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## Dear Brian,

Hello and welcome to our first newsletter for 2009.

I was pleased to receive a double LP re-release of Elton John's Yellow Brick Road for Xmas. The gatefold package, liner notes, all brought back memories of the 70s. But when I played it, I was disappointed. I was expecting a sonic feast, but the sound just didn't come up to expectations. This pressing was from BacktoBlackVinyl, which is owned by the Universal Music Group. Speakers Corner have also released this title and I would be interested in hearing from anyone who has that version.



If you have bought some new LPs recently and would like to give some feedback on their quality, please send me an email. I'll create a page on the website to publish your comments so everyone can see them.

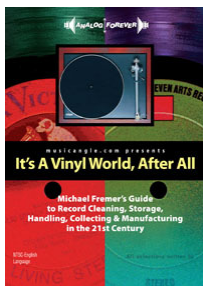
We have had to change our ordering procedure for Pro-Ject and Rotel products. If you would like to order any of those you will need to contact us by phone or email as the ability to place an order via the website has been removed. This is due to the policy of the supplier. In most cases people were contacting us prior to ordering anyway for advice on what to buy, so it should prove to be just a minor inconvenience.

For those customers in or near Brisbane there is a Record Fair on Saturday March 21st at the West End Club at 2 Vulture Street from 9am. I'll be there with record cleaning products so if any of you turn up please say hi.

All the best for your musical enjoyment.

Brian Maddern  
07 3344 5756  
[enquiry@decibelhifi.com.au](mailto:enquiry@decibelhifi.com.au)

## Industry News



**Michael Fremer** is an industry personality who reviews music and equipment, particularly vinyl related. He writes for Stereophile and has a website called [musicangle.com](http://musicangle.com). A couple of years ago he produced a DVD entitled "20th Century Vinyl" which is a practical guide to setting up a turntable as well as being entertaining and informative about vinyl records in general. He has just released a new DVD entitled "It's a Vinyl World After All" which is a 3 hour Guide to Record Production, Storage, Handling, Cleaning and Collecting. Once again it's informative and entertaining. It's now in stock at \$55 incl.GST. [http://www.decibelhifi.com.au/category18\\_1.htm](http://www.decibelhifi.com.au/category18_1.htm)

As these DVDs are fairly expensive but of particular interest to vinyl enthusiasts we now offer a buy-back scheme. We would like to simply hire them but copyright laws prevent this.

If you purchase a DVD and after watching it decide you do not want to keep it, you can return it for a part refund. There's no limit on how long you keep it. The refund is \$33.00. Returned DVDs will then be available for resale at \$38.50 with a part refund of \$16.50. Obviously returned DVDs have to be in perfect condition. If posted in a standard A5 envelope the DVD is treated as

a Large Letter and the postage is only \$1.10 from anywhere in Australia.

To summarize, if you purchase a new DVD, the cost is \$55.00. If you return it for a refund, the nett cost is \$22.00 (plus return postage). If you purchase a used DVD the cost is \$38.50. If you return it for a refund the net cost is \$22.00 (plus return postage).

If you are interested in vinyl records I am sure that like me you'll find these DVDs to be worthwhile and I hope this scheme encourages many more of you to watch them. This offer is only available to newsletter readers and will not be promoted on the website.

**Origin Live** have announced what they are calling a breakthrough in interconnect technology, the design and production of a new external tonearm cable. The cable can be retro-fitted to most tonearms either by direct hard wiring or via a 5 din pin plug. The cable is also available as an outstanding interconnect cable between any Hi Fi components. Phonos or XLR fittings are offered. It is offered in either shielded or unshielded form.

*"The new cable that Origin Live have developed is a fully balanced design. It is unusual in employing a combination of over 5 dielectric insulators to ensure an even response across the audible frequency range. Great care has been taken to optimize key electrical characteristics such as impedance, inductance and capacitance. Experimentation with silver and silver plated strands was conducted but high purity copper was ultimately selected for it's more natural tonal balance. To protect against RF interference the cable has a 95% nickle plated copper braid shield with an attached earth lead.*

*When it comes to listening, the most obvious aspect of the new cable is the sheer tangibility of the sound. There is a completely new level of intimacy and expression added to everything. Vocals are incredibly realistic. Previously un-noticed background musical strands can be clearly followed due to the superb resolution and separation. The ringing and mush present in lesser cables is eliminated.*

*The new cable is thoroughly awkward to manufacture and costly to produce. For this reason it is not cheap but in relation to the performance improvements it is a highly worthwhile investment at £380. Although this cable is more than capable of outperforming some really exotic wires we have tried to keep it within the reach of a wider audience and hence the £380 does not do real justice to it's value."* Australian price is \$825 incl.GST for the shielded version and \$616 incl.GST for the unshielded.

[http://www.decibelhifi.com.au/category58\\_1.htm](http://www.decibelhifi.com.au/category58_1.htm)

**EJ Jordan** are finally re-introducing their JXr6HD 2" wide range driver. After an absence from the market for well over 12 months a new production run is due any day. We expect to have stock by the end of March. Jordan have also recently reintroduced the JX125 bass driver, and the JX150 will be available in a couple of months. These New Generation versions have had quite a few changes, including dual voice coil windings.



We currently have limited stocks of the JX92S drivers. The price of these will increase slightly with the next shipment so if you've been thinking of building a pair of the transmission line or other enclosures now is a good time to buy. [Link to EJ Jordan category.](#)

**Boston Audio** have announced a thicker version of their popular Mat1. *"The Mat 2 is 5mm thick (compared with 3mm for the Mat 1) and will require a tonearm with adjustable VTA. Because of the increased weight compared with the Mat 1, we recommend the Mat 2 primarily to users of non-sprung turntable designs. The Mat 1 is 12oz (340g) and the Mat 2 is 1 pound 4.8oz (540g). The Mat 2's additional thickness allows us to show off our machining skills, and a perfectly formed 1/16" radius is machined into the top side of the Mat 2 for an elegant, finished appearance."* Price for the Mat2 is \$396 incl.GST compared to \$275 for the Mat1. [Link to Boston Audio category.](#)



**ME Sound.** Peter Stein has advised me that a new version of the most popular of his amplifiers the ME550 will be going into production in the near future. This is most welcome news as they have not been available since late 2003. The flagship ME850 is currently the only model in production. There are several very good ME units in the [Secondhand category](#) at present. [Link to ME Sound website.](#)

## Digital Radio

Digital Radio commences in Australia this year and will mark a new era in radio broadcasting.



There have been trials in Sydney and Melbourne over the last few years. Most of the commercial stations will commence broadcasting in May, with ABC and SBS following in June or July. The introductions

will be staggered and Perth, Adelaide and Brisbane will be first with Sydney and Melbourne following. A co-ordinated national launch event is scheduled for early August.

The industry website is <http://www.digitalradioplus.com.au/> .

The technology that has been chosen is DAB+, which is different to what is being broadcast in the UK. That means new radio tuners will be necessary.

There are several features of digital radio which provide benefits for listeners. The first is the sound quality. The second is the ability to pause and replay programs (as with digital TV). The third is the facility whereby the broadcaster can split a channel into two and the listener can choose which one he prefers. Another feature is the additional information which can accompany a broadcast such as scrolling text. Also there's tuning by station name, not frequency, making it easy to find favourite stations.

We will be selling the PURE brand of digital radios. PURE is the UK consumer electronics company that started the DAB digital radio revolution, and now dominates that market worldwide, consistently delivering products with an acclaimed mix of high performance and ease of use. Their website is <http://www.pure.com/> .

We also have been appointed a dealer for the Sangean Electronics brand of radios. This is not a brand that I was familiar with but they are a Taiwanese company with a long history in radios and build many of the radios that are sold under more well known brand names. The head office website is [www.sangean.com.tw](http://www.sangean.com.tw) . They use the DAB+ chips developed by Imagination Technologies UK (parent company of PURE).

Initially we will be selling a component tuner, plus a desktop and several portable models. Pricing will be on the website in the Digital Radio category. The tuner shown here will be selling for \$693, but portables start from \$198.

### Rega owners news

Rega turntables have been a success story worldwide, and especially in Australia. There are a number of upgrades available for both the decks and the tonearms. Now SRM Technology have produced what they modestly call "The Ultimate Rega Upgrade Kit". There are 10 modifications included in the kit and they claim that together they make a massive improvement to your Rega turntable. We have previously sold the acrylic platters by themselves and many people have confirmed that they are an improvement over the glass or MDF platters. The full list of modifications is on our website in the [Turntable Upgrades category](#). Price is \$396 including GST.

Whilst on the subject of Rega upgrades, the Origin Live structural modification for Rega tonearms, and the Incognito rewiring kits have been two of our most popular products over the last six years. You'll find them in the [Tonearm Upgrades category](#).

Rega now sell a superb tonearm called the RB1000. It's the one they fit to their flagship turntable the P9. The RB1000 carries more technological changes over previous Rega tonearms than any produced during the last twenty years! Price in Australia is \$2995, BUT, this same tonearm is also supplied to other turntable manufacturers as an OEM product for them to include with their



turntables. As we are the distributor for Moth, we can buy the OEM1000 tonearm and resell it for just \$1760.00 incl.GST, an impressive discount compared to the Rega branded unit. For more details see the [tonearm page](#) on our website.

By the way, all the Rega tonearms, and OEM versions from Origin Live and Moth, now have the 3-point mounting pillar rather than the 23mm round pillar previously used. This can cause some mounting problems if you are wanting to replace an existing tonearm. On the other hand the Origin Live tonearms from the Encounter model upwards still have the 23mm pillar so are a drop-in replacement on many turntables.

### Customer Feedback

The Boston Audio Mat1 has been one of our most popular turntable upgrades, and the one which has consistently generated positive feedback. But one customer has provided the following warning.

*Hi Brian, I'm enjoying the Boston Audio turntable mat, which looks like permanently replacing the original felt mat on my Rega P3.*

*I wanted to remind buyers of this product that they may need to reassess tracking weight and bias when changing to this mat. In my case, the felt mat produced more bass resonance (I'll call it resonance rather than response!) than the Boston mat, and less ringing treble response, so with the felt mat the turntable sounded better with a comparatively light tracking weight. Changing to the Boston mat, the treble sounded a little harder (brighter) and the bass was reduced (with orchestral recordings, it sounded like 3/4 of the double-bass section had left the stage, compared with the felt mat). Increasing the tracking weight quite substantially (from 2.15g to 2.3g for my Ortofon Rondo Bronze cartridge, which satisfied subjective as well as objective tests) has regained the bass and tamed the treble. Until I made this adjustment, I was thinking I'd need to return the Boston mat.*

*I'm sure that the Boston mat is enabling a truer tracking of the disc (and in fact 2.3g is Ortofon's exact recommended tracking weight, which I take as a sign that I must be doing something right!) and the increase in clarity, etc is undeniable, but perhaps you might remind your customers to reassess the general turntable set-up when changing over to a different mat.*

*All the best, David Thomas*

## Trends Audio new products

The Trends Audio TA10.1 amplifier has been a popular product over the last few years because it offers outstanding sound quality in a small, well made, reasonably priced package.

Trends Audio have also enjoyed considerable success with their UD10 USB boxes, which enable high quality sound to be played back from a personal computer instead of using the often sub-standard inbuilt sound card. [Link to Trends Audio category.](#)

Now they have released a neat little adapter that plugs into the docking socket of an iPod, allowing the sound to bypass the headphone circuitry and provide improved quality for playing back through a stereo system. This little adapter is just \$22.00. You'll find it in the [Made for iPod category.](#)



They have also released an unusual little pre-amplifier. Called the PA-10 it is a hybrid unit that includes a valve. There are RCA sockets for two sources and a headphone socket as well as RCA line outs to connect to a power amp. We haven't tested this unit yet but there is a [review by TNT Audio](#) which gives it the "thumbs up" as "Clarity was good, timing spot on, sound stage was large and imaging accurate". Price for SE model (with the higher quality 6H23n tube) is A\$440.00 incl.GST. We'll have stock in about a week.

Don't forget to have a look at the [Clearance category.](#) We are continuing to add products in there that we want to clear out because they are old models or we just have too much stock. We are pretty keen to "move 'em out" so get in touch if want to "make a deal" on something. That applies to the [Secondhand](#) items too. In fact if there's a combination of products you are interested in, or perhaps you have items you want to trade in, phone or send an email. We are keen to do business!

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