



## Broadcast roots

Hand-made in England for over 35 years, Harbeth loudspeakers are at the forefront of innovation and technology.

## Sonic purity

Harbeth's exclusive cone material creates that 'being there' experience not possible with polypropylene cones used in so many mass-produced loudspeakers.

Only with a Harbeth loudspeaker will you experience the unbeatable clarity which comes from an exclusive Harbeth RADIAL™ drive unit that brings music to life.

## Broadcast legacy

No wonder that Harbeth is the first-choice loudspeaker for discerning audiophiles and professional sound directors working on hit shows, film soundtracks and CD mastering.



## GOLDEN EAR FOR HARBETH



It's a golden tribute for Harbeth's Super HL5plus loudspeaker as The Absolute Sound magazine awards the hand-crafted British model a coveted Golden Ear Award. This is the fourth time in designer Alan Shaw's career that Harbeth has been rewarded with the audio industry's prestigious award for audio excellence. The magazine's Paul Seydor is busy reviewing the loudspeaker for the next issue. "The Super HL5plus has won a succession of international awards since it was released last year," says Harbeth's Trevor Butler [see story below]. "To collect a fourth Golden Ear for the Harbeth Monitoring Series is truly awesome."

## AWARDS FLOOD IN



### HARBETH'S NEW MODEL RECEIVES A CLUTCH OF GLOBAL AWARDS

Only a few months into its production and the ninth generation of Harbeth's original loudspeaker is being honoured by audio writers around the world. Award after award is bestowed on the Super HL5plus, from America to Russia and Japan to Germany, as it delights and entertains.

Online C|Net said the SHL5plus has "more than a little professional monitor in its make-up".

In America, as well as the Golden Ear Award (see above), *Stereophile's* legendary reviewer Art Dudley found a "fine, clear communicator of musical

timing", with technical measurements which were "beyond reproach".

Editor commendations were awarded by Russia's *Stereo & Video* and *Stereoplay* in Germany. Also in Germany, *Image-Hifi* magazine was delighted by a design with "nothing miss-

ing at all". For Japan's *Stereo* magazine the speaker was awarded Excellence status by a panel of four reviewers. Sister title *Stereo Sound* spoke of "excellent reproduction of harmonic structure", while *Audio Accessory* crowned it with a Best Component award.



Another Golden Ear for Harbeth



**CONTACT**

Harbeth Audio is proudly an independent British company, wholly owned by the designer. This gives us complete control over our destiny and allows us to create products that are truly sought-after around the world.

Send your stories for inclusion in our regular newsletters to the editor, ideally with high-resolution photographs.

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PICTURE OF THE MONTH - COURTESY OF GERMAN DEALER ILLUMINO



This image of the magical Harbeth P3ESR mini monitor is one of a new range to adorn *Illumino Audio's* website. Reinhard Dietrich (inset) runs the popular high-end dealership in Ergoldsbach, a town of the German Landshut region, in Lower Bavaria, surrounded by thick forests. His shop boasts excellent demonstration facilities and top brands including Harbeth loudspeakers which are very popular with his discerning customers.

# TESTING TIME FOR M40.2

Germany's *Audio* magazine receive a pair of the new Monitor 40.2 loudspeakers fresh from the designer's drawing board.



Harbeth's owner and chief designer Alan Shaw visited the home of one of Germany's most illustrious hi-fi magazines. Top of the agenda

at *Audio* was the new Monitor 40.2 which was warmly received by the editorial team.

Bernd Hömke (inset below) from Harbeth

Germany joined the listening sessions and test-result evaluation in Stuttgart.

The magazine's staff will now review the loudspeaker for an historic last-issue produced by the legendary team in Stuttgart.

Alan Shaw (pictured right with chief editor Bernhard Rietschel) said it had been a most worthwhile visit. "My new model was warmly received and we had an enjoyable day listen-

ing to a range of music from analogue and digital sources, including Britain's legendary Pink Floyd. "It was sad though to see the test house being packed away as we finished."

*Analysing the test results in Audio's own facility (below) and an intense listening session (right)*



SHOW GOES CRAZY OVER HARBETH SOUND

## True Brit success

Audiophiles clamoured for three days at the JW Marriott Hotel in Kuala Lumpur to hear the clean, natural sound of Harbeth, says Sam Chan of Harbeth Malaysia.

"We demonstrated the new *HL5plus* at the KL International AV Show last month and had a

lot of huge compliments from the visitors about the sound we made using British Harbeths and [older] Quad electronics from the days when they were made in Britain, too", he says.

The event attracted thousands of visitors.





## Going Dutch for special weekends

High-end dealer Audiomaat staged two Harbeth weekends in Tilburg to demonstrate the Best of British.

Dubbed by Dutch organiser as The Hottest Harbeth Show Ever, dealer Audiomaat attracted a wide audience for its two-part weekend extravaganzas.

“A combination of Croft

tube/transistor hybrid amplifiers combined with mighty fine Harbeth speakers made for an all-British experience”, says organiser Wim Rodenburg.

“Part One had inte-

grated amps driving Harbeth P3ESR and C7ES-3 while the following week it was Croft pre/power with the M30.1 and SHL5plus. Amazing combinations which drew the crowds.”



## SOUTHERN ENDORSEMENT

### AUSTRALIAN ONLINE REVIEW SITE UNEARTH'S HARBETH'S QUALITY

Antipodean reviewer Mark Gusew took a close look at Harbeth's popular Compact 7ES-3 monitor loudspeaker and found it very revealing, with impressive detail and a lush, euphoric sound.

Published by StereoNet, the review looks at Harbeth's heritage and the development of legendary BBC design ideas to create modern-day loudspeakers such as the Compact 7ES-3.

Mark Gusew (inset) noted how the Harbeths managed to exhibit a great deal of detail and complexity.

“They are very revealing of musical nuances and harmonics, particularly in the midrange and treble regions”, he discovered.

“This initial impression remained throughout the review period”, he informed his audience, adding: “Well re-

corded natural instruments and voices were portrayed really cleanly and were relayed with a lifelike realism.”

There was also praise for the C7's HF ability: “The treble was very smooth, highly detailed, reasonably extended and was never harsh, taxing or overbearing”.

Overall, the writer commended how music was made to sound “sweet and pleasant”, with the treble “well integrated with the midrange: no apparent gaps”, leading him to conclude that the crossover design was “spot on”.

**stereonet**  
HARBETH HL-COMPACT 7ES-3 LOUDSPEAKERS

...the resulting clarity, especially when listening to live recordings and productions, cannot be overstated by the reviewer of the **Compact 7ES-3**. A listener review I did a lot of research into the background of the BBC, it was pleasing to hear that the only reason the BBC monitor came into existence was that at the time, there were simply no speakers on the market that met the high standards of the BBC. They needed measurement and control rooms, particularly with regards to bass. Between technology and having the UK now with good design and construction methods, limited materials and quality control, it was really not so hard to build. Even the best speakers were made with well-measured, so to describe them, from professional use. To exceed customer, the head of Research Development, but the intent was to produce a speaker that was more than just a speaker, it was a piece of engineering, and it was intended to be a BBC quality speaker design. It was intended to be a speaker that was not just a speaker, it was a piece of engineering, and it was intended to be a BBC quality speaker design.

**HARBETH**

Harbeth was founded in 1977 by Dudley Townsend, the senior engineer of the BBC's Research Department. The same Harbeth is an amalgam of technical and musical skills. It was founded to develop and produce the world class of performance products that paved the way for the world's best and to be the standard for the speaker company.

Meanwhile the Compact 7 fared exceptionally well with wooden acoustic instruments (strings, piano and gui-

tar) while female voices were found to be “very pleasing and had a wonderfully lush, euphoric sound”.

### HK SHOWING M40.2



One of the first international demonstrations of Harbeth's new Monitor 40.2 will be at the Hong Kong High-End Audio Visual Show. Held on 7-9 August it is organised by high-end magazine *Audiotechnique* and attracts large crowds. “We are very excited to be showing Harbeth's new reference model”, says Henry Chan of Harbeth HK.

### MUSIC LOVER'S DREAM



Online *Audio Video Revolution* reported on a seven-year evaluation of Harbeth's Compact 7ES-3 in the reviewer's home. Andre Marc talks of “not only an excellent reviewer's tool but a music lover's dream”. He found a speaker which “plays music ... any kind of music, without prejudice” and with an “utterly sublime” midrange.

### LATEST AUSTRALIAN DEALER'S DEMS

## Class A Audio's duo

Melbourne's Harbeth dealer Class A Audio has been busy recently demonstrating the British brand's monitor loudspeaker range.

“Class A have two Harbeth demonstration rooms: one is used for the M30.1, C7 and P3

while the second, larger room, for the SHL5plus and 40.2”, explains Aleksandar Maksimovic from Harbeth Australia.

The picture shows the multi-award-winning Monitor 30.1s attached to some serious amplification in the listening room.



## UPCOMING SHOWS



**USA:** This month sees America's Capital Audio Fest (28-30 August) at a new venue this year: the Hilton Hotel, Rockville MD in Washington DC. Harbeth will be out in force at the event. [www.capitalaudiofest.com/](http://www.capitalaudiofest.com/)



**BELGIUM:** The date's set for a weekend audio event not to be missed by anyone close to Antwerp. Harbeth takes centre stage at the Gydotron Audio Show (12-13 September) at St. Martinus' Pastory in Malle. "Gydotron are delighted to welcome everyone to the warm atmosphere for great sound, great music and great beers!" say the organisers (pictured!).



**HOLLAND:** Plans are already in hand for the Harbeth exhibit at the large Dutch audio show. X-fi is staged at Veldhoven (near Eindhoven) 26-27 September from 9-5 each day.

Harbeth Benelux will be demonstrating in three rooms.

Details from: <http://x-fi-audioshow.nl/>

## REVEALING MONITORS

During his development of the new Ultimate Reference M40.2 design, Harbeth's Alan Shaw explains the journey from the "peculiar" LS5/8 of the 1970s to the M40.2

During the six-month design process of the new M40.2, Harbeth's owner and designer reminded himself what a compromise the similarly-proportioned two-way LS5/8 design was.

"We have many pairs of the old LS5/8 here at Harbeth HQ, traded-in (for Harbeth M40s) from BBC studios, so I think we know better than anyone, even the BBC themselves, how these production LS5/8 speakers actually measure, behave and sound", says Alan.

Intended as a drop-in replacement for the BBC's old LS5/8 model, Harbeth's M40 family was



conceived as a three-way design (separate bass unit, midrange unit and a tweeter) to replace the mere two-way (bass unit, tweeter; but no midrange drive unit) of the LS5/8. The Harbeth M40 was introduced when the Rogers UK factory closed around 1997 and serviceability of the ageing 5/8 became problematic for professional customers.

Alan explains the rationale behind the Harbeth design. "The M40 was created as a three-way for the extremely obvious reason that the audio spectrum needs to be split three ways if the speaker has a large, 12-inch (300mm) bass unit because, no matter how you tinker with such a system, bass units are always at their best in the bass region, and midrange units are optimised for midrange, relieved of the stress of moving air and handling high power."

"Because the LS5/8 was so extremely peculiar in its sound balance it never found a domestic market nor even a professional market outside British broadcasting, but the M40 was sufficiently superior to the old 5/8 that it found both a hi-fi market and a pro market."

With the Harbeth M40 finding favour in many domestic set-

tings it was in 2008 that Alan undertook a mid-course review of the design as its key market became the domestic arena. The hugely successful M40.1 was born.

The most important element in the journey towards the M40.2 has been the simply delightful success of the SuperHL5plus, which has captured (and captivated!) a whole new audience of Harbeth customers.

"It's obvious to me that the design innovations embodied in the SHL5plus, with the universal praise and many awards it's received, were a signpost to how we could develop the Harbeth reference loudspeakers, and the SuperHL5plus technological improvements are evidently what the market very much likes", says the designer. "I observed the market, I listened to the feedback, I learned from the reviews, and I have applied the same magic that went into the SHL5plus to the M40.2. And some."

Production of the M40.2 will commence later this month with the order book filling-up for 2016 deliveries around the world.

40.2

## AN INVESTMENT IN HAPPINESS – SPEAKERS MADE BY AND FOR MUSIC LOVERS

The Dutch online audio site [hifi.nl](http://hifi.nl) has published a review of the Harbeth P3ESR and SHL5plus by writer René van Es.

The reviewer says of the British-made mini monitors that they are speakers made by and for music lovers. He continues: "Those who appreciate the brand, will find no other speakers that offer so much musical satisfaction. The people I know who own Harbeth speakers are looking at other sources, amplifiers, cables etc., but not another brand of speakers. They might even be wiser and just enjoy the music day in day out. Harbeth speakers are an investment in happiness."

Garnt van der Zel from Harbeth Benelux welcomes the review. "René has really got to the essence of a Harbeth and why they are just so musical," he says.

