



Last meeting recap

By Bruce Brown

Hi-Rez and Jet Lag

Exactly 24 hours back from a trip to Japan, I had to give a compelling demonstration of why hi-rez audio is better than Red Book CD. As most

audiophiles know, we want the highest resolution available. Usually we're talking about the law of diminishing returns when you get in this stratospheric format.

A few years ago when my studio was just a blueprint, I needed a niche to stand out from the crowd. I needed to offer something no one in the Pacific Northwest had. Besides having a state of the art room, we offer DSD/DXD recording/editing and mastering for stereo and surround.

With the Tascam DV-RA1000HD and Korg MR-1/1000 within reach of just about everyone, I try to convince everyone I see that DSD and DXD are where the industry is heading.

While the Korg MR-1000 can record at DSD128fs, there are still no workstations that can edit the files. Every time I receive a DSD128fs file, I have to first down sample it to DSD64fs. The Tascam and Korg MR-1 still record at DSD64fs, though the Tascam does have digital in/out



so you can use an outboard converter of your choice. When DSD first emerged on the scene years ago, the biggest problem seemed to be how to edit the files. While the workstations Sonoma, SADiE and Sonic just added bits, Pyramix went a different route. **Digital eXtreme Definition** was created jointly by Digital Audio Denmark and Merging Technologies (Pyramix). The definition of DXD is 352.8kHz sampling rate and bit depth of **at least** 24bit. Pyramix goes a step further and uses 32bit internal processing.

When Pyramix edits a DSD file, the file actually stays in the DSD format. Anytime you edit, Pyramix “tricks” the computer into thinking it’s a DXD file, using the algorithm 32/352.8

As everyone know, every time you make a digital conversion, there is a degradation of the signal. From the advice of Peter Scheelke of Digital Audio Denmark, try using DXD as a native recording format. The only AD/DA converters that will do this sample rate are the dCS 905/955 and the Digital Audio Denmark AX24.

Unfortunately dCS had problems with firmware and converters at these rates and have since dropped the line. What remains is the AX24 from Digital Audio Denmark. This is a modular converter and can be configured from 2 to 8 channels with a number of different interfaces to get the signal in/out of the converter. I also have the mic pre-amp option built into my Digital Audio Denmark converter. Plugging a microphone directly into the converter bypasses an extra analog section, giving you an even more pure/transparent sound.

For the meeting, I brought in my Pyramix Digital Audio Workstation, Digital Audio Denmark AX24, EMM Labs DAC8 IV and the Tascam DV-RA1000 as a transport. The DAD AX24 is connected to the workstation via a MADI cable. MADI (**M**ulti-channel **A**udio **D**igital **I**nterface), uses a single 75 ohm coax cable to transmit up to 128 channels of DSD/DXD material. MADI can also be in an SC optical configuration. The great thing about MADI is there is **NO** signal loss at up to 50

meters for coax and 500 meters for optical!

In Japan, I took an analog feed off the SSL 9000J mixing board into my DAD converter, recording into Pyramix. I took another stereo feed going into my Tascam DV-RA1000 recording in DSD. The group we were recording was the Tsuyoshi Yamamoto jazz group. You might remember them from the great album “Autumn In Seattle” and “Midnight Sugar”.

The studio, Onkio Haus, was simply amazing! Large rooms, vintage microphones and a vibe! Yamamoto was on his game. We recorded about 14 tracks in 6 hours! You heard it first guys! The raw tracks! You can’t get closer to the master... it **was** the master!



Notes from the meeting

By Keith Birdwell

Bruce came to the meeting with his DSD/DXD recording equipment containing Pyramix software, the DAD AX24 Converter system hardware connected to his PC and the Korg MR-1000 hardware serving as a transport only. Bruce uses his AX24 to record at the 32 bit 352.8Khz rate

I thought Bruce's presentation was spellbinding and was sorry to see it end. Most significant to me was his demonstration of how to use the software to modify the loudness of specific tonal frequencies of a song on the fly and then to immediately play back the results. Bruce played recordings ripped from CD as well as recordings made at 32 bits and 352.8K samples per second.

Sampling at 32 bits and 352.8khz is four times the information density of DSD and 16 times the information density of CD's 16 bit 44.1khz standard. When asked about the OOPS feature Bruce said he could go back up to 32 steps to undo any actions.

For further information on the tremendous advance in recording technology and playback quality demonstrated during Bruce's presentation I have included the following references:

The link to the Pyramix software web site is:

<http://www.merging.com/>

There is a web page on this very comprehensive site containing a matrix of specific PC CPU's, mother-

boards, etc., which have been tested as compatible with the Pyramix software. There's also a page with a press release regarding the album DIVERTIMENTI the world's first Blu-ray all music recording.

The link to Digital Audio Denmark's (DAD, maker of the AX24) English language web site is: <http://www.digitalaudio.dk/default.htm>

The link to Korg's MR-1000 web page is: http://www.korg.com/gear/info.asp?a_prod_no=MR1000

Check out the link there on how to make a DSD disk using a Korg DSD recorder.

The link to Wikipedia's article on DSD is: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Direct_Stream_Digital

Check out the link there on how to create a DSD disk.

A note from the Editor

Our club is growing, we have a new President who has great plans for our future, and new Executive Committee. Many changes, all to better serve our club's needs (and give brakes to the people who relentlessly pulled us to where we are now... we are grateful to them all). What has not changed is our individual involvement in this hobby. It is our club, and this is our newsletter.

A newsletter which is a reflection of us and our association. To that effect, I would like to invite you all to share your thoughts on, and experiences with this hobby of ours. Been to a concert, conquered your room acoustics, found good information on the 'Net? We'd like to hear from you. Share it with the rest of us by sending it to me at mariusz@audiosociety.org for future publication. NOTE: Although I can accept many formats, plain text (with possibly pictures attached) is the best.

Thank you all.

Field Trip

By Jerry Pomeroy



Those daring enough to brave the traffic and venture to the "world of Ballard" had a good time on our field trip. We started with an after hours tour of Resolution Audio, then a summer evening trek down to Bop Street Records to see what 650,000 records looks like.

Larry Isreal is the proprietor of



Resolution Audio. Like many of us, Larry got into hi end audio during college and in 1970 started working for *Tech Hi-Fi* in Boston area. He has basically worked in audio related businesses since then.

When you visit the store you will find some familiar names such as *Rega, Vandersteen, Usher* and *Avalon*. Some lesser known brands that caught my eye while in the store were *Jota, Synthesis, Proclaim Audio Works*, and the *First Sound* pre-amp that is made here locally, in Renton.

About 8:15 we left the store and walked about 3 blocks to Bop Street Records. Dave Vorhees started selling records out of his house, his

knowledge of records and music has propelled his little record trading business. The store now has about 650,000 records. I managed to buy about 10 disc that evening but don't think that made much difference in how full the shelves are.

One of the strong appeals in having "field trip" activities is the opportunity to socialize. With only 12 regularly scheduled meetings a year there isn't much time to find out what your audio buds have been up to. These trips are always fun and rarely will someone give you the evil eye for making too much noise in the back of the room.

Thanks Andrew for putting this together. One last thing; is anyone up for more events like this? With feedback, or maybe also with an idea for a get together on location, let our president, Andrew, know.



First Sound two piece pre-amp

A note from the President

Thank you, indeed, to those who were able to attend the field trip on July 24. We had a great time at Resolution Audio and the Bop Street Records stores. A lot of useful information about audio equipment and plus each of us have gotten a few favorite LPs. I've got Oscar Pe-

erson Plays The Cole Porter Song Book, Dire Straits Communique, and two Mahler Concerts all in NM conditions.

Don't be lazy and come with us next time! Please let me know if anybody has more ideas about field trips. I am anxious to arrange them. Thank you all,

Andrew Kosobutsky

Tech stuff

By Jerry Pomeroy

Pioneer 400 GB Blu-Ray disc:

Holding 25GB on each of the 16 layers. Pioneer claims the "not quite ready for prime time" multi layer should be readable by standard BD Players.

Blu-ray 2.0 players:

Sony is shipping the \$399 MSRP BDP-S350 Blu-Ray player. Although the initial configuration isn't BD Live (BD profile 2.0) a software upgrade will be available this fall that will enhance the interactive capabilities, with a USB flash drive it will be a 2.0 profile player. The S350 is primarily designed as a transport but has stereo DACs onboard and is capable of reading Dolby True HD. Sony is also slated to release the S550 player this fall, it is essentially the same as the S350 with full compliment of onboard DACs but it will be out of the box 2.0 profile.

Panasonic is also shipping their first 2.0 profile player the DMP-BD50K. The player features a full compliment of onboard audio DACs; it can stream or decode DTS HD-MA, Dolby True HD and 24/192 multi channel audio.

BD Changer:

Blu-Ray disc in a dual layer format can hold up to 50Gigs of info per side. Many movies in 1080P with supplemental material utilize between 30 and 40 gigs of this capacity. Recognizing the volume of data in even a modest movie collection of say 100 movies gobbles up your storage very quickly. I have long thought, the concept of a linkable

BD disc changer would be a great option. I rather expected Sony's first entry into this market to be basically a 200 disc DVD juke box with a BD drive in it and digital outputs. Their BD changer is actually part of a server system. The HES-V1000 is a multi media server with a 200-disc BD changer in it, a 500GB hard drive and a BD burner so you can write your home movies, pictures and music. Without provisions to connect more BD/DVD changers (that aren't available) the product is limited and has little appeal to me. Upon last count I have 104 BDs on my shelf of the 650 available in the U.S. at the beginning of July. I would like having access to my entire movie collection via one database and play them back without concerns of DRM. Still can't do that with \$3500 V1000. This may be the classic example of the cart being released before the horse was available to pull it.

Xbox 360:

Microsoft lowers price \$50. Rumor of \$200 X-box on the horizon.

PS3, X-box 360:

Sony has joined the movie download to server market competing against Apple and Microsoft. Sony will offer movie downloads onto the PS3 just as Microsoft and Apple.

Car Audio:

If in the market for a new Bentley you may want to wait a while before placing your order so you can Naim your favorite audio system. (I could-

n't resist)

LP Sales Rock:

According to CEA turntable shipments to retailers are up 30% in the last year. Music Direct claims their TT sales are up 400% in the first half of this year. LP sales have seen a 70% increase in the last year, while CD sales suffered a 15% decrease.

BD Music:

I am not planning on replacing my all DVD movies with Blu-rays but the concert/music disc are definitively getting replaced. I have tried to keep up with BD music releases; so far I have just over 25 concert/music BDs on the shelf with several in pre-order status. Most of the music BDs have a 2-channel 48Khz PCM track, it sounds substantially better than the *Dolby Digital* or *DTS* track. When you look at the audio data rate the improved sound quality makes sense; Dolby Digital at 640 kbps versus 48Khz PCM at 2.3 Mbps. Some of the artist on BD are: The Band, Chris Botti, Deep Purple, Heart, Santana and ZZ Top. The first 24/192 uncompressed PCM BD was *Trondheimsolistene Divertimenti*. This is a classical music disc made in Norway by 2L records. At this time I don't have anything set up to decode audio at this resolution so I haven't heard it. Joe Pittman tells me it sounds great. More 24/192 BDs are scheduled for release this fall. I hope to demo these audio formats during the November meeting.

'Till next month,

Jerry

Title Track

By Jerry Pomeroy

(No Title Track, per se, this month, just a short article with a picture)

LP s Sleeve Cleaning tips:

Here's a tip for cleaning the grime off your "slick" album jackets. Don't try this on flat finish covers like George Harrison's *Bangla Desh*. Before I give away a secret of cleaning years of finger oil dirt and grunge from the most exhibited part of your record collection I am compelled to say: Be careful. Jackets printed over the last half a century utilize different types of paper and ink, it is good to try this in a corner on the back or some inconspicuous place before cleaning the front. I have tried this on several jackets in various stages of *not-looking-so-good* and was impressed with the results. In most cases this virtually eliminated what I thought was a wear ring from the edge of the LP. On some albums I purchased used-and-abused the color print was actually worn thru but they still looked better after cleaning. Old or new; I didn't notice any degradation on the covers I cleaned. Cleaning some just makes the other un-cleaned jackets in the rack look dirty. Take a clean,

soft, **white** cotton (dies may come out) rag mist it with Simple Green. As you wipe off the dirt don't get stinky with rags or you will just be pushing dirt around. If the jacket is wet behind the rag it is to damp, take another clean rag and wipe the residue off. I think you will be pleasantly surprised with the results and the increased value of your collection. After you get the outside

cleaned I recommend protecting the jacket with a new outer sleeve. My favorite are the clear 2.5 mil Polypro/polyester film sleeves, these are clear and have a "wet" look to them so you aren't looking at a cloudy image.

Here are a couple of sites I found with interesting tips on restoring LP jackets: lpcoverlover.com, and www.vinylrecords.ch/indexlp.htm



The right half was cleaned, see the dirty LP ring mark on the top L/H side

Things we 'know' (or it's nice to)

For the first time ever this year T.H.E. Show in Las Vegas will welcome "authentic" audiophile societies members. The Home Entertainment Show, which runs between January 9–11, 2009, will offer to said members a paid access to over 100 display suites in both the St. Tropez and Alexis Park hotels. Sorry, no access to the parallel running CES, but the Alexis Park Hotel holds the software vendors exhibits who offer both new and used/rare vinyl and CDs. Also this year will be an official after-the-show demo equipment sale which will be run by Audiogon.

And this, from Science Daily (<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/07/080708200645.htm>):

Neuroscientists looked at the brain's response to piano sonatas played either by a computer or a musician and found that, while the computerized music elicited an emotional response - particularly to unexpected chord changes - it was not as strong as listening to the same piece played by a professional pianist. [...] Although the participants did not play instruments and considered themselves unmusical, their brains showed clear electric activity in response to musical changes (unexpected chords and changes in tonal key), which indicated that the brain was understanding the "musical grammar". This response was enhanced, however, when the sonatas were played by musicians rather than a computer. Dr Koelsch said: "It was interesting for us that the emotional reactions to the unexpected chords were stronger when played with musical expression. This shows us how musicians can enhance the emotional response to particular chords due to their performance, and it shows us how our brains react to the performance of other individuals." The study also revealed that the brain was more likely to look for musical meaning when the music was played by a pianist.

Photo: Jerry Pomeroy

Dear PNAS members!

How about a nice looking logo for the club? Let put together our heads and generate something unique.

I am announcing a competition for the PNAS logo! The results will be reviewed by the Executive Officers and presented at the September meeting.

The winner will get a nice reward!

—President, Andrew Kosobutsky

August 14th, 2008

PNWAS Meeting, on location!

The hot August meeting will be held at Genesis Advance Technologies in the South of Seattle (GeorgeTown area). The Club will venture into Gary Koh's playground as he shares with us insights on digital audio for the audiophile. We will have special off location treats for those attending. Jerry has offered some cheese and a few bottles from his collection. This should be one of those great memory meetings with several "Kodak moments" for the ears. GAT is located East of 4th Ave S on Lucile Street: 654 S. Lucile, Seattle, WA. 98108
If you get lost you can call Jerry @ 253-350-3916

September 6th, 2008

The "Puget Sound"

The club will be hosting our bi-annual DIY speaker contest. This contest is always fun. More details forthcoming.

September 11th, 2008

PNWAS Meeting

Mike Lavigne will host this months meeting at his place with a presentation of his listening room and system. Event not to be missed!

October 9th, 2008

PNWAS Meeting

Andrew will show us some tweaks that work. Tweaks are always a fun topic, it's great to speculate why they work or don't.

November 13th, 2008

PNWAS Meeting

Jerry will talk about Multimedia and Home Theater developments

December 11th, 2008

PNWAS Meeting

Christmas raffle and music sharing. Our annual party at which each of us can spread the joy by inflicting his/her musical tastes on others. Start planning your gifts now!

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.

EMM Labs/Meitner DAC8 IV

8-channel DAC with ST Optical, SDIF and AES/EBU inputs. DSD or PCM up to 24/96. It will also do a D/D conversion up or down. Latest model in excellent condition. \$5000.00

Call Bruce at 425-369-1392

Gallo Reference 3.1 speakers

Black and stainless with black base. Great for 2 channel audio or home theatre.

Very good condition. New \$3400 asking \$1800

Call Ken at 425-785-7517

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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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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**Pacific Northwest
Audio Society**

Bringing Audio Enthusiasts Together Since 1978

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