



**Stereophile Editor in Chief John Atkinson reports:**

"When I walked into the MBL suite in the Venetian, the recording of German pianist Martin Vatter, engineered by MBL's Juergen Reiss, was playing on the MBL 101 XTreme speaker system (\$263,000, 3600 lbs, two 6' subwoofer towers operating below 80Hz, two double-101 omnidirectional upper-frequency towers). I was familiar with this superbly clean hi-rez recording, having auditioned it on MBL systems at other shows and also at home. But I had never heard it sound as though there was an actual grand piano in the room, which is what I experienced at this CES.



Driven by two pairs of the massive MBL 9011 monoblock amplifiers that Michael Fremer reviewed in March 2012, this extreme system sounded better at this Show than I had heard it at earlier CESes.

There is something I find addictive about the quality of the omnidirectional highs produced by MBL's RadialStrahler drivers, but it seems difficult to match that quality in the bass with the German company's more reasonably priced models. With the X-Treme, the sound was seamless top-to-bottom, even if the lows were a little too high in level for absolute accuracy.

Yes, the price is other-worldly but if I won the PowerBall, this would be my exit-level, 'I see God' system!"

From: <http://www.stereophile.com/content/mbls-extreme-x-treme>

**Jonathan Valin, Executive Editor of The Absolute Sound Magazine reports:**



" M B L s h o w e d i t s \$ 2 6 3 k D'Appolito radialstrahler flagship with separate push-push woofer towers, the always fabulous mbl X-Tremes, which were no less fabulous this year. Really, this MBL belongs in its own category. The X-Tremes sound like nothing else; do certain things with imaging and staging and dynamics that nothing else does; and have an immersiveness that simply can't be beat. Of course, they are Best of Show contenders. They always are."

From: <http://www.theabsolutesound.com/articles/jvs-ces-2013-show-report/>



**Peter Breuninger, Producer of AVShowrooms.com awards MBL Reference Line with his "AVShowrooms Gold Show Award CES Best Sound."**



"This year's show featured outstanding sound. The top rooms shared that elusive 'it's almost real life' in sound quality. They include...1) the MBL suite, for concert hall like sound."

**Steve Lefkowitz, of Positive Feedback Online says:**

"At \$265,000 for just the speakers, MBL can't be considered as a value proposition by anyone's standards. However, I'm guessing you could still buy this entire system and a new entry level Ferrari for less than a Bugatti Veyron, so maybe I'm wrong. However, regardless of price, playing tracks from The Who and Bob Marley (24/88 files ripped from LP!) this room was, for me at least, maybe the best I heard at the show. It seemed unlimited in dynamics, frequency extension, and all matters purely musical. It was the first room we stopped in, and everything after that had to stand in comparison in our minds."



From: <http://positive-feedback.com/Issue65/ces2012.htm>

**Jim Hannon, Publisher of The Absolute Sound Magazine, awards "Best of Show, Best Sound (Cost No Object)" to the mbl X-tremes with MBL electronics.**

From: <http://www.theabsolutesound.com/articles/ces-2013-cables-and-power-products/>



### ***The Part-Time Audiophile reports:***

"Saying that MBL makes audio equipment almost misses the point. Even in the rarefied air of audio's high-end, MBL is something different again. Said another way, there are good speakers, there are great speakers, there are supercalifragilisticexpialidocious speakers. And then, beyond that, there's MBL. It's a thing apart. And no, I'm not saying that MBL makes the best sounding speakers. That's absurd. They do sound very good (on average), and their top-line models sound fantastic.



It's just that there is simply no good way to compare what you hear out of an MBL with ... well ... any other kind of speaker. It's different. Altogether so. Of course, speakers are only part of what some of these top shelf European audio companies are putting together these days — MBL makes amps, pre-amps, tuners, CD players, and more. It's a lifestyle package, if you will, where everything matches and everything is made to work optimally with everything else. In an industry where mixing and matching vendors can result in ...unexpected ... results, well, let's say that there's definitely a market for a company that sells "the everything bagel".



Speaking of which, MBL introduced a pair of new amplifiers into their entrylevel Corona line — say hello to the C15 monoblock amplifiers (\$25,000/pair). ...To get to the big room, you had to step through the Looking Glass, pass the thing with the hookah and somewhere before you get to the Red Queen's Court, you found yourself seated between a pair of flux capacitors. Whoops, sparked a literary buffer overflow error, there. Anyway, the 101 XTreme (\$263k/pair) was calmly opening a Stargate to a Land Before Time.

Crap. Looks like I'm gonna have to reboot this thing. Suffice it to say this: I've never head anything like this before. If I had a house the size of Downton Abbey (and could afford the servants to run it), I'd have a pair of these, fully kitted out. Of course, I'd also have a home theater room set up like the bridge of the Enterprise, but that's another story."

From: <http://parttimeaudiophile.com/2013/01/31/ces-2013-mbl/comment-page-1/>



**Alan Taffel, from *The Absolute Sound Magazine*, reports in his "New and Different" section on MBL's LASA Technology found in our new Corona Line amplifiers::**

"Many a listener of mbl's Corona line has been surprised to learn that its stereo amp is partially a switching design. Now the company has added new top-of-the-line monoblocks to the lineup. Called the C15 (\$25k/pr), the amp combines a standard, non-switching power supply with a switching amplifying module. Mbl says the design avoids the traditional detriments of Class D designs and sounds every bit as good as an equivalent Class A/B unit."

From: <http://www.theabsolutesound.com/articles/ces-2013-solid-state-electronics-over-12k/>



**Neil Gader, Executive Editor of *The Absolute Sound Magazine*, reports in his "Best Sound (cost no object) category:**

"I'm only considering relatively new or very recently introduced systems, but it doesn't stop me from giving a nod to a perennial front runner like the now mature mbl X-Tremes."

From: <http://www.theabsolutesound.com/articles/the-2013-consumer-electronics-show-neil-gader-on-loudspeakers-under-20k/>

**Alan Taffel, from *The Absolute Sound Magazine*, reports in his "New and Different" section on MBL's LASA Technology found in our new Corona Line amplifiers:**



"The MBL suite was packed with people enjoying the MBL Radialstrahler speakers which radiate sound in a 360 degree pattern."

From: [http://cave.hometheaterhifi.com/profiles/blogs/2013-ces-show-report-part-2-robert-kozel?xg\\_source=activity](http://cave.hometheaterhifi.com/profiles/blogs/2013-ces-show-report-part-2-robert-kozel?xg_source=activity)



**Attendee CSW from the Blu-ray forum heard the mbl X-treme system for the first time and reports:**

*"Audio/Video heaven for the obsessed. Saw many new things, but the trip was highlighted by finally hearing the MBL reference line. Jaw Dropping. Are they worth over 250K. YES!! I know that sounds ridiculous, but the sound is almost life changing if you are an audiophile. The fit, finish, detail, clarity and sound is head and shoulders above anything else I have heard."*

From: <http://forum.blu-ray.com/showthread.php?p=6996221>

**Computer Audiophile posts this short video of the X-treme system playing a "Annihilation" by Frankie Goes To Hollywood:**

From: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GpMOCX37m3o>

**AVShowrooms.com posts a "Meet the MBL Team" video on their site and YouTube Chief Engineer Juergen Reis describes his design goals for the X-treme system:**



From: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VuF8Tzxz3U4>

**Also a "video listening session" with the X-treme system:**

From: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=i\\_UER3wDujU#](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=i_UER3wDujU#)



**Chief Designer Jurgen Reis explains the new Corona Line components to Peter Breuninger with a Video listening session: Jonathan Valin, Executive Editor of The Absolute Sound Magazine reports:**



From: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEewPVo7b\\_E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEewPVo7b_E)

