



One of the 3 demo systems was playing in the small room adjacent to our main meeting room to give members an idea of what the Vana-too loudspeakers sound like in a more appropriate room size. The speakers were driven by the club's Oppo BDP-95.

## August 9th Meeting Recap

by Jerry Pomeroy

A warm summer evening on Mercer Island made for a good evening at the club. What could two local guys from the club do at the August meeting: Rick Kernan and Gary Gesellchen debut Vana-too. Long awaited and anticipated "Transparent One" speaker system rocked the house.

How much attention does a ten-inch tall speaker deserve? After a brief introduction by Gary concerning how the company and speakers came to be the demo music from Rick's iPod began. In planning the meeting no one knew if the little speakers would be able to fill the 50' by 22' room downstairs.

The 16/44.1 demo started off with a drum track and it shook the house. There were a few times the speakers were overdriven, demonstrating just how far what these would go. The two powered 5.5-inch drivers showed exceptional dynamic range. Throughout the demo members listened intently: 30



Rick Kernen at the computer and Gary Gesellchen gives the PowerPoint presentation.

*(Continued from page 1)*

seconds into the demo sound and smiles filled the room.

There are a lot of small speakers on the market; many have dedicated plugs for an Apple iPod. Most speakers under 12" high have a separate subwoofer that is crossed over pretty high so placement of the three boxes are critical. By using a 5 1/2 inch, long excursion XBL woofer (Dan Wiggins design) this little 60 watt RMS system can make tonal bass not just noise. These speakers seem to be the correct blend of detail in music and accurate tonal recreation. Set up they have a great little soundstage.

Besides the "Transparent One" speakers systems set up in the main room two other sets were in smaller rooms, Gary Koh had his iPad and server in one room and Jerry Pomeroy had the clubs Oppo BDP-95 set up in another. Jerry had received the speakers just prior to the meeting so they had less than 6 hours of burn in by the time the meeting started. A couple things learned through out the evening about set up: it is critical the tweeter is at or above your ear height not below as demonstrated in the Oppo room. It takes about 100 hrs for this system to burn in: the first hour is almost painful. The amp is digital so the system sounds best with a digital source.

This is a versatile hi performing system. One exceptional application for this product would be Condo/ apartment where the analog input could be used for a flat panel TV by using a digital Wi-Fi network such as Apple Airport you could access your music stored on iPod or iPad when you walk into the room. Wouldn't these make great computer monitors or second room system? Consider they cost only \$500/black or \$550/ cherry, how can you pass this up.



Vanatoo loudspeakers set-up in the main room. The speakers were driven by Rick Kernen's iTouch into an Airport plugged into the Vanatoo's power plug and connected with a mini-Toslink cable.



Vanatoo loudspeakers set-up in a small room adjacent to the main room. The speakers were driven by Gary Koh's laptop into the Vanatoo's USB input.

# The Puget Sound



## DIY SPEAKER CONTEST September 8, 2012

The Puget Sound DIY Speaker Contest will be held Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Mercer Island Congregational Church, 4545 Island Crest Way, Mercer Island, WA 98040. Doors open at 9:00am and judging begins at 9:30am.

There are two "classes" of entries: ORIGINAL designs and KITS.

A KIT is defined as any pre-designed or published design (publication includes the Internet) that is the product of another person. This may be plans, parts, kit, or both plus cabinets, etc. Any major deviation from the plans may at some point constitute an original design -- however, a club appointed technical committee will have the final determination if this problem presents itself. All kits must have been offered to and available to the general public at some time. We rely on the integrity of the contestant! The kit class is broken by cost per pair, and excludes the cost of the cabinet and finish. The breakdown for kits is as follows: \$0-\$175/pair, \$176-\$325/pair and \$326+/pair.

ORIGINAL DESIGNS categories are: One way under \$75/over \$75, Two way under \$200/over 200, Three way under \$300/over \$300 and Unlimited no limit. NOTE: This is for drivers and crossover parts only; cabinet material and finish are not included. We again rely on the contestants' integrity. Your uncle who owns the HiFi Emporium cannot give you a special deal that isn't or hasn't been available to the general public. Nuff Said!

The speakers will be driven by the system the club supplies. Don't bring your own MegaWatt Hyper Triode Amp -- we're not going to use it. To keep it simple, we are not going to allow bi-amping or plate amps for a bass module.

The entry fee is \$5 if you pre-register (postmarked by August 25th) or \$10 if you register at the door. Also, it would help us a great deal if you'd let us know or think you're coming.

The judging will be by a panel of

judges in a special room set aside for this. We will have three judges, which in turn plays his personal pre-selected musical selections (2-3 minutes max.) while sitting in the "sweet spot." Each contestant is allowed to specify general guidelines to set-up, that is, distance apart, toe-in, although corner loaded speakers will need to provide their own artificial corners. Remember that the judges will be sitting side by side so that should be taken into consideration.

We intend that judging will be totally blind -- this means that a curtain is utilized to ensure that sound, and not appearance, will be the sole criteria. All speakers will have the loudness adjusted to the same level before judging begins. Set-up of speakers will be by a club crew using notes taken at time of entry. Each judge will be issued a standard evaluation form prior to each session, and will rate each entry by assigning points, after which the form is collected by the Technical Committee member assigned to monitoring the judging (and setting SPL levels prior to each evaluation of an entry, etc). The forms are then scored by the Contest Director, or his designee for total points. After the final entry is judged, the points earned are assigned within each category to determine ranking within that class. The total overall points regardless of category or class

will determine Best Sound of Show.

General admission of the public is free. We hope to have a garage sale/ swap meet type offering for those who wish to sell or buy audio gear for free. However, the owners are responsible for their gear, etc. Don't expect to drop off stuff and return at the end of the day to pick up the money. (Please advise in advance if you wish to sell items).

We are going to let the attendees help out by voting for the Best Craftsmanship, Most Unusual, Most Creative Use of Material (Bondo, duct tape, silly putty, etc.).

Awards: Each entry will receive a certificate of participation and a print out of his entry's frequency response measured by a qualified expert designated by the Contest Director or head of the Technical Committee. Additional certificates will be awarded to class winners, as well as 2nd place .

Finally a "Best Sound of Show" certificate will be presented to the overall winner. All winners of their respective DIY class are eligible for this. Please note that "kit" speakers aren't eligible for the Best Sound of Show.

Unless overruled by the Technical Committee for violation of the rules, the decision (total points) of the judges is final.

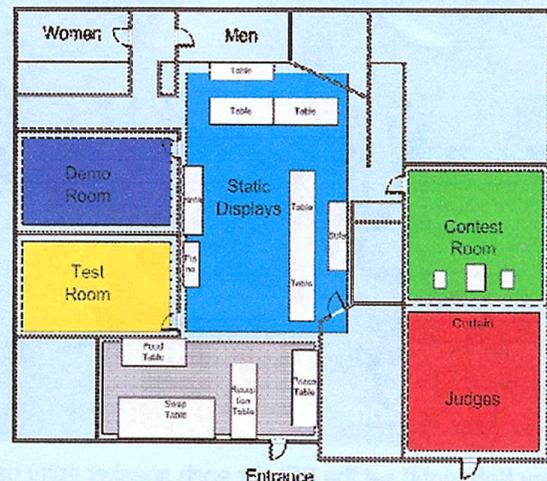
### THE CONTEST LAYOUT

Contest Room/Judges  
19'-3" x 32'-8" x 97" clear height to ceiling tiles.

Demo Room  
14'-6" x 27' x 93" clear height to ceiling tiles.

Test Room  
14'-6" x 25'-3" x 93" clear height to ceiling tiles.

Main Room (Static Displays and Entry area):  
24' x 55' x 93" clear height to ceiling tiles.



# September 13th Meeting Announcement

## The Arm as an Instrument... Durand Tonearms

by Darin Forkenbrock

Joel Durand, Professor of Composition and Associate Director of the University of Washington School of Music, will be our guest for the Audio

Society's September meeting. We'll hear brilliant tonearm designs from Joel.

Featured equipment will include Joel's Galibier Stelvio II turntable (with battery power supply), his Telos

tonearm, Ortofon A90 Moving Coil Phono Cartridge and Thoreson phono preamplifier. System amplification will include Peigan Jiang's Plinius mono block amps.



**Durand Telos Tonearm**

<http://www.durand-tonearms.com>

# October 14th Announcement

## Northwest Record and CD Show

by Jerry Pomeroy

### Record Trader Alert!

The Northwest Record and CD show will be held on Sunday Oct 14th, 2012 in the Seattle Center Shaw/Fidalgo room. There will be over 50 Tables of records, LPs, 45s, CDs and DVDs. R&B, Jazz, Funk, Rock and Roll, Rockabilly, Blues, Country, Hip Hop, Folk, Bluegrass, Punk and more.

**Again, Thanks to all the people who brought food to the last show to sup-**

**port Northwest Harvest.**

**Please help Northwest Harvest collect food for local food banks. A food item donated is worth \$1.00 off the price of admission.**

Details of the show:

Hours: 10:00AM - 5:00PM Cost: \$3.00 or \$2.00 if a can of food is brought to benefit Northwest Harvest. Early admission at 8AM is \$15.00. Enter Seattle Centers Northwest en-

trance on 1st and Republican Street. Dealer tables are available for \$50.00 each. For more information call 206-850-2162.

# November 8th Meeting Announcement

## Playback Designs - Andreas Koch

by Bruce Brown

This meeting will consist of all things DSD! Andreas will be demonstrating his Playback Designs MPS-5 and hopefully the MPD-3 as well.

Andreas Koch got his start working for Studer ReVox in Switzerland back in 1982. It was his task to build the world's first fully asynchronous digital audio sample rate converter, patent granted in 1984. Also, in 1984, he designed one of the first filter banks for digital audio. 512 banks were used to perform digital noise reduction for old recordings. Some of the same ideas were used later in audio compression algorithms such as MP3, AC-3 and others.

Following his accomplishments at Studer Revox, he went to work with Dolby Labs in San Francisco. In 1985 he built the entire digital signal processing of the AC-1 encoder and decoder (delta modulator). This was a professional digital audio compression scheme used for television transmission. It was Dolby's first digital audio product and was sold quite successfully. In 1986 he built the hardware for the very first incarnation of what is today the widely used AC-3 compression algorithm.

In 1987 Studer ReVox in Switzerland required his return. Andreas managed the development of a professional

digital audio tape recorder which was a 48-channel DASH format on 1/2 inch tape. For the next two years he was involved in the market and technology research for hard disk (PC) recording in professional applications. This job required visiting many high profile recording studios worldwide which helped to establish his solid base in this industry.

Andreas continued his great work in Switzerland until his transfer to Studer Editech in Menlo Park, CA, in 1989, where he was tasked to manage a group of engineers designing the ultimate hard disc recorder for professional post production applications, launched "Dyaxis" in 1992 which is still used today. The user interface was so revolutionary that it was copied by many competing products still produced today.

In 1993 Sony in Florida needed his services. He oversaw product development for professional audio products and launched various mixing consoles. Sony recognized Andreas' great successes and asked him to relocate to San Francisco in 1997 where he started and managed the development for the world's first 8-channel DSD recording / editing / mixing machine. "Sonoma" is still used today in studios throughout the world and has been used for most SACD releases. He designed all the

digital parts of A/D and D/A converters that helped establish DSD as a superior sounding audio format in SACD. He followed that up by expanding the Sonoma to 32-channels of DSD on a single PC. Andreas also participated in all standardization committees for SACD in conjunction with Philips.

During 2003 Andreas decided to go into business for himself as an independent contract engineer. For the next four years he designed all of the digital componentry, algorithms and architecture for EMM Labs digital audio products; professional and audiophile. He designed and implemented various revolutionary algorithms for sample rate conversion (SRC), as can only be expected from one of the original inventors of SRC. He also developed a discrete D/A converter and unique architecture for clock management from digital audio transmission inputs. In 2008, Playback Designs, formed by Andreas Koch and Jonathan Tinn, launched an integrated SACD/CD player with a variety of digital inputs that incorporates all the experience, knowledge and algorithms Andreas gathered and developed over the last 25 years, right from the onset of digital audio."



Playback Designs MPS-5



Playback Designs MPD-3

## Coming Attractions

**September 8**

### **The Puget Sound**

Our world famous semiannual (every 2 years) DIY speaker building contest.



**September 13 PNWAS Meeting**

We'll hear brilliant tonearm designs from Joel Durand, Professor of Composition and Associate Director of the University of Washington School of Music.

**October 12-14 RMAF**

Annual Rocky Mountain Audio Fest. Hi-ho hi-ho, it's off to Denver we go.

**January 8-11 2012 CES**

The annual electronics mega show in Las Vegas. Attend at your own risk (bring loys of cash).

**October 11 PNWAS Meeting**

The winners, and other contestants from The Puget Sound DIY speaker contest will demonstrate (show off) their speakers.

**November 8 PNWAS Meeting**

Andreas Koch will talk about DSD through USB and all things DSD (tentative).

**January 10 PNWAS Meeting**

TBD

**December 13 PNWAS Meeting**

Annual Christmas party and Best and Funniest Holiday music competition. We may also have a Home Theater demo (tentative).

## Classified Ads

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player has internal upsampling to 24-bit/352.Khz level of resolution, and a "very accurate 50PPM digital clocking system" (quoted from the manual).

\$750.00. Even with 2004 technology, this is a great step-up from entry level and mid-level Cd players. Contact Bill Goldwyn, Lynnwood WA Phone 425-582-9285 or 239-850-3558.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sim Audio makes great products-I bought this new and am the original owner. the player is sweet, involving, and with great bass extension. The player was first released in 2004 at a price of \$2,000. It is in great condition, and I have the original boxes. The remote is plastic, and a bit cheesy, but works perfectly. It has an S-Pdif RCA digital out, but no digital in. Uses a Burr-Brown PCM1730E 24-bit/192Khz DAC and 8X oversampling. The

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### 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

[www.audiosociety.org](http://www.audiosociety.org)

### E-mail

[info@audiosociety.org](mailto:info@audiosociety.org)

### US Mail

Pacific Northwest Audio Society, PO Box 435, Mercer Island, WA 98040

### Annual Dues

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

### Elected Officers

President: Darin Forkenbrock  
[forkenbrock@gmail.com](mailto:forkenbrock@gmail.com)

Vice-President: Jay Hope  
[jayhope@hotmail.com](mailto:jayhope@hotmail.com)

Secretary/Treasurer: Bruce Brown  
[pugetsoundstudios@yahoo.com](mailto:pugetsoundstudios@yahoo.com)

### Committee Chairs

Editor: Joe Pittman  
[joe@kosmic.us](mailto:joe@kosmic.us)

Equipment: Jerry Pomeroy  
[enhancedsystems@earthlink.net](mailto:enhancedsystems@earthlink.net)

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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