



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER NEWS

Heirloom Audio Hosts Nordost Visit ►

Nordost's International Sales trainer Bjorn Bentsson is seen here speaking before an attentive group of audiophiles in mid-August as he demonstrates design principles at work in the construction of Nordost cables. Musical fare was, as always, very interesting and at the same time very revealing of the benefits of the finest in high performance audio cables. Also attending the special event were Michael Taylor, Vice President of Sales for Nordost, and John Gritton, the regional Sales Representative for Nordost.

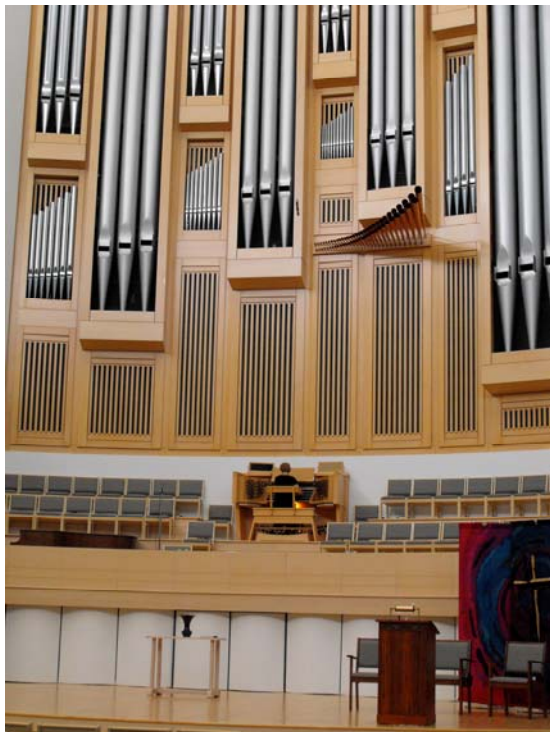


◀ Casavant and Aeolian-Skinner Organ Demos

In early August, Heirloom Audio founders David and Terrie Tyree were treated to a private demo of two remarkable organs in the Independence, Missouri area.

Pictured to the left is the majestic Casavant tracker organ (1993) at the Community of Christ Temple, with forty-foot-tall pipes towering over the organist as she plays. We were fortunate to have the opportunity to view the fascinating mechanisms of the organ, as it is one of few such organs to have been built with viewing windows for this purpose. Hard to believe that such thin sticks of balsa wood, dozens of feet in length – "trackers" as they are called – are at the heart of such a massive organ. They provide a more tactile touch for the organist than their purely electropneumatic counterparts. The organ's sound is truly awe-inspiring. This organ is set amidst a peaceful sanctuary with a conch shell-inspired roof spiraling to 195 feet above, creating a sublime acoustic.

A somewhat older Aeolian-Skinner organ (1959; not pictured) featuring over 6,000 pipes and housed in the Community of Christ Auditorium nearby was also demonstrated. Another astounding instrument to be sure.



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Announcements

Heirloom Audio Returns to Rocky Mountain Audio Fest 2009

Come visit our exhibit room (Rm 570, 5th floor Atrium, next to Divergent Technology). Enter our drawing for your chance to win 1 of 5 pairs of tickets to see a 2009-2010 performance of the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado (see below).

Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado 2009-2010 Season Sponsor

Heirloom Audio returns as the season sponsor for the BCOC's 5th season! Check out the 2009/2010 performance schedule at www.bcolorado.org.

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

New to the Bel Canto line and newly arrived in our showroom is the **VBS1 Virtual Battery Supply**. The **VBS1** is designed to power up to 3 Bel Canto components configured for 12-volt DC supply. The **CD-2** top-loading CD player is configured as such, and the **VBS1** leaves the stock line wart *in the dust!*). That is reason enough to want one, but here are a few more reasons: **DAC3VB**, **Phono3VB** and **Pre3VB**.

Don't let the **VBS1's** small size fool you – this is one *gynormous* power supply in a very sleek (and rather dense) package. Consider these numbers: 500,000 microfarads of total capacitance and over 100 joules of energy storage, with a noise floor that is 10x to 100x lower than traditional linear power supplies. This is achieved in part with the expert application of a low-noise switch mode power supply that has significantly lower audio band noise than transformer-based designs. The end result is over 100dB of isolation. Plenty of wallup, and battery-quiet without the battery! We are stoked...

Cambre'

Cambre' **Core** racks deliver an ideal combination of elegance and practicality, meeting an important need for audiophiles. A variety of finishes are available, including maple, cherry, rosewood, black ash, espresso, and walnut. 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.

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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.

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. Let us 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 can pair with a wide range of speakers. Alone it can bring forth bounty from small monitors like the **Reference 3A Dulcet**. 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**. (at left: **CD5x**, **Nait XS**, **FlatCap2x**).

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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 RCA connectors are used, providing 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

The human voice is the greatest beneficiary of this wonderful but enigmatic 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 jangly 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.

Adding more Quantum renders even more beauty, making it easy to attack the power purification problem. 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. Once you've heard the Quantum difference, your only decision will be, **QX4**, **QX2**, or both.

Quicksilver Audio

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

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Reference 3A

Since its introduction in the line, the **Episode** speaker has quickly earned admirers. A terrific value, the **Episode's** impressive range, modest dimensions, easy drivability, and fetching good looks make it a real winner. Our most recent pair of **Episodes** features the latest upgrades, among which include new internal wiring. We will be demoing them at RMAF 2009, so please come by Rm 570 for a listen.

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, 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.

Audiophile treasures from:

Aspara Acoustics ▲ Bel Canto ▲ Cambre ▲ Copland ▲ Furutech ▲ Graham Slee ▲ Hannl ▲ L'Art du Son
Lyra ▲ Naim ▲ Nordost ▲ Nottingham Analogue Studio ▲ Quantum ▲ Quicksilver ▲ Reference 3A

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