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The iPanda is the latest in **Speakal's** line of audio systems with a built-in iPod docking station. Designed with five speakers which deliver 25W of premium sound, the iPanda can produce 360° sound, reaching the entire room. Features include an onboard hi-fi amplifier, dynamic airflow optimizer, iPod dock with standard auxiliary 3.5mm input jack, as well as a remote control. To learn more, please go to www.speakal.com.

Dayton Audio has expanded its line of HDMI cables. Its new line of flat cables allow cable pairs to separate even further, reducing the effects of inter-pair crosstalk. The cables are ATC certified, guaranteeing v.1.3b compliance, giving color up to 48-bit deep, and faster refresh rates. Authorized retailer in the US is Parts Express (parts-express.com).

New products from **Pass Laboratories, Inc.** include the XP-10 and XP-20 pre-amplifiers, which employ 64 volume steps and present a superior noise floor and fine detail retrieval and furnish two balanced and three single-ended inputs. The XP-20 includes an external power supply which conveys musical bass with more impact, and a more refined sound stage. Also new from Pass Labs, the SR1 Loudspeaker is a four-way floor standing system, which uses dual enclosures, and was designed to harness the mass controlled piston model. Available as a bi-amplified or quad-amplified system, the SR1's sensitivity is approximately 90dB for a 2.8V input. To learn more, visit info@passlabs.com.

OTTO Engineering has introduced the Traveler, a noise-canceling headset with a built-in 1GB MP3 player. Featuring padded leather ear cups, the Traveler contains Active Noise Reduction technology which reduces 85% of surrounding noise. The MP3 player can store 250 songs or 1000 minutes of audio books, and it comes with a detachable cable. For more information, please visit www.hearotto.com.



The Stibbert Tube CD Player by **Goldenote**, from **Koetsu USA** employs a newly designed double chassis completely isolated by four conical springs. Also containing Dual Speed technology which reduces voltage and speed and Zero Clock which eliminates jitter and clock errors, the Stibbert features a new analog output stage based on two 6922 tubes. To learn more, go to www.goldenote.it or www.koetsuusa.com.

Harman Kardon, Inc.'s 7.2-channel AVR 7550HD receiver won the 2009 International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) Best of Innovations 2009 Design and Engineering award in the Audio Components category (www.harman.com). The 7550HD provides HDMI capability and can pass video signals to 1080p, and employs Faroudja DCDi Cinema digital video processing, providing enhanced image quality from all video sources. It is the first receiver to utilize **Texas Instruments'** Aureus DA710 audio digital-signal processor in a dual-DSP implementation, and offers a built-in USB port, an Internet radio tuner, and automated room-equalization and system calibration.

New from **Audio Technica**, the BP4025 X/Y Stereo Field Recording Microphone includes large diaphragm capsules and phantom power operation, for broadcast and professional recording. The AT8022 X/Y Stereo Microphone is compact and lightweight, and operates on battery or phantom power for use with pro or consumer equipment. For more, contact audio-technica.com.

The NL-27, from **Scantek**, is a sound level meter that can measure fast or slow maximum, peak sound levels, and has manual storage for 199 measurements. Allowing internal and external calibration, the NL-27 is small (11mm) and achieves automatically timed averages and DC and AC output. For more, go to www.scantekinc.com.



Designed for portable listening applications, the HFI-15G, from **Ultrasonics Inc.**, is an open-back headphone that allows you to experience natural sound sensations without the use of digital processing. Featuring dynamic principle and a 40mm mylar driver, the HFI-15G weighs 85g without a cord, has 32Ω impedance, and a frequency range of 20-20kHz. To learn more, please visit www.ultrasone.com.

Sennheiser introduces the IE6, IE7, and IE8 ear-canal headphones, designed with dynamic transducers that cover the entire frequency range with one system. The IE6 offers accurate and deep bass and has passive attenuation up to 20dB and frequency response of 10-18000Hz. The IE7's frequency response ranges from 10-19000Hz and produces a more balanced, natural sound, while the IE8



contains a low-profile dial on each earphone, enabling fine-tuning of the bass response. For more information, go to www.sennheiserusa.com.

New from **Trends Audio**, the PA-10 Tube Headphone/Preamplifier is only 0.5kg, and contains a pure class-A circuit and warm tube sound, as well as excellent high fidelity and sufficient driving power. The PA-10 comes equipped with a bi-triode 6DJ8/6922 or 12AU7 tube, two sets of switching audio inputs, and a specially designed AC to 24V AC adaptor with extra low ripple and noise. To learn more, visit www.TrendsAudio.com.

The PerfectWave Digital Suite, from **PS Audio**, utilizes the company's exclusive Global Net Service built on a Cloud Computing platform. The PerfectWave Transport is an optical disc transport for CD and DVD that rips all optical data first to a memory, then outputs that data through a built-in digital lens to eliminate jitter and timing artifacts. The PerfectWave DAC can be configured as

a high-resolution server with the addition of an internal network bridge; both are included in the Suite. For more information, contact Dave Kakenmaster at dave@psaudio.com or (720) 406-8946.



Prism Sounds' dScope Series III analyzer has been reduced in price by 24% to \$9,850. The analyzer platform supports digital audio carrier testing, quasi-anechoic microphone/loudspeaker analysis, and more. The Series III is suited to production line testing applications, and can easily be automated using its built-in VBScript interpreter. To learn more, please go to www.prismsound.com.



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Designed by Joe D'Appolito, **Snell Acoustics'** Phantom is a new loudspeaker that has dual 4.5" machined XL magnesium midrange drivers mounted over and under a low-resonance 1" **SEAS** XL silk dome tweeter with neo-magnet. This "D'Appolito Array" configuration is focused on making a coordinated wave-front with smooth and consistent axial dispersion. For additional information, go to www.snellacoustics.com.

McIntosh Laboratory has reissued its MC75 monoblock tube amplifier and C22 preamplifier in honor of its 60th anniversary. The company also introduces its MX150 A/V Control Center, featuring five HDMI 1.3 audio/video inputs, engineered to decode **Dolby** Pro Logic II, **Dolby** Digital EX, **DTS** ES Matrix 6.1, **DTS** Neo:6, and more. Containing an RS232 input, the MX150

can control an entire McIntosh system from a single hand-held remote. Other products from McIntosh include the XR200, a 51" tall, three-way floor-standing loudspeaker with a 19-element midrange/tweeter array. It contains three custom-made 8" bass drivers, each with a 12 lb magnet structure. To learn more, please visit www.mcintoshlabs.com.

The Feature loudspeaker, from **MartinLogan**, is internally powered with a 150W switching amp, and includes an RCA line-level



input to minimize wire clutter by connecting directly to on-wall televisions without the need for external amplifiers. Also included are standard speaker-level connections, and a Vojtko crossover that seamlessly blends the Feature's electrostatic transducer, neodymium soft-dome tweeter, and more, across the entire frequency range. Go to www.martinlogan.com for more information.

SANYO's Internet Radio provides instant access to numerous free stations and podcasts worldwide, without the need for a computer. It features eight Internet station presets, 90mm diameter stereo speakers, 4W total output (2W RMS), a stereo input jack for MP3/WMA players, an ethernet and stereo headphone jacks, and can access shared music files from computers on the same network. For more, please visit us.sanyo.com.

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CONTRIBUTORS

Bill Fitzmaurice ("The XF410," p. 5) has been a professional musician since 1966 and has been constructing instruments, amplifiers, and speakers for just as long. Vice president of DeltaSounds Loudspeakers Inc., Fitzmaurice is the author of *Speaker Builder's Loudspeakers for Musicians* and over 30 magazine articles dealing with speakers and electric instruments, as well as the action-adventure novel *Operation: Sergeant York*. Bill and his wife of over 30 years reside in Laconia, N.H.

Claudio Negro ("ezDAC," p. 12) is a retired commercial airplane pilot, and has been interested in speaker building since the age of 13 when he built a zero offset three-way speaker with a self-made tweeter acoustic lens. He also became interested in electronics, building a mixer based on a Radford preamp and a Marantz MM pre-schematics, with separate PSU enclosure. In 1985 he was classified sixth in an Italian magazine DIY speaker contest, after which he took a long break from DIY audio. Recently, he has studied speaker measurement software, publishing a tutorial on Speaker Workshop. His other interests are listening and playing hard rock music, photography, computers, and online car racing.

John Badalamenti ("Nardeux Stereomatic 602 S," p. 17) is a certified communications engineer and technician. Licensed by the FCC and certified by NARTE (National Association of Radio and Telecommunications Engineers), he is also a licensed FAA airframe and powerplant technician. He graduated from the Academy of Aeronautics in 1984 and received his associate's degree in Airframe and Avionics Technology. He has an FCC general radiotelephone license with ship radar endorsement, and is NARTE Certified Engineer Class III, NARTE Certified Technician Class II. He is currently employed at ASPECT SOFTWARE, "Communications Engineer Field Services." He enjoys setting up and playing with professional high-end stereo equipment, home theater, radio-control model airplanes, high-power model rockets, and O-gauge model trains. He also enjoys swimming and reading audio- and video-related magazines and books. John can be contacted via e-mail at j.badalamenti@att.net.

Pete Millett ("The Unnecessarily Complex 300B Amplifier," p. 22) has worked as an electrical engineer for about 25 years, doing mostly board-level design of computer and consumer equipment. He's been designing and building tube audio projects since the mid-90s. Pete currently lives in Texas, where he defines integrated circuits for consumer electronics for a large semiconductor company. You can see more of Pete's projects, and contact him, via his website www.pmillett.com.

Mark Williamsen ("Balanced Cable Hum: Cause and Cure," p. 34) is a graduate student in Physics at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. He is active in Milwaukee's busy music festival scene, and has recorded several album projects for local musicians. More info is available at his home page, <http://my.execpc.com/~williamm/>.

Chuck Hansen (Book Review: *The Guitar Player Repair Guide*, by Dan Erlewine, p. 43) is an electrical engineer and holds five patents in his field of engineering. He began building vacuum-tube audio equipment in college. He plays jazz guitar and enjoys modifying guitar amplifiers and effects to reduce noise and distortion, as well as building and restoring audio test equipment. He enjoys sailing and has over 150 magazine articles to his credit.

John Sunier ("Super Fidelity," p. 46) is a CD reviewer for *Australian HiFi* and *Home Theatre Technology*. His website is www.audaud.com.