



Fern & Rob

Ken Micallef | Nov 6, 2021

AS LOW AS
62¢
PER ISSUE

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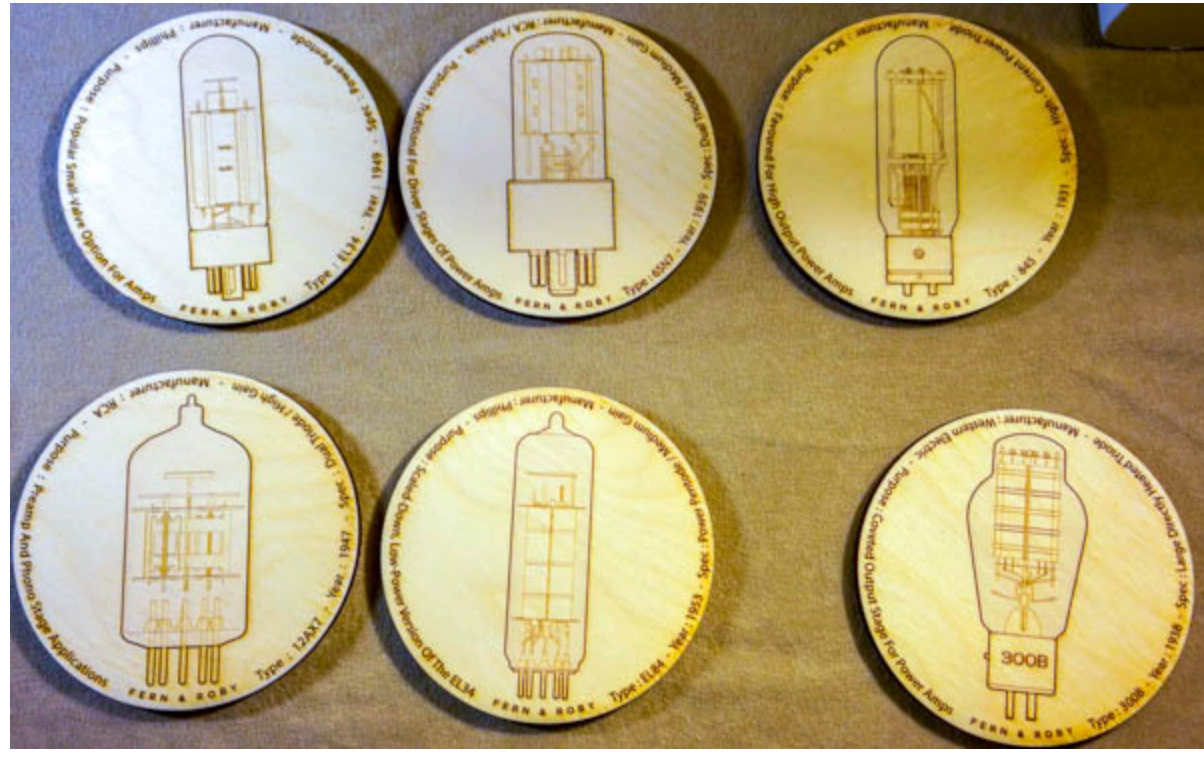
CLOSE

I walked into the unassuming Fern & Rob Audio/Modwright Instruments room and spied, sitting in a chair with Leica camera in hand, Twittering Machines' editor/CEO, Michael Lavorgna. Michael and I go back to the days of Quartz glass, Coke in bottles, and 6Moons.com, from whence we both came. Michael smiled and directed me toward the Fern & Roby beer coasters, beige cork jobs each with an illustrated tube (and noted tube type).

When you drink too much [editor's note: or just enough], the tube glow will light your way.

The Fern & Roby Audio system boasted owner/designer Christopher Hildebrand's new The Raven III loudspeaker (\$8500/pr). Source components included Fern & Roby Montrose Turntable with Unipivot Tonearm (\$7500), Sculpture A's A.3P Ebony cartridge (\$4535) and Mini Nano SUT (\$995), and a Modwright PH9.OX Phono Stage (\$3850). Modwright Instruments KWH 225i Integrated Amplifier drove The Raven III loudspeaker (94dB/W/m into 8 ohms) via a 3m pair of Black Cat Cable Graceline II speaker cables (\$3595/pr). Black Cat Cable Silverstar 88 RCA one-meter interconnects (\$888/pr), Silverstar Power Cables (\$875), and Fern & Roby Audio Ash Equipment Rack (\$5650), were also included in the system.

What most impressed about this smallish rig, with its muted colors and natural wood finish, was the size and scale of its soundstage and its holographic images. Billie Eilish singing "Things I Once Enjoyed" (from *Happier Than Ever*) sounded intimate, detailed, and warm, projected within a massive stage and with excellent and dynamics. It filled the room. When what sounds like a keyboard (helicopter?) kicked into its solo, it had a holographic, floating effect that gave me shudders. Bob Marley's "Is This Love" (from *Legends*) is a song I always associated with waiting for nachos at my local. The Fern & Roby Audio System again floated instruments and voices in an immense stage in a small hotel room. I slid the tubed beer coasters into my pocket and left this buzz-worthy listening room.

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COMMENTS

**Mistah Micallef,**

Submitted by tonykax on November 6, 2021 - 7:34pm

6-Moons ?

Can you explain what they're up to ?

I've tried to peer into those folks and can't quite grasp their Philosophies.

Can you help ?

Tony in Florida

[Log In](#) or [register](#) to post comments**I'm in...**

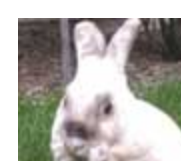
Submitted by MatthewT on November 6, 2021 - 9:05pm

for a set of those coasters. Take my money.

[Log In](#) or [register](#) to post comments**I love the look of their tables.**

Submitted by Anion on November 7, 2021 - 8:41am

I just wanna plunk that table down and drop a needle.

[Log In](#) or [register](#) to post comments**There is real beauty in the**

Submitted by thatguy on November 7, 2021 - 6:30pm

There is real beauty and class in the simplicity of the look of those speakers. I could see those and their equipment rack fitting nicely in my dream room.

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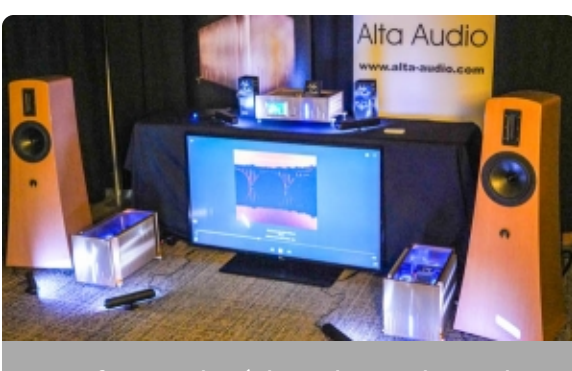
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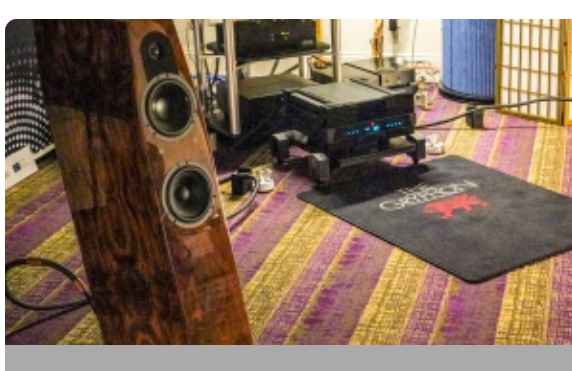
Tarheel Hi-Fi: Anion Audio, VPI Audio Research, and Nordost



Tenacious Sound: Audio Hungary, Canton, Weiss, Audience, Plus Innuos, AVM, and Perlisten



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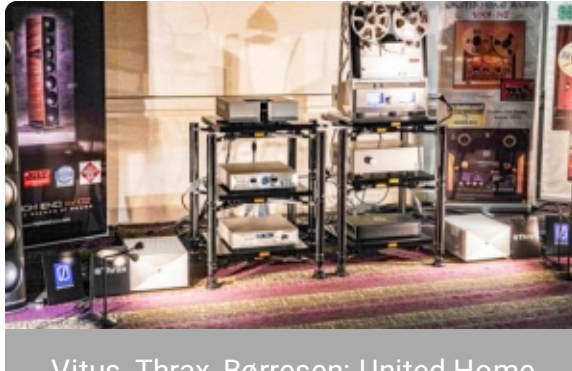
Joseph Audio, Now Listen Here, Audio Shield, EMM Labs, and Transparent Cable



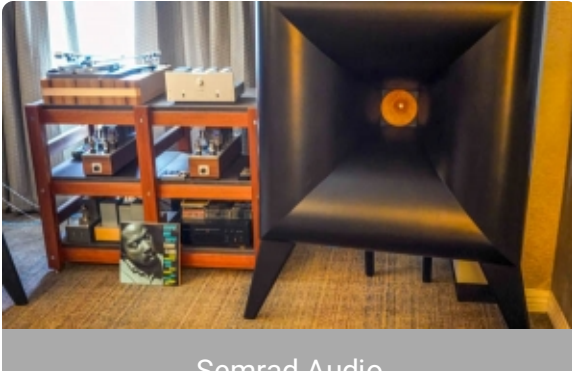
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LKV Research Basis, Audio-Technica, Joseph Audio



Vitus, Thrax, Børresen: United Home Audio and High End by Oz



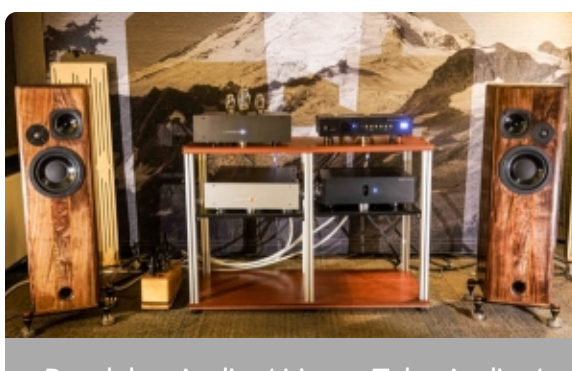
Semrad Audio



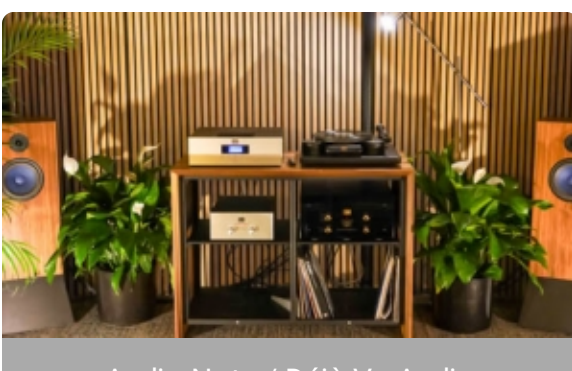
VPI, T+A, DS Audio, EMM Labs, Nordost



Wells Audio with Innuos, JPS Labs, Dana



Daedalus Audio / Linear Tube Audio / WyWires



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Treehaus Audiolab



Volt's New Rival Type II loudspeakers, plus Innuos, Border Patrol, Triode Wire Labs, and a Happy Hour Cocktail

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