

The monthly news for stereo types.



No. 40, April 2016

Hello Brian

2016 at Decibel Hi Fi has been frantic so far. We've added new products to the site every week. We've entered into the world of social media and even had some time to visit the best music festival in Australia (WOMADelaide).

Being a family run business ourselves, I am attracted to the Brooklyn based company Grado Labs. They've been a family run business since 1953 and that heritage really shows in their products. We've added their beautiful [headphones](#) to the site.



Our [Facebook](#) page is accumulating followers every week and we hope you will tag along. Sometimes it's very difficult to give instructions or describe a product over the phone. That's why we've created videos showing, rather than telling about products. We will add videos to our [YouTube channel](#) over the coming months. If you have suggestions of what you would like to see, please let us know.

Hi Fi is an addictive hobby, and sometimes a simple change to your system can reap performance dividends. In particular, [vibration absorbers](#) are a popular way to fine tune the sound quality you can achieve from your existing components. And then there are speaker cables, interconnects, and power optimisation products. But we can't guarantee that any particular addition is going to provide a worthwhile benefit. That's why we sell many products on a money-back trial basis. The most you can lose by trialing some of our system enhancement products is the postage to send them back. So be adventurous, buy some Vibrapods or MagicHexa and see if you can take your equipment to a new level of enjoyment.

Musical regards,

Brian Maddern

### [Lower prices on Glide inner sleeves](#)

We had these inner sleeves made exclusively for Decibel Hi Fi and Soundring using 50 micron anti-static treated high density polyethylene (HDPE). They are thicker than the popular Nagaoka N102 sleeves which they



replaced.



Previously they were only available in packs of 50 but we have now decided to make them available in packs of 25, AND we have reduced the price PLUS improved the quantity discounts.

If you want to see just how good these sleeves are email us for a FREE SAMPLE.  
([enquiry@decibelhifi.com.au](mailto:enquiry@decibelhifi.com.au))

[Link to Glide inner sleeves.](#)

## The WOMADelaide Festival

Paula and I took some time out last month to visit Adelaide for the World Music Arts and Dance festival. And what a superb event it was. Three and a half days of world class acts spread across seven stages in the beautiful Botanic Park.

This festival has a lot going for it. It is located in the centre of the city so accommodation is not an issue. We and four friends rented a townhouse just outside the parkland belt that surrounds the CBD and North Adelaide, and had easy maxi-taxi



journeys to and from the venue. The park is well grassed and there are many large trees providing plenty of spots to set up a rug and beach shelter to retire to between acts. Not that there's much time to do that as the acts are continuous from midday till late. Nevertheless, it was great to see so many family groups "camping" for the day. We were impressed with the activities provided for children, it is a very family friendly festival, so there were thousands of children of all ages.

There was an app provided so we could access the map, programme, and all the info on the main website on our phones. We also appreciated that the lineup page included links to every act with videos of performances so we could preview the artists in advance and make up must-see lists, because you have to make choices when there are clashes of performances.

With more than 60 groups performing it is a bit unfair to single out any because there were so many that we enjoyed. I guess the bottom line is that it is the best festival we have ever attended, the venue is very good, it's well organised, the lineup is impressive, a great variety of food, and so we'll be going again. [WOMADelaide.](#)

## Grado Labs Headphones

We have added Grado Labs Headphones to our catalogue. They make exquisite headphones by hand in their facility in Brooklyn, USA. Stock arrived last week and they truly are beautifully designed and finished products that sound superb.

I am using a pair of the eGrado (pictured) which are a lightweight version suitable for wearing when exercising. The sound quality (particularly the bass) is so much better than in-ear buds

that they are a revelation with music. Podcasts can sound a bit chesty and they don't cut out external noises as well as the buds, but that means you hear the birds as well as the traffic.

Check out their website for more information about the Grado Family and [check out the store for our selection of headphones.](#)

[Link to Grado Labs website](#)



## New amplifier from Icon Audio

Single ended amplifiers have a dedicated following due to their simplicity of design and Class A operation but most have limited power output. The excellent new KT150 valve which is used in several other Icon Audio amplifiers enables almost double the power output as the popular 300B tube at a lower price.

The new [Stereo 30 SE](#) integrated amplifier features the same retro styling as other Icon Audio amps with its copper top plate and bias meter.



Decibel Hi Fi | 07 3344 5756 | [enquiry@decibelhifi.com.au](mailto:enquiry@decibelhifi.com.au) | [www.decibelhifi.com.au](http://www.decibelhifi.com.au)

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