

## MARCH APRIL

# Equipment Feature

### Metronome

There are companies who make world class equipment and when price is no object then this is not generally a problem. We all know that talented design and a never ending budget can result in world class products you only have to look at the Harmon group to see this works.

Metronome produce the Kalista transport and C2-A Signature Dac have proved that beyond a doubt they have produced one of the finest CD Transport and Dac's in the world. If you have talented design team and a large budget it can result in world class products.

Unfortunately that is where the story stops with most people, they see the reviews of the Kalista, accept its beauty and quality, see the price then put on the brakes with full force. If they actually heard it then the brakes would be applied with considerably less force but for most people the brakes would still be locked on solid.



In our opinion the real stars in the range are the CD 3, CD4 and T2i which are simply stunning cd players in their own right. They simply get overshadowed by the reviewing press who go straight to the shiny jewel in the box Kalista, but are actually more impressive than the Kalista because they manage to achieve a level of performance at a real world price (you will note that I never said cheap. Good design and engineering is never cheap). You get a much better sense of value for your money and a quality of sound that 99% of planet earth would think they were simply awesome (even 85% of audiophiles agree and when do they ever agree about anything!)

Seriously if you're looking for a CD player that is nudging the quality of a good analogue rig but with none of the foibles of analogue you could do a lot worse than addition a CD3 or CD4. Is it worth stretching the budget? Yes because you will get sound quality that will satisfy rather than a sound that is clinically good.

Its time to forget the competitors marketing bull and let your ears decide. It stands to reason that if they make one of the Best Transports in the world then the affordable stuff lower down the range has to be worth a listen. You will not be disappointed!

Metronome CD 4 Signature - Edgar Kramer, 6moons.com  
<http://www.6moons.com/audioreviews/metronome3/cd4.html>  
The Metronome CD4 Signature has demonstrated to me what is possible from the digital format at the top tier. What separates players of this caliber from the lower rungs is not necessarily more bass or better treble -- although in this case it's certainly so -- but more frequency-wide sonic reality top to bottom. Add to that superb build, promised longevity and a graceful design and you have a winner sitting on your top shelf if you can afford it.

### Stereovox



Firstly let me say that I am genuinely impressed with Stereovox, I have just been playing around with the new reference cables. They use Silver but have no of the common drawbacks of using silver, they have plenty of weight an excellent soundstage is projected and they have an extremely fine level of harmonic richness and splendid portrayal of inner detail. The most impressive thing is that they outperform many more expensive cables.

Stereovox Colibri & Firebird have been upgraded recently and it's a hard thing to describe but they sound just right, the balance of musical insight and portrayal of inner detail allied to a wide bandwidth and expansive soundstage, as Tim Shea said reasonably priced to boot.

The Sei600ii & LSP 600s are out to impress with a bang. If I was a high end cable manufacturer I would not be sitting too comfortably anymore. These cables are up with the very best in the world but the price is bottom dollar for the high end. If I was cynical I would say that it was under priced to shine in reviews, but I know that the manufacturer has simply priced his products very fairly indeed.

From 1997 to the present, Chris has dedicated his focus to creating the finest and most precise audio cables in the world under the STEREOVOX brand. Employing high technology precision solutions typically reserved for military, aerospace and surveillance industries, Stereovox cables are themselves extreme examples of precision audio cable design and execution.

STUDIO line brings Stereovox's legendary performance into pristine reach with a "Performance First" approach that won't break the bank. These products have been tailored to deliver outstanding price-to-performance ratio for music lovers of all persuasions.

Lets introduce the Reference Line, from the most delicate acoustic renderings to soul-quaking symphonies... from the coolness of Cool to sizzling Hard Bop... from The Capenters to The Ramones to Ricky Lee Jones, Stereovox cables have revealed more detail, nuance, and pure music and have raised the bar on what it means to truly be a "Reference" product.

Our mission is to deliver the most satisfying sonic experience possible. To that end we have produced our award-winning products since 1999, with reference installations all over the world.

#### My Cable Rant

Many people believe that all cable companies are way too expensive for what is essentially a bit of wire. You will pay for a bit of computer software for word processing or doing spreadsheets. What are you getting a \$1 CD and a licence? Obviously you are paying for the research and development costs, not just the raw materials. I know for a fact that some of these cables took 2 years or more of development and whilst I do not have your ears I would be shocked to the core if you did not hear an improvement which was at least equal to the amount of money spent.

You really have to think about it in terms of a component upgrade rather than just a cable, judge the improvement on its own merits not on a pre conceived idea. If you're open minded enough you may just get a shock.

Many people still adhere to the old belief (Linn I believe) that you spend most on your source then less at each component down the chain until you come to the cables and stand which is only left a meagre percentage of your audio budget.

By this belief you would be degrading the signal at an incrementing rate as it meanders its way through the system. You may as well leave on the speaker grills just to finish the signal off. Clearly you want to preserve the signal, as it passes through your system. You don't want to use your cables as a tone control to filter the signal. The reason that most dealers will advocate replacing all interconnects at once is simply that any of your old cables that are left are probably working as a tone control filtering the signal.

Time to be burned at the cross: Even mains cables can make a significant improvement to your system, both to source equipment and to power amplifiers.

There are many more reasons but lets take Radio Interference RF, radio's, mobile phones, domestic appliances, even from within your own system (CD Player) Digital products produce RF. If your cables are shielded then it helps stop airborne RF entering your components, if there is a filter on the cable then interference is blocked even more. Generally more expensive cables have better shields and or filters. There are many more reasons why cables work this is but one aspect of science being applied to solve a problem which is largely ignored.

I would mention mains filtering but as this is a cable rant I won't, however my systems are all running from a mains supply that has been filtered. It has however been done properly so it has none of the drawbacks that you may have encountered from some units available on the market.

I am not denying that there is still snail oil in hifi, there are cable companies with huge marketing budgets. Full page adverts in hifi magazines are not cheap, but the advert are there for all to see, you have to ask yourself the question am I paying for the cable and the research and development that went into the design or am I paying for the huge advertising budget of the cable company and therefore a cable of lesser ability but better marketing. As always our advice is to use your own ears to decide the issue.

Stereovox Colibri & Firebird - Tim Shea, Soundstage.com  
[http://www.soundstage.com/revequip/stereovox\\_colibri\\_r\\_firebird\\_followup.htm](http://www.soundstage.com/revequip/stereovox_colibri_r_firebird_followup.htm)

These upgraded cables have unleashed more musical information than I've ever heard before through my system, and it sounds very, very right. Although I didn't find all that much sonically different with the new Firebird speaker cable, it remains about as neutral an entry as I have heard in the category, which at the very least makes it a great match for the Colibri-R. Overall, the Stereovox Colibri-R interconnects and Firebird speaker cables are the best I've had in my system and reasonably priced to boot.

Stereovox Sei600ii & LSP 600s - Brian Damkroger, Stereophile February 2007  
<http://www.stereophile.com/cables/207stereovox/>

was really impressed with the Stereovox cables, and strongly recommend that anyone shopping for cables—or just looking to upgrade and learn more about their system—arrange an audition. Time will tell if the SEI-600II and LSP-600 are the first of a new generation of cables that will establish a new standard of performance, but they are, at the very least, among the select group of cables that comprise "the best I've heard." Even in 2006, an industry as mature as high-end cables can be shaken up. Fascinating, isn't it?





**sensus**  
FEEL THE SOUND  
ULTRA HI-FI SPECIALISTS

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News

Shop for HiFi



We have been working hard for the last couple of months to setup a new web site for you the customer.

We have created [www.shopforhifi.com](http://www.shopforhifi.com) to promote and inform you about the range of second hand products that come through our doors as well as ex-demonstrator bargains.

Its easy and fast to use, browse by item type or see a full listing, click on the info button for more details of any featured product or cable range. There are review extracts and often our own take on products, but as always we will advise you as best we can but use your own ears to decide what's best for you.

Services we offer:

- Sale of second-hand/ex-dem products
- Sell equipment on your behalf on a commission basis (20%)
- Purchase your equipment / trade-in
- One month warranty on second-hand,
- full-warranty on ex-demo products

Top ten reasons to use our services:

1. We get a significant amount of web traffic each month so the products are highly visible
2. We are one of the world's most respected high-end hi-fi dealerships
3. You can be confident about buying goods from us as they are all checked by us prior to sale
4. There is no doubt that we offer the best Part exchange / Trade in deals compared to other Dealers in Australia. Please note: Product condition, age and packaging are prime considerations.
5. Sell equipment on your behalf on a commission basis (20%)
6. We sell and ship worldwide, not only locally
7. We do not advertise products that we do not have sitting in the store room or on display at our premise.
8. We do not sell goods which we believe to be sub-standard other than cosmetically which we will describe in detail and photo's
9. If we are selling goods on behalf of someone we do not pay them until you have received and verified the goods
10. One month warranty on second-hand, full-warranty on ex-demo products

Featured Used Product

Wavac MD 805m

RRP: \$22,499

Sale Price: \$13,500

These amps can drive just about any Acapella, Peak Consult or Kharma speaker. So your choice of speaker to match the amplifier now and in the future becomes almost limitless as the amplifier has the power and drive to easily cope with any changes. Wavac amplifiers are never cheap, however they come closer to reality than almost any other valve amplifier in the world, with less limitations than many of their peers.

As an amplifier they excel in the midrange and highs due to the single tube design. Female voices just pop from the speakers with a reality that is rare even in high end audio. I was listening to a live Nanci Griffith Album and mentally comparing the talking parts to when I last seen her live and let me tell you it was extremely close to just listening to her speak during the concert. When playing some of my piano favorites it was easy to differentiate the differing qualities of the Bösendorfer piano compared with the Steinway. One of my favorites is a recording of an August Förster and the warm mellow sound of the Förster was reproduced in a stunning lifelike manner, it is not surprising that these pianos are held in high regard by Puccini, Richard Strauss, Sergei Prokofiev, Robert Fischer and Anton Kuerti. Their bass control is good but not the best. The sound is very involving without being too "sweet" or warm. Wavac's are the King of SET's and this amplifier shows why they deserve the title.

At this fantastic price you have the chance to enter the real high end where you need never upgrade again.



"I do not recall hearing any amplifier, regardless of type, power or cost, that is more consistently free of tonal colorations. The clarity and openness that flow from these remarkable 805 amplifiers is truly uncanny. They are a Crystal Palace for your music!..."

"...The purity and beauty these amps deliver make them worth strong consideration from any highly discerning listener who values musical truth over audio dazzle." - Enjoy the music, Wayne Donnelly

Recent Vinyl Releases

Rock And Pop		
Aliens	Atronomy For Dogs	EMI
Apples In Stereo	New Magnetic Wonder 180g	Yep Roc/Simian
Bees	<b>Octopus</b>	Virgin
Big D & Kids Table	Brain Failure	Bad News
Bill Callaghan (Smog)	Woke On A Whaleheart	Drag City
Bill Nelson's Red Noise	Sound On Sound	Jean Cocteau
Black Sabbath	Past Lives	Earmark
Blonde Redhead	23	4AD
Bright Eyes	<b>Cassadaga 2LP</b>	Saddle Creek
Cluster	Cluster 2	Lilith
Coco Rosie	Adventures of Ghosthorse	Touch And Go
Coldplay	<b>Singles 1999-2006 (14 x 7")</b>	Parlophone
Depeche Mode	Black Celebration	Mute
Depeche Mode	Construction Time Again	Mute
Depeche Mode	Some Great Reward	Mute
Enter Shikari	Take To The Skies	Ambush Reality
Fucking Champs	V1	Drag City
Good Shoes	Think Before You Speak	Brille
Graham Coxon	Love Travels At Illegal Speeds	Parlophone
Gruff Rhys	<b>Candylon 180g</b>	Team Love U.S
Holly Golightly/Brokeoffs	You Cant Buy A Gun When	Damaged Goods
Josh Ottum	Like The Season	Tapete
Joss Stone	Introducing 2LP	Virgin USA

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**Recent Vinyl Releases continued**

<b>Rock And Pop</b>		
Kevin Coyne	Case History	Tapestry
Led Zeppelin	Early Days (Best Of Vol.1)	Atlantic
Led Zeppelin	Latter Days (Best of Vol 2)	Atlantic
Leonard Cohen	Recent Songs	Columbia
Loney Dear	Loney,Noir	Regal
Low	Drums & Guns	Sub Pop
Lymbyc Systm	Love Your Abuser	Mush
Mark Ronson	Version	BMG
Maroon 5	Songs About Jane	BMG Import
Maximo Park	Our Earthly Pleasures	Warp
Morrissey	Live at Earls Court	Attack
Neil Young	After The Goldrush	Reprise
Neil Young	American Stars And Bars	Reprise
Neil Young	Harvest	Reprise Germany
Neil Young	Live At Massey Hall CD/DVD	Reprise
Neil Young	Silver And Gold	Warner
Neil Young	Zuma	Warner
Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds	Abattoir Blues/The Lyre Of Orpheus	Mute
Nirvana	Nevermind	Geffen
Paul McCartney	Chaos And Creation	Parlophone
Ripps	Long Live The Ripps	Catskills
Seventeen Evergreen	Life Embarrasses Me On Planet Earth	Pacific Radio Fire
Shitdisco	Kingdom Of Fear	Fierce Panda
Stooges	<b>The Weirdness</b>	Virgin
The Mighty Roars	Swine & Cockerel	One Little Indian
Throbbing Gristle	Part Two - The Endless Not	Grey Area
Tim Hardin	Through The Years (1946-66)	Lilith
Tom Waits	Blue Valentine	Warner
Trans Am	Sex Change	Thrill Jockey
Who	<b>Live At Leeds 150g</b>	Classic Records
Wild Billy Childish/British Empire	Punk Rock at the British Legion	Damaged Goods
<b>Jazz</b>		
Abercrombie/Holland	Gateway	ECM
Arvo Part	Tabula Rasa	ECM
Charles Lloyd	Notes From Big Sur	ECM
Charlie Mingus Quintet	meets Cat Anderson (1972)	Get Back
Chick Corea/Steve Kujala	Voyage	ECM
Dexter Gordon	Go 180g	Blue Note
Enrico Rava/Dino Saluzzi Qt	Volver	ECM
Gary Burton/Chick Corea	In Concert, Zurich 28/10/79	ECM
Herbie Hancock	Blow Up Extra Sessions (1 copy)	Vintage Class
Jimmy Giuffre 3	1961 -Analog Master 180gm vinyl	ECM
Jimmy Smith	Hooche Cooche Man	Lilith
John Surman	Upon Reflection	ECM
John Surman/Jack DeJohnette	The Amazing Adventures of Simon	ECM
Keith Jarrett/Jan Garbarek	Luminessence	ECM
Kenny Wheeler	Music For Large & Small Ensembles	ECM
Marc Johnson's Bass Desires	Second Sight	ECM
Miles Davis/John Coltrane	Live in 1958	Get Back
Pat Metheny	80/81 (with Haden/Brecker etc)	ECM
Rainer Bruninghaus	Freigeweht	ECM
Terje Rypdal	Descendre	ECM
Trevor Watts/Katrina Krinsky	Stella Malu	ECM
<b>Metal/Alternative</b>		
Manowar	Gods Of War	Spv
Sword	Age Of Winters	Kenado
<b>Americana/Country</b>		
Eleni Mandell	Country For True Lovers	Heart of a Champion
Richard Swift	Dressed Up For The Letdown	Secretly Canadian
Southern Culture On The Skids	Countryopolitan Favourites	Yep Roc
Willie Nelson/Ray Price/Haggard	Last Of The Breed	Lost Highway
<b>Folk</b>		
Dave Waite/Marianne Segal	Paper Flowers - 180gm	Akarma
Judy Dyble	Songs From Spindle - ltd Fabric Sleeve	
Lau (Green/Drever/O'Brien)	Lightweights & Gentlemen	Reveal
Loudest Whisper	The Children Of Lir	Sunbeam
Spirogyra	Bells,Boots & Shambles	Tapestry
<b>World/Fusion</b>		
Ananda Shankar	And His Music	Fallout
Bassekou Kouyate/Ngoni Ba	Segu Blue	Out Here
Ibrahim Ferrer	Mi Sueno CD	World Circuit
var artists-New York Latin Hustle	Sound of New York Vol 2	Soul Jazz
<b>Rap/Hip Hop/R&amp;B</b>		
DJ Vadim	The Soundcatcher	BBE
EL-P	I'll Sleep When You're Dead	Def Jux

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