

NEWSLETTER vol. 36

September 2008

With over 30 years' experience at the cutting edge of high-end audio and video, Absolute Sounds is your best guide through the maze of home entertainment.

This year started off with great news: at least one high-resolution battle is over. HD-DVD lost out to Blu-ray, thus closing a potential route of obsolescence for the high-end consumer; now the independent DVD player manufacturers won't have to worry about choosing sides. With high-res downloads increasing in availability and choice, and the iPod and MP3 now the de facto portable playback systems, we're pleased to announce that our big news for 2008-9 is ... vinyl. Make no mistake: the vinyl revival - though virtually exclusive to audiophiles and adventurous newcomers - is vibrant, fertile and genuine. No new act worth its weight in street cred dares release an album without a black vinyl equivalent, and a few even release their albums on vinyl before the CD or the download. Led Zep box sets, Keb' Mo's 1994 debut, Tom Petty's Mudcrutch, Quentin Tarantino sound-



tracks, Pretty Things, Bubble Puppy, Joan Baez, the Traveling Wilburys collection, so many jazz and blues albums that we've lost count - vinyl knows no boundaries. And yet, for years, Absolute Sounds has been without a turntable, simply because none we found could meet our no-compromise standards. As our loyal customers know, we don't take on a brand just because it's the flavour du jour: Absolute Sounds, in fact, prides itself in having the patience of a saint. So, after much deliberation, we have chosen to import the Continuum turntable. It is, beyond question, the finest LP spinner we've ever heard. With the arrival this year of a second, less-expensive model, the company can now supply an analogue source worthy of our Koetsu cartridges and phono stages from darTZeel, Krell, Audio Research, Jadis and Prima Luna.

Equally exciting is a new face on the 'lifestyle' landscape. We found a breathtaking one-stop solution for the video lover who wants superior audio-visual playback without the complication. BluRosso's 47in LCD screen has full internet capability, music storage, video storage, it can act as a server, perform conferencing and much more. Lastly, we have found a music server that understands the needs of the true enthusiast. Sooloos appreciates that a great server means more than mere convenience: for the audiophile, it means superb sound quality. 2008 was a year of many anniversaries for our classic models. The Martin Logan CLX pays homage to the CLS' 25th Anniversary. Sonus Faber's Palladio series honoring the legendary architect sold out on announcement. Jadis has marked its first quarter-century with special, limited production edition of the JA80M monoblock power amplifier and matching JP80MC pre-amplifier. Our brands, as this shows, represent longevity and consistency. With the clarification of the formats and the continuing success of vinyl, with HDMI settling down (a bit), with enough high-def television broadcasts available in the UK to make them viable, we're enjoying a period of stability and calm that means it's a perfect time to consider investing in top-flight equipment. We don't predict any nasty surprises this year, nor any pending format demises.

Perhaps our most important announcement for this season is a dedicated listening room called the Alexandria Chamber. Tailor-made to extract the finest performance from the system it houses, it is available to customers via a special arrangement through a local dealer, for one-to-one demonstrations away from the hustle and bustle of a retail premises. Naturally, this room will showcase the finest products we can offer, with special attention being shown to the Studio system.

This demonstration facility marks another important anniversary: Absolute Sounds has been the source for the finest in audio components in the UK for 30 years. We can't believe how swiftly it has flown by. And we're proud to say that the first product range we imported is still in our catalogue: Koetsu cartridges. What follows in greater detail are the pleasures awaiting you during the coming year.

AUDIO RESEARCH

If anything encourages us to be optimistic about the 'iTunes culture' and the future of high-end audio, it has to be Audio Research's DAC7 Digital-to-Analogue Converter with USB. Yes, you read that correctly, an ARC DAC that you can connect to your computer for direct access to all the music you store on it or download to it. Audio Research told us that, "With the growth of the and the increasing popularity of storing music on a hard drive, we were asked repeatedly to offer a USB DAC that could connect

with Macs, PCs and servers to deliver a new benchmark in high resolution digital music playback. We listened, and after more than a year in development we are excited to introduce the DAC7 digital-to-analogue converter. With an affordable price and extraordinary sonic attributes, we expect this product to be immensely successful." In addition to the USB input, the DAC7 reveals its total flexibility through five digital inputs including USB, XLR, RCA, BNC and Toslink Optical. Designed in the spirit of all current ARC units, it's housed in a preamplifier-sized chassis, with front panel functions include Power, Mute, Invert, and Input select, and the supplied remote controls the Play/Pause, Stop, Track Up and Track Down functions of the USB device to which it's connected! Also on the digital front is the new CD5 player/transport, which can stand alone or work with the DAC7. It's derived from the class-leading REF CD7 and offers balanced outputs and newly-design all-FET analogue output stage. ARC states categorically that this is a "Red Book CD"-only player not compromised with SACD, DVD-A etc, the company believing that's the best way to extract the performance out of regular CDs. A new pre-amp has joined the stable, the SP17 replacing the much-loved SP16. Externally, it's very similar, with a full-sized 19" front panel, handles, and the same display. It's completely single-ended with five sets of inputs and two sets of single-ended outputs, while internally the changes include the new 6H30 valve in each section, said to offer longer life than the 12AX7. And for those who like to fine-tune their playback, the SP16's 70-step volume control has been replaced with a 103-step volume control! This future classic is available with or without a phono stage. Another future classic is the VS115 power amplifier, an update on the VS110: more power at 120W/channel, and an FET input with two 6H30 triodes in each channel to drive the four matched pairs of 6550Cs in the output stage. With an input section inspired by the REF110, this is in the tradition of all the VS products - a bargain as well as a sonic masterpiece. Coming in late September are two new products that we're delighted to offer especially to newcomers to the ARC family. The VS60 stereo vacuum-tube power amp will replace the current VS55, and the current VS155 will be replaced by the VS160 integrated power amplifier. Both new models are SE only, and feature much improved sonic performance. The chassis and packaging are refined slightly from previous models, and the VS160 will be available with either a natural or a black front panel.

BLUROSSO

For utter originality and clarity of thought, we must commend all that has gone into BluRosso's solution for a truly convenient, utterly comprehensive all-in-one solution for true convergence. For most, our audio and video systems have evolved independently, as have our home computing set-ups. BluRosso has developed a turn-key package that leaves nothing to chance. It starts with a state-of-the-art 47in LCD. They've added to it a built-in 7.1 channel SRS speaker system, plus attributed digital 7.1 outputs. Sources include a 500Gb hard-drive operating with Windows Media Centre, and a DVD player with Blu-ray as an option. The remote provides two-way communications to any other TV and talks with other remotes. Wi-fi, Bluetooth, SD card reader, four USB inputs, wireless comms with Nintendo Wii, Xbox and Playstation 3, Ethernet - they're all onboard, so you use the Vivaldi for dealing with e-mail, web surfing, gaming, even video conferencing. To see it is to love it. To use it is to want it.

COPLAND

Slowly, deliberately, Copland continues to produce magnificent products that combine aesthetics, performance and value in measures unknown elsewhere. Last year, another star emerged, the sublime CTA405 50W/ch integrated valve amplifier. Boasting Copland's exquisitely tasteful styling and sound quality that seduces the ears the way that clean front panel charms the eyes, the CTA405 drove Hi-Fi News attributed to it "superb build quality, user-friendly ergonomics, a lack of stupid frills, styling befitting products 10 times its price and sound quality that encourages marathon listening sessions." And for those who prefer separates, the CTA 305 Preamp/CTA 520 combination provides incredible performance for the price, wrapped in that super-clean Scandinavian styling. Copland's astounding DRC205 Digital Room Correction system, as we promised last year, demonstrates how worthwhile it was that Ole Muller spent such a considerable period refining the algorithms and dealing with licensing issues. To re-cap, the E1290 DRC205 looks like a DAC or low-profile power amp, so it will sit with the rest of your system unobtrusively. Set up its microphone, hit a button, and 20 seconds later (yup, 20 seconds) it will have tailored the sound of your system to your room. Its properties include optimizing system performance, adjusting the system's frequency response, eliminating room acoustic problems and adjusting impulse response. You can even hook it up to a Windows-compatible PC to access other functions. At its price - less than a metre of high-end cable! - the DRC205 has to be the best accessory on the market. We try not to get you too excited about long-term future plans, but for Copland we'll make an exception: new product announcements from them are few and far between! It's hoped that Copland will introduce in early 2009 the CDA825 top-loading player with Philips CD-Pro mechanism. Two other products are also pending, so this could be a bumper year for our favorite Scandinavians: the long-awaited CTA506 all-valve power amplifier delivering 2x100w, and the RC120 system remote machined in an aluminium case ... to match the beauty of the models it commands

CRYSTAL

No cable brand has arrived from the outset with such sheer professionalism and competence as its modus operandi as Crystal. From the clever and innovative packaging to the svelte, easy-to-manoeuvre form, each Crystal model demonstrates a real-world approach to premium cable design. Using silver-gold metallurgy as its primary material, with faultless construction and professional-quality termination, Crystal has covered all the requirements necessary for a world-class introduction to high-performance wiring. Exploiting its' peerless pedigree and background in metallurgy to produce high-end cables from under £300, Crystal has delivered interconnects, matching speaker wire, a digital cable, FireWire, BNC-to-RCA, power cables, HDMI and more. For 2008-9, though, Crystal is upping the ante with the new Dreamline, which promises to deliver top-level, reference-grade performance in the highly-competitive world of cost-no-object wiring. DreamLine offers a multi-layer mix of no less than four dielectrics around the silver-and-gold core to fight whatCrystal describes as "the ever-increasing RFI and EMI that surrounds us." DreamLine wires are terminated in special Crystal designWBT's NextGen connectors for RCA phonos, or Neutriks for XLR balanced cables. CAST connection is also available as well as Din for turntables. Crystal Dreamline will debut with a line-level interconnect, speaker cables, balanced wires, power cables and digital cables, boasting multilayer insulationand proprietary noise cancellation said to be over 60dB quieter than other cables. And for hard-core cable users, Crystal has an all-new technology called Crystal Bridge, a "patent pending add-on" that works with existing cables to provide an even lower noise floor, lower distortion and improved dynamic range.

DREAMVISION

With LCD and plasma screens being dumped on the market, connoisseurs are concentrating on what they know to be the best way to display high-res images: projectors. Dream Vision's DreamBee 2 is their finest implementation yet for a full HD projector, a gorgeous device housed in a curvaceous enclosure that you won't want to hide. It delivers Full HD Resolution of 1920x1080 pixels from its 3-chip LCoS System with Color-Select Filters, with a cinematic 30,000:1 contrast ratio. It's home-automation-friendly and compatible with the best and most popular controller systems, with motorised zoom and focus, 2x optical zoom, Fujinon optics and a complete array of inputs: two HDMI 1.3 sockets, plus component, S-video and coaxial. For the ultimate implementation of this projector, we recommend that you add to it the components that convert it to DreamVision's full-spec 2.35 THEATRE System: the DreamBee 2 Pro and DreamBee 2 DeLuxe scalars.

JADIS

Jadis has marked its first quarter-century with special, limited production editions of the JA80M monoblock power amplifier and matching JP80MC pre-amplifier. They will carry the suffix "Gold" and there will be only 100 sets available world-wide. Gracing the special models are new quality Teflon capacitors, silver wiring, refined mm/mc phono stage, ganged volume controls (at last!), special ball-bearing decoupling feet, hard-wiring throughout and true evolution of the output transformers, reflecting Jadis' approach to current technology. These are both, without question, modern classics and modern icons, the valve electronics that re-asserted Jadis' position as one of the most pure of high-end manufacturers.

KOETSU

No brand has benefited from the incredible revitalisation of analogue than Koetsu. Categorically the doyen of cartridge manufacturers, Koetsu has continued the traditions established by Sugano-san, to remain the defining producer of hand-made cartridges. Indeed, it's now synonymous with the artisan movement among extreme high-end Japanese audiophiles. Koetsu continues to experiment with different body materials and finishes, as well as wire and magnet types; the traditional stable has been augmented to include the Coral, Onyx, Tiger Eye and Burma Jade models, while the stalwart Black maintains its position as Koetsu's entry level. The latest to join the fold is the eye-wateringly gorgeous Urushi Sky Blue, with French blue finish. Inside, it uses an Alnico magnet producing 0.4mv output. The coil windings are silver-clad wire, rather than the alternate copper-and-silver wire found in the Urushi Vermillion, and the sound promises to be fresh and invigorating. (Note: this is THE cartridge to consider if you happen to own a Bugatti.) And to remind our Koetsu-loving clients, Koetsu is happy to add to any Platinum Series cartridge, to special order, a diamond cantilever.

KRELL

Last year, Krell launched what may be the smallest item in its history, but



Krell evolution 707



also one of the most successful: the Krell KiD interface with balanced outputs showed iPod owners just what it takes to make the world's most popular portable sound like real hi-fi. As the company promised, they've followed it with the Papa Dock, a super-cool, 2x150W stereo amplifier dedicated to the KiD, and into which the KiD nestles - father and son, so to speak. As the heart of a true 21st century mini-system, there's nothing on the market that even comes close to the iPod/KiD/Papa Dock combo when matched to the speakers of your choice. At the other end of the scale, Krell's Evolution system has simply grabbed the state-of-the-art crown, and tightened its grip with each new model. For 2008-9, the Evolution 707 does for multi-channel and home cinema what the other models in the family have done for stereo. As you'd expect of Krell's flagship A/V processor, nothing has been left out, and the unit is as future-proof and flexible as it gets: inputs include the latest implementation of HDMI 1.3, it's CAST enabled, it will drive up to twelve channels, it processes Dolby True HD and DTS HD, along with all their predecessors. It even upconverts to 1920x1080p. Whether or not home theatre pushes your buttons, Krell is first and foremost known for amplification, and two new models will serve in both two- or multi-channel installations. With the Evolution line-up including six power amps - Evolution 302, 402, 403, 400, 600 and 900 - and Evolution 222 single-chassis and 202 double chassis pre-amplifiers, Krell has a secure lock on the solid-state-of-the-art. Krell's family of industrial-strength loudspeakers has also been extended, not least by an area in which Krell excels: subwoofers. The new Mostra Subwoofer is a 2000W powered monster, with a single 12-inch dual voice coil driver in an aluminium enclosure, with every feature needed to make interface perfectly in an all-Krell installation: CAST, XLR and RCA input/output and signal sensing circuitry.

MARTIN LOGAN

Manufacturing the world's best-loved electrostatic hybrids for 25 years, MartinLogan hasn't forgotten its roots: the full-range CLS electrostatic. This iconic design single-handedly created a new look for loudspeakers, presaging an era when consumers would no longer put up with ugly equipment. To celebrate their first quarter-century, the company has developed an all-new full-range model, the CLX, which will first arrive in the form of the CLX 25th Anniversary Edition. MartinLogan describes it as "the culmination of everything we have learned about electrostatic technology since we brought our first product to market in 1983." Those who heard it at its launch were dazzled, for it does everything we loved about the CLS, but its greater panel surface area means bass reproduction never before heard from an ESL. Its core operating mechanism is a 57-inch CLS™ XStat™ Electrostatic Transducer, a Curvilinear Line Source™ form demonstrating astounding dispersion and the sort of dynamics ESL owners usually dream about but never attain. And as is mandatory with a MartinLogan, it looks simply wonderful. Already its influence has been felt in the range: a new Summit X will follow benefiting from CLX research, and the all-new Spire is the very first new hybrid MartinLogan speaker of the "CLX generation."

Spire marks a new paradigm for high-performance sound. Its crossover engineering is derived from the CLX loudspeaker, to blend seamlessly the high-resolution XStat™ and PoweredForce™ drivers. Bass comes from a 10-inch aluminium-cone version of the latter. MartinLogan continues to serve the needs of those who have hidden speakers - custom installations, home theatres etc - and the new Helos 100 In-Ceiling Speaker brings the high performance, Logan sound to rooms that just can't house a floorstander. It features a 1-inch neodymium soft dome tweeter, high-rigidity aluminium cone woofer, and proprietary Vojtko crossover topology, while an acoustic contour switch tailors its dispersion, assuring a top-notch performance in any installation. And the Matinee has been revised, making it the perfect choice for a compact centre channel, small enough to reside below a panel display, but boasting a state-of-the-art Generation 2 MicroPerf electrostatic panel, dual paper-cone woofers, and highly sophisticated Vojtko crossover. Just a last word to remind you that you can now customize online your Martin Logan product and submit to your dealer please go to <http://configurator.absolutesounds.com/configurator.asp>

NEWS FLASH: We are delighted to hear that the CLX 25th Anniversary have been awarded product of the year by Hi Fi Plus magazine.

SONUS FABER

With the Cremona series and the Homage series now fully developed - the last few years saw the Guarneri revised, while the Stradivari continues to charm all who hear it - Sonus Faber has something to offer music lovers who require something smaller and less costly. One of the hottest products to turn up at the Munich show in the spring was the adorable (and perfectly named) Toy, almost small enough to pass off as a scale model. It is a true miniature, just begging to be attached to a compact system, like an iPod/Krell KiD/Papa Dock, new forthcoming baby PrimaLuna, or one of the many all-in-one systems that proliferate for apartment dwellers and students. But it is pure Sonus Faber, from the timber side panels to the gorgeous styling. Inside this wee two-way are a 25mm ultra dynamic ring radiator tweeter and a 110mm coated cellulose cone woofer, the enclosure itself measuring only 265x185_270mm (HxWxD). At £745 per pair, we predict a guaranteed best-seller! And there's not just one Toy to play with! This baby will be joined by a special centre-channel speaker, and a floor-stander called the Toy Tower. Sonus Faber's other major product is also an example of small-is-beautiful: due to popular demand, the company has a new



Sonus Faber - Toy

bass and mid frequencies are handled by a 120mm cellulose acrylate cone driver with vented basket design. So precise is this reproduction of the milestone original that older audiophiles will feel a lump in the throat when they first see this welcomed blast from the past.

SOOLOOS

In our usual cautious manner, we waited for the dust to settle on the entire download/custom install/distributed music/hard-drive server fracas. We did not and do not want out valued customers to buy into obsolescence. So you can imagine our delight in discovering a modern music storage system conceived to satisfy music lovers, not merely gadget freaks. Sooloos - unlike every other server manufacturer we can name - makes sound quality its first priority, not the fifth or tenth. And, in direct contrast to all of the others, they proved that you could deliver all of the non-sonic goodies - the cool displays and the no-brainer ergonomics - without compromising the sound one iota!!! To do this, Sooloos developed a genuinely high-performance, uncompromised audio source with a user-friendly interface compatible with Crestron and other controllers, it offers two-way communications with video capability. It can be specified from a single zone to 25 zones, and with full access to all music storage. It displays sleeve and track information, as you'd expect of a server in the 21st Century. Its digital processing upsamples to 192kHz, a 17in display shows you the information you require. You set it up in 1 or 2 terrabyte modules, ensuring that storage space is never an issue. And, in true audiophile form, it outputs in both single-ended and balanced form, so it will talk to the world's finest amplifiers. If you've had a longing to enjoy the convenience of a server, but you have no desire to sacrifice sound quality, look no further.

THETA DIGITAL

This year, Theta changed owners, but the new custodians of this much-loved brand assure us that they have plenty of surprises in store. During the coming year, Theta will introduce the GEN VIII Series 2, the latest incarnation of one of the most respected DA converters ever made. In response to public demand, Theta will, at last, provide an HDMI solution for the Casablanca. The great news is that this will arrive in the form of an upgrade for previously sold units, and it will be built into new units. Most crucially, it will support HD audio. HDMI switching should also soon appear on the Valis processor, and the new crew are working on an upgrade to the Dreadnaught that will enhance performance as well as allowing it to run cooler.

TRANSPARENT AUDIO

Over many years of exclusive partnership with Absolute Sounds, Transparent has rewarded our customers with cables that demonstrate the greatest respect for music. From The Link to Opus, Transparent offers connections to suit all budgets and all audio and video applications. This year Transparent has been honored with a Product of the Year award on the Power Isolator Reference, as well as a Hall of Fame Award for the Reference series of Audio and Video cables. Transparent has also expanded their upgrade program to include their 7 levels of power cord products. All Transparent owners should contact their dealer to participate in the unmatched factory and distributor sponsored upgrade program. As a loyal customer you can choose to go in one- or two-step upgrades for just a little expenditure, reflecting Transparent's and Absolute Sound's continuous commitment to their customers. The big news for the upcoming season is that Transparent has applied MM II Technology across entire range!

WILSON AUDIO

Only hours before going to press, we learned that our friends at Wilson Audio have a major new launch for this season. Unveiled to the world at CEDIA in early September was the MAXX Series 3, only the second revision to a speaker launched precisely 10 years ago. Categorically one of the company's best-sellers, the solution for those with rooms too large to be filled by the classic WATT Puppy, yet less overwhelming than the Alexandria, the MAXX is a global reference. MAXX Series 3 is much more than an evolutionary move: it is redesign that changes the topology of the speaker from a two-module to a three-module array. The goal? Achieving near-perfect alignment of a loudspeaker in the transient time domain at the listening position. According to Wilson Audio, "The single head configuration of



Wilson audio Sophia 2

the Series 1 and 2 MAXX became the limiting factor in improving propagation delay within that platform. The MAXX Series 3 utilizes two separate upper modules (the third module is the bass unit) to more accurately achieve propagation delay of the drivers. The transient time alignment accuracy of the MAXX Series 3 is now in the same league as the Alexandria Series 2." And that's the yardstick by which all speakers are measured at Absolute Sounds. Also new in the MAXX Series 3 is a simplified version of the remarkable new carbon fibre/paper composite midrange driver developed for the Alexandria X-2 Series 2. A new tweeter has been installed, also benefitting from Alexandria research, the crossovers have been revised, and the cabinet itself benefits from improvements in milling techniques and technology at Wilson Audio. This shouldn't overshadow the revisions to the popular WATCH range, now dubbed Series II, and we continue to be amazed by the Duette, which defies its dimensions. As for the System 8, well, what can you say about a speaker that has been acknowledged as one of the greatest of all time by the global audiophile community?

NEWS FLASH: Watch out for two reviews of the delicious Sophia Series 2.



EAT

Nothing surprised us more over the past few years than the passion our clients have for optimising the valves in their amplifiers and pre-amps. EAT arrived to a sceptical reception, customers wondering how a single KT88 could be worth £140. Once they tried a set, that was it: we've had repeat customers and comments that suggest only total satisfaction. Then came the Cool Dampers, and people marveled at so much of a performance gain for only £15 per tube! But throughout, they were asking, "What about our pre-amps?" So EAT has responded with the ECC803S Selected, ECC803S Diamond, ECC88 Selected and ECC88 Diamond, the first pair compatible with the ECC83/12AX7, and the second pair being upgrades for the ECC88/6DJ8 - thus covering the vast majority of popular pre-amplifier valves. Starting at £65 each, they cost a lot less than a new pre-amp - but they'll make your existing control unit sound better than the day it left the factory. Also available for single-ended triode users are EAT's hand-made 300Bs - the best we've ever heard. **NEWS FLASH:** EAT will be releasing a KT88 Diamond with carbon anode and gold pins, available as a matched pair or a quartet! And there are rumours that EAT is working with Ikeda and Pro-ject to resurrect a legendary 12in Ikeda arm for use with a new retro-styled turntable bearing a heavy magnesium alloy platter. This package could offer high-end analogue playback for a reasonable price, relative to the state-of-the-art capacitor, and all signal paths are kept as short as possible. And the remote itself is a work of art, a long, thin, sculpted bar of solid aluminium, with controls not only for the 15.2, but also the Mimetism CD player and any other device that uses RC-5 codes. All-in-all, Mimetism is a brand to watch. And to listen to....

MYSTERE

So deserved is the success of PrimaLuna, with global recognition for the brand demonstrating that the praise knows no boundaries, that the company has been moved to produce a special series to answer the call for something a bit more exclusive. Announced last year and now ready for delivery is the exquisite Mystere range, launched with a pair of sexy integrated amps. Both feature sleek, curved front panels and high-gloss black finishes, and they are described as sounding more 'tube-y' than the less-expensive PrimaLuna. For valve aficionados, they have the clever facility of accepting either EL34s or KT88s at the flick of a switch. The 40W/ch ia11 uses EL34s, the 50W/ch ia21 employs KT88s, and both feature high-quality 24-step volume attenuators, hard-wiring throughout, dual-mono topology with Adaptive Auto Bias and full pentode push-pull output circuitry with minimal feedback.

PRIMALUNA

They probably never sleep at PrimaLuna. This year, not only do we have new models but a whole new range! Prologue 8 is the sensational PrimaLuna valve CD player, a snip at £1590 and a perfect match in every way for the company's market-leading amps and pre-amps. For those who wish to sample what PrimaLuna can do with less of an eye to cost constraints, two new integrated amplifiers have been added to the catalogue, both offering the company's proprietary auto-biasing circuit and



PrimaLuna PL8

differing in the choice of valves, power supply parts and capacitors. The Dialogue 1 uses EL34s for its 36W output, while the Dialogue 2 extracts 38W/ch from KT88s. But don't let these Watt-specs fool you as these amps drive almost anything you ask them to drive. Dialogue DL4 and 5 stereo- and DL6 and 7 mono-amps are on the way... The big news from the same design-house is a new prestige line, the sexy-looking Mystere integrateds. Feature sleek, curved front panels and high-gloss black finishes, the Mystere models are said to sound more 'tube-y' than their less-expensive siblings, and they have the clever facility of accepting either EL34s or KT88s at the flick of a switch. The 40W/ch ia11 uses EL34s, the 50W/ch ia21 employs KT88s, and both feature high-quality 24-step volume attenuators, hard-wiring throughout, dual-mono topology with Adaptive Auto Bias and full pentode push-pull output circuitry with minimal feedback. Preamps and stereo amps are on their way.

AUDIO SHOW 2009

We will be exhibiting most of these exciting products at the Park Inn Hotel, Heathrow, between 19-21 September. Please ensure to get your tickets for guaranteed-seated demonstrations by the experts upon arrival to the show in front of the Johnson, Earheart and Armstrong suites. You'll be able to talk on-one with Sandro Pugliese from Sooloos, Peter Soderberg from MartinLogan, Peter McKay from Krell, Peter McGrath of Wilson Audio, Gaby Van der Kley from Crystal and luminaries.

