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Las Vegas, NV
Venetian Tower, Suite 34 -207



Jonathan Valin, executive editor of the magazine "The Absolute Sound", reports:

"Though the MBL 101 E Mk II aren't new, the MBL Class D Noble line of electronics being used to drive them were. I listened a long time in this room to a wide variety of music: "Guantanamera" from The Weavers At Carnegie Hall (quite lovely in timbre on voices and guitar, with far better central focus than the original 101 E and very good reproduction of the hard to reproduce standup bass); Marc Cohn's "Ghost Train" (ditto); Michael Jackson's "Black and White" (rock-solid power range); Ozzy Osbourne's "Crazy Train" (talk about a wall of sound!); etc.

While the presentation may not have been as hard-hitting or as wide-ranging and horripilating in dynamic contrasts as the Raidho D-5s driven by Soullution, or as minutely detailed as the sound in certain other rooms (the Noble line, good as it is, doesn't have the resolution of the Reference line electronics), the 101 E Mk IIs driven by Noble electronics were sure as hell more pure fun to listen to than any other exhibit at CES."



From: <http://www.theabsolutesound.com/articles/ces-2015-loudspeakers-20k-and-up/>





Michael Lavorgna, editor of "audiostream.com", reports:

"What a delight it is to sit and listen to music in the MBL room where we were treated to a number of great tunes including a remix of Falco's "Der Kommissar" sung in German through the company's Noble line. I noted the sound was at once delicate and effortless with a natural ease while delivering heart-stopping stunning dynamic contrasts. Nice. On display and pictured top left is the new MBL N31 CD-DAC (\$18,000) which is capable of handling up to 24/192 data as well as DSD using the ESS Sabre 9018 DAC chip. There's a boat load of in-house technology wrapped up in all of MBL's products and the N31 is no exception which includes a custom developed filter which avoids "intersample overlook" (or inter-sample overs) according to its designer Jürgen Reis which can cause non-harmonic and non-musical distortions.

The N31 incorporates 3-stage jitter reduction and there are two self-powered USB inputs, both USB 1.0 for Windows users who don't want to mess with drivers, and USB 2.0 for more adventurous PC people or Mac users. Additional inputs include AES and S/PDIF which can also handle DSD and a 24/96-capable Toslink input. While I had an opportunity to sit and talk with Jürgen who is responsible for designing the entire MBL line (think about that accomplishment for a minute or more), my notes again do not hold up to the very enlightening conversation. Note to self: bring that digital recorder!"



From: <http://www.audiostream.com/content/mbl-2>



Julie Mullins, editor of "The Absolute Sound" magazine, reports:

"The introduction of MBL's Noble line makes good sense: It's a brand-new, mid-priced family of electronics designed to allow for more flexibility and system options than MBL's current electronics offerings, namely its entry-level Corona line and flagship Reference family. Indeed, an audiophile could pair these electronics with almost any other loudspeakers she might have. Plus, the Nobility is available in five color combinations, so you can customize (or accessorize, if you will).

When I entered the MBL suite at CES, The Weavers' wonderful classic "Guantanamera" was playing. I took that as a sign that I was in for something interesting. In fact, we listened to all kinds of music on

MBL's Radialstrahler 101 E MKII omnidirectional loudspeakers driven by all-new Noble electronics: the N51 integrated amplifier (\$20,700, including remote control), a pair of N21 stereo power amps (\$19,350 each), and the N31 CD-DAC, a D/A converter that offers 192kHz/24-bit and DSD playback (\$18k, including remote control). The sweet tune filled the room with its wide-open sound, thanks to the expansiveness of MBL's omnidirectionals. Subsequently, we ventured all over the map musically, from the Talking Heads' "Once in a Lifetime," to Ozzy Osbourne's "Crazy Train," to an oddball version of Falco's early-'80s tune, "Der Kommissar" backed by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, to Curt Elling's jazz baritone vocals, and more.

This MBL system delivered a big, full, rich sound on every type of music with incredible resolution and without distracting colorations—even at hefty volume and with plenty of challenging deep bass, such as on Notorious B.I.G.'s hip-hop anthem, "Hypnotize."

According to Juergen Reis, design engineer of all MBL gear for 32 years running, consistency and balance are the keys to quality standards and lifelike tonality, especially when you're designing gear to be interchangeable within a system that includes speakers and sources at various price points.

"For us, it's very important always to have a balanced sound, so the tone can run or swim without being altered in any way. In the end we want you get the same tonal characteristics that were played and recorded," Reis said.

"For the power amplifiers, we aim for constant timbral quality from the bass to the treble, so distortion characteristics don't change with frequency. Also, we try to ensure that the load of the speaker doesn't alter the sound. We want our amps and preamps to always provide you with a balanced, harmonious presentation.

"At CES we decided to prove that the Noble line of electronics is of such high sonic worth that it can play our Reference speakers without any weaknesses," he went on. "The 101 [loudspeaker] is very transparent and very sensitive. If something upstream of it is wrong, you will hear it. So if the Noble line played the MBL 101s well, you can rest assured that other loudspeakers will also be driven very easily."

All told, we heard a pleasing yet subtle warmth from the Noble line; any other colorations were minimal enough not to "compromise" the original recordings' characteristics."

From: <http://www.theabsolutesound.com/articles/ces-2015-high-end-electronics-15k-and-up>





John Atkinson, editor of the magazine "Stereophile", reports:

"Jon Iverson already reported on MBL's new Noble Line N31 DAC/CD player, and for me, one of the best sounds at the 2015 CES was listening to MBL's system, based on this digital source feeding signal to the preamp section of the MBL N51 stereo integrated amplifier, with the amplifier section of the integrated and a N21 stereo amplifier (which have the same gain) to bi-amp the unique MBL 101E Mk.II omnidirectional speakers.



As I did at several other rooms, I used my Astell&Kern AK100 portable player to play some of my own stereo hi-res recordings, this time plugging its TosLink output into the N31. I played the 24/88.2k master files for my recording of the Portland State Chamber Choir's new CD Into Unknown Worlds, specifically "Amazing Grace" and "Northern Lights." I was transported back into the warm, enveloping acoustic of St. Stephen's Church in Portland.

These recordings sound surprisingly different on the various systems on which I listened to them at CES, but other than the unique presentation offered by Edgar Choueiri's Bacch-SP system, the MBL system got closest to the original event."

From: <http://www.stereophile.com/content/noble-sound-mbl>

Jon Iverson, editor of the magazine "Stereophile", reports:

"Black shiny products are tough to photograph at shows, so trust me when I say the new N31 is dripping with gorgeousness not reflected in this photo.



Priced at \$18k and available this May, the N31 will process both 24/192 PCM and DSD sources (including iPods/iPads/iPhones). MBL's Juergen Reis showed me a screen shot of an iPhone playing a 24/192 file in the the USB 2 input of the N31, using iTunes USB storage feature. The DAC also sports a proprietary 3-stage jitter reduction design, and MBL's custom Minimum Phase digital filter with emphasis on short post-ringing, and no "annoying" pre-ringing."

From: <http://www.stereophile.com/content/mbl-nobel-line-n31-daccd-player>



Jack Liu, editor and owner of the Taiwanese magazine "Audio Art", reports:

本帖最後由 劉漢盛 於 2015-1-12 10:32 編輯

一進門就看到MBL的設計師Juergen Reis忙著跟人交談，自己就坐下來聽。哇！沒想到今年用101E MKII喇叭，聲音竟然調得那麼好。如果感性的說，可能是最近幾年在CES所聽過最好聽的一次MBL示範。那種聲音聽起來就是會讓人很舒服，沒有強調，但什麼東西都有。我們都知道MBL現在產品線分為Corona Line、Noble Line與Reference Line，Reference Line還是保留以往MBL的「古風古味」，Noble Line與Corona Line則已經年輕化，能夠這樣大力拓展新的產品線，當然是因為新老闆新資金注入的關係，讓Reis能夠大展長才。這次展出Noble Line的N31 CD Player+DAC，可接受24/192 PCM與DSD，可用蘋果iPod、iPhone、iPad操控。內部採用三級Jitter降低線路，以及相位失真最低的數位濾波線路，可以去除鈴振這也是MBL的獨門功夫。以前剛開始推出Corona Line時，還有不少人看衰，認為MBL已經不是以前的MBL了。沒錯！MBL已經不是以前的MBL，它變成古典現代兼容並蓄，讓更多消費者能夠親近它。



From: <http://www.audionet.com.tw/a/forum.php?mod=viewthread&tid=6715&extra=&page=20>

