, M12 and M15 share the same sonic signature as their flagship model M35. As you go up the FINAL lineup, you get more output and deeper bass extension.

Any FINAL speaker can be paired with a subwoofer to add extra punch and bass which greatly improves the dynamics and overall clarity of the system by freeing up the panels to handle the midrange and treble frequencies where they truly shine.

These are the [Tekton 4-10 subwoofers](#) that Ravi uses to add extra dynamics to his FINAL speakers.



Ravi can special order the Tekton 7-10 subwoofers to match the height of the flagship M35 model. These active subs have 7 10" woofers in a sealed enclosure. They provide the most affordable way to transform the M35 panels into a world class full range speaker system.

Ravi is also the [US Dealer for Starke Sound](#) Amplifiers, Subwoofers and Speakers.

The specification, finish and build quality of this product line impressed me. The flagship [SUB5](#) subwoofer features an enormous 17" bass driver with a 120mm excursion driven by an internal 3000W RMS power amp that produces infrasonic bass down to 8Hz.

Ravi has 6 of these units which he intends to stack vertically 3 per side alongside the M35 speakers. Each unit weighs 164 lbs.

Here are some photos of the Starke Sound SUB5.



Here is the [Starke Sound Halo A3](#) 3-channel power amp rated at 620 W/Ch.



Ravi used these power amps for his Dolby ATMOS demo at the California Audio Fest in June, 2026.

Ravi began his demo with the [FINAL M7](#) speakers. Here is a photo of the high-end electronics driving them.



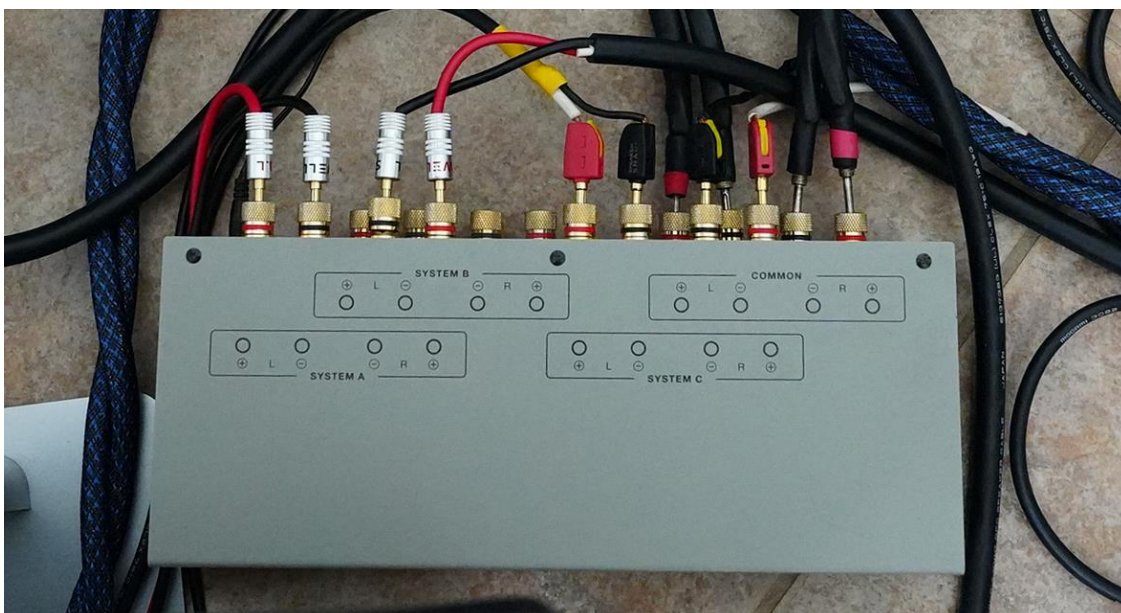
Sitting on top of the left equipment rack is a [Trinnov Altitude 32](#) Surround Sound Processor in silver followed by an [OPPO BDP-105](#) universal disc player, [McIntosh MX160](#) A/V Processor and two [EMM Labs Switchman 3](#) high-end multichannel analog control center and preamplifiers.



These are the wired remotes for the two EMM Labs Switchman 3 devices. They offer instant A/B comparison between sources. This allows Ravi to compare the performance between two different multi-channel processors.



Ravi uses this box to switch between 3 sets of speakers.



Sitting on top of the right equipment rack is a rare [Fostgate Audionics FAP V1](#) high-end 7.1 channel analog surround sound processor and preamp followed by a [CODA 07x](#) FET Preamplifier and [Parasound HALO P6](#) 2.1 Channel stereo Preamplifier.



Resting on the front platform between the FINAL M7 speakers is the [CODA CSiB](#) Integrated Balanced high-end stereo amplifier.



This was the factory programmed remote by CODA that controlled every component including the CODA power amp.



Ravi was using the **Diretta Transport Protocol** designed by Club Secretary **David Snyder** as his front end for streaming Qobuz high-resolution tracks via his ROON Server. He was using his OPPO player as a DAC.

How did the FINAL M7 Hybrid speakers sound?

Here you see the attached bass unit behind the M7 panel that allows them to play down to 38Hz.



Music coming through the M7 Hybrid speakers sounded clean, effortless and transparent with enough resolution, micro-dynamics and top-end air to satisfy demanding audiophiles. The M7s had no problems filling up Ravi's large living room with high ceilings. I could see why this model is so popular in Europe. They sound airy and pleasing on their own.

I heard a distinct improvement in resolution when Ravi switched from his Parasound Halo P6 preamp to the CODA 07x Class A preamp. The dynamics and bass slam went up by several notches when Ravi engaged the Tekton 4-10 subs. The deep bass notes pressurized the living room. This combination sounded better than what we heard at the Church using the SVS sub.

Listening to the M35 speakers

Next, Ravi prepared the room for the grand finale using his flagship [FINAL M35](#) speakers flanked by the two Tekton 4-10 subs.



Wow! This was a quite a sight as well as a sound to behold. I sat in the sweet spot and marveled at the holographic sound stage that enveloped me. The [FINAL M35](#) panels are full-range electrostatics that play down to 35Hz. Pairing them with the Tekton 4-10 subs extends the bass response down to 20Hz. They are crossed over at 50Hz freeing up the electrostatic panels to perform their finest in the mid and high frequencies.

The external subs allow the panels to perform at the fullest potential while delivering the extra dynamics, bass slam and deep controlled bass without any trace of bloat or overhang. It was pure magic as I heard one audiophile test track after another for the next 3 hours.

I kept reminding me that these Final M35 speakers along with the Tekton Subs can be purchased brand new under \$25K. It has no right to sound this good! It puts many high-end systems costing several times more to shame.

I would guess the six Starke Sound SUB5 units would elevate the performance even higher. I would be very curious to have a listen when Ravi has these sub units securely mounted on their aluminum scaffolding.

Here were some of the test tracks that stood out.

Celestial Echo – Malia & Boris Blank

Need Her So Bad – Aynsley Lister

Evil Dub – Trentemoller

Feeling Good – Avicii

Keith Don't Go – Nils Lofgren

The Road to Hell, Pt.2 – Chris Rea

Avalon – Roxy Music

Inferno – Hedegaard

Electrified – Boris Blank

Kiss In Blue – Yello

Fever – Malia & Boris Blank

Chocolate Chip Trip – TOOL

Avratz – Infected Mushroom

Hey Now – London Grammar

Big Picture – London Grammar

From Here To Eternity – Giorgio Moroder

Vertigo Heroes – Boris Blank

Magnetic Lies – Malia & Boris Blank

Man in the Long Black Coat – Bob Dylan

Queen Mary – Francine Thirteen

Bass & Drum Intro – Nils Lofgren Band

Sittin' On The Dock of the Bay – Sara Bareilles

Unchained Melody – Lucy Thomas

Can You Feel The Love Tonight – Lucy & Martha Thomas

I had brought along the Lucy Thomas Portrait CD for reference.



I listened to a couple of my favorite tracks from this CD played through the OPPO.

Unchained Melody – Lucy Thomas

Can You Feel The Love Tonight – Lucy & Martha Thomas

They sounded very good. Ravi then suggested that we listen to the same two tracks streamed from Qobuz taking advantage of the Diretta Transport Protocol programmed by David Snyder.

What a night and day difference!

Diretta added an extra level of refinement and resolution to the music compared to the standard 16-bit/44.1kHz playback from the CD. I felt the presentation through Diretta was more relaxed approaching the smoothness of analog.

If you ever want to listen to the benefits of having Diretta in your streaming setup, Ravi's high resolution setup at his home is a great place to make an A/B comparison. If you would rather try out Diretta in your own home with your own gear, David Snyder offers a risk free trial to all Club Members.

The FINAL electrostatic speakers offer unparalleled value at every price point. Ravi has intentionally priced them to remain competitive with the Magnepans. The Final M35/Tekton combo takes you to true high-end territory for under \$25K. Many would consider this level of performance an end-game system and remain happy for life.

There were just two factors one should keep in mind before investing in the M35 panels.

1. Seating Position

While the FINAL Electrostatic speakers offer a wider sweet spot compared to other brands, solo listeners would benefit by sitting exactly on axis to get that magical 3D experience. The sweet spot can be expanded to accommodate a 3 person listening width by adjusting the toe-in of the speakers between 15 and 45 degrees.

2. Soundstage Height

The M35 panels are 7' tall. They project a tall soundstage. This is perfect for reproducing orchestral pieces and majestic movie scores. The width and well as the height of the soundstage envelopes your senses.

However, this exact strength works in reverse when you are trying to enjoy a solo performance. I felt this the moment I heard Lucy's solo voice in Unchained Melody. It was razor focused along a vertical line while I was expecting the voice to be focused on a small circle. This made her mouth appear taller in height than normal.

This is an unavoidable limitation dictated by physics. All line array speakers exhibit this behavior. They can laser focus along a vertical line. They cannot focus on a dot. It takes a while getting used to listening to solo performances on electrostatic panels. Conventional speakers with cone drivers like the Wilson Audio Autobiography excel at focusing at a single point with precise positioning of its driver elements. Point sources vs. line sources have their own unique radiation patterns.

Ravi's Multi-Channel Demo Room

At the end of the Final 35 demo Ravi invited me upstairs to his multichannel demo room featuring Starke Sound's premium line of HALO speakers, amplifiers and subwoofers. This room is dedicated to Starke Sound Stereo and Dolby ATMOS 5.4.4 multichannel setup with the [Marantz AV10](#) reference level 15.4 channel preamp/processor, [Starke Sound A3](#) (50w of Class A power) and [Starke Sound A8](#) (35w of Class power) high bias Class A/AB multichannel amplifiers.

In this photo you see the [Starke Sound Halo M2](#) floor standing speakers in lunar white featuring a beryllium tweeter and dual 6.5" woofers.

The center channel has the same drivers.



There are two [Starke Sound Halo SUB1](#) subs in the front and two more in the rear.

Ravi has 4 of these [Starke Sound Halo WI](#) wall mountable speakers serving as his Dolby ATMOS height speakers in his room.



In addition he has two more of these speakers for his surrounds that completes his Dolby ATMOS 5.4.4 system.

Ravi would be delighted to give a full demo to any Club Member who may feel interested.

This was an enjoyable an engaging listening session. It is rather unfortunate that we were not able to experience the FINAL M35 speakers at the Church Event.

Closing Thoughts

It takes a lot of coordination and effort from volunteers to plan and execute these Club Events. Club President **John Harvell** and Ravi Velnati drove the Enterprise Rental Truck all the way from Chandler transporting the Final M35 and M15 panels and associated electronics.



Club Secretary **David Snyder** and his friend drove all the way from Peoria hauling large plastics buckets containing all the components for setting up his Diretta Network Audio Transport Protocol along with his SVS subwoofer, cables and interconnects.

Club Vice President and Treasurer **Paul Johnson** furnished all the refreshments. We had quite a large gathering of Club members attend this event. Ravi explained the design principles of Electrostatic Speakers and what make the Final brand so unique. He patiently answered all questions from Club members that I have attempted to paraphrase.

The song selection was very good. Even though we did not get to hear the flagship Model M35s, the M15s were more than adequate to fill up the 25' x 76' x 9' space. We enjoyed 3 hours of uninterrupted glorious music. This was an ideal way to spend a Saturday afternoon.

Special thanks to **John Harvell**, **Joe Roberts**, **David Snyder** and **Nick Mavrikos** for helping Ravi load and unload all the equipment from the truck.

Ravi had a great suggestion for the next Club Event featuring FINAL M35 speakers and I agree with him 100%. Rather than dealing with the complex logistics of hauling these massive speakers, getting volunteers to load and unload the heavy electronics and wasting time setting them up at the Church why not simply host the Club Meeting at Ravi's place?

Ravi would be more than happy to make room for 15 or so Club Members to enjoy his fully calibrated 2-channel reference system as well as experience a Dolby ATMOS 7.4.4 setup using FINAL speakers. If more than 15 members RSVP, Ravi can do multiple listening sessions divided across groups of 15.

Ravi Velnati can be reached at (248) 520-8628 or highreshifi@gmail.com

This is Ravi's store front on [Audiogon](#)

Best regards,

David Das