



Road Trip to Eficion

John Stone and other members met a couple of times at Peigen's Bellevue showroom to do some preliminary DAC set-up and listening comparisons prior to the October 14th meeting. The prep process was very constructive, in that it is very important to have a preplanned process (short music snippets pre-selected for comparison purposes is essential). Shown are the new Eficion F250 loudspeakers.

October 14th Meeting Recap

Text John Stone and photo by Joe Pittman

Last month's DAC review compared three relatively low-cost DACs, the Music Hall 25.3, EMU 404, and Wyred4Sound DAC2. Using 1-2 minute samples of familiar music, all listeners were able to discern differences and form a clear preference for one of the DACs. Remarkably, even though all three DACs sounded different, there was no clear consensus

as to which DAC sounded the best. In my view, the important point was that each listener was able to determine a "winner" in their own mind based on their own musical, and perhaps financial priorities. The fact that members heard the same things, reached different conclusions, and had a good time in the process, is what this club is all about.

This event was held at Eficion Audio in Bellevue due to the remodeling project at our normal meeting venue on Mercer Island. Thanks again to club-member Peigen Jiang for providing the space, supporting equipment, and food for the event.

Rocky Mountain Audio Fest 2010 Report

by John Stone

The day after the DAC event, I flew to Denver for the Rocky Mountain Audio Festival. Starting with the inaugural festival in 2004, I have attended each of these annual events and thoroughly enjoyed every one. This year's event again was well-attended, but not to the point where access to any of the rooms and equipment was difficult. This show's accessibility is one of the most important factors for me, because it allows me the opportunity to experience the show at my own pace.

Without question, the musical high point for me was the Magico room. Alon Wolfe, the founder of Magico,

was demonstrating his absolutely wonderful Q5 speakers using reel to reel tapes. I'm not ashamed to say that David Oistrakh's 1962(?) performance of the Bruch Scottish Fantasia brought tears to my eyes. After this room, I had to retire to the hotel lounge to compose myself (they had a killer IPA on tap).

Another interesting demonstration was held in one of the hotel's large open rooms. In this setting, Ray Kimber was playing multi-channel music using 5 prototype Sony speakers and Pass Labs amplification. The musical selection I heard was the Weber State marching band. The experience was a very realistic portrayal of what you

would hear if you were playing in the band itself. While many, including myself, prefer the normal audience perspective, it is interesting occasionally to hear the music from the performer's perspective. More revealing perhaps was the fact that two drummers from the Weber State Marching Band were in the same listening session with me. I asked them "Is this what you really sound like?" Their reply was, "yes, but its really a lot louder on the field." We then asked Ray to turn it up a bit, which resulted in the band members nodding and smiling to indicate that "now its right."

President's Message

by John Stone

As the end of the year approaches, the club faces a number of challenges. Foremost is the issue of the ongoing remodeling efforts at our meeting location at the Congregational Church on Mercer Island. As many of you know, the church has removed the carpeting and has elected to go with a painted concrete floor. This has severely degraded the room acoustics and is not acceptable for

our club in the long term. We are actively engaged in conversations with the church leadership on what steps might be taken to remedy the situation. While the church empathizes with our situation, we've been told that the church has very limited funds to address our concerns.

The club intends to make an offer to the church to share some of the financial burden necessary to install a new

floor covering in what for us, constitutes our main meeting room. We will discuss our level of financial participation briefly at the November meeting and put a proposal forward for a vote by membership at the December meeting. Your opinions matter to us, so please let us know what you think and if you have any ideas.

Upcoming Stuff

by Jerry Pomeroy

Beatle fans won't want to miss the November 11th meeting. Jerry promises a meeting full of fun and unique HD videos of concerts with a special emphasis on the "Fab Four" and their music. Be at the meeting before 7:30 as we will start promptly and have some business items to get out of the way.

The December 9th meeting is our laid back social event celebrating the holiday season. We will have contest for the funniest song and the best

sounding song, entries are limited to Christmas holiday music. We hope to acquire prizes for these categories. Start digging thru your records CDs and SACDs not only for the contest but for the Raffle.

Bring your audio related stuff to the meeting and trade it for a raffle tickets and join the great club audio swap. You can buy tickets for just \$3 or trade your CDs, LPS or audio related stuff for them. We will also vote at the December meeting authorizing up to \$2,000

dollars from the club treasury toward carpeting the basement of the church. It is the intent of the executive committee to negotiate with the church to resolve the acoustic issues generated by removing the carpet down stairs.

Head-Fi Meet

Text and photos by Joe Pittman

The local Head-Fi enthusiasts are very active in the Seattle area. Gil Pena AKA Big Poppa, organized the event which was located at Front Panel Express on October 2nd. Several MOT's (members of trade) donated some very nice and valu-

able products for the raffle. Every attendee was given a free ticket for the raffle and had the opportunity to purchase additional tickets. This was a great way for the Head-Fiers to generate funds for future event costs. The event planned for mid

2011 will be larger with more MOT's and should be real fun.



A large area was set-up for Head-Fiers to demonstrate their systems.

ALO Cables from the Portland area demonstrated their headphone cable upgrades..

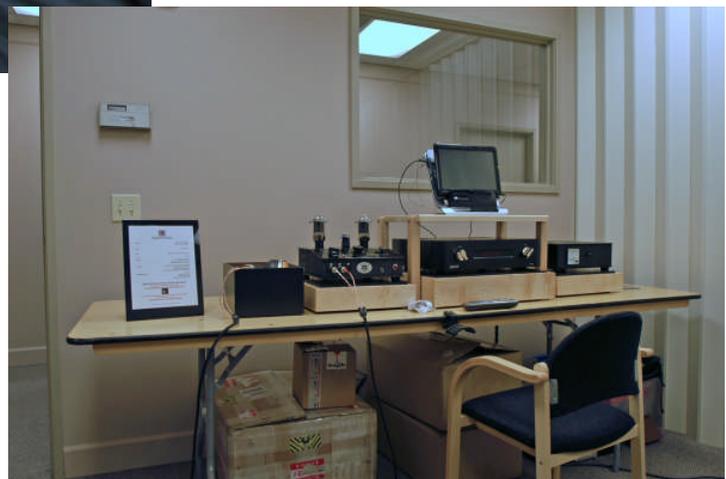


Dan Schmale aka DOC B and his wife "Queen Eileen" demonstrated triode amps driven by R2R tapes from the Tape Project.



KOSMIC had 3 systems for demo including Woo Audio amps.

Head-Fier Josh Bittner aka King Styles, demonstrated his killer system consisting of the Eddie Current "Balancing Act" amp and Ayon Skylla DAC.



Genesis and Kosmic at RMAF

Text and photos by Joe Pittman

Genesis Advanced Technologies had two rooms at RMAF this year. And if any of you have participated in a show like this, you know that one room is difficult enough, but two rooms is a major effort. Gary Koh partnered with Balanced Audio Technology (BAT) for the electronics.

BAT electronics and Genesis loudspeakers was an excellent match. After being involved in a few shows now I can tell you that assembling a system that sounds good in the Denver Marriot Tech Center hotel rooms is a real challenge. After Gary did the final tuning, I was really impressed with the sound that was achieved. When you put together a system at home and have years to get the most out of your system, it takes more than luck to get good sound in one day's set-up.



The smaller room featured G7.1f loudspeakers driven by a BAT VK-3iX SE preamp and VK-55SE stereo amp. Equipment was connected by Absolute Fidelity balanced component interface cables and loudspeaker interface cables.

Sources were the SOTA Sapphire turntable with SME arm and Denon cartridge and KOSMIC Server driving a Weiss DAC 202. All equipment was on KOSMIC Equipment Stands.

IsoTek power filters and Absolute Fidelity Power Interface Cables provided the juice.



The big room featured G5.3f loudspeakers driven by a BAT REX linestage preamp and VK-55SE monoblock amps. Equipment was connected by Absolute Fidelity balanced component interface cables and loudspeaker interface cables.

Sources were the SOTA Millenia vacuum hold-down turntable with KOSMIC arm and Magic Diamond cartridge and Genesis Server driving a Gary's modified Weiss Minerva DAC. All equipment was on KOSMIC Equipment Stands.

IsoTek power filters and Absolute Fidelity Power Interface Cables provided the juice.

Nitty Gritty had the Mini-Pro 2 record cleaning machine available to clean records for free.



Bottlehead Open House

by Joe Pittman



Local triode tube legend, Dan Schmale AKA Doc B had an open house October 22nd at his new facility on Bainbridge Island. Dan produces the Bottlehead and Tape Project products. There was tasty food and drink and great music played from tape, LP and CD. Jazz vocalist Jacqui Naylor, who is one of the artists in the Tape Project was there. Some of you may recognize some of the equipment on demo which is the same gear used at the last VSAC meet. If you get a chance, go visit Bottlehead's new facility located at the Sportsman Business Park, 9415 Coppertop Loop, Suite 101, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110. For more info call 206-451-4275 or check out his web site www.bottlehead.com

Jazz vocalist Jacqui Naylor poses with Joe Pittman and Jerry Pomeroy. We picked-up copies of her latest CD: You Don't Know Jacq

Ted Smith's New DAC

by Joe Pittman



So what has Ted Smith been up to? Turns out he has been working on a new DAC for the last 3 years. He was looking for some other opinions about his latest DAC, so we listened to it in my system. You know how it is, you work on something for a long time, and you need feedback from others.

Anyway, his DAC blew me away. Worst case its in a handful of the best DAC's I've ever heard. Best case is it's the best DAC I've ever heard. I want one. What's really great is that is the circuit board was sitting on a cardboard box with no enclosure.

Ted's new DAC is a true DSD design and he has started a thread in AudioAsylum with a very detailed overview which you can see at:

<http://www.audioasylum.com/forums/pcaudio/messages/8/80732.html>

The club was planning on having Ted demonstrate the DAC at the December meeting, however, due to the current acoustic problems, we will try to reschedule Ted after the acoustics issue is resolved.

Speakers from The Puget Sound!

by Terry Olson

I am pleased to announce that at the January 13th meeting we will be having several of the participants from this Summer's big event ("The Puget Sound! DIY Speaker Contest") demonstrating their contest entries. If you're wondering why anyone would waste their time with "Home-made" speakers, I believe that you're in for a pleasant surprise. The Pacific Northwest has more than a few very gifted amateur designers and some

local DIY designers (including Club members) have gone on to become internationally recognized professionals.

It's no secret that there really isn't any full-fledged course work in speaker design available and that most (all?) professional speaker designers started out as amateurs early in their careers.

The participants will tell you about their entries, what their goals were and allow the club member's

to get a sense of the various decisions, as well as the necessary compromises, that accompany any successful design.

This is a rather unique opportunity to ask question and gain some insight into the design process.

Even better, it can provide a lot of valuable information as to how you can get into the hobby and design or build your own speakers, while having fun and often saving "a lot" of money.

Coming Attractions

November 11th, 2010

PNWAS Meeting

It's dark outside. So it's time to have our annual high definition video and sound presentation of the latest technology.

December 9th

PNWAS Meeting

Annual raffle and Christmas music contest.



January 6-9, 2011
CES 2011

The largest consumer electronics show for industry and Press. See <http://www.cesweb.org/>

January 13th
PNWAS Meeting

The winners and entrants of The Puget Sound speaker building contest are invited to demonstrate their speakers.



February 10th

PNWAS Meeting

TBD

March 10th

PNWAS Meeting

We are going to play some vinyl so bring your records. We'll also clean your records for free!

April 14th

PNWAS Meeting

Guest speaker Jules Bloomenthal will talk about Telarc's early digital recordings with the Soundstream recorder.

Classified Ads

Meridian 568 Processor/DAC
(24bit/96Khz) - \$1200 obo - and my
Meridian 598 DVD Audio Player
(\$1400 obo). Contact Renan Jeffereis email: renanj@jeffereis.org

Visitors Welcome!

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

PNWAS Mission Statement

- ◆ To bring 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 audio-philes 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 member-

ship deems appropriate.

Club Website

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Annual Dues

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

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CornyGuy@aol.com

Music: 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 and 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.

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