SHOW GUIDE – FULL ROOM LISTINGS INSIDE







GREAT PRIZES TO BE WON! SEE PAGE 4

BROUGHT TO YOU BY WHAT HI+FI? hi-fi MAGE



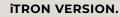
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AVANTGARDE ACOUSTIC MEZZO G3 ONE SPEAKER. TWO VERSIONS.



In the iTRON version, the amplifiers are built into the speaker, eliminating the need for external power amplifiers. To achieve this, we have developed an electronic system that is based on a fundamentally different operating principle to any of the conventional amplifiers on the market.



SEMI-ACTIVE VERSION

The semi-active version is designed to be used with external hi-fi amplifiers.

With an efficiency of 107dB/W/m and an impedance of 18 ohms, the speaker is extremely easy to operate and ideal for lowpower amplifiers. The ideal speaker for the world's finest high-end amplifiers.

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innuos

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Innuos is the name for High Fidelity Digital Servers and Streamers.





When every note is in the right place.





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MEZZO



Welcome back to Australia's greatest hi-fi show! Get ready to hear the world's hottest hi-fi and AV kit...

he Australian Hi-Fi Show is back! Following its inaugural event last year, the hi-fi and home cinema show is returning to central Sydney in April, giving audiophiles and tech enthusiasts the opportunity to see and hear the latest and greatest audio and AV products from around the world. Brought to you by *Australian Hi-Fi, What* *Hi-Fi*? and *Sound+Image* magazines, the Australian Hi-Fi Show 2024 will go even bigger and better than last year's event. Get ready for three full days of live demonstrations of more than 70 worldrenowned hi-fi and AV brands, from homegrown Aussie greats such as Halcro and Döhmann to globally renowned superstars like Bowers & Wilkins and McIntosh. Think high-end hi-fi systems, headphones and wireless speakers, projectors and home theatre systems, and everything in between.

So buy your ticket, bring your own music, enjoy the listening experience in our comfortable sound lounges, and find what kit is right for you!



Tickets for the Australian Hi-Fi Show 2024 are now on sale online at: www.ticketebo.com.au/ future-publishing-apac/ australian-hi-fi-show-2024 There are 1-, 2- and 3-day passes on offer to suit any kind of schedule, and discounts are available for pensioners and students:

1 DAY PASS: Adult - \$20 Pensioner/Student - \$15 **2 DAY PASS:** Adult - \$30 Pensioner/Student - \$20 **3 DAY PASS:** Adult - \$40 Pensioner/Student - \$30

Get more from the music you love.



As our name suggests, we're about analogue sound. And at its heart that's the vinyl record. So at our presentation room at the Australian HiFi Show in Sydney you'll find the world's finest vinyl record cleaning method, Record Restore. Bring along a record for a free test clean if you like. Our own 'Turntable Whisperer' Mark Busby will also be demonstrating turntable set-up and the tools that he uses to achieve optimum results. You'll also find analogue tube amps by Elekit of Japan and Red Roo of Australia: amps and phono stages you can build, have built, or build at our Amp Camp in the Blue Mountains.

They'll be playing into our Confluence loudspeaker system: open baffle and single driver. Be prepared to be surprised!

Towards the end of each day, guitarists can try a few chords on the Red Roo Rockstar guitar amp, made for your personal jamming pleasure!

Secret Chord Analogue

WWW.SECRETCHORDANALOGUE.AU

SHOW PRIZES



WIN

RRP \$599

In these stylish over-ear headphones, custom-designed 40mm drive units and 24-bit-capable wireless platform combine for a truly immersive listening experience that allows you to hear more of what the artist wants you to.



Secret Chord Analogue Record Restore Box Set

RRP \$169

This pack has everything you need to efficiently and easily clean up to 28 twelve-inch LPs, including 200ml Record Restore fluid, a support platter and pucks, a drying rack and the necessary tools.



Yamaha TW-E3B wireless earbuds RRP \$299

From a studio session with your favorite artist to the best seat at a live concert, hear every detail with lifelike realism. These extraordinary earbuds combine Yamaha's acoustic and electric technologies, allowing them to defy the sonic limitations of their compact housings.



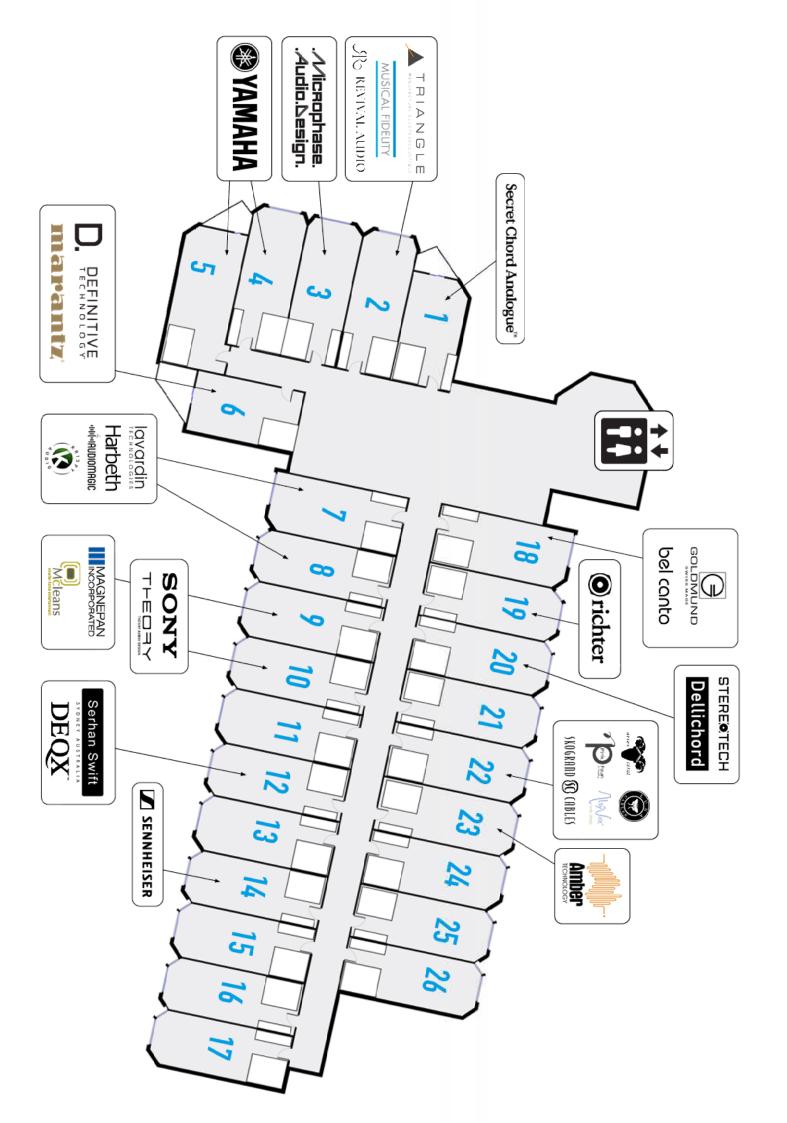
AudioQuest SorboGel Q-Feet isolators

RRP \$198

Breathe new life into your system by damping unwanted vibrations (particularly those from components with spinning mechanisms), allowing it to sing deeper into the music.

Hi End Audio, it's all in the name!





A passion to merge perfection and beauty in the art of audio reproduction – that is the motivation behind AGD Productions, from Los Angeles, California. Hear the stunning results and discover AGD's significant secrets in Indie Hi-Fi's Kirribilli Room suite, at the Australian Hi-Fi Show in Sydney!





It's an old cliché but so true: incredible build quality, immaculate tone, detail, dynamics and staging; and all with rock bottom noise levels: that's HoloAudio, maker of the best measuring R2R DACs in the world, and yet representing incredible value. Hear

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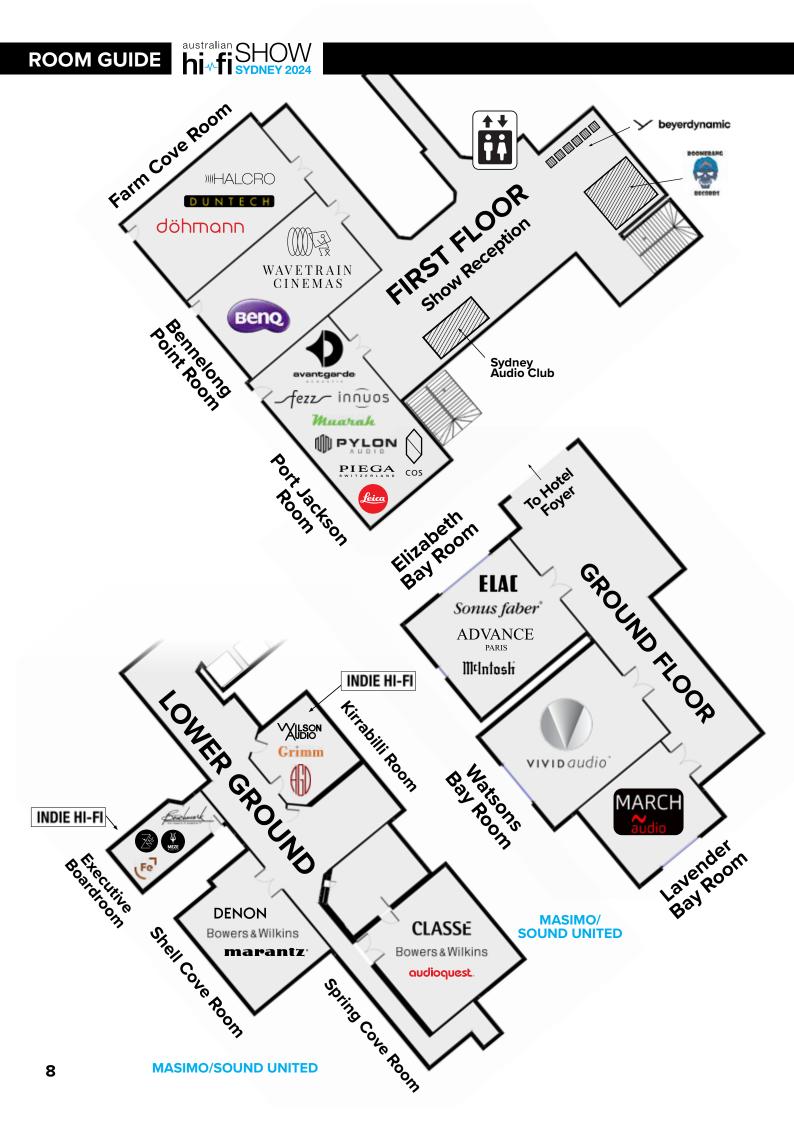
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HoloAudio – and so much more – in the Headphone Room on the Show's Lower Ground floor.



INDIE HI-FI

05-02:36





INTRODUCING CINEMA TV

Immerse yourself into every scene with the Leica Cine 1 – the discreet solution to big-screen TV viewing and home cinema that combines Leica's best-in-class precision optics with cutting-edge laser technology for an unparalleled movie experience.



www.leica-camera.com/cinema-tv The use of an ALR screen (not shown) for ultra-short distance projectors is recommended. Screen sold separately. Image simulated for illustrative purposes.





Amber Technology **@ROOM 23**

Amber Technology will exclusively showcase the renowned **PSB Speakers**. Room 23 will serve as a haven for audiophiles to explore and experience the Canadian brand's latest offerings, many of which will be making their Australian debut at the show. Visitors will have the exclusive opportunity to be among the first to witness and immerse themselves in the newest advancements in audio technology. That sounds pretty good to us!

Audio Active (PROOM 10)

Sony's QD-OLED TVs use the very latest OLED panels and are powered by the Cognitive Processor XR to deliver the ultimate in eye-popping clarity, the widest colours, near-infinite contrast ratios and perfect blacks. Matching Sony for clarity and accuracy in the audio realm will be **Theory Audio Design** from Orange County, USA, delivering a new level in high-output soundbars, and unique surface-mount home cinema speakers that work in combination with Theory's loudspeaker processors and controller in a unique and award-winning ecosystem you need to hear to believe.

Audio Magic / Krispy Audio / Space HiFi PROOM 7& 8

Melbourne-based Audio Magic won't be short of hi-fi gear to show off during the weekend, being the Aussie distributor for a number of the biggest names in high-end hi-fi. In collaboration with Krispy Audio, one room will comprise kit from **Kudos Audio, Lumin, Copland, Ayre Acoustics, VPI** and more, while its second room will, in collaboration with Space HiFi, showcase products from brands **Harbeth Audio, Bergmann Audio, Finite Elemente, Tellurium Q** and others. In the (not red, not blue, but headphone) corner are **T+A** and **Mark Levinson** cans to delight head-fi fans.

Audio Marketing **QROOM 2**

Among the treasures in Room 2 will be the latest release in the wildly successful **Revival Audio** Atalante loudspeaker range. The newly revealed Atalante 4 teases its more tower-like build — a modern aesthetic, yet with the same Atalante engineering and



French-built design details. The Atalante demos at last year's show were voted 'Best Sound' by many, and with power from Musical Fidelity's legendary amplification and more to be announced, this is a room you won't want to miss!

Avation **Q** WATSONS BAY ROOM

Avation will once again be filling one of the show's biggest rooms with loudspeakers from **Vivid Audio**, the brainchild of Laurence Dickie, designer of the famed Bowers & Wilkins Nautilus. The South African manufacturer prides itself on its speakers' uniqueness, noting that almost no part of them can be found in any other. The brand has models from three ranges auditioning at the Australian Hi-Fi Show 2024, including the Kaya S12 which we couldn't find enough superlatives for in the previous issue's review, so come along and hear these amazing speakers for yourself. Not least as they will be driven by **PS Audio** amplifiers.

Boomerang Records **(CONCOURSE**)

While you're enjoying the stunning sounds of the show, you will undoubtedly be inspired to take home a little black magic of your own by riffling through the racks of Boomerang Records' extensive record fair on the Level 1 Concourse near the show's entrance. There will be everything from high-quality secondhanders to audiophile Half Speed Master recordings, ABBA through to metal!

GrooveWorks (PROOM 11

Celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, the Aussie distributor of America's **Telos Audio Design**, Taiwan's **Last** and others provides "highly effective sound enhancement products to the xxenthusiast". At the show, GrooveWorks will deliver a very refined and natural presentation from a system comprising components and accessories manufactured by some of the world's most innovative high-end audio companies. We hope to see the return of Telos's state-of-the-art Grounding Monster, which showcases the importance of clean power and effective grounding to the achievement of realistic high-end sound.



$\label{eq:constraint} \begin{array}{c} \mbox{Distinctive Design, Elegant Execution, Beautiful Sound.} \\ \mbox{Motion}^{\ensuremath{\circledast}} \colon Reimagined. \end{array}$

Introducing the all new Motion® XT and Motion® Series from MartinLogan® – a collection of high performance speakers for home theatre and stereo listening that will elevate your audio experience to new heights. These aren't simple upgrades from their predecessors, but a new level of quality and excellence that makes for an unforgettable experience every time you play them. Reimagined with a bold new look, and a host of audio advancements, we left nothing on the table to bring you our best Motion® Series yet.





audio



Indie Hi Fi (PBOARDROOM & KIRIBILLI

Indie Hi-Fi will be armed with jewels such as the **Wilson Audio** SabrinaX speakers, **AGD Productions'** Andante DAC/preamp and Audion 100-watt monoblocks, and the **Grimm Audio** MU1 streamer/server. It will also bring head-fi galore to a very special headphone auditioning room on the lower ground floor, including headphones from **Raal Requisite, ZMF, Meze** and **Dan Clark Audio**, and partnering electronics from **HoloAudio**, **Ferrum**, **Benchmark** and **Dethonray**.

Halcro / Duntech / Döhmann (9 FARM COVE ROOM)

This extraordinary audio suite will host a remarkable Aussie supersystem. At the helm is **Duntech**'s flagship Sovereign speakers — a seven-driver system with the drivers symmetrically arranged on a vertical axis and time aligned, acknowledged by experts as the finest in the world. The power comes from **Halcro**'s very latest reference amplification, a triumph of form and function, unique in its imagination of what an amplifier is and how to push the boundaries of technology. And the third Aussie legend? Analogue playback courtesy of a **Döhmann** Helix turntable, engineered to deliver unparalleled analogue performance and the result of many years of research and development.

Hi End Audio (ROOM 18)

Distributor Hi End Audio's comprehensive portfolio features some of the very best in high-end hi-fi from around the world, with internationally famed audio brands such as **Boulder, Vitus, TAOC, AudioSolutions, SoulNote, Stillpoints, SBooster, Gigawatt** and **Silent Angel** among the many jewels in its very ornate crown. Last year's show attendees were treated to a sublime showcase of stereo sound inside the walls of Room 18, so we don't expect anything less this time round.



March Audio **PLAVENDER BAY ROOM**

Western Australia's **March Audio** was acclaimed at the 2023 show for delivering one of the best-sounding rooms — despite its system being a fraction of the price of many others being demoed. They will be back for 2024 with their latest wares loudspeakers, amplifiers and cables — all proudly hand-built in Albany, WA, and delivering "superb technical performance and sound at modest prices". They will also be debuting the new Pre1 Pre amp and new P801 power amps. This will no doubt prove a popular room.

Masimo Consumer (ROOM 6 & SPRING COVE

Following its room's winning sonics last year (and not forgetting its Abbey Road photo wall), Masimo Consumer Audio is back with its extensive portfolio of audio excellence, featuring **Bowers & Wilkins, Denon, Marantz, Polk Audio,** and **Classé**. Too many brands for one room, which is why it has two: one in Room 6 on Level 9 to showcase two affordable but thrilling systems from Denon, Polk, Marantz and B&W. A special highlight will be the brand-new Marantz Model 50 paired with the CD50n network CD player — the ultimate one-box digital source. The systems will be elevated by the very best cables by AudioQuest, too. Meanwhile in the Spring Cove Room, Bowers' flagship 801 D4 Signature loudspeakers will be on demo, driven by top-Classé amplification!

Leica / MaxMedia Port Jackson Room

Leica will be lighting up the show with its Cine 1 Cinema TV, the ultimate in console design and big-screen, 4K TV-style projection. Expect a complete entertainment system with immersive Dolby Atmos surround sound by **Piega** and unmistakable Leica quality. These dazzling images will also be complemented by a host of hi-fi kit distributed by MaxMedia, including the **Avantgarde Acoustic** Duo horn speakers; **Fezz**'s all-new DAC, phono stage and pre-amp; **Innuos**' full range of servers and streamers; **Pylon**'s Jade and Jasper speaker series; **Cos Engineering**'s D10 V3 DAC, pre and headphones amp; and plenty more besides!





GIRA G2 SERIES 2

Designed as an evolution of the original G1, the GIYA G2 brings you the same worldclass technology and peerless sound quality.

Enjoy GIYA G2

VIVID AUDIO GIYA G2 SERIES 2 vividaudio.com

EXHIBITORS



australian

Mcleans Smarter Home Entertainment (RROMB)

Having opened in 1982 as what was then one of Australia's first 'audio visual' home entertainment stores, located in The Entrance, NSW, Mcleans Smarter Home Entertainment is now a Central Coast-based retailer and distributes an exclusive handful of brands, including **Auralic, DeVore** and **Rogue Audio**. Mcleans plans to demonstrate precisely what a well-planned and wellpriced hi-fi system can achieve, with kit such as the Auralic Altair G2.1 music streamer, a Rogue Audio pairing of its RP-7 preamplifier and Stereo 100 power amplifier, and DeVore Fidelity's Orangutan O/96 loudspeakers.

Microphase Audio Design (ROOM3)

The Sydney speaker manufacturer will make the short journey to the show, armed with a suite of its dinky loudspeakers. **Microphase Audio Design** models are handcrafted in Australia with French flair, their core design forte being small speakers that, in the brand's words, "sound incredibly good on their own and have a reputation to have one of the best midranges in the world". "They reproduce instruments' timbres with accuracy and speed thanks to their very inert marine grade birch plywood cabinet and bespoke drivers mostly sourced from famous French manufacturer Audax."

Purasound (PROOM 22)

Brisbane-based PuraSound, which represents an eclectic assortment of high-end hi-fi brands in Australia, from Cyprus's **Aries Cerat** to Spain's **Alsyvox** and Canada's **Luna Cables**, will be demonstrating a highly unique system in Sydney. At the helm will be Alsyvox's Tintoretto ribbon planar dipole speakers making their Australian debut no less, and also introducing itself



will be Aries Cerat's Aperio integrated amplifier, with innovative TriodeFet technology at its core. That formidable pairing will be complemented by Aries Cerat's thaka DAC (also featuring Triode-Fet technology) and **Pink Faun**'s 2.16 Ultra digital server/streamer, with cables from Luna Cables and Norway's **Skogrand Cables** and Isolation by Poland's **Stacore** completing the system.

Richter **PROOM 19**

Thanks to the work achieved last year with the development and launch of its Special Edition models, the Excalibur S6SE and Wizard S6SE, **Richter** is now taking the performance of the Series 6 range to a new 'Plus' level, with Series 6plus versions of the standmount Merlin, smaller floorstanding Harlequin and larger floorstanding Wizard (a review of which can be found on page 56). But its biggest news is the arrival of a brand-new model, which is perhaps its most versatile speaker ever: the Unicorn S6plus centre speaker. "This new Unicorn will be a Richter first and a truly unique and versatile speaker allowing for numerous configurations via its switch modes," says Richter's Brian Rodgers.

Secret Chord Analogue **PROOM1**

With the tagline "get more from the music you love", **Secret Chord Analogue** makes its Australian Hi-Fi Show debut and invites attendees to engage with the company on a personal level through a different hands-on experience on each day that will cover record restoration and turntable set-up. The emphasis is on providing audiophiles with practical and meaningful interactions with the showcased products and services, which include the 'Record Restore' vinyl record cleaner, the 'Turntable Whisperer' bespoke service for restoring or refurbishing record players, and the 'Amp Camp' interactive tube amp-building experience.





Series 6 plus

Re-defined, making our best even better!

The exciting Series 6Plus range includes tech developed for our Premium Special Edition range to take your Entertainment experience to another level, in either 2 channel and now Plus, the arrival of the Unicorn S6Plus LCR speaker enhancing any Home Theatre system.

Contact your Nearest Richter dealer now to audition one of the S6Plus range and take your Entertainment experience to another level.

For more information and to find a dealer visit www.richter.com.au





Serhan Swift (ROOM 12

Serhan Swift officially launch their long-awaited floorstander, the mu3F, with everything you love in the world-acclaimed mu2 Mk II standmount – precision, musicality, big sound – just more! Plus more sensitivity/acoustic output, more bass extension, more power handling...

We are proud to be partnering with another Australian company, DEQX, showcasing their new Gen4 LS200 amplifier/streamer/ processor. A world first, this unit provides a stunning, powerful integrated amplifier with almost immeasurable distortion: and also Volumio Roon-enabled streaming – a complete package.

DEQX world-leading speaker calibration, room correction and subwoofer integration is also featured. DEQX has all but eradicated the distortions and artifacts that plague other DSPs, resulting in supremely accurate sound that is still musical, engaging and never fatiguing.

Also on show: the mu2 Mk II; our "surprise system"; Wand arm, turntable, phono stage, and battery power supply from Design, Build, Listen (NZ).

Stereotech (ROOM 20)

Designed and manufactured in the Stereotech facility in Brisbane, loudspeaker brand **Dellichord** will launch two brand new models at the show, the FR35 bookshelf monitor and FR2035 IsoActive System, as well as show off its award-winning FR6 isobaric standmounts (reviewed on page 28). The FR35 is a totally modern and updated homage to the classic LS3/5a, while the FR2035 offers a completely different aesthetic and sound, incorporating a twin 10-inch isobaric, active bass module and the FR35 bookshelf speaker. These will be seen and experienced for the first time ever. Stereotech will also be displaying its range of acoustic treatments, equipment racks and loudspeaker stands again this year, with a variety of styles, colours and finishes.

Synchronised Technology (CONCOURSE)

The Australian distributor for **Beyerdynamic**, a brand celebrating its 100th birthday this year, will be at the show loaded with fine headphones from the German company's diverse and budgetspanning catalogue. Hear the sounds and discover the reason that professionals choose Beyerdynamic for broadcast, film and stage applications, and how those technologies transfer into stunning consumer headphones for home and away.



Synergy Audio Visual **CELIZABETH BAY ROOM**

Be sure to set aside time to spend in the Elizabeth Bay Room this year. Melbourne's premier distributor will be debuting its latest brand, **Advance Paris**, alongside its established catalogue of hi-fi greats — **McIntosh, Sonus Faber, Audio Research, Aurender, ELAC**... the list goes on. Advance Paris is an electronic brand from — you guessed it — France, with a 'something for everyone' catalogue that is new to Australia. Its eclectic component range starts below \$1,000 and soars to beyond twenty times that, and should delight fans of analogue VU-meter aesthetics and valve performance. You may remember our glowing review of the brand's A12 amplifier in the previous magazine issue.

Wavetrain Cinemas (P SHELL COVE ROOM

It was the biggest and most spectacularly audiophile home cinema experience of the show last year, but this year Wavetrain is planning something different: the **Elementi Audio** digital active speakers it exclusively uses for its high-end installation projects will this time face the ultimate challenge of playing as an audiophile stereo system, in a venue where they'll be heard alongside the best two-channel hi-fi on the planet. Gutsy!

Yamaha Music (PROOM 4 & 5)

One of last year's showstoppers was the early preview of **Yamaha**'s groundbreaking YH-5000SE headphones and accompanying HA-L7A headphone amplifier, which will return to Sydney once more. The headliner this April, however, will be a stunning stereo showcase of Yamaha's flagship 5000 Series components, helmed by the NS-5000 speakers, driven by the C-5000 preamp and M-5000 power amp combo, and fed by the GT-5000 turntable. In the next room will be two less discernible but still highly premium setups from the company's 2000 and 3000 Series. Components from the latter will show there's still life in the Compact Disc yet, while speakers and a streaming amplifier from the former will be glossy adverts for modern system convenience. The youngest in the 2000 Series, the R-N1000A stereo network receiver and NS-800A bookshelf speakers, will also be in tow.

The Hi-Fi Headlines



NEWSLETTER NO.267

What's new at Len Wallis Audio.

Revival Audio Atalante 4 speakers.

This industries hottest new release in decades has been Revival Audios speakers out of France. Their Atalante 3 and Atalante 5 models have been an extraordinary success – winning awards and garnering glowing awards worldwide.

We have just received their new Atalante 4. This largish floor-standing speaker is a departure from the earlier models in this range, which are both standmount speakers (albeit the Atalante 5 is a large example of the genre). The Atalante 4 also exhibits a slight departure sonically.

First and foremost, this is an excellent loudspeaker, one that offers exceptional value at \$7,700. During my initial listening sessions I found myself making mental comparisons with speakers costing three times as much!

The Atalante 4's displays all the hallmarks that have made the '3 and '5 so desirable – including their meticulous approach to build quality. Their much lauded 'imagery' is evident, as is their sense of tonal 'balance'.

Where I do find the Atalante 4 a slight departure sonically is the pure grandeur of the performance. This speaker presents a very large, and very involving, sound field. While not losing any of the pin-point imagery that Revival is renowned for the Atalante 4's creates a sound stage extending way beyond the speakers themselves. While they will work in a smallish room (my listening was done in a room 5mts x 3.5mts) they will easily fill a far larger listening environment.

You are going to hear a lot more about the Atalante 4 in the coming years – value such as this does not come our way often.





....And speaking of value for money:

This month (April) we will receive our final shipment of the Rega Planar 3 50th Anniversary Edition turntable. Based on the ever-popular Rega Planar 3, this limitededition turntable is now out of production. The Panar 3 50th is much more than a fancy commemorative badge (although it does have one). Firstly, it has a distinctive walnut plinth. It is supplied with a Neo PSU Mk2 external power supply (normally a \$549 option), the reference EBLT belt, a custom manufactured CNC'd aluminum drive pulley and comes fitted with their Exact moving magnet cartridge (\$650). The Planar 3 50th Edition is selling for \$1,899, only \$450 than the current Rega Planar 3 (without cartridge). This is exceptional value for money, particularly considering the value already offered by the turntable it is based on.







The Next-Generation Laser Cinema Projector

with 100% DCI-P3 Colour & Delta E < I Accuracy, Revolutionising Cinematic Brilliance.

Official Launch at The Australian HiFi Show



