

MEETING NOTICE - Sunday, December 13th, 2 PM - 5 PM

**Quintessence Audio
5701 Dempster Street
Morton Grove, IL 60053-3041
(847) 966-4434**

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**DECEMBER - QUINTESSENCE AUDIO featuring digital: BERKELEY AUDIO DESIGN
ALPHA DAC and PS AUDIO PERFECT WAVE TRANSPORT & DAC**

We will be meeting at Quintessence Audio in Morton Grove (www.quintessenceaudio.com) to audition two high-end systems featuring two cutting-edge products in digital audio. Our thanks to Mick Survance, owner of Quintessence Audio, for making this available to the group and hosting the meeting.

The first room will feature a high-end system featuring a PC-based music server with the Lynx AES16 sound card sending a balanced digital signal to the Berkeley Audio Design Alpha DAC (<http://www.berkeleyaudiodesign.com/index.html>), which received the Product of the Year Award from Absolute Sound. This setup is capable of playing all digital formats up to 24/192 and we will have high resolution material to listen to. This setup is the reference for the Computer Audiophile website (www.computeraudiophile.com) and this is one of the few setups of its kind to audition.

At this time, the exact system setup is being determined, but loudspeakers will likely be top-line models from either Magico or Focal.

Last year, we welcomed Paul McGowan from PS Audio (<http://www.psaudio.com/>) with the very first prototypes of the Perfect Wave Transport and DAC. Now we will have the opportunity to hear them in production. To quote their website regarding the Perfect Wave Transport:

Using an optical ROM reader, the PWT extracts the data off any CD or DVD in bit-perfect condition without using error correction and places that data into a special version of the PS Audio Digital Lens. Once inside the Digital lens, the musical information is stored in pure form without clocks or any reference to time. The stored musical information is then retrieved by the PWT's asynchronous fixed timing clock and output to your DAC with perfect timing and extremely low jitter through its digital audio outputs, or jitter-free through the HDMI connector.

The Perfect Wave DAC accesses high-resolution digital audio data from multiple sources such as a CD transport, CD player, computer, network, or the Internet and converts the data through PS Audio's Digital Lens. Go to the website for more information on these products.

Do bring your favorite music along and we look forward to seeing all of you this coming Sunday!

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NOVEMBER MEETING RECAP

NOVEMBER MEETING

We were pleased to have Donald Smith of SDL in Evanston present his modified electronics, prototype preamp, power conditioner and cables. We demonstrated the following equipment:

SDL prototype CD player
SDL modified Musiland DAC/Attenuator
SDL modified Dynaco Tube Amp
SDL prototype battery preamp
SDL power conditioner, cables, and platforms

We also welcomed our member Zachary Stanger who supplied the Omega Loudspeakers Sticks (<http://www.omegaloudspeakers.com/products/>) and the matching subwoofer. Additionally, Zachary supplied a Macbook with an outboard hard drive as an additional source.

The Omegas had a large soundstage and an appealing musical quality with the SDL electronics. A number of members were impressed with the sound quality of their CDs copied to the Macbook and played back from hard drive. We compared iTunes to the Mac built-in player Front Row, which uses iTunes information, but is a separate music player. The consensus appeared to be unanimous in the group that Front Row sounded better than iTunes alone. Anyone with a Mac should definitely listen to this.

Our thanks to Donald Smith and Zach Stanger for a most enjoyable and interesting meeting.

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