



## BBC heritage

Hand-made in England for over 35 years, Harbeth loudspeakers have remained at the forefront of innovation and technology by redefining the designs of its BBC heritage.

## Sonic purity

Only with a Harbeth loudspeaker will you experience the unbeatable clarity which comes from a RADIAL™ drive unit.

Harbeth's exclusive cone material creates that 'being there' experience not possible with cheap, polypropylene cones used in so many mass-produced loudspeakers.

## Broadcast legacy

No wonder that Harbeth is the first-choice loudspeaker for discerning audiophiles and professional sound directors working on hit TV shows, film soundtracks and CD mastering.



## FESTIVE GREETINGS TO ALL



Surely the ultimate stocking filler ... the Harbeth P3ESR mini monitor will be on many a festive wish-list. And, every Harbeth loudspeaker sold before the end of 2014 will boost the total the company donates to the Homeless Veterans Christmas Appeal. "The chronic need was brought to my attention by General Sir Mike Jackson, former head of the British Army", explains Harbeth's MD Alan Shaw. "And that was my call to action! We will give £50 for every pair of Harbeths sold by an authorised dealer, anywhere in the world, before the end of the year." Full details on the Harbeth website and the Harbeth User Group.

# BREAKING ALL RECORDS!

## NEW MODEL HELPS CREATE A BUMPER YEAR FOR THE HARBETH BRAND

As one of the last remaining truly British loudspeaker companies, Harbeth has celebrated a record year in 2014: more happy customers in more countries than ever; while taking technology to the fore with a brand new monitor design in the Super HL5plus.

Harbeth's new Super HL5plus speaker has proved to be the company's fastest-selling model, ever!

The all-British design has been flying off the shelves, and the factory has been working hard to keep up with global demand.

"Alan's latest design is

testimony to the worldwide desire for a British-made monitor loudspeaker design by a British-owned -and-run company", says Harbeth's Trevor Butler. "Over the past 12 months we've seen more once-famous 'British' names fall victim to overseas

takeovers by foreign owners. But, through it all, Harbeth remains true to its BBC origins and is proud to be family owned and run, with an expanding factory in the Sussex countryside."

We wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

### Christmas holiday

Please note, the Harbeth factory and UK headquarters close on Friday 19th December for the festive holiday.

We will re-open on Monday 5th January, 2015 when we look forward to hearing from you.



## CONTACT

Harbeth Audio is proudly an independent British company, wholly owned by the designer. This gives us complete control over our destiny and allows us to create products that are truly sought after around the world.

Send your stories for inclusion in our regular newsletters to the editor, ideally with high resolution photographs.

THE EDITOR  
Trevor Butler

Harbeth Audio Ltd,  
3-4 Enterprise Pk,  
Lindfield,  
West Sussex  
England RH16 2LH

Email: [sound@harbeth.co.uk](mailto:sound@harbeth.co.uk)

Tel: +44 (0)1444  
484371

Fax: +44 (0)1444  
848 685



Keep up-to-date with news from the worldwide Harbeth family by following us on Twitter @HarbethHQ and liking us on Facebook: [facebook.com/HarbethHQ](https://www.facebook.com/HarbethHQ)



## TECH TALK



Reference LPs (inset top left) and a known voice (inset) are essentials for the loudspeaker designer.

## GERMAN AUDIOPHILES DISCOVER HOW VITAL SPEECH IS AS A TEST TOOL

## SPEECH REVEALS ALL

The human voice will show how well-designed a loudspeaker is. It provides a simple-to-use test, yet it is a source often neglected because it is so good at unmasking design defects and indicating just how flat the frequency response really is.

The *Analog Forum* in Krefeld, northern Germany, provided the opportunity for Harbeth's MD Alan Shaw to explain how he uses the human voice as an acid test of loudspeaker design.

Joined by former BBC newsreader Trevor

Butler from Harbeth's marketing department, the pair demonstrated how it's possible to use the voice for a reliable A/B test – comparing the live with a recording played through loudspeakers (main picture above).

"None of us knows

what a commercial recording should sound like", explains Shaw. "We don't know the acoustics of the venue or the microphone placement. We are ignorant about any post-production which may have taken place. This makes it

an unreliable source compared to a known voice, perhaps of a friend or neighbour, and someone you can do a direct comparison with, in the flesh and through your speakers.

"Very few loudspeakers can pass the speech test – it's that revealing."

## INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIM

## Russian 'aristocratic' praise

The first audio magazine reviews for the new Super HL5plus have appeared. Two Russian titles have delighted in the latest design, praising its musicality.

*What Hi-Fi?* (Russia) said the new model, "retained all the old dignity (of the earlier SHL5): a

huge sound stage with clear prospects, perfect dynamics, the highest possible detail, exceptional transparency ... elegant and even aristocratic". Their conclusion was to "just enjoy the music."

Meanwhile, *Stereo High End*

magazine said of the SHL5plus that "the speakers play freely and naturally. Very smooth. Any musical material is extremely legible ... acoustic instrument sounds are also presented in all their glory." They awarded the design a green 'Editor's Choice'.







## Capital welcome in Canada

Harbeth's latest model received an enthusiastic welcome in a Canadian capital where the Super HL5plus 'simply sung' during the hugely popular TAVES show in the Ontario capital, Toronto. Audio writers praised the sound created by Harbeth Canada/Audio Alliance.

An ecstatic Tim Smith from on-line *Six Moons Audio* selected the Harbeth room as one of his three favourites in the entire show, saying "I think I can state objectively that the new and improved Harbeth Super HL5plus loudspeaker was one

of the most smooth, coherent and musical speakers at TAVES

"The Harbeth room never offended, never sounded clinical or shrill and was always smooth and musical. The new version of this speaker imaged spectacularly. Five

feet from the sweet spot, itself quite close to near-field conditions, I had no sense of listening to just one speaker. But the Super HL5plus is no slouch where techno and electronics are concerned. They are almost full-range, digging as low as



## GERMAN ROAD TRIP

### THREE SUCCESSIVE AIRINGS FOR THE NEW MODEL

With three key audio events in as many weeks, it's been a busy time for the world's best-loved loudspeaker brand across Germany. Dealer-based shows in Kiel and Altusried in Bavaria, as well as the keenly attended Analog Forum in Krefeld, all allowed audition of the new Super HL5plus monitor to attentive audiophiles.

Long-established, HiFi Studio *Hört sich gut an*, in Kiel, is always a popular venue for audiophiles. This year the well-experienced team celebrated a high-end show in their shop where top brands such as Harbeth were displayed and demonstrated.

"The Kiel show was well visited by many music and hi-fi enthusiasts from that area in the north of Germany", explains Bernd Hömke of Harbeth Germany.

"Visitors were impressed with the stunning sound of the new SHL5plus as well as the P3ESR mini monitor which were played."

The two-day (Friday and Saturday) event was very well attended and the Harbeth room was busy.

#### Analogue king

Also crowded was the weekend Analog Forum in Krefeld. Organised by

the German Analogue Audio Association it featured an army of tube amps, gramophones and reel-to-reel recorders ... in some force.

Alan Shaw and Trevor Butler from Harbeth's HQ made the trip (see story on p2) and found an attentive audience wanting to know more about the brand's BBC monitor loudspeaker legacy. Alan demonstrated the importance of speech in loudspeaker appraisal with former BBC newsreader Trevor on hand.

Bavarian hi-fi specialist *Hifi auf dem Bauernhof* held a weekend of Open Doors which attracted over 300 visitors. "It was a super weekend and the Super HL5plus was one of the highlights at the show", said director Michael Wick. "A real improvement to the old model."

The store plans a Harbeth Weekend 14-15 March 2015.



Three German locations, three popular German shows: HiFi Studio *Hört sich gut an* in Kiel (top), Open-Door Days at *Hifi auf dem Bauernhof* in Altusried (centre) and Bernd Hömke from Harbeth Germany at the bustling Analog Forum in Krefeld (bottom).

### SOUND OF THE SHOW IN COPENHAGEN



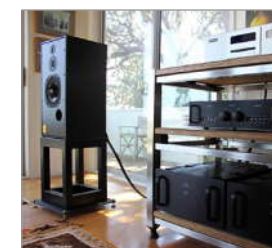
It was a successful Copenhagen hi-fi show for Harbeth Denmark which was awarded 'Best-sounding Room' by well-known and respected hi-fi magazine *Hi-Fi4All*.

"We played the new SHL5plus and M40.1 with great success", says Kristian Winberg.

### NEW ZEALAND'S REFERENCE SYSTEM

Harbeth New Zealand has incorporated the Super HL5plus into its new Reference System.

"In striking tiger ebony, the new model partners an EMM Labs Inc. XDS1 CD/SACD player; Lamm Industries Inc. LL2.1 Deluxe pre-amp and Lamm M1.2 Reference monoblocks. The result is pure musical magic!", says Jason Parmenter. [www.parmentersound.com](http://www.parmentersound.com)



## GLOBAL ROUND-UP



**Beijing's** Hi-Fi Show (above) was the first time Harbeth HK demonstrated the SHL5*plus* in China. They are on the road again soon for the Guangzhou event.



**Belgium's** recent High End Show (above) brought high praise for Harbeth with one blogger saying "Harbeth truly found favour in my ears for a quite affordable system", and another, "Harbeth SHL5 *plus* are a musical/price ratio absolutely staggering."



**Indonesia** welcomed the Harbeth sound at the Hotel Menara Peninsula in Jakarta (above). "At this, the third IHEAC Indonesia High End Audio Club show, everyone spoke well about the wonderful sounds we made", said Lukito from Harbeth Indonesia.

**STOP PRESS** Flemish dealer Gydotron organises a Harbeth show 13-14 December. [www.gydotron.com](http://www.gydotron.com)

## AS HAPPY AS HARRY

**Five Harbeth loudspeakers make up a delighted Harbeth Benelux customer's new surround-sound system ...**

A pair of Monitor 30.1s at the front with a P3 for the centre channel, combined with a pair of P3ESRs at the rear, produce the sound Harry was seeking.

He'd auditioned dozens of models before deciding on the Harbeths as 'voice matched' and therefore 'perfect'.

"Garnt at Beter Beeld & Geluid in Hilversum was sure that the

Harbeth sound would match my wishes", says Harry. "They succeeded in creating a set-up that really plays the music, has an addictive sound: less is more!"

Harry is now to turn his attention to room treatment to further enhance listening pleasure. "We are really enjoying our system around the Harbeths and have pace and synergy."



## HIGH-END DELIGHT IN RUSSIAN CAPITAL

Last month's Moscow High End Show provided the opportunity for Harbeth Russia/Techno-m to demonstrate not only the mighty Monitor40.1 (pictured right) but also the new SHL5*plus*.

"The Harbeth/Kuzma/EAR set-up was very impressive", says Alex Entin. "We invited visitors to bring their own favourite recordings to see how they sounded through the British monitor loudspeakers. Everyone was delighted by the exquisite midrange and poise from the new model."

As the four-star Holiday Inn Simonovsky was transformed for the weekend, audiophiles flocked to the venue with many saying Harbeth produced the best sound of the event.

<http://www.hiendshow.ru/>



[www.harbeth.co.uk](http://www.harbeth.co.uk)  
[sound@harbeth.co.uk](mailto:sound@harbeth.co.uk)



3-4 Enterprise Park  
Lindfield, RH16 2LH, UK



Tel: +44(0)1444 484371  
Fax: +44(0)1444 848685