

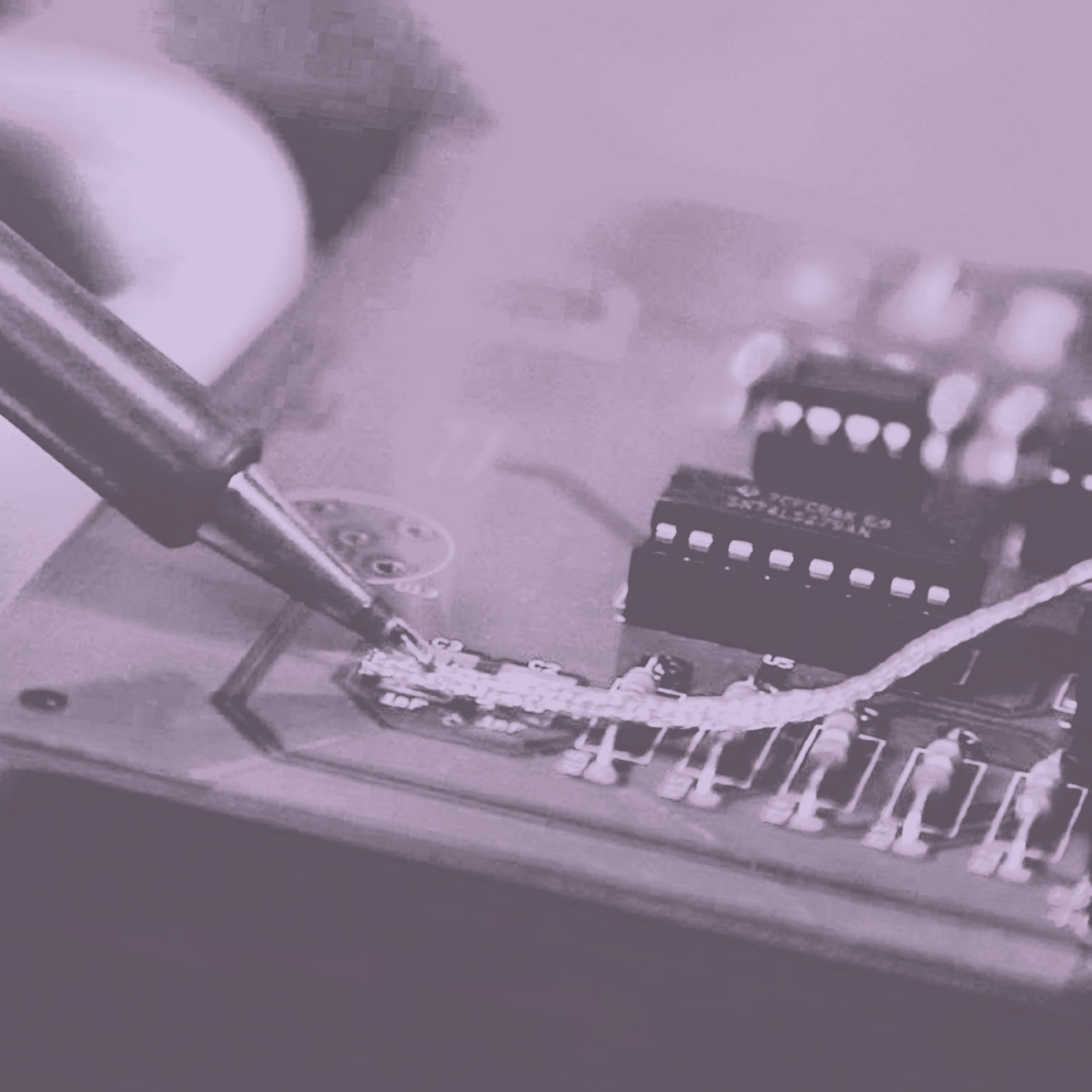


ten

AN ARTISAN COLLECTION

SOUNDS FOR THE COGNOSCENTI

v.30052025



## CONTENTS

4	Introduction	30	T-RX "Tourbillon"
6	Analog Relax	32	Papillon
8	EX1000 MC	34	Robert Koda
10	EX2000 MC	36	Koda MC-1
12	Devore Fidelity	38	Koda K-15
14	Devore O-Bronze	40	Koda K-160
16	Devore O-Ref	42	Trafomatic
18	Dohmann Audio	44	Trafomatic Collins
20	Helix One Mk III	46	Trafomatic Tara
22	Helix Two Mk III	48	Trafomatic Elysium
24	HSE	50	Trafomatic Drina
26	HSE Phono Stage	52	Pricelist
28	Metaxas & Sins		



## 天 INTRODUCTION

The word 'Ten' is a Romanisation of the Kanji character for 'heaven', 'sky' and (metaphorically speaking) 'fate' in Japanese. And Ten is the name for a new project, curating the best of the New Wave of artisan audio craftsmen making unique, very custom, bespoke audio instruments.

Over the years, we have at times cultivated and nurtured brands far from the high-end 'mainstream' because of the artisans behind the brands themselves. These rare individuals are audio's 'Renaissance men'; engineers with both a passion for music who have developed critical listening skills to produce high performance pieces of art and science combined. As a result, their companies develop distinctive high-performance audio products that are as close to 'bespoke' as it's possible to get in high-end audio. These are the brands we seek for Ten.

These unique musical instruments are not the products for the box-swapping audiophile; each product is handcrafted to painstaking levels, making them hard to get and always in short supply. Inherently craftsman-made, such instruments are not to be undertaken lightly, as they often require even more careful system building and even more thorough installations than usual, but the resulting performance is beyond compare and parallel. A true vision of audio heaven... that is what Ten means.





## 天 ANALOG RELAX

Deep understanding of the artisan crafts in Japan, augmented by decades of searching throughout the realms of that country's most dedicated practitioners, has equipped Absolute Sounds with the ability to find exceptional components worthy of an audience beyond its borders. Having extensively tested a multitude of both established and lesser-known brands over the years, Absolute Sounds has no peers when it comes to discovering such items. To our delight, Analog Relax erupted into view, like a volcano of style and precision. With matchless skill and unbridled devotion, Audio Relax is dedicated to creating handcrafted state-of-the-art moving-coil cartridges with a modern attitude, whilst still respecting and being faithful to the Japanese artisanal traditions.

Analog Relax was founded by Yasushi Yurugi, an avid record collector, musician, jazz fan and innovative cartridge designer. A keen saxophonist, Yurugi has a deep appreciation of that sax maestro, jazz legend Zoot Sims, so much so that he founded the Zoot Sims Fan Club. That kind of musical obsession made him want more, knowing the vinyl groove contained yet more heart and soul to be revealed. "I never doubt that records have the best sound quality for listening to music, and I live with a collection of several thousand records and eight turntables." This inspired him to create moving-coil cartridges which would exceed the capabilities of those available – a challenge he could not resist.



## 天 ANALOG RELAX EX1000 MC

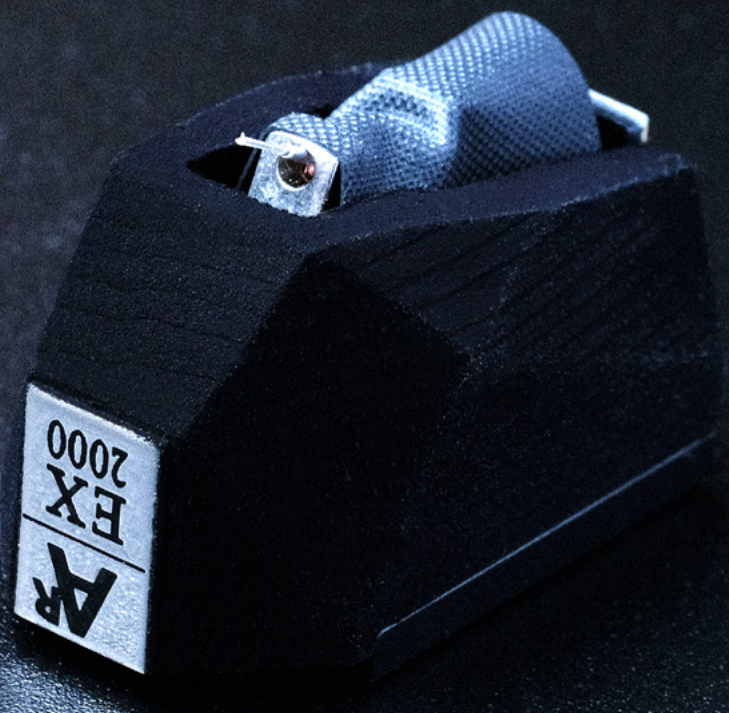
Solid 2000-year-old Yakusugi cedar forms the body of the EX1000. An exceedingly rare tree, the Yakusugi cedar accumulates resin within its cells to prevent wear or degradation caused by frequent rain.

To complement the body's inherent resonance, beeswax is used for the surface finish. As a result, the colour of the body will change over time, but we believe this will only enhance your enjoyment of this product, which acquires a unique patina, as do other cherished artefacts.

Using this rare material in a cartridge body enables the creation of complex and, indeed, sensual sounds. Due to the scarcity of the wood, the EX1000 is certain to become difficult to produce in the future. At present, EX1000 production will be limited to quantities determined by the supplies of Yakusugi cedar that are available to Analog Relax.

Ruby is said to be the second hardest material after diamond. For the EX1000, Analog Relax have machined it for use as the cantilever. This gem transmits vibrations at high speeds, allowing it to read the information from the grooves with breathtaking rapidity. It excels in reproducing live instruments and human voices, creating a sensual sound free of any inner-groove distortion. It does not reproduce the scratching sound of old, original records, allowing the music lover to be immersed in sound without distraction. The stylus, too, enjoys greater resistance to wear, giving it a longer lifespan.





## 天 ANALOG RELAX EX2000 MC

Character defined by the finest 'spruce' from the South Tyrol region of Northern Italy is imbued in the Analog Relax EX2000. This storied region is where the material for the legendary Stradivarius stringed instruments is said to have been harvested. The EX2000 thus honours the greatest luthier of all time.

Its surface is coated with an ultra-fine powder allowing it to reproduce natural sound. A precision-machined solid diamond cantilever is used to transmit seamlessly the movement established in the record's grooves to the power generator, extracting high-resolution sound. Compared to other diamond cartridges, the cantilever in EX2000 has been cut slightly thicker to achieve more solidity in the sound with the added benefit of improved traceability at a higher level. The stylus is the 'Ver. 3' model, further evolution of the well-received 'SC stylus' used for the EX1000.

In the EX2000, the stylus has a number of multi-faceted cuts applied vertically, allowing it to reproduce sound with almost no inner distortion. The front and back of the stylus tip are cut with different curvatures, making it difficult to suffer the "crackling" peculiar to original records and older or worn pressings, enabling playback with an extremely high signal-to-noise ratio.

Cartridges with diamond cantilevers can be prone to extracting the maximum information but with a tense and edgy sound, which impacts on extended listening pleasure. The EX2000 delivers depth, range, and substance while retaining the full content of the groove.





## 天 DEVORE FIDELITY

Founded by president and chief designer John DeVore in 2000, DeVore Fidelity has gone on to win awards and universal acclaim for every one of its products, as John continues to push the state of the art in speaker design.

John brought his 30 years of experience as a musician, 20 years of designing speakers and 18 years of Hi-Fi industry experience to his company.

Based out of Brooklyn in New York City, DeVore Fidelity goal is to create products that communicate the life-breath of music. John believes that the best means to this end combines the art of aesthetics with the science of physics in such a way that each complements the other, and together yield a product far greater than the sum of its parts. This permeates every product the company makes.



## 天 DEVORE FIDELITY O-BRONZE

The Orangutan O/Bronze fills the gap between DeVore Fidelity's award-winning O/96 and our top of the line O/Reference.

In a cabinet the same dimensions as the O/96 we use the tweeter from the O/Reference and a new 10" paper cone woofer. Both drivers use the cast and machined bronze chassis from the O/Reference and deliver a new level of linearity and dynamic coherence for a speaker of this type.

The port tubes are also made from bronze and like the O/Reference, they are isolated from the cabinet to minimize the effect of vibrations on the speaker performance.





## 天 DEVORE FIDELITY ORANGUTAN REFERENCE

The Orangutan Reference is a four-piece loudspeaker system representing the ultimate expression of the DeVore Fidelity Orangutan Series. Offering unprecedented flexibility and customisation, the O/Reference can be installed in nearly any size room and built to fit nearly any decor.

This two-chassis stand-mounted design is split between a standard loudspeaker and similarly sized bass speaker cabinet. The former features a bronze and AlNiCo-magnet variant of the company's 10" mid-bass unit coupled with the DeVore 1" soft dome tweeter... itself sitting in a cast bronze horn and featuring a rare-earth magnet arrangement. These are joined in this case by a .75" silk-dome supertweeter in its own cast bronze horn. The bass cabinet comprises a 11" reinforced aluminium woofer (capable of a massive 2.25" excursion) with a similar passive radiator. This includes a 700W amplifier and adjustable phase, equalisation and filtration to match the loudspeaker system to any room.



## 天 DOHMANN AUDIO

Growing up in Melbourne, Australia gave Mark a wonderful opportunity to experience a wide variety of live music and it didn't take long before he was hooked. Classical orchestras, chamber ensembles, opera, folk, jazz, blues and rock legends, and more...

In 1982 Mark teamed up with a close friend who was highly skilled with electronics and together they designed and built their first reference turntable called the "CONTINUUM" by Döhmann and Gusew. This was Mark's first commercial product.

The "CONTINUUM" by Döhmann & Gusew soon gained a reputation for outperforming a lot of established high-end tables and audiophiles from around the world started ordering bespoke tables.

In 2011 The Helix One turntable incorporated multiple design solutions that had never been applied to turntable design before, and following the success of the Helix One and the second model released in 2017, the Helix Two, Mark decided to re-structure the Döhmann Audio brand.

The research, development and assembly of all Döhmann Audio products is now done in Australia by Mark and his technical team and the brand will now focus on delivering an exceptional customer experience around the world.

In 2018, Mark was awarded the Sound and Vision 'Lifetime Achievement Award for Services to Analogue and Industry'.





## 天 DOHMANN AUDIO HELIX ONE MK III

The Helix One Mk3 was designed with the objective in mind to create the ultimate turntable system. To achieve this ambition, Döhmann Audio has incorporated some unique design features and technologies, including a fully integrated MinusK vibration isolation system utilising NSM technology, a mechanical crossover network which is designed to dissipate mid and high frequency vibrations, floating armboards, a custom designed Swiss-manufactured motor designed to Döhmann Audio's specifications and carefully designed resonance dissipation pathways within the chassis.

The PowerBase contains the power supply, control software to drive the new motor and special high frequency / RF absorption features. It also contains a suspension stabiliser to lock the table from moving during record changeover, a lighting control system and power filtration functions.



## 天 DOHMANN AUDIO HELIX TWO MK III

The Helix Two Mk3's sound is immediately recognised for its purity and realism. It is designed to operate flawlessly in non-ideal environments such as older houses with wooden floors, upper floors, attics where external vibrations are carried through buildings – even those made from concrete, steel, and brick.

Due to its revolutionary vibration isolation system, it is also not dependent on a high-quality audiophile stand. The design has made it possible to incorporate a level of engineering previously not possible at this price point and as a result, the Helix Two Mk3 is considered to be outstanding value. The more compact dimensions allow it to be used in smaller spaces and standard sized stands.



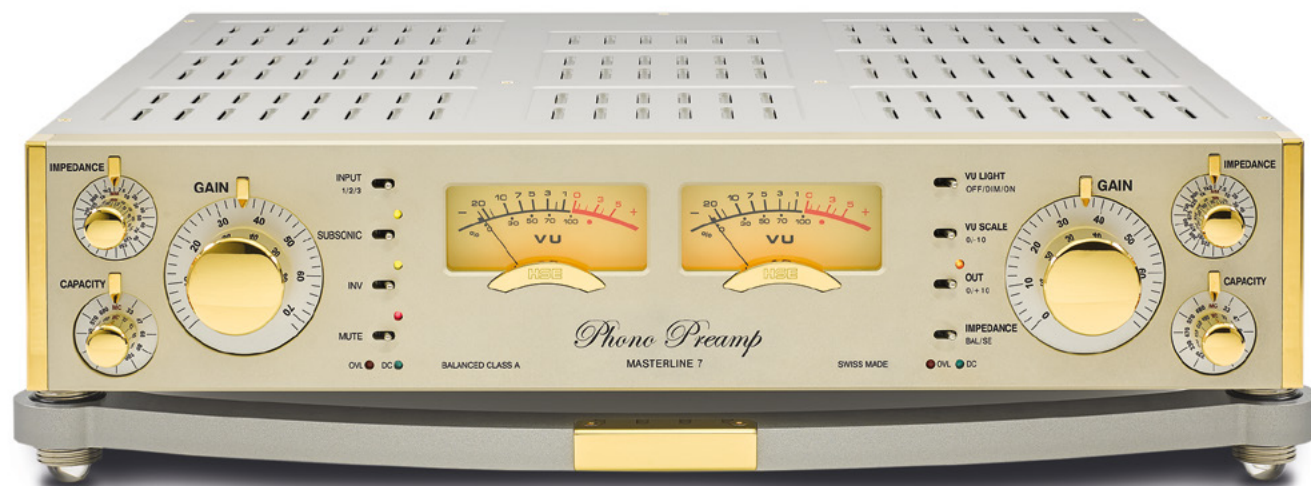


## 天 HSE

The Swiss brand HSE is no newcomer, as it was incorporated in Zurich back in 1987. Robert Huber, the founder of the company, worked for 33 years at Studer as a development engineer and R&D team leader, with numerous patents to his name filed under the Studer, Soundcraft and Harman parent companies. Huber's key consideration is to create a perfect symbiosis between electronics and mechanical design, and this involves using the best tools and the best materials for the job.

HSE still manufactures some of the finest and most highly rated professional audio products in the world, with a commanding reputation for helping to create some of the best sounding recordings made in studios where performance and sound quality are paramount. In particular, HSE's EQ-1 Equalizer is and FITA live stage equaliser are both prized possessions of studio and live engineers the world over.

Recently, however, HSE turned its attention to the high-end audio world, and the results of Huber's phono preamplifier must be heard to be believed.



天 HSE

## MASTERLINE 7 PHONO PREAMP

The Masterline 7 is a handmade fully balanced Class A phono stage. It is an all-discrete, high voltage, dual mono phono preamplifier design with selectable phono equalisation curves and an external power supply and what the Swiss company calls its 'Vibfree' support system. The Masterline 7 uses 12 HSE-designed discrete Class A Gain-stage modules and two Zero ohm Class A ultra-low noise Head amps, to guarantee best possible audio performance. This circuit is cited on a 20mm thick milled aluminium block, to help minimise EMC ingress.

HSE Masterline 7 can support up to three balanced turntable inputs and includes a balanced output. Every last parameter of cartridge loading can be set for each channel allowing even significant channel imbalances from the cartridge to be compensated for. This is aided by painstaking component matching (up to 0.2% maximum variance). The resulting handbuilt Masterline 7 is then given a week-long hardening and maturing test before it is sent out to the customer. This is perhaps why the Masterline 7 phono preamp comes with a 30 year guarantee.

There are phono stages, and there is the HSE Masterline 7; a true masterpiece for our age!





## 天 METAXAS & SINS

Music liberates us; it creates deep emotional connections that transcend the everyday and transport us to somewhere else entirely. Metaxas & Sins are dedicated to the mission of capturing the essence and spirit of a great musician's art and sharing the emotion of his message.

In 1986, Kostas Metaxas started out recording hundreds and hundreds of acoustic performances. Recording in situ, he recorded the space as much as the sound, creating a rich soundscape that had depth and emotion. Playing it back, Kostas had achieved a sonic picture – these massive, huge sounds where you could hear everything: the weight, the impact and the realism of the performance. This provided the benchmark and reference point from which Kostas was able to engineer audio equipment capable of replicating the depth, intent and presence of the music he'd recorded.



## 天 METAXAS & SINS T-RX "TOURBILLON"

It is an entirely newly designed professional reel to reel tape location recorder and playback machine that meets and exceeds the highest demands of recording engineers and the most serious audiophiles. It is a tool to record and playback magnetic tape at the absolute highest levels.

The T-RX also combines the highest precision "milgauss" stainless steel mechanical parts mounted onto a chassis which is CNC'd from a solid block of aluminium.

The result is a machine that is capable of recording and playback with a level of realism that gives the listener the sense of being present at the live music performance in it's original venue. Combining 2020's technology with 1960's "soul".





## 天 METAXAS & SINS PAPILLON

The Metaxas & Sins “Papillon” Analog Tape Reproducer is the first Tape Recorder to use the same concept to support the rollers and mechanics of the delicate tape path.

It is an entirely newly designed professional reel to reel tape studio recorder and playback machine which challenges the notion that we’ve been able to extract all the information from magnetic tapes and meets and exceeds the highest demands of recording engineers and the most serious audiophiles.



## 天 ROBERT KODA

A South African in Japan, Robert Koch (Koda) has dedicated his life to the pursuit of musical satisfaction. Even at age 12, Robert was researching into improved audio techniques, and his interest was piqued by vacuum tubes rather than solid-state audio.

This ultimately led Robert to him spending more than 16 years in the field of high end audio distribution, retail, installation, and servicing, and – prior to branching out on his own in 2008 – culminated in him working under the guise of the late and legendary Hiroyasu Kondo of Audio Note (Kondo) Japan in Tokyo. Despite his sitting at the feet of someone many consider 'the master', Robert is actually self-trained and an independently motivated creator of audio electronics. All the contact available through this career with vast arrays of equipment of those times fuelled a hounding sense that things could be done by him and be done right played a major role in his life and lead to the development of a system that by 2004 captured the results of this lifelong work.

The Robert Koda brand exists because his products have something uniquely special and timeless to offer serious music lovers. Their values are one of truth in the spirit of music as in business. Each amplifier is effectively commissioned by the individual customer and are therefore of great importance to the company.





## 天 ROBERT KODA MC-ONE

Listening to the highest of high-end phono preamplifiers led Robert Koda to develop the MC-ONE. The task took years of research, the development of a wholly new way of implementing the phono equalisation curve... and then another two years to best implement those techniques!

A dedicated moving coil only phono preamplifier with a substantial 72dB of available gain means the MC-ONE delivers a combination of low noise, high gain and massive overload margin. This is a very rare achievement indeed and testament to the design's dexterity.



## 天 ROBERT KODA K-15 EX

The Takumi K-15 EX is Robert Koda's flagship preamplifier and builds upon the technologies found in the acclaimed, award winning K-10. However, in creating an altogether more sophisticated, refined and engaging instrument than the already highly prized K-10, the Takumi K-15 EX might just be the preamplifier's ultimate form!

Specifically designed to partner with a wide range of source components and power amplifiers, the five balanced or single-ended input K-15 EX's purpose is to extract the maximum performance from each component so that the system as a whole delivers uncharted musical pleasure. In particular, the K-15 EX delivers massive power gain with remarkably low distortion while remaining highly immune to the negative influences of power supply noise.





## 天 ROBERT KODA K-160

Robert Koda's first power amplifier design was the Takumi K-70 and this valve amplifier was commonly considered to be one of the best amps in the world. Eleven years later, Robert Koda launched the K-160, an all solid-state 150W design that doubles the power, reduces the number of chassis and vastly improves on the performance of its predecessor.

The input stage of the K-160 utilises the techniques learned in the power supply of the MC One phono stage and the result is a super-quiet, unusually high-voltage input. This is met by a power amplifier that features a double single-ended class A topology with a ten-fold reduction in distortion from its already low distortion predecessor. This makes for an amplifier of rare speed, dynamics and absence of 'smearing'.



## 天 TRAFOMATIC

Sasa Cokic and the team behind Trafomatic Audio are not your typical audiophile 'suits'. They don't follow the corporate line or make cynical products for the sake of filling a range. They look like an indie band, and their outlook is very 'indie' too. "We don't take any of the usual high-end audio norms as standard," says Sasa. Instead, he insists, "We're setting them by moving the bar of extreme by each of our products. We strive for utmost excellence that goes beyond of what industry tried to enforced on the listeners for past few daces. Where most stops, our journey just begins."

"Where others see notes," he continues, "we see the time related profound musical micro universe. By not bowing down to the false pretences of so-called high-end audio attributes our creations project unforgettable lifetime musical experience that will blow your minds and senses. Our love for music is a pure as our products." "We care for purity of the music and we tune our musical instruments to perfection" Sasa concludes.

Normally, it would be easy to dismiss such statements as pretentious nonsense from someone trying to make their own path in a very tough and conservative market. However, judging by the performance of Trafomatic's products, they just might be right!





## 天 TRAFOMATIC COLLINS

The two-box, uncompromising Collins phono stage has no fewer than four inputs for four turntables, or four tone arm/cartridge combinations. Each one can be individually set for gain, MC input impedance and MM input capacitance via a series of beautifully turned dials on the top plate of the phono preamplifier.

With the rise of multiple arms on turntables to extract the most out of each cartridge, what better way to realise this goal than by using an excellent phono stage that will input and output balanced and single-ended cartridges. And while larger than most turntables, the Collins is, quite simply, the best phono stage Trafomatic Audio can make!



## 天 TRAFOMATIC TARA 30A

Since the Elysium State of the Art tube power-amplifiers were launched in 2016 the search started for a matching quality tube pre-amplifier with some additional features. For instance, an extreme low output impedance. Not only for matching with different power amps, but as well for the use of long, high quality interconnects. Extremely hard to find in pre-amp tube designs.

Based upon the unique spring suspended Emission Labs 30A tubes, the Tara 30A is a fully-balanced class A preamplifier with line output transformers, dynamic balance adjustment, extreme low output impedance, specially designed output transformers and chokes. Despite its uncompromising design it is also fully remote controlled. It is a two box design with a separate power supply and is one of the best line preamplifier ever made!





## 天 TRAFOMATIC ELYSIUM

After 20+ years of exploring the exotic and ultra high-end audio music reproduction, the 70W per channel Elysium represents Trafomatic's state of the art mono-block power amplifiers. As the name suggests, Elysium leads to the ultimate aural experience where nothing is hidden.

Elysium uses Trafomatic's Pure Class A DHT single-ended circuits, built around the Eimac 250TL output tube resolving with 70 Watts of Class A unrestrained power output per channel. The amplifier is directly coupled by the unconventional interstage transformer to EML 20B-V4, with an EML 5Z3 as rectifier. This is a unique approach capable of delivering the last bits of sonic information from even the most refined audio sources.



## 天 TRAFOMATIC DRINA - WORLD EXCLUSIVE

For those few for whom the Elysium is not enough, Trafomatic Audio recently announced the Drina monoblock. Drina uses some of the most exotic tubes around; featuring one 450TL, two EML 20B-V4 and one 5Z3 tube per channel. Drina has a switchable 50/140 W pure A class power output.

This is a pure bespoke amplifier, originally designed to be made to a customer's unique specifications and now produced as a 'ne plus ultra' amplifier in the company's already outstanding line-up, the Drina is the ultimate in power amplifier from this European artisan amplifier brand.



# 天 PRICELIST

## Analog Relax



<b>EX1000 MC</b>	2 Way Loudspeaker, Fiddleback Mahogany	£10998
<b>EX1000 Stylus Change</b>	Stylus change for above	£9500
<b>EX2000 MC</b>	2 Way Loudspeaker, Hand Polished Gloss Lace Walnut	£15000
<b>EX2000 Stylus Change</b>	Stylus change for above	£11998

## DeVore Fidelity



<b>O-Bronze</b>	2 Way Loudspeaker, Hand Polished Gloss Lace Walnut	£16998
<b>O-Ref</b>	Four-Piece High Efficiency Reference System	POA

## Dohmann Audio



<b>Helix One MKIII Titanium</b>	£78998
<b>Helix One MKIII Black</b>	£64998
<b>Helix Two MKIII Titanium</b>	£51500
<b>Helix Two MKIII Blk/Silver</b>	£46000

## HSE



<b>Masterline 7</b>	State of the Art, Hand Assembled, Limited Production, Phono Pre-Amplifier with Fine Impedance Adjustment & Phono Curves, Optional Switching	£72000
<b>Masterline 7 VA</b>	As Masterline 7 with Variable Phono Curves Equalisation for Record Optimisation	£85000

### Reference Line 7

Reference, Hand Assembled, Limited Production, Phono Pre-Amplifier with Fine Impedance Adjustment & Phono Curves, Optional Switching

£29998

### Preamp ML 8

Fully bal discrete, CLASS A, high voltage & Dual mono line stage preamplifier. Available options are : Remote with motorized ELMA switch, Weiss DAC

£90998

### ML Phono Cable

Solid core 4-5 N silver 5p DIN to XLR cotton isolation 1.2 meter

£6998

### RL Phono Cable

Silver plated OFC copper 5p DIN to XLR Teflon isolation 1.2 meter

£3398

## Robert Koda



<b>Koda K-10 MkII</b>	Pre-amplifier	£43998
<b>Koda MC-One</b>	Flagship MC phono equalizer	£70998
<b>Koda K-15 EX</b>	Flagship line stage pre-amplifier	£70998
<b>Koda K-160</b>	Dual mono flagship power amplifier	each £78888

## Metaxas & Sins



<b>T-RX Tourbillon 10.5" Playback</b>	£46998
<b>T-RX Tourbillon 10.5" Playback/Record</b>	£59998
<b>Papillon 15" Playback</b>	£74998
<b>Papillon 15" Playback/Record</b>	£89998

## Trafomatic



<b>Collins</b>	Vacuum Tube Phono Preamplifier	POA
<b>Elysium</b>	Single Ended Triode, Mono Amplifier, 25W Class A, 75W Class A1	each £69888
<b>Drina</b> <i>World Exclusive</i>	Single Ended Triode, Mono Amplifier, 20W Class A, 50W Class A1 or 30W Class A, 130W Class A1	POA
<b>Tara 30A</b>	Vacuum Tube Line Preamplifier with separate power supply	£50000



"I am seeking, I am striving, I am in it with all my heart."

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