

MEETING NOTICE - Sunday, September 21st, 2 PM - 5 PM

Arlington Heights Historical Society
Arlington Room, 110 W. Fremont
Arlington Heights, IL

For directions go to:

<http://www.chicagoaudio.org/directions.htm>

SEPTEMBER MEETING

We are pleased to have Jim Wischmeyer from Bag End Loudspeakers in Barrington, IL (www.bagend.com) to present their subwoofers, powered satellite system, and a new active room bass node correction component--the E-Trap.

Bag End is noted for developing their own Infra-Sub dedicated amplifier and crossover for their subwoofers which extends bass response for most of their subs to 8Hz-95Hz +or- 3db!

The powered satellite system is the MM-8H Time Align which features a 8" low frequency cone and a 1.75" aluminum compression driver in a coaxial design. To quote Bag End's description on the website:

"The MM-8H is an 8-inch, 2-way coaxial, Time-Aligned™ loudspeaker system designed for critical studio monitoring applications and reference-quality home theater systems. When used with a Bag End INFRA™ subwoofer, the system achieves a flat frequency response wider than the audible spectrum. It has been designed to maintain its low distortion sound at very high sound pressure levels."

The E-Trap is a tunable electronic bass trap. Some notes from Bag End website describe the product and the problems it addresses:

Equalizing the bass portion of the sound system is sometimes suggested as a method of reducing the energy at the resonance peaks, thereby improving the flatness of the room response. Even those promoting this solution would agree that it would be far preferable to design the room so that it has little or no resonance modes and requires little or no equalization. It is far better to fix the room acoustically by adding damping than to equalize the signal. Equalizing the sound affects the quality of the original sound and is not effective in reducing the ringing in the time domain when compared to adding acoustical damping to the room mode. And, obviously it is impossible to "equalize" a room where there is no sound system present, such as a recording studio where acoustic instruments such as drums or piano are recorded. "Equalizing the bass portion of the sound system is sometimes suggested as a method of reducing the energy at the resonance peaks, thereby improving the flatness of the room response. Even those promoting this solution would agree that it would be far preferable to design the room so that it has little or no resonance modes and requires little or no equalization. It is far better to fix the room acoustically by adding damping than to equalize the signal. Equalizing the sound affects the quality of the original sound and is not effective in reducing the ringing in the time domain when compared to adding acoustical damping to the room mode. And, obviously it is impossible to "equalize" a room where there is no sound system present, such as a recording studio where acoustic instruments such as drums or piano are recorded.

The E-trap offers precise tunability of two target frequencies simultaneously. The frequency and amount of damping is adjustable via controls. PC measurement software (for Windows(r)) is included with the E-Trap to allow the user to pinpoint the frequency that requires damping. Once the E-trap is placed and tuned, it requires no additional attention. "

We will be using Brian Richardson's Electrocompaniet Pre-amp and Esoteric Universal Player, so be sure to bring your favorite music to play whether CD, SACD, or DVD-Audio. See you all Sunday!

AUGUST MEETING RECAP

Bill Sweet hosted the August meeting and showed how he solved two major sound problems from living in a condominium. One problem is the poor electricity. The other problem is the vibration of the floor from being five stories high and Bill's condo being next to the elevator shafts.

The electrical improvements are from a ten gauge dedicated line sent to dual Isoclean Isolation transformers and cables.

The vibration improvements are from audio components being placed on Critical Mass System platforms. Additionally, many Acoustic system resonators and dampers "decorated" the room and were demonstrated how they affected the acoustics when one damper was removed from the ceiling and a resonator was placed, then removed from another room!

The front end is separates: A Wadia model 20 transport and a Wadia model 25 DA converter. The digital cables in-between are a balanced coax, an AudioQuest toslink, and a Creative Cable Concept Silver Bullet that terminates with BNC connectors. Wadia recommends the optical toslink. Bill much prefers the Silver Bullet.

Since the Proac Response Five Speakers take bi-amplification, four Herron M150 amplifiers feed the Proacs. One set of speaker cables is Sonoran. The other set is TG Audio HFR. The four interconnects are also TG Audio model High Purity.

Bill, his sister Cody, and his mother Alice, were all great hosts for the meeting. We even had stereo meeting places-Cody's place where we initially met for appetizers, then Bill's place down the hall for listening and more refreshments. All of Bill's work with his system has paid off with a musical experience featuring plenty of dynamics, powerful bass, and excellent resolution. We all took turns with the dozen or so listening seats available and most were still around still listening near the end.

Our thanks to Bill and the Sweet family for a sweet listening experience and meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

OCTOBER--Dale Pitcher from Intuitive Design (<http://www.intuitiveaudio.com>)

NOVEMBER--Paul McGowan from PS Audio (www.psaudio.com)

DECEMBER--Meeting at The Edge Home Entertainment, Palatine, IL (<http://www.edgeaudiovideo.com>) featuring reps from Wadia, the Wadia i170, and other good stuff. More to follow.