

Inverto is entering the wearable audio market

Inverto built a name for itself in the satellite reception world through innovation, product quality and utmost sense of service. In order to keep growing, the company is engaging in a series of ventures in industry segments where the same 3 qualities are also paramount. Just a few weeks ago, we dedicated this Newsletter to UniFiber, our exciting range of Video over Fiber products. Today, we would like to introduce Inverto Acoustics.

We have acquired the internal know-how and resources to bring to market some of the most qualitative, great-sounding and cost-effective products for all conceivable OEM projects*.

Here's just a teaser, and we invite you to discover the entire range on our website. We've added a selection of news bits on the Audio industry as well as on the tradeshows which hopefully will regain traction soon.

Have a perfect-sounding summer!



ON HEADPHONES AND MEN / WOMEN

Headphones have become in recent years one of our most personal everyday items. Just like sunglasses, each of us uses them on different activities and for different reasons and as a result we all have our own preferences on what type of headphones suit us best.

Some prioritize ambient noise isolation; some want a pair when they exercize. Some prefer the freedom of a wireless pair and some, the simplicity of a wired one.

We have worked hard at Inverto to make sure our product range leaves no user with his preferences uncatered for while always sounding just brilliant!

6 DEGREES OF FREEDOM

OUR 6 HEADPHONES PRODUCT FAMILIES

Indy Pro True Wireless Stereo Earbuds with Active Noise Cancelling (ANC)



Indy PRO4



Indy PRO5



Indy PRO®



Indy PRO?

Indy

True Wireless Stereo Earbuds



Indy 2



Indy 5



Indy 8



Indy 9

Impulse PRO

Wireless Neckband In-Ear Headphones with Active Noise Cancelling (ANC)



Impulse PRO1



Impulse PRO3

*Our go-to-market strategy is based on custom product development and OEM manufacturing for existing players in the industry.

Active PRO

Wireless Neckband In-Ear Sports Headphones with Active Noise Cancelling (ANC)



Active

Wireless Neckband In-Ear Sports Headsets



Active 1

Motion PRO

Wired In-Ear Headsets with Active Noise Cancelling (ANC)



Motion PRO¹



Motion PRO2

COMING SOON / AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Active BONE

Wireless Neckband In-Ear Sports Headsets



Indy X

True Wireless Stereo Earbuds For Gaming with ultra low latency



Supra PRO

Wired Over-The-Ear Headsets with Active Noise Cancelling



Supra PRO 3

Supra PRO X

Wired Over-The-Ear Headsets for gaming With Active Noise Cancelling (ANC)







Consumer Electronics Market Intelligence Report

Foxconn

The global shortage of electronics components is worsening and is expected to last until next year, Apple supplier Foxconn has said, suggesting the shortfall squeezing global carmakers is starting to be felt by leading technology brands. "In the first two months of the first quarter, the impact [of the shortage] was not so palpable, but we are gradually seeing that change," Young Liu, Foxconn chair, told investors on an earnings call. He added that the shortage would persist until 2022, quoting research reports from analysts.



Foxconn warns components shortage to last until 2022

Foxconn, which is listed on the Taiwan Stock Exchange under the name Hon Hai Precision Industry, is the world's largest contract electronics manufacturer. The fact that it assembles electronics gadgets and makes components for all of the leading tech brands globally makes it a bellwether for trends in consumer electronics manufacturing. Its assessment follows a warning from Samsung Electronics, one of the world's largest

technology companies, about a "serious imbalance" in global chip demand and supply two weeks ago. Liu said that since Foxconn's customers were among the leading companies in the electronics industry with the largest order volumes, they were suffering less from the shortage than some smaller peers. Foxconn would not be able to fulfil less than 10 per cent of its orders because of the component shortage, he said. "His comments are interesting because previously some PC companies suggested that the situation may be improving, but he appears to say the opposite," said Patrick Chen, head of Taiwan research at CLSA, a brokerage. Chen added that the components worst affected by the shortage included analogue integrated circuits (ICs), including those for display drivers and power management. Displays themselves, especially for notebook computers, have also been hit

Foxconn's remarks came as the company reported financial results slightly below investors' expectations for the fourth quarter of 2020. Net profit fell 4 per cent to NT\$46bn (\$1.61bn) from the same period a year earlier mainly due to the impact of the Taiwan dollar's steep rise versus its US counterpart, Foxconn said.

The company's gross margin slid to 5.69 per cent from 6.47 per cent a year earlier and farther away from the company's 7 per cent target. Foxconn said it was "cautiously optimistic" about the company's performance this year as demand in all of its product segments has been strong in the first quarter, with consumer electronics outpacing earlier expectations. As long as there was no renewed disruption from the coronavirus pandemic and no severe hit from component shortages, Foxconn could still achieve its gross margin target, Liu said. He added that his optimism stemmed from Foxconn's early preparations for shifting some manufacturing away from China. According to Liu, China's share of Foxconn's overall production rose last year to more than 75 per cent as the country's success in controlling the pandemic allowed a faster return to stable manufacturing conditions than elsewhere. However, Foxconn expects more capacity to shift away from China once the situation with Covid-19 improves in other countries.

Nuance

Microsoft confirms \$20B acquisition of Al and speech recognition company Nuance Microsoft has signed a deal to acquire Al and speech-recognition company Nuance Communications in a deal valued at nearly \$20 billion, the tech giant confirmed Monday in blog post. Technology from Burlington, Massachusetts-based Nuance helped Apple's digital assistant, Siri. The deal, which will help Microsoft deliver "new cloud and Al capabilities across healthcare and other industries," the company said.

Microsoft said it will acquire Nuance for \$56.00 per share, a 23% premium over the stock's close on Friday, in an all-cash transaction valued at \$19.7 billion. The deal will be Microsoft's second largest acquisition ever, after its \$26.2 billion deal to buy LinkedIn in 2016. Nuance CEO Mark Benjamin will continue in his role, reporting to Microsoft's cloud and Al chief.

"Nuance provides the Al layer at the healthcare point of delivery and is a pioneer in the real-world application of enterprise Al," said



AUDIO

Audio Pro

Scandinavian hi-fi brand Audio Pro has announced that it is launching the C10 MkII multiroom speaker. The new device offers three types of multiroom audio capability with a cool design aesthetic. The Swedish hi-fi brand has been making audio gear since the late 1970s with a range of active loudspeakers ranging from floor-standers to smaller Bluetooth models.

Audio Pro sells a range of wireless speakers with multiroom capability and smart voice-control features. Since 2012, the company has also been producing audio equipment specifically for retail and hospitality markets. It also prides itself on creating sustainable audio products with longer intended lifespans and less environmental impact.

The new C10 MkII is an upgrade to Audio Pro's award-winning C10 model. As well as offering powerful multiroom sound, the new model now includes support for Apple AirPlay 2 and Google Chromecast built-in. The new speaker can still be controlled using Audio Pro's highly-regarded smartphone app.

Audio Pro
Updates Its C10
Wireless Speaker
With Apple
AirPlay 2



Bang & Olufsen

Luxury audio brand Bang & Olufsen has launched a new stereo speaker that offers connected features to match its high-end acoustics.

The Beolab 28 is a slimline wireless speaker that is designed to be placed anywhere in your home, with Active Room Compensation allowing it to adapt its bass to its surroundings. It has an integrated subwoofer, front tweeter and three 3-inch full-range drivers, allowing it to deliver the audio quality you'd expect from the name and four-to-five figure price tag.

Built-in music streaming means owners can stream directly to the speaker, using Apple Airplay 2, Spotify Connect or Chromecast in addition to the Bang & Olufsen app or simple Bluetooth. The Beolab 28 will also be made compatible with Beolink Multiroom later this year, 2021 through an automatic update, and can be paired with a Bang & Olufsen TV using Powerlink or Wireless Powerlink.

The speaker can be controlled using a simple touch interface on the top, which lights up when approached thanks to inbuilt proximity sensors.

The interface allows owners to play/pause, skip and increase/decrease volume, and there are four 'favorite' buttons which can be set to radio stations or Spotify playlists

In terms of connectivity, there's dual-band Wi-Fi on board, as well as a pair of Ethernet connections if you want to wire the high-end speakers up. The Beolab 28 comes in a selection of three different aluminum case colors, and either fabric or wooden speaker covers in a selection of colors.

The fabric finish costs from £9,750 and the wooden version from £10,750.

Bang &
Olufsen
Beolab 28
combines
advanced
acoustics
with smart
streaming



B&O reimagines the bookshelf speaker with the Beosound Emerge

Bang & Olufsen

Despite their squat stature, bookshelf speakers can rather stand out among the reading material and ornaments that might inhabit your typical living-room library. Bang & Olufsen's Beosound Emerge is different, and can take its place well among the hardbacks and paperbacks on your library shelf.



"The vision for Beosound Emerge was to create the slimmest speaker possible that could still deliver full range, ultrawide sound despite its size through its revolutionary driver configuration," said B&O's Christoffer Poulsen. "Whether placed on a bookshelf in the bedroom or a tight corner of the kitchen, Beosound Emerge's slim design allows you to extend your music to a new room or complement an existing speaker in the same area without taking up extra space."



The Beosound Emerge is a collaboration between B&O's engineers and Benjamin Hubert of design agency Layer. From the spine sporting the luxury audio brand's name to the stylish side panels, the book-like design influence is clear.

Residential interior design inspired the selection of materials for the speaker, which includes oak, pearl-blasted aluminum, woven textile from fellow Danes Kvadrat, and polymer. A tactile user interface can be found to the top, with functions activated by soft touch, and users can also control the device with voice commands thanks to Google Assistant compatibility. What's inside the housing is arguably more interesting here. The Emerge unit is home to a 1.45-in (37-mm) mid-range driver mounted at an angle to allow for the slim design, and driven by its own 30-W Class D amplifier. This joins the 0.6-in (14mm) soft dome tweeter (which is again powered by its own 30-W amp) to throw sound out from the front of the unit. And the bottom end is the domain of the side-firing 4-in (100-mm) woofer and 60-W Class D amp combination that has its sound directed to the rear. B&O says that this setup results in "sound dispersion wide enough to fill the room with sound."

Active room compensation has been included too, which "customizes the sound design for the placement of the speaker in your room, ensuring a flawless sound experience in every listening environment." And the Bang & Olufsen app also allows for further EQ tweaking.

Connectivity shapes up as Bluetooth 5.0, 802.11ac Wi-Fi, there's a line-in/optical combo jack, 10/100-Mb Ethernet, and USB-C for power. Two units can be paired wirelessly via the Google Home app for a wide stereo effect, there's support for AirPlay 2 and Spotify Connect, and Chromecast is built in. Should the connectivity and streaming technology ever need updating, the connectivity module is replaceable, essentially future-proofing the unit.

The Beosound Emerge is available in select European markets now, and will go on sale globally in the (Northern Hemisphere) fall. There are two flavors on offer, the "Black Anthracite" model is priced at €599 (about US\$715) while the "Gold Tone" unit comes in at €749 (almost \$900).

Bowers & Wilkins

Bowers & Wilkins isn't always first to the party but, when it does arrive, it certainly likes to make an entrance. The company launches not one but two debut sets of true wireless headphones, the PI5 and PI7.

The latter are the more premium of the pair, with a six-microphone active noise-cancelling system. The built-in mics will work for voice calls, as well as smart functionality (Siri and Google Assistant are both supported).

PI5 And PI7 True
Wireless Earbuds
Officially Unveiled

Bowers & Wilkins



Each earbud features a two-driver arrangement to offer what Bowers refers to as sound "comparable to loudspeakers". The two sides have a balanced armature tweeter for the top notes and a set of 9.2mm drive units for the mid/bass, all with their own dedicated amplifier.

The true wireless stereo transmission comes in through Bluetooth aptX Adaptive, allowing for 24-bit hi-res audio streams (when

connected to a compatible source). Bowers has worked to provide a reliable and tightly synced connection between the left and right earbuds.

There's more to the PI7's charging case than just storage and battery life, too. Uniquely, it has USB and 3.5mm ports, allowing you to connect it directly to an audio source. The case sends that music to your ears wirelessly using AptX Low Latency. The idea behind it, according to Bowers, is to allow users to hook up to an inflight entertainment system without the need of trailing cables to their ears.

The B&W PI5 true wireless headphones, meanwhile, are a slight step down but still very much from the same stables. They're missing the dual-driver arrangement and instead come with a single 9.2mm Bowers-developed unit. TWS+ technology is used instead for the transmission of the audio from source to both buds simultaneously. There are also just the two microphones on each side for noise-cancelling and no inputs on the case.



The PI5 and PI7 have an earbuds battery life of 4.5 hours and 4 hours respectively, but the charging case stores four more full cycles, offering a reasonable (but not class-leasing) total of 22.5 hours or 20 hours from a single charge.

Bowers says it has championed driver technology and wireless transmission over battery life for a better audio experience. Explaining the company's late entry into true wireless, Bowers & Wilkins Director of Product Marketing, Andy Kerr, said: "We don't pride ourself on being first but being the best. In each case we waited and watched the market. We chose to stay out of the market until we felt we could make a difference."

Both sets of Bowers & Wilkins true wireless headphones are available from April 21 in a choice of white or charcoal. The B&W PI7 cost \$399 – one of the most premium price tags we've seen attached to a pair of true wireless earbuds – while the PI5 are priced at a more democratic \$249.

Cambridge Audio

UK sound brand Cambridge Audio has launched a new London-designed all-in-one audio system with huge streaming capability.

Cambridge's new Evo 75 and Evo 150 boxes – which produce 75W and 150W per channel respectively – feature walnut side panels inspired by its P40 from 1968, which can be swapped out for black Richlite panels made from recycled paper.

Evo features a full-colour 6.8-inch LCD display for album artwork, as well as a dual-concentric rotary dial, and can stream via AirPlay 2, Bluetooth, Chromecast built-in, Qobuz, Roon Ready, Spotify Connect, Tidal Connect, and internet radio.

Cambridge
Audio Unveils
New All-In-One
Audio Streamer



Both the 75 and 150 include optical, coaxial, RCA, and ARC inputs, as well as 3.5mm headphone jack and Bluetooth; additionally, the 150 features built-in moving magnet (MM) phono stage for turntables, asynchronous USB audio input, balanced XLR, and two sets of speaker terminals.

Stuart George, Managing Director, Cambridge Audio, described Evo as "the product we've been leading up to for over 50 years".

"At Cambridge Audio, we think evolution is about even more than improving the quality of the sound you hear and enhancing yourenjoyment of music



"Evolution is also about transforming the convenience and usability of hi-fi without compromising its performance. Evolution is about bringing hi-fi into the future, making it fit your lifestyle, and ensuring it looks just as good as it sounds," he said.

Cambridge has also announced an Evo CD transport and Evo S speakers, to be released later this year.

Denon

Denon Release Airplay 2 Update For Sound Bar 55 Japanese audio giant Denon (originally known as 'DENki ONkyo Kabushikigaisha...) has announced the earlier than planned release of an update to their latest audio product, the Denon Home Sound Bar 550, which was originally slated for a late May release but came out just two days ago, according to lapanese website.



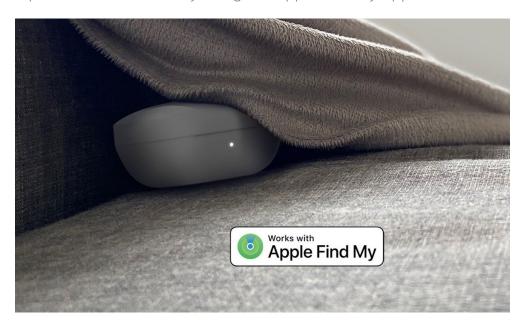
DTSx, built-in HEOS for streaming directly from the likes of Spotify, Amazon Music D, Tidal, Tuneln, Deezer, Pandora etc, as well as Bluetooth connectivity, and more importantly, Airplay 2, via the aforementioned update.

The 550 also features eARC via a 4K HDMI out, a 4K HDMI in port, Digital Optical audio in, 3.5mm Aux in, an ethernet port, and USB for expanded storage options. On top of all that, it's capable of connecting to either 2.4GHz (11b/g/n) or 5.0GHz (11a/n/c) WiFi networks. It also comes with a convenient IR remote, as well as built-in controls on top of the device itself.

The Denon Smat Home Bar 550 retails for US\$599.00 and is available to purchase now.

Belkin

Belkin has launched the Soundform Freedom True Wireless Earbuds, one of the first ever accessories to work with Apple's vast and global Find My network, made up of hundreds of millions of Apple devices. Belkin customers can now keep track of and locate their earbuds* in a private and secure way using the Apple Find My app*.



One of the First Third-Party Accessories to Work with Apple's Find My Network

"As one of the first third-party accessories to provide the unparalleled value of Apple's Find My network, we are excited to elevate the user experience of our audio products," said Steve Malony, CEO, Belkin International. "By packing rich and radiant sound with location detection in the compact and comfortable SOUNDFORM™ Freedom True Wireless Earbuds, consumers can listen carefree while focusing on what matters most to them; high quality acoustics, clearer calls, and an overall exceptional experience."

The Soundform Freedom True Wireless Earbuds offer custom 2-layer drivers that activate deep bass while maintaining clear mids and highs, and Belkin's Signature Sound reproduces even the most subtle detail of every track. Equipped with Qualcomm aptX technology, the Soundform Freedom earbuds offer a superior quality

to standard Bluetooth sound, while advanced clear-call technology and dual microphones ensure remarkable call quality with reduced background noise so the user's voice is heard. On a full charge the earbuds have up to eight hours of non-stop playtime, with another 28 hours of playtime available through the wireless charging case.

The Find My network accessory program enables third-party companies to build finding capabilities into their products, letting customers use Apple's Find My app to locate and keep track of the important items in their lives if they are lost or stolen. If Soiundform Freedom True Wireless Earbuds are lost but nearby, customers can use the Find My app to play a sound on their earbuds case. If further away, customers can put their earbuds in Lost Mode and let the Find My network help track it down. Once located, someone can use the Find My app on any iPhone to identify it and be taken to a website that will display the owner's message and contact information. A customer can also turn on "Notify when found," which will notify them when the Find My network has located the earbuds, then provide that location on a map in the Find My app.

Additional Feature

Charge the earbuds case with any Qi wireless charger or via a USB-C port.

- Get the most comfortable fit and perfect seal with small, medium, or large
- ear tips included in packaging.
 IPX5 rated for sweat and splash resistance.
- The Soundform Freedom True Wireless Earbuds are available now for
- £39.99.

LG

LG has announced its 2021 lineup of soundbars, which offer new features along with coming with more eco-friendly designs and packaging. The lineup includes the SP11RA, SP9YA, SP8YA, SP7Y, and SPD7Y. The soundbars work better with LG TVs, as the company added support for the Al Sound Pro feature. Audio from a TV can be shared to the soundbar and use all the sound modes you'd get from the TV's built-in speakers, but on dedicated hardware. This applies to the entire soundbar lineup.

LG's new soundbars supports multiple voice assistants and new audio features



which has collaborated with LG on sound products for some time now. There's a new Meridian Horizon feature that can take two-channel stereo audio and up-mix it into multi-channel sound. The soundbars also all support Dolby Atmos and DTS:X sound, as well as Hi-Resolution Audio. Most of the models - barring the SP7Y - also support eARC.



There are some exclusive features for the more premium models, however. The SP11RA, SP9YA, and SP8YA support 4K Dolby Vision video passthrough, plus they come with support for multiple voice assistants - Alexa, Google Assistant, and Siri - as well as Apple's AirPlay 2. All the soundbars come with optional rear speakers, except the top-of-the-line SP11RA, which includes it out of the box.

Another point of focus for LG is the eco-friendliness of the soundbars, achieving both SGS Eco Product (minus the SPD7Y) and UL recyclability validation. The SP7Y model, specifically, uses a fabric made from recycled PET bottles, which LG says results in seven fewer bottles in landfills for each soundbar it makes. Packaging has also been improved in this regard, using less EPS foam and plastic, and LG says it's using an L-shaped packaging design which allows more packages to fit in a truck, thus reducing CO2 emissions from transportation.

The 2021 soundbar lineup is available from this month in select markets in North America and Europe, and more models will be coming later.

Polk

Polk Audio has announced the launch of the Reserve Series, a high-performance, versatile loudspeaker line designed to deliver serious performance for music, movies, and gaming. IMAX Enhanced and Hi-Res Audio Certified and compatible with both Dolby Atmos and DTS:X, the Reserve Series includes nine models available in matte black, matte white, and walnut woodgrain finish. The Polk Reserve Series is now available on www.polkaudio.com/reserve and at select specialty audio/video dealers and custom integrators worldwide.

Polk Audio Introduces Reserve Series Loudspeakers



The Reserve Series consists of nine models, including three floorstanding models, three center channels, two bookshelf speakers, and a wall-and speaker-mountable height module, all designed to give listeners flexibility in terms of configuration by incorporating matching transducers and consistent voicing. The center channel speakers are available in three sizes. The R300 center channel is designed to fit in most AV cabinets, while the R350 is only 5.5-inches tall, and is wall mountable so it can be used as left, right, or center channel. For the first time, Polk is introducing a height module (R900), which can be placed on the floorstanding speakers or wall mounted. The height module features a toggle switch, which tunes the speaker for the application, whether that be on-speaker or wall mounted.

"You'd be wrong to think the Reserve Series is just 'Legend-lite' though," says Scott Orth, director of audio and acoustical systems at Polk Audio. "While Reserve does use the same transducers as Legend, it also features multiple new developments of its own, including a new patent-pending X-Port filter and advanced cabinet construction to minimize undesirable resonances. In return, you get a classic Polk Audio loudspeaker that is amazingly balanced, offers an expansive sound stage, detailed imaging, smooth mid-range and deep effortless bass."

Seeking to retain as much of the Polk Legend flagship performance as possible within a moderately priced package, Polk Audio engineers created rigid, internally braced cabinets while leveraging driver and port technologies from the Legend Series speakers.



The Naim Mu-so Wood Edition looks remarkably

different

Naim

British audio specialist Naim has introduced a new look for the 2nd generation of its Mu-So all-in-one system - a fine-looking wood finish.

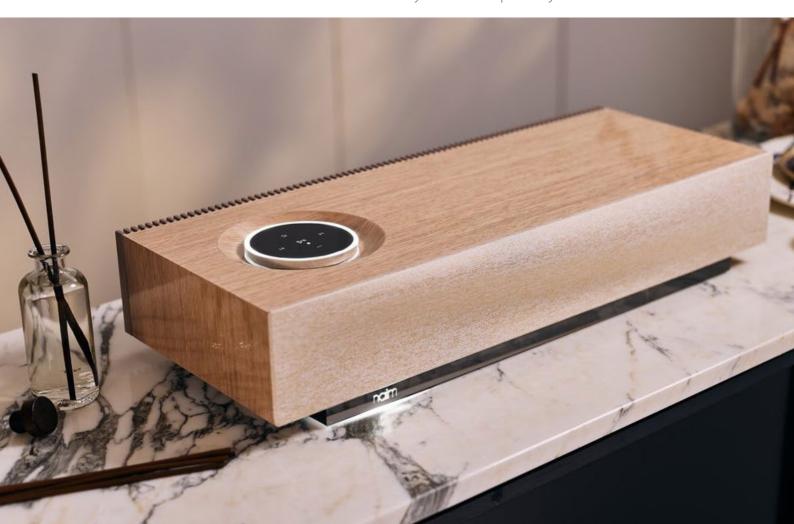
It uses real sustainable Ayous hardwood, treated and lacquered to give the appearance of a Light Oak finish. The crucial aluminium heatsink is still in place, but it's been given a different tint, with a neutral woven grille on the front to accompany the wood.

The only downside is that the Mu-so Wood Edition (Light Oak) carries a significant premium over the standard Mu-so 2nd Generation - the new Light Oak version is \$2,290/£1,599.

As ever, the Mu-So series works with basically any connected audio source - you've got Bluetooth, Apple AirPlay 2 and Google Chromecast connectivity as well as native support for Spotify Connect, Tidal and Qobuz.

You're also able to use it as a TV soundbar, too, via the HDMI ARC connection. Audio can be optimised for your room.

Although pricey, we think the Mu-so 2 is worth every penny. The sound quality from this industrial box is second to none, although if you already own the original then the addition of an HDMI port isn't a huge attraction. Really and truly it's the sound quality that makes this Naim system so superb - you won't hear better.



THX

THX, a company best known for bringing high fidelity audio and video to movie screens. But the company has also worked with consumer electronics companies to bring THX certification and/or tuning to home theater and audio products as well as laptops headphones, and more.

Now THX is launching its first consumer electronics device that will be sold directly to consumers. The THX Onyx is a \$200 HiFi DAC (digital to-analog converter) for phones, laptops, and other devices with USB-C ports.



The audio accessory features an ESS ES9281PRO digital audio converter, THX AAA amplifier technology, and an MQA (Master Quality Audio) renderer for high-quality audio when streaming from TIDAL or playing lossless audio files from a local device.

Designed to connect to any device with a USB-A or USB-C port, the Onyx sits between your headphones and your phone, tablet, laptop, or other device in order to offer high fidelity audio.

And since the DAC, amplifier, and other hardware is in the device itself, THX says you can use the Onyx with Android, iOS, Windows 10, or Mac devices without the need to install any drivers or apps... although the company notes that iOS users will need to pick up a separate USB-C to Lightning adapter since you don't get one in the box. When used with an iOS device, the Onyx is also only for listening – phone calls from plugged in headsets aren't supported.

The THX Onyx is a gadget that will most likely only appeal to audiophiles. Most casual smartphone and laptop users are perfectly happy listening to music or podcasts over a pair of cheap Bluetooth headphones or even the built-in speakers on their devices. But if you're the sort of person who drops hundreds of dollars on HiFi headphones, the THX Onyx could help you use them with devices you already have.

THX enters the consumer electronics space with the \$200 Onyx USB-C digital-to-analog converter

And it's noteworthy that after nearly forty years in the audio business, the Onyx is the first consumer product from Onyx. Then again, the company was acquired by gaming hardware company Razer a few years ago, so maybe it's not that big a surprise to see THX take this turn.

Urbanista

Urbanista
introduces
Los Angeles Solar powered
headphones
with virtually
infinite
playtime

Urbanista, the Swedish lifestyle audio brand, announces Urbanista Los Angeles, the world's first self-charging, wireless active noise cancelling headphones, powered by Powerfoyle™ solar cell material. Using advanced green technology, Los Angeles converts all forms of light, outdoor and indoor, into energy to deliver virtually infinite playtime.

To deliver this limitless audio experience, Urbanista has teamed up with Exeger, a Swedish innovation company, that has created a groundbreaking solar cell technology. Exeger's Powerfoyle converts any form of light into clean energy and can be seamlessly integrated into any design. For the first time, it is now powering headphones, enabling endless energy to music lovers around the world.

"The initiative with solar and light powered headphones is an extremely strong value proposition for the user and we see very solid business potential in this product. At the same time, we are both proud and happy to take part in introducing clean energy into this category, an initiative that fits very well into STRAX's ongoing work with sustainability. Urbanista have over the past few years taken very impressive steps in product development and have a solid range of in-ear and over-ear headphones using the latest technologies and supporting the functionality demanded by consumers, this groundbreaking product is a very welcome addition to the strong Urbanista product portfolio" says Gudmundur Palmason, CEO, STRAX AB



EXHIBITIONS

IBC

Last month the show's organizers had said they planned to have the event in September as scheduled, but also that they had plans in place to allow the option of pushing back to December if necessary; and they've now triggered that option.

So the show at the RAI Amsterdam Convention Centre will take place Dec. 3 to 6.

IBC CEO Michael Crimp said that, against a background of optimism about the pandemic, the show board met yesterday. "We've pleased to announce we've decided to hold IBC 2021 in December. The reasons are mainly safety and readiness to engage."

This year's event is expected to have more of a festival feel, with a large perimeter to the site that will enable attendees to move around more freely. Attendees are to have their temperatures checked, and there is to be no physical onsite registration.

Crimp said those plans are still in place, though they could be eased if the health environment improves further in the interim.

Crimp said surveys of the show community showed sentiment for the December date.

He said the decision will allow "more vaccinations, clearer systems and more confidence." He characterized the later date as the "strongest of two [schedule] opportunities."

"We also had to consider the ability of the supply chain to deliver a high-quality event. We believe that key services such as airports and airlines, and hotels will have established smooth operations and be able to provide a more streamlined service by December."

IBC postponed to December 2021





CES

CES, the world's largest consumer-electronics exhibition, plans to hold its annual convention in-person next year in Las Vegas, a vote of confidence in live events amid optimism that the rollout of vaccinations is slowing the pace of Covid-19 infections.

The Consumer Technology Association, the trade group that puts on the event, said CES will begin Jan. 5 with at least 1,000 companies, from Amazon.com Inc. to Sony Group Corp., already signed up to show off their innovations. The group moved CES to an all-virtual format for 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic, a move that was a blow to the Las Vegas regional economy.

CES will offer a digital option for some attendees next year, allowing them to take in speeches and product announcements from afar.

The roughly \$11 billion U.S. trade show and exhibition industry is slowly returning to life after the pandemic forced cancellations of conferences and trade shows last year.

Many organizers tried to convene events using digital options for attendees to meet with companies over video calls and navigate virtual conference floors.

In the virtual CES, exhibitors used interactive portals to present content, network with attendees and conduct meetings. The convention also had a live anchor desk to deliver news and conduct interviews on tech topics.

The in-person CES in 2020 brought together more than 171,000 people from 164 countries, regions and territories for a weeklong showcase in Las Vegas.

The Consumer Technology Association said it would review guidelines for coronavirus safety measures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as from state and local authorities, in preparing for next January. With the event still eight months away, the group said it would adapt plans and share updates as needed.

It still recommends face masks in public settings indoors and outdoors where there is a substantial risk of Covid-19 transmission, including concerts, sporting events and other crowded gatherings.

CES Plans Return to Las Vegas in 2022







