

bel canto

“Power without guilt, power without heat, and high performance without compromise...” –Steve Guttenberg

The Bel Canto RMAF Show Report!

Bel Canto pulled out all the stops for this year’s Rocky Mountain Audio Fest a number of rooms including our own with Joseph Audio Pearl IIs, and powering the big TAD Reference One speakers in the Evergreen Ballroom and Joseph Audio’s new stand-mounted Pulsars. The show was upbeat, exhibitors and attendees enjoyed themselves, and there were a number of well-attended and interesting seminars including one in which John Stronczer participated in on computer audio.



Whatever the final number of attendees turns out to be, the Press was out in full force! We had extended visits with John Atkinson and Jason Victor Serinus of *Stereophile*, Robert Harley and Jonathan Valin of *TAS*, Doug Schneider and Jim Fritz of *SoundStage.com*, the two Davids of *Positive Feedback Online* and their crew were on hand, along with Constantine Soo of *Dagogo.com* and his large contingent.



John Atkinson speechless; Jason Victor Serinus takes copious notes!

Visitors were floored by the quality of sound using a Mac laptop, the new long-distance LightLink and USB Link 24/96 into the prototype DAC3.5 (more later!), a VBS1 power supply and a sweet-sounding pair of REF500Ms on Joseph Audio’s Pearl IIs featuring reworked crossovers on Cardas Clear cables.

Judging by the time people spent listening rather than talking and hopping out—once we finally had the sound dialed in by around 3pm on Friday—everything was sounding groovy! When cranky audiophiles thank you for playing their music with that special shine in their eyes you know you’ve done it right.



We snap the shooters! From left: Jeff Fritz and Doug Schneider of soundstagenetwork.com and Chris Martens of Playback and AVguide.com



Jeff Dorgay of [Tone Audio.com](http://ToneAudio.com) gives the hot seat a ride! Bel Canto's National Sales Manager PJ Zornosa beams with pleasure.

The awesome TAD/Kimber room with Andrew Jones running an informative demo had attendees flocking to our main room in praise of "their best sound of show". John Stronczer smiled and fired up more tunes on the laptop...



The altogether awesome big TAD Reference One speakers with newly reworked crossovers on Bel Canto electronics



From left: Michael Latvis of Harmonic Resolution Systems and a snap of half the system! No, we weren't listening in mono!

The Critics Speak

John also participated in a seminar hosted by John Atkinson on getting the best sound from computers. As "our" John says, it could have gone on for another two hours! You can find out more on the seminar and see John Stronczer in action here: http://blog.stereophile.com/rmaf2009/pc_audio_rmaf/.

Be sure to visit *Stereophile's* coverage of our main room by Jason Victor Serinus: "As expected, Bel Canto Design's complement of components fully lived up to their reputation for affordable excellence" here http://blog.stereophile.com/rmaf2009/bellissima_and_joseph/ .

Steve Guttenberg, CNET's *The Audiophile*, blogged on the show and included the Bel Canto/T.A.D. room that "sang ever so sweetly together": http://news.cnet.com/8301-13645_3-10367889-47.html. "The compact e.One Series components use just a tiny fraction of the AC power consumed by their hotter running, bigger and heftier competition. **Bel Canto** does things differently." As a result we also ended up in CNET'S Crave Music site! <http://news.cnet.com/crave/music/>

In his blog *Robert Harley's "Best Of" Rocky Mountain* on AVguide.com one is delighted to encounter these words: "Other great sounds included the revolutionary Vandersteen Model 7, the Focal Grande Utopia and Maestro Utopia in the Audio Unlimited room, the Electrocompaniet Nordic Tone loudspeaker, the Wilson Sasha, **Joseph Audio Pearl II driven by Bel Canto electronics and front-end**, and the YG Acoustics Anat Reference in the GTT room driven by Soullution electronics." We've left the other brands in so you see what company we're keeping! <http://www.avguide.com/blog/robert-harleys-best-rocky-mountain>

SoundStageNetwork.com's AVtour '09, October 2nd, part 1 starts off with a terrific close-up of the prototype DAC3.5 with the scoop on jitter reduction, 24/192 analog-to-digital converter, RS232 connectivity, and an AT&T glass fiber connection permitting long runs from your laptop to our USB Link 24/96 input. http://www.soundstagenetwork.com/avtour2009/rmaf_dly01.html

Not to be outdone by their own efforts, the SoundStage boys visited the T.A.D. room as well. "The sound was full and rich, putting the components in a very good light ... a very good-sounding room." http://www.soundstagenetwork.com/avtour2009/rmaf_ds01.html

"I love the REF500s' [now REF1000Ms] power without guilt, power without heat, and high performance without compromise ethos. The sound grabbed my attention right away ... There was something about the way these components preserve the music's drive; the 'spaces' between instruments are delineated like never before. So you see, Bel Canto isn't just different, it's better!"

-- Steve Guttenberg, Home Entertainment, CNET

"The Bel Canto REF1000 MkIIs [now REF1000Ms] are distinctive and expressive amplifiers. Far from having introduced cookie-cutter non-denominational ICE based devices, John Stronczer has imbued these amplifiers with the authority and frequency extension of the 1000ASP powerhouse, combined with a convincing harmonic congruence, and delightful warmth beginning from the lower midrange down-to the mid bass ... There is seductive warmth in these agile monoblock amps that are filled with life, harmonic refinement, and a rare sense of space and 'being there'. Do not be deceived by the REF1000 MkIIs' conservative size and weight, or by the trite and obsolete urban legends surrounding class D amplification, which are barely kept alive by a shrinking hyper-nostalgic crowd. There is not a trace of 'digititis' ever to be detected in their excellent performance. Give them a careful audition: you will be excited by their authority, seduced by their agility, and will fall in love with their musicality."

-- Guido Corona, Positive Feedback Online

About Bel Canto

Bel Canto Design has developed award-winning products for more than 15 years using the highest standards of design, engineering and production practices. Included in the Bel Canto line are a series of CD players, DACs, integrated amps, mono and two-channel amplifiers, an analog preamp, a companion phono stage with adjustable cartridge loading, and the USB Link 24/96 USB-to-SPDIF converter with more products you want on the way.

Our music products are made in Minnesota, and we subscribe to low-impact production methods that put little waste back into the system. Reduced packaging volume and lower transport weight reduces our environmental impact. We reuse or recycle more than 99% of the packing materials found in our incoming parts shipments, and each year we divert massive amounts of cardboard, paper, plastic film, and Styrofoam from landfills. Steel, aluminum, and other metal waste products are recycled and returned to the production stream.

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turn down your electric bill. turn up the music.

Bringing exceptional, involving sound into your home no longer requires oversized, hot and inefficient electronics. Our CD2 and the new DAC3vB with a pair of REF500M monoblock amplifiers consume less power while playing than a 40 watt light bulb. Designer John Stronczer uses less power to do more; we let the music do the talking. See our full line of energy efficient products at CES 2010, Venetian Tower 29-230 or visit www.belcantodesign.com today.

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