

Nov./Dec. 2005
Volume 4 Issue 6

Recent and
Upcoming Events

WILSON[®] AUDIOFILES

**Consumer
Electronics Show**
Jan. 5-7, 2006
Las Vegas
Wilson Audio
Penthouse Suite
at the Mirage

Oct. 14-15, 2005
Overture
Wilmington, DE
Duette Debut with
David & Sheryl Lee Wilson,
Daryl Wilson,
& Peter McGrath

Oct. 15, 2005
THE BIG EVENT
Trent Workman
Marries Andrea Beck

Nov. 16-20, 2005
Innovative Audio
Manhattan, NY
Dealer Training
with Peter McGrath

Dec. 1, 2005
Audioport
Overland Park, KS
Dealer Show
with John Golas
and Trent Workman

Dec. 7-8, 2005
Audio Advice
Raleigh, NC
"Music Matters" Event
with Peter McGrath

Wilson Audio New Releases: Duette and Sophia Series 2

Duette is the first loudspeaker in audio history to be equally at home on a bookshelf, architecturally integrated into a cabinet, or mounted on a speaker stand. Three separate patents protect the technologies that facilitate this paradoxical feat.

Flexible and Configurable:

Duette is a two-piece, modular design consisting of the main loudspeaker (Duette™) and a separate crossover module (Novel™). The Novel crossover is adjustable via a resistor mounted on its rear plate. These adjustments account for the time domain and tonal effects of near-wall placement. Further adjustment is accomplished via two customized umbilici connecting the Novel to the Duette, each cable set properly configured for length. This strategy allows Duette to be separately optimized for both bookshelf and custom architectural integration on the one hand, and traditional (out in the room, away from walls) on the other.

The Duette can be mounted vertically or horizontally. The dispersion properties of the tweeter have been optimized for both orientations. Patented MagnePod™ spikes attach without any additional hardware. Depending upon application needs, the spikes may be attached to either side or to the bottom of the Duette. Embedded magnets on all three sides secure and locate the spikes. No matter which way the Duette is oriented, it is always properly mechanically terminated via this spike system.

Compact vs. Ultra-high Performance:

By removing the crossover from the main loudspeaker enclosure, Wilson was able to keep Duette relatively small. Aside from size, this strategy has several additional benefits. The volume of space normally dedicat-



ed to housing the crossover is available to the midrange/bass driver. Additionally, the Novel crossover module is placed remotely, out of the proximity of the magnetic fields generated by the main speakers' drive units. Therefore, Alexandria sized/quality inductors and crossover components can be used. The outcome of this approach is bass extension, dynamic impact, and a sense of scale normally associated with much larger loudspeakers. Distortion is reduced and resolution enhanced.

New Custom Drive Units:

Two new custom drivers were designed and implemented for Duette. The new woofer walks the tightrope between midrange beauty and bass impact, and it accomplishes both at new levels in the category of two-way loudspeakers. The new tweeter was designed with unique dispersion properties that nearly eliminate the off-axis (Cont. on pg. 2 as Duette)

Duette (Cont. from pg. 1)

time domain distortion generated by near boundary placement. Combine these purpose built drivers with Wilson's proprietary cabinet materials, and the result is unprecedented resolution, musicality, and low distortion. In other words, Duette exhibits a sense of purity, coherence, and dynamic nuance that is distinctly "Wilson."

With Duette, Wilson's design objective was to create a loudspeaker that could be used in a multiplicity of environments and that would encapsulate in significant measure the musical enjoyment present in Sophia®, MAXX® Series 2, and Alexandria® X-2. This level of performance has never been so accessible in so many environments.

Sophia Series 2

In the past four years, Sophia has changed the way many think of high-end loudspeakers. Wilson proved that qualities we once thought contradictory – high resolution with musicality; prodigious bass in a compact, floor standing package; dynamic alacrity and authority with an easy to drive load; extraordinary musical experience when used with inexpensive electronics – could be married in one, elegant package. In its short history, Sophia has become a true classic, beloved for her musical beauty.

It is no small thing to improve upon something as special as Sophia. The risk is that an elusive ingredient key to her magic would give way in the process of pushing another area of performance. In developing Alexandria X-2, MAXX Series 2, and the new Duette, the design team knew they had uncovered new technologies that, if applied to Sophia, would improve her performance. So, with a protective eye on preserving those qualities that imbued Sophia with her intrinsic grandeur, Wilson Audio set out to improve on her strengths through an application of these new technologies.

Wilson Audio introduces the Sophia Series 2.

New Tweeter:

There is some confusion in the market place as to what technical qualities are important to musically correct high-frequency performance. While other manufacturers blindly pursue dubious performance parameters such as ultra-wide bandwidth or gratuitously exotic materials, Wilson continues to focus on those technologies that truly contribute to better performance. The MAXX Series 2 featured new proprietary tweeter technology that significantly reduced spurious noise artifacts generated in the rear of the tweeter. This approach radically reduces high frequency noise and grain and improves low-level detail and transparency. This same technology has been applied to the new Sophia Series 2 tweeter. Sweet, delicate highs were already a hallmark of Sophia. The Series 2 tweeter builds on these strengths with greater air, sweetness, resolution, and an utterly grainless sense of purity. Highs emerge from a velvety black background.

Revised Crossover:

David Wilson and the Wilson engineering team are ever searching for the sources of time-domain distortion. During the

development of Alexandria, Wilson discovered that the interaction between the high and low pass filters created group delay noise they dubbed "crossover jitter." Dave and the engineers designed and implemented crossover strategies and topologies that reduced this deleterious interaction. The lower noise floor allowed Dave and the design team to hear further into the loudspeaker, detect and parse out problems previously obscured by the noise. Thus, the breakthrough not only improved the areas of performance directly related to the anti-jitter technology, but also allowed enhancements to be made in other areas of the loudspeaker as well. This process was applied during the development of MAXX Series 2, and now has been employed in the Sophia Series 2. In the Sophia Series 2, low-level details, previously obscured by noise, now shine forth from a black background. Midrange beauty, clarity, and musicality, already a strong point of Sophia, are noticeably better in the Series 2. Instrument texture and timbre are more convincingly rendered and complete.

Recessed Diffraction Pad and Alexandria-Style Pin Grill:

Introduced in the Alexandria and subsequently employed in the MAXX Series 2, the austenitic stainless steel pin system ensures non-resonant and reliable grill attachment. The diffraction pad, which previously sat atop Sophia's baffle, is now recessed flush to her façade. Problems of diffraction pad detachment are nearly eliminated. Sophia's shape is enhanced, taking on a more finely sculpted and integrated profile.

Price: U.S. Retail - \$13,999.00

Upgrade Program:

Wilson has a long tradition of supporting and protecting its loyal constituency of clients' investment in Wilson products, when at all possible, by making upgrades available as new products replace previous models. With Sophia, Wilson is offering a program that is priced progressively based on date of purchase. The upgrade consists of tweeter and crossover replacement and must be performed at the Wilson factory. The upgraded Sophia includes all technical elements and performs identically when compared to the production Series 2s. The upgrade does not include the pin grill or the recessed diffraction pad as changes in the Series 2 cabinet structure prevent Wilson from making these changes on original Sophias. Please refer to the dealer memo dated Oct. 17 for pricing and details.

Wilson is very pleased with the improvements made to Sophia. The upgrade improves Sophia's performance in almost every musically critical way without detracting from its original appeal.

Milan, Italy Hi-Fi Show



Audio Natali's room at the Sept. Milan Hi-Fi Show features Wilson Sophias for two days and WATT/Puppy 7's for two days. Krell Evolution electronics, Transparent cables, and Krell SACD player are used.

Debuting Duette



Overture Audio hosts Duette's North American debut during a show Oct. 14-15. On hand for the event are store owner Terry Menacker, Daryl Wilson, Sheryl Lee Wilson, David Wilson, and Peter McGrath.

London Hi Fi Show



The London Hi Fi show takes place Sept. 22-25, 2005. Above left shows Absolute Sounds (London) room featuring Wilson Audio MAXX Series 2. Above right, Brad O'Toole of Transparent Cable, Ricardo Franassovici of Absolute Sounds, and Peter McGrath of Wilson Audio finish the room setup. Below left, Brad O'Toole runs a demonstration featuring MAXX Series 2, Audio Research 610 Reference Mono Power Amplifiers and Transparent Cables.

The new series of Wilson Audio Authentic Excellence posters are photo quality and suitable for framing. The posters measure 16" X 20" and are now available to dealers.

listener

In the final stages of a new loudspeaker design, Dave Wilson sits alone in a specially built sound room, fine tuning the crossover by ear. You may notice, however, that the loudspeaker in the photograph *isn't new*. It's the X-1 Grand SLAMM, Wilson's previous flagship model, no longer in production.

Nevertheless, there are more than 600 pairs of X-1s out there in the world, and Wilson Audio feels a loyalty to the owners who've invested considerable sums of money in them. So, as our ongoing research yields breakthroughs, we strive to make those sonic upgrades available to past products, like the X-1 (Level 5), and current speakers, like the MAXX (now Series 2).

From his listening position, Dave can make real time comparisons of crossover slope, level, and time domain settings. Despite employing a cadre of first rate engineers and skilled listeners, Dave Wilson knows that every loudspeaker that leaves the factory bears his name. That's why the design of every loudspeaker - whether the newest model or the latest refinement of one nearly fifteen years old - isn't done till it meets the approval of two final authorities: the ones on either side of his head.



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