

Discovering great sound

Dave Gordon, Brand Ambassador

If you are reading this I'm assuming you love music and you appreciate great sound. (At least I hope so.) And, that audio has turned into a hobby of sorts.

Most of us stumbled into great sound. Music was important to us, really important, it had meaning and helped define us. Then, one day, someone played a *stereo* that just blew us away—it was incredible, it sounded like the musicians were right in front of us! Maybe it was a friend who played that first great system, or an uncle, or at a stereo shop. A friend and I stumbled into a little hi-fi shop in the village in New York and WOW, the sound was incredible. I'll never forget, the system had a pair of Dahlquist DQ-10s with Audio Research electronics. I'd never heard of any of the brands before.



I'll bet your first experience was a life-changer, as it was for me, and it was never forgotten. It didn't matter that it cost more money than I could imagine for a stereo (I was a poor college student at the time). What mattered was it changed my understanding of what was possible. My friend and I didn't know it could get that good; that it could connect us to music in a new, visceral and emotional way.

Eventually I graduated. My first good system had an NAD 3020 integrated amp with Magneplanar MG-2B speakers. Then I added an Amber series 70 amp, then a Denon turntable with Lustre tonearm. Then I got better interconnects. Then a Dynavector Ruby with a Marcoff head amp. Then it was a ...

One of the great things about audio as a hobby is that it allows us to continue to improve our systems incrementally, one piece at a time. What's next? What will make the biggest difference? What will give me the best bang-for-the-buck?

We have Audio Research owners who are listening to the same components they bought 40+ years ago, it brings them joy every day. And, we have ARC owners who get the itch to upgrade every few years. To each his own.

Whichever camp you're in, just remember that the equipment is a means to an end, not an end in itself. We got into this because we love music, it was the music that came first. I discuss equipment during the day, but I go home to the music. Let your system be your decompression chamber, your escape to another world.

Good listening.

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