

Interesting Internet for the Audiophile

Dave Hjortland ~ December 2020

For the audiophile, just listening to music on a good system is an activity sufficient unto itself. Of course, naturally. However most audiophiles are also interested in different hi-fi gear, new kit, new music, and many related matters. How do we pursue the interests of our hobby during these days of pandemic and isolating at home? More than ever, we turn to the internet.

For specific topics or reviews, a lot of folks just genuflect before the altar of Google the All-Knowing and ask. However there's a whole lot more of interest to our hobby out there on many sites dedicated to it.

If it isn't presumptuous – or even if it is – I'd like to share here just a few of the audio sites that I find most worthwhile and can recommend. You will probably know of some of them, but perhaps there will be one or two that you are not acquainted with.

The Daily Audiophile – <https://www.dailyaudiophile.com>

Here are listed links in headline form to selected articles from some 30+ internet sites, including those of major US, British, and Canadian audio magazines. You can glance through the headlines and click on the link if you come across a topic that interests you. This is a site I often pull up on my iPhone when I am not busy and have a few minutes to kill.

Stereo Times – <http://v2.stereotimes.com>

One of the older surviving "magazine" sites, ST has many worthwhile equipment and music reviews, capably written. Their equipment reviews are mostly subjective ones – no objective bench testing here – but they often cover quite interesting gear that is not reviewed by other, more "mainstream" sites and magazines.

HiFi Shark – <https://www.hifishark.com>

Audiophiles often have an interest in determining the market value of used audio gear, either their own or that being contemplated for purchase. HiFi Shark can often provide a ready reference for the value of such, and is a more practical site than others I am aware of. And it's *free*. You just type in the name of the piece in the site's search engine, and it seeks out sales listings for it from all over the internet. OK – so it may take a little doing to convert some of the prices shown in Francs, Deutschmarks, pounds, and the like into dollars, but some of the prices *are* from US listings.

The Audiophile's Wife – <https://www.theaudiophileswife.com>

"A gathering place for the victims of sound."

This is a blog which has largely been discontinued by its author, the last post being from January. Most posts are from earlier years, but they do not read as being dated.

Humorously written by the long-suffering wife of a dedicated audiophile, her stories and observations are of special interest to those of the female persuasion in similar circumstances. My wife certainly enjoyed them, and actually I did as well. Highly recommended.

SoundStage Hi-Fi – <https://www.soundstagehifi.com>

Another long-lived site (billed as “The Original Online Audio Magazine”) of audio-related opinion, equipment, music reviews, and even a number of videos. To be around that long they are obviously doing a lot of things right. Well written and produced, their reviews are worth reading... although I gotta confess that the primary reason I visit the site myself is to follow the writings of a regular columnist, Ken Kessler, one of the most highly regarded writers in the business.

The Audio Beat – <http://www.theaudiobeat.com/blog.htm>

Well-organized and one of the best-written and professional audio review sites – a look at the credentials of their writer-reviewers will give you a clue why. The majority of their reviews seem to be of upper-end kit, so if you’re one of the “If I can’t afford it I don’t want to read about it” crowd, this may not be your favorite site. But otherwise it can be a good read.

I could go on. There truly are a lot more interesting sites out there – such as **Six Moons**, **Audiophilia**, **Part-Time Audiophile**, and **Enjoy the Music** to name only a few more. And then there are the forum sites, DIY sites, and specific-topic sites, most of which I don’t know well enough to comment on. In any case, this article is probably long enough as it is.