

On Sunday, April 18, 2021, the monthly meeting of the Atlanta Audio Club was held via “Zoom” due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The meeting featured Eric Alexander of Tekton Design. As in meetings past, Steve (club president) had a list of prepared questions from club members on various topics for Eric. The meeting was attended by about 25 participants. It started at 3 pm and lasted until 5:10 pm.

Due to the nature of this meeting, these minutes will simply list the discussions in roughly the order they occurred.

The first question was how Eric got interested in audio. He answered that he got his first system at 8 years old. He was also exposed to working with cabinets, and at 14 years old he built his first speaker. He and a friend had a mobile DJ outfit. He is also a drummer and musician.

The sound characteristics he likes is a “hybrid” type speaker that can be dynamic and have an energetic sound, and that could be used in both the professional arena and for home audio.

He was asked about manufacturing in the US versus overseas. He has seen some expensive speakers coming from Chinese factories. The Covid pandemic has been a curse and a blessing. He was forced to be more frugal with miscellaneous expenses. His business model is affordable versus super high end.

Tekton has won 14 product of the year awards, even with their utilitarian look. Eric believes that the sum of the parts, and how they are implemented, makes a good design. He mentioned that they had a recent modest price increase because they had too MANY orders! They do their own design of the drivers.

Eric went a bit philosophical on us asking what is wrong with the world where there are \$2 million dollar speakers that are only for the very wealthy to “show off”. It is human psychology to want to do this.

Eric picks out the components for his drivers. He is a dragster owner, and he picks out the components to put in his cars, and applies the same philosophy to driver (speaker) selection. He mentioned that there are many varieties of paper pulps to choose from for the drivers.

To design a speaker, he starts with a physical size objective, then makes the woofer selection. He mentioned that many speakers are put into boxes that are too small. He then finds the right tweeter(s) for the woofer(s) chosen. His somewhat unique multi-tweeter arrangement causes a “subtle” flow in every speaker. He has done a lot of experimentation to come up with his designs. Changes in material science (new materials, etc.) enters into his design process. He mentioned that the violin’s string mass is very low, and he uses a lot of smaller (lighter) tweeters to create the midrange frequencies. If you use multiple drivers, you can have a comb effect which may not show up in measurements.

Eric is not in any one camp of amplifier design, they all can sound good.

Eric has “passion” projects with new conceptions. Clients sometime ask for changes which he will try out. His various models are meant to be a natural evolution in the various lines. Some folks have complained that Tekton speakers can be too “bright”. Why he offers tweeter upgrades, and uses tweeters that can be tuned during the design process.

He was asked about the price difference between the MOAD model and other models, and it comes down to the different manufacturing costs of the models.

Eric likes to listen in the dark (or low light) to concentrate on the music. He uses a select set of very familiar songs to evaluate designs, especially female vocals.

Some other items he was asked or commented on.

- Hard to dovetail subwoofers into audio system.
- Discussion about the loss of hearing due to exposure to loud music, etc.
- You can “hear” ultrasonic sound (> 20 kHz), it can make a difference – you can “feel” it.
- He appreciates all their clients.

- He loves what he does (his “work”).
- Tekton does have a half million dollar speaker under development.
- Tekton has ten new models in the works.

The club thanks Eric for his time and insights, and spending his time with us!

Minutes written by Thomas Horner, Secretary, Atlanta Audio Club.