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## Dear Brian,

In May I visited Munich where I attended the High End audio show hosted by the High End Society Germany. With 245 exhibitors and 800 brands on display there was plenty to see and hear. I expect to be able to offer several new products over the next few months as a result of my trip. I have also been inspired to experiment with DIY Line Array speakers - see below.

Rather than include the report in this newsletter I have created a separate document as a PDF. [High End 2009 Report](#).

Digital radio has landed. The commercial and ABC stations are now broadcasting, so those of you in the capital cities can now enjoy this new medium. In Brisbane there are 32 stations. There 's an article below which outlines the Pure DAB+ radios we now have available.

Two new suppliers have been added - the famous Decca cartridges are now available under the London brand - see below. We also have a new Rega upgrade supplier Isokinetic - details below.

Happy listening.

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## London (Decca) cartridges

Decca cartridges developed a cult status in the 1970s. Their unique "positive scanning" design is credited with a sense of immediacy which is unequalled by other cartridges. Their availability has always been somewhat limited, and the pricing puts them outside the range considered by most customers.

The Decca Radio & TV Special Products division was closed in 1989 and a licence was granted to engineer John Wright to continue manufacturing under the London brand name.

We are now able to supply these unique cartridges. A [London \(Decca\)](#) category has been created on the website, and a two page PDF brochure is available for download from that page..



## Origin Live record mats

Origin Live introduced a "performance" platter mat a few months ago and although I didn't think it made as much difference as the more expensive Boston Audio Mat1 it certainly provided an improvement on many turntables.

They now have announced an "upgrade" mat. This is only 1mm thick and is made from a flexible composite material.

It can be used directly on any turntable platter or on top of the Performance mat. I don't usually use a mat on the acrylic platter of my Aurora turntable but I thought this worked well on it. Price will be \$82.50 but there is a special offer of \$66.00 until the end of September. The usual moneyback guarantee applies, so you can try it on



your turntable with the cost of postage the only risk.

For more information take this link [http://www.decibelhifi.com.au/category58\\_1.htm](http://www.decibelhifi.com.au/category58_1.htm)

## Graham Slee news

Graham Slee's Solo headphone amplifier has received wide praise over the last few years and was chosen by the BBC for many of their studios. A new version which uses an inexpensive switched mode power supply is now available. It is referred to as Solo green because the power supply uses much less power than an analog type like his PSU1. The SMPS is much cheaper and lighter than a PSU1 so the price of the Solo Green is \$825 compared to \$1155 for a Solo/PSU1. The Gram Amp 2SE and Gram Amp 3 Fanfare are now both green also and their price has dropped by more than 10%. There are now also green versions of the Reflex and Revelation at substantially lower prices.

[http://www.decibelhifi.com.au/category48\\_1.htm](http://www.decibelhifi.com.au/category48_1.htm)



## Trends Audio power amp

Trends Audio have been selling their TA10.1 amplifier for several years and it has been very popular and won several awards when compared to other T-Amps on the market.

They have now brought out a new version as a power amplifier. The main difference is the absence of a volume control, but there have been some other minor changes as well. The model is designated TA10.2P. Power output remains the same at about 10W per channel and it has the same good quality RCA sockets and heavy duty speaker terminals. Pricing is the same as the TA10.1 at \$275.

Uses would include an inexpensive way to tri-amp some speakers (1 unit on each speaker covering mid and treble), or when used with a preamp which has its own volume control.

[http://www.decibelhifi.com.au/category54\\_1.htm](http://www.decibelhifi.com.au/category54_1.htm)



## Linn go DC

Origin Live have been selling DC motor upgrades for Linn and other turntables for many years. Linn on the other hand have stuck with an AC motor for their LP12 but have provided a sophisticated (and expensive) electronic power supply to provide a more stable power source for it. Now, in a complete change of policy, and endorsement of the Origin Live proposition that DC is better, Linn have released a DC motor for LP12 owners. The Radikal DC Motor Control Unit and Power Supply for Sondek LP12 sells for \$6,000. In comparison the Origin Live DC motor upgrades sell for \$880 to \$1980.

Another new product is the Urika Reference Internal Moving Coil Phono Stage. This is designed to be located inside the LP12 base in order to minimise cable length and sells for \$5,500.

Linn products are no longer listed on our website so if you are interested in a Linn turntable product or part please email or phone for pricing and availability.

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## Digital Radio

We are now selling the PURE brand of digital radios. They have a range which starts at less than \$200 and tops out at \$999. All are freestanding radios in their own right not tuners but have a headphone or line out socket so that the signal can be fed to your stereo system, and a line in socket so that you can play iPods or MP3 players through them.

The ONE Mini (\$199) is a compact base model. It will be available in black, white, and pink in September. The ONE Classic (\$249 - black or white) adds the ability to pause and rewind live radio for up to 15 minutes. The ONE Elite (\$299 - black or white) has stereo speakers and an alarm function. All can have a battery pack for portable operation and an iPod dock.

I have been using an Elite for several days and can confirm the following. For listeners of mainly AM stations there is a marked improvement in sound quality with the digital broadcasts. When using the unit as a freestanding radio there was a smaller difference between FM and DAB+. When feeding the signal from the Elite to a stereo system the sound quality was about the same as from my FM tuner, but the absence of background hiss was noticeable. And the ability to pause, rewind and replay plus the text information makes it far more convenient.

Digital radio broadcasters have 128K bits per second of bandwidth to use with their transmissions and most will supply at least 96kbps, but several have chosen to split the available bandwidth between two channels, hence the bandwidth of each is only 64K. In contrast the digital radio being broadcast via TV channels 200 and 201 by the ABC (DIG and DIG Jazz)



is at 128K and that sounds slightly better. I am informed that the ABC is broadcasting at lower than full power due to antenna problems initially but that will be fixed by November.

The PURE Siesta at \$199 is a stylish and affordable radio for the bedroom with three independent alarms, and adjustable sleep and snooze timers.

The CHRONOS iDock at \$449 brings together digital radio and convenient iPod docking as well as alarm functions, and the DC version also has a CD player inbuilt..

The SIROCCO 150 (\$699) is a three piece micro system. A central cube shaped box houses the electronics, and there are two separate speakers. A great little system for a bedroom or small room as there are input sockets for CD, USB and SD memory cards. A remote and iPod dock is also included. Available in September, it also can dock an iPhone.



We have stock of most models available now.

The EVOKE-2S is a portable radio with high-quality Class D amplifiers and two way speakers. Top of the PURE line is the AVANTI Flow (\$999), a classy looking stereo shelf radio with DAB+, FM, and internet radio stations via a dedicated website. A built-in iPod dock, integral sub-woofer, and class D amplifiers ensure clear sound with enough volume for a larger room.

The final unit is the HIGHWAY, a DAB+ radio for your car, which can play through your existing car stereo via a mini phono cable or by FM. It can also be used as a personal radio by adding batteries and headphones.

Choice has just tested digital radios and 4 Pure models were the only ones to be recommended.

### IsoKinetic Rega turntable upgrades

As we have been active in promoting upgrades for Rega and other turntables I was recently approached by the U.K. firm IsoKinetic who have an impressive range of upgrades and accessories for Rega and other turntables.

We have now started to distribute their products in Australia and New Zealand. Of particular interest to Rega tonearm users will be their rewiring kits, and counterweight for RB300 arms.

They also have a sub-platter upgrade for Rega turntables, as well as two acrylic platters and some adjustable isolating feet. A very simple upgrade is to replace the steel ball-bearing in the main bearing with a Ruby one,

All the IsoKinetic products that we are initially stocking are in a new [IsoKinetic category](#) on the website, but there are many other products which we have access to and information can be found on their website [www.isokinetic.co.uk](http://www.isokinetic.co.uk).



### Classic Integrated Amplifier



We have sold hundreds of T-Amps and they do a great job of providing high quality sound inexpensively. But with only 10 watts per channel output they cannot drive less sensitive speakers very well or achieve realistic sound pressure levels in a large room. So we have been looking for some time for a stereo amp with a lot more power but still in a reasonable price range,

We are pleased to announce that we are now selling the Classic 6.10 integrated stereo amplifier. This is a Chinese manufactured no frills amp of solid construction and excellent sound. It produces 80 watts per channel into 8 ohms and 130 watts into 4 ohms so there's plenty of power available when you want to play loud. Facilities are basic; There are 4 line level stereo inputs, one set of speaker terminals, and a headphone socket. The remote control allows you to select inputs, mute, and change the volume via the high quality ALPS motorised potentiometer.

Price is \$770.00, with a one year manufacturers warranty and our Decibel Endorsed moneyback guarantee. This is a great amp to use with Jordan JX92S or the Decibel Omni speakers. Full details are on the website [http://www.decibelhifi.com.au/category3\\_1.htm](http://www.decibelhifi.com.au/category3_1.htm).

### DIY Loudspeakers

I know not many people are interested in building their own loudspeakers, and that's a pity,

because it's not all that difficult and there are great savings to be made compared to buying commercial models.

The EJ Jordan JX92S drivers still remain the simplest way to build a high quality pair of loudspeakers at a reasonable price. When you consider that commercial models using these same drivers sell for up to A\$7000 a pair, to be able to build a pair of similar speakers for under \$700 is one of the industry's great bargains.

As the distributor of EJ Jordan drivers over the last 7 years we have sold many of their JX92S full range 4" drivers and enclosure kits. Their 2" wide range drivers were also quite popular until quality control issues caused them to be unavailable for nearly 18 months. Now the JXr6HD 2" drivers are available again, and also the JX125 and JX150 bass drivers have been re-introduced.

Lately I have been experimenting with the little JXr6HD drivers. A pair can be used in small enclosures with a sub-woofer to make a very satisfying 2.1 speaker system, or 5 or more can be used for an excellent home theatre 5.1 system. But where they really excel is when they are used in groups of 4 per side in a Linear Array.

Two drivers are wired in series and then two pairs are wired in parallel so that the final impedance is the same as one driver, but the efficiency and power handling are much higher. These drivers have a frequency response from 80 to 30KHz but I have been using them with a crossover point of 150Hz. Instead of a powered sub-woofer I built two 30 litre bass speakers using the Dynafone 10" drivers, although I will also be experimenting with the Jordan JX125 drivers. I don't use a normal crossover network but simply put 150Hz high pass and 150Hz low pass filters on the two outputs from the pre-amplifier. These signals then drive an ME75 power amplifier on the bass speakers, and a Metaxas Iraqlis power amp on the linear arrays. The linear arrays were initially in 11 litre enclosures and sounded fine but now are not in enclosures so they act similar to dipole ribbon drivers and create a wonderful full sound similar to omnidirectional speakers but with better defined stereo imaging,

Having recently visited the High End 2009 audio show in Munich where I heard some wonderful systems I must say these speakers exhibit many of the characteristics of some of the best systems I heard particularly in their transparency and spaciousness,

The Dynafone bass drivers are about \$200 each and the JXr6HD drivers \$165 each, so there's about \$1800 in drivers, but there's no expensive crossover components as the Harrison Lab FMOD filters are only \$55 each. You need a pretty serious power amp for the bass speakers but a T-amp could drive the linear arrays. We will be able to provide laser cut metal faceplates for \$88 a pair in the near future.

As you can see by the photo this isn't a "pretty" system yet but I will be working on some enclosure kits to make it look more attractive. In the meantime the sound is fantastic.

Anyone in or near Brisbane who is interested in building speaker systems using Jordan drivers please phone for an audition because as well as this linear array system I have a home theatre system with six 2" drivers and a sub-woofer, and a pair of JX92S drivers in 11 litre enclosures.

[http://www.decibelhifi.com.au/category49\\_1.htm](http://www.decibelhifi.com.au/category49_1.htm)



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