

On Sunday, January 16, 2011, the monthly meeting of the Audio-Video Club of Atlanta was held in the training room of the Virtual Properties Realty offices in Duluth, Georgia. There were about 25 members and guests attending. This meeting featured member Michael Gill presenting his latest Arte Forma offerings as well as a program on downloading, playing, and copying music to portable formats, including high resolution music from the web. The presenter for this subject was our own Lee Scoggins.

After some brief announcements from John Morrison, president, Michael gave us a brief history of his company. They (he and his business partner Norman who lives in Taiwan) started importing tube amplifiers from their factory in Taiwan. However, shipping tube equipment a long way proved troublesome, so they switched to solid state equipment. Michael was here to present his I-150 integrated amplifier (retails at \$1499) and a 120 watt USB amplifier (retails at \$799 or \$899 with a 24/96 DAC chip), which has a built-in digital to analog converter and USB port. Other products in his line include a new pre-amp and 250 watt power amplifier (retailing at \$2500 and \$2800 respectively). They also plan to release a 60 watt version of their USB amplifier for about \$599 retail.

The I-150 integrated amplifier got Michael off with a great review on Positive Feedback (an online site), and we had planned to listen to that amplifier at this meeting. Unfortunately, technical issues prevented us from doing so. We spent our time listening instead to the USB amplifier using Egleston Fontaine 2 speakers. These speakers are better known in other countries, and the pair we listened to retails for \$6500. Michael also told us that the I-150 is undergoing a "face lift" with improved cosmetics and volume control, with the price remaining the same.

Our other presenter for this meeting helped us to understand everything we need to know about high-resolution music downloads. Lee covered the download process, equipment you'll need to do it (including software), how to get it off your PC and on to a portable format, and the latest download websites. Lee Scoggins gave us an excellent slide show, the PDF of which was sent to all current members of the Atlanta A-V Club.

The club extends our thanks once again for the use of the training room, and to all our presenters who did an excellent job.

Thomas Horner
Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta