

Mr. David Robinson, Editor in Chief of Positive Feedback, reports on the MBL Reference System:



At the upper end of the spectrum was the mbl reference room, where the pleasant and urbane Jeremy Bryan was shoveling listeners in and out to accommodate the lines that were always forming outside of his door. As always, the mbl suite was an elegant, seductive experience, with a sumptuous sense of aesthetics and a more formal beauty than is found in many a room.

Within seconds, it was clear that nothing has changed for the worse since my last show (RMAF 2011) with the mbl reference gear: it is supreme in every category. The white finish with chrome logo and accents simply underlined the fact that I was relaxing, listening to an effortless, detailed, presentation of a digital recording that I had never heard before. (No, still don't know what it was.) It didn't matter; the sense of real authority, of dynamic power, of nuance, and of holographic presentation echoed my prior experience with an earlier generation of the mbl line in my own listening room in 2008, which was a PFO Brutus Award winner for that year.

You have to have a budget to get serious about mbl. But there's no question that you receive a huge return on that investment, and the lust factor is very high on this kit. Very.

System list:

*mbl 6010D Preamplifier
mbl 9011 mono/stereo Power Amplifier
mbl 1621A CD Transport
mbl 1611F D/A Converter
mbl Radialstrahler 101E Mk II Speakers*

Check with mbl for dealers and current pricing: info@mbl-northamerica.com

In fact, sitting, relaxing, and listening to this mbl reference system once more confirmed my decision to review it. Believe it or not, I've been working since 2009 for a return trip of mbl to my listening room, and now it looks like the new gen mbl reference system will arrive here in July. Stay tuned. Meanwhile, chalk up another Audio Oasis! Award; the mbl room deserved it, without a doubt in my mind....

From: http://www.positive-feedback.com/Issue61/theshow_oasis.htm

Mr. Jason Victor Serinus, Stereophile Magazine writer who covered this year's show, reports::

"Oh, Santa. Santa Baby. Dear Santa Baby. Please make that a Reference Line Combination D (\$259,700 total). I won't even ask you to sit on my lap, if only you and Rudolph bring me a pair of MBL 101E Mk.II Radialstrahler speakers, along with an MBL 1621 A CD transport, 1611 F D/A converter, 6010 D preamplifier, and 9011 power amplifier. In snow white, please, just as in the photo.

This same Combo platter received my hands up and down "Best of Show" at AXPONA 2012 in Jacksonville. Here it sounded almost as good. The music on a recording of Shelley Manne was lusciously warm and well-extended on bottom. Elvis' recording of "Fever" on Elvis is Back was even more so. The detail was delicious, the ability to feel up and personal with the great one a rare experience.

No matter what we played, sound staging was breathtaking, and the tonality warm. The only drawback was due to what MBL's Jeremy Bryan had to do to tame the room. When I mentioned that I was missing the lowest undertones on Lorraine Hunt Lieberson's mezzo-soprano, Jeremy brought my attention to the mattresses that he had used to fill the rear alcoves in the room. Without them, the sound would have been boomy; with them, just a bit too much bass was absorbed. I wonder what would have happened if the mattresses had been extra firm.



From: <http://www.stereophile.com/content/all-i-want-xmas-mbl>

Mr. John Atkinson, Editor in Chief of Stereophile Magazine, reports::



"I still remember the chills that ran down my spine when I saw the band Rufus, with a young, slim Chaka Khan, performing "Tell Me Something Good" at a small English club more years ago than I care to recall. So when I went into the smaller MBL [Corona Line] room at the Irvine Hilton and Jeremy Bryan started playing a live version of the same song, I got a similar thrill. Speakers were the omnidirectional MBL 120 stand-mounted Radialstrahlers (\$21,400/pair), driven by the Corona-series C31 CD player (\$9200), which has a 24/96-capable USB input, Corona C11 preamplifier (\$8800), and the Corona C21 300Wpc stereo amplifier (\$9200). The total system cost was \$48,600, not including the Wireworld Platinum Eclipse cable, which sounds expensive, but not when you compare that with the cost of the MBL system described by Jason in the previous story and consider that the Corona system gets you a long way toward that system's sound."

From: <http://www.stereophile.com/content/mbls-corona-system>

Mr. Atkinson also found the MBL Reference System to be one of the best sounds of the show, reporting from the Optimal Enchantment suite with Vandersteen speakers: "one of my best sounds at the Newport Beach Show (the others being the Magico S5 and the MBL 101E Mk.II,...)"

From: <http://www.stereophile.com/content/optimal-enchantment150audio-research150vandersteen>

Andrew Robinson, of hometheaterreview.com reports:



MBL

"MBL was possibly the most surprising and satisfying experience I had at the show. This was not because MBL is another of my lust-worthy products or that I'm biased to that type of sound. They earned points with me because they were playing real music. You know, the type of music we actually listen to when NOT trying to appeal to our audiophile friends or senses. Oh, and MBL was playing said music loud, another no-no at trade shows. I walked into a demo of Tool being played back at around 105dB and, from the moment I stepped foot into the small suite, I was grinning from ear to ear. Not only did it sound good, I wanted to hang around, because for once, I could actually identify and compare and contrast what I was hearing with what I have in my own home. Novel idea - other manufacturers, take note."

From: http://www.positive-feedback.com/Issue61/theshow_oasis.htm

Mr. Peter Breuninger, CEO of AVshowrooms.com, reports:

"MBL was a close second with sound but stood head and shoulders above all the exhibitors with the best designed room. It was an oasis of sound and beauty."



Mr. Breuninger awarded MBL with his Gold Show Award for our Reference Line demonstration.

From: http://www.avshowrooms.com/The_Show_2012_Newport.html

**Mr. Neil Gader, Associate Editor of TAS reports on AVguide.com:**

"Likewise omni-king MBL offered a big room mbl 101E (\$70.5k) system along with a smaller room mbl 120 (\$21.4k) system driven by its Corona electronics. Always a crowd favorite, each offers a command of space and immersion that is still hard to beat."

From: <http://www.avguide.com/blog/the-show-newport-beach?page=1>

Derekmccarty.com reports on his experience with the MBL Reference Line:

"MBL always plays interesting music to show off their interesting system. Those [Radialstrahlers] really do create the kind of room-filling sound that no other speaker does. It's a speaker system I would use in a giant room of my giant house of the future, in which people would come to dance and enjoy the ambiance. Specifically this day, they played an acoustic guitar cover of Bohemian Rhapsody, and it was really cool; bigger than life yet realistically presented with the widest and tallest imaging I've ever experienced. It just sounded incredibly cool, like you could look anywhere in the room and see any particular particle of sound, distinct from the rest of the room, cohesive and spatially mesmerizing. The same was true of the music that a customer brought in, which was something produced in the 1980s by Propaganda, which at once sounded just as spectacular whilst also creating a palpable sense of the 1980s production styles and techniques. It was as if the speakers took on the character of this music to a degree I've rarely experienced, and invoked the sound of electrostatic speakers. In this sense it was very strikingly like having more than one speaker in one enclosure...But for the money, dare I say this is a bargain? In truth, you're getting the most unique kind of audiophile experience for this money, as you should. But with other companies offering similarly priced systems that generally don't offer a fundamentally revolutionary approach to speaker design, it's a no brainer to me what I would choose if I had that kind of dough. I'd get this system, and in another room in my house I'd get something more reasonable and 'traditional' that could for a fraction of the price give me something completely different. Well, if I had that kind of money, actually, I'll re-assess."

From: <http://derekmccarty.com/?p=299>

Hi-Fidelity Quality Control reports:

"One room that proved to always be full was MBL of Germany. Their unique Radialstrahler speaker is usually a hit at hifi audio shows, and this time was no exception. I brought a Bill Frisell CD along (Gone, Just Like a Train), and asked if I might hear a track through the MBL system. The gentleman representing MBL obliged,...I sat front center and took off into the recording. The depth and width of the soundstage was exquisite. Not only could I localize all musicians, but the space around them was natural and not exaggerated. From top to bottom I heard all of Frisell's stereo guitars, the thunderous deep bass of Victor Krauss, and Jim Keltner playing the drums in just the right space..."

The MBL audio experience is a must for any visitor to a hifi show. I have never heard a grand piano sound so convincingly real than when they play one over the MBL full range systems. This is the kind of excitement and realism that fools the ears into believing a live music performance is actually taking place!... Although the MBL audio systems are extremely expensive, it's always fun to walk in and hear a demo!"



From: <http://hifiqc.wordpress.com/2012/06/07/mbl-of-germany-at-t-h-e-show-newport-2012/>