

Madisound Cabinets



MD02 Natural Cherry

- > Real Wood Veneers
 - Natural Cherry
 - Maple
- > Removable 1" front baffle, painted black
- > Top, bottom, sides and back veneered 3/4"
- > Constructed of MDF
- > Cut in back for out TD-Cup bi-wire cup
- > MD02 tower cabinet has adjustable shelf to allow for different volumes 0.6 to 1.35cf



MD01 14 ltr (0.5cf) \$83 each
MD03 20 ltr (0.72cf) \$92 each
MD02 38 ltr (1.3cf) \$146 each

Please visit our web site for cabinet dimensions and for possible cabinet volumes on the MD02 cabinet.

www.madisound.com

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Alan Watling—A Tribute

By Reg Williamson

My extra career as an audio designer and technical journalist began in 1953, but it wasn't until the transistor started to dominate all innovative audio design work that it became really interesting. Most of my early work was published in the British magazine *HiFi News*, which, at that time, encouraged its readers with frequent construction projects. Not any more, of course.

I began to get regular letters from Alan Watling, who clearly shared much of my thinking and invariably had some valuable ideas of his own. It was only later that we discovered we both worked for the same company, the British telephone utility that eventually became British Telecom.

Alan was a senior management executive in our Regional Headquarters; I (at that time) a junior area field engineer.

It became obvious Alan had a range of unique graphic and construction skills and was the only enthusiast I knew who could draw a printed circuit by hand. Give Alan a schematic and before long he could produce a beautifully constructed prototype. In this respect I was relatively inexperienced so before long it became obvious that between us was the makings of an exceptional partnership.

It also became a friendship that extended over 50 years; but what makes it unusual is that our personalities were so disparate. I am sure that at times, he thought my love of good food and fine wine somewhat hedonistic. Similarly, my tastes in music as being questionable. But, as is so often the case between friends, such differences could be accepted with humor and mutual respect. They never got in the way.

I soon recognized that if I spun off an idea on Alan, and he thought it viable, then I only had to design the circuit and

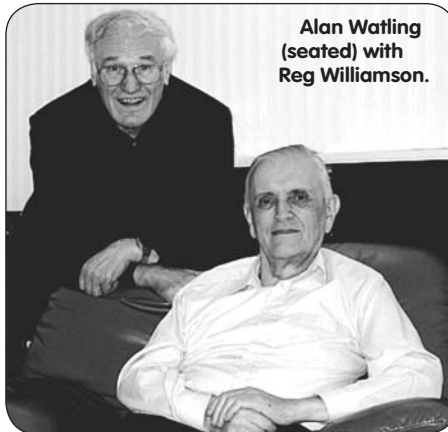
within a week or so I would have back a prototype for testing. I acknowledge without hesitation that the majority of my work published in *Audio Amateur* might not have seen fruition without Alan's participation. He, in turn, used to make occasional contributions with articles of often dry humor and wit.

He was also a talented painter, specializing in highly detailed pictures of flowers, which he called his "botanicals," and the occasional landscape. Some of these grace my own home. Alan was also a keen speaker designer, pursuing the ultimate in sound all the time.

In 1997 he asked me whether I would design a high and low pass filter for an active system he wanted to make. I had

long been familiar with the application of gyrators in filter design, culminating in our last major project ("A New Control Preamplifier," *TAA* 1/92) so I was able to meet his request using the most advanced audio analog circuitry. Not only did I get

Alan Watling (seated) with Reg Williamson.



back a prototype for testing within a couple of weeks, but to my amazement, he'd decided to make it by hand with surface-mounting components, thus pushing his construction skills to the ultimate limit. I can only speculate on the time and patience involved, using a magnifying glass and miniature soldering iron.

Sadly, it was to be his last construction venture since a crippling stroke was a few months away, paralyzing most of his right side. For a dedicated painter, that could have meant the end of a passion. Not so for Alan. With impressive fortitude and characteristic determination, he began painting with his left hand until ultimately, it became very difficult to tell the difference.

He was 82 when he passed away after a short stay in hospital. **ax**