



## JULY-AUGUST NEWS

### Featured Product: Naim CD5x CD Player



Our featured product this month is the Naim CD5x CD/HDCD player. The Naim CD5x possesses many of the features we hold dear (musicality, heirloom quality, pride of ownership, and affordability). As with all Naim designs, the CD5x is a shrewd combination of thoughtful design, refined engineering prowess, and a smart aesthetic.

One feature of the CD5x in particular embodies all of these qualities. Perhaps not obvious to the casual observer is that the CD drawer is actually a complete CD turntable that slides out of the case, thus retaining the mechanical integrity one expects to find in a top-loader-with-magnetic-puck, but with the convenience of a drawer loader. In other words, it's like having a top loader that does not require the top shelf of the rack. And there's not a bit of wobbly play or klunkiness in the drawer action; instead it's firm, smooth and deliberate.

Sonically, the CD5x is a very engaging player, and this is doubly so when upgraded with FlatCap2 power supply. The CD5x does not throw relentless detail at you, nor does it hide or gloss over musical nuances. The CD5x simply conveys a very musical rendering of CD after CD for a very likable listening experience. "Likable" might seem like an odd word to apply to a very fine player such as this, but its usage here is intended to convey that the CD5x does not provide one thing at the expense of something else.

---

Heirloom Audio, Ltd

962 South Holly Street, Denver, CO 80246

ph 303.333.1504 / fax 303.333.1736 / [tyreeworld@comcast.net](mailto:tyreeworld@comcast.net)

[www.HeirloomAudioLtd.com](http://www.HeirloomAudioLtd.com)

It can also be said that the sound this player produces and the experience of interacting with it are in harmony, making for an overall likable experience. Is this important? If you've ever known the experience of liking the sound of a component but disliking its day-to-day use, then you'll appreciate the CD5x's pleasing mix of tangible and intangible qualities.

## Heirloom Audio Product Lines

### Aspara Acoustics

Tired of speakers that can't get going without drawing a kilowatt or more out of the wall? Want sensitivity without enormous size or weight? Wish for these things without high frequencies beaming at you like lasers? You must be wishing for **Aspara HL1** horn speakers. This is a natural, musical sounding horn speaker that can actually image! With a whopping 100dB sensitivity, these babies are plenty happy with just a few watts. Only 28 inches tall at the shoulder, 43 inches tall at the top of the head, and a very manageable 114 pounds, they are easy to live with as well. Come hear them with our Quicksilver SET Mono amplifiers (8 watts).

### Bel Canto Design

Newest digital wonder from the mind of John Stronczer is the **USB Link 24/96**. To our ears, this was the star of the 2009 CES. Playing 24/96 data files from an Apple notebook computer via USB Link to the forthcoming 12V DAC3 and Virtual Battery Supply, with REF500 monoblocks driving Joseph Audio Pearls, the sound of a jazz guitar and amp was more live, more palpable than anything heard before.

From a technology standpoint, the USB interface is still evolving, and we applaud John's insightful approach of offering the USB Link as a separate entity, rather than keeping it captive in a DAC. This is perhaps the latest example of the "divide and conquer" strategy that has a proud tradition in high-end audio. Split out specific audio functions, design standalone products that perform those functions to the highest standards possible using the latest available technology, and you will advance the state of the art. That is what has been accomplished here. Come hear a demonstration of what this unique product can do with a notebook computer playing 24/88 and 24/96 downloads. We think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

### Cambre'

Cambre' **Core** racks deliver an ideal combination of elegance and practicality, meeting an important need for audiophiles. Racks are often addressed as an afterthought when building a system, but considered as the all-important foundation that it is, a rack can make or break a system's ability to do justice to musical material. Core racks are also very budget-friendly, an important factor in today's economy.

A variety of finishes are available, including maple, cherry, rosewood, black ash, espresso, and walnut. Whether it be coincidence or not, we have found that these wood finishes match suitably well with our Reference 3A line of speakers. You also have your choice of either black or silver anodized aluminum hardware that is machined from solid stock. You can order Cambre' Core in standard 4-shelf racks or order by the shelf. The standard 4-shelf rack is the better bargain, of course. If you desire a configuration that is lower to the ground, 3-shelf double-wide video racks are also available. Or, consider combining a standard 4-shelf rack with an extra top (an amplifier stand) to make both a 3-shelf rack and a 2-shelf rack. This makes a very versatile combination and an impressive display for your fine audio treasures.

### Copland Digital Room Correction

How does digital room correction sound? Less chaotic, you might be thinking. That may be true, but that's not what hits you. We find that the "live venue" factor goes off the scale when you engage the Copland **DRC-205** (\$2995), and this effect is not subtle. In what other way can you spend this amount of money to dramatically upgrade the performance of your whole system? Check out this [The Absolute Sound](#) 2007 Digital Signal Processing Product of the Year winner and be convinced.

---

Heirloom Audio, Ltd

962 South Holly Street, Denver, CO 80246

ph 303.333.1504 / fax 303.333.1736 / [tyreeworld@comcast.net](mailto:tyreeworld@comcast.net)

[www.HeirloomAudioLtd.com](http://www.HeirloomAudioLtd.com)

## Furutech

At Heirloom Audio we feature the Furutech **e-TP609** power distribution block (winner of The Absolute Sound 2008 Editor's Choice Award) and its less expensive brother, the **e-TP60**. These are exceptionally well-built power blocks, and worthy of our highest recommendation. Although we currently display just these two Furutech products, we can special order anything you need from their extensive selection of products offered in North America.

## Graham Slee

An important contribution to our versatile vinyl presentation at RMAF 2008 was the unique **Revelation** phono stage from Graham Slee (\$1599). Vintage mono LPs (and even some early stereo LPs) can be a discouraging affair, given the lack of a universal standard for equalization that existed pre-RIAA. That's where this handy phono stage comes in, providing adjustable EQ for the most common equalization curves of the day. It has 42.5 dB gain, and can be paired with their **Elevator EXP** for MC mono cartridges such as the Lyras.

## Hannl

If you are really into vinyl, you have probably seen other record cleaning machines in action. If so, you'll immediately appreciate the virtues of the Hannl **Aragon** LP cleaning machine. In our view, a cleaning machine should: 1) be a pleasure to use, 2) produce consistently excellent results, 3) do it reasonably fast, and 4) require minimal fuss and maintenance. To those need-to-have features we would add the following nice-to-have features: 5) be reasonably quiet, and 6) be reasonably low in what might be called "flaming nerd factor". The Hannl Aragon truly possesses all of these features. We would be very happy to show you its capabilities.

## Lyra

An action shot: The Lyra **Skala**, reproducing great beauty with exceptional grace. At \$3555, we know it is a big investment, but this one is tough to beat at any price. Come have a listen to the compelling musicality of this latest generation Lyra. Sumptuous yet revealing reading of the amazing amount of information hidden in the grooves of your record collection is what you'll enjoy with this cutting edge moving coil cartridge design!



## Naim

We are very proud to offer the **NAIT XS** integrated amplifier. This latest in the NAIT family makes you want to pull out music you have not listened to in ages. Music you had previously written off as a disappointment suddenly becomes viable in the hands of this amp. The NAIT XS conveys an intensity, an insistent quality that defies obvious description. Perhaps this is what some refer to as pace and rhythmic timing, though these terms suggest an unrelaxed quality which is not the case here. Rich baritone voices from favorite operas seem more moving than remembered, pianos more richly played, and acoustic guitars more present. All good things, and just a few of the myriad examples that illustrate the nature of this fine new integrated from Naim.

The NAIT XS can pair with a wide range of speakers. Alone it can bring forth bounty from small monitors like the **Reference 3A Dulcet** (by far the most natural match we have found for these speakers). By upgrading the preamp's power supply with a **FlatCap2x** or **HiCap2**, it can also be the heart of even higher resolution audio systems, bringing it into the league of speaker pairings like the **Reference 3A Episodes**.

---

Heirloom Audio, Ltd

962 South Holly Street, Denver, CO 80246

ph 303.333.1504 / fax 303.333.1736 / [tyreeworld@comcast.net](mailto:tyreeworld@comcast.net)

[www.HeirloomAudioLtd.com](http://www.HeirloomAudioLtd.com)

## Nordost

Many audiophiles revere Nordost's **Heimdall** cables and for good reason. Heimdall is the starting point in the Nordost line where the ingenious Micro Mono-Filament technology is utilized in both interconnects and speaker cables, creating a highly effective air space between conductor and insulator. It is also the starting point at which WBT Nextgen connectors are used for RCA terminations, for high-stability, low-mass connections. Truly, Heimdall's performance justifies its longstanding reputation, and as far as we're concerned knows no peer at its price point.

What about **Frey**? Frey is one step up in the Nordost line above Heimdall. Is it really significantly better? Swap a Frey interconnect for a Heimdall between CD source and linestage, listen to an identical track, and you will hear the rich, subtle cues of real musicians making real music in real venues as before, only with an increase in penetrating force that is a no-brainer. Seasoned veterans who have heard this very demonstration concur. Frey does cost more than Heimdall, but when advancing up the Nordost line you always get more sonic dividends without paying sonic penalties. As far as we're concerned, the musical magic that is allowed to happen with Frey cabling is nothing short of imperative with today's high-resolution systems. We urge anyone who is thinking about investing in new cables to audition Frey. For that matter, anyone thinking of buying a new CD player ought to audition Frey cables first; the Frey magic could very well redirect their purchasing plans and save them a pile of money, too.

## Nottingham

The **Interspace Junior** with 9" Ace Interspace unipivot tonearm (\$1999) is a Nottingham in every sense. Foremost is the sound, which is organic and fluid without coloration. It features the same drive motor successful in so many of Nottingham's designs, more economically integrated into the plinth. Dimensions are compact, but this is no lightweight turntable. The alloy platter and composite plinth are *MASSIVE* beyond expectation. The tonearm mounting and many of its parts are skillfully machined from aluminum. As with other Nottingham turntables, each design detail is the product of many years' experience building turntables by ear. We especially like the combination of the Interspace Junior with the Lyra Dorian MC cartridge. Heirloom quality at a fair price.

## Quantum Resonant Technology

We have yet to hear a high-end digital source that didn't benefit from the power purification supplied by the **QX2** and **QX4**. It is a startling difference to everyone who hears it. The human voice is the greatest beneficiary of this wonderful but mysterious technology. Singers seem to calm down and sing more beautifully, more like they are happy to be singing. Electric bass acquires greater definition and clarity. A jangley guitar takes on a richness that seems to place the player and the guitar amp in the room, instead of merely placing an image at a point in an artificial soundstage. Our advice? Don't be content with someone showing you graphs of their power conditioner at work. Trust your ears to hear the difference before and after, because if you can't, you are just buying an expensive power strip in a box.

## Quicksilver Audio

By now, many of our readers are probably already aware that Quicksilver has relocated to Lodi, CA. The oenophiles among you will know this as a significant wine-producing region, particularly the zinfandels. As Mike Sanders pointed out recently, Lodi produces more wine than Napa Valley. We recently had the pleasure of trying a nice 2006 old vine zinfandel from Lodi, "Gnarly Head". It was very enjoyable and very affordable – words that describe Quicksilver equally well. What a nice idea...enjoy a nice glass of red zin while listening to glorious tube sound. Mm-mm-mm!

We display several models of Quicksilver's tube power amplifiers and preamplifiers, including the **Silver 70**, **Mid Mono** and **SET Mono** monoblock amplifiers and the **Line Stage**, **Remote Control Line Stage**, and **Full Preamp** preamplifiers. Most others are available by special order. Those lucky enough to own Quicksilvers enjoy a natural, musical bliss, economical yet rock-solid build quality, and the comfort of

---

Heirloom Audio, Ltd

962 South Holly Street, Denver, CO 80246

ph 303.333.1504 / fax 303.333.1736 / [tyreeworld@comcast.net](mailto:tyreeworld@comcast.net)

[www.HeirloomAudioLtd.com](http://www.HeirloomAudioLtd.com)

knowing their purchase will last many satisfying years. Considering tubes? Never underestimate the musical communication of a Quicksilver amplifier.

### Reference 3A

The **MM deCapo-*i*** standmount speakers from Reference 3A have long been an audiophile favorite. Recently we put them to the test in our reference system (taking the place of the Grand Veenas). We were unprepared for the sheer unqualified satisfaction they achieved in this system. Driven by 70 watts per channel of KT88 pentode power, not only did they deliver the virtues of smaller 2-way speakers on stands, but they did so seemingly without the limitations of smaller 2-way speakers on stands. At their very affordable price (\$2990-3289/pair, depending upon finish), it is simply astonishing what they can achieve in conveying the art of music.

We are proud to display the full Reference 3A range, including the **Grand Veena**, the **Episode**, the **Veena**, the **MM deCapo-*i***, and most recently added to our showroom, the **Dulcet**. There is a model to suit every budget, each one scoring big for musicality. Fine craftsmanship makes them beautiful. Easy drivability and modest dimensions and weight make them easy to live with. We have for display an example of the standard natural maple, the cherry stained maple, the piano gloss black, and our favorite, the piano gloss cherry, so you can get a good idea of the finishes available. Call to arrange an audition of what we consider to be the most musical line of affordable speakers available from anywhere in the world!

#### Audiophile treasures from:

Aspara Acoustics ▲ Bel Canto Design ▲ Cambre' ▲ Copland ▲ Furutech ▲ Graham Slee ▲ Hannl Vinyl Care  
Lyra ▲ Naim ▲ Nordost ▲ Nottingham Analogue Studio ▲ Quantum ▲ Quicksilver ▲ Reference 3A

---

Heirloom Audio, Ltd

962 South Holly Street, Denver, CO 80246

ph 303.333.1504 / fax 303.333.1736 / [tyreeworld@comcast.net](mailto:tyreeworld@comcast.net)

[www.HeirloomAudioLtd.com](http://www.HeirloomAudioLtd.com)