

On Sunday, April 21, 2013, the monthly meeting of the Audio-Video Club of Atlanta was held at a new audio shop in Atlanta, Sight and Sound Gallery, located near downtown in the "StudioPlex" complex. Our host was Charles Berry, the owner of Sight and Sound. The meeting featured Steve Greene of Nordost who conducted an extensive cable demonstration clinic. Also featured were products from several manufacturers that are sold at Sight and Sound including VTL tube electronics, Marten loudspeakers, Hegel electronics, "T + A" electronics and speakers, DynaAudio wireless speakers, Elipson speakers, and Sonus products. There were about 40 members and guests present.

The vice president, Dennis Juranek, (John Morrison was ill) was first up with some club announcements (DIY meeting on May 19 and Canlanta on May 4), and gave hearty thanks to our host, to Steve Greene, and to the local restaurant (Drafting Table) for supplying their refreshments.

Our host, Charles, was first, and he briefly introduced his shop and the equipment that was to be used in the cable demonstration clinic. The CD player was the T+A Music Receiver (\$4200 retail) which was used as transport and DAC only. It fed the Hegel H7 integrated amplifier (about \$2000 retail), which was connected to the Marten Django "L" Loudspeakers (\$9000 per pair). The Hegel is solid state with 70 watts per channel output. The Marten's are Swedish with a ceramic tweeter and are known for their neutral sound. The T + A music receiver does have an amplifier in it, with 94 watts per channel, in addition to a tuner, CD transport and DAC that handles up to 24/192 signals. It is a very versatile piece of equipment (all in one). Nordost "White Lightning" speaker cable was used initially.

Steve was up next, and he gave us a brief history of Nordost. The company makes wire for space and medical applications. The objective of their wires is to give the widest possible bandwidth, so they use ribbon shaped wire and what is called micro mono-filament technology. Steve said that when you start replacing cables in your system, the power cord(s) should be the first to be replaced. Steve then started the cable clinic. He steadily changed wires in a series of steps (power cords, interconnects, and speaker cables) to show how different cables can make a difference in the sound. After each swap, a few minutes of music was played, then the next swap occurred. I will list the steps here as best as I can recall:

- 1) "Stock" interconnects between the CD player and amp replaced with Blue Heaven interconnects.
- 2) Amplifier's power cord replaced (from power strip to amp) with Blue Heaven power cord.
- 3) QRT power distribution center added. This unit eliminates ground loops by having one outlet going to AC ground and other outlets' grounds offset by resistance. It is not a surge protector.
- 4) Power cord from wall (Blue Heaven) going to distribution center replaced with Hemidall 2 (solid core) power cord.
- 5) Speaker cable replaced with Blue Heaven speaker cable (twice as expensive).
- 6) The QX-4 distribution power box placed into circuit (wall outlet goes to this box, then to power distribution center).
- 7) Speaker cable replaced with Hemidall 2 speaker cable (even more expensive).
- 8) Sort Kones (3 versions) used under the amplifier and T + A music receiver (CD player).

Comments during all this were that each of the changes did indeed improve the sound, sometimes surprisingly more than expected. This was especially true of the Sort Kones.

A raffle was held which included a Nordost power cord and a set of Sort Kones equipment supports (marketed by Nordost), along with a few CD's. Our thanks to Steve for donating the Nordost prizes!

After the raffle, Charles briefly demo'd the other pieces he brought to the meeting, including the VTL IT-85 60 WPC (tube) integrated amplifier, the wireless DynaAudio speakers, Elipson Planet 'L' speakers (red spheres) and command center (streams audio), and the T + A Kudos speakers.

The club again thanks Charles Berry for hosting the meeting, bringing all the equipment to demonstrate to us, and to Steve Greene for a detailed and very informative presentation.

Thomas Horner
Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta