

*"As usual this newsletter is based on topics that are tied closely with products that I've been using or experimenting with at home. It still qualifies as work... Really! Hopefully you might find the information here valuable."*

Dallas

## Music on DVD

Like most people I really enjoy watching movies at home. It is especially nice when using a 10 foot screen with 7 channel surround sound . I really feel lucky working in such a fun industry!

What has caught my attention recently are the "Concert" videos. These are DVD releases of mostly live musical events. Using state-of-the-art video and multichannel (surround sound) recording techniques, they really can put you in the front row.

I particularly enjoyed the recent release "Concert for George." Recorded exactly one year after the death of former Beatle's guitarist George Harrison, many well known musicians who knew or played with George throughout his career perform some of his best material. Ringo Starr, Paul McCartney, Eric Clapton, Billy Preston, Tom Petty, Ravi Shankar, Jeff Lynne and even the Monty Python troop show up.

My appreciation of the event may have been enhanced somewhat as I was brought up listening to these legendary icons of rock and roll. They sound better than ever! You got the sense that everyone wanted to make this a "special" memorial to a long time friend and collaborator. I even got a little teary eyed as it was easy to sense

the strong emotions from everyone involved. George's son Dahni played guitar and sang backup. He looks exactly like a young George!! This added an almost eerie reminder of his gifted father. Highly recommended.

A few other recommended concerts...

- Roy Orbison's Black and White Nights
- Elton John Live at Madison Square Garden
- Madonna's Drowned World Tour.

Lot's more to choose from. Hey let me know if you see something you really like.

## Living Your Dream

I was born in 1952. Pretty much right at the peak of the baby boomer explosion. I suppose it should not be surprising that many of our clients seem about the same age. Heading into your second fifty has a tendency to change your attitude somewhat. Like that dream you had about owning something cool and now realize you better stop dreaming and make it happen.

I have noticed several sporty mostly red Italian sports cars in the driveways of some of our favorite customers. It does look like fun!!

Although I can appreciate the value of 400 horsepower in a car the size of a Mini Cooper I have a different dream. A super high end set of loudspeakers. Over the years I have experimented with many different designs. All of them have their pros and cons. Based on all that experimenting it seems to me the best way to



sonic nirvana is by combining the amplifiers and speakers into the same enclosure. I won't go into technical details, but these systems have very few limitations. A British Company called ATC makes such a loudspeaker and as it turns out we handle them! The model I am considering is SCM 50 around \$12,500 per pair. With the amplifiers included it is actually considered a good value! At this performance level the reproduced sound can really get you emotionally involved in the music. It is a totally different experience. One famous reviewer called it the "Goosebump" effect. These speakers can definitely can give you "Goosebumps". If you find music to be an important part of your life you might consider setting up an area where you can really get into listening. Perhaps not for everyone, but if your interested give me a call and I will give you an audition. Bring along your favorite recordings.

Hey it does not take to much imagination to consider what a multichannel home theater system would sound like using these ATCs. Trade in that little sports car?? :-)

## **Big Sound in a Little Package**

Most everyone reading this has probably seen and heard an iPod or similar device. For those who haven't, it is a gizmo than can store tons of compressed music files (i.e. songs) that sound almost as good as the original CD. Most folks use iPods with headphones. Thousands of songs stored in a package smaller than a pack of cigarettes. Take your entire music collection anywhere. Pretty amazing!

We might suggest that if you have an audio system at home it is pretty easy to connect an iPod to an auxiliary input. This is accomplished using an inexpensive cable that converts the

headphone connection to two RCA connectors normally used on HiFi equipment. It is hard to believe all that great sound is coming from such a miniature device!

In several recent multi-room audio installations we have added a wall plate with the proper connections in a convenient spot to allow easy system wide connection for a portable player. Push one button on a nearby keypad and the whole house is filled with your favorite mix of music. When friends or guests bring their iPods along simply plug it in and they will feel right a home listening to their favorite tunes. Or have "His" and "Her" iPods connected and listen to different mixes in multiple areas around the house. Rock by the hot tub and classical in the kitchen.

In addition, you may have seen the recent advertisement from BMW showing an iPod interface in their new sedan. Pretty cool! It seems to me that this product category is just getting started. Much more to come! Feel free to call for more details.

## **New Improved Webpage!**

Just a little announcement to let you know that after looking at the same website for almost 10 years now we figured it was due for an update! Most of the design is thanks to our "New Guy" Aaron Stottlemeyer.

Check it out...  
[www.supercalibrations.com](http://www.supercalibrations.com)

*I hope this gives everyone some insight into the current home electronic trends. We actually find it to be kind of fun. We hope this shows in our work. We also know that most of our business comes from referrals. We would like to thank everyone for their continued support.*

*I will (as usual) be available as much as possible. So if you have any questions, feel free to call anytime. I can easily be reached on my mobile phone. My number is 612-868-6129. We have found that many problems are usually resolved quickly and easily over the phone.*

*One last thing; if you do give us a referral that generates new business, we have developed a new program to provide a few perks to your own home entertainment system. They make a nice reward for giving us a recommendation.*

*I'm always available for further discussion and thanks again for all of your business!*

Dallas

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Dallas finds sonic Nirvana...