

On Sunday, September 21, 2014, the monthly meeting of the Audio-Video Club of Atlanta was held at the Virtual Properties Realty offices in Duluth. This meeting featured two main presentations, one from GIK Acoustics showing off their room treatment products, and the other from Integrity High Fidelity Solutions showing off some of the manufacturers they represent. There were more than 35 folks present at the meeting, including several first time guests. The agenda was packed, so we started right at 2 pm.

Up first was John, president. John thanked all the presenters for coming and bringing their items to see and hear. John briefly described the agenda, and then introduced our first presenter, Glenn Kuras from GIK, along with his wife Shelly and Bryan from St. Louis. Glenn gave us a brief history of GIK, which started in 2004 and by 2008 had two factories in the UK and in Atlanta. They are the third largest in the room treatment business, yet are still a small, private company.

Glenn discussed that one can use their web site to help you determine what your room may need. You can even include photos of your room. The folks at GIK will respond to your input with advice on what to do. They help you answer why, where, what, and how to set up and use room treatments. Some basic rules include symmetry of speakers and equipment, the rule of thirds, and do not sit too close to room boundaries. Thinner material absorbs higher frequencies, and thicker material absorbs the lower frequencies. When treating the room, you want to pay attention to frequency response, early reflections, and decay times. One can use a hand held mirror, for example, to determine where the first reflection is occurring, and treat accordingly.

After we listened to some music on the system that we were using (more details later) in the untreated room, Glenn and Bryan brought in some basic room treatments including bass traps for the front corners and acoustic panels for the first reflections. There was also a diffuser in the rear of the room. John asked me to write down comments made after the treatments were completed and music was played. The comments included better and cleaner bass, smoother midrange, more like a live performance, and increased clarity of voices. The changes were more pronounced in the "main" listening chair, but all in the room heard the changes.

With the treatments remaining in place, John introduced our next presenter from Integrity High Fidelity Solutions, Joseph Strovass. This distributor is located in Buford, GA. Among the products he represents are Margules Audio, Densen (Digital) Audio, DynAudio loudspeakers, and Atlas Cables among other imported brands.

We were privileged to have Julian Margules who traveled to the meeting from Mexico (where Margules is headquartered) to describe what we were listening to. Julian gave us a brief history of his company, which started in the 1920's as an importer of electronics that evolved into a manufacturer. Julian has a master's degree in electrical engineering, and after listening to tube amps decided to build his own. His design philosophy is to build equipment that will last a long time. On the rack today was the SF220 (\$3400) tube preamp (has 5 tubes per channel and uses a shunt power supply), the FZ470B solid state phono preamp (for \$750 that can handle MM and high output MC's), the TT-10 belt-driven turntable (a work of art for \$3000 that began as an industrial design project at a local university) with a uni-pivot tone arm featuring many adjustments, the U280 (\$4600) tube power amp that uses class A biasing and active damping control to extend tube life (it can do 40 watts per channel in triode mode or 80 watts per channel in ultra-linear mode), and on display was the ADE 24.1 Analog Digital Enhancer (for \$350, would be placed between output of DAC and your preamp).

Also used for playing music was the Densen B440 CD player (\$5000) and DynAudio Confidence C1 "bookshelf" speakers (\$7000 per pair) that Joseph brought to demo. Cables used were Atlas Cables from Scotland. Several members mentioned that they would like to hear more of all this equipment and other lines that Joseph represents.

At the end of the meeting, both our presenters had fabulous surprises for the club and for those in attendance. Glenn will donate four of his Tri-Trap bass traps to the club (\$560 value), and Joseph will give club members a 25% discount on equipment we purchase from him. Wow!

The club gives many thanks to these two presenters! Also, once again thanks to everyone who helped set up and break down for this meeting and to the members who brought the refreshments!

There was no official August meeting. The members enjoyed our annual picnic at the home of Ed and Sandra Leonard on August 24, 2014.

Thomas Horner  
Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta